

Maolong Chen

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Education

Michigan State University, MI, USA

Ph.D. Candidate, Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, (Expected) 2018.

Dissertation: "Understanding Transient Technology Use Among Smallholder Farmers in Africa"

Michigan State University, MI, USA

M.S. Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, 2015.

Thesis: "Emerging Markets for U.S. Pork in China"

China Agricultural University, Beijing, China

B.S. Mathematics, 2011.

Thesis: "Integrable Deformation of Harry Dym Equation"

Research Interests

Agricultural Economics

Applied Econometrics

Dynamic Optimization

Applied Microeconomics

Behavioral Economics

Choice Experiment

Work in Progress

Chen, M., & Myers, R. J. (2017). Understanding Transient Technology Use Among Smallholder Farmers in Africa: A Dynamic Programming Approach. (Job Market Paper)

A dynamic programming model is developed to explain transient technology choice (switching back and forth between a traditional and a modern technology). The model is calibrated and solved numerically using a dynamic programming algorithm. Simulations of the model illustrate how changes in switching costs, relative profitability, and productivity uncertainty can lead to different patterns and duration of transient technology use.

Chen, M. (2017). Estimation of Dynamic Panel Data Discrete Choice Model with Irregular Spacing.

Irregularly spaced data invalidates all existing approaches to estimating nonlinear dynamic panel data models. In this paper, I develop several new estimators for dynamic panel data discrete choice model with irregular spacing and compare their finite sample performance to the application of existing estimators when ignoring irregular spacing.

Chen, M., & Myers, R. J. (2017). Transient Use of Hybrid Maize and Fertilizer: Panel Evidence from Kenya.

A triple-hurdle model is developed to estimate determinants of transient hybrid maize and fertilizer use in Kenya. The maize production decision is broken into three stages, including hybrid participation, fertilizer participation, and fertilizer allocation. The dynamic estimators are corrected through a simulation approach to addressing the irregular spacing problem. Results provide new evidence on the relative importance of different factors in determining transient technology use in Kenyan maize production.

Publications

Ortega, D. L., Wang, H., & **Chen, M.** (2015). Emerging Markets for US Meat and Poultry in China. *Choices*, 30(2), 1-4.

Ortega, D. L., **Chen, M.**, Wang, H., & Shimokawa, S. (2017) Emerging Markets for U.S. Pork in China: Experimental Evidence from Mainland and Hong Kong Consumers. *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 42(2):275-290.

Conference Presentations

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting (AAEA) in Chicago, IL, July 30-August 1, 2017

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting (AAEA) in San Francisco, CA, July 26-28, 2015

Graduate Research Symposium at Michigan State University, MI, March 2014 and 2015

Professional and Academic Experience

Graduate Research Assistant for Professor Robert Myers, MSU (Jun.2015-Present)

- *Developed dynamic theoretical model to understand transient use phenomenon*
- *Implemented dynamic programming model and Monte Carlo simulation*
- *Developed econometric methods to address irregular spacing issues*

Graduate Research Assistant for Professor David Ortega, MSU (Jan.2014-Jun.2015)

- *Designed survey and choice experiment*
- *Communicated with enumerators and managed progress of the project*
- *Predicted consumer's willingness to pay for several pork characteristics*

Teaching Assistant (grader) for Professor Thomas Reardon, MSU (Sep.2013-Dec.2013)

- Assisted course instructor and guest speakers to prepare and present course materials
- Graded and reported homework, quizzes, and exams

Research Assistant, China Agricultural University, China (Aug.2011-Aug.2013)

- Simulated a dynamic quote-driven market using Ising model
- Quantified asset price risk, liquidity and asset gap risk
- Developed multiple strategies for players in distinct markets

Research Assistant, funded by Humboldt University, Germany (Mar.2010-Sep.2010)

- Conducted a field survey in Beijing and cleaned data using STATA
- Quantified risks through a revised MOTAD model
- Solved the decision model of producers to minimize risks

Honors and Awards

Quality of Communication Award at the AAEA annual meeting, 2016
Second Place in the Asian Study Center's S.C. Lee Best Paper Competition, 2016
Second Place, Mathematical Modeling Competition, 2010

Skills

Language: Chinese(Native), English(Fluent)
Computer Skills: Stata, Matlab, Gauss, Latex, MS office

References

Robert J. Myers, Ph.D.

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Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics
Michigan State University
Email: myersr@msu.edu

David L. Ortega, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
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Songqing Jin, Ph.D.

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