

LE CHEN

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EDUCATION

North Carolina State University	2022
Ph.D. in Economics	
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2017
M.S. in Economics	
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	2016
B.S. in Economics	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor	08/2023-present
• University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics • 75% Research and 25% Teaching	
Postdoctoral Research Associate	09/2022-07/2023
• North Carolina State University, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics • Supervisor: Prof. Roderick Rejesus	

RESEARCH FIELDS

Agricultural Production and Policy, Conservation Practice Adoption, Agricultural Finance, Risk Management, Environmental and Resource Economics, Applied Econometrics

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Chen, L.**, Boyer, C., Smith, A. (2026) “**Ad Hoc and Farm Bill Payments Impact on Non-Real Estate Farm Debt.**” *Agricultural Finance Review*. 1-17. [Link](#)
2. **Chen, L.**, Rejesus, R., Yan, H., Aglasan, S. (2026) “**Lost Ground, Lost Value: Investigating the Relationship Between Soil Erosion and Agricultural Land Value.**” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 1-24. [Link](#)
3. **Chen, L.**, Yu, TE., Williams, H. (2026) “**The Impact of Soil Erosion on Corn Yields: A Spatial Regression Analysis.**” *Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment*, 9, e70304. [Link](#)
4. **Chen, L.**, Rejesus, R., Brown, Z., Boyer, C., and Larson, J. (2025) “**Dynamically Optimal Cover Crop Adoption.**” *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, Volume 52, Issue 3, Pages 301–333. (Editor’s Choice) [Link](#)
5. Velandia, M., Trejo-Pech, C., Butler, D., **Chen, L.**, Wszelaki, A., Delong, K., Schexnayder, S., and Shanto, H. (2025) “**Tennessee Fruit and Vegetable Farmers’ Willingness to Adopt Alley Cropping Systems.**” *HortTechnology*, 35(2), 166-176. [Link](#)
6. Boyer, C., **Chen, L.**, Perez Quesada, G., and Smith, A. (2024) “**Unwelcomed Guests: Impact of Deer Harvest on Corn and Soybean Wildlife Damage.**” *Crop Protection*. Volume 183, 106753. [Link](#)
7. Lee, D., **Chen, L.**, Rejesus, R., Aglasan, S., Dinterman, R., and Connor, L. (2024) “**The Effect of Crop Insurance on Agricultural Loan Delinquencies.**” *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics Association*, 3(1), 256-274. [Link](#)

8. **Chen, L.**, Rejesus, R., Aglasan, S., Hagen, S., and Salas, W. (2023) **“The Impact of No-Till on Agricultural Land Values in the United States Midwest.”** *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 105(3), 760-783. [Link](#)

-Top 10% of most-read papers published in *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 2023-2024

9. **Chen, L.**, Rejesus, R., Aglasan, S., Hagen, S., and Salas, W. (2022) **“The Impact of Cover Crops on Soil Erosion in the US Midwest”** *Journal of Environmental Management*, 324, 116168. [Link](#)

EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

1. Velandia, M., Crosby, P., Marble, C., Turner, Z.A., **Chen, L.**, Rihn, A.L., Gentry, T., and Spivey, A. (2026). **“If It isn’t Broken, Break it and Make it Better: The Economics of Repurposing a Pesticide Sprayer for Herbicide Application.”** University of Tennessee Extension Publication, W1394. [Link](#)

FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

“Assessing the Influence of Cover Crop Adoption on Farmland Values in Tennessee: An Economic Perspective.” University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) AgResearch Seed Grant. 2025-2026. Role: Lead-PI. Amount: \$30,000

“Alley Cropping Agroforestry as a Climate Change Resiliency Strategy for Vegetable Production in the Southeastern US.” Southern Region SARE Program – University of Georgia. 2023-2026. Role: Co-PI. Amount: \$367,000

“Techno-Market Analysis of US Biorefinery Supply Chains from Feedstock to Alternative Jet Fuels.” DOT - FAA - Federal Aviation Administration. 2024-2025. Role: Co-PI. Amount: \$2,276,500

“Labor, Efficiency, Automation, and Production. LEAP Nursery Crops Toward Sustainability.” USDA-NIFA. 2024–2029. Role: Co-PI. Amount: \$9,825,677

