

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

ECONOMISTS

SOCIAL SCIENCE ANALYSTS

INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

RECENT HIRES (1997 – 2001)

Margaret Andrews joined ERS in January 1999 and is the Assistant Deputy Director for Food Stamp Research in the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program. Her research interests include domestic food security, Food Stamp Program impacts and operations, and behavioral factors influencing FSP participation decisions. Margaret received her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to coming to ERS, she worked in the Food and Nutrition Service Office of Analysis and Evaluation, where she designed and implemented large scale evaluations and research studies related to the Food Stamp Program (FSP), including the National Food Stamp Program Survey. Between 1980 and 1989 she was on the faculty of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Marketing at Rutgers University and a resident fellow at the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy at Resources for the Future.

A. James Cash II joined ERS in October 2000 as an Agricultural Economist in the Markets and Trade Economics Division. His work includes developing a cattle and beef briefing room for the new web site and becoming familiar with the markets for poultry products. One of his first jobs is updating the Poultry yearbook. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of New Mexico in 2000 and his dissertation topic was "Optimal Rangeland Stocking Rates: Biological and Economic Modeling Aspects of Livestock Grazing in the Semi-Arid American Southwest."

Andrea Cattaneo joined ERS in July 2000 as an Agricultural Economist in the Resource Economics Division and is conducting research on conservation policy, trade and environment, and global change issues. He received his Ph.D. in Systems Analysis and Economics for Public Decision Making from The Johns Hopkins University in 1999. His dissertation used CGE modeling to examine the interactions among Amazon forests and the rest of the Brazilian economy, to identify policies that could be deployed to slow deforestation. While pursuing his doctoral studies, Andrea was also working with Sherman Robinson at IFPRI. He has conducted research on social accounting, economic agent behavior in the context of WTO negotiations, the value of early warning systems for El Nino's agricultural impacts, and the impact of trade liberalization on Costa Rica's economy.

Joseph Cooper re-joined ERS in 1998 as an Agricultural Economist in the Resource Economics Division and is conducting research on the multifunctionality of agriculture, the provision of rural amenities, the economics of the valuation and conservation of agricultural biodiversity, and other topics in non-market valuation. From 1991 through the end of 1995 he worked at ERS in the Resource and Technology Division. He then worked with the Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome from 1996 through 1998. He earned degrees from the University of California, Berkeley (B.A., Political Economy of Natural Resources) in 1984 and the University of California, Davis (M.Sc., Agricultural Economics) in 1986, and (Ph.D., Agricultural Economics) in 1991. His dissertation was entitled: "Essays in the Estimation, Specification, and Application of the Dichotomous Choice Contingent Valuation Method."

Aziz Elbehri joined ERS in December 1999 as an Economist in the Field Crops Branch in the Market and Trade Economics Division. His current work is divided between WTO policy liberalization analyses and researching biotechnology's impacts on global crop production and

trade patterns. He is currently conducting quantitative analyses on tariff-rate quota regimes, zero-for-zero policy for oilseed complex, and impacts of further liberalization in export subsidies, domestic support and market access. Aziz is also working on developing a modeling framework to analyze the implications of regulations and biotech labeling on global production and trade patterns. In addition, he is investigating the implications of biotech crops adoption in developing countries and their effects on global comparative advantage in production and trade in biotech crops. He received a dual Masters in Agricultural Economics and Agronomy from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University.

Elise Golan joined ERS in January 1998 as an Economist in the Food Assistance and Rural Economics Branch. At ERS, Elise has produced reports on comparing methods for valuing health risks, the distributional consequences of food safety policy, the government's role in the market for biotech corn and soybeans, food labeling policy, and the distributional effects of food assistance. Shortly after joining ERS, Elise was detailed to the President's Council of Economic Advisers where she served as a senior staff economist (1998-99). Elise received her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1989 and was awarded a Post-Doctorate Fellowship by the Israeli Higher Education Council from 1991-93 for work at the University of Haifa in Israel. Before joining ERS, Elise did consulting work for, among others, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, and the California Department of Finance.

