



# Iowa State University

## Department of Economics

Friday, May 21, 2021 (This newsletter will be published every two weeks until August 13.)

### **Announcement**

#### **Employees to return to campus July 1**

Employees working mostly from off-campus locations who were making plans to return to their university offices in August now have an earlier deadline.

### **Department Highlights**

#### **Plastina named Agricultural Economics Fellow**

Farm Foundation announced Alejandro Plastina, associate professor/extension economist at the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development in the Department of Economics, as its first Agricultural Economics Fellow.

#### **Zhang wins AAEA extension award**

Wendong Zhang, assistant professor, has been selected to receive the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's prestigious Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Award: Less than 10 years experience.

#### **93rd Soil Management Land Valuation conference held**

The Soil Management Land Valuation virtual conference was held May 19. This is the 93rd annual conference and the longest running conference at Iowa State.

#### **New paper for Sawadgo, Zhang and Plastina**

Wendiam Sawadgo ('20 PhD ag econ), in collaboration with Wendong Zhang, assistant professor, and Alejandro Plastina, associate professor, published a new open access article, "What drives landowners' conservation decisions? Evidence from Iowa" in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*.

#### **Virtual seminar by Zhang**

Wendong Zhang, assistant professor, gave a virtual seminar, "The Impact of China's Place-based Environmental Regulations on its Hog Industry: A Synthetic Difference-in-differences Approach," at Jinan University in China Monday, May 17.

#### **Swenson interview on labor shortage**

David Swenson, research scientist, was interviewed for a May 18 *Maquoketa Sentinel-Press* story, "Economist: Labor force shortage 'alarming.'"

#### **Iowa can't reverse birth rate declines: Eathington**

Liesl Eathington, research scientist, was quoted in a May 19 *Des Moines Register* story, "COVID-19, 'baby bust,' demographic changes: Iowa may soon see fewer births than deaths."

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