

# JIAN CHEN

Email: [chenjian@iastate.edu](mailto:chenjian@iastate.edu)

Department of Economics, Iowa State University

Office: 568E Heady Hall, 518 Farm House Lane, Ames, IA 50011

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0006-6443-3851>

Personal website: <https://isu-jianchen.weebly.com>



## CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) and Department of Economics at Iowa State University, *May 2024 – Present*

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Agricultural Economics, **Iowa State University**, *Aug. 2018 – May 2024*

M.A. Rural and Regional Development, **Renmin University of China**, *Sept. 2016 – July 2018*

B.A. Rural Regional Development, **Southwest University**, *Sept. 2012 – July 2016*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental and Resource Economics, Energy Economics, Renewable Energy Development, Agricultural Economics

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

(\* Indicates Corresponding Author)

Chen, J.\*, Feng, H., Hoffman, E., & Seaberg, L. (2025) [Support for Utility-scale Solar: Effects of Information and Heterogeneity among Public Officials, the General Population, and Landowners](#). *Journal of Environmental Management* 377, 124574.

Qu, X., & Chen, J.\* (2025). [Changes in the Structure of Household Expenditure in Urban and Rural China: A Comparison of LA/AIDS and QUAIDS](#). *Applied Economics*, 57(14): 1596–1613.

Chen, J., Tian, X., & Yu, J.\* (2024). [How a Price-Support Policy Can Hurt the Environment: Empirical Evidence from Northeast China](#). *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics/Revue Canadienne d'agroeconomie* 72 (2): 131–148.

Chen, J., Lu, J., Wang, X., & Zhang, Y.\* (2017). [Analysis of the Current Situation of Urban Residents' Water Expenditure in Eastern, Central, and Western China](#). *China Price*, (08): 29–31. (in Chinese)

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDING ARTICLES AND RESEARCH REPORTS

McCalley, J., Christy, C., Chen, J., Wang, Y., Azmi, I., & Andrade, A. (2025). [Iowa's Visions for Future Electric Grids: Survey Results](#). *Proceeding of the 2025 North American Power Symposium*.

**Chen, J.,** Feng, H., Hoffman, E., & Seaberg, L. (2023). [Solar Energy Surge in Iowa: Policies, Public Opinion, and Future Opportunities](#). *Agricultural Policy Review*, Fall 2023. Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD), Iowa State University.

**Chen, J.,** & Feng, H. (2022). [Utility-scale Wind and Solar Development in Iowa: Trends, Prospects, and the Land Factor](#). *Agricultural Policy Review*, Winter 2022. Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD), Iowa State University.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

### **(Draft manuscripts available upon request)**

Agricultural and Solar Farms: Heterogeneous Preferences Among Local Public Officials, the General Population, Landowners and Non-Landowners. With Hongli Feng, Elizabeth Hoffman, and Luke Seaberg (Revision submitted, *Land Economics*)

Heterogeneity in State Solar and Wind Deployments: Trade-offs between Technology-neutral and Technology-specific Renewable Energy Policies. With Hongli Feng and Alyssa Carlson (Under review)

Crowding in or Crowding out: Assessing the Role of Distributed Generation Solar Photovoltaic in Utility-scale Solar Development. With Hongli Feng

Quantifying Land Use Tradeoffs Between Solar Energy and Agriculture: Effects of Baseline Attitudes and Information Treatments. With Hongli Feng, Yongjie Ji, and Luke Seaberg

Measuring Energy–Agriculture Dual Production in Agrivoltaics: Metrics, Methods, and Stakeholder Needs. With Hongli Feng, John Tyndall, Matthew O’Neal, Madhu Khanna, and Ruiqing Miao

## **SELECT WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Exploring Stakeholder Perspectives on Utility-scale Solar and Regional Heterogeneity: A Study from Six Great Lakes States

Utility-scale Solar Zoning: Information Treatments and Preferences Alignment between Officials and Residents

Information Persistence and Preference Updating from Feedback: Evidence from a Two-Wave Survey Experiment

Beekeeping Can Be Enhanced at Solar Farms: A Win-Win for Agriculture and Energy Production

Moratoriums and Bans on Solar Energy: Implied Land Values and Welfare Consequences

## **EXPERIENCE**

### ▪ **Research Experience**

**Postdoctoral Research Associate**, Iowa State University, *June 2024 – Present*

Projects: “Mapping and Bridging Barriers in Knowledge Flows of How Solar Photovoltaics Affect Rural Community Economies” and “Leveraging a Public-Private Partnership to Address Technical and Socioeconomic Factors of Agrivoltaics System”

- Work on projects related to the socioeconomic factors and localized impacts of solar and renewable energy systems, including agrivoltaic systems.
- Analyze the attitudes and perceptions of stakeholders involved in solar energy including agrivoltaic systems and the policies and other driving factors in an interdisciplinary setting.
- Design survey questionnaires and experiments, collect primary data through interviews and survey distribution, and perform statistical and econometrics analyses of primary and secondary data to qualitatively and quantitatively evaluate socioeconomic factors underlying the adoption or support decisions regarding different solar energy systems.
- Lead the writing of journal manuscripts that are based on project activities.

