

YOKO KUSUNOSE
Associate Professor
University of Kentucky
318 Charles E. Barnhart Bldg.
Lexington, KY 40546-0276
(859) 257-7289, yoko.kusunose@uky.edu

I. EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California-Davis, 2010
M.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California-Davis, 2006
B.S. in Earth Systems - Biosphere, Stanford University, 2000

II. ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2020 – present, Associate Professor, Agr. Economics | Economics, University of Kentucky
2011 – 2020, Assistant Professor, Agr. Economics | Economics, University of Kentucky
Spring 2011, Lecturer, Economics, University of Kentucky

III. RESEARCH

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Sagbo, N. M., Kusunose, Y. (2021). Does experience with agricultural loans improve farmers' wellbeing? Evidence from Benin. *Agricultural Finance Review*, 81(4): 503-519.
<https://doi.org/10.1108/AFR-06-2020-0082>

Buck, S., Y. Kusunose, J. Alwang. (2020) Re-visiting traditional trust measurement: Using artefactual field experiments to measure trust and predict micro-lending decisions, *Agricultural Finance Review*, 81(1): 132-150. DOI: 10.1108/AFR-09-2019-0104.

Kusunose, Y., V. Theriault, D. Y. Alia (2020), Can customary land tenure facilitate agricultural productivity growth? Evidence from Burkina Faso, *Land Economics*, 96(3): 441-455. DOI: 10.3368/le.96.3.441.

Kusunose, Y., N. Mason, and S. T. Tembo (2020), The role of liquidity in preventing disinvestment in crop inputs: Evidence from Zambia, *Journal of African Economies*, 29(4): 375-396. DOI: 10.1093/jae/ejz031.

Kusunose, Y., L. X. Ma, D. A. Van Sanford (2019), User responses to imperfect forecasts: findings from an experiment with Kentucky wheat farmers, *Weather, Climate, and Society*, 11: 791-808. DOI: 10.1175/WCAS-D-18-0135.1.

Bagh, A. and Y. Kusunose (2019), On the economic value of signals, *The B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics*, published online. DOI: 10.1515/bejte-2018-0191.

Owusu-Amakwah, G., Y. Kusunose, J. L. Mullins, N. Sulemana, K. Yussif, V. Tackie-Ofori (2018), Willingness of rural and peri-urban woman smallholder farmers to participate in home-grown school feeding farming contracts in Ghana, *Journal of Business Diversity*, 18(2):15-32.

Rignall, K. E. and Y. Kusunose (2018), Governing livelihood and land use transitions: the role of customary tenure in southeastern Morocco, *Land Use Policy*, 78:91-103. DOI: 10.1016/j.landusepol.2018.03.035.

Kusunose, Y. and K. E. Rignall (2018), The long-term development impacts of international migration remittances for sending households: evidence from Morocco. *Migration and Development*, 7(3):412-434. DOI: 10.1080/21632324.2018.1475383.

Kusunose, Y. and R. Mahmood (2016), Imperfect forecasts and decision making in agriculture, *Agricultural Systems*, 146:103-110. DOI: 10.1016/j.agsy.2016.04.006.

Smale, M., Y. Kusunose, M. K. Mathenge, and D. Y. Alia (2016), Destination or distraction? Querying the linkage between off-farm work and farm investment in Kenya, *Journal of African Economies*, 25(2): 388-417. DOI: 10.1093/jae/ejv032.

Kusunose, Y. and T. Lybbert (2014). Coping with drought by adjusting land tenancy contracts: a model and evidence from rural Morocco, *World Development*, 61:114-126. DOI: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2014.04.006.

Burdine, K., Y. Kusunose, L. Maynard, D. Blayney, and R. Mosheim (2014), Livestock Gross Margin-Dairy: an assessment of its effectiveness as a risk management tool and its potential to induce supply expansion, *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 46(2): 245-256. DOI: 10.1017/S1074070800000766.