“Providing Underserved Producer Education on Unit Structure, Buy-Up Coverage, and Companion Policies.” USDA-NIFA. 2024-2025. Role: Co-PI. Amount: \$99,205

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

2026 International Business and Economy Conference (IBEC), SAEA Annual Meeting, Cultivate Annual Meeting, American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) Annual Conference, AAEA Annual Meeting

2025 SAEA Annual Meeting, SCC-76 Annual Meeting, AAEA Annual Meeting, Mississippi State University, Food Distribution Research Society Conference

2024 SCC-76 Annual Meeting, AAEA Annual Meeting, NC-1177 Annual Meeting

2023 AAEA Annual Meeting

2022 AAEA Annual Meeting, NC-1177 Annual Meeting, NCSU CEnREP Brownbag Seminar, NCSU EATD Seminar

2021 AAEA Annual Meeting (virtual), NCSU EATD Seminar

2020 AAEA Annual Meeting (virtual)

EXTENSION PRESENTATIONS

2026 Tennessee Green Industry Field Day, Milan No-Till Field Day

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Independent Instructor, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

- Economics of the Global Food and Fiber System (AREC 201) *Spring24, Spring25*
- Decisions, Uncertainty, and Resource Allocation (AREC 542, Master-level) *Spring24-present*
- Summer Math Bootcamp for Incoming Graduate Students *Summer26*
- Microeconomic Analysis (AREC 505, Master-level) *Fall26*

Guest Lecturer, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

- Resilient Agriculture and Forest Systems (ESS 601, PhD-level) *Spring26*

Independent Instructor, North Carolina State University

- Fundamentals of Economics (EC205) *Fall21, Spring22*

Guest Lecturer, North Carolina State University

- Topics In Environmental and Resource Economics (ECG 716, PhD-level) *Spring23*

Graduate Teaching Assistant, North Carolina State University

- Research Seminar in Economics: Equity, Diversity, and Economic Mechanisms (EC490) *Spring22*

Head Teaching Assistant, Lab Instructor, North Carolina State University

- Fundamentals of Economics (EC205) *Fall18 to Spring21*

GRADUATE ADVISING

Committee Chair/Co-Chair

Subheksha Shrestha, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Agricultural Economics, MS, *in progress*

Shiksha Khanal, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Agricultural Economics, MS, *in progress*

Jebina Shrestha, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Agricultural Economics, MS

Committee Member

Austin Weis, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Agricultural Economics, MS, *in progress*

Smirti Shahi, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Plant Science, Ph.D., *in progress*

Pranesh Dey, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Agricultural Economics, MS

Priya Barua, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Agricultural Economics, MS

Hasibul Hasan Shanto, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Agricultural Economics, MS

HONORS AND AWARDS

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

- UT AgResearch Grantsmanship Award, 2026
- Daniel and Billie Caren Borthick AREC Teaching Award, 2026

AAEA Agricultural Finance and Management Section

- Outstanding Young Scholar Award, 2025

North Carolina State University

- Gerald A. Carlson Best Dissertation Award, 2023
- Graduate Teaching Assistantship, 2018-2022
- Summer Research Assistantship, 2022
- Conference Travel Fund, AAEA, 2022,2023
- Wells Fargo Graduate Fellowship, 2022
- The Graduate School Summer Fellowship, 2021
- Goins Economic Graduate Education Scholarship, 2020-2021
- Andrew & Thelma Bartley Endowment Scholarship, 2019-2020
- Owens Graduate Fellowship Fund Scholarship, 2018-2019, 2021
- Wachovia Graduate Fellowship, 2017-2018

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

- Dean's Honors for Academic Excellence, 2014-2015

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICES

Leadership: Chair-Elected/Chair, AAEA Applied Risk Analysis (ARA) Section (2025-2027)

Referee: American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural and Resource Economics Review, Agricultural Finance Review, Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment, Handbooks of Circular Bioeconomy (book chapter), Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Journal of Food Distribution Research

Reviewer: AAEA annual meeting abstracts (2023 - present)

Memberships: Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, Southern Agricultural Economics Association, *NC1177*: Agricultural and Rural Finance Markets in Transition, *SCC-76*: Economics and Management of Risk in Agriculture and Natural Resources

SKILLS

Software: Stata, MatLab, R, SAS, ArcGIS, QGIS, Tableau, L^AT_EX, Ztree

Language: Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent)