

TRAVIS A. SMITH

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Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
University of Georgia
313-C Conner Hall
Athens, GA 30602

Phone: (706) 542-0758
Fax: (706) 542-0739
Email: tasmith@uga.edu
Homepage: Personal webpage

Positions

Associate Professor (2020 – present)

University of Georgia, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

Assistant Professor (2014 – 2020)

University of Georgia, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

Agricultural Economist (2008 – 2010)

Economic Research Service–USDA, Food Economics Division

Education

Ph.D. Applied Economics, University of Minnesota (2014)

M.Sc. Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Georgia (2008)

B.A. Agribusiness, University of Georgia (2005)

Research Interests

Food and nutrition economics, food policy, food security, applied econometrics

Publications

Journal Articles

(*graduate student at time of writing; †undergraduate student at time of writing)

1. Bhargava, V., J.S. Lee, T.A. Smith, S. Chakrovorty* “Exploring a Measure of Nutrition Security Using the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey” *JAMA Network Open* (forthcoming)

2. Smith, T.A., B.H. Lin, J. Guthrie. (2024) "School Meal Nutrition Standards Reduce Disparities Across Income and Race/Ethnicity," *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 67(2): 249-257.
3. Smith, T.A., P. Valizadeh. (2024). "Aging out of WIC and Child Nutrition: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Design" *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 106(2): 904-924.
 - Georgia Public Broadcasting (NPR affiliate): *All Things Considered*
Link: "Kids who lose WIC see nutrition scores decline"
 - Duke, World Food Policy Center (podcast): *Leading Voices in Food*.
Link: "When Kids Age Out of WIC Support"
4. Smith, T.A., C. Gregory. (2023). "Food Insecurity in the United States: Measurement, Economic Modeling, and Food Assistance Effectiveness." *Annual Review of Resource Economics* 15:279-303
5. Melvin[†], S. and T.A. Smith. (2022). "From Paper to Plastic: How the Transition to EBT affected SNAP Enrollment." *Economics Letters* 110852: 1-5.
6. Lee, J. S., Bhargava, V., Smith, T. A., Walker, T. A. (2022). "The effects of Aging Services and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program on Food Insecurity among Older Georgians: 2018-2020." *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. 44(2): 635-652
7. Lindke*, A. T.A. Smith, C.J. Cotwright, D. Morris, G.O. Cox. (2022). "Plate Waste Evaluation of Plant-Based Protein Entrees in National School Lunch Program" *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, 54(1): 12-19.
8. Li, M. S. Ferreira, T.A. Smith, X. Zhang. (2021) "Air Pollution and Non-Cognitive Traits Among Chinese Adolescents" *Health Economics*, 30(2): 478-488.
9. Smith, T.A. and C. Landry (2021) "Household Food Waste and Inefficiencies in Food Production" *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 103(1): 4-21.
 - Lead article with commentary
 - Smith, T.A. and C. Landry (2021) "'Progress and Challenges in Empirical Food Waste Research' – Authors' Response to Comment" *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 103(1): 30-34.
10. Smith, T.A., E.M. Mojduszka, S. Chen* (2021) "Did the New School Meal Standards Improve the Overall Quality of Children's Diets?" *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 43(4): 1366-1384 (Featured Article)
11. Valizadeh, P., T.A. Smith, and M. Ver Ploeg (2021) "Do SNAP Households Pay Different Prices throughout the Benefit Month?" *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 43(3):1051-1075