Craig Gundersen joined ERS August 1997 as an Economist in the Food Assistance and Rural Economy Branch. Since joining ERS, Craig's research agenda has included several topics. He has examined the influence of the Food Stamp Program on food insufficiency, the connection between food insecurity and other dimensions of wellbeing, and the measurement of food insecurity. Craig has also analyzed determinants of food stamp participation using micro-level and more aggregated data. Finally, his research agenda has included an international component, examining various aspects of food assistance programs in Mexico and how these compare to U.S. food assistance programs. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Riverside.

Joanne F. Guthrie joined ERS in July 2000 as the Assistant Deputy Director for Nutrition in the ERS Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program. Within FANRP, her focus is on child nutrition and food assistance program issues. She has taken on the role of ERS representative to the USDA Dietary Guidance Working Group and the Human Nutrition Coordinating Committee. Joanne came to ERS from Food and Drug Administration, CFSAN, where she was a member of the Consumer Studies team. She is a USDA veteran, having previously worked at several USDA agencies, including the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, Human Nutrition Information Service, and the Agricultural Research Service. Joanne has a Ph.D. in Nutrition from the University of Maryland, and a Masters of Public Health from the University of Hawaii. Before joining ERS, Joanne was a co-author on several ERS publications, including *Away-from-Home Foods Increasingly Important to Quality of American Diet*, with Biing-Hwan Lin and Betsy Frazao, and *The Diets of America's Children: Influence of Dining Out, Household Characteristics, and Nutrition Knowledge*, with Biing-Hwan Lin and James Blaylock. She is a member of the Board of Editors of the *Journal of Nutrition Education*.

Wade Hampton joined ERS in August 2000 as an Economic Information Specialist in the Agriculture and Trade Outlook Branch. Wade worked with the modeling team to develop the 2000/2001 Baseline. He has also worked with other analysts on the feed grain database. He has worked to document data sources, the procedures used to update and format the database, and is developing improved output formats that can more easily be used in web applications. Before coming to the Agriculture and Trade Outlook Branch, Wade served as an USDA-ERS, Summer Intern in the Animal Products Branch during the summer of 1999. Wade is a native of Maryland, but received a B.A. in English with a Business minor from the University of Florida in May 1998. He received a M.Sc. in Agribusiness Management and Marketing from Louisiana State University in August 2000.

Paul Heisey joined ERS in October 1998 as an Agricultural Economist in the Resource Economics Division. At ERS he is conducting research on the economics of agricultural research. Specifically, he is examining the difference in the use of intellectual property (IP) by the public and private sectors, the degree to which IP may block the development and transfer of fundamental knowledge, and technical (nonlegal) means of protecting or expanding new knowledge. Other areas of interest include econometrics, production economics, technological change, science policy, impact assessment, African agriculture, and farming systems. Paul received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1985. His dissertation topic was "Employment and Income in Botswana's Arable Agriculture". From 1985-1998, he worked as an Economist with CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center), and was based at different times in Pakistan, Malawi, and Mexico. His research at CIMMYT focused on the economics of technical change in agriculture. He taught on-farm research techniques, evaluation of on-farm trials, statistics, survey analysis, and policy analysis in short courses for developing country agricultural research personnel.

Jeffrey Hopkins joined ERS in June 1999 as an Agricultural Economist in the Resource Economics Division. Jeff was employed under a cooperative agreement with ERS at Ohio State, working on global soil degradation issues in the School of Natural Resources with Rattan Lal for the first half of 1999. He earned a B.A. in International Studies from Miami University and

joined the Peace Corps, which sent him to Guatemala where he worked for three years in a resource conservation program in the western highlands. Upon returning to the United States in 1991, Jeff entered the Agricultural Economics program at the Ohio State University and earned a M.Sc. degree, writing a thesis on farm production issues related to water quality. He remained at Ohio State, working for Extension as an evaluator for their watershed education programs. Subsequently, he completed his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics in December 1998, writing a dissertation on farm production and information economics. Professionally, Jeff has authored and presented papers mainly in the agricultural production and farm management arena, covering topics ranging from precision agriculture, soil conservation, information management, climate change, water quality, and watershed protection.

