



Southern Agricultural Economics Association

Newsletter

October 2023

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Dear SAEA Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we transition from the warmth of summer to the still kind-of-warm (in the South) first days of fall. It is always exciting to start a new academic year and to welcome new and current students. The SAEA Board had our Fall meeting last month to continue the preparations for our annual conference next year in Atlanta, February 3-6, 2024. More information can be found on the newly redesigned website at <https://saea.org/annual-meeting/>.

We are thrilled to announce that this year, we received a record-setting number of submissions. This overwhelming response is a testament to the growing strength and relevance of our professional organization to serve agricultural economists. We would not be in this position if it wasn't for the commitment and dedication of all our members. On behalf of the board, I want to sincerely thank you for your invaluable contributions to building a strong and welcoming organization. We encourage you to renew your annual membership and actively participate in our upcoming annual meeting in Atlanta.

In the spirit of continued growth and progress, it is my pleasure to introduce the candidates running for leadership positions for the SAEA board. These individuals have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the field of agricultural economics, and they are willing to contribute their expertise, talent, leadership, and service to our members. The candidates (in alphabetical order) for President-Elect are Andrew Muhammad from the University of Tennessee and Mykel Taylor from Auburn University. For Director, we have two exceptional candidates: Jerrod Penn from Louisiana State University and John Michael Riley from Oklahoma State University. I encourage each member to take a moment to read their biographies and carefully consider their vision for the association's future.

This is a final reminder to cast your vote. **The voting period has been extended through November 10, 2023.** You can cast your ballot by following this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3JY6K2W>, which is also available on our website. Your participation in the election process is vital as it helps shape the direction of our association and ensures that your voice is heard. Your vote plays a significant role in determining the leadership that will guide the SAEA's initiatives and activities in the coming years.

As we move forward, the board and I are excited to welcome you to Atlanta for our annual meeting in February 2024. Based on the record setting number of submissions, it promises to be an exceptional meeting with rich discussions and opportunities for networking, collaborations, and mentoring for advancing the field of agricultural economics.

Finally, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued involvement and commitment to the association. Your dedication is the driving force behind our success, and we are excited about the future of our organization.

Warm Regards,

Marco A. Palma
SAEA President

2024 SAEA Annual Meeting

Where – Atlanta, Georgia

The Westin Peachtree Plaza

When – February 3-6, 2024

Why – A chance to network and share your work with colleagues.

The Westin Peachtree Plaza

210 Peachtree Street NW

Atlanta, GA 30303

Registration details forthcoming. Hotel reservation information can be accessed through the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS) website at <https://www.saasinc.org/2024-hotel-info-1>.

Deadline to reserve at group rate: FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024, by 5:00 pm EST.

SAAS Group Rates: \$159/+ tax double/single/triple/quad rooms.

SAEA Academic Quiz Bowl

2024 Quiz Bowl - Once again, the Student Section of the SAEA will be coordinating the Academic Quiz Bowl competition. Teams will be randomly assigned as in the past. Contact Dusty Menzies, Undergraduate Committee Chair, if you have any questions. He can be reached by phone at (979) 845-7046 or email d-menzies@tamu.edu. Also, note that the registration fees for advisors at schools who have not participated in the last three years will be waived.

Southern Agricultural Economics Association Officer Elections

Voting Procedures for SAEA 2023 Officer Elections

All members in good standing (current dues paid) will receive an email message with voting instructions. **All ballots must be completed by November 10, 2023 to be counted.** Submit suggestions for future officers to an Executive Committee member.

Candidates for President-Elect

Andrew Muhammad, University of Tennessee

Mykel Taylor, Auburn University

Candidates for Director

Jerrod Penn, Louisiana State University

John Michael Riley, Oklahoma State University

Candidate Bios and Vision for the SAEA

Dr. Andrew Muhammad



Dr. Andrew Muhammad is Professor and Blasingame Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Policy at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. He brings considerable experience and research to the Blasingame Chair position where he focuses on assisting stakeholders in the evaluation of opportunities, policies, and programs on international trade. Dr. Muhammad previously served as Associate Director of the Market and Trade Economics Division at USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) in Washington, DC (2016-2018). His responsibilities included annual planning of research activities, coordinating the strategic planning process, managing external reviews of research programs, and planning and facilitating extramural research agreements

with universities and institutions. Given his expertise, he also represented ERS on international trade issues. He served as Chief of the International Demand and Trade Branch in MTED (2013-2016). As Chief, his responsibilities included developing the strategic plan for trade and trade policy research and outreach activities and coordinating requests from other Federal Agencies on trade-related issues. During his time at ERS, Dr. Muhammad fostered an environment of productivity and camaraderie by encouraging and supporting all staff, mentoring junior staff, and meeting regularly with researchers to discuss their progress and aspirations.

