

Victor Funes-Leal

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EDUCATION	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign , Urbana, IL Ph.D., Agricultural and Consumer Economics, Expected graduation date: May 2024 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign , Urbana, IL M.A., Applied Statistics, 2023 National University of La Plata , La Plata, Argentina M.A., Economics, 2015 Economics, National University of Tucumán , Tucumán, Argentina B.A. (Licenciado), Economics, 2006	
FIELDS OF RESEARCH INTEREST	Primary: Production Economics, Applied Econometrics Secondary: Agricultural Economics, Development Economics	
JOB MARKET PAPER	“Information Provision and Network Externalities: The Impact of Genomic Testing on the Dairy Industry” <i>with Jared Hutchins</i> We use differences-in-differences with a matched control group method to estimate the long-term impacts of genomic selection for dairy cattle genetics in the American market. Genomic selection is an application of big data that uses the entire genome of an animal to test for the presence of a set of traits. Unlike pre-existing technologies that require several years of data from a bull’s daughters, an animal can be tested as soon as it is born, allowing breeders to identify the “best” animals much faster. Using a data set of all bulls marketed in the US from 2000 to 2020, we find that genomic selection significantly increased genetic gains for all measured traits, particularly milk production, protein, and fat yields, but also increased levels of inbreeding depression, a reduction in the performance of animals whose parents have a high degree of relatedness, as a consequence of genetics companies breeding more animals from established lines to respond to an increased demand towards such lines. Our estimation shows that the increased inbreeding rate of American bulls caused a loss of between 3.6 to 6.7 billion dollars to the entire industry from 2011 to 2019. Solving this externality will require either a mechanism to internalize the harmful effects, such as paying a much higher price for more inbred sires, or a collective action mechanism to select which lines will be bred in the next generation.	
WORKING PAPERS	“The Price of Fame: The Effect of Award-Winning Pedigrees on the Price of Livestock Genetics” <i>with Jared Hutchins</i> We estimate the impact of winning an award at a cattle show on the price of cattle genetics and that of their relatives. Dairy farmers choose from various dairy bulls for breeding. These bulls possess genetic traits that reflect their productivity, resiliency to disease, and physical characteristics. Another relevant attribute of dairy bulls is their pedigree prestige, which dairy farmers can use as a proxy for quality. We test the importance of pedigree prestige in determining dairy bull prices by examining the winners and runners-up of “Premier Sire” at the annual	

World Dairy Expo. Using an event study framework, we find that bulls that win Premiere Sire experience a 10% in their price compared to the second-place winner. This impact is also transmitted to their relatives, meaning the effects of prestige spillover into their genetic network.

“Measuring Flood Resilience using Remote Sensors”

What are the effects of floods on reporting likelihood and observable outcomes? I examine this question in the context of a Randomized Control Trial aimed at adopting a specific new technology for small-scale farmers in Bihar, India. I study two effects: first, to what extent adaptation to a regular rainfall pattern (the South Asian Monsoon) makes farmers under-report the impact of floods/heavy rainfall. To do so, I use inundation maps from satellite-measured floodwater to compare observed and reported floods. Second, given that I can determine which households live near flooded areas, I measure their impact on food security outcomes. On the one hand, there is significant evidence in favor of under-reporting bias, but I also find little evidence of impacts on food security outcomes.

PUBLICATIONS

Gatti, Nicolás, Funes-Leal Victor and Amaro, Ignacio. 2023. **“Economic Value of Brangus Cattle Traits in Argentina”**, Revision requested, *Agribusiness: an International Journal*

Starting in the early 2000s, a boom in demand for agricultural commodities displaced cattle ranching out of the most productive areas of the Pampas’ prairie. The crossbreeds between Angus and Hereford with Brahman, i.e., Brangus and Braford, have been successfully adopted across Argentina. However, little is known about the specific bulls’ traits that drive the demand for cattle genetic selection outside the Pampas. Obtaining the economic value of traits would help to identify the demand for adapting livestock production to different ecosystems while preserving the meat quality of Angus and Hereford cattle. We estimated hedonic price models using Brangus bull sales data from two cattle breeding ranches in the north of Cordoba province. Cattle ranchers prefer observed traits such as weight, coat color, and age, while genetic indicators such as Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) have secondary importance. We argue that stronger preferences for red-coated bulls, as opposed to black-coated bulls, could be associated with the demand for reducing heat stress; the lack of association between EPDs and prices may be related to unobservable variables such as ranchers’ characteristics and that the value of genetics is implicit in the studs’ reputation.

