

Rebecca L. Weir

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The Pennsylvania State University
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Academic Positions

The Pennsylvania State University 09/2025-Present
Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education

Education

Ph.D. Applied Economics	2025
University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN	
M.S. Applied Economics	2022
University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN	
B.A. Economics	2020
Minor in Statistics, Mathematics, & Finance	
Minnesota State University-Moorhead, Moorhead, MN	
A.S. Liberal Arts	2017
North Dakota State College of Science, Wahpeton, ND	

Research Fields

Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Finance, Agricultural Policy, Dairy Economics, Farm Management, Risk Management

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. Weir, R. L., Wolf, C. A., and Hadrich, J. (2026). Profit margin protection program participation by U.S. dairy farmers. *Journal of Agriculture and Resource Economics*. [Accepted, ahead of print]
2. Weir, R. L., & Hadrich, J. (2026). A Commentary on Extension Programming: An Overview of the Extension Program Related to Genetic Selection and Profitability on Dairy Farms. *Applied Economics Education & Extension*.
<https://doi.org/10.71162/aeee.140101>
3. McNichols, S., Fernandes, I. L.B., Rehder, N. E., Weir, R. L., and Felix, T. (2026). Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certification Is Associated with Improved Condition, Mobility, Carcass Metrics, and Economics in Cull Dairy Cows. *JDS Communications*.
<https://doi.org/10.3168/jdsc.2025-0979>

4. Weir, R. L., Haagen, I. W., Ambrozek, C. E., Dechow, C. D., & Hadrich, J. C. (2025). Association of sire net merit with farm profitability for Minnesota dairy farms. *Journal of Dairy Science*. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2024-25922>
5. Weir, R., Hadrich, J., Bonanno, A., & Jablonski, B.B.R. (2023). Beginning farmer status and financial performance differentials. *Agricultural Finance Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AFR-05-2023-0054> Outstanding Paper in the 2024 Emerald Literati Awards.
6. Weir, Rebecca. (2020). Market trends in food consumption expenditures away from home prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Undergraduate Economic Review*: Vol. 17 : Iss. 1, Article 6. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/uer/vol17/iss1/6>

Research in Progress

1. Association between HPAI cases in dairy cattle and milk production; Weir, R.L. and Thompson, J.
2. Economic impacts of a changing livestock landscape in the Midwest; Weir, R.L., Ambrozek, C., and Hadrich, J.
3. Financial implications of manure management strategies; Weir, R.L. and Uter, Z.

Research and Professional Experience

Research Assistant to Dr. Joleen Hadrich	2020-2025
Visting Graduate Researcher at Cornell University with Dr. Chris Wolf	Fall 2024
USDA, Economic Research Service – Resource and Rural Economics Division	
Pathways internship	2023

Teaching Experience

The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Animal Science

- Guest lecture – ANSE 308 Sheep/Goat Production; “Sheep and Goat Production: Financial Statements and Partial Budgeting”, March 18, 2026, 22 students
- Guest lecture – ANSC 451 Dairy Systems Analysis & ANSC 350 Dairy Problem Solving; “Financial Statements and Partial Budgeting”, February 10, 2026, 14 students
- Guest lecture – ANSC 451 Dairy Systems Analysis; “Financial Overview”, September 11, 2025, 6 students

University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics

APEC 3811 – Principles of Farm Management

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Instructor, In-person, 16 students | Fall 2023 |
| • Co-Instructor, In-person, 15 students | Fall 2022 |
| • Teaching Assistant, In-person, 27 students | Fall 2021 |
| • Teaching Assistant, Online synchronous, 18 students | Fall 2020 |

Presentations

Selected (*denotes oral presentation, +denotes poster presentation, # denotes student presenter)

1. Weir, R.⁺, & Hadrich, J. (April 15, 2026). "*Dairy Genetics and Farm Profitability: Investments and Returns*," ERME Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah.
2. McNichols, S.^{#+}, Fernandes, I. L.B., Rehder, N., Weir, R., & Felix, T. (March 26, 2026). "*Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification is associated with improved condition, mobility, carcass metrics, and economics in cull dairy cows*," GSD Research Expo, University Park, Pennsylvania.
3. Weir, R.^{*} (November 12, 2025). "*Research and Extension Program Overview*." AESE Ag Econ Brown Bag Seminar, State College, Pennsylvania.
4. Weir, R.⁺, Wolf, C., & Hadrich, J. (July 28, 2025). "*Profit margin protection program participation by U.S. dairy farmers*." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado.
5. Weir, R.^{*} (June 18, 2025). "*Dairy data in an economic landscape and corresponding management strategies: FINBIN data and genetic selection practices*." Upper Midwest Dairy Sustainability Forum, Eagan, Minnesota.
6. Weir, R.⁺, & Hadrich, J. (July 25, 2023). "*Economic impacts from the loss of a dairy farm in Minnesota*." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.
7. Weir, R.^{*} (June 8, 2023). "*Economic impacts of decreasing dairy operations*." Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA) Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
8. Weir, R.^{*}, Hadrich, J., Bonanno, A., & Jablonski, B.B.R. (August 1, 2022). "*Financial performance of beginning dairy farmers in Minnesota*." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Anaheim, California.
9. Weir, R.^{*}, Hadrich, J., & Jablonski, B.B.R. (June 15, 2022). "*Financial performance of beginning dairy farmers in Minnesota*." National Farm Business Management Conference, Fort Collins, Colorado.
10. Weir, R.^{*} (April 21, 2020). "*The new normal: Rising food consumption away from home*." Student Academic Conference – Minnesota State University Moorhead, Moorhead, Minnesota.
11. Weir, R.^{*} (March 2, 2019). "*Factors Influencing the Decreasing Milk Consumption in the United States*." Eastern Economic Association Conference, New York City, New York.

