2022 NCCC-134 Business Meeting:

The NCCC-134 Regional Research Committee sponsored its annual conference on Applied Commodity Price Analysis, Forecasting, and Market Risk Management on April 25-26 in St. Louis, Missouri. Twenty-six papers were presented by the authors and discussed among meeting participants. The conference meeting holds two concurrent sessions where research papers with similar methods, commodities, and/or issues are organized. The papers were selected by ten members of the NCCC-134 Executive Committee from 35 two-page prospectuses submitted prior to the conference. The resulting collection of papers ranged over futures and options market analysis, speculation, market information, effects and management of market risk, price forecasting evaluations, and several other price analysis topics. The format of the meeting allows for extensive discussion of the papers, results, and implications. Preliminary works and findings are encouraged.

Industry participants and well-established academic professionals are invited to speak during the business lunch. The goal of the luncheon speaking session is to discuss industry and research issues and discuss perspectives of successful economists. Presenting during the lunch allows discussion with the entire body of conference participants. This year, Dr. Alexis Poulain – a commodity market analyst at FAO where he supports the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) team – was the featured luncheon speaker. The title of his talk was “The interactions between commercial and financial operators on the European Agricultural futures markets.” This presentation resulted in a lively discussion of the differences between American and European futures markets and regulation.

One of the main highlights of this year’s meeting was the increase of international collaborations in presented research with 10 out of 26 papers, or 38.5% including or consisting of international co-authors. Another 10 out of 26 papers, or 38.5%, were authored by the researchers from the same institution. The remaining 6 out of 26 papers, or 23%, are collaborative works by researchers at different institutions. This regional project is one of the main catalysts for the works. However, all of the research is discussed before participants from many institutions. All participants attend this meeting to hear about works from researchers at other institutions that are in the area of expertise addressed by the project. As well, this meeting remains an important venue for graduate students to present their work. This year, 16 graduate students attended the conference, many of them presenting papers co-authored with faculty members.

Following the research paper presentations on the first day of the meetings, a short business meeting of the NCCC-134 executive committee and other interested participants was held. NCCC-134 Committee Co-Chairs, Olga Isengildina Massa and Mindy Mallory, led the meeting. We indicated an attendance at this year’s conference of 46 participants despite travel challenges associated with COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the presentations were in-person. However, necessary arrangements were made to facilitate several virtual presentations due to COVID-19 travel restrictions at USDA and some other cases. It was acknowledged that participation remained strong despite travel budget constraints and restrictions at many universities. Participants acknowledged that St. Louis provided and good place for having this meeting and it was agreed that we will continue having these meetings in St. Louis in the future years.

In general, it was acknowledged by the committee that there has been a resurgence of interest in the area of commodity price analysis and risk management given the recent high prices and volatility in commodity markets among other important issues. Given this, it was concluded that the NCCC-134 continues to be an important catalyst for research in the area of commodity price analysis and risk management.

Mindy Mallory also announced the procedure for submitting final papers to be posted as electronic proceedings on the NCCC-134 website. The site address is http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/nccc134/ . The site will continue to hold committee announcements as well as all papers from all past meetings.

Next year’s meeting is scheduled for April 24–25, 2023 in St. Louis, Missouri. Format will be similar to this year’s meeting with presented papers selected by a screening committee from a set of proposals due in October 2022. Olga Isengildina Massa from Virginia Tech University and Mindy Mallory from Purdue University agreed to continue to serve as committee coordinators. Michael Adjemian from the University of Georgia volunteered to join the Executive Committee.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 p.m. April 25, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

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