

Purdue University Agricultural Economics Faculty



Craig Dobbins

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Dr. Dobbins is a professor and Associate Department Head for Teaching. His extension and research addresses topics related to farmland values and cash rents, alternative farmland leasing methods, and crop economics. As a part of these efforts, Dr. Dobbins conducts the Purdue Farmland Value and Cash Rent Survey each June. The results of this survey are published in the August issue of the Purdue Agricultural Economics Report. Dr. Dobbins teaches a Farm Management (AGEC 41100) and a Farm Business Management Workshop (AGEC 41200) to junior and senior undergraduate students. He also teaches a course in management science addressing the application of optimization, simulation, and decision analysis tools to support management decision making. Along with LeeAnn Williams and Dr. Peter Goldsbrough, Dr. Dobbins has provided leadership to the Agribusiness and Plant Sciences Learning Community at Purdue University.



Ken Foster

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Dr. Foster's research interests are in the fields of production economics and marketing with special emphasis on dynamic models in the livestock and meat sectors. His work has included a dynamic analysis of investment and supply in the U.S. beef cattle industry, measuring technical change in agriculture, the management of livestock waste, demand for heterogeneous products, and the use of contracts in agricultural production. Dr. Foster's research and outreach activities have included testimony to Senate committees and state legislative study committees on the competitiveness of livestock markets and the use of contract production. Likewise, his work has impacted the decisions of private stakeholders in the livestock and meat industry. Most notable, perhaps, is his coauthored book *Positioning Your Pork Operation for the 21st Century* which provided guidance to the international pork industry during a time of dramatic technological and managerial revolution.

Dr. Foster teaches agricultural price analysis and applied time series econometrics, has experience working in Latin America, China, and Africa, and serves as an extension specialist in the area of livestock production economics. He served as Associate Head and Graduate Program Director from 2004 to 2008. In 2008, he was appointed as head of the department. Dr. Foster serves on the College of Agriculture Academic Leadership Council and as an ex-Officio member of the Board of Directors for the Agribusiness Council of Indiana. Among his many awards, he has been recognized by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association for Distinguished Graduate Teaching with 10 or More Years' Experience, by the College of Agriculture for Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor, and has received the Purdue Agriculture Team Award on three different occasions. He has also served as Chair of the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators.



Christopher Hurt

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- ❖ Agricultural Economics Extension Coordinator/Professor
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Professor Hurt joined the department in 1981. He teaches an undergraduate course in commodity marketing focused on grain and livestock. In Extension education, he coordinates the Department's outlook program, evaluates farmer alternatives in government programs, teaches marketing principles and pricing alternatives, and provides price analysis and outlook for grains, hogs and cattle. His primary audiences are farmers and agribusiness managers.

He is often interviewed by the state and national media on agricultural and food topics. He serves as editor of the *Purdue Agricultural Economics Report*. Professor Hurt has received the USDA Superior Service Group Award, multiple awards from the Agriculture and Applied Economics Association, as well as multiple Indiana Extension Service Awards.



Michael Langemeier

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Dr. Michael Langemeier joined Purdue University in July 2012. Michael's Extension and research interests include cropping systems, benchmarking, strategic management, cost of production, and technical and economic efficiency. Most of Dr. Langemeier's research has focused on the efficiency of farms and ranches, and crop and livestock production costs and efficiency. He has also conducted research related to tillage systems, biomass crops and the tradeoff between crop rotation profitability and water quality.

Prior to arriving at Purdue, Dr. Langemeier spent 22 years in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. In addition to working on Extension and research projects, he taught courses in economic theory and farm management and worked closely with the Kansas Farm Management Association. He also conducted workshops for feed mill managers, emphasizing the importance of tracking financial performance, benchmarking and capital budgeting.

In addition to conducting numerous workshops and presenting Extension and research information to numerous audiences in the United States, he has conducted workshops and given presentations in Australia, China, Ecuador, Ireland, Germany, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa and Tanzania. He is currently involved in agribenchmark, an international benchmarking group centered in Germany.



Jing Liu

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Dr. Jing Liu has been working at the center of Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) after completing her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Purdue University in 2014. Her research mainly focuses on the nexus of water-land-climate-food. She develops and applies computable generalized and partial equilibrium model to analyze the impacts of climate change induced global changes on food security and environment. Another line of her research is concerned with property damages caused by extreme weather events, in which she uses spatial econometric analysis to understand the spatial distribution of and the damages attributed to natural hazard, economic exposure and social vulnerability.

