A Leading Agricultural and Applied Economics Department

The Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics (AFRE) at Michigan State University is a large and diverse agricultural and applied economics department with a multi-dimensional mission focused on research, extension and outreach, graduate education, and undergraduate education.

Major areas of professional activity include:

- International economic development
- Environmental and resource economics
- Agricultural and food economics
- Food and agribusiness management
- Regional economic development.

AFRE has approximately 40 tenure stream and 30 fixed term faculty who work alongside specialists and professional staff. The graduate program has approximately 70 students and AFRE undergraduate programs have approximately 700 majors.

The Department manages a base budget of around $8 million a year with an additional $26 million a year in externally funded research.

AFRE’s mission encompasses a nationally and internationally recognized research and outreach programs with emphasis on scholarly publications and impacting lives.

AFRE is a world-leading agricultural and applied economics department and was recently ranked 4th in the world in agricultural economics and policy by the Center for World University Rankings.

The Department has an outstanding faculty with three AAEA fellows and one AERE fellow. Faculty members have served as editors of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, the Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Resource and Energy Economics, Agricultural and Resource Economics Review, and Risk Analysis.
AFRE supports highly ranked Ph.D. and Master’s programs.

Strengths of the program include:

- **Strong core training in economics and quantitative methods**
- **Opportunities for joint degrees** (economics and environmental science and policy)
- **Financial support** (assistantship stipends, tuition waiver, health care benefits, funding for conference participation and professional interactions)
- **Affordable cost of living**
- **Abundant opportunities for field research**
- **Strong record of student-faculty collaborative research**
- **Excellent facilities** (office space, meeting rooms, kitchen, computer lab)
- **Student awards** (International Food and Agribusiness Management Case Awards, AAEA outstanding dissertation and thesis awards)
- **Beautiful wooded campus and natural resources and recreational opportunities**

**AFRE has a graduate placement committee and a strong employment record with alumni finding positions at:**

- **U.S. academic institutions** (Purdue, Ohio State, Kansas State, Kentucky, Delaware, Stanford, Florida, Brown, Western Michigan, Oakland)
- **Overseas academic institutions** (Adelaide, Renmin, Makerere, Egerton, Zamorano)
- **Government organizations** (USDA, Department of Energy)
- **International organizations** (International Food Policy Research Institute, World Bank, International Livestock Research Institute, International Potato Center, International Fertilizer Development Center)
- **Consulting** (Lookout Ridge Agribusiness, Public Sector Consultants, Chemonics)
- **Private sector** (J.P. Morgan-Chase Bank, Pioneer Hi-bred International, General Motors, Ford, Greenstone Farm Credit, Nielsen, NPD Group, McDonald’s, T.Rowe Price)

**EXAMPLES OF GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AREAS**

**International Economic Development**
- Pathways from poverty
- Enhancing food security
- Technology adoption and agricultural productivity improvement
- Food value chain analysis and development
- Nutrition and health
- Marketing and trade policies for development

**Environmental and Resource Economics**
- Ecosystem management and policy
- Sustainable resource management
- Valuing ecosystem services
- Agri-environmental policy
- Disease dynamics

**Agricultural and Food Economics**
- Consumer choice experiments
- Commodity price analysis and forecasting
- Financial performance and risk management
- Agricultural and trade policy
- Economics of biofuels
- Food systems analysis

**Food and Agribusiness Management**
- Futures, options, and crop insurance
- Decision support tools
- Supply chain management
- Strategic planning

**Regional Economic Development**
- Innovation diffusion
- State and local government policy
- Regional development policy
- Land use policy
- Jobs and labor markets
AFRE’s undergraduate program has three professional majors:

- Agribusiness Management (ABM)
- Food Industry Management (FIM)
- Environmental Economics and Management (EEM).

The placement rate for undergraduates (within 6 months of graduation) is around 95% with most jobs directly related to the student’s career plans and interests.

Graduates receive excellent starting salaries and AFRE’s programs are effective in competing for entry-level positions in industries throughout the food system.

Undergraduates have an undergraduate lounge and computer lab, located adjacent to AFRE’s excellent professional undergraduate advising offices.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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