Michael Black

Economist, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Experienced regulatory economist with a background in environmental, food, and health economics and a passion for data-driven policy analysis.

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Education

Ph.D., Agricultural Economics (Environmental and Resource Economics), **Texas A&M University**, 2021
B.S., Natural Resources, **Cornell University**, 2013

Skills

General Skills:	Policy analysis, quantitative research, data visualization, technical writing in plain language
Programming:	R (advanced), Python, SQL, Stata, Git, Command Line/Terminal
Statistical Modeling:	Regression analysis, choice modeling, experimental design, machine learning, causal models

Experience

Economist, *U.S. Food & Drug Administration*, 2021 - Current
- Estimated costs and/or benefits and co-authored three major FDA regulatory impact analyses: improving food traceability (87 FR 70910), establishing front-of-pack nutrition information (90 FR 5426 2), and reducing nicotine content in cigarettes to non-addictive levels (90 FR 5032)
- Provided substantial data analysis for three FDA regulatory impact analyses: establishing safer standards for laboratory developed tests (89 FR 37286), improving tobacco manufacturing processes (88 FR 15174), and establishing the definition of "healthy" in food (89 FR 106064)
- Led three internal project teams of 2 - 5 people to update internal statistical models, create statements of work for external contracts, and author a guidebook on simulation SOPs.
- Responded to time-sensitive analysis requests from various FDA Centers, including but not limited to market assessments for nicotine replacement therapy, cost estimates for changes in egg handling practices, and adjusting prices for inflation
- Strongly advocated for improved office workflow using open-source software rather than proprietary programs.

Consulting economist, *State of Texas*, 2019 - 2021
- Used recreational fishing data to estimate monetary damage of a fuel spill in a Dallas neighborhood.

Graduate research assistant, *Texas A&M University*, 2016 - 2021
- Led the interdisciplinary design of a choice-experiment survey sent to over 2,500 farmers in central Texas.
- Secured funding for and organized a graduate applied economics research symposium involving approximately 20 papers presented across two academic departments.
- Established new method of estimating consumer demand for recreation.
- Presented work at national conferences and attended two summer schools on advanced research.
- Led the effort to redesign the Department of Agricultural Economics external website.
- Served as the only student on the department head search committee.

Research intern, *U.S.Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service*, Summer 2020
- Designed latent class analysis to identify distinct groups of food suppliers based on patterns of food safety practices

Instructor/Lecturer, *Texas A&M University*, 2019 - 2020
- Taught undergradute introductory econometrics course to approximately 60 students.
- Developed new materials to better communicate complicated statistical concepts.
- During the advent COVID-19, pivoted from an in-person class to online within two weeks.
- Course materials and lectures viewable at: https://github.com/econ-by-mb/agec317

Research intern, *Resources for the Future*, Summer 2019
- Developed a dynamic optimal control model of cooperative management for bison management in the Grand Canyon area

Strategy consultant, *Mahindra Group*, 2013 - 2014, Mumbai, India
- Developed strategic plan for educational agricultural extension services at Mahindra tractor dealerships
- Developed strategic plan for fruit retailing business

Journal Articles

- Ackerley, N., Berlind, A., Black, M., Kho, K., McLaughlin, C., Sassi, A., ... & Walker, S. (2025). Costs of Overly Broad Recalls. *Journal of Food Protection*, 88(3), 100450. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfp.2025.100450
- Bagnall, D. K., McIntosh, W. A., Morgan, C. L., Woodward, R. T., Cisneros, M., Black, M., ... & Ale, S. (2020). Farmers' insights on soil health indicators and adoption. *Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment*, 3(1), e20066. https://doi.org/10.1002/agg2.20066
- Black, M. (2020). Insights from Asynchronous Lecture Viewing Behavior. *Applied Economics Teaching Resources (AETR)*, 2(5), 18-25. 10.22004/ag.econ.308057

Philosophy

- Data analysis should be accessible, so whenever possible, work should be done using open-source software and open data.
- Traditional economic analysis focuses on averages which hides important distributional consequences of policy. Good policy work should not ignore the distributions of predicted effects.
- Lingo is a barrier to newcomers, try to use simple language.