Jing is currently working on the integrated assessment modeling of sustainable agriculture. In this interdisciplinary research, she combines fine-scale geophysical information and economic theory to understand the spatially heterogeneous response of agricultural production to environment-oriented policies. She contributes to developing a grid-resolving model that features unique yield and leaching functions at the 5 arcmin grid-cell level. This work aims to provide more effective and efficient sustainability policy recommendations that address environmental concerns such as nitrogen leaching and water scarcity.



Kwamena K. Quagraine

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Dr. Quagraine's research interests lie in the areas of market analysis, market definition, facilitating the development of distribution and market structures, identification of value-added opportunities for aquaculture products and feeds, and development of enterprise budgets. Dr. Quagraine works with the aquaculture industries in Illinois and Indiana, aquaculture producers, aquaculture associations, distributors, restaurants, retail outlets, and consumers to develop viable markets for Indiana and Illinois farm-raised aquaculture products.

His primary extension responsibilities focus on providing assistance to aquaculture producers in pursuing and realizing economic and market development opportunities. He also provides training and educational materials for farmers and Extension Educators in the farm business management area of enterprise budgets. Kwamena has a great interest in international work. He directs an aquaculture CRSP project in Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania.



Farzad Taheripour

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- ❖ Research Associate Professor
- ❖ Master's Degree in Economic Systems Planning from Isfahan University of Technology
- ❖ Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Taheripour is an associate professor in the department of Agricultural Economics. He is also an associate of the Center for Global Trade Analysis (GTAP) and collaborates with the World Bank and several other institutions in a wide range of research projects. His research activities are primarily in the area of energy, agriculture, natural resource (including land and water), macro and micro economic modeling, and econometrics. His current research focuses on developing macro and micro economic models to analyze and quantify economic and environmental consequences of climate change and energy policies and their interactions. His research activities in these areas have been recognized nationally and internationally.



Nathan Thompson

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- ❖ Ph.D. Oklahoma State University

Dr. Nathan Thompson joined the department in February 2016 after completing his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. His research and extension programs focus in the areas of production economics and farm management, with a specific emphasis on risk management. He has a strong interest in interdisciplinary, applied research with practical implications for producers and other relevant stakeholders.

In his dissertation, Dr. Thompson evaluated the economic feasibility of genetic testing in beef cattle production. This included a series of papers looking at the value of using genetic information to improve the selection, management, and marketing of cattle. He is currently involved in several projects designed to determine the economic feasibility of alternative technologies and production practices for both crop and livestock producers, and is working to better understand the impacts of farmer and farm business characteristics on preferences for different types of risk faced by agricultural producers.



Jerry Shively

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Dr. Shively conducts nationally and internationally recognized research on agricultural development and the environment. His research focuses on the links among poverty, land and labor use, and natural resource management in developing regions of the world. His interests also include the environmental and distributional implications of sectoral and macroeconomic policies, and dynamic household models incorporating risk. Dr. Shively's international experience includes research in numerous African and Asian countries.

Dr. Shively has been designated a University Faculty Scholar and is the 2007 recipient of Purdue's Agricultural Research Award. He is the former Editor-in-Chief of Agricultural Economics, the flagship journal of the International Association of Agricultural Economists and serves on the Editorial Policy Boards of the journals Land Economics and Environment and Development Economics.



Holly Wang

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- ❖ Ph.D. Michigan State

Dr. Holly Wang joined the department in 2007, with her ten years of faculty experience from Washington State University.

Her research has been focused on agricultural risks, derivative markets, crop insurance food marketing and safety for both US and China issues. Dr. Wang has advised over ten Ph.D. students whom are now faculty members in major US and international research universities, and economists in the finance industry. She has taught Ph.D. level courses in supply and demand systems, decision analysis, and marketing; Master level courses in econometrics and agribusiness marketing; as well as undergraduate courses in corporate finance and Chinese economy.

Dr. Wang has established herself as a known scholar in agricultural economic issues especially about China. She travels to China frequently and has developed a broad professional network. Dr. Wang served as past President of Chinese Economists Society (www.china-ces.org) in 2009, a US based organization focusing on the research of Chinese economic issues, founding Chair for China Section of Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (<http://www.aaea.org/membership/sections/china/>) in 2010, and is now an AAEA Executive Board Director.