

The Ohio State University
Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics
[Farm Income Enhancement Program](#)
Dr. [Ani Katchova](#), Professor and Farm Income Enhancement Chair

Information for Prospective PhD Students

Dear Prospective PhD student,

We are delighted that you are considering OSU, AEDE, and the [Farm Income Enhancement \(FIE\) Program](#) that is managed by Dr. Ani Katchova for your PhD studies! The FIE program develops and delivers research, education, and outreach to enhance farm income and promote long-term stability for farm businesses.

We'd like to share some opportunities and successes of our current and former FIE PhD students to help you make your decision. We are always looking for more PhD students to join our program.

Dr. Ani Katchova is a proud alumna of AEDE and THE Ohio State University, AEDE in 2001 and after holding faculty positions at University of Illinois and University of Kentucky, she came back to Ohio State to be an endowed chair. She enjoys working with PhD students as part of her FIE program and supporting them in their academic program.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND COURSES

Our [AEDE PhD program](#) is one of the top programs in Ag Economics nationwide, offering rigorous training. AEDE has a number of required and elective [PhD courses](#) by our excellent AEDE faculty. FIE students also take [AEDECON 8202](#), a PhD frontier course in Agricultural Finance that Dr. Katchova teaches every other year (next offering Autumn 2024).

There is a second-year paper requirement and a dissertation which typically consists of three essays/papers. FIE students produce excellent papers which we strive to publish in top journals.

FUNDING

Our FIE program is the largest endowed program in AEDE. We offer multiple research and teaching assistantships from our FIE endowment funds. Our FIE students are fully funded throughout their PhD studies with Research Assistantship, while receiving Teaching Assistantship for the semester they teach.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

FIE students conduct research on U.S. agricultural economics and finance issues. Topics have included USDA forecast evaluations, ag lending and loan performance, farm financial performance, and many others, depending on student interests. We'd love to hear your research interests and ideas.

FIE students have been very successful publishing in our top journal (the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*), top field journals (*Agribusiness*, *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*) and the flagship journal of Ag Finance (*Agricultural Finance Review*). FIE students have received a number of research awards and presented their papers at conferences and on the job market. FIE students' research on Ag Baselines was funded with a grant by USDA-ERS.

Current research topics by FIE students

Evaluating the USDA farm income forecasts and OECD-FAO baseline projection revisions
Evaluating the impact of government program announcements on commodity prices
Examining USDA WASDE's forecasts
Effect of bank mergers on bank consolidation

Select publications by FIE students

Fang and Katchova. "Evaluating the OECD-FAO and USDA Agricultural Baseline Projections." (2023) [link](#)

Kim and Katchova. "Agricultural bank acquisitions and post-acquisition performance: Examination of the role of shared knowledge." *Agribusiness: An International Journal* (2022). [link](#)

Bora, Katchova, and Kuethe. "The Rationality of USDA Forecasts under Multivariate Asymmetric Loss." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (2021). [link](#)

Chen, Katchova, and Zhou. "Agricultural Loan Delinquency Prediction Using Machine Learning Methods." *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review* (2021). [link](#)

Kim, and Katchova. "Impact of the Basel III Bank Regulation on US Agricultural Lending." *Agricultural Finance Review* (2020). [link](#)

Davis, and Katchova. "The Impact of Bank Deregulations on Farm Financial Stress and Stability." *Sustainability* (2020). [link](#)

Xu, and Katchova. "Predicting Soybean Yield with NDVI using a Flexible Fourier Transform Model." *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics* (2019). [link](#)

Research awards for FIE students

- Outstanding Research Award from the Ag Finance and Management Section of our Association (AAEA) [link](#)
- Krauss Director's Award for Excellence in Graduate Research from our College [link](#)
- Research Forum and Poster Competition Winner for our College [link](#)
- Best Second Year Manuscript Award for AEDE

Presentations and travel opportunities

FIE students are encouraged to attend and present at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association ([AAEA](#)) meeting and the [NC-1177](#) Agricultural Finance Regional meeting every year. They are supported with travel funding.



Photo: FIE students at AAEA conference

TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

FIE students are given an opportunity to teach in order to prepare for the job market.

Teaching assignments for FIE students

[AEDECON 3103](#), an undergraduate course in Agribusiness Finance. FIE students can serve as a Teaching Assistant when the course is taught by Dr. Katchova, and then offer the course as an Instructor in the following semester.

[AEDECON 6110](#), a master's course in econometrics. FIE students can serve as the Teaching Assistant for the Stata or R labs (with student evaluations) with Dr. Katchova teaching the lectures. Econometrics content is based on Dr. Katchova's [Econometrics Academy](#).

Many FIE students have received stellar student teaching evaluations. Several FIE students have been recognized with the AEDE Erven Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award.

EXTENSION/OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

FIE students are actively engaged in the FIE program extension and outreach activities, which sets them apart on the job market. From writing outreach

reports, to giving presentations at OSU Farm Science Review, to engaging with USDA and extension faculty and staff, FIE students work on many topics related to the US and Ohio agricultural sector. See many FIE outreach report and presentations [here](#).



Photo: FIE team meeting with Ohio Farm Bureau

Select outreach activities of FIE students

- Outreach reports on ag land lost to development and farmland preservation ([link link](#)), USDA ag forecasts ([link link](#)), Ohio farm finances ([link link](#)), land values ([link](#)), commodity markets ([link](#)), and many more.
- Outreach presentation contributions for the Ag Outlook and Policy Conference. [link](#)
- Collaboration with USDA-ERS, farmdoc, FINBIN
- AAEA participation and finalist in the Grad Student Extension Competition
- Outreach presentation alongside Dr. Katchova in the OSU Farm Science Review, Ask the Expert [link](#)



Photo: FIE students at Farm Science Review

CURRENT FIE STUDENTS

Our current FIE team members are:

[Xiaoyi Fang](#) at fang.807@osu.edu

Rae Ju at ju.132@osu.edu

[Zhining Sun](#) at sun.3098@osu.edu

Vishavdeep Sharma at sharma.1094@osu.edu

Feel free to contact them to get a student perspective of working with the FIE program.

JOB PLACEMENT

Our FIE students have obtained excellent jobs in academia, government, and industry.

- [Rabail Chandio](#) (Assistant Professor, Iowa State University)
- [Siddhartha Bora](#) (Assistant Professor, West Virginia University)
- [Kevin Kim](#) (Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University)
- [Eric Davis](#) (USDA-Economic Research Service)
- Jian Chen (Amazon)
- Chang Xu (US Bank)



Photo: FIE team with FIE students

CONTACT INFORMATION



We hope that you will choose the [Farm Income Enhancement Program](#) in AEDE at Ohio State for your PhD studies. Please contact Dr. [Ani Katchova](#) at Katchova.1@osu.edu or any of the

current or former FIE students for more information.