

**Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting  
June 5-8, 2024  
Las Cruces, New Mexico**

**CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE**

**Wednesday, June 5**

- 8:30-4:00 Graduate Workshop (by invitation)
- 4:00-6:00 AHS Executive Committee Meeting (for members of the committee)
- 6:00-8:00 Opening Reception (open to all)

**Thursday, June 6**

- 8:15-8:30 Welcome
- 8:30-10:00 Opening Plenary Roundtable: Settler Colonialism and Unruly Responses to Agricultural Practices
- 10:00-10:30 Coffee Break
- 10:30-12:00 Presidential Address
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch at conference site (included in registration)
- 1:30-3:00 Session I
  - A. Films: A Source and a Means of Conveying Historical Knowledge for Rural Historians
  - B. Technological Transfers in China and Beyond: A Transnational History (1850-1990)
  - C. Rural Black Georgia Resistance at the Turn of the Century
  - D. Roundtable Book Discussion on *Interpreting Science at Museums and Historic Sites* by Debra Reid, Karen-Beth Scholthof and David Vail
  - E. Biography and Biology: Agricultural Scientists and their Impacts
- 3:00-3:30 Coffee Break
- 3:30-5:00 Session II
  - A. Roundtable: Agriculture on the Large and Small Screen
  - B. Busting the Stereotypes: New Angles on Agriculture in Texas
  - C. Farm Trade and Foreign Policy
  - D. Field Research: Wildlife, Periphery, and Bugs
  - E. Voices on Borders

**Friday, June 7**

- 7:30-8:30 Editorial Board Breakfast (for members)
- 8:30-10:00 Session III
  - A. Placemaking Amidst Dispossession: Southern and Midwestern Black Farmers on the Edge
  - B. Silk and Strategies
  - C. Getting There: Growing and Connecting Places
  - D. The Challenges of Organizing Farmers
  - E. The Political Reach of Agricultural Science
- 10:00-10:30 Coffee Break
- 10:30-12:00 Session IV
  - A. The Politics of Disseminating Agricultural Knowledge
  - B. Roundtable Book Discussion on *The Oxford Handbook of Agricultural History*
  - C. Missionaries at the Margins: Religion and Farm Reform in Modern North America
  - D. Paying the Price for Pesticides and Fertilizers
  - E. Slavery, Anti-slavery, and Agricultural Reform on Southern Farms

12:30-5:00 Optional Tour

**Saturday, June 8**

7:30-8:30 RWSA Breakfast

8:30-10:00 Session V

- A. Drawing Borders on Land and People
- B. Where do Animals Belong?
- C. Valuing Farm Labor on the Move and In Place
- D. Political Border or Agricultural Border?
- E. Possession and Dispossession in Rural America

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 Session VI

- A. Marginalized Crops, Marginalized Farmers
- B. Elite and Popular Cosmopolitanisms in Brazilian Agriculture
- C. Historical Memory as Borderlands
- D. Busting the Stereotypes: New Angles on Agriculture in Texas

12:00-1:30 Lunch at conference site (included in registration)

1:30-3:00 Session VII

- A. Making Place in Rural America
- B. Roundtable Discussion of Aaron Eddens's Seeding Empire: American Philanthrocapital and the Roots of the Green Revolution in Africa (University of California Press, 2024)
- C. Racial Boundaries on the Farm
- D. Systemizing the Unknown or Unappreciated
- E. The Agricultural Stakes of Revolution and Reform

3:00-3:30 Coffee Break

3:30-5:00 Session VIII – Closing Plenary

- Are You an Agricultural Historian or Do You Work for a Living?: Thinking Big about the Agricultural Historian Profession

5:30-6:30 AHS Business Meeting

6:30-8:00 Awards Reception

8:00-9:00 Post-Conference Unwind

## FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

### Wednesday, June 5

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8:30-4:00 Graduate Workshop (by invitation)

4:00-6:00 AHS Executive Committee Meeting (for members of the committee)

6:00-8:00 Opening Reception (open to all)

### Thursday, June 6

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8:15-8:30 Welcome

8:30-10:00 Opening Plenary

**Roundtable: Settler Colonialism and Unruly Responses to Agricultural Practices**

Moderator: Alyssa Kreikemerier, University of New Mexico

Ligia Arguilez, University of Texas at El Paso

Kerri Clement, Montana State University

Perri Meldon, Boston University

Colin Samson, University of Essex

Honora Spicer, Harvard University

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 Presidential Address

“To Scratch and Crow Under Our Own Vine and Fig Tree’: The National Federation of Colored Farmers, *The Modern Farmer*, and the Farm Bureau, 1929-1948.”

Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University

12:00-1:30 Lunch at conference site (included in registration)

1:30-3:00 Session I

**A. Films: A Source and a Means of Conveying Historical Knowledge for Rural Historians**

Organizer and Chair: Peter Moser

Joseph L. Anderson, Mount Royal University

Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh, Dublin Business School

Diana Alejandra Méndez Rojas, National Autonomous University of Mexico

Peter Moser, Archives of Rural History

**B. Technological Transfers in China and Beyond: A Transnational History (1850-1990)**

Organizer: Hongyun Lyu

Chair and Moderator: Jacob Eyferth, University of Chicago

“Between China and the American South: A Global History of Ramie, 1850-1950,” Yiyun Peng, University of Chicago

“Three Indigenous Pigs: A brief history of Sino-Western genetic exchange,” Niu Teo, University of Chicago

“Learning From Japan: Technology Transfer and the Evolution of China’s Bulk Power System (1972-1979),” Hongyun Lyu, University of Toronto

**C. Rural Black Georgia Resistance at the Turn of the Century**

Organizer: Dawn J. Herd-Clark, Hillsborough Community College

Chair and Moderator: Kymara Sneed, Mississippi State University

“Moving the Masses: Black Resistance in Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Early County, Georgia,” Kyle Harris,  
Florida A&M University

“Black Women, Ancestral Land, and Spirituality in the Late Nineteenth Century,” Felicia Jamison,  
University of Louisville

“Dorchester Academy: Resistance Through Education, 1867-1900,” Dawn J. Herd-Clark,  
Hillsborough Community College

**D. Roundtable Book Discussion on *Interpreting Science at Museums and Historic Sites* by  
Debra Reid, Karen-Beth Scholthof and David Vail**

Chair: James C. Giesen, Mississippi State University

Invited Panelists:

Brandon Stephens, Tennessee Agricultural Museum

Abeer Saha, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History

Cameron L. Saffell, Museum of Texas Tech University

Respondents:

Debra Reid, The Henry Ford

Karen Scholthof, Texas A&M University

David Vail, University of Nebraska-Kearney

**E. Biography and Biology: Agricultural Scientists and their Impacts**

Chair and Moderator: TBA

“From ‘A Poor Farm Boy’ to Hybrid Corn Pioneer: The Story of Nebraska’s ‘Mr. Corn,’” Huan Go,  
Sichuan University

“Corn from Trees: J. Russell Smith and the Resurgence of Agroforestry,” Brian Rumsey,  
University of Northern Iowa

3:00-3:30 Coffee Break

3:30-5:00 Session II

**A. Roundtable: Agriculture on the Large and Small Screen**

Chair and Moderator: Margaret Weber, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Katherine Jellison, Ohio University

Debra Reid, The Henry Ford

Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Iowa State University

Wayne Anderson, University of Iowa

**B. Busting the Stereotypes: New Angles on Agriculture in Texas**

Chair and Comment: Evan P. Bennett

“Production Value of Enslaved Labor in Antebellum Texas: Livestock, Cash Crops, and the Texas  
Frontier,” Deborah M. Liles, Tarleton State University

“Amber Waves on the Texas Prairie: North Texas and Wheat,” Rebecca Sharpless, Texas  
Christian University

“Southwest Texas Farmers on the Teat: The AAA’s Corn Hog Adjustment in the Winter Garden,”  
William V. Scott, Texas Tech University