Works in progress

“The market for private food safety standards: conceptual framework, review, and future research directions” (L. Hu, Y. Zheng, T. Woods, Y. Kusunose, S. Buck, under review at *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*)

“Ambulance use by rural patients and the Medicare reimbursement model: current and proposed” (S. Troske, S. Chaudhary, Y. Kusunose, A. Davis)

“Competing claims or land use transition? A temporal analysis of land use change in southeastern Morocco and implications for tenure policy” (K. Rignall, Y. Kusunose)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Refereed conference proceeding

C.R. Dillon and Y. Kusunose (2013). “Dispelling Misperceptions Regarding Variable Rate Applications” in *Precision Agriculture 13: Proceedings of the 9th European Conference on Precision Agriculture*, Lleida, Catalonia. July 7-11, 2013. J. Stafford, ed. Wageningen Academic Publishers, 769-776.

On-line working papers

Kusunose, Y., N. M. Mason, and S. T. Tembo, (2017). *Do Crop Income Shocks Widen Disparities in Smallholder Agricultural Investments? Panel Survey Evidence from Zambia*, IAPRI Working Paper 116, Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute.

Smale, M., Y. Kusunose, M. K. Mathenge, and D. Alia* (2014). *Destination or Distraction? Querying the linkage between off-farm income and farm investment in Kenya*, International Development Working Paper 136, Michigan State University.

Research Brief

Hardesty, S.D., and Y. Kusunose (2009) *Growers’ Compliance Costs for the Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement and Other Food Safety Programs*, UC Small Farm Program Research Brief, September 2009. (NOTE: Work pre-dates current appointment.)

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Invited Speaker

A. Bagh (presenter) and Y. Kusunose, *The economic value of forecasts*, departmental seminar, Economics Department, University of Louisville, February 24, 2017.

Y. Kusunose (presenter), L. Ma, and D. Van Sanford, *Forecast accuracy and fertilization decisions: some insights from a framed field experiment*, departmental seminars in the departments of Food and Resource Economics and Agricultural and Biological Engineering, University of Florida, January 12, 2017.

Selected Conference Papers

Y. Kusunose, V. Theriault, D. Y. Alia, *Can customary systems of land tenure facilitate agricultural productivity growth? An investigation in the West African Sahel*, selected paper at the Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, July 21-23, 2019, Atlanta, GA.

Y. Kusunose, V. Theriault, D. Y. Alia, *Land borrowing and agricultural productivity in Burkina Faso*, Sustainability and Development Conference, University of Michigan / World Development, Nov. 8-10, 2018, Ann Arbor, MI.

A. Bagh (presenter) and Y. Kusunose, *The economic value of signals and forecasts*, North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, June 21-24, 2018, Davis, CA.

D. Alia (presenter), Y. Kusunose, and V. Theriault, *Land rental, farm investment, productivity, and efficiency in Burkina Faso*, selected paper at the Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, July 31-August 2, 2016, Boston, MA.

D. Alia (presenter), Y. Kusunose, and V. Theriault, *Spillover effects of fertilizer subsidies on the adoption of improved seed and the use of other inputs in Burkina Faso*, selected poster at the Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, July 31-August 2, 2016, Boston, MA.

Karen Rignall (presenter) and Y. Kusunose, *Competing claims or land use transition? A temporal analysis of land use change in southeastern Morocco and the implications for tenure policy*, Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, March 14-18, 2016, Washington, DC.

Y. Kusunose (presenter) and K. Rignall, *Labor migration, poverty and the long-term development impact of international migration*, Selected Paper at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and the Western Agricultural Economics Association, July 26-28, 2015, San Francisco, CA.

Y. Kusunose (presenter), S. Tembo, N.M. Mason, and M. Smale, *Do crop income shocks widen disparities in smallholder agricultural investments?* Selected Paper at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and the Western Agricultural Economics Association, July 26-28, 2015, San Francisco, CA

M. Smale, Y. Kusunose, M.K. Mathenge, and D. Alia (presenter), *Destination or Distraction? Querying the linkage between off-farm income and farm investment in Kenya*, CSAE Conference 2015: Economic Development in Africa, March 22-24, 2015, Oxford, UK.

N. Sagbo (presenter) and Y. Kusunose, *The impact of improved clean cookstoves on households in Southern Haiti*, Annual Meeting of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association, January 31-February 3, 2015, Atlanta, GA.

