PRESENTER BIOSKETCHES

(Alphabetical)

Lauren Chenarides is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University. She holds an undergraduate degree from the College of the Holy Cross, where she majored in Mathematics, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural, Environmental, and Regional Economics from Pennsylvania State University, where she graduated in 2017. Her research background is in food economics, studying the nexus between food choice, retailer competition, and public policy. Currently, Dr. Chenarides and a team of colleagues are developing a platform designed to enhance current data infrastructure through innovations in technology that promote data linkages at scale. The features of the platform will provide a dataset search and recommendation feature for researchers to efficiently discover datasets, standardize and harmonize networks of data assets, and facilitate the construction of comprehensive datasets. The platform is being designed to break down barriers in accessing data, promote the democratization of data and research tools, and foster collaboration and knowledge sharing, ultimately leading to more equitable research outcomes.

Dr. Chenarides is actively involved in scholarly associations, including the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and the American Economic Association. Some of her recent publications can be found in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Food Policy, Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, and Agribusiness. Dr. Chenarides is a Board Member of the Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics, translating academic research into educational programming for policymakers and stakeholders in the federal administration, and an incoming Associate Editor for the American Journal of Agricultural Economics.

Jennifer Clarke, Ph.D., is a Professor in Food Science and Technology, and Statistics, and the Director of the Quantitative Life Sciences Initiative at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (https://bigdata.unl.edu). Dr. Clarke is past Chair of the North American Plant Phenotyping Network and current Chair of the Academic Section of the International Plant Phenotyping Network. She serves as Chair of the seed grant steering committee of the Midwest Big Data Hub and is a member of the Executive Board of the Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative (https://ag2pi.org/) . She is leading efforts to develop a blueprint for a national agricultural producers data framework for the USDA (https://agdatacoop.org/). Her current interests include statistical and AI methodology for robust prediction, research data sharing and policy, and training the next generation of data scientists.

Gene Kelly is a Professor of Pedology, Deputy Director of the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station and Associate Dean of Extension at Colorado State University (CSU). He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Colorado State University and his Ph.D. from the University of California-Berkeley. Dr. Kelly conducts research and lectures nationally and internationally on various aspects of soils as related to global change issues. His scientific specialization is in Pedology and Geochemistry with primary interests in regional soil water dynamics, soil degradation, and global biogeochemical cycles. His current research is centered on soil degradation, soil water dynamics, and regenerative agriculture. He is the chair of the U.S. National Committee for Soil Science with National Academy of Sciences. He serves as an advisor to the United States Department of Agriculture with the National Cooperative Soil Survey, USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, The National Science Foundation,

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, and several major research programs. He is a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America and is a recipient of the Soil Science Society of America Research Award.

Lav R. Khot, Associate Professor and Director of AgWeatherNet, Washington State University (WSU). Dr. Khot directs precision agriculture research and extension program at WSU with focus on developing site-specific crop monitoring and management technologies through crop, environmental sensing, and automation.

Dr. Khot's program has several active projects supported by federal, state, and local commodity commissions. For example, he is one of the Lead PI of newly formed Agricultural AI Institute (AgAID) and co-leads the Farm Operations Intelligence thrust. These efforts help ensure optimal use of resources, such as chemicals, water, energy, and labor, as well as improved produce quality. He is recipient of 'Fruit + Vegetable 40 Under 40' from Fruit Growers News, 2021 and '2018 New Innovator in Food and Agriculture Research' Award from Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers in this area and over 350 combined national and international conference talks, extension/outreach workshops and short courses. He currently serves as the Associate Editor for American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) Transactions. He also chaired the 'Mechanization, Digitization, Sensing and Robotics Workgroup' of ISHS-International Society of Horticultural Science (2018-2023) and a multi-state group (S1069: Research and Extension for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Applications in U.S. Agriculture and Natural Resources) (2021-2022).