Robert Johansson will join ERS in January 2001 in the Resource Economics Division to work on issues in conservation and environmental policy. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in Fall 2000. Rob's dissertation entitled is entitled "Intertemporal Nutrient Trading for Point-Nonpoint Source Emissions," using the Minnesota River as a case study. Rob has also completed various research projects on African agriculture, based in part on his years in the Peace Corps there, and has served as a consultant for the World Bank.

Dean Jolliffe joined ERS in September 2000 as an Economist in the Food Assistance and Rural Economy Branch. His current research focuses on topics related to poverty, inequality, education, household labor supply, and related measurement issues. He also has an interest in how survey methods affect estimation and inference. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University. Dean has worked as a consultant at the World Bank on the Living Standards Measurement Study, and as a post-doctoral fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute. In addition to research on poverty and education, Dean was involved in the collection of household survey data from several different countries (El Salvador, Paraguay, Pakistan, Egypt, and Mozambique). Prior to joining ERS, he was an Assistant Professor at the Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education in Prague, where he taught Public Economics and Econometrics to Ph.D. students.

Carol Adaire Jones joined ERS as Associate Director for Research for the Resource Economics Division in September 1999. She received a M.Sc. from the London School of Economics (M.Sc.) and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University. Prior to joining ERS, she served for two years as Associate Professor at the Instituto Centroamericano de Administracion de Empresas (INCAE) in Costa Rica, where her research projects included studies of the role of Central America in emerging carbon markets, sustainability of agriculture policies in Central America, and household demand for rural water supply projects. Previously Carol was Chief of the Resource Valuation Branch, Damage Assessment Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). During her eight-year tenure with NOAA, Carol provided oversight of the economic analyses in all the natural resource damage assessments conducted by NOAA in its capacity as a trustee for coastal and marine resources, such as the Exxon Valdez oil spill. In addition she was responsible for the development of the resource valuation component of the natural resource damage assessment regulations for implementing the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, in which capacity she coordinated the "Blue Ribbon Panel on the Use of Contingent Valuation in Natural Resource Damages." She also held a joint faculty appointment at the University of

Michigan in the Economics Department and the School of Natural Resources, and served as a Gilbert White Fellow at Resources for the Future.

Keithly Jones joined ERS in January 2000 as an Agricultural Economist in the Markets and Trade Economics Division. He is the contact for market information about sheep and wool, and is developing a quarterly model of the U.S. livestock industry. He is also a part of the Division's global commodity modeling group. He completed his Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Economics at the Pennsylvania State University in December of 1999. His dissertation looked at developing an integrated input-output econometric model of Pennsylvania's Agricultural Economy. His Masters Degree in Agribusiness comes from Florida A&M University, where he conducted a study on optimal enterprise portfolios for small farmers in Florida using a risk-returns approach.

Nader Kabbani joined ERS in November 2000 as an Economist in the Food Assistance and Rural Economy branch. Nader's research interests have focused on employment and poverty issues, and he plans to continue work in these areas at ERS. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from The Johns Hopkins University, where he conducted his dissertation research on the impact of public sector training programs on the well-being of non-participants under the direction of Robert Moffitt. Before coming to ERS, Nader worked for the California State legislature as a legislative consultant while completing his Masters Degree, and later in the Department of Sociology at Johns Hopkins, analyzing risk factors and processes that lead to high school dropout. He is also co-founder and mediator for a non-profit organization that mediates community disputes in Baltimore.

Jonathan Kaplan joined ERS in July 2000 as an Agricultural Economist in the Resource Economics Division and is focusing his efforts in the water quality program area. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis in 1999, and then spent a year on a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California, Davis with Professor Richard Howitt. His dissertation research focused on non-point source pollution control, with incomplete information and learning, employing entropy econometrics. In addition he has conducted research on groundwater depletion, water conservation, and water allocation for California agriculture; and on recycling municipal solid waste, evaluating the impacts of mandatory versus voluntary recycling laws, and the optimal size of recycling facilities.