Y. Kusunose (presenter), *The added value of forecast index insurance: the case of Moroccan dryland wheat production*, 2013 Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics, June 3-4, 2013, World Bank, Washington, DC.

POST-DOCTORAL SUPERVISION

Karen Rignall. Assessing Poverty Dynamics in an Arid Agrarian Context--Socio-economic Mobility, Disparity, and Chronic Poverty in Pre-Saharan Morocco (January 2013 - July 2015).
NOTE: Karen has been a faculty member at the University of Kentucky since July 2015.

GRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORING

NOTE: Students are Agricultural Economics majors unless otherwise noted.

Dissertation Committee Co-Chair

Georgette Owusu-Amankwah, “Educational and women farmer development prospects of school feeding programs in Ghana,” Michael Reed (co-chair), Janet Mullins, Frank Scott (April 2017 – June 2019).

Placement: Post-doctoral researcher at Columbia University.

Nicaise Sagbo, “Role and impact of microfinance in developing countries - Benin case study,” Leigh Maynard (co-chair), David Freshwater, Steven Buck, John Butler. (July 2017 - November 2018).

Placement: Associate research scientist at Texas A&M University.

Didier Alia, “Agricultural input intensification, productivity growth, and the transformation of African agriculture,” Michael Reed (co-chair), David Freshwater, Veronique Theriault, Jenny Minier. (January 2016 - July 2017).

Placement: Research associate at the University of Washington.

Dissertation Committee Member

Suliman Almojel, “Three Essays on Food Environment, Nutrition, and Food Insecurity,” Yuqing Zheng (chair), Sayed Saghaian, Tyler Mark, Patrick Mooney. (April 2020 – Present).

Monika Khan, Economics, “Three papers on the finance-growth nexus,” Jenny Minier (chair), Josh Ederington, Steven Lugauer. (May 2019 – present).

Na Zuo, “Natural resource, regional growth, and human capital accumulation,” David Freshwater (co-chair), John Schieffer (co-chair), Jenny Minier, Steven Buck, Carl Dillon. (September 2014 - May 2017).

Xiaowen Hu, “Income and physical activity choices: a comparison between United States and China,” Christina Stowe (co-chair), Glenn Blomquist, Alison Davis. (March 2014 - November 2016).

Xiaojin Wang, “Essays on agricultural market and policies: Imported shrimp, organic coffee, and cigarette in the United States,” Michael Reed (chair), Leigh Maynard, Yoonbai Kim, Yuqing Zheng. (June 2015 - April 2016).

Master's Thesis Committee Chair

Jessie Stewart, “Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Childcare expenditures,” (July 2020 - Present).

Master's Thesis Committee Co-Chair

Nicaise Sagbo, “Demand for clean cookstoves in Haiti,” A. Lee Meyer (co-chair), Ani Katchova. (August 2013 - August 2014).

Master's Thesis Committee Member

Emmanuel Owusu-Amankwah, "Willingness to pay for healthcare in rural Kentucky," Alison Davis (chair), Wuyang Hu. (July 2015 - November 2017).

Chaquenta Smith, "Effects of family structure on educational attainment and health insurance coverage of youth in the Lower Mississippi Delta region," Alison Davis (chair). (October 2011 - May 2012).

DIRECTED INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

Graduate Students

Jessie Stewart, Agricultural Economics, Poverty, childcare access and enrollment in TANF (August 2016 - December 2016).

Markus Lang, Agricultural Economics, Case studies in food policy (January 2014 - May 2014).

Undergraduate Students

Savina Williams, Economics and International Studies, TBD (June – August 2021)

Andrew Butkovich, Economics, Immigration and Economic Growth (January 2021 start)

Colin Dorris, Agricultural Economics, The US-China Trade War (July 2019 – December 2020)

Juan Diego Caballero, Economics, The Cost of Corruption in Honduras (January - May 2020).

Hermon Tesfayesus, Economics, Unconscious Bias in Relation to the Opioid Epidemic (August – December 2019).