**Research Assistant**, Iowa State University, *Aug. 2021 – Apr. 2024*

“Mapping and Bridging Barriers in Knowledge Flows of How Solar Photovoltaics Affect Rural Community Economies” (Supervisor: Hongli Feng)

- Designed surveys for public officials and the general population to test how knowledge dissemination affects their perceptions, preferences, and zoning decisions regarding utility-scale solar PV in their communities using an information treatment experiment and a discrete choice experiment.
- Compiled and organized survey and experimental data gathered from both physical questionnaires and online survey platforms.
- Drafted summaries of the survey findings and articles for submission to academic journals.

**Research Assistant**, Iowa State University, *Dec. 2021 – Mar. 2022*

“A Case Study of the Trends, Policies, and Prospects of Utility-Scale Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Development in Iowa” (Supervisor: Hongli Feng)

- Compiled county-level utility-scale solar and wind zoning database for the State of Iowa.
- Collected data and conducted data visualization and analysis.
- Drafted and finalized research report.

**Research Assistant**, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences and Renmin University of China, *Dec. 2016 – Dec. 2018*

“Comparison of Willingness to Accept between Stated and Revealed Preference” and “Willingness to Adopt Environmentally Friendly Technologies for Small-Scale Hog Producers” (Supervisor: Xiaohui Tian)

- Served as a team leader and trained 19 undergraduate students to conduct household surveys.
- Assisted in the design of choice experiments on farmers’ preferences with alternative types of techs and levels of government subsidy.
- Assisted in the design of a randomized controlled field experiment.
- One of the four primary investigators in the field experiment; sample size: 370 rural households.
- Entry and proofreading of the survey and experimental data.
- Arranged survey and experiment data for empirical analysis.

## ▪ **Teaching Experience**

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Economics, Iowa State University, *Aug. 2018 – Aug. 2021*

- Managerial Economics (Econ 532), *Summer 2021*
- Intermediate Microeconomics (Econ 301), *Spring 2021*
- Analysis of Food Markets (Econ 435X), *Spring 2021*

- Principle of Macroeconomics (Econ 102), *Summer 2021*
- Principle of Microeconomics (Econ 101), *Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020*
- **Other Academic Experience**
  - Review service: “*Agricultural and Food Policy*” session of the 2022 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting.
  - Referee service: *European Review of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Economics, Contemporary Economic Policy, Frontiers of Economics in China, Online Journal of Rural Research and Policy.*

## **ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

“Quantifying Land Use Tradeoffs Between Solar Energy and Agriculture: Effects of Baseline Attitudes and Information Treatments”

- Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics (HERE) Workshop, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, 2025

“Exploring Preferences, Stakeholder Perspectives, and Regional Heterogeneity on Utility-Scale Solar”

- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) Annual Conference, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM, 2025

“Does More Knowledge Mean More Support? Exploring Information, Knowledge, and Perception of Utility-scale Solar”

- Agricultural and Applied Economic Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2024

“Agricultural and Solar Farms: Exploring Preferences for Utility-scale Solar Energy in Local Communities”

- AERE Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., 2024
- AAEA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2024
- HERE Workshop, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, 2024

“Crowding-in or Crowding-out: Assessing the Role of Distributed Generation Solar Photovoltaic in Utility-scale Solar Development”

- AAEA Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, 2022
- HERE Workshop, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, 2022
- AERE-sponsored session at the Midwest Economic Association (MEA) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, 2024

“Heterogeneity in State Solar and Wind Deployments: Effects of Technology-neutral and Technology-specific Renewable Energy Policies”

- MEA Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, 2022
- American Economic Association/Allied Social Science Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, 2024
- HERE Workshop, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, 2024

“Changes in the Structure of Household Expenditure in Urban and Rural China”

- Western Regional Science Association (WRSA) Annual Meeting, Big Island, HI, 2023

“Land Use Concerns and the Adoption of Utility-scale Solar in Local Communities”

- Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Annual Conference, Des Moines, IA, 2023

“Utility-scale Wind and Solar Development in Iowa: Trends, Prospects, and the Land Factor”

- Iowa State University Electric Power Research Center (EPRC) Annual Meeting, Ames, IA, 2023

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

AAEA Trust Scholarship, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, 2025

ISU CARD Award for Best Ph.D. Dissertation in Agricultural, Environmental, and Energy

Economics and Policy, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development at Iowa State University, 2025

Dean’s Citation for Extraordinary Contributions to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

(Agrivoltaics team), College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 2025

Graduate with Honors, Renmin University of China, 2018

First Grade Scholarship for Graduate Students, Renmin University of China, 2017

Graduate with Honors, Southwest University, 2016

Excellent Bachelor Dissertation Award, Southwest University, 2016

First Grade Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Southwest University, 2015

China National Scholarship, Education Ministry of China, 2014

Second Grade Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Southwest University, 2015

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SKILLS**

Programming: STATA, R, LATEX

Language: English (Fluent), Mandarin Chinese (Native)