Nigel Key joined ERS in August 2000 as an Agricultural Economist in the Resource Economics Division and is working on issues relating to risk management, farm structure, and farm sector and environmental performance. He earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics in 1997 from the University of California/Berkeley. After receiving his Ph.D., Nigel spent one year on a post-doctoral fellowship at Berkeley, and for the last two years has been Lecturer in the Program in International Policy Studies at Stanford University. His recent research in the natural resource economics area includes a study of how recent environmental, land tenure and economic policy reforms are likely to affect the management of Mexico's common property resources. Other research has focused on decision-making by agricultural households, regarding production and consumption; the effect of transaction costs on the functioning of rural financial markets; and contracting and structure issues in agricultural production.

Bryan T. Lohmar joined ERS in November 1999 as an Economist in the Asia and Western Hemisphere Branch. He is continuing his research in land tenure issues by looking more closely at the determinants of land reallocation behavior and the development of land markets in China. Bryan has been working on a long-term research program examining water scarcity issues in China and their potential effects on agricultural production. His work on labor, land and water allocation issues in China will dovetail into a larger division-wide research program that addresses the impact of input market policies on agricultural production. Bryan has also participated in recent ERS research on the effects of China's WTO accession on US agricultural exports and farm incomes. He received a B.A. from the University of Minnesota with a major in Mathematics and a minor in Chinese, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis, in Agricultural and Applied Economics. Bryan's dissertation research is on the effects of village land tenure and grain quota policies on farm household labor allocation decisions.

Daniel Mullarkey joined ERS in August 1998 as an Agricultural Economist in the Resource Economics Division and is currently working on economic policy issues associated with the links between rural amenities and agricultural land uses. He earned his Ph.D. from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin in May 1997. His dissertation was entitled, "Contingent Valuation of Wetlands: Testing Sensitivity to Scope." After completion of his degree, Dan worked for a brief time at Mathtech Consulting in Princeton, NJ. Dan's general research area is economic welfare analysis applied to agro-environmental issues. He has completed work in the area of wetland valuation, ecosystem valuation, and welfare analysis under uncertainty.

Constance Newman joined ERS in July 2000 as an Economist in the Rural Business and Development Policy Branch. Her current work is examining the impacts of electricity deregulation and its prospects for rural development. Her research interests also include off-farm employment issues, where she plans to look at the impacts of the Workforce Investment Act and other recent vocational training initiatives designed to provide improved access for rural residents. Constance is also serving as the ERS Project Leader on a cooperative agreement project looking at parental roles, time use, and children's nutrition. She received her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Davis. Before coming to ERS, Constance worked at the World Bank on rural employment, poverty, and gender issues and at a consulting firm in Sacramento, California on energy conservation.

Cynthia Nickerson joined ERS in July 2000 as an Agricultural Economist in the Resource Economics Division. She is focusing on land use policy and rural amenities and will also be contributing to the branch program on environmental valuation. Cynthia earned her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics in June 2000. Her dissertation focused on participation in farmland preservation programs, examining the determinants of participation and its timing, and the effect of the programs on farmland prices. She has also done research on financial management for nurseries, and fruit and vegetable markets. She won the Best Student Paper award in both her first and second years at Maryland. Cindy also is a Certified Public Accountant, and holds a B.S. in Accounting and a M.Sc. in Environmental Studies from California State University at Fullerton.

Wesley Nimon joined ERS in February 2000 as an Economist in the Resource Economics Division. He is focusing on trade and environment issues. Wesley earned his Ph.D. in Economics in 1999 from North Carolina State University. His dissertation focused on the impacts of eco-labels on domestic markets and international trade flows. Wesley has already published two papers from his dissertation in AJAE. He has also conducted research on organic supply decisions under price and yield risk.

