

# Devin Serfas

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(306) 962-7907

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## EDUCATION

- 2019-Present**      **PhD. in Agricultural and Resource Economics** (*Expected 2024*)  
4<sup>th</sup> year PhD. Candidate  
University of California, Davis  
Davis, California
- 2016-2018**      **MSc. in Agricultural Economics**  
Thesis: Strategic Investment and Entry Decisions for Soybean Breeding in western Canada  
University of Saskatchewan  
Defended October 19, 2018  
Saskatoon, SK
- 2012-2016**      **BSc. in Agribusiness** (Honours and Great Distinction)  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SK

## DISSERTATION

- 2023**      Serfas, D.A. 2023. Essays on Cropping Choice, Carbon Sequestration, and the Productivity of Saskatchewan Farms. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of California, Davis, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. (*in progress*)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2023**      **Graduate Student Researcher**, University of California, Davis  
Examination of the Californian market structure of table grapes and the economic implications of mergers in the private sector for table grape breeding.  
Work done under Prof. Julian M. Alston  
Davis, California
- 2022-2023**      **Research Assistant**, University of Saskatchewan (*ongoing summer employment*)  
Develop mathematical models and programs using a High-Performance Computing cluster to predict soil organic carbon in Saskatchewan with confidential field-level insurance data from the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.  
Work done under Prof. Richard S. Gray and Prof. Julian M. Alston
- 2021-2022**      **Graduate Student Researcher**, University of California, Davis  
Construct a database on the returns to research in the field of industrial economics and perform a meta-assessment on the returns to research in agricultural and industrial economics.  
Work done under Prof. Julian M. Alston and Prof. Philip G. Pardey  
Davis, California
- 2020**      **Teaching Assistant**, University of California, Davis (*Spring and Fall Quarters*)  
Responsible for holding weekly office hours and grading coursework for Intermediate Microeconomics (ARE 100B) in the Managerial Economics department.  
Davis, California

- 2012-2019**                      **Custom Farming**  
Custom seeding, spraying, and combining. Responsible for making agricultural input decisions.  
Rural Municipality of Kindersley, SK
- 2018-2019**                      **Research Officer**, University of Saskatchewan  
Economic modeling of varietal adoption and supply response for value creation models in Canada.  
Saskatoon, SK
- 2017-2018**                      **Teaching Assistant**, University of Saskatchewan (*Fall 2017 and Winter 2018*)  
Principles of Sales (AREC 346) and Grain and Livestock Marketing (AREC 343).  
Work done under Prof. Robert G. Roy  
Saskatoon, SK
- 2016**                                **Research Assistant**, University of Saskatchewan (*summer employment*)  
Grain Transportation Research commissioned by Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission.  
Saskatoon, SK

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2023**                                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.
- 2018**                                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/Revue canadienne d'agroeconomie*, 66(2): 187-207.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2019**                                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

- 2023**                                Serfas, D., Alston, J.M. and P.G. Pardey. 2023. 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

- 2023**                                **Western Agricultural Economics Association and Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting and Conference**  
*Presentation:* Combatting Climate Change with Soil Organic Carbon: The Effects of Cropping Choice  
July 17 – 20  
Whistler, BC

- 2022**                      **NatuRE Policy Lab – Lab Seminar**  
*Presentation:* A New Field-Level Measure of the Stock of Soil Organic Carbon.  
November 2  
Davis, California
- 2022**                      **Workshop on Spatial Data Analysis**  
*Presentation:* Long-term impacts of rotation on organic matter and yields  
June 8 – 9  
Saskatoon, SK
- 2018**                      **3<sup>rd</sup> Soyagen Annual Meeting**  
*Presentation:* Strategic Investment and Entry Decisions for Soybean Breeding in western Canada  
December 6 – 7  
Quebec City, QC
- 2018**                      **65<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International**  
*Presentation:* Strategic Investment and Entry Decisions for Soybean Breeding in western Canada  
November 6 – 10  
San Antonio, TX
- 2018**                      **30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Agricultural Economists**  
*Presentation:* An ex-post econometric analysis of the abolishment of the Canadian Wheat Board  
July 29 – August 2  
Vancouver, BC
- 2018**                      **25<sup>th</sup> Annual International Moose Jaw Conference – "Farming for ... Profit?" NAFTA & Trade Expansion**  
*Presentation:* An ex-post econometric analysis of the abolishment of the Canadian Wheat Board  
June 24 – 25  
Moose Jaw, SK

## **WORKSHOPS**

- 2023**                      **Speeding up computations with parallel R**  
Topics: High Performance Computing on Compute Canada's Alliance Clusters, Benchmarking R code, Parallelism in R, and Writing C++ in R with Rcpp.  
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**  
Topics: Introduction to Spatial Data, Geocomputation with vector data in R, Geocomputation with raster data in R, Spatial regression in R, and Geostatistics and Interpolation in R.  
GEMS Informatics, Minnesota Supercomputing Institute,  
University of Minnesota

## GRANTS & PROJECTS

- 2022-2024**                      **Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, Project**  
*Project:* Cropping choice and long-run productivity of Saskatchewan farms (joint with Richard Gray, U of S and Julian Alston, UC Davis)  
Amount: \$85,000  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SK
- 2022-2023**                      **Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, Mini-Grant**  
*Research:* Economics of Carbon Sequestration on Farms: Preliminary Evidence from Canada (joint with Julian Alston, UC Davis)  
Amount: \$30,000  
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023  
University of California, Davis

## AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2017**                              **Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board Don Jaques Memorial Fellowship**  
Amount: \$20,000  
University of Saskatchewan
- 2016**                              **Undergraduate Book Prize Award**  
Outstanding undergraduate student in agricultural economics or related field  
Awarded by Canadian Agricultural Economics Society
- 2015**                              **Harvey Undergraduate Scholarship**  
Amount: \$2,000  
University of Saskatchewan

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## REFERENCES

### **Julian Alston**

Distinguished Professor  
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