

# KAYLEE K. WELLS

912 East Oregon Street, Urbana, IL 61801

(+1) 941-704-4282 ♦ kkwells2@illinois.edu ♦ kayleewells.github.io

## EDUCATION

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**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** *(expected) 2025*  
Ph.D. Agricultural and Applied Economics GPA: 3.84/4.0  
Dissertation: "Grassland restoration and recreation in the U.S.: Valuation and its relationship to climate change beliefs and projected impacts"  
Major Advisor: Amy W. Ando  
Committee Members: Shadi S. Atallah, Sahan T. M. Dissanayake, and Jared Hutchins

**Mississippi State University - Starkville, MS** *2019*  
M.S. Agricultural Economics GPA: 4.0/4.0  
Major Advisor: Matthew G. Interis

**Mississippi State University - Starkville, MS** *2017*  
B.S. Environmental Economics and Management GPA: 4.0/4.0  
Summa Cum Laude

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Primary:** Environmental and Natural Resource Economics  
**Secondary:** Non-Market Valuation and Big Data

## ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Teaching Assistant** *2020 - 2023*  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
Courses: ACE 255 The Economics of Food and Environmental Justice; ACE 310 Natural Resource Economics; ACE 500 Applied Economic Theory (grader)

**Instructor** *August 2023*  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
Course: M.S./MAAE Math Camp

**Graduate Research Assistant** *2020 - 2022*  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
Supervisor: Amy W. Ando

**Graduate Research Assistant**  
Mississippi State University  
Department of Agricultural Economics  
Supervisor: Matthew G. Interis

2017 - 2019

**Student Worker**  
Mississippi State University  
Department of Agricultural Economics  
Supervisor: James N. Barnes

Summer 2017

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

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Netusil, N. R., S. T. M. Dissanayake, L. Lavelle, A. W. Ando, and **K. K. Wells**. 2023. "Does presentation matter? An analysis of images and text in a choice experiment of green roofs." *Q Open*, 3(1): 1-23. doi: 10.1093/qopen/qoad010

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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"U.S. grassland recreation under climate change: Evidence from big data and weather" (**Job Market Paper**)

"The recreational value of grasslands in the Tallgrass Prairie region of the United States"

"The value of restoring culturally and historically significant sites in Mississippi: Three case studies"  
*with Matthew G. Interis*

"Public access, ecological integrity, and people's heterogeneous values of grassland restoration"  
*with Amy W. Ando, Sahan T. M. Dissanayake, Rich Iovanna, and Sarah Cline*

"Grassland restoration at the landscape level: Value based on a nationally representative sample"  
*with Amy W. Ando, Sahan T. M. Dissanayake, and Rich Iovanna*

## EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

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**Wells, K. K.** and J. N. Barnes. 2017. "Local food system economies for Mississippi." *Mississippi State University Extension*, Publication 3164.

**Wells, K. K.** and J. N. Barnes. 2017. "Local food system economies for Mississippi counties." (n=82). *Mississippi State University Extension*, Publication 3164-1 to 3164-82.

## PUBLISHED DATASETS

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Martinez, C., G. Pena, and **K. K. Wells**. 2024. "Prairie Directory of North America" (2013) Entries for the Tallgrass, Mixed Grass, and Shortgrass Prairie Regions of the United States. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. doi: 10.13012/B2IDB-0421892\_V1

## PRESENTATIONS

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**Project:** “U.S. grassland recreation under climate change: Evidence from big data and weather”

**Presented at**

- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Sessions at the Western Economic Association International Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, June 2024
- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Conference, Washington, DC, May 2024
- Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop, Urbana, IL, October 2023
- USDA-NIFA W5133 Multistate Hatch Research Group Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, March 2023

**Project:** “Grassland restoration at the landscape level: Value based on a nationally representative sample”

**Presented at**

- USDA-NIFA W5133 Multistate Hatch Research Group Annual Meeting, Fort Collins, CO, February 2024