Extension and Outreach Activities

Presentations

1. Dietary Food Guidelines - Updates and Impacts, Center County Ag Forum, The Country Kitchen & Dutch Valley Bakery, 28 participants, External to Penn State. (June 17, 2026). Presenter.
2. Dietary Food Guidelines - Updates and Impacts, Ag Bankers Conference, Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, 65 participants, External to Penn State. (April 23, 2026). Presenter.
3. Dairy Farm Cash Flow Analysis, On individual farms, 5 participants. (March 2026).

4. Traveled to five individual dairy farms to do cash flow analyses with colleagues on the PSU Dairy Extension Team
5. Dairy Farm Team Meeting, On individual farm, 8 participants. (March 2026). Traveled to a dairy farm for a team meeting with a nutritionist, lender, Extension professional, and the farmers to discuss strategies to improve operational resilience
6. Evolving Dairy: A Producer Panel, Webinar, 43 participants. (March 30, 2026). Facilitator
7. Evolving Dairy: Managing Change on the Farm, Webinar, 30 participants. (March 16, 2026). Facilitator
8. Evolving Dairy: Financial Risk Considerations, Webinar, 25 participants. (March 2, 2026). Co-presenter with Samantha Gehrett
9. Dairy Farm Site Visit Consultation, On individual farm, 1 participant. (February 2026). Traveled to a dairy farm to discuss financials and strategies to address financial constraints.
10. Dairy Margin Coverage: Enrollment and Strategies, Webinar, 27 participants. (February 19, 2026). Presenter.
11. Evolving Dairy: Innovation and Opportunities Beyond Milk, Webinar, 44 participants. (February 16, 2026). Facilitator.
12. Evolving Dairy: Understanding Why and How to Diversify, Webinar, 83 participants. (February 2, 2026). Co-presenter with Ginger Fenton and Sarah Cornelisse
13. Dairy Focus: Risk Management with Dairy Margin Coverage, Webinar, 25 participants. (November 25, 2025). Presenter.
14. Current Trends in Dairy Markets and Risk Management Insights, Penn State Dairy Nutrition Workshop, 35 participants. (November 12, 2025). Presenter.
15. How genetics drive dairy profitability: Insights from Minnesota herds, The Moos Room Podcast, 190 participants. (October 6, 2025). Podcast recording for the Moos Room. <https://moosroom.transistor.fm/episodes/episode-315-umn-extensions-the-moos-room>.
16. What is your cost of production (or break-even)?, Stearns County, MN, 8 participants. (February 2, 2023). Co-presenter with Zach Uter
17. Extension Program, What is your cost of production (or break-even)?, Fillmore and Houston Counties, MN, 13 participants. (January 24, 2023). Co-presenter with Zach Uter
18. How do Minnesota beginning dairy farmers financially perform compared to established farmers from 1996-2021?, Lamberton, MN, 57 participants. (August 11, 2022). Co-presenter with Joleen Hadrich

Extension Articles

1. Weir, R. (2026). Dietary Food Guidelines: What's Changed, Why It Matters, and What Comes Next. *Penn State Extension*. <https://extension.psu.edu/dietary-food-guidelines-whats-changed-why-it-matters-and-what-comes-next>
2. Weir, R. (2026). Can Investment in Genetics Boost My Dairy Farm's Profitability? *Penn State Extension*. <https://extension.psu.edu/can-investment-in-genetics-boost-my-dairy-farms-profitability>
3. Weir, R. (2026). Risk is Central to Farming - Managing it is Critical. *Penn State Extension*. <https://extension.psu.edu/risk-is-central-to-farming-managing-it-is-critical>

4. Weir, R. (2026). 2026 Dairy Margin Coverage Program Enrollment is Now Open. *Penn State Extension*. <https://extension.psu.edu/2026-dairy-margin-coverage-program-enrollment-is-now-open>
5. Weir, R. (2025). “Weir joins Penn State Faculty” *Penn State Extension*. <https://extension.psu.edu/weir-joins-penn-state-faculty>
6. Weir, R., & Hadrich, J. (2023). Financial performance of dairy farms participating in the Minnesota Dairy Initiative (MDI) over time. *Ag Econ Search*. Available at: 10.22004/ag.econ.333597
7. Weir, R., Hadrich, J., Jablonski, B., & Bauman, A. (2022). Financial performance of beginning dairy farmers in Minnesota. *Ag Econ Search*. Available at: 10.22004/ag.econ.329376