Griffin Mobley, Agricultural Economics, Using Sulphur to increase soybean yields in Kentucky: Will it work for my farm? (April - July 2019).

Lydia Lankford, Foreign Language and International Economics, A Rising China: Examining Development in terms of Opportunity Costs. (January - April 2012).

Internships, Non-Agricultural Economics Majors

Ryan Drusano, Major: International Studies. EXP 396 (January 2016 - April 2016).

Terry Brockman, Major: Economics. EXP 397 (January 2015 - April 2015).

Kristen Wilson, Major: Economics. EXP 396 (June 2011 - August 2011).

Internships, Agricultural Economics Majors

Alexandrea Phillips (June – August 2021).

Connor D. Smith (June – August 2020).
Lindsay Bates (May – July 2019, January – May 2020).
Colin Dorris (July - August 2018).
Logan Winship (August - December 2017).
Sarah-Jo Diamond (August - December 2017).
Elizabeth Lampert (January - May 2015).
Renee Laurent (August - December 2014).
Donavyn Coffey (August - December 2013).

PROFESSIONAL MENTORING

Zohra Jabeen. Professional Peer Mentor. Extreme Poverty Assessment in Poor Localities--A Survey in Pakistan 2015. Completed (June 2014 - June 2016). (Mentorship program funded by USAID U.S.-Pakistani University Partnership through the Gatton College of Business and Economics, University of Kentucky).

GRANTS / PROJECTS

Competitive – funded

USDA NIFA National Needs Fellowship Grant

Project Title: Strengthening Plant Production Through an Interdisciplinary Food Systems Graduate Training Program

PI: Krista L. Jacobsen

Co-PIs: M. Barr, N. Breazeale, L. Brislen, D. Gonthier, Y. Kusunose

Awarded:\$255,177.

Southern SARE Research Grant

Development of Local Small Grain Value Chains for Kentucky and the Mid-South

PI: David Van Sanford

Co-PIs: Krista Jacobsen, Lilian Brislen, Jordan Shockley, Yoko Kusunose

Duration: April 2019 – March 2022

Awarded: \$232,669.

USDA NIFA Conference Grant

Establishing and Addressing Breeding Priorities for Wheat with Respect to Climate Change

PD: Yoko Kusunose

Co-PIs: Jairus Rossi, David Van Sanford

Awarded: January 2020

Amount: \$25,000

National Science Foundation 12-591-SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

Project Title: Assessing poverty dynamics in an arid agrarian context--socioeconomic mobility, disparity, and chronic poverty in pre-Saharan Morocco

PI: K. E. Rignall

Mentor/Sponsoring Scientist: Y. Kusunose

Duration: 8/15/13 - 3/31/2017

Award Amount: \$208,569

(Advised Karen Rignall in designing and implementing a large-scale data collection effort, co-authored publications.).

SEC Faculty Travel Grant

Awarded: September 2016

Amount: \$900

(Traveled to the University of Florida in January 2017 to collaborate and present.).

University of Kentucky, CAFE Research Activity Award

Project Title: A framed field experiment to learn about farmers' understanding and use of probabilistic forecasts

PI: Y. Kusunose

Co-PI: D. A. Van Sanford

Awarded: February 2014

Award Amount: \$3,500

(Implemented a framed field experiment with farmers at the 2015 Winter Wheat Meeting in Hopkinsville, KY.).

IV. TEACHING

RECOGNITION

University of Kentucky College of Education “A Teacher Who Made a Difference,”
April 21, 2018 (Nominated by graduate advisee).

University of Kentucky College of Education “A Teacher Who Made a Difference,”
April 30, 2016 (Nominated by undergraduate student in Economics).

University of Kentucky Presentation U! Faculty Fellows Program (cohort 5), 2016.

COURSES

- ECO 201: Principles of Economics, I 3 courses
- ECO 410: Current Topics in Economics: The World Food Economy 4 courses
- ECO 473G: Economic Development 6 courses
- ECO 499: Seminar in Economics: Food Policy Analysis 7 courses
- AEC 531/ AEC 580: Agricultural Price Analysis 3 courses
- AEC 626: Agricultural and Development Economics 4 courses

TEACHING HISTORY AND EVALUATION SCORES

NOTES:

- Scores are out of 5 points as of academic year 2016-2017.
- N/A indicates too few respondents to calculate scores.