12. Li*, M., Ferreira, S. and Smith, T.A., (2020). "Temperature and self-reported mental health in the United States." *PloS one*, 15(3), p.e0230316.
13. Valizadeh*, P. and T.A. Smith. (2020). "How Did the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Impact the Material Well-being of SNAP Participants? A Distributional Approach." *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 42(3): 455-476
14. Ahn, S., T.A. Smith, and F.B. Norwood. (2020). "Can Internet Surveys Mimic Food Insecurity Rates Published by the U.S. Government?" *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 42(2): 187-204 (Featured Article)
15. Muth, M.K., C. Birney, A. Cuéllar, S.M. Finn, M. Freeman, J.N. Galloway, I. Gee, J. Gephart, K. Jones, L. Low, E. Meyer, Q. Read, T.A. Smith, K. Weitz, and S. Zoubek. (2019). "A Systems Approach to Assessing Environmental and Economic Effects of Food Loss and Waste Interventions in the United States" *Science of the Total Environment*, 685, 1240-1254
16. Smith, T.A., P. Valizadeh*, B.H. Lin, and E. Coats*. (2019). "What's Driving Increases in Dietary Quality in the United States?" *Food Policy*, 86, 101720
17. Lin, B.H., J. Guthrie, and T.A. Smith. (2019). "Dietary Guidance and New School Meal Standards: Schoolchildren's Whole Grain Consumption over 1994-2014." *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 57(1), 57-67
18. Landry, C. and T.A. Smith. (2019). "Demand for Household Food Waste." *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 41(1): 20-36. (Featured Article)
19. Gregory, C. and T.A. Smith. (2019). "Salience, Food Security and SNAP Receipt." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 38(1): 124-154.
20. Landry, C., T.A. Smith, D. Turner*. (2018). "Food Waste and Food Retail Density." *Journal of Food Products Marketing*, 24(5): 632-653. (Special Issue on Food Waste)
21. Meany*, B. J. Berning, T.A. Smith. (2018). "The Effect of Sunday Alcohol Sales Bans on Teen Drinking in Georgia." *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 40(3): 461-481.
22. Smith, T.A. (2017). "Do School Food Programs Improve Child Dietary Quality?" *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 99(2): 339-356.
 - Early Career Publication Award (2018), Food & Agricultural Marketing Policy Section (FAMPS) of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)
23. Smith, T.A., J. Berning, G. Colson, J. Dorfman and X. Yang*. (2016). "The Effects of Benefit Timing and Income Fungibility on Food Purchasing Decisions among SNAP Households." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 98(2): 564-580.

24. Beatty, T., B.H. Lin and T.A. Smith. (2014). "Is Dietary Quality Improving? Distributional Changes in the United States 1989–2008." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 96(3):769–789.
 - Best Economics Paper (2015), Food Safety and Nutrition Section (FSN) of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)
25. Lin, B.H., T.A. Smith, J.Y. Lee and K.D. Hall. (2011). "Measuring Weight Outcomes for Obesity Intervention Strategies: The Case of a Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax." *Journal of Economics and Human Biology*, 9(4):329–334.
26. Smith, T.A., C.L. Huang and B.H. Lin. (2009). "Does Price or Income Affect Organic Choice? Analysis of U.S. Fresh Produce Users." *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 41(3):731–744.
27. Smith, T.A., C.L. Huang and B.H. Lin. (2009). "Estimating Organic Premiums in the U.S. Fluid Milk Market." *Renewable Agriculture Food Systems*, 24(3):197–204.
28. Smith, T.A., B.H. Lin, and C.L. Huang. (2009). "Growth and Development in the U.S. Retail Organic Food Sector." *Sustainability*, 1(3):573–591.
29. Lin, B.H., S. Yen, C.L. Huang and T.A. Smith. (2009). "The U.S. Demand for Organic and Conventional Fresh Fruits: The Roles of Income and Price." *Sustainability*, 1(3):464–478.
30. Lin, B.H., C.L. Huang, and T.A. Smith. (2008). "Organic Premiums of U.S. Fresh Produce." *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*, 23(3):208–216.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Economic Research Service (USDA-ERS)

1. Lin, B.H., T.A. Smith, J.F. Guthrie. (2023) "Trends in US Whole-Grain Intakes 1994-2018: The Roles of Age, Food Source, and School Food" Economic Research Report No. 311, ERS-USDA.
2. Lin, B.H., J.F. Guthrie, T.A. Smith. (2023) "Dietary Quality by Food Source and Demographics in the United States, 1977-2018" Economic Information Bulletin No. 249, ERS-USDA.
3. Guthrie, J., T.A. Smith, and B.H. Lin. (2020). "Schoolchildren Consumed More Whole Grains Following Change in School Meal Standards." *Amber Waves*, February 3, 2020.
4. Muth, M.K. K.C. Giombi, M. Bellemare, B. Ellison, B. Roe, and T.A. Smith, (2019) "Expert Panel on Technical Questions and Data Gaps for the ERS Loss-Adjusted Food Availability (LAFA) Data Series" Contractor and Cooperator Reports No. (CCR-70) 136 pp.

