

Leah H. Palm-Forster

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2015, Agricultural, Food, & Resource Economics, **Michigan State University**

Dissertation: “Cost-Effective Conservation Programs to Enhance Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Landscapes”

Committee: Scott M. Swinton (advisor), Robert Shupp, Frank Lupi, John Kerr, Cloé Garnache

M.S. 2011, Agricultural & Applied Economics, **Virginia Tech**, Blacksburg, VA

Thesis: “Modeling a Cost-Effective IPM Dissemination Strategy in South Asia”

Committee: George W. Norton (advisor), Jeffrey Alwang, Daniel Taylor

B.S. 2009, Agricultural & Applied Economics, **Virginia Tech**, Honors Scholar, Summa Cum Laude

B.S. 2009, Animal & Poultry Sciences, **Virginia Tech**, Honors Scholar, Summa Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Applied Economics & Statistics, Univ. of Delaware, 2015 – Present

Graduate Research Assistant, Dept. of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics, Michigan State University, 2011-2015

Graduate Research Assistant, Dept. of Agricultural & Applied Economics, Virginia Tech, 2009-11

Undergraduate Research, Virginia Tech, August 2008 – May 2009, Conducted focus groups with beekeepers in Mali and other key stakeholders to identify and assess the value chain for honey and beeswax. Project Title: “Identifying the Value Chain for Honey and Beeswax Products in Mali”

PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Palm-Forster, L.H., S.M. Swinton, and R.S. Shupp. 2017. “Farmer preferences for conservation incentives that promote voluntary phosphorus abatement in agricultural watersheds.” *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, In press.

Palm-Forster, L.H., S.M. Swinton, F. Lupi, and R.S. Shupp. 2016. “Too burdensome to bid: Transaction costs and pay-for-performance conservation.” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 98(5): 1314-1333. <http://ajae.oxfordjournals.org/content/98/5/1314.abstract>

Palm-Forster L.H., S.M. Swinton, T.M Redder, J.V. DePinto, C.M.W. Boles. 2016. “Using conservation auctions informed by environmental performance models to reduce agricultural nutrient flows into Lake Erie.” *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 42(6): 1357-1371.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2016.08.003>

Palm-Forster, L.H., F. Lupi, and M. Chen. 2016. "Valuing Lake Erie Beaches Using Value and Function Transfers." *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review* 45(2): 270-292.

http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S2372261416000151

Stuart, D., E. Benveniste, and L.M. Harris. 2014. "Evaluating the use of an environmental assurance program to address pollution from United States cropland." *Land Use Policy* 39: 34-43.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264837714000593>.

Harris, L.M., G.W. Norton, J. Alwang, A.N.M. Rezaul Karim, and D.B. Taylor. 2013. "Bridging the information gap with cost-effective dissemination strategies: the case of Integrated Pest Management in Bangladesh." *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics* 45 (4): 639-654.

<http://purl.umn.edu/157416>.

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Palm-Forster, L.H., J. Suter, and K.D. Messer. Linking agricultural subsidies and ambient water quality to reduce nutrient loss. In review.

Palm-Forster, L.H. and J. M. Duke. An Endogenous Equilibrium Game on Traffic Congestion Externalities. In review.

Reeling, C.J., L.H. Palm-Forster, and R.T. Melstrom. Policy instruments, strategic interactions, and incentives for habitat conservation for imperiled species. In preparation.

Butler, J.M., J.R. Fooks, K.D. Messer, and L.H. Palm-Forster. How mascots, group identity, and data visualization can help the environment: an experimental study related to nonpoint source pollution. In preparation.

Griesinger, M., L.H. Palm-Forster, K.D. Messer, J. Fooks, and J. Butler. Testing the effects of social pressures through shaming, signaling, & communication to reduce pollution. In preparation.

