

Leah H. Palm-Forster

Department of Applied Economics and Statistics, University of Delaware
Townsend Hall, Rm. 206, Newark, DE 19716-2130
(302) 831-1325 (Office); leahhp@udel.edu ([website](#))

Education

Ph.D. 2015, Agricultural, Food, & Resource Economics, Michigan State University
M.S. 2011, Agricultural & Applied Economics, Virginia Tech
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

Associate Professor, Applied Economics & Statistics, University of Delaware, 2021–Present
Director, Center for Experimental & Applied Economics, University of Delaware, 2023–Present
(Associate Director, 2018–2023)
Assistant Professor, Applied Economics & Statistics, University of Delaware, 2015–2021
Research Assistant, Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics, Michigan State Univ., 2011–2015
Research Assistant, Agricultural & Applied Economics, Virginia Tech, 2009–11

Peer-reviewed articles

- Savchenko, O.M., L.H. Palm-Forster, L. Xie, R. Rahman, and K.D. Messer. 2023. “Encouraging pro-environmental behavior: Do testimonials by experts work?” *PLOS ONE* 18(10):1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0291612>
- Höhler, J., J. Barreiro-Hurlé, M. Czajkowski, F.J. Dessart, P.J. Ferraro, T. Li, K.D. Messer, L. Palm-Forster, M. Termansen, F. Thomas, K. Zagórska, K.H. Zemo, and J. Rommel. 2023. “Perspectives on stakeholder participation in the design of economic experiments for agricultural policymaking: Pros, cons, and twelve recommendations for researchers.” *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/aepp.13385>
- Arnold, C., J. Yu, M. Taylor, L. Palm-Forster, and S. Banerjee. 2023. “The Role of Risk in Farmland Contract Choices.” *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 48(2):398-411. <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/320681>.
- Conte, M.N., K. Hansen, K. Horton, C. Jones Ritten, L.H. Palm-Forster, J.F. Shogren, F. Wätzold, T. Wyckoff, and H.J. Albers. 2023. “Incentives to create landscapes that conserve seasonal migratory species.” *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/724032>
- Dineva, P.K., C. McGranaghan, K.D. Messer, L.H. Palm-Forster, L.A. Paul, and A.R. Siders. 2023. “Promoting Spatial Coordination in Flood Buyouts in the United States: Four Strategies and

- Four Challenges from the Economics of Land Preservation Literature.” *Natural Hazards Review* 24(1): 05022013. <https://doi.org/10.1061/NHREFO.NHENG-1564>.
- Palm-Forster, L.H., M. Griesinger, K.D. Messer, J. Fooks, and J. Butler. 2022. “Stewardship Signaling and the Power of Using Social Pressures to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution.” *Land Economics* 98(4): 618-638. [doi:10.3368/le.98.4.041820-0056R1](https://doi.org/10.3368/le.98.4.041820-0056R1)
- Ahsanuzzaman, L.H. Palm-Forster, and J.F. Suter. 2022. “Experimental evidence of common pool resource use in the presence of uncertainty.” *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 194:139–160. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2021.12.012>
- Hilsenroth, J., A. Josephson, K.A. Grogan, L.M. Walters, Z.T. Plakias, L.H. Palm-Forster, S. Banerjee, and T. Wade. 2022. “Past, present, and future: Status of women and minority faculty in agricultural and applied economics.” *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* 44(1):71-91. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/aep.13191>
- Gharib, M.H., L.H. Palm-Forster, T.J. Lybbert, and K.D. Messer. 2021. “Fear of fraud and willingness to pay for hybrid maize seed in Kenya.” *Food Policy* 35(4):102–119. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2021.102040>
- Fleming, P.M., L.H. Palm-Forster, and L.E. Kelley. 2021. “The effect of legacy pollution information on landowner investments in water quality: lessons from economic experiments in the field and the lab.” *Environmental Research Letters*. <http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/abea33>
- Wu, S., L.H. Palm-Forster, and K.D. Messer. 2020. “Impact of peer comparisons and firm heterogeneity on nonpoint source water pollution: An experimental study.” *Resource and Energy Economics*:101142. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S092876551830318X>
- Butler, J.M., J.R. Fooks, K.D. Messer, and L.H. Palm-Forster. 2020. Addressing social dilemmas with mascots, information, and graphics. *Economic Inquiry*. 58(1): 150-168. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ecin.12783>
- Streletskaya, N.A., S.D. Bell, M. Kecinski, T. Li, S. Banerjee, L.H. Palm-Forster, and D. Pannell. 2020. “Agricultural Adoption and Behavioral Economics: Bridging the Gap.” *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* 42(1):54–66. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/aep.13006>
- Palm-Forster, L.H., P.J. Ferraro, N. Janusch, C.A. Vossler, and K.D. Messer. 2019. Behavioral and experimental agri-environmental research: methodological challenges, literature gaps, and recommendations. *Environmental & Resource Economics* 73(3): 719-742. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10640-019-00342-x>
- Palm-Forster, L.H., J. Suter, and K.D. Messer. 2019. “Experimental evidence on policy approaches that link agricultural subsidies to water quality outcomes.” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 101(1): 109-133. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajae/aay057>.

