

Michael Black

PhD Candidate

Applied Economist


Data Scientist

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Education

Ph.D., Agricultural Economics, **Texas A&M University**, expected May 2021

B.S., Natural Resources, **Cornell University**, 2013

Skills

General Skills:	Quantitative research, data wrangling, data visualization, mathematical optimization
Programming:	Python, SQL, R, Stata, Matlab, SAS, GAMS, Git, Command Line/Terminal, QGIS
Statistical Modeling:	Choice modeling, experimental design, logistic regression, machine learning, causal models

Experience

Graduate research assistant, 2016 - Current, *Texas A&M University*

- Designed choice-experiment deployed to over 2,500 respondents
- Built demand system model for recreation using choice modeling
- Established new method of estimating consumer demand for recreation

Consulting economist, 2019 - Current, *State of Texas, State of Washington*

- Built demand system for recreation using choice modeling
- Analysis product used in litigation for environmental damages

Research intern, Summer 2020, *USDA Economic Research Service, Market and Trade Economics Division*

- Designed latent class analysis to identify distinct groups of food suppliers based on food safety practices, and built an associated predictive model for regulators

Research intern, Summer 2019, *Resources for the Future*

- Developed a dynamic optimal control model of cooperative management

Strategy consultant, 2013 - 2014, *Mahindra Group*, Mumbai, India

- Developed strategic plan for Agribusiness Sector expansion into Africa and India fruit retailing space

Teaching

Graduate Instructor, 2019 - 2020, *Texas A&M University*

- Sole instructor for [AGEC 317: Economic Analysis for Agribusiness Management](#)
- Topics: mathematical optimization, statistical testing, regression, bias and endogeneity, applied decision making

Service

2020: *Member*, Department Head Search Committee, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M; *Session Moderator*, 2020 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting

2019: *Chair*, 5th Annual Applied Economic Research Symposium, Texas A&M

2018: *Chair*, Website Redevelopment Committee, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M

Publications

- [Farmers' insights on soil health indicators and adoption](#)
- [Insights from Asynchronous Lecture Viewing Behavior](#)

In the Pipeline

- "The value of long and short term changes in water quality"; choice model using survey data
 - "Identifying food safety practices among classes of post-harvest produce firms"; latent class analysis
 - "An empirical estimate of the value of soil quality"; large-scale choice experiment
 - "Does self-monitoring lead to better resource management? Evidence from participatory groundwater management program in India"; spatial interpolation of missing data and causal model
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Grants and Awards

- 2017 - present** “Actionable Links between Soil Function, Ecosystem Services, and Stakeholder Perceptions to Overcome Barriers to Improved Soil Management” (PIs: Cristine Morgan, Alex McIntosh, Richard Woodward) *Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (USDA)*
- 2016 - present** Cherry Fellowship, Texas A&M University
- 2015** Excellence Fellowship, Texas A&M University
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Presentations

- 2020** Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Virtual
- 2020** Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Annual Meeting, Virtual
- 2019** Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop at Illinois, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 2019** Camp Resources XXVI, Asheville, North Carolina
- 2018** Soil Security and Planetary Health Conference, University of Sydney, Australia
- 2018** Southern Economic Association 88th Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2016** Symposium for Agricultural and Applied Economics, College Station, Texas
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Workshops

- 2020** National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS)
Tutorial: Adaptive Management
- 2018** Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics
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Professional Membership

Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE); Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA); Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE)