

# Selected Posters

## SAEA 2011 Annual Meetings

### **Evaluating the Impact of QuickBooks Financial Education on Texas Panhandle Producers**

*DeDe Jones and Jay Yates, Texas AgriLife Extension Service*

Accurate financial reporting has become increasingly important due to rising agricultural risks. A need exists for educational programs that teach producers' strong record keeping practices. Twenty QuickBooks Financial Software classes have been conducted in the Texas Panhandle. A course overview is discussed that includes materials covered and evaluations received.

### **Switchgrass Monocultures Versus Diverse Mixtures of Grasses and Forbs to Produce Biomass Feedstock**

*Andrew P. Griffith, Francis M. Epplin, and Samuel D. Fuhlendorf, Oklahoma State University, and Robert Gillen, Kansas State University*

This research was conducted to determine the lowest cost lignocellulosic biomass feedstock production system from among several monocultures and polycultures. Plots were managed to represent anticipated production activities for bioenergy feedstock. Production costs were lower for monocultures because they had lower seed costs and produced at least as much biomass.

### **No-Till and Intensive Tillage for Dryland Cotton, Wheat, and Grain Sorghum**

*Brandon T. Varner, Francis M. Epplin, and Gary L. Strickland, Oklahoma State University*

The objectives of this study were to determine yield differences and expected net returns for no-till (NT) and intensive till (IT) cotton, wheat, and grain sorghum. NT sorghum yielded more than IT sorghum. Net returns were greater from

wheat, with IT wheat preferable for risk averse producers.

### **Accountability in Research and Extension**

*Brant A. Wilbourn, Emily Seawright, Ronald D. Lacewell, M. Edward Rister, Allen W. Sturdivant, Shauna R. Yow, and Bill L. Harris, Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas AgriLife Research, and Texas A&M University*

Sources of funding for research and extension programs are holding researchers more accountable and demanding defensible analyses to quantify outcomes of the research. Selected examples of outcomes related to research demonstrate these evaluations can be completed using methods such as benefit-cost analysis, budgeting analysis, regression analysis, and capital budgeting.

### **Evaluation of the Economic Feasibility of Grain Sorghum, Sweet Sorghum, and Switchgrass as Alternative Feedstocks for Ethanol Production in the Texas Panhandle**

*J.R. Girase, Texas A&M University, Lal K. Almas, David G. Lust, and W. Arden Colette, West Texas A&M University, and Stephen H. Amosson, Texas A&M University*

Ethanol production from grain sorghum, sweet sorghum, and switchgrass in the Texas Panhandle Region is not economically feasible without significant government subsidies. An increase in the feedstock productivity/yield, decrease in the production cost, increase in the ethanol extraction, and increase in ethanol price are some suggestions for making an improvement.

### **Issues Related to Discounting Natural Resources**

*Lindsi Dutton, M. Edward Rister, Ronald D. Lacewell, and Allen W. Sturdivant, Texas AgriLife Research Service*

Resource economics research often relates to analyses of projects having potential impacts on future water supplies. These alternative projects are associated with costs and returns occurring during multiple-year periods. Discounting is widely accepted for expressing dollars in present value terms, but a major issue relates to appropriateness of discounting water.

**The Economic Impact of Ethanol on the Southern High Plains of Texas** *Bridget Guerrero and Stephen Amosson, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Lal Almas, West Texas A&M University, Jeffrey Johnson, Phillip Johnson, and James Surlis, Texas Tech University, and Bill Golden, Kansas State University*

In this study input-output analysis is the method employed to estimate the economic impacts of the construction and operation of an ethanol plant in the Southern High Plains of Texas. The results of the study indicate that ethanol production has significant economic impacts to the local and regional economies.

**Internationalizing the College Experience for Agribusiness Students** *J.E. Mehlhorn, S.A. Mehlhorn, and B. Daniels, University of Tennessee at Martin*

Developing global ready graduates can be accomplished through travel study programs, study abroad programs, and international coursework. The International Agriculture Certification Program at University of Tennessee Martin was developed to increase global awareness and employment readiness for agribusiness graduates. The program has generated increased student interest in travel study and working abroad.

**Evaluating Beef Cattle Best Management Practices in South Texas: Calf Management** *Mac Young, Joe Paschal, Cody Ringer, and Steven Klose, Texas AgriLife Extension Service*

Cow-calf producers in South Texas routinely make management decisions adapting to weather, parasites, disease, market, and economic conditions. Successful managers also find ways to improve performance and profitability through adopting

better calf management practices. This analysis illustrates financial incentives to adopt clostridial vaccinations, castration, growth implants, and deworming.

