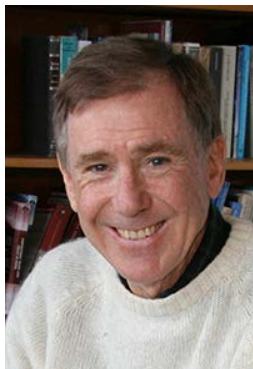




Frank H. Buck, Jr. Chair in Agricultural Business



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ENDOWMENT PURPOSE

The Buck family has been involved in agricultural production in California for more than 100 years. To pay tribute to her family's long heritage in agriculture and to honor her late husband, Congressman Frank H. Buck, Jr., Eva Benson Buck endowed a chair in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. The purpose of the chair is to conduct applied agricultural economics research to benefit production agriculture in California.

RESEARCH

The Buck Chair is fundamental to allowing my research program the funds and flexibility to pursue economics research related to farm and agricultural business issue vital to California. I use specific government grant funds for many purposes, but such funds are often available only with delay and for narrow purposes.

This year international trade issues loomed large and the Buck endowment allowed timely research.

TEACHING

My teaching this year included Economics of Agricultural Sustainability for undergraduates and the Economics of California Agriculture for masters students.

I also organized and hosted the Workshop in Agricultural Economics for graduates researcher students and post-doctoral fellows.

In all these cases the Buck funds allowed me to pursue efforts to better develop materials, bring to Davis interesting speakers and generally enhance our programs to stay at the cutting edge.

STUDENTS

Tristan Hanon who is now a Ph.D. student pursuing agricultural economics was funded to help in teach and research from his early days as a masters student. He has helped in research on dairy market economics and international trade including NAFTA issues.

Hanbin Lee, a PhD student, helps with logistics for the Agricultural Economics Workshop and pursues quantitative research on micro-economic models of demand for food characteristics that are defined by farm practices. The increasing importance of such foods as cage free eggs, and products from animals provided few only no anti-biotics and similar products (certified farm-labor friendly or non-GMO) makes his research understand these markets vital.

Yolanda Pan is likely to finish her dissertation in the impacts of climate change on rangeland and forage availability and hence of cattle and beef supply. She is applying innovative techniques to massive sets of historical climate outcomes coupled with GIS spacial data. Her work will provide novel insight on adaptations underway.

Dustin Messner and Allie Fafard are among the undergraduates who have helped with work on pollination economics and economics of dairy market changes.

OUTREACH

<http://aic.ucdavis.edu/2018/07/21/sumner-and-agriculture-leaders-meet-with-governor-brown-on-trade-turmoil/>

Dan Sumner, UC AIC director and UC Davis distinguished professor of agricultural economics, joined CDFA Secretary Karen Ross and a group of farm and agribusiness leader in a meeting on agricultural trade turmoil with California Governor Jerry Brown in his offices on July 19. Sumner emphasized the losses for agriculture and the economy from U.S. import tariffs and the retaliatory tariffs facing farm exports from California.

<http://www.aei.org/multimedia/dairy-subsidies-bad-for-business-in-60-seconds/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKTGwL23lsc&feature=youtu.be>

NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Former AIC researcher and UC Davis PhD graduate John Bovay and AIC director Dan Sumner has published implications of implementation of the US Food safety regulations. They highlight that important features of the rules had already been implemented by California producers and one implication is to cause other regions, including imports, to match the California standards.

Journal Article

Economic Effects of the U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act

John Bovay, Daniel A Sumner

Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, Volume 40, Issue 3, 1 September 2018, Pages 402–420, <https://doi.org/10.1093/aapp/pxy039>

Abstract

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) substantially expands the authority of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to regulate fresh produce marketed in the United States. This article uses an equilibrium-displacement framework incorporating stochastic food-borne illness outbreaks to simulate long-run market effects of FSMA using the North American fresh-tomato industry as a case study. We demonstrate how, under FSMA, certain categories of suppliers will gain advantage over others. Growers and suppliers within the United States, and their buyers, are likely to gain relative to foreign producers and importers because FSMA imposes specific requirements for importers. Among fully regulated growers, large growers will benefit relative to small growers. Many producers have already adopted food-safety standards that closely resemble the FSMA rules, and the cost of implementing the FSMA requirements for these producers will be much lower than for other producers.

Yu, Jisang and Daniel A Sumner. 2018. "Effects of subsidized crop insurance on crop choices." *Agricultural Economics* 49 4 (July): 533–545.

Sumner, Daniel A. 2018. "Comment on "The Impact of Farm Animal Housing Restrictions on Egg Prices, Consumer Welfare, and Production in California." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 100(3): 670-73.

Yu, Jisang, Aaron Smith, and Daniel A. Sumner. 2018. "Effects of Crop Insurance Premium Subsidies on Crop Acreage." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 100(1): 91-114.

FUTURE USE

I have been commissioned by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and Secretary Karen Ross to develop a projection of the evolution of California Agriculture over the next generation to 2050.

This will draw together several strands of research that I have pursued for several years, with support of the Buck funds.

THANKS

Thank you for the continuing confidence and support for our programs in agricultural economics.

The Frank H. Buck Jr. Endowment has been crucial for the UC Davis research program in economics of agribusiness and agricultural market evolution in California. We have had the opportunity to pursue topics of vital importance that did not yet have support of specific research grants. The Buck endowment has been leveraged to generate millions of dollars of additional University funding.

Without flexible research and teaching support we simply could not stay at the leading edge of the economics of agriculture.

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