Jan E. Leach is the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Agriculture and a University Distinguished Professor at Colorado State University. She is an authority on the molecular biology of plant–pathogen interactions. Her research focuses on understanding the molecular basis of durable disease resistance, particularly in rice-pathogen interactions. Other projects currently underway in her laboratory are related to understanding the impacts of increasing temperatures associated with a changing climate on plant disease and resistance, microbiome-insect-plant interactions, and the development of novel tools for detection and monitoring of microbes associated with plants. In 2021, Dr. Leach was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. She is a Fellow and past President of the American Phytopathological Society (APS). She is past chair of the APS Public Policy Board and led the initiation of the Phytobiomes Initiative. Dr. Leach is also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She served as Chair of the AAAS Section O (Agriculture, Food, and Renewable Resources) in 2007, and as a member of the Section O Steering Committee. Dr. Leach is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. Prior to her appointment at CSU, Dr. Leach was named a University Distinguished Professor at Kansas State University in 1998. She served as President of the International Society of Molecular Plant–Microbe Interactions and has served on or chaired advisory committees for a number of national and international projects, programs and institutions, including the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity, the U.S. Rice Genome Sequencing Project, the Research Core for Interdisciplinary Science (RCIS) at Okayama University (Japan), Rural Development Agency (Korea). Dr. Leach was the chair of the National Academies study on California Agricultural Research Priorities: Pierce's Disease. She has served on numerous editorial boards, and was Editor in Chief of the APS journal Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions. Leach earned her B.S. and M.S. in Microbiology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and her Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the

University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was a postdoctoral fellow at East Malling Research Station in Kent, England.

Keith Paustian is University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences and Senior Research Scientist at the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory at Colorado State University. A major focus of his work involves modeling, field measurement and development of assessment tools for soil carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions from soils. He has published over 280 journal articles and book chapters. Previous and current research activities include development of models and inventory methodology used to estimate US soil C and N_2O emissions that are reported annually by EPA to the UNFCCC; development of a web-based tool (COMET-Farm™) for estimating on-farm greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and carbon sequestration used by USDA (http://cometfarm.nrel.colostate.edu/) and project-scale systems for GHG assessment of sustainable land management projects in developing countries (http://www.carbonbenefitsproject.org/). He also serves as project director for the Bioenergy Alliance Network of the Rockies (BANR – http://banr.nrel.colostate.edu/) which is a consortium of universities, industry and the US Forest Service, researching the potential for sustainable bioenergy production from beetle-kill trees and forest residues. Professional service activities include Coordinating Lead Author for the IPCC 2006 National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Methods and the IPCC 2003 Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) and two National Academy of Science committees (in 2010 and 2018) related to land use, greenhouse gases and climate change mitigation. He served as a member of the US Carbon Cycle Science Steering Group, which provides expert input to Federal Agencies involved in climate and carbon cycle research. He also served on the Voluntary Carbon Standard Steering Committee for Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) and on numerous other national and international committees involving climate and carbon cycle research. He is a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America and 2015 recipient of the Soil Science Society of America's Outstanding Research Award.

Eric Piper is a publisher at Wiley with 15 years of experience in academic publishing. He assists societies with staying up to date on new trends and innovations and helps consult on publishing strategy. Outside his professional life, Eric owns a horse farm in Massachusetts with his wife and is a member of his town's agricultural commission.

Spiro Stefanou is the Administrator of the USDA Economic Research Service, providing leadership and guidance for the agency's research, analytical, and technical operations. He oversees a $90 million budget and nearly 300 permanent staff that focus on relevant and timely research and analyses on the economics of agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.

Dr. Stefanou joined ERS in August 2020 and led the agency through the pandemic while also rebuilding a depleted agency to full staffing, hiring 70% of the staff and 80% of the leadership team; opening two new office facilities in Washington D.C. and Kansas City; and, modernizing the ERS IT infrastructure. As a leader of a principal Federal Statistical Agency, he is taking a leadership role in designing the Federal Statistical system structure for implementing the directives of the Foundations of Evidence Based Policy Making Act of 2018.

Dr. Stefanou is an internationally recognized expert on innovation, growth, and performance in the agriculture and food industries and the dynamics of economic adjustment. Prior to his arrival at ERS, Dr. Stefanou had a distinguished academic career in agricultural economics for nearly

four decades, holding Professor and administrative appointments at Pennsylvania State University, University of Florida, and as a long-time Visiting Professor of Business Economics at Wageningen University (Netherlands). He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and held visiting positions at universities in Greece, the Netherlands, Italy, and Austria. Dr. Stefanou is active in professional societies and has held editorial positions for the leading scholarly journals in the field.

He received a B.A. in anthropology from George Washington University, M.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Maryland, and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Davis.