**Project:** “The recreational value of grasslands in the Tallgrass Prairie region of the United States”

**Presented at**

- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Sessions at the Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, March 2023
- Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK, February 2023
- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, July 2022 (poster)
- USDA-NIFA W4133 Multistate Hatch Research Group Annual Meeting, Hood River, OR, April 2022

**Project:** “The value of restoring culturally and historically significant sites in Mississippi: Three case studies”

**Presented at**

- Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL, February 2019
- Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL, February 2018 (poster)
- Mississippi State University Graduate Research Symposium, Starkville, MS, 2018 (poster)

## MENTORING EXPERIENCE

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### **Graduate College Mentoring Certificate**

*2023*

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### **Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program**

*Spring 2023*

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Undergraduate Student: Evan Smith

### **Prairie Directory of North America Data Compilation Project**

*Fall 2022*

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Undergraduate Students: Carlos Martinez and Gisselle Pena

## MEDIA MENTIONS

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Gregory, N. 2021. "Preserving the past: Study analyzes benefits of restoring cultural structures." *Mississippi Landmarks* 17(2): 6-7.

## NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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### **Intern**

*Summer/Fall 2016*

Strategic Conservation Solutions

Washington, D.C.

## SERVICE

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### **Reviewer**

*2021-present*

American Journal of Agricultural Economics (3 articles) | Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy (1 article) | Ecological Economics (1 article) | Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics (1 article) | Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Conference 2023 (abstracts) | Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Sessions at the Western Economics Association International Annual Meeting 2024 (abstracts) | Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Conference 2024 (abstracts)

### **Graduate Student Representative**

*2022-2024*

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### **Judge (posters)**

*2023*

Undergraduate Research Symposium

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### **Mentor**

*2022-2023*

Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

<b>Student Coordinator</b> Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	<i>2022</i>
<b>Secretary</b> Graduate Student Organization Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	<i>2021-2022</i>
<b>Student Coordinator</b> program in Environmental and Resource Economics (pERE) Seminar Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	<i>2021-2023</i>
<b>Student Leader</b> Mississippi Delta Alternative Spring Break Mississippi State University	<i>Spring Break 2016 &amp; 2017</i>

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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<b>Outstanding PhD Student</b> Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	<i>2022</i>
<b>Illinois Distinguished Fellowship</b> Graduate College University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	<i>2019</i>
<b>Three Minute Thesis Competition - People's Choice Award</b> Mississippi State University	<i>2018</i>
<b>Graduate Student Case Study Competition - 2nd Place</b> Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting	<i>2018</i>
<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences Poster Competition (Master's Division) - 2nd Place</b> Mississippi State University	<i>2018</i>
<b>Stephen D. Lee Scholar</b> Mississippi State University	<i>2017</i>
<b>William A. Demmer Scholar</b> Mississippi State University/Michigan State University	<i>Summer 2016</i>
<b>Volunteer Spirit Award</b> Mississippi State University	<i>2016</i>
<b>Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society</b> Mississippi State University	<i>2015</i>

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Programming/Software:** Stata, R, and ArcGIS

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Agricultural and Applied Economics Association  
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists  
Southern Agricultural Economics Association

## REFERENCES

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**Amy W. Ando**

Department Chair and Professor  
Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics  
The Ohio State University  
2120 Fyffe Road, 250P  
Columbus, OH 43210  
Email: ando.21@osu.edu  
Phone: (614) 292-1714

**Sahan T. M. Dissanayake**

Associate Professor  
Department of Economics  
Portland State University  
506 SW Mill Street, 450F  
Portland, OR 97201  
Email: sahan@pdx.edu  
Phone: (503) 725-6576

**Jared Hutchins**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
1301 Gregory Drive, 312  
Urbana, IL 61801  
Email: jhtchns2@illinois.edu  
Phone: (217) 300-6781