- Palm-Forster, L.H. and J.M. Duke. 2019. "An endogenous equilibrium game on traffic congestion externalities" *Journal of Economic Education* 50(1): 57-69.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00220485.2018.1551095>
- Reeling, C.J., L.H. Palm-Forster, and R.M. Melstrom. 2019. "Policy instruments and incentives for coordinated habitat conservation." *Environmental & Resource Economics* 73(3): 791-813.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10640-018-0304-2>
- 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* 72(5): 493-505. <http://www.jswnonline.org/content/72/5/493>
- 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>.

(Note: Harris is Palm-Forster's maiden name)

Book Chapters

- Palm-Forster, L.H., and K.D. Messer. 2021. "Chapter 80 - Experimental and behavioral economics to inform agri-environmental programs and policies." In C. B. Barrett and D. R. Just, eds. *Handbook of Agricultural Economics*. Handbook of Agricultural Economics. Elsevier, pp. 4331-4406.

Courses

Current courses

Conducting Applied Economics Research (APEC 811, 3 credits, graduate)
Introduction to Resource Economics (APEC 324, 3 credits, undergraduate)

Past courses

Agricultural & Natural Resource Policy (APEC 406, 3 credits, undergraduate)
Economics of Agriculture and Natural Resources (APEC 150, 3 credits, undergraduate)
Mathematics for Economists Independent Study (APEC 666, 1 credit, graduate)

Student Advising

Graduate Research Advisor for:

Carl Nelson-Poteet, M.S., Water Science & Policy, *expected 2025*
Gifty Opoku, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, *expected 2025*
Davidson Nwaonu, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, *expected 2024*
Mitchell Stallman, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, *expected 2024*
Rachel King, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2022
Lindsey Kelley, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2021
Susanna Becker, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2019
Philipo Lukumay, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2019
Siddika Bhuiyanmishu, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2018
Mariam H. Gharib, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2018
Kamal Khanal, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2018
Mark Griesinger, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2017

Thesis/Dissertation Committee Member for:

Joy Deep Chakrabarty, Ph.D., Marine Science and Policy, *expected 2023*
Madison Czerniawski, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, *expected 2023*
Caroline Johnson, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, *expected 2023*
Mary Hingst, Ph.D., Water Science & Policy, *expected 2023*
Madison Czerniawski, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, *expected 2023*
Julia Parker, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, *expected 2023*
Dawoon Jeong, Ph.D., Agricultural Economics, Purdue University, *expected 2023*
Ryan Bresnahan, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2022
Pius Kilasy, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2021
Abby Evans, M.S., Water Science & Policy, 2020
Ekaterina Efimova, Ph.D., Economics, 2019
Kaitlynn Ritchie, M.S., Water Science & Policy, 2018
Samantha Speck, M.S., Geography, 2018
Shang Wu, Ph.D., Economics, 2017
Huidong Xu, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2017
Linda Grand, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2016
Audrey Peo, M.S., Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2016

Graduate Research Committee Member (non-thesis) for:

Justin Maroccia, Master of Environmental Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2022
Brian Cortes, Master in Marine Policy, 2020

Undergraduate Research Advisor for:

Kayla McKinley, DE Environmental Institute / Project WiCCED Summer Internship, 2022
Carl Nelson-Poteet, UD CANR Unique Strengths Summer Internship, 2022
Laura Taylor, DE Environmental Institute (DENIN) Internship, 2019-2020, Summer 2020, UD
CANR Unique Strengths Internship 2021-2022
Rachel King, DE Environmental Institute (DENIN) Internship, 2019-2020
Stephen Wemple, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, 2020
Veronica Hill, Delaware Water Resources Center Research Internship, 2018-2019
Daniel Bass, DE Environmental Institute (DENIN) Undergraduate Fellow, 2018
Alexandra Cole, CANR Summer Research Institute, Summer 2017
Caroline May, Blue Hen Engagement Fellowship, Summer 2017
Grace Hassler (committee member), undergrad thesis, Natural Resource Management, 2017

Grants and Contracts

NOAA Sea Grant. “Community Resilience and Adaptation to Sea Level Rise and Extreme Storms: Tradeoffs of Home Acquisition Strategies.” \$142,500. C. McGranaghan (PI), L.A. Paul, L.H. Palm-Forster, K.D. Messer, A.R. Siders (Co-PIs). 2022-2024.

USDA NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant. “A solutions-based evaluation of barriers to farmer adoption of in-season nitrogen decision support tools.” \$1,607,099. N. Fiorellino (PI), A. Shober, L. Palm-Forster, C. White, K. Davidson, J. Miller (Co-PIs). 2020-2025.