COURSES & GUEST LECTURES

Agricultural & Natural Resource Policy (APEC 406, 3 credits, undergraduate) This course introduces students to various issues pertaining to U.S. agricultural and natural resource policy. Student Evaluations: 4.50/5 (2016-spring, 25 students)

Introduction to Resource Economics (APEC 324, 3 credits, undergraduate) The goal of this course is for students to understand and analyze natural resource management challenges using microeconomic principles. Student Evaluations: 4.47/5 (2016-spring, 18 students); 4.81/5 (2017-spring, 20 students)

Economics of Agriculture and Natural Resources (APEC 150, 3 credits, undergraduate) This course introduces students to core microeconomic and macroeconomic principles with an emphasis on the economics of agriculture and natural resources. Student evaluations: 3.82/5 (2016-fall, 85 students); 4.20/5 (2016-fall Honors section, 6 students); 4.28/5 (2017-spring, 75 students)

Mathematics for Economists Independent Study (APEC 666, 1 credit, graduate, 2016) This student-guided course reviews mathematical concepts that are used in economics. Students meet weekly with the professor to review assigned problems and ask questions. (No evaluations)

Palm-Forster, L.H. 2017. “So, you’re interested in field experiments with farmers? Applications, Lessons, Opportunities, and Advice” Virtual presentation to the University of Nebraska Behavioral and Experimental Economics Course, April 28, 2017.

Palm-Forster, L.H. 2016. “What is agricultural and resource economics?” Presentation to the William Penn High School Summer Intern group, Newark, DE, June 29, 2016.

Palm-Forster, L.H. 2016, 2017. “Cost-effective agri-environmental policies to mitigate HABS.” Guest Lecture for Nonpoint Source Pollution (PLSC421/621, S. Inamdar), Newark, DE, April 27, 2016 and April 26, 2017.

THESIS ADVISING

Advisor for:

Mark Griesinger, M.S., 2017

Siddika Bhuiyanmishu, M.S., expected 2018

Mariam H. Gharib, M.S., expected 2018, joint advisor with Kent Messer

Philipo Lukumay, M.S., expected 2019

Committee Member for:

Shang Wu, Ph.D., 2017

Huidong Xu, M.S., 2017

Grace Hassler, undergraduate thesis, 2017

Linda Grand, M.S., 2016

Audrey Peo, M.S., 2016

RELATED TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

Write Winning Grant Proposals Workshop. Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE, Jan. 30, 2017.

University of Delaware Winter Faculty Institute. Newark, DE, Jan. 10, 2017.

Blended Learning & Seamless Teaching Course. UD Faculty Commons, Jan. 12 – 28, 2016.

Experimental Auctions: Theory and Applications in Food Marketing and Consumer Preferences Analysis. International Summer School at the University of Bologna, Italy, Aug. 28 – Sept.4, 2013.

Graduate Student Symposium at the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) All Scientists Meeting (working group leader), *Sharing Stories from Outside the Box: Identifying best practices and barriers to cross-disciplinary research*, Estes Park, September 9, 2012.

GRANT ACTIVITY

USDA NIFA AFRI / Economic Research Service. “Enhancing enrollment of leased land in agri-environmental programs: an investigation of the Conservation Stewardship Program in Kansas.” \$250,000. M. Taylor (PI), S. Banerjee (Co-PI), and L.H. Palm-Forster (Co-PI). 2016-2018.

USDA NIFA AFRI. “Conference on Advancing Behavioral and Experimental Economics Methods and Applications to Sustainable Environmental and Agricultural Management.” \$49,945. L.H. Palm-Forster (PI), K.D. Messer (Co-PI), P. Ferraro (Co-PI), C. Vossler (Co-PI), and Maddi Valinski (Co-PI). 2017-2018.

Center for Behavioral & Experimental Agri-Environmental Research / USDA ERS. 2016-2018. "Policy Instruments, Strategic Interactions, and Incentives for Habitat Conservation for Imperiled Species." \$9,988. C.J. Reeling, L.H. Palm-Forster, and R.T. Melstrom (co-PIs). 2016-2017

U. Delaware College of Agricultural and Natural Resources. "Developing Blended and Online Course Modules to Redesign APEC 150." \$10,000. L.H. Palm-Forster (PI). 2016-2017.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (*G* – graduate student; *U* – undergraduate student)

Griesinger^G, M., L.H. Palm-Forster, K.D. Messer, J. Fooks, and J. Butler. 2017. "Stewardship Signaling and the Power of Using Social Pressures to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution." Paper presented at the AAEA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. July 29 – Aug. 2, 2017.

Wu^G, S., L.H. Palm-Forster, K.D. Messer. 2017. "Heterogeneous Agents and Information Nudges in Non-point Source Water Pollution Management." Paper presented at the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, June 11-13, 2017.

Griesinger^G, M., L.H. Palm-Forster, K.D. Messer, J. Fooks, and J. Butler. 2017. "Enhancing Water Quality Using Stewardship Signaling and Social Recognition." Paper presented at the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, June 11-13, 2017.

