

1 Empirical Illustration: Application of the Single-Industry Model

We apply the static, one-industry version of the Hakenes and Schliephake (2024) model to the U.S. wheat market, using USDA data from 2010 to 2016. Production volumes serve as a proxy for quantity supplied, while total domestic use approximates quantity demanded. Farm prices are taken as observed average annual prices.

To estimate supply behavior, we fit an ordinary least squares (OLS) regression of price on observed production, yielding the empirical supply curve. The demand curve is constructed based on literature-consistent elasticity assumptions: a slope of -20 million bushels per dollar price change, calibrated to pass through the sample average price and quantity. This demand curve ensures consistency with inelastic real-world demand behavior for wheat.

We simulate the 2016–2017 wheat supply shock, during which production declined by 15.6%. This is modeled by proportionally shifting the supply curve upward. Equilibrium price and quantity before and after the shock are obtained by solving the intersection between the demand curve and the respective supply curves.

Carbon Footprint Calculation from Data

We compute the carbon footprint associated with each equilibrium using an emission factor of 10.88 kg CO₂e per bushel (based on FAO and USDA estimates).

Scenario USDA data	Quantity (million bushels)	Price (USD)	Carbon Footprint (million kg CO ₂ e)
Before Shock	2100.71	5.58	22859.68
After Shock	2068.38	5.82	22500.32
Change	—	—	-359.36

Table 1: Carbon footprint before and after the supply shock using real market data.

Theoretical Model-Based Calculation

We then apply the Hakenes and Schliephake model to compute the consequentialist carbon footprint. The model attributes emissions to household consumption and investment using the formula:

$$fp_h = x \left(\phi q_h + (1 - \phi) \frac{i_h}{c} \right),$$

where x is the emission intensity, q_h is household consumption, i_h is household investment, c is the marginal cost of production, and ϕ is the industry-specific weighting parameter derived from market risk and preferences.

Using parameter estimates calibrated from the data, the model yields the following theoretical results:

Scenario USDA data	Quantity (million bushels)	Price (USD)	Carbon Footprint (million kg CO₂e)
Before Shock (Theory)	2112.36	5.69	22983.46
After Shock (Theory)	2095.13	5.85	22808.35
Change (Theory)	–	–	-175.11

Table 2: Model-based carbon footprint before and after the supply shock.

Discussion

The empirical estimate attributes a reduction of approximately 359.36 million kg CO₂e to the shock, whereas the theoretical model estimates a smaller reduction of 175.11 million kg CO₂e. This difference arises due to key structural distinctions. The empirical method assumes a direct proportional relationship between production and emissions, without accounting for behavioral adjustments or market feedback. In contrast, the Hakenes and Schliephake model is consequentialist: it incorporates general equilibrium effects, including substitution by other households and financial market responses. As a result, the model predicts a more conservative, but causally grounded, estimate of emissions change.