**C. Farm Trade and Foreign Policy**

Chair and Comment: Sarah Phillips, Boston University

“Manufacturing Democracy: Farm Subsidies as Food Security,” Lingxi Chenyang, University of Utah

“Seeds of American Empire: American Farmers and American Foreign Relations in the Twentieth Century,” Robert Ferguson, University of Georgia

“Two-Way Expertise Exchange: U.S.A.I.D., Ohio State University and Punjab Agricultural University,” Priyanka Sen, Cornell University

**D. Field Research: Wildlife, Periphery, and Bugs**

Chair and Moderator: TBA

“Blacklands not Backwaters: Agricultural Experiments in the Scottish Peripheries,” Zsuzsanna Dominika Ihar, University of Cambridge

“Competing for Space: Beetles, Bugs, and Perspectives about Biodiversity on Southern Cotton Farms during the National Boll Weevil Eradication Campaign,” Bashira Chowdhury, Mississippi State University

“‘Like the Centers for Disease Control, Only for Wildlife’: The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study and Wildlife Science as Extension Work,” Drew Swanson, Georgia Southern University

**E. Voices on Borders**

Chair and Moderator: Mark D. Hersey, Mississippi State University

“Poppies and Women Under the Linden Tree in a Slovak Village: Exploring culturally Significant Plants Through Informed Archaeological Storytelling,” Zuzana Chovanec, University of Albany

“‘The Voice of the Peasant’: Transborder Radio, and the Mexicanization of the Farm Workers Movement in the Texas Borderlands, 1969-1972,” Tim Bowman, West Texas A&M University

“The Acequia Goes National: Public Relations and Parciante Resistance in 1920s New Mexico,” Jacquelyn M. Davila, Yale University

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**Friday, June 7**

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7:30-8:30 Editorial Board Breakfast (for members)

8:30-10:00 Session III

**A. Placemaking Amidst Dispossession: Southern and Midwestern Black Farmers on the Edge**

Chair and Organizer: Adrienne Petty, The College of William and Mary

“Claims and Contests in a Naval Reservation: Black Farming Families and Land Use after a 1918 Federal Taking,” Molly Robinson, The College of William and Mary

“The Patches in Between: Exploring the Agricultural Landscape through the lens of Black Farmers, Landscape Performance, and the Conservation Reserve Program,” Kelley Lemon, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Grave Liminality: Black Cemeteries and Property in the Santee-Cooper Basin, 1938-1942,” Kelsey A. Moore, Johns Hopkins University

## **B. Silk and Strategies**

Organizer: Katherine Frederick, Texas State University

Moderator: Nancy Berlage, Texas State University

“Chahine's ‘Blazing Sun’: An Egyptian Family Story,” Elizabeth Bishop, Texas State University

“Silk and Franco-Maronite Relations: Sericulture in Lebanon in the 19th Century,” Katherine Frederick, Texas State University

“Herbicides and Tactics: Agricultural Warfare in Vietnam,” Gabriel Odom, Texas State University

## **C. Getting There: Growing and Connecting Places**

Chair and Moderator: Sara Morris, University of Kansas

“Rural Reparations: Cartography, Waterways, and Peri-urban Infrastructure in the Texas Colonias,” Bobby Cervantes, Harvard University

“An Ephemeral Effort: Promoting the Development of Southern New Mexico, 1880-1950,” Jennifer Olguin, New Mexico State University

“Highway 66 Revisited: Parsing Myth from Memory in Search of a History for the Mother Road,” Jake Wolff, Temple University

## **D. The Challenges of Organizing Farmers**

Chair and Moderator: Andrew Baker, Texas A&M Commerce

“Collaborative Archiving of In-between Spaces: Florida Farmworker Community Support Organizations,” Suzanne Cady Stapleton and Margarita Vargas-Betancourt, University of Florida

“The Peregrinations of a Planter's War: The Ideology of the Planters Protective Association during the Black Patch War, 1905-1909,” Sanjay K. Paul, Harvard University

“Decline of the Farmworkers’ Movement: The View from South Texas,” Andrew J. Hazleton, Texas A&M International University

## **E. The Political Reach of Agricultural Science**

Chair