Palm-Forster, L.H. 2017. "Transaction Costs and Participation in Voluntary Agri-environmental Programs." **Invited presentation.** Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, April 5, 2017.

Palm-Forster, L.H., J. Suter, and K.D. Messer. 2016. "Linking Eligibility for Agricultural Subsidies to Water Quality." Paper presented at the AERE Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, May 29-30, 2017.

Palm-Forster, L.H., J. Suter, and K.D. Messer. 2016. "Enhancing Ambient Water Quality Using Agricultural Subsidies Tied to Conservation." Paper presented at the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association Annual Meeting, Bar Harbor, ME, June 19-21, 2016.

Palm-Forster, L.H., S.M. Swinton, F. Lupi, and R.S. Shupp. 2016. "Too Burdensome to Bid: Transaction Costs and Pay-for-performance Conservation." Paper presented at the ASSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, January 3-5, 2016.

Palm-Forster, L.H., S.M. Swinton, F. Lupi, and R.S. Shupp. 2015. "Cost-effective Conservation Targeting When Transaction Costs Limit Participation in Procurement Auctions." Paper presented at the Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop, Urbana-Champaign, IL, October 17-18, 2015.

K.D. Messer and L.H. Palm-Forster (presenter). 2015. "Using Behavioral Economics to Improve the Design and Operation of Water Quality Markets." National Workshop on Water Quality Markets, Lincoln, NE, September 16-17, 2015.

Palm-Forster, L.H., S.M. Swinton, R.S. Shupp, F. Lupi. 2015. "Reducing Transaction Costs to Increase Participation in Conservation Auctions." Organized Symposium. AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, July 26-28, 2015.

Palm-Forster, L.H. and F. Lupi. 2015. "Valuing the Impact of Harmful Algal Blooms on Lake Erie Beaches: Is it worth it?" Selected paper. Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association Pre-Conference Workshop on Water Quality Economics, Newport, RI, June 27-28, 2015.

Palm-Forster, L.H., S.M. Swinton, R.S. Shupp, F. Lupi, T. Redder, and J.V. DePinto. 2015. "Linking Ecological and Economic Models that Support Conservation Auctions to Reduce Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Erie." MSU Innovations in Collaborative Modeling Conference, East Lansing, MI, June 4, 2015.

Palm-Forster, L.H., S.M. Swinton, R.S. Shupp. 2015. "Farmer Willingness to Engage in Transactions for Cost-effective Provision of Aquatic Ecosystem Services." GLWESS Strategy Review Workshop, East Lansing, MI, April 30, 2015.

Palm-Forster, L.H. and F. Lupi. 2015. "Valuing Beach Recreation Loss from Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Erie." Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics Seminar Series, University of Guelph, Guelph, Canada, March 25, 2015.

Palm-Forster, L.H. 2015. "Designing Cost-effective Agricultural Conservation Programs to Improve Water Quality in the Great Lakes." 3-min Dissertation Competition, MSU Graduate Academic Conference, East Lansing, MI, February 27, 2015.

Palm-Forster, L.H. "Evaluating Incentives for Cost-Effective Agricultural Phosphorus Abatement in the Great Lakes: What Can We Learn from Experimental Auctions with Farmers?" Invited presentation. University of Delaware, Department of Applied Economics and Statistics, Newark, DE, February 9, 2015.

Palm-Forster, L.H. "Evaluating Incentives for Cost-Effective Agricultural Phosphorus Abatement in the Great Lakes: What Can We Learn from Field Experiments?" **Invited presentation.** USDA Economic Research Service, Washington, DC, February 4, 2015.

Palm-Forster, L.H.*, S.M. Swinton, R.S. Shupp, and F. Lupi. 2014. "Designing Conservation Auctions for Aquatic Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Watersheds." Paper presented at preconference workshop AM-3 on Coordinated approaches to enhance ecosystem services in watersheds dominated by agriculture at the conference of A Community on Ecosystem Services (ACES), Washington, DC, December 8-12, 2014. (*workshop organizer)

Palm-Forster, L.H. 2014. "Experimental auctions to evaluate incentives for cost-effective agricultural phosphorus abatement in the Great Lakes." **Invited presentation.** Iowa State University, Department of Economics, Ames, IA. October 30, 2014.