Alejo, Javier and Funes-Leal, Víctor. 2021. **“Ecuaciones de Mincer de parejas bajo un esquema de selección bivariado” (Mincer Equations for Couples under a Bivariate Selection Model)**, *Revista de Análisis Económico* 36(1): 3-23

This working paper explores the effect of joint labor decisions on the study of wage regression models. The estimation of Mincer equations suffers from numerous sources of bias, including the sample selection problem generated by the fact that agents’ decisions to work are not independent of their wage levels. Most of the papers correct for this bias using a model of individual labor participation. However, recent trends in the labor market show greater participation of women in the labor force and seem to indicate that the joint decision of the spouses is increasingly relevant in determining the selection mechanism. A bivariate version of Heckman’s method is an interesting alternative to solve this problem. Although the estimates align with the previous literature, the results indicate that the couple’s joint decision is a relevant factor in the selection bias.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
ACE Department Travel Grant
Global Food Security Graduate Fellowship

2022 and 2023
 2022

<i>Marilyn Downsing Fellowship</i>	2019
<i>Henry Fellowship</i>	2018
Universidad Nacional de La Plata	
<i>MA in Economics Fellowship</i>	2014

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<p>“Economic Value of Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) : of Angus and Brangus cattle breeds in Argentina” Poster presented at the AAEA Annual Meeting</p> <p>“Economic Value of Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) : of Angus and Brangus cattle breeds in Argentina” Poster presented at the 27th Annual Meeting of the International Consortium for Applied Bioeconomic Research</p> <p>“The Price of Fame: The Effect of Award-Winning Pedigrees on the Price of Livestock Genetics” Poster presented at the AAEA Annual Meeting</p>	<p>July 2023 Washington, DC</p> <p>July 2023 Buenos Aires, Argentina</p> <p>August 2022 Anaheim, CA</p>
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</p> <p>Applied Econometrics Teaching Assistant</p> <p>Spreadsheet Models and Applications Teaching Assistant</p> <p>Environmental and Development Economics Teaching Assistant</p> <p>National University of the Northeast</p> <p>Mathematics for Economists Lecturer</p> <p>Introductory Statistics Lecturer</p> <p>National University of the La Plata</p> <p>Impact evaluation of Public Policies Teaching Assistant</p>	<p>Fall 2023</p> <p>Spring 2020</p> <p>Fall 2019-Fall 2020</p> <p>2017-2018</p> <p>Spring 2017- Spring 2018</p> <p>Fall 2017</p> <p>2015</p> <p>Spring 2015</p>
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	<p>Research Assistant</p> <p>Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign Supervisor: Jared Hutchins</p> <p>Consultant</p> <p>The World Bank Remote Supervisors: Ezequiel Molina and Christophe Rockmore</p> <p>Research Assistant</p> <p>Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies (CEDLAS) La Plata, Argentina Supervisor: Leonardo Gasparini and María Laura Alzúa</p> <p>Economic Analyst</p> <p>Fundación del Tucuman Tucumán, Argentina</p> <p>Research Assistant</p>	<p>May 2021 - Present</p> <p>January 2015 to December 2015</p> <p>December 2013 to December 2014</p> <p>April 2008 to December 2012</p> <p>March 2005 to December 2006</p>
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Universidad Nacional de Tucumán
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COMPUTER
PROGRAMS Python, Stata, R, \LaTeX , Git (Advanced)
Matlab, ArcGIS, SQL, Unix Shell (Intermediate)

PERSONAL
INFORMATION Citizenship: Argentina
Languages: Spanish (Native), English (Advanced)

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