Cornell Digital Agriculture Initiative - Seminar Series

“Advances in Agricultural Analytics and Digital Agriculture”
Josh Woodard, Assistant Professor of Agribusiness and Finance
Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University

Tuesday November 21, 2017 - Room G01, Gates Hall, Ithaca, NY
4:00pm - 5:30pm - Refreshments Will Be Served

Abstract: By 2050, the population is forecasted to approach 10 billion people, placing enormous strain on the Earth’s resources, and threatening to further erode food security, safety and quality. The increased availability of high resolution geospatial, environmental, biophysical, and economic data -- coupled with new capabilities in economics, engineering, computer science, and agriculture -- is creating opportunities for scientific and engineering discovery that are anticipated to drive breakthroughs in agricultural productivity and sustainability. This talk will discuss recent advances in the emerging fields of digital agriculture and agricultural analytics, including applications in policy analytics, risk assessment, and at-scale data collection efforts currently underway at Cornell via Ag-Analytics.Org.

Bio: Dr. Woodard is an assistant professor and the Zaitz Family Faculty Fellow of Agricultural Business and Finance. His work focuses primarily on risk and policy issues in agricultural finance including risk management, banking, and insurance, with special emphases on empirical applications, spatial data analysis, weather risk, and large-scale data analysis. He also specializes in the design, analysis, and evaluation of insurance programs, and has developed several crop insurance products currently sold in the market. He is the founder of Ag-Analytics.org, a live open data/open source data integration and automation platform. He teaches financial analytics, agricultural banking and finance, oversees the Farm Credit Fellows program, and reviews plans of insurance for the USDA and Federal Crop Insurance Program.

Background on the Cornell Digital Agriculture Initiative: An interdisciplinary group of Cornell University faculty began meeting in early 2017 to formulate a Digital Agriculture (DA) initiative, believing that Cornell is uniquely equipped to lead in this emerging arena that will benefit the public for generations. We define DA to mean the application of computational and information technologies coupled with nanotechnology, biology, systems engineering and economics to both the research and operational sides of agriculture and food production.

With approximately 70 faculty from 5 Cornell colleges participating, we are in the formative stages of this initiative, collaborating internally on defining a research agenda for DA that will build a pipeline of discovery and innovations for the next 10+ years. For further information, please contact Dr. Jim Ballingall, Executive Director at jmb436@cornell.edu.