Dr. Muhammad has written over 70 refereed journal articles and more than 60 reports and other publications, including peer reviewed USDA reports. He has also served as PI or Co-PI on funded research and outreach activities totaling over \$6.2 million, including funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the National Science Foundation. His research on global food demand has been widely cited and used in economic and global models such as USDA's Baseline model, the GTAP model, and IFPRI's IMPACT model. His current research focuses on agricultural and forestry trade and policy, effects of trade on developing countries, and global food demand.

Dr. Muhammad currently serves on several advisory boards, including the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) for Trade, which provides trade policy counsel to the Secretary of Agriculture and U.S. Trade Representative, USAID's Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) Subcommittee on Systemic Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, Advisor to the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center, and the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Board of Directors.

Vision for SAEA

SAEA reliably serves agricultural and applied economists working in all phases of the land-grant mission, and in 1862 and 1890 universities, other MSIs, federal agencies, and non-academic organizations. How do we maintain relevancy to all, regardless of position or institution moving forward? I am particularly concerned about the relationship between SAEA, federal agencies, and the broader profession, and how we can leverage partnerships to increase our student

numbers and research impact. A specific goal would be the establishment of formal networks between SAEA, Universities, FAS, ERS, etc., to address specific needs and concerns, especially related to internships and experiential learning for our students and developing a policy-relevant research mindset among faculty. Regarding broader participation, we can do better in addressing the needs of faculty in 1890, HACU, and Tribal Universities. Given their focus, these institutions can play a special and unique role in AAEA.

Dr. Mykel Taylor



Dr. Mykel Taylor is an Associate Professor and the Alfa Endowed Eminent Scholar in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Auburn University. She holds a bachelor's degree and a master's of science from Montana State University and a doctorate from North Carolina State University. Mykel was raised on a cow-calf operation in Montana and is actively raising three kids with her husband Justin.

Mykel's research fields include farm management, farmland markets, and land leasing. Her previous experience includes extension and research positions at Washington State University and Kansas State University. Currently, Mykel serves in a teaching and research role at Auburn where her 12 years of experience working with stakeholders has translated into an applied

economics teaching program focused on farm management, land values, and a global issues class for incoming freshmen in the college of agriculture.

Vision for SAEA:

I have lived and worked in various regions of the country and, as such, have participated in several agricultural economics associations. My perspective on the SAEA is that it has always served the needs of both the faculty and student members in a way that is unique and valuable for the future of the profession. For graduate students, SAEA provides an opportunity to participate in the research development process and network with other professionals to cultivate relationships that will serve them well in the future. I have personally benefited from the graduate student-friendly approach of the SAEA as a master's student presenting my first research over twenty years ago! For undergraduate students, SAEA is a powerful tool for engaging people at a pivotal point in their academic development and encouraging them to consider proceeding with a career in agricultural economics. It is hard to measure the return from the time and energy we invest in these students, but each one that chooses to proceed in the profession is a valuable asset for the future membership of SAEA and we need to continue to invest in these students going forward. Recently, I have also seen our extension colleagues lead sessions at the annual conference that focus on the development of students into the extension profession. These sessions have been very successful, and I would work to support more efforts in this vein. Finally, I will say that my involvement in the SAEA has been positive and beneficial and that is due in large part to the interaction that we foster among the faculty and students who come to our meetings. If I were selected by the membership to serve in a leadership role, I would work with the many talented members to expand our engagement of students and faculty to both ensure the benefits of current activities as well as our investment in the future of SAEA.

Dr. Jerrod Penn



Dr. Jerrod Penn is the Martin D. Woodin Endowed Professor and an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University with a 60% research/40% teaching appointment. He received his BS in Economics (minor in Food and Resource Economics) from the Univ. of Florida (2010), MS in Agricultural Economics (2013) and MS in Economics (2016) from the Univ. of Kentucky, and PhD in Agricultural Economics from the Univ. of Kentucky (2017).

Research:

Jerrod's research focuses on nonmarket valuation and consumer behavior, primarily on methodology of stated preference approaches across diverse natural resource/environmental and consumer topics. His 48 journal articles have appeared in agricultural and environmental economics journals such as the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy*, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Environmental and Resource Economics*, *Land Economics*, *Food Policy*, *Resource and Energy Economics*, *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, and *Marine Resource Economics*.

