Yi Wang

EDUCATION

Purdue University expected May 2026

Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics

University of California, Davis

June 2020

M.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics

China Three Gorges University

June 2019

M.S. in Technology Economics and Management

China Three Gorges University

June 2016

B.M.S. in Logistics Management

Job Market Paper

Testing Vertical Relationships in the U.S. Infant Formula Market: Implications for Government Costs and Welfare

Abstract: The U.S. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides free infant formula to low-income households, serving around 39% of US infants and accounting for over half of all domestically sold formula—making it a substantial government expenditure. To reduce government costs, WIC awards exclusive contracts to manufacturers offering the lowest net price in each state and collects rebates from the winning bidders via public auction, effectively creating government-sanctioned monopolies in WIC markets. The broader implications of this policy hinge on vertical relationships between manufacturers and retailers, which remain poorly understood. I identify the vertical relationship as best characterized by two-part tariffs, where retailers pay fixed fees to manufacturers and wholesale markups are zero. Counterfactual analyses show that, when pricing control shifts to manufacturers, average retail prices increase by 3.79%, producer surplus rises by 2.17%, and consumer surplus declines by 7.44%. I also observe heterogeneous price responses for WIC auction winners and losers. Notably, winners generally raise prices when granted retail pricing power. These findings underscore the importance of firm conduct in shaping program outcomes.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1. Wang, Yi. 2024. Do High Rebates Guarantee High-Cost Savings? Purdue Agricultural Economics Report, May 15, 2024. PAER-2024-19.
- Consoli, S., Fraysse, E.A., Slipchenko, N., Wang, Y., Amirebrahimi, J., Qin, Z., Yazma, N., and Lybbert, T.J., 2022. A "Sideways" Supply Response in California Winegrapes. Journal of Wine Economics 17(1), 42-63
- 3. Zhao, X., Wang, Y., and Daun, Y. 2018. Study on the effect of the employment structural adjustment on land transfer of reservoir resettlement based on immigrants in south-to-north water diversion project. Chinese Journal of Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning 39(10), 204-212. [In Chinese]

Policy and Extension Outputs

- USDA Report: Processor-Retailer Relationship in the US Beef Supply Chain: Preliminary Analysis Report, With Joseph V Balagtas, Meilin Ma, and Juan P. Sesmero.
- Regional Industry Cluster Drill-Down Series, With Indraneel Kumar and Roberto Gallardo.
- Indiana Creative Economy 2022 Report, With Indraneel Kumar and Roberto Gallardo.

Work in progress

- Markets for Private Label and National Brand Beef, With Joseph V. Balagtas, Meilin Ma, and Juan P. Sesmero.
- Supply shock and infant formula prices: evidence from the US

CONFERENCES • AAEA 2025 Annual Meeting July 2025 and Invited • EAAE 2025 Congress August 2025 PRESENTA-• SEA 95th Annual Meeting November 2025 **TIONS** • AEA 2026 Annual Meeting January 2026 **TEACHING** Instructor, Purdue University Summer 2024 - Fall 2024 • AGEC 516 Mathematical Tools for Agricultural & Applied Economics EXPERIENCE - Average instructor rate: 4.67/5 • Ph.D. Math Camp **Teaching Assistant, Purdue University** Fall 2022 & Fall 2023 AGEC 516 Mathematical Tools For Agricultural & Applied Economics Teaching Assistant, University of California, Davis Spring 2020 • ARE 106 Econometric Theory & Applications Pedagogical • AAEA Second Annual Teaching Academy Workshop July 2025 Training • AAEA First Annual Teaching Academy Workshop July 2024 • AAEA Teaching Academy Webinars September 2024 - May 2025 • Purdue University Online Workshops on Practical Applications of Generative AI in Teaching and Learning September 2024 **AWARDS** • Best Poster Award, FAMPS Graduate Student Poster Competition, 2025 AND • AAEA Teaching Academy Travel Grant, AAEA Trust, 2025 **Honors** Nominee, College of Agriculture Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award, Purdue University, 2025 • 1st Place, USDA AMS-GSS Local Food Economics Data Visualization Challenge (inperson), 2023 • National Graduate Scholarship, Ministry of Education, PRC, 2017 & 2018 • National Undergraduate Scholarship, Ministry of Education, PRC, 2015 • First-Level Scholarship for Graduate Students, China Three Gorges University, 2016 Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award, China Three Gorges University, 2016 • Nominee, Top Ten Outstanding Youth Awards, College of Economics and Management, China Three Gorges University, 2016 • First-Level Scholarship for Undergraduate Students, China Three Gorges University, 2013 & 2014 Research • Research Assistant, Purdue University for Professor Juan P. Sesmero January 2025 - Present **EXPERIENCE** for Professors Meilin Ma, Juan P. Sesmero, and Joseph V. Balagtas September 2023 -Present for Professor Meilin Ma May 2022 - September 2024

• Research Assistant, Purdue Center for Regional Development, Purdue University for Dr. Roberto Gallardo and Dr. Indraneel Kumar August 2021 - May 2023

• Research Assistant, China Three Gorges University for Professor Jianhua Zhao

April 2015 - July 2018

SERVICE

- Panelist, Graduate School Overview Session, SCARF Undergraduate Summer Research Program, Purdue University, June 2025
- Workshop Co-leader, Designing Scientific Research Posters, SCARF Undergraduate Summer Research Program, Purdue University, June 2025
- Reviewer, EAAE 2025 Congress, February 2025
- Vice President, Graduate Student Organization (GSO), Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University, June 2024 May 2025
- Academic Chair, Graduate Student Organization (GSO), Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University, June 2023 May 2024

SKILLS Programming: Python, R, STATA, ArcGIS, Tableau, GeoDa, Julia

Languages: Chinese (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (Beginner)