Harris, L.M., S.M. Swinton, and R.S. Shupp. 2014. "Experimental Auctions to Evaluate Incentives for Cost-Effective Agricultural Phosphorus Abatement in the Great Lakes." Selected paper. Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN, July 27-29, 2014. <http://purl.umn.edu/170287>.

Harris, L.M. 2014. "Going Once, Going Twice,... Sold! Using Conservation Auctions to Reduce Algal Blooms in Lake Erie." **Invited presentation.** Michigan State University Board of Trustees. East Lansing, MI, June 20, 2014.

Harris, L.M. 2014. "Coordinating agricultural conservation to reduce algal blooms in Lake Erie." 6th Annual Graduate Academic Conference, Michigan State University, East Lansing, March 27, 2014.

Harris, L.M. 2014. "Designing Experimental Auctions to Evaluate Incentives for Environmental Stewardship in Agricultural Landscapes" Graduate Research Symposium in Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, East Lansing, March 20-21, 2013.

Harris, L.M. 2013. "Reducing Lake Erie Algal Blooms: Agricultural Runoff Abatement Policies that Integrate Economic and Ecological Information." Environmental Science & Policy Program Research Symposium, East Lansing, MI November 22, 2013.

Harris, L.M. 2013. "Collective Action Incentives for Landscape-level Coordination." Organized Symposium on "Working Ecosystems: Challenges for Economic Research," AAEA & CAES Joint annual meeting, Washington D.C. August 4-6, 2013.

Harris, L.M. 2013. "Going Once, Going Twice, Bought from the Lowest Bidder! Evaluating Incentives for Crop Farmers to Provide Aquatic Ecosystem Benefits." 5th National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER), Greater Chicago, IL July 29 - August 2, 2013.

Harris, L.M. 2013. "Designing Procurement Auctions to Improve Water Quality in the Lake Erie Basin" Graduate Research Symposium in Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, East Lansing, March 21 - 22, 2013.

Harris, L.M. 2012. "Modeling a Cost-effective Dissemination Strategy for Integrated Pest Management Information in Bangladesh." 7th International IPM Symposium, Memphis, TN, March 27 - 29, 2012.

SELECTED POSTERS (*G* – graduate student; *U* – undergraduate student)

Cole^U, A., C. May^U, L.H. Palm-Forster, and K. Rauch. 2017. "Civic Agriculture: Best Marketing Strategies for Community Gardens." Poster presented at the University of Delaware Undergraduate Research Symposium, Newark, DE, August 10, 2017.

Palm-Forster, L.H., C.J. Reeling, and R.T. Melstrom. 2017. "Policy Instruments, Strategic Interactions, and Incentives for Habitat Conservation for Imperiled Species." Presented at the AAEA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, July 29 – Aug. 2, 2017.

Wu^G, S., L.H. Palm-Forster, and K.D. Messer. 2017. "Heterogeneous agents and information nudges in nonpoint source water pollution management." Presented at the Delaware Environmental Institute Graduate Student Research Symposium, Newark, DE, March 16, 2017.

Palm-Forster, L.H., C.J. Reeling, and R.T. Melstrom. 2016. "Policy Instruments, Strategic Interactions, and Incentives for Habitat Conservation for Imperiled Species." Presented at the Heartland Environmental & Resource Econ Workshop, Urbana-Champaign, IL, Nov. 12-13, 2016.

Palm-Forster, L.H., J. Suter, and K.D. Messer. 2016. "Linking Agricultural Subsidies and ambient water quality to reduce nutrient loss." Presented at the AAEA Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. July 31-Aug. 2, 2016.

Palm-Forster, L.H., S.M. Swinton, F. Lupi, and R.S. Shupp. 2015. "Farmer Participation in Auctions to Enhance Ecosystem Services in the Lake Erie Basin." Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network All-Scientists Meeting, Estes Park, CO, Aug. 20 – Sept. 2, 2015.

Palm-Forster, L.H. and F. Lupi. 2015 “Using value transfers and function transfers to estimate welfare loss from Lake Erie beach closures at multiple scales.” AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. July 26-28, 2015.

Palm-Forster, L.H., S.M. Swinton, F. Lupi and R.S. Shupp, 2015. “What deters farmers from participating in conservation auctions?” Poster presentation. Farming for Ecosystem Services: New Directions for Long-term Ecological Research in Agriculture. KBS-LTER Symposium, Michigan State University. April 15-16, 2015.

