

Agriculture & Political Uncertainty

Procrastinator Theater, November 9, 2018

Speaker Biographies



Cody Stone

For 20 years, Cody Stone has engaged clientele and faculty through his work with Extension in Texas and Montana. In Texas, he served as an Extension Agent, 4-H Specialist, and Regional Program Director. Cody and his wife Mary moved to Montana in 2005 to begin work at the Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development where he served as the Volunteer and Leadership Development Specialist before becoming the Director of the 4-H Center and State 4-H Program Leader. Cody has served three years as the Associate Director of MSU Extension. After a nationwide search Cody was selected in August 2018 as the Extension Director. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree from Texas A&M University and a Doctorate in Adult and Higher Education from Montana 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.



Anton Bekkerman

Anton Bekkerman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. His research interests include price analysis in grain markets, agricultural marketing, and the economics of production and management in the agricultural industry. Anton's recent research focus on improving wheat price predictions for the northern United States, identifying the economic impacts of changes in the grain handling industry, and—as part of the MREDI agricultural project—understanding the market-level impacts of increase pulse production in Montana. On campus, Anton teaches the Economics of Agricultural Marketing and Managerial Economics and is the faculty advisor to the Collegiate Young Farmers and Ranchers student organization.



Diane Charlton

Diane Charlton is an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics & Economics at Montana State University. She received her PhD in Agricultural & Resource Economics from University of California, Davis. Her primary research interests include agricultural labor markets, labor migration, and farm production.



George Haynes

George is an Agricultural Policy Specialist with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University and Athletic Faculty Representative. George is also currently serving as Interim Department Head for Agriculture Education Department. 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.



Randy Rucker

Randal R. Rucker is a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. He has published research on various issues related to agricultural policy, contracting, and the regulation and management of natural resources in the Journal of Political Economy, American Economic Review, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Energy Economics, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Journal of Forestry and Journal of Applied Forestry. Dr. Rucker received his B.S and M.S. in economics from Montana State University and his Ph. D. in economics from the University of Washington in 1984. Before returning to MSU in 1991, Prof. Rucker spent seven years as a member of the Agricultural Economics and Economics faculty at North Carolina State University.



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.

M.L. Wilson Lecture



M.L. Wilson

Biography

M.L. Wilson came to Montana in 1909 with a B.S. degree from Iowa State College. He was a homesteader and then became the first Montana agricultural extension agent. Subsequent to completion of a M.S. degree in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin, he was the first head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Montana State College. He made major contributions to public policy and programs designed to meet the problems of drought, depression and low farm family income. He is considered one of the architects of the original Federal agricultural commodity programs.

M.L. Wilson left Montana in 1933 to serve as chief economist in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. He then served as Assistant and Under Secretary from 1934-1940 in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He later served several foundations that focused on world agricultural issues.

M.L. Wilson was president of the American Farm Economics Association in 1925 and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Montana State College in 1935.



Randy Fortenbery

Professor and Thomas Mick Endowed Chair, Washington State University

M.L. Wilson Lecturer

Biography

Dr. Fortenbery is a professor and the Thomas B. Mick Endowed Chair in the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University, and Co-Director of the IMPACT Center. He also serves as Chairman of the Ag Markets Advisory Committee to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the government agency responsible for oversight of U.S. derivative markets. His research focuses on agricultural price performance, impacts of new information on relative and overall price levels, impacts of futures price action on the stability of cash prices, market development, trade, and the economics of bio-energy.

Prior to joining the faculty at Washington State, Dr. Fortenbery was at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 19 years. He held the Renk Endowed Chair in Agribusiness from 2002-2011, and served as the Associate Director of the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative.

From 1988-1992 Dr. Fortenbery was an Assistant Professor of Economics at North Carolina State University, and the Extension Grain Marketing Specialist. From 1998 through 1999 Dr. Fortenbery was the Director of Research for Frontier Risk Management. Frontier is a Chicago based futures trading company that manages speculative trading funds, and serves as a risk management consultant and futures broker to some of the largest agribusiness firms in the U.S.

He received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign and his M.S. in Applied Economics from Montana State University.