**Evaluation of Ecosystem Service in Japanese Rural Areas** *Yoji Kunimitsu, National Institute for Rural Engineering of National Agriculture and Food Research Organization*

This paper economically evaluated ecosystem service by kinds of function classified by the millennium ecosystem assessment. We used the contingent valuation method and questionnaire research through the internet in Japan. Results demonstrated that the willingness to pay values were different according to the kinds of ecosystem service.

**Incorporating Seasonality in Price Risk Management** *J. Mark Welch and Tao Jiang, Texas AgriLife Extension Service*

A segmented seasonal price index for hard red winter wheat is constructed and used as the foundation of a hedging program. Net returns are compared from hedging to unhedged marketing. Findings show a disciplined, objective marketing program reduces price risk and increases net returns, especially in volatile markets.

**A Stochastic Model for Estimating Harvest Days Each Week during the Fall** *Gregory Ibendahl and Matthew Farrell, Mississippi State University*

Estimating harvest days during the fall is necessary for planning equipment purchases. Poor estimates can result in lost crop or excess machinery for a farm. This poster uses daily rainfall to stochastically estimate harvest days per week. Included in the model are the days of precipitation and precipitation amounts.

**Network Embeddedness, Market Access, and Social Spending Inflation: A Case Study of Gift Network in Rural China** *Xi Chen, Cornell University*

Social spending has spread all over the world, including backward regions that deserve our

special attention. In this paper, we explore gift exchange behavior via modeling a pure-exchange economy in which an agent's utility on the socially sensitive good is negatively affected by the consumption of neighbors.

**Price Comparison of Ola, Ozark, and Conway, Arkansas Livestock Auctions for 5 to 6 Weight, Large, Number 1 Steers and Heifers** *Devon R. Terrell, Molly D. Brant, and Alvin W. Williams, Arkansas Tech University*

The 2005–2010 prices received for 500 to 600 pound steers and heifers at the Ozark, Ola, and Conway, Arkansas livestock auctions were analyzed to determine whether or not there are significant and consistent price differences between the markets, using multivariate statistics. Producers can determine the best market in the centrally-located, competing auctions.

**Opportunities for Southern Agricultural Economics Association Members Through Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Outreach Efforts** *Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University, Walt Armbruster, Farm Foundation, and William Edwards, Iowa State University*

In *Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate*, Boyer noted universal dimensions of scholarship: establishing research credentials; keeping up with current developments; maintaining standards of integrity; and having work assessed. For academics, the department, university, and professional associations provide the venues for professional development. The Southern Agricultural Economics Association's two most important products have been the annual meeting and the *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*.

**Using Trade Data to Define Regions Based on Industry Concentration in the Gulf of Mexico States** *Raghavendra Kongari, Arun Adhikari, J. Matthew Fannin, and Ashok K. Misra, Louisiana State University AgCenter*

This study constructs, compares, and contrasts regional classifications based on trade within specific industries. We compare regions created

by the strength of total value of goods and services traded between counties in the Gulf of Mexico region to regions classified from the traded value of only agricultural- and mining-related industries.

**Lessons Learned in Recruiting Millennials into Food and Agribusiness Industries** *Kenrett Y. Jefferson-Moore, Autumn Mitchell, and Jazmine Bowser, North Carolina A&T State University*

We assess the attitudes of high school students of the millennial generation toward careers in agribusiness using an 1890 land-grant summer program as a case. Although participants' understanding of agribusiness increased, their attitude toward applying to the university and selecting it as a major only increased "a little bit, maybe".

**Economic Benefit of White Flesh Sweet Potato Ethanol for Vegetable Producers in Alabama** *Edinam Adzosii, Ellene Kebede, Conrad Bonsi, and Desmond Mortley, Tuskegee University*

Sweet potato is one potential renewable fuel and bioenergy feedstock. Alabama grows orange and white flesh sweet potatoes. However, orange flesh is commonly produced by vegetable producers. Results indicate that introduction of white flesh sweet potato in the crop mix will increase the profit of vegetable producers without affecting the current production of sweet potato.

**Biodiesel Production and Implication to Rural Economies in Alabama** *Debra Daniel and Ellene Kebede, Tuskegee University*

Biodiesel was introduced as a fuel into the United States in 1992 and mandated to reach 8 billion gallons by 2012. Alabama produces both soybeans and peanuts and seven biodiesel plants are to be established in Alabama. This study used a regression model and the results show that some soybean producers will benefit in the short run.

