

Speaker Biographies



Jeff Bader

Jeff came to Montana from New Mexico where he worked for New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service. He began his career in Extension in 1987 as a 4-H Agent then moved on to be an Agriculture Agent in a small rural county, County Director in a large metropolitan area and the Northern District Department head all with the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service. Jeff received a doctorate in higher education administration, with an emphasis in educational leadership, and his master's and bachelor's degrees in animal science, all at New Mexico State University.



Kate Fuller

Kate joined the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University as an assistant professor and extension specialist in July 2014. She studies the economics of agricultural pests and diseases, farm policy, and farm management decision-making. She received her Ph.D and also worked as a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Davis. Her dissertation and post-doctoral work examined the economics of various agricultural pests and diseases as well as the costs and benefits of programs and technologies to address them. She grew up in rural Vermont.



Eric Belasco

Eric Belasco joined the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University in August 2011. Prior to this appointment, he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Texas Tech University from 2007 - 2011. He received both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University in 2005 and 2007, respectively. His main research interests are in the areas of agricultural marketing, risk management, and applied econometrics. The bulk of his research is focused on characterizing variability in cattle profits, production, and marketing. Examples of this research include evaluations into grid pricing risk, the use of forward contracts in mitigating profit risk, modeling multivariate risk in cattle production, and characterizing the link between weather and cattle production indicators. His research also extends to health economics, where he conducts cost/benefit analysis for different medical treatments using simulation to evaluate issues associated with cancer, chronic kidney disease, and nutrition.



Joe Janzen

Joe is an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. He was raised on a grains and oilseeds farm near St. Francois Xavier, Manitoba, Canada. Prior to joining Montana State, Joe completed his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Davis in 2013. His research interests include agricultural price analysis, commodity futures markets, and agricultural policy. Joe's recent publications explore the quality of price discovery in agricultural futures markets, the influence of speculation on commodity prices, the measurement of global agricultural supply response to price, and influence of government payments on farmland rental rates.



Colin Carter

Colin Carter is *Distinguished Professor* of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Davis and Director of the University of California's Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics. Colin was born and raised on a farm in Alberta, Canada. After completing a B.A. and M.Sc. at the University of Alberta, he obtained a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1980. Colin has published widely in the areas of international trade, agricultural policy, futures and commodity markets, the economics of China's agriculture, and the economics of biotechnology adoption in agriculture. He has received a number of professional awards for Teaching, Quality of Research, Quality of Communication, and for Distinguished Policy Contribution. From 2004 through 2008, Colin was an Editor of the *Review of Agricultural Economics*. He also served as Department Chair at UC Davis from 1999 through 2001. He has also served as a consultant to various groups including the U.S. Congress, OECD, World Bank, Agriculture Canada, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the International Development Research Center. Colin Carter was named *Fellow* of the American Agricultural Economics Association in 2000 in recognition of his many contributions to the field of agricultural economics.



Gary Brester

Gary Brester is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. He was raised on an irrigated sugarbeet and malting barley farm near Laurel, Montana. He has two degrees from Montana State University -- a B.S. in Agricultural Business and an M.S. in Applied Economics. He received his Ph.D. degree in Economics from North Carolina State University. Dr. Brester was a faculty member at Kansas State University from 1990-1997. Since 1997, he has been a Professor at Montana State University. His teaching responsibilities include farm and ranch management, agribusiness management, introductory economics, and agricultural marketing.

Brester's applied research program includes risk management, international trade, agribusiness management, and farm management issues.



Joseph Atwood

Joseph Atwood is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. He was raised on a crop and livestock farm near Albion, Nebraska and was employed as a Farm Business Association Fieldman before returning to school to complete his Ph.D. degree. He has three degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln -- a B.S. in Animal Science and an M.S. and Ph.D in Agricultural Economics. Dr. Atwood was on the faculty of Auburn University for two years prior to coming to MSU in 1987. His teaching responsibilities include introductory economics, agricultural-small business and personal finance, financial engineering, and quantitative methods. Atwood's research areas include farm and ranch management, risk management, insurance, firm efficiency analysis, quantitative methods, and financial engineering.



George Haynes

George is an Agricultural Policy Specialist with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. Prior to his current position, George was a professor with the MSU Department of Health and Human Development. George earned a doctorate in consumer economics and housing from Cornell University in 1993. His contributions to the field of consumer finance and economics have been in the area of family business finance. These lines of research have produced over 45 refereed journal articles, five book chapters, over 50 presentations and over 85 other reviewed monographs. An important contribution of George's family business finance work has been examining the intermingling of family and business financial resources. This research has been supported by funding from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Small Business Administration, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.



Dawn Thilmany McFadden

Dawn Thilmany McFadden is a Professor of Agribusiness and Agribusiness Extension Economist with Colorado State University, serving in that role since 1997, and specializes in analyzing markets and consumer behavior surrounding local, organic and other value-added food market segments. She has published over 75 journal articles on consumer behavior, agricultural markets and food systems, and presented similar material to over 200 Extension audiences.

She is on the leadership team of the CSU Extension Food Systems work team and Chairs the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council. Currently, she serves the USDA by sitting on the Secretary's Advisory Board on Research, Extension, Education and Economics. She has served on Boards and in leadership positions with the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, the Western Agricultural Economics Association, the Food Distribution Research Society and several regional research committees.



Barry Jacobsen

Barry received his BS and MS degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his Ph.D from the University of Minnesota. Prior to coming to Montana State as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station in 1992, he was a Professor at the University of Illinois and Head of the Department of Plant Pathology at Auburn University. From 1994-1996, he was the USDA IPM Program Coordinator in Washington, DC. He has worked in potato research and commercial potato production and IPM since 1974. He served as Montana IPM program coordinator from 2002-2014. He is currently Associate Director of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) and is Head of the Department of Research Centers. In this role he supervises the seven Montana Agricultural Research Centers, and MAES research and facilities on campus and near Bozeman. Amongst his many honors, he is a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society and Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Minnesota.