5. Saksena, M.J., Okrent, A.M., Anekwe, T.D., Cho, C., Dicken, C., Effland, A., Elitzak, H., Guthrie, J., Hamrick, K.S., Hyman, J. and Jo, Y., (2018) "America's Eating Habits: Food Away From Home" Economic Information Bulletin No. 196, ERS-USDA.
6. Guthrie, J., B.H. Lin, and T.A. Smith. (2016). "Linking Federal Food Intake Surveys Provides a More Accurate Look at Eating Out Trends." *Amber Waves*.
7. Gregory, C., T.A. Smith and M. Wendt. (2011). "How Americans Rate Their Diet Quality: An Increasingly Realistic Perspective." Economic Information Bulletin No. 83, ERS-USDA.
8. Smith, T.A., B.H. Lin and J.Y. Lee. (2010). "Taxing Caloric Sweetened Beverages: Potential Effects on Beverage Consumption, Calorie Intake, and Obesity." Economic Research Report No. 100, ERS-USDA.
9. S. Martinez, M. Hand, M. DaPra, S. Pollack, K. Ralston, T.A. Smith, S. Vogel, S. Clark, L. Lohr, S. Low and C. Newman. 2010. "Local Food Systems – Concepts, Impacts, and Issues." Economic Research Report No. 97, ERS-USDA.
10. Smith, T.A., B.H. Lin and R. Morrison. (2010). "Taxing Caloric Sweetened Beverages to Curb Obesity." *Amber Waves*, 8(3):22–27.
11. Variyam, J.N. and T.A. Smith. (2010). "Tracking Changes in Dietary Awareness and Food Choices." *Amber Waves*, 8(2):40–41.
12. Variyam, J.N. and T.A. Smith. (2010). "Americans are More Realistic About the Quality of Their Diets." *Amber Waves*, 8(1):7.
13. Ver Ploeg, S., V. Breneman, T. Farrigan, K. Hamrick, D. Hopkins, P. Kaufman, B.H. Lin, M. Nord, T.A. Smith, R. Williams, K. Kinnison, C. Olander, A. Singh and E. Tuckermanty. (2009). "Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food—Measuring and Understanding Food Deserts and Their Consequences: Report to Congress." Administrative Publication No. 36, ERS-USDA.
14. Green, C., C. Dimitri, B.H. Lin, W. McBride, L. Oberholtzer and T.A. Smith. (2009). "Emerging Issues in the U.S. Organic Industry." Economic Information Bulletin No. 55, ERS-USDA.
15. Morrison R., T.A. Smith and B.H. Lin. (2009). "Got Data? Multiple Data Sources Track U.S. Food Consumption." *Amber Waves*, 7(1):39-41.
16. Smith, T.A. and B.H. Lin. (2009). "Consumers Willing to Pay a Premium for Organic Produce." *Amber Waves*, 7(1):4.

Research Presentations

Invited Presentations

"The Effect of Grocery Prices on Diet Quality: A Household-Production Demand System Approach" Cornell University, School of Applied Economics and Management, May 3, 2024.

"The Effect of Grocery Prices on Diet Quality: A Household-Production Demand System Approach" University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics, October 20, 2023.

"Aging out of WIC and Child Nutrition: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Design." Iowa State University, Department of Economics, October 13, 2022.

"Aging out of WIC and Child Nutrition: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Design." Texas A&M, Department of Agricultural Economics, September 30, 2022.

"Did the New School Meal Standards Improve the Overall Quality of Children's Diets?" Office of the Chief Economist, USDA, September 5, 2019.

"Aging out of WIC and Child Nutrition: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Design." University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics, May 2, 2018.

"Salience, Food Security Measurement and SNAP Receipt." Oklahoma State University, Department of Agricultural Economics, December 5, 2016.

"The Effects of Benefit Timing and Income Fungibility on Food Purchasing Decisions among SNAP Households." FoodAPS Initiative, Washington, D.C., October 22, 2015.

"The Impact of School Food Programs on the Distribution of Dietary Quality." Department of Foods and Nutrition, University of Georgia, January 28, 2015.