Newspaper Articles

1. Weir, R. (2026). “Risk is central to farming - Managing it is critical.” *Lancaster Farming*. Published April 30, 2026.
2. Weir, R. (2026). “Considerations for Dairy Margin Coverage Program.” *FarmShine*. Published February 3, 2026.
3. Weir, R. (2026). “Dairy Demand and Supply.” *CDE Dairy Markets & Management Update, FarmShine*. Published January 28, 2026.
4. Weir, R. (2025). “Does genetic investment improve profitability?” *Dairy Star*. Published October 25, 2025. <https://cdn6.creativecirclemedia.com/dairystar/files/20251024-085628-cd8-10-25-25-Zone1.pdf>
5. Weir, R., & Hadrich, J. (2023). “Should beginning farmer policy be the same regardless of generational status?” *Dairy Star*. Published January 28, 2023.
6. Weir, R., & Hadrich, J. (2022). “How do different generations of beginning farmers compare financially?” *Dairy Star*. Published January 29, 2022.

Service & Leadership

Pennsylvania State University

Collegiate – College of Agricultural Science

- Judge – 2026 GSD Research Expo
- Reviewer – CAS Graduate Student Grant Competition, 2025-26

Department – Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education (AESE)

- EEFE Graduate Program Applicant Reviewer (2026)
- AESE Extension Committee (2026-Present)

University of Minnesota

Collegiate – College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS)

- Award Reviewer, Borealis Night of Excellence, CFANS, Spring 2023 & Spring 2024
- Volunteer Judge, CFANS Research Symposium, Spring 2023
- Chair of the Graduate Student Board, CFANS, 2023-2024
- Applied Economics Representative of the Graduate Student Board, CFANS, 2022-2023

Department – Department of Applied Economics (APEC)

- Assistant Professor Search Committee Student Member, APEC, 2023-2024

Service to Society

- Committee Member, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) Agriculture Policy Committee (2026-Present)
- Participation in Community Affairs – PA Farm Show Volunteer, January 2026
- Participation in Community Affairs – Keystone Farm Show Volunteer, January 2026
- Grant Reviewer, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Preparing for Extreme Weather Grant, Spring 2025
- Grant Reviewer, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Beginning Farmer Equipment and Infrastructure Grant, Fall 2024
- Grant Reviewer, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Dairy Profitability and Enhancement Teams, Fall 2023
- Grant Reviewer, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Livestock Investment Grant, Fall 2022

Service to the Profession

- Co-organizer, National Workshop for Dairy Economists and Policy Analysts, Twin Falls, ID, September 2026.
- AAEA Abstract Reviewer, February 2026.
- Journal Reviewer
 - *Agricultural Finance Review, Agricultural & Environmental Letters, Agribusiness, Journal of Dairy Science, Journal of Dairy Science Communications, Journal of Food Distribution Research*

Grants and Fellowships

Submitted (Ahead of decision)

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (University of Minnesota) – “Farm Financial Management Training for BFRDP Educators,” Submitted June 4, 2026, Total \$750,000 (Weir, PI, \$15,000)

Environmental Defense Fund (University of Minnesota) – “Evaluating the Economics of Manure Management Systems on Dairy Farms,” Submitted January 20, 2026, Total \$82,748 (Weir, PI, \$35,000)

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture – “Financial impacts from leveraging a dollar of

Pennsylvania state-level dairy industry support”, Submitted July 25, 2025, Total \$69,653
(Weir, Co-PI, \$18,113)

FFAR Dairy HERD – “Modeling on-farm CH₄ (MOCH₄): Advancing sustainable dairy
management through health-based insights,” Submitted June 25, 2025, Total \$822,852
(Weir, Co-I, \$52,903)

Awarded

CFANS GSB Research Grant (\$1,000)	2025
APEC Travel Grant (\$1,100)	2025
CHS Fellowship Recipient (\$25,000)	2024
APEC Travel Grant (\$1,000)	2023
APEC Travel Grant (\$1,000)	2022
Anthony Grano Fellowship Recipient (\$1,250)	2021
Elroy Webster Cooperative Studies Fund Scholarship Recipient (\$2,500)	2021

Awards & Honors

AAEA Graduate Student Extension Competition – First Place	2025
Farm Foundation Agricultural Scholar Program Participant	2024
Outstanding Paper in the 2024 Emerald Literati Awards	2024
AAEA Graduate Student Case Study Competition – Second Place	2023
MCRSA M. Jarvin Emerson Student Paper Competition – Second Place	2023
Outstanding M.S. Thesis - Applied Economics University of Minnesota	2022
AAEA Graduate Student Extension Competition Finalist	2021

Professional Memberships

Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association	January 2026-present
Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents	January 2026-present
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association	January 2021-present
Additional section membership: Extension Section, Agricultural Finance and Management Section	