Mark Nord joined ERS in July 1998 as a Social Science Analyst in the Food Assistance and Rural Economics Branch. He spent almost four years at ERS under a cooperative agreement with the University of Wisconsin. His research areas include household food security and hunger, rural poverty, the spatial distribution and concentration of poverty, rural migration, and rural welfare program use. Mark received Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Rural Sociology from the Pennsylvania State University. His previous occupations include research on natural resources and rural poverty at the Pennsylvania State University, management of NGO relief and development programs in Bangladesh, and bush flying in the jungles of Borneo.

Janet Perry joined ERS in December 1990 as an Agricultural Economist and served in the Farm Structure and Performance Branch. In January 2000 she became Chief of the Animal Products Branch of the Market and Trade Economics Division. Janet's focus of research is market structure, particularly the effects of contracting on price discovery. Janet has a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She has also studied the farm characteristics and demography of small farm households. Before joining ERS, Janet worked in market analysis for Halliburton Services and Public Service of New Mexico.

Greg Pompelli joined ERS in March 2000 as an Agricultural Economist, after thirteen years on the faculty at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is Chief of the Agriculture and Trade Outlook Branch. Greg's research interests include international trade issues, agricultural marketing, and firms' foreign direct investment motivations. He received a B.S. in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology from the Pennsylvania State University in 1979; and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Davis in 1980 and 1987. His previous research interests included agribusiness business assistance needs, and the influence of supply chain management practices on agricultural marketing.

Mark Prell joined ERS in June 1999 as an Economist. He is the Assistant Deputy Director of Program Research and Information in the Food and Rural Economics Division. His recent work examined changes in the Virginia welfare caseload following that state's welfare reform. Mark's other research interests include comparing methods of correcting for sample selection bias, and connections between household income dynamics and government assistance programs. He obtained Bachelors degrees in economics and government at William and Mary College, and his Ph.D. in Economics at MIT. He has taught at several universities and colleges, including Hampden-Sydney College, where he chaired the Economics Department. For five years, Mark was co-owner and manager of Global Awards, Inc., a family-owned company that provided regalia for college graduations depicting the national colors and symbols of each country. His past research has included work on the distributional effects of alternative allocation systems for

“merit” goods such as basic foods or medicine, corporate income smoothing, and exhaustible resource theory.

Elizabeth Ramey joined ERS as an Economic Information Specialist in January 2000 and is responsible for the design, development, and maintenance of database systems to support the agricultural market analysis activities within the Market Trade and Economics Division. Elizabeth is in the process of completing her Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Massachusetts. She received a M.A. in Economics from the University of Denver in 1998. She has a B.A. in International Affairs from the George Washington University (1995).

Michael Roberts joined ERS in August 2000 as an Agricultural Economist in the Resource Economics Division to work on issues associated with risk and natural resource management. He completed his Ph.D. in 2000 at the University of California, Berkeley. His dissertation, “Essays on the Interaction of Risk and Finance Choices,” examined risk in natural resource markets and in agriculture. While at Berkeley, he worked closely with Peter Berck, Jeff Perloff, and David Zilberman doing theoretical, survey, and empirical work on the structure of information markets and the estimation of costs of pesticide cancellations. Michael received a Master’s degree in Statistics and a fellowship in Econometrics.

Meredith Soule joined ERS in October 1997 as an Agricultural Economist in the Resource Economics Division. At ERS she continues to work on soil conservation issues as well as global agricultural productivity. She is also conducting research concerning the links between risk management and natural resource management. Prior to coming to ERS, Meredith spent two and a half years at the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) in Kenya. Her research in Kenya focused on the economics of soil nutrient management and soil conservation in smallholder agriculture. She received a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1994. Her dissertation studied issues of sustainable agriculture in Mexico, where she spent a year conducting research.