"Are Americans Eating Better? Effects of Income and Reformulation, 1989–2008." Applied Economics Centennial Event, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, September 21, 2012.

"ERS Studies Using USDA Food Consumption Survey Data." Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Chinese Agricultural University, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science, Renmin University of China, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Beijing and Shanghai, China, May 11–18, 2009.

Selected Presentations

"The Effect of Grocery Prices on Diet Quality: A Household-Production Demand System Approach" Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, July 31

"Misreporting of SNAP receipt in the Current Population Survey (CPS): Implications for Food Security Research" Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, July 30, New Orleans, LA.

"Pandemic-induced changes in food spending: Implications for child diet quality in the U.S." Southern Economic Association, Fort Lauderdale, FL, November 21, 2022.

"Purchase Efficiency and the Usage of SNAP Benefits" Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, August 3, 2021.

"Did the New School Meal Standards Improve the Overall Quality of Children's Diets?" Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, July 22, 2019.

"How Does SNAP Participation Affect Diabetic Health?" Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., August 7, 2018.

"Aging out of WIC and Child Nutrition: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Design" American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon), Emory University, Atlanta, GA, June 11, 2018.

"A Microeconomic Model of Food Waste: Inefficiency and Uncertainty." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association 2015 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL , August 1, 2017.

"Do SNAP Households Pay Different Prices throughout the Benefit Month?" Allied Social Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL Jan 5–8, 2017.

"The Effects of Benefit Timing and Income Fungibility on Food Purchasing Decisions among SNAP Households." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association 2015 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA , July 26–28, 2015.

"Poor Mental Health and SNAP Participation." International Health Economics Association (iHEA), Milan, Italy, July 12-14, 2015.

"Generalized Quantile Regression in Stata," with David Powell and Matthew Baker. Stata Conference 12, Stata Users Group, Boston, MA, August 1, 2014.

"Billions and Billions Served – School Food, Away Food and Child Dietary Quality." American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon), Los Angeles, CA, June 22–25, 2014.

"Billions and Billions Served – Heterogeneous Effects of Food Source on Child Dietary Quality." Annual Health Econometrics Workshop, Chapel Hill, N.C., October 3–5, 2013.

"Billions and Billions Served – Heterogeneous Effects of Food Source on Child Dietary Quality." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association 2013 Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., August 4–6, 2013.

"The Effects of Age and Birth Cohort on Dietary Quality in the United States." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association 2013 Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., August 4–6, 2013.

"Are Americans Eating Better? Distributional Changes in U.S. Dietary Quality 1989–2008." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association 2012 Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, August 12–14, 2012.

"How much are Consumers Paying for Organic Baby Food?" Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, January 31–February 3, 2009.

"Consumer Demand for Organic Produce: Evidence from Homescan Data." Canadian Agricultural Economics Society and Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association Joint Annual Meeting, Quebec City, Quebec, June 29–July 1, 2008.

"What's Driving the Organic Milk Market? A Consumer Demographic Portrayal." Western Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Big Sky, Montana, June 25–27, 2008.

"Organic Premiums of U.S. Fresh Produce." NCCC-134 Applied Commodity Price Analysis, Forecasting, and Market Risk Management Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, April 21–22, 2008.

Research Funding

"Examining how federal food and non-food assistance programs improve food security among households with children, focusing on marginalized populations"

Primary Investigator with Jessica Smith, Vibha Bhargava, and Jung Sun Lee
\$245,335. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2023-2025

"Deriving Operational Definitions and Measures for Nutrition Security"

Co-Investigator with Vibha Bhargava(PI) and Jung Sun Lee
\$150,000. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2023-2025