National Science Foundation – funding support from EPSCoR Track-I. “RII Track-1: Water in the Changing Coastal Environment in Delaware (Project WiCCED).” \$23,040,000. K.D. Messer (PI); H. Michael, D.L. Sparks; V. Kalavacharla, M. D’Souza (co-PIs). 2018-2023.

-- L.H. Palm-Forster (Social Dimensions Co-Lead, \$2,315,690 of the total award).

USDA NIFA AFRI. “Innovative Manure Management Strategies to Promote Phosphorus Balance and Sustain Agriculture on the Delmarva Peninsula.” \$300,000. M. Reiter (PI), A. Shober, (Co-PI), and L.H. Palm-Forster (Co-PI). 2018-2021.

National Science Foundation—funding support from the Delaware EPSCoR program. “Reducing Household Nutrient Run-off: Power of Testimonials & Technology Persistence.” \$59,979. L.H. Palm-Forster (PI), K.D. Messer and O. Savchenko (co-PIs). 2018.

College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Research Seed Grant Program. “Strengthening the production and marketing of certified maize seed in Kenya” \$47,794. L.H. Palm-Forster (PI), Randall Wisser (Co-PI). 2017-2019.

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 and Invited Presentations

2023: Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, REECAP Annual Meeting (Keynote), Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

2022: Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Center for Behavioral and Experimental Agri-Environmental Research, Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA) Annual Meeting, Lafayette College Economics Seminar, University of Guelph Agricultural & Resource Economics Seminar

2021: The National Academies of Sciences Environmental Health Matters Initiative Workshop on Reducing the Health Impacts of the Nitrogen Problem, Online Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar (OARES), Michigan State University Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics Seminar, University of Maine Economics Seminar, Project WiCCED Seminar Series, NFWF All-Bay Ag Networking Forum, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Resources for the Future, Mid-Atlantic Crop School

2020: Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Annual Meeting (Heading South Award Recipient), University of Maryland Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Agricultural Economics Seminar, University of Tennessee Agricultural and Resource Economics

2019: Mississippi State University Agricultural Economics Seminar, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting Pre-Conference Workshop on Best Practices for Addressing the Replicability Crisis in Agricultural and Applied Economics, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, University of Delaware Economics Seminar

2018: International Conference of Agricultural Economists, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA) Annual Meeting, Appalachian State University Experimental & Environmental Policy Workshop, CBEAR Spring Seminar Series - Behavioral Science in Agri-Environmental Program Designs, Allied Social Sciences Associations (ASSA) Annual Meeting

2017: Scientific Challenges to Operationalizing Payments for Agro-Ecosystem Services (PAgES) Workshop, Conference for Behavioral and Experimental Agri-Environmental Research: Methodological Advancements and Applications for Policy, Agricultural and Applied Economics

Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) Annual Meeting, Pennsylvania State University Agricultural Economics Seminar,

2016: Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA) Annual Meeting, Allied Social Sciences Associations (ASSA) Annual Meeting

2015: Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop, National Workshop on Water Quality Markets, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA) Pre-Conference Workshop, University of Guelph Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics Seminar, University of Delaware Applied Economics Seminar, USDA Economic Research Service.

Awards and Recognition

AAEA CWAE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Junior Award, 2021

AAEA/AARES Heading South Award Recipient, 2019

CANR Award for Best Advisor in Applied Economics & Statistics, 2017-18

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

Professional Affiliations

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

Center for Experimental and Applied Economics (CEAE), Fellow

Delaware Environmental Institute, U. of Delaware, Affiliated Faculty

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

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), Member

-- Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE)

-- Land, Water, and Environment Section (ENV)

-- Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE)

-- Environmental Economics Section (EXECON)

Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Member

Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Assoc. (NAREA), Member

Professional Leadership

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association

-- Land, Water, & Environmental Economics (ENV) Section, Chair, 2018–2019

-- AAEA Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE), Chair, 2017–2018

Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association,

- Career Advancement & Mentorship Program, Co-Chair/Chair, 2021-2025
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee (and original task force), 2018-2021
- Communications Co-Chair, 2016-2018

Chesapeake Bay Program Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

- Executive Board Member, 2022 – current
- Member, 2019-current
- Workshop steering committee “Overcoming the Hurdle: Addressing Implementation of Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) Through a Social Science Lens” 2020-22

Conference on Behavioral & Experimental Agri-Environmental Research: Methodological Advancements & Applications for Policy (CBEAR-MAAP). October 13-15, 2017, Lead Organizer.

Professional Service

Associate Editor, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, 2020-2023

Editorial Council, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 2018 – present

Special Issue Guest Editor, Environmental and Resource Economics, 2018 – 2019

Referee for: Agricultural & Resource Economics Review, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Applied Economics Teaching Resources, Choices, Conservation Letters, Ecological Economics, Environmental & Resource Economics, European Review of Agricultural Economics, Food Policy, Journal of Agricultural & Resource Economics, Journal of Economic Education, Journal of Environmental Economics & Management, Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Journal of the Association of Environmental & Resource Economists, Journal of Environmental Management, Land Economics, Water Resources Research

Updated October 31, 2023