Devin A. Serfas

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Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T6G 2H1

Professional Appointments

Assistant Professor and RDAR Chair in Applied Agricultural Economics 2024 – Present
Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology
Faculty of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences
University of Alberta

Education

Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis 2019 – 2024
Dissertation: *Essays on Cropping Choice, Carbon Sequestration, and the Productivity of Saskatchewan Farms*
Supervisor: Julian Alston
Committee: Richard Gray (USask), Pierre Mérel (UC Davis), and Aaron Smith (UC Berkeley)

M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics, University of Saskatchewan 2016 – 2018

B.Sc. in Agribusiness (*Honours and Great Distinction*), University of Saskatchewan 2012 – 2016

Research Fields

Primary: Agricultural Production Economics

Secondary: Agri-Environmental Policy, Returns to Agricultural Research and Development

Academic Publications

1. Serfas, D. A. 2026. Environmental benefits from carbon sequestration, canola production, and zero-tillage adoption on Saskatchewan farms. *Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.*

2. Serfas, D. A. 2025. Harvesting benefits: Exploring the effects of second-best policies on enhancing soil organic carbon stocks in agriculture. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 108(5): 1402-1436.

3. Serfas, D. A. 2025. The Consequences of Soil Organic Carbon for Crop Yield, Farm Productivity and Profit. *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 70(3): 686-710.

4. Alston, J. M., Pardey, P. G. Serfas, D., and S. Wang. 2023. Slow Magic: Agricultural Versus Industrial R&D Lag Models. *Annual Review of Resource Economics*, 15(1): 471–493.

5. Serfas, D., Gray, R., and P. Slade. 2018. Congestion and distribution of rents in wheat export sector: A Canada–US cross-border comparison. *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 66(2): 187-207.

Other Publications & Reports

1. Alston, J. M. and D. Serfas. 2025. The Costs of Pierce's Disease in the California Grape and Wine Industry: New, Up-to-Date Estimates. A report prepared for the California Department of Agriculture PD/GWSS Research Board.
2. Serfas, D. and R. Gray. 2019. An Evaluation of Value Creation Models for Pulses in western Canada. A report prepared for the Crop Development Center. Saskatoon, SK.

Research Papers

Working Papers

The Long-Run On-Farm Benefits from Spring Wheat Breeding on the Canadian Prairies

Works in Progress

From Research Plots to Prairie Fields: Do Ultra-early Seeding and Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizers Pay?

Grants

Alberta Innovates & Results Driven Agricultural Research – $76,325 2026 – 2028
Project Title: *"Economic and Environmental Implications of Nitrogen Use, Nitrous Oxide Mitigation, and Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizers in Alberta"*
Role: Principal Investigator

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Institutional Grant – $2,670 2024 – 2025

California Department of Food & Agriculture PD/GWSS Board – $75,000 2024 – 2025
Project Title: *"Costs of Pierce's Disease in the California Grape and Wine Industry and Benefits from the PD Control Program and Research and Development"* with Julian Alston
Role: Co-Investigator

Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission – $85,000 2022 – 2024
Project Title: *"Cropping choice and the long-run productivity of Saskatchewan farms"* with Richard Gray and Julian Alston
Role: Co-Investigator

Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics – $30,000 2022 – 2023
Project Title: *"Economics of Carbon Sequestration on Farms: Evidence from Canada"* with Julian Alston
Role: Co-Investigator

Scholarships, Honors, and Awards

Henry A. Jastro Graduate Research Scholarship Award – $3,000 2023

Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board Don Jaques Memorial Fellowship – $20,000 2017

Undergraduate Book Prize Award 2016
Outstanding undergraduate student in agricultural economics or related field,
Awarded by Canadian Agricultural Economics Society (CAES)

Presentations

2026. Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting in Ottawa, ON

2025. International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research (ICABR) – 29th Annual Conference in Saskatoon, SK

2025. Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting in Montreal, QC

2025. 15th Annual Canadian Agri-Food Policy Conference in Ottawa ON

2024. University of Alberta – Seminar in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology in Edmonton, AB

2024. University of Saskatchewan – Seminar in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics in Saskatoon, SK

2024. Agricultural GHG Measurement & Climate Policy Workshop – Innovation Place, University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, SK

2023. University of Alberta – Seminar in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology in Edmonton, AB

2023. University of Manitoba – Seminar in the Department of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics in Winnipeg, MB

2023. NatuRE Policy Lab – Lab Seminar in Davis, CA

2023. Oklahoma State University – Seminar in the Department of Agricultural Economics in Stillwater, OK

2023. Western Agricultural Economics Association and Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting and Conference in Whistler, BC

2022. NatuRE Policy Lab – Lab Seminar in Davis, CA

Workshop on Spatial Data Analysis – University of Saskatchewan

2018. 3rd Soyagen Annual Meeting in Quebec City, QC

2018. 65th Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association in San Antonio, TX

2018. 30th International Conference of Agricultural Economists in Vancouver, BC

2018. 25th Annual International Moose Jaw Conference – "Farming for ... Profit?" NAFTA & Trade Expansion

Teaching Fields

Production Economics, Agricultural Policy, Agricultural Markets

Teaching Experience

Instructor, University of Alberta

Undergraduate: Advanced Management Methods and Applications for Agri-Food, Fashion and Resource Businesses (AREC 423)	Winter 2026

Instructor, University of California, Davis

Undergraduate: Intermediate Microeconomics (ARE 100B)	Fall 2023

Student Advising

1. Shayan Wali, M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics — 2026 – Present
   University of Alberta
   Role: Supervisor

2. Edmund Adorkor, Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics — 2025 – Present
   University of Alberta
   Role: Committee Member

Professional Activities

Referee for American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE); Agricultural Economics (AE); Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics (CJAE); Agribusiness: An International Journal; Canadian Journal of Plant Science

Canadian Agricultural Economics Society (CAES)

Judge, CAES Graduate Student Paper Competition	2026
Judge , CAES Policy Conference Student Poster Competition	2025

Department Service

Member, Business Management Committee	2025 – Present
Member, Nominations Committee	2026–2027
Member, Awards Committee	2024-2027
Chair, Nominations Committee	2025-2026

Faculty Service

Judge, Bentley Lecture Poster Session	2026
Academic Lead, Bentley Lecture in Sustainable Agriculture	2025–2026

Memberships

Canadian Agricultural Economic Society	2023-Present
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association	2023–Present

Media and Outreach

GrainsWest Magazine, "Rotation Rethink" p.6 (March 3, 2026)

The Wheat Field (SaskWheat Newsletter), "Crop rotations that pay now and for decades to come" p.6 (October 1, 2025)

Folio, "Science-based crop rotation could boost profits and protect soil" (September 10, 2025)

Other

Languages: English (Native), French (Intermediate)

Software:

Advanced: R, Shiny, LaTeX

Intermediate: Stata, MATLAB

Beginner: Python

Collaboration and reproducibility: GitHub, Overleaf

Prior working experience: Farming, Custom Spraying 2012 – 2019

Canadian citizen