- “The Cost of a Healthy Diet and the Effect of Food Prices on Diet Quality”
Primary Investigator.
\$74,982. Gifford Center for Population Studies at UC Davis 2022-2024
- “Estimated Impact of Reduced Access to School Meals and Subsequent Access to Pandemic-EBT Benefits on the Nutritional Quality of Foods Available to School-Age Children in Low-Income Households and the Quality of Their Diets”
Primary Investigator.
\$50,000. Economic Research Service–USDA 2020-2022
- “Machine Learning Approaches to Understanding SNAP Participation in Big Data”
Primary Investigator.
\$83,550. Economic Research Service–USDA 2019-2022
- “Impact of New School Meal Standards on the Consumption of Targeted Foods and Nutrients”
Primary Investigator.
\$30,000. Economic Research Service–USDA 2019-2022
- “The Impact of Nutrition Assistance Programs on Food Insecurity and Health Outcomes among Older Adults”
Co-Investigator with Jung Sun Lee (PI), Vibha Bhargava, and Temitope Walker.
\$225,000. University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research 2019-2022
- “Retrospective Analysis of the Impacts of School Meal Programs on Child Overall Dietary Quality, from 2005 to 2016.”
Primary Investigator.
\$99,327. Office of the Chief Economist–USDA 2018-2019
- “Food Security, Saliency, and SNAP Receipt in the Current Population Survey”
Primary Investigator.
\$30,000. Economic Research Service–USDA 2018-2020
- “Promising Strategies for Promoting Healthier Food Purchases Among SNAP Households”
Co-Investigator with Chen Zhen (PI), Jung Sun Lee, Lan Mu and Janani Thapa.
\$499,630. National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) 2017-2019
- “The Effects of Pricing Strategies on Nutritional Quality of Food Purchases by SNAP and non-SNAP Households: A Demand System Approach using FoodAPS Data.”
Co-Investigator with Chen Zhen (PI).

- \$30,000. Economic Research Service–USDA 2016-2018
- “Food Spending, Consumption and Dietary Habits Among Baby Boomers: Historical Perspectives and What to Expect.”
Primary Investigator.
\$30,000. Economic Research Service–USDA 2016-2018
- “Heterogeneity in SNAP Benefit Redemption: Causes and Characteristics.”
Co-PI with Jeff Dorfman and Chen Zhen.
\$200,000. Economic Research Service–USDA 2015-2018
- “The Evolving Role of Food Sourced Outside the Home on Diet Quality in the United States.”
Primary Investigator.
\$25,000. Economic Research Service–USDA 2014-2016
- “The Effects of Benefit Timing and Income Fungibility on Food Purchasing Decisions.”
Co-PI with Joshua Berning, Greg Colson, and Jeff Dorfman.
\$39,766. University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research & ERS-USDA 2014-2015
- “Linking USDA Food Intake Surveys to Analyze Long-Run Dietary Patterns for Research on Dietary Quality.”
Co-investigator with Timothy K.M. Beatty (PI).
\$25,000. Economic Research Service–USDA 2013-2015
- “The Effects of Age and Cohort on Dietary Quality.”
Co-investigator with Timothy K.M. Beatty (PI).
\$28,000. Economic Research Service–USDA 2012-2013
- “Changes in U.S. Diet Quality: Polarization and Nonparametric Measurement.”
Co-investigator with Timothy K.M. Beatty (PI).
\$25,000. Economic Research Service–USDA 2011-2012

Awards and Recognition

Early Career Publication Award (2018), Food & Agricultural Marketing Policy Section (FAMPS) of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)

Outstanding Faculty Award, Agricultural and Applied Economics Club, University of Georgia (2016)

Best Economics Paper, Food Safety and Nutrition Section of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (2015)

Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (2015)

Litterman Fellow, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota (2013-14)

Outstanding Masters Thesis Award - Honorable Mention, Southern Agricultural Economics Association (2009)

Professional Service

Associate editor (2022-2024), *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*

Chair (2023), Chair-elect (2022) Food Safety and Nutrition Section of Agricultural and Applied Economics Association

Member-at-Large (2016-2018), Food Safety and Nutrition Section of Agricultural and Applied Economics Association

Topic Leader for Food and Agricultural Marketing (2017-2019), Agricultural and Applied Economics Association

Teaching

Economics of Food Policy (AAEC 3600) (formerly, Applied Macroeconomics and Food Policy), University of Georgia. Taught every Spring 2015-2023 (9 semesters)

Applied Microeconomic Principles (AAEC 2580), University of Georgia. Taught every Fall 2015-2023 (9 semesters)

Consumer Demand Theory (AAEC 8140), University of Georgia. Taught every other Fall 2015-2023 (5 semesters)

Economics of Food Policy in the United States (First Year Odyssey Seminar), University of Georgia (Fall 2018)