Harris, L.M., Shupp, R., and S. M. Swinton. 2013. “Procurement Auctions for Cost-Effective Agricultural Phosphorus Reduction in the Lake Erie Basin.” Heartland Environmental & Resource Economics Workshop, Urbana-Champaign, IL November 2 – 3, 2013.

Harris, L.M. and K. Baylis, 2013. “Matching Policy and Place: Comparing the effectiveness of conservation instruments in different policy settings.” AAEA & CAES Joint Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. August 4-6, 2013.

Harris, L.M. and S. M. Swinton, 2012. “Coordinating Farm Management to Expand Provision of Ecosystem Services.” Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network All-Scientists Meeting, Estes Park, CO, September 10-13, 2012.

FELLOWSHIPS

Kellogg Biological Station Long Term Ecological Research Fellowship, \$30,000, 2014-15

AAEA Sylvia Lane Mentor Fellowship, \$2,500, 2013

Glenn and Sandy Johnson Dissertation Enhancement Fellowship, \$5,000, 2013

Kellogg Biological Station Summer Research Award, \$5,000, 2012

Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Scholarship, \$500, 2011

SELECTED AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

1st Place Presentation Award– MSU 6th Annual Graduate Academic Conference, 2014

Best Presentation Award – AFRE Graduate Research Symposium, 2012, 2013, 2014

2nd Place Presentation Award – MSU Environ. Science and Policy Research Symposium, 2013

Sigma Alpha Alumni of the Year, 2010

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Center for Behavioral & Experimental Agri-Environ. Research (CBEAR), Fellow, 2015–current

Center for Experimental and Applied Economics (CEAE), Fellow, 2015 – current

Delaware Environmental Institute, U. of Delaware, Affiliated Faculty, 2016 – current

Water Science & Policy Program, U. of Delaware, Affiliated Faculty, 2015 – current

Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE), Member at large, 2014–2016

Kellogg Biological Station Long-term Ecological Research Program (KBS LTER), Investigator

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), Member, 2011 – current

Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE), Member, 2014–current
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Assoc. (NAREA), Member, 2015 – current
NAREA Career Advancement and Mentorship Program (CAM), Mentee, 2015 – current
Association of Environmental & Resource Economists (AERE), Member, 2017 – current
KBS LTER Graduate Student Group, MSU campus representative, 2013–2014

SERVICE

Leadership:

AAEA Land, Water, & Environmental Economics (ENV) Section, Chair-elect, 2017 – 2018
AAEA Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE), Chair, 2017–current
AAEA Land, Water, & Environmental Economics (ENV) Section, Poster Committee, 2016 – 2017
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, Social Media Co-chair, 2016 – 2017
Applied Economics Seminar Coordinator, Univ. of Delaware, 2015-2018

- 3 seminars in Fall 2015; 7 seminars in Spring 2016; 4 seminars in Fall 2016; 4 seminars in Spring 2017

Advisor for the Borel Global Fellows Program, Univ. of Delaware, 2016-2018

- Advise Mariam H. Gharib, a 2016-2018 Borel Global Fellow

AFRE Graduate Student Org., Michigan State University, Orientation co-chair, 2014
AFRE Graduate Student Org., Michigan State University, Vice President, 2012
AFRE Graduate Policy Committee, Michigan State University, Student representative, 2012
AAEC Graduate Student Association, Virginia Tech, 2009–10, President, 2010
Sigma Alpha Professional Agriculture Sorority, VT Pi Chapter, 2006–10, President, 2008

Reviewer:

Journal articles: Agricultural and Resource Economics Review (2), American Journal of Applied Economics (1), Ecological Economics (1), Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (1), Water Resources Research (1)

** Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of papers reviewed for each journal. Multiple reviews of the same paper are not included in these counts.*

Grant proposals: USDA-NIFA Review Panel (2015); University of Delaware College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Seed Grant (2016)

Abstracts: AAEA Annual Meeting Abstract Reviewer (2015, 2017)

University of Delaware –

Departmental committees:

Applied Economics & Statistics (APEC) Graduate admissions committee (2016, 2017); APEC department chair search committee (2016); School of Marine Science & Policy faculty search committee (2017)

College committees:

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) Seed Grant Review Committee (2016);
Agricultural and Natural Resources (ANR) Major Revisions Task Force (2016-17)

Updated August 15, 2017