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Education

North Carolina State University
Ph.D. in Economics (August, 2004) Raleigh, N.C.

UNC-Charlotte
B.A. in Political Science (May, 1979) Charlotte, N.C.

Areas of Research Interest

- Economic Development, Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics, International Trade, Risk Management, and Economic Decision Theory

Dissertation

- Topic: The Empirical Relationship Between Federally-Subsidized Crop Insurance and Soil Erosion
- Committee Members: Dr. Barry K. Goodwin (co-chair)
Dr. Duncan M. Holthausen (co-chair)
Dr. Nicholas E. Piggott
Dr. Daniel J. Phaneuf

Abstract

This study examined the impact of federally-subsidized crop insurance and government agricultural program payments on soil erosion. Specifically, this study analyzed the impact of those programs on production decisions, such as acreage allocation and input use, and the resulting impact on soil erosion. The first essay investigated the "conventional wisdom" that economically marginal land is also environmentally fragile (i.e., highly erodible). We addressed this issue by looking at the distribution of crop yields across erodibility classes and by performing regression analysis. Our results indicate that land with higher levels of soil erodibility exhibit lower mean crop yields, a proxy for economic marginality, which lends support to the conventional wisdom.

The second essay investigated the impact of federally-subsidized crop insurance on acreage allocation and input use in the primary cotton growing regions in the United States. Using county-level data from the 1990-1995 and 1996-2000 time periods within an instrumental variables framework, we find that the acreage response to insurance participation, though statistically significant, is quite inelastic. The results of simulations that we conducted indicate that large premium rate reductions would generate significant changes in insurance participation, but those changes would not result in large changes in planted acreage. The third essay investigated the relationship between specific government agricultural program payments and soil erosion. Using county-level data from the years 1992 and 1997, we estimated a 2SLS model of soil erosion and crop insurance participation. We found that crop insurance participation and conservation payments are significantly associated with county average soil erosion levels, while other program payments (for example, deficiency and AMTA payments) exhibit no statistically significant association with our soil erosion measure. Our results indicate that the impact of agricultural subsidy and risk management policies on acreage response and soil erosion may be less important than critics of those programs have postulated.

Paper Presentations

- “The Federal Crop Insurance Program-Regional Differences in Acreage Response and Participation” – *Selected Paper presented at the 2001 AAEA Meetings, Chicago, IL.*
- “An Empirical Analysis of the Relationship between Crop Insurance, Agricultural Program Payments and Soil Erosion – *Selected Paper presented at the 2004 AAEA Meetings, Denver, CO.*

Publications and Working Papers

- “An Empirical Analysis of the Acreage Effects of Participation in the Federal Crop Insurance Program” (with Barry Goodwin and Monte Vandever), the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, November, 2004.
- “Impact of Crop Insurance on Acreage Response and Input Usage: The Case of Upland Cotton” – job paper
- “The Relationship Between Economically and Environmentally Marginal Land” – working paper

- “Pesticide Price Differentials Between Canada and the U.S.” – a report prepared for the United States Department of Agriculture (with Gerald Carlson, Ken McEwan, and Bill Deen) – Fall, 1999
- “Weighted Expected Utility and Optimal Hedge Ratios” (with Duncan Holthausen) – completed manuscript

Teaching History

- Introduction to Agricultural and Resource Economics (N.C. State)
- Principles of Microeconomics (N.C. State; Meredith College; and Manchester College)
- Environmental Economics (Manchester College)
- Econometrics (Manchester College)
- Principles of Macroeconomics (Meredith College and Peace College)
- Contemporary Topics in Economics / Economic Concepts (Humboldt State University and Manchester College)
- Money and Banking (Meredith College and Humboldt State University)
- Intermediate Microeconomics (Meredith College)
- Intermediate Macroeconomics (Humboldt State University)
- Economic History of the United States (Humboldt State University)
- Labor Economics (Manchester College)

Technical Skills

- Statistical software: SAS, SPSS, Excel, RATS (moderate experience), MATLAB (limited experience)
- Word processing: Word and LaTeX
- Database management: ACCESS
- extensive knowledge of databases used in agricultural and environmental research: Agricultural Census, NASS data, REIS data, and National Resources Inventory

Awards and Recognition

- “Outstanding Dissertation of 2004” for the College of Management at N.C. State
- Kenneth Keller award for “Outstanding Dissertation of 2004” for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at N.C. State University (nominated)
- “Outstanding Dissertation of 2004” for the American Agricultural Economics Association (nominated)

Work History

Aug 05 – Present	Manchester College Assistant Professor	N. Manchester, IN.
Aug 04 – May 05	Humboldt State University Visiting Assistant Professor	Arcata, CA.
May 04 – Aug. 04	Meredith College Adjunct Instructor	Raleigh, N.C.
Jan. 04 - May 04	Peace College Adjunct Instructor	Raleigh, N.C.
Aug. 01 – Jul. 03	Meredith College Adjunct Instructor	Raleigh, N.C.
Aug. 97 – Aug. 01	North Carolina State University Graduate Teaching Assistant, Instructor, and Research Assistant	Raleigh, N.C.
Jan. 95 – Jul. 97	LaSitio Mexican Restaurant and Catering Service (manager)	Statesville, N.C.
Feb. 86 – Dec. 95	J'Bryans Restaurant (owner-operator)	Newton, .NC.
May 79 – Jan. 86	Pizza Hut (restaurant manager)	Charlotte, N.C.

References

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