**Assessing the Economic Benefits of Boll Weevil Eradication in Texas** *Dean A. McCorkle, Dan D. Hanselka, John R. C. Robinson, and Steven L. Klose, Texas A&M University*

Substantial progress has been made in eradicating the boll weevil from the majority of the cotton producing regions in Texas. While the full economic benefits will not be realized until eradication is achieved statewide, the estimated cumulative economic benefits to growers through 2009 are more than \$1.8 billion.

**Economic Impacts of Relaxing Travel and Financial Restrictions on U.S. Exports to Cuba** *Parr Rosson and Flynn Adcock, Texas A&M University*

U.S. agricultural exports to Cuba have been permitted since 2000, reaching \$711 million in 2008. Relaxing travel and financial restrictions would increase exports by \$365 million/year, requiring 6,000 new jobs. This poster will present detailed results on expanded exports and estimated economic impacts on the nation and the south.

**Assessing Obesity Rates and Factor Interaction** *Obed Quaicoe, Godfrey Ejimakor, and Ralph Okafor, North Carolina A&T State University*

This study evaluates how socioeconomic variables interact to affect the incidence of obesity. The study: 1) evaluates the impact of socioeconomic variables on the incidence of obesity; and 2) assesses how socioeconomic variables such as gender and region of residence interact with other variables to affect obesity rates.

**Characteristics of Swine Farm Sales Data Under a De Facto Moratorium** *Guido van der Hoeven, Sofia Kotsiri, and Kelly Zering, North Carolina State University*

A data set containing swine farm sale prices used in farm appraisal is presented. Sales occurred under a de facto moratorium on new or expanded swine farms in North Carolina. Appraisers assigned "premium" values to the appraisals because total farm sales price exceeded the appraised component values of the respective farms.

**The Economics of Using Distiller Grains in Small-Scale Beef Operations in Indiana** *Ken Foster, David Widmar, Dennis Buckmaster, Ronald Lemenager, and Nicole Olynk, Purdue University*

The expansion of corn-based biofuels has created an increase in the supply of the distiller grains by-product in the Eastern Corn Belt. Co-ensiling wet distiller's grain with solubles (WDGS) with silage requires mixing the silage and WDGS products and storing them together. Results indicated incentives to feed co-ensiled products to steers and bred heifers.

**A Life Cycle Analysis Comparison Between Conventional and Biotech Sweet Corn** *Jada Thompson, Lanier Nalley, and Mike Popp, University of Arkansas*

A comparison of conventional and biotech sweet corn production to assess the differences in their respective environmental impacts was performed using a Life Cycle Analysis approach, including direct and indirect emissions. Converting all variables into estimated carbon equivalents concluded that biotech sweet corn can reduce insecticide applications, reducing the environmental impact from production.

**Potential Impacts of MarketMaker on Recovery of Louisiana's Seafood Industry** *Benjamin Clark, Roger Hinson, and John Westra, Louisiana State University AgCenter*

Using IMPLAN, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Louisiana State University AgCenter, and U.S. Census Bureau data, we estimated potential economic impacts (\$10 million annually and over 550 jobs saved or created) that an industry-wide direct marketing campaign, like MarketMaker, could have on the Louisiana seafood industry in response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

**Global Rice Export Trade—A Shift-Share Analysis** *Prithviraj Lakkakula, Eric Wailes, Bruce Dixon, and Diana Danforth, University of Arkansas*

A shift-share framework determines if changes in the countries' rice exports are due to geographic demand shifts, competitive performance, or both. Thailand's market share has weakened due to domestic policy interventions and growing competitiveness from nearby exporters, Vietnam

and Pakistan. India and China are unreliable exporters given primary concerns with domestic food security. U.S. competitiveness has strengthened in the Western Hemisphere.

**Food Retail Market Development in India—Challenges and Opportunities** *Ranjit Mane and Eric Wailes, University of Arkansas*

An overview of food retail development in India and policy recommendations conducive for growth of agriculture and food retailing are presented. Retailers or suppliers invest in credit, information, and technical assistance for producers. Bargaining power inequality in contract negotiations must be regulated. Public-private collaboration in

developing institutional and public physical infrastructure is needed.

**Factors Affecting the Spread and Costs Associated with Influenza Illness: Focus on H1N1** *Ruth A. Aisabokhae, Mark Musumba, Bruce A. McCarl, and David Bessler, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University*

The transmission of and mortality rates due to influenza illnesses have been related to climatic conditions. Using secondary panel data, the contribution of factors affecting H1N1 spread and costs are examined. Directed Acyclical Graphs and random effects panel data analysis are used to examine causal flows and factor significance.