2019-2020	AEC 626	course: N/A	instructor: N/A
	ECO 499	course: 4.29	instructor: 5.00
	ECO 473G	course: 4.75	instructor: 4.71
2018-2019	AEC 626	course: 4.60	instructor: 4.60
	ECO 499	course: 4.86	instructor: 4.86
	ECO 473G	course: 4.86	instructor: 4.91
2017-2018	ECO 499	course: 5.00	instructor: 5.00
	ECO 473G	course: 4.86	instructor: 4.93
2016-2017	AEC 626	course: N/A	instructor: N/A
	ECO 499	course: 4.79	instructor: 4.95
	ECO 473G	course: 4.92	instructor: 5.0
2015-2016	AEC 626	course: 3.63	instructor: 3.75
	ECO 499	course: 3.50	instructor: 3.86
	ECO 473G	course: 3.53	instructor: 3.76
2014-2015	ECO 499	course: 3.67	instructor: 3.67
	ECO 410	course: 3.67	instructor: 3.76

2013-2014	AEC 531	course: 3.91	instructor: 4.00
2012-2013	AEC 531	course: 3.10	instructor: 3.00
	ECO 410	course: 3.60	instructor: 3.60
	ECO 201	course: 3.00	instructor: 3.10
2011-2012	AEC 531	course: 2.80	instructor: 3.10
	ECO 410	course: 3.80	instructor: 3.80
	ECO 201	course: 2.90	instructor: 2.90

UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC ADVISING

<i>Academic year</i>	<i>Advised (average of fall and spring)</i>
2019-2020	6 students
2018-2019	8 students
2017-2018	12 students
2016-2017	13.5 students
2015-2016	11.5 students
2014-2015	8 students
2013-2014	11.5 students
2012-2013	9 students
2011-2012	2 students

V. SERVICE

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Committee Member

Mentoring Committee for Shuoli Zhao (August 2020 – Present).
Mentoring Committee for Nicholas Pates (August 2020 – Present).
Mentoring Committee for Elham Shirinkaam (August 2020 – Present).
Graduate Committee (August 2011 - August 2015, August 2019 - Present).
Faculty Hiring Committee (July – Oct. 2019, Sep. 2021 - Present).
Departmental Support Committee (August 2018 - Present).
Undergraduate Committee (August 2015 - July 2018).

Coordinator for award nomination

Coordinated nomination package of Roger Brown for University of Kentucky Provost's Outstanding Teaching Award, subsequently awarded (February 2018 - March 2018).

Co-coordinator

Brownbag / Seminar Series, (August 2016 - July 2017, August 2011 - July 2012).

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Committee Member

Food Systems Initiative Steering Committee (September 7, 2016 - Present).

Faculty Advisor

Alpha Zeta service fraternity (September 13, 2011 - January 11, 2013).

Guest Speaker

Business Enterprise Living Learning Program talk, (October 25, 2016).

Student Activities Board, OxFam Hunger Banquet, (November 16, 2011).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Grant Review Panel

USDA - NIFA, Conference Grant Reviewer (March 2020)

National Science Foundation, Reviewer, INFEWS Track 2C (February 7 - 8, 2019).

Abstract Reviewer

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Annual Meeting (2016, 2017, 2018).

Journal Article Reviewer

Agricultural Economics (2020)

Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics (2020)

World Development, Special Issue (2018)

Food Policy (2017)

Journal of Economic Education (2017)

Science of the Total Environment (2016)

American Journal of Agricultural Economics (2009, 2013)

Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics (2012)

European Economic Review (2011)

Committee Member

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Mentorship Committee
(2019 –Present)

Kentucky Economic Association (November 2011 - November 2014).

- Session chair, Annual KEA conference (October 11, 2013).

Member

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (2008 - Present)

- Proposed and drafted wording for the Mentoring Award.

Kentucky Climate Consortium (February 2020 – Present)