

# Devin A. Serfas

[serfas@ualberta.ca](mailto:serfas@ualberta.ca)  
(306) 962-7907

Website: [devinserfas.github.io](https://devinserfas.github.io)

---

## EMPLOYMENT

**2024-Present**      **Assistant Professor and RDAR Chair in Applied Agricultural Economics and Risk Management**  
Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology,  
University of Alberta

## EDUCATION

**2019-2024**      **PhD. in Agricultural and Resource Economics**  
Dissertation: Essays on Cropping Choice, Carbon Sequestration, and the Productivity of Saskatchewan Farms  
Committee: Julian M. Alston, Richard S. Gray, Aaron D. Smith, and Pierre R. Mérel  
University of California, Davis

**2016-2018**      **MSc. in Agricultural Economics**  
Thesis: Strategic Investment and Entry Decisions for Soybean Breeding in western Canada  
University of Saskatchewan

**2012-2016**      **BSc. in Agribusiness** (Honors and Great Distinction)  
University of Saskatchewan

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Alston, J. M., Pardey, P. G. Serfas, D., and S. Wang. 2023. Slow Magic: Agricultural Versus Industrial R&D Lag Models. *Annual Review of Resource Economics*, 15:1.

Serfas, D., Gray, R., and P. Slade. 2018. Congestion and Distribution of Rents in Wheat Export Sector: A Canada–US Cross-Border Comparison. *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 66(2): 187-207.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Serfas, D. and R. Gray. 2019. An Evaluation of Value Creation Models for Pulses in western Canada. A report prepared for the Crop Development Center. Saskatoon, SK.

## WORKING PAPERS

A New Field-Level Measure of the Stock of Soil Organic Carbon and Value of Carbon Sequestration

The Consequences of Soil Organic Carbon for Crop Yield, Farm Productivity, and Profit

Harvesting Benefits: Exploring the Effects of Second-Best Policies on Enhancing Soil Organic Carbon Stocks in Agriculture

The Costs of Pierce's Disease in the California Grape and Wine Industry: New, Up-to-Date Estimates (*with Julian Alston*)

Serfas, D., Alston, J.M. and P.G. Pardey. 2024. The Returns to Industrial R&D: A Comprehensive Meta-Assessment and Partial Critique of the Evidence. InSTePP Working Paper. St Paul, MN: International Science and Technology Practice and Policy Center, University of Minnesota.

## CONFERENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

**2024**      University of Alberta – Seminar in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology in Edmonton, AB  
University of Saskatchewan – Seminar in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics in Saskatoon, SK  
Agricultural GHG Measurement & Climate Policy Workshop – Innovation Place, University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, SK

**2023**      University of Alberta – Seminar in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology in Edmonton, AB

University of Manitoba – Seminar in the Department of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics in Winnipeg, MB  
 NatuRE Policy Lab – Lab Seminar in Davis, CA  
 Oklahoma State University – Seminar in the Department of Agricultural Economics in Stillwater, OK  
 Western Agricultural Economics Association and Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting and Conference in Whistler, BC  
**2022** NatuRE Policy Lab – Lab Seminar in Davis, CA  
 Workshop on Spatial Data Analysis – University of Saskatchewan  
**2018** 3<sup>rd</sup> Soyagen Annual Meeting in Quebec City, QC  
 65<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association in San Antonio, TX  
 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Agricultural Economists in Vancouver, BC  
 25<sup>th</sup> Annual International Moose Jaw Conference – "Farming for ... Profit?" NAFTA & Trade Expansion

## GRANTS

**2024-2025** **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Institutional Grant** – \$2670  
**2022-2024** **Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission** – \$85,000  
 With Richard Gray and Julian Alston  
**2022-2023** **Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics** – \$30,000  
 With Julian Alston

## AWARDS

**2023** **Henry A. Jastro Graduate Research Scholarship Award** – \$3,000  
**2017** **Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board Don Jaques Memorial Fellowship** – \$20,000  
**2016** **Undergraduate Book Prize Award**, Outstanding undergraduate student in agricultural economics or related field, Awarded by Canadian Agricultural Economics Society

## WORKSHOPS

**2023** **Speeding up computations with parallel R**  
 WestDRI online courses, Digital Research Alliance of Canada, Simon Fraser University, BC  
**2022** **Geo-Computation and -Statistics in R: Explicitly Accounting for Location in Agriculture**  
 GEMS Informatics, Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, University of Minnesota, MN

## PAST EXPERIENCE

### Instructor

**2023** **Associate Instructor**, University of California, Davis  
 ARE 100B – Intermediate Microeconomics (*Fall Quarter*)

### Teaching Assistant

**2020** **Teaching Assistant**, University of California, Davis  
 ARE 100B – Intermediate Microeconomics (*Spring and Fall Quarters*)  
**2017-2018** **Teaching Assistant**, University of Saskatchewan  
 AREC 346 – Principles of Sales (*Fall 2017*)  
 AREC 343 – Grain and Livestock Marketing (*Winter 2018*)

### Research

**2023-2024** **Graduate Student Researcher**, University of California, Davis  
 With Julian Alston  
**2022-2024** **Research Assistant**, University of Saskatchewan  
 With Richard Gray and Julian Alston  
**2021-2022** **Graduate Student Researcher**, University of California, Davis  
 With Julian Alston and Philip Pardey

**2018-2019**                      **Research Officer**, University of Saskatchewan

**2016**                              **Research Assistant**, University of Saskatchewan  
Grain Transportation Research commissioned by Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission.

**Other Employment**

**2012-2019**                      **Custom Farming** – custom seeding, spraying, and combining in Eston, SK.

---

## REFERENCES

### **Julian Alston**

Professor Emeritus  
Agricultural and Resource  
Economics  
University of California, Davis  
Davis, CA  
julian@primal.ucdavis.edu  
(530) 752-3283

### **Richard Gray**

Professor  
Agricultural and Resource  
Economics  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SK  
richard.gray@usask.ca  
(306) 966-4026

### **Aaron Smith**

DeLoach Professor of Agricultural  
Economics  
Agricultural and Resource  
Economics  
University of California, Davis  
Davis, CA  
adsmith@ucdavis.edu  
(530) 752-2138