Eileen S. Stommes joined ERS in March 2000 as a Senior Economist in the Rural Business and Development Policy Branch. Currently, she is working on a report examining the impact of the 1991 Transportation Act (known as ISTEA) on rural road and bridge conditions. She is also working on several inter-agency projects concerning rural transportation issues. Her research plans include an assessment of the impact of transportation deregulation on rural areas, including rural passenger mobility, transportation infrastructure, and the ability of rural officials to access the transportation planning process. She joined USDA in 1987, working in the Office of Transportation on rural transit issues, and later with the Agricultural Marketing Service. Eileen holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University in Development Sociology, a unique field that focuses on processes of change. She has worked previously for the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Laura Tiehen joined ERS in February 1999 as an Economist in the Food Assistance and Rural Economy Branch. Her current research examines food stamp use and the role of nonprofit food assistance in the post-welfare reform environment, the use of the food insecurity index as a measure of wellbeing, and the effect of tax policy on working poor farm and nonfarm

households. Laura oversees two projects that investigate the role of food stamps among former cash welfare recipients and the working poor. She received her Masters and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied the role of tax policy and work status on contributions of money and time to charitable organizations. After receiving her Masters degree from the University of Wisconsin, Laura volunteered for two years, providing technical assistance to weaving cooperatives in Guatemala.

Eric Van Dusen joined ERS in October 2000 as an Agricultural Economist in the Resource Economics Division and is working on issues related to the management of genetic resources. He received his Ph.D. from University of California, Davis in 2000, completing a dissertation entitled “Conservation of Crop Genetic Diversity in the Mexican *Milpa* Agro-Ecosystem.” He has extensive experience in studying the economic value of biological diversity in both *in situ* and *ex situ* contexts, and has served as consultant to IFPRI and to CIMMYT on these topics. For his dissertation he spent an extensive period of time in Mexico conducting field work and data collection.

Jayachandran N. (Jay) Variyam joined the permanent staff of ERS in January 1997 as an Economist in the Diet, Safety, and Health Economics Branch. In 1992 Jay began working at ERS under a cooperative agreement. Initially, Jay worked with the productivity group to develop quality-adjusted price indexes for fertilizers. More recently, his work has focused on modeling the nutrient intake and diet quality of the U.S. population and modeling parts of the conditional distribution of dietary intakes other than the conditional mean using quantile regression methods. This work is expected to shed new light on dietary intake behavior, where the risks of inadequacy and excess are greater at the tails of the intake distributions than at the mean. Jay received his Masters in Agricultural Economics from the Kerala Agricultural University, India, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Georgia.

Marca Weinberg re-joined ERS as Chief of the Resource and Environmental Policy Branch of the Resource Economics Division in February 2000. From February 1991 through February 1993 she worked at ERS as an Agricultural Economist, where she began her post-doctoral career. She received a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Davis. Prior to re-joining ERS, she was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at the University of California, Davis. She also held positions as an Analyst with the Congressional Budget Office. Her dissertation, which won the AAEEA Dissertation of the Year Award, examined economic incentives for controlling agricultural non-point source water pollution. In addition, she has published research addressing water quantity/quality tradeoffs and federal water policy reform, economic implications of the Endangered Species Act as it is applied to species dependent on riparian ecosystems, and implications of overlapping and uncoordinated environmental and resource policies.

Parke Wilde joined ERS in July 1998 as an Economist with the Food Assistance and Rural Economy Branch. Currently, he oversees two projects to develop new data resources for research on food and nutrition assistance programs. At ERS, Parke has written about the decline in Food Stamp Program participation in the 1990's and about the impacts of food stamps and WIC on

dietary quality. He graduated with honors from Swarthmore College, where he studied Political Science and Economics. He returned to Washington for two years in the early 1990's to edit *Nutrition Week*, a newsletter on food and nutrition issues. He received his Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University. His dissertation on "The Monthly Food Stamp Cycle" was recognized with the Outstanding Dissertation award from his department and from the American Council on Consumer Interests.

Josh Winicki joined ERS in July 1999 as an Economist in the Food Assistance and Rural Economy Branch. His research has included examining the effects of school meals on student achievement and changes in low-income households' "bundling" of welfare assistance programs since welfare reform. Josh is also managing a contract and collaborating with FNS on a pilot project investigating the integrity of the School Meals program. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Oregon, where he examined the effect of outside incentives such as local wage premiums and scholarship opportunities on secondary student achievement. After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. in Economics, Josh worked for two years in San Francisco at Mellon Capital Management, an institutional investing firm.