

Yang Yu

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Employment

Assistant Professor, The Pennsylvania State University, 2024–current

Assistant Professor, Montana State University, 2020–2024

Education

Ph.D., Agricultural Economics, The Pennsylvania State University, 2020.

M.A., Economics, Boston University, 2013.

B.A., Economics, Wuhan University, 2010.

Research Interests

Consumer Economics, Industrial Organization, Food Marketing, Applied Econometrics

Publications

- (1) Cuffey, Joel, Wenying Li, Yang Yu, and Ruiqing Miao. 2023. "Retail Food Environment and Household Food Waste: An Empirical Study." *Food Policy*, 117: 102457. [[Link](#)]
- (2) Scharadin, Benjemin, Yang Yu, and Edward C. Jaenicke. 2021. "Household Time Activities, Food Waste, and Diet Quality: The Impact of Non-Marginal Changes Due to COVID-19." *Review of Economics of the Household*, 19: 399–428. [[Link](#)]
- (3) Yu, Yang and Edward C. Jaenicke. 2021. "Progress and Challenges in Empirical Food Waste Research—Authors' Response to Comment." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 103(1): 26-29. [[Link](#)]
- (4) Yu, Yang and Edward C. Jaenicke. 2021. "The Effect of Sell-by Dates on Purchase Volume and Food Waste." *Food Policy*, 98: 101879. [[Link](#)] [[SSRN](#)]
- (5) Yu, Yang, and Edward C. Jaenicke. 2020. "Estimating Food Waste as Household Production Inefficiency," *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 102(2): 525-547. [[Link](#)] [[SSRN](#)]
 - Featured in the [[AAEA](#)] and [[Penn State](#)] press releases.
 - Media Coverage in [[U.S. News](#)], [[Forbes](#)], CNBC, and other outlets.

Reports

- (1) Muth, Mary K., Shawn A. Karns, Acelynn Barefoot, Avery Tilley, Edward C. Jaenicke, and Yang Yu. 2022. "Updated Estimates of Consumer-Level Food Loss Factors for Assessing Progress in Reducing Food Loss and Waste." Prepared for U.S. Department of Agriculture–Economic Research Service
- (2) Yu, Yang and Edward C. Jaenicke. 2020. "Validation of LAFA Estimates Using Stochastic Frontier Inefficiency Analysis." Prepared for U.S. Department of Agriculture–Economic Research Service.

Working Papers

- (1) Yu, Yang and Linlin Fan, "Evaluating Food Assistance Programs in the Presence of Food Waste: The Case of SNAP." [SSRN]
 - Previously circulated as working paper entitled "How Does SNAP Affect Household Food Waste?"
- (2) Yu, Yang and Brian E. Roe, "Shelf Life, Consumption Uncertainty, and Food Waste." [SSRN]
- (3) Yu, Yang , "Rational Food Waste and Consistent Estimation of Consumer Demand."
- (4) Yu, Yang, "Optimal Government Subsidy for Achieving Healthy Eating."

Work in Progress

- (1) Simandjuntak, Daniel P., Edward C. Jaenicke, and Yang Yu, "Who's Wasting Food? Profiles of Most- and Least-Wasteful Households."
- (2) Yu, Yang, "Calibrating Actual Consumption in Demand Models: A Toolkit."
- (3) Yu, Yang, "Endogenous Shelf-Lives of Perishable Products: Market Power and Regulation."

Research Grants

- (1) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) –Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (\$628,409). "Incorporating Food Waste in Food Policy Research: Methods and Applications," July 2023-June 2027.

Role: **Principal Investigator**. Co-investigators: Edward C. Jaenicke (Penn State), Brian E. Roe (Ohio State), and Linda Kantor (USDA-ERS).
- (2) Apeel Sciences Research Grant (\$26,815). "Shelf-life and Household Food Waste Model Development," March 2022-September 2022.

Role: **Principal Investigator**.
- (3) USDA Research Grant (\$299,996, Montana State: \$49,150). "Updated Estimates of Consumer Food Loss Factors for Assessing Progress in Reducing Food Loss and Waste," August 2020-December 2022.

Role: **Co-investigator**. Project PI: Mary Muth (RTI).

- (4) Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis, Montana State (\$9,000). "Re-evaluating Food Policies and Supplemental Nutrition Programs by Modeling Rational Food Waste," August 2020-August 2021.

Role: **Principal Investigator**.

- (5) USDA-NIFA-AFRI Exploratory Program (\$100,000). "Assessing Household-Level Food Loss: An Efficiency Analysis," May 2017-May 2020.

Role: **Research Assistant**. Project PI: Edward. C. Jaenicke (Penn State).

- (6) USDA-ERS Cooperative Agreement (\$30,000). "Validating Commodity-Specific Food Loss Estimates at the Consumer Level," August 2019-August 2020.

Role: **Research Assistant**. Project PI: Edward C. Jaenicke (Penn State).

Teaching Experience

Penn State University

- Instructor. Econometrics II (Ph.D.). Spring 2025 (scheduled).
- Instructor. Markets and Prices: Analysis and Forecasting. Spring 2025 (scheduled).
- Guest Lecturer. Econometrics I (Ph.D.). Fall 2016, Fall 2017.
- Teaching Assistant. Industrial Organization. Fall 2014, Spring 2015.
- Teaching Assistant. Econometrics. Fall 2013, Spring 2014.

Montana State University

- Instructor. Financial Engineering. Spring 2024.
- Instructor. Advanced Agricultural Marketing. Spring 2022. Spring 2023.
- Instructor. Honors Economics. Spring 2021.
- Instructor. Economics of Agricultural Marketing. Fall semesters, 2020-2023.
- Guest Lecturer. Graduate Seminar. Fall semesters, 2020-2023.
- Guest Lecturer. Ag in a Global Context. Spring 2023.
- Guest Lecturer. Financial Engineering Design Capstone. Spring 2023.

Awards and Honors

AAEA Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Honorable Mention, 2021.

Outstanding Dissertation Award, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State, 2019.

Travel Grant, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, 2019.

Graduate Student Development Funds, Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education, Penn State, 2019.

Graduate Student Travel Award, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State, 2019.

Conference Scholarship, Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, 2017, 2018.

Gamma Sigma Delta, 2017.

Thomas C. and Jackie M. Floore Memorial Scholarship, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State, 2016.

Seminars and Conference Presentations

2023: University of Florida, Auburn University.

2022: AAEA annual meeting, RTI Scanner Data Workshop, RECIPES Network for Sustainable Food Systems.

2021: USDA-ERS, AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting.

2020: Ohio State University.

2019: Penn State University, AAEA annual meeting, NAREA annual meeting.

2018: Toulouse School of Economics*, Penn State University, Macalester College*, AAEA and NAREA annual meetings.

2017: University of Minnesota*, AAEA annual meeting, NAREA annual meeting.

(* presented by co-author)

University and Department Services

Montana State University

Department Advisory Committee, 2024.

Financial Engineering Steering Committee, 2021-2023.

Faculty Senate, 2022-2024.

Undergraduate Advising (~20 students each year).

Graduate Thesis Committee (2 students).

Professional Activities

Reviewer for: *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association*, *Applied Economics Teaching Resources*, *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, *Empirical Economics*, *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, *Food Policy*, *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences*, *Agribusiness*, *Applied Economics*, *PNAS Nexus*, *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, *China Economic Review*, *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*.

Membership in: Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), American Economic Association (AEA), The Honor Society of Agriculture (ΓΣΔ).