Teaching:

Jerrod regularly teaches Natural Resource Economics, Nonmarket Valuation, and Benefit-Cost Analysis. He has developed several 1-credit courses: an intensive graduate bootcamp, an agribusiness terminology class in which freshmen agribusiness students play Jeopardy, and most recently, "Economic Concepts of Personal Finance." He has proudly participated in Academic Quiz Bowl as a student and coach since 2009 at UF, UK, and LSU. He strives to connect economics usefulness to students and hosts a joint agribusiness-economics club trivia night each semester.

Awards: Jerrod was recognized as an SAEA Emerging Scholar in 2019 and selected as a Faculty Fellow for Louisiana Sea Grant. He received the LSU College of Agriculture NACTA Teaching Award and NACTA Educator Award for his teaching efforts. His students regularly participate and place in SAEA and AAEA competitions (3 Minute Thesis, Poster/Paper Competition, Quiz Bowl). Previously, he received AAEA's Graduate Student Teaching Award, the Univ. of Kentucky Provost's Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, and the Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Master's Student Award.

Leadership and Service: Jerrod recently completed a 3-year service on the USDA Multi-State Project W5133. He served as a Topic Leader for Environmental Economics and Policy of AAEA. He currently serves on AAEA's Student Section, Co-chair of Keep Louisiana Beautiful University Sustainability Coalition, LSU Agriculture Residency College Faculty Council member, the SAEA Undergraduate Committee, and recently formed the AAEA Committee on Ag Econ Education.

Vision for SAEA: SAEA has excelled at finding new ways to provide value to its members. I hope to be part of this, identifying opportunities to serve and advance the association and its members of all levels. For example, among all of the professional associations in agricultural

economics, SAEA unequivocally demonstrates its belief and support in undergraduates. With around 100 undergraduates participating annually, SAEA could garner support and participation from prior student attendees now in industry. By showcasing more career options and networking availability at SAEA, we can attract greater participation from students at regional and underserved universities. As well, reviewers are perpetually in short supply, and using SAEA to connect PhD candidates to editors supports the success of these individuals and journals such as JAAE.

Dr. John Michael Riley



Dr. John Michael Riley is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University where he has a 75% teaching, 25% Research appointment. He received his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Kansas State University and his B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Mississippi State University. John Michael has been an active member of SAEA since his time as a graduate student at MSU (circa 2002).

John Michael teaches five to six courses per year, with an emphasis on upper-level undergraduate topics related to agricultural markets, price analysis, and futures markets. His primary interests are commodity marketing, price analysis, risk

management, and teaching practices. John Michael has been recognized by students and peers having received the OSU Department of Agricultural Economics' Aggie-X Outstanding Teacher Award, CASNR's Student Success Leader Outstanding Advisor Award, CASNR Early Career Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the SAEA Outstanding Teaching of a Course Award.

Prior to joining Oklahoma State John Michael was an Extension Economist with Mississippi State University. In that role he received the MSU Gamma Sigma Delta Extension Award of Merit and SAEA Extension Assistant Professor Leadership Award.

Vision for SAEA:

The SAEA Annual Meeting and its membership were integral in my introduction to the professional aspects of our discipline. My first meeting as a graduate student opened my eyes to the opportunities our profession offers. That said, I am astounded at how much progress this association has made since that time, especially in recent years. As director, I would highlight this added value of SAEA. Further, I would continue to tout current and future opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, newly minted professionals, and longstanding association members and leaders. Increased recognition and visibility of students, members, and departments/companies across the multitude of platforms available today is just one way to accomplish this.



Calling All Followers!

The Association and the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics (JAAE) are now on X (formerly Twitter). Follow both to keep up with SAEA updates and new JAAE articles and issues.

Association: @SAEA_Economics

Journal: @JAAE_Journal

You can also follow the Association on **LinkedIn** (Southern Agricultural Economics Association) and **Facebook** (Search: Southern Agricultural Economics Association – SAEA).

JAAE Editors' Corner

Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics (JAAE)

Authors are reminded that *JAAE* is Open Access and that an increasing proportion of authors are covered by agreements that exempt them from paying an article processing charge. Read [this page on Open Access options in JAAE](#) to find out about institutional Read & Publish agreements and the discretionary waiver process for unfunded authors. You can check whether your institution has a Read & Publish agreement via [the waiver tool](#) on the Cambridge site. If you have questions about these “Read & Publish” agreements, contact our Cambridge publisher Andrew Hyde ahyde@cambridge.org.

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Edward Yu, tyu1@tennessee.edu

Michael Vassalos, mvassal@clemsun.edu

2023-2024 SAEA COMMITTEES

Much of the important work the SAEA performs is done by the committees listed below. The SAEA Executive Committee on behalf of SAEA members would like to thank everyone serving on these committees. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees, please contact Marco Palma at mapalma@tamu.edu.

Selected Papers Committee: Mallory K. Vestal, West Texas A&M University (2024), Kellie Curry Raper, Oklahoma State University (2025), Elizabeth Canales, Mississippi State University (2026).

Lifetime Achievement Award Committee: Rodney Holcomb, Oklahoma State University (Past-President), Barry Barnett, University of Kentucky (2024), Keith Coble, Mississippi State University (2025), Lisa House, University of Florida (2026).

SAEA Outstanding Extension Program Award Committee: Adam Rabinowitz, Auburn University (2024), Christa Court, University of Florida (2025), Samuel Zapata, Texas A&M University (2026).

SAEA Outstanding Teaching of a Course Award Committee: Anastasia Thayer Hassett, Clemson University (2024), John Michael Riley, Oklahoma State University (2025), Nathan Kemper, University of Arkansas (2026).

Master's Thesis Award Committee: Maria Bampasidou, Louisiana State University (2024), Shuoli Zhao, University of Kentucky (2025), Charley Martinez, University of Tennessee (2026).

Ph.D. Dissertation Award Committee: Eunchun Park, University of Arkansas (2024), Samir Huseynov, Auburn University (2025), Michelle Segovia, University of Delaware (2026).

Poster Committee: Daniel Solís, Florida A&M University (2024), Ross Pruitt, University of Tennessee Martin (2025), Jada Thompson, University of Arkansas (2026).

Undergraduate Committee: Dusty Menzies, Texas A&M University; Jerrod Penn, Louisiana State University; Aaron Shew, Arkansas State University. Hannah Shear, Oklahoma State University.

3MT Thesis Committee: Xuqi Chen, University of Tennessee (Chair); Kalyn Coatney, Mississippi State University; Yangxuan Liu, University of Georgia.

Ph.D. Job Market Paper Competition Committee: (*Ad Hoc* chair, President, SAEA); Zhifeng Gao, University of Florida (2024), Wenying Li, Auburn University (2025), Trey Malone, University of Arkansas (2026).

Industry Committee: Basanta Dhungana, Agilent Technology (Chair); Irfan Tareen, Center; Laxmi Paudel, Fannie Mae

JAAE Editorial Team: Editors Chris Boyer (Tennessee), Edward Yu (Tennessee), and Michael Vassalos (Clemson).

JAAE Editorial Council: Kathryn Boys, North Carolina State University; Alba Collart, Mississippi State University; Eleonora Davalos, EAFIT University, Colombia; Mariah Ehmke, University of Wyoming; Julieta Frank, University of Manitoba, Canada; David Hughes, University of Tennessee-Knoxville; Scott Irwin, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Songqing Jin, Michigan State University; Berna Karali, University of Georgia; Nigel Key, USDA - Economic Research Service; Catherine Laroche, Virginia Tech; Jeff Luckstead, Washington State University; Fabio Mattos, University of Nebraska; Samerandu Mohanty, International Potato Center, Vietnam; David Ortega, Michigan State University; Daniel Solis, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; Waleerat Suphannachart, Kasetsart University (Thailand); Edgar Twine, Africa Rice Center, Ivory Coast; Michael Vassalos, Clemson University; Alcido Elenor Wander, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, Brazil; David Wupper, Humboldt University (Germany); Wei Zhang, Virginia Tech

Nominating Committee: Past-President Rodney Holcomb, Oklahoma State University; President Marco Palma, Texas A&M University, President-Elect John Anderson, University of Arkansas.

Social Planner for 2024 Meetings: Jeff Jordan, University of Georgia.

IT/AV Committee for 2024 Meetings: Kellie Curry Raper, Oklahoma State University, Elizabeth Canales, Mississippi State University.

**Southern Agricultural Economics Association
Membership Renewal/Application**

_____ New Member _____ Update my address

NAME: _____
 (Last) (First) (Initial)

Agency/Company/University: _____

Department: _____

Mailing
Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

SAEA Membership Category (check one):

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (Based on age on or before January 1 of year applying): Full benefits and voting rights open to those who are at least 55 years old.

_____ 55-59 years of age = \$275 _____ 65-69 years of age = \$195

_____ 60-64 years of age = \$225 _____ 70+ years of age = \$150

UNITED STATES

_____ \$30 Member (academic) _____ \$10 Student

Tax deductible donation to support SAEA student activities \$ _____

INTERNATIONAL (all other countries)

_____ \$35

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then click on 'payment' and follow instructions (if paid online, do not send this form by mail)
OR

Make check payable in \$US to **Southern Agricultural Economics Association**
and mail with this form to the address below

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