

Examples of Collaborative Research published by Former MS Students and Current DAEE Faculty

Our MS program in Applied Economics is designed to foster collaborative research between students and faculty. Here are some recent examples of published research by our faculty and graduate students:

Elizondo, V., Fitzgerald, T. and Rucker, R.R., 2016. You Can't Drag Them Away: An Economic Analysis of the Wild Horse and Burro Program. *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 41(1), pp.1-24.

Since 1971, wild horses and burros living on federal land have been legally protected, limiting removal from the range and stipulating restrictive conditions for transfer to private ownership. Periodic gathers prevent overpopulation, though we find both political and biological influences on the probability and size of gathers. Attempts to convey removed horses to private owners are often unsuccessful because of the relatively low quality of some animals and contractual restrictions. We consider alternative policy regimes promoting the transfer of additional animals; such reforms could have reduced program costs by as much as \$452 million over the past twenty-five years.

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/230764/2/JARE,January2016,%231,Elizondo,p1-24.pdf>

D. Mark Anderson and David Elsea. 2015. "The Meth Project and Teen Meth Use: New Estimates from the National and State Youth Risk Behavior Surveys." *Health Economics*, 24: 1644–1650.

Abstract: Anderson (2010) used data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys to estimate the effect of the Montana Meth Project, an anti-methamphetamine

advertising campaign, on meth use among high school students. He found little evidence that the campaign actually curbed meth use. In this note, we use data from the national and state Youth Risk Behavior Surveys for the period 1999 through 2011 to build upon the work of Anderson (2010). During this period, a total of eight states adopted anti-meth advertising campaigns. While our results are typically consistent with those of Anderson (2010), we do find some evidence that the Meth Project may have reduced meth use among white high school students.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hec.3116/full>

Gregory Gilpin, Joe Saunders, and Christiana Stoddard. 2015. "Why Has For-Profit Colleges' Share of Higher Education Expanded so Rapidly? The Role of Labor Market Changes in Enrollment and Degree Completion at Two Year Colleges." *Economics of Education Review*, 45: 53-63.

Abstract: Over the last two decades, for-profit colleges (FPCs) have substantially increased their share of the higher education market. One potential explanation is that the FPC sector may be more responsive to labor market changes than public competitors. Using panel datasets of Associate's degree students, we examine the effects of changes in labor market conditions across various employment fields on enrollment and degree completion in related majors. The results indicate that enrollment and degree completion in the FPC sector is positively related to employment growth and wages in related occupations, while public institutions remain largely unresponsive. Heterogeneity analysis reveals that these relationships are similar across groups of students by gender and ethnicity. Furthermore, the results also indicate that students in public institutions are non-responsive to changes in labor markets associated with requiring an Associate's or Bachelor's degree.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272775714001150>

Anton Bekkerman, Heidi Schweizer, and Vincent H. Smith. 2014. "The Impacts of the Canadian Wheat Board Ruling on the North American Malt Barley Markets." *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 62: 619–645.

The 2011 Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act deregulated Canadian grain markets and removed the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) as the sole buyer and seller of Canadian grain. We develop a rational expectations contract decision model that serves as the basis for an empirically informed simulation analysis of malt barley contracting opportunities between Canadian farmers and U.S. maltsters in the deregulated environment. Comparative statics and simulation results indicate that some new opportunities for contracting are possible, but the likelihood of favorable conditions for U.S. maltsters to contract with Canadian rather than U.S. farmers is low—between 9% and 35% over a range of possible selection rates. The effects on contracting of the termination of the Canadian grain transportation revenue cap policy and of the relaxation of criteria for the release of new spring wheat varieties are also investigated. While changes to grain transportation policies are not likely to significantly affect favorable conditions for contracting, reducing constraints on Canadian farmers' access to higher yielding wheat varieties could increase the returns from growing spring wheat but decrease the likelihood of contracting for malt barley with U.S. maltsters by an average of 5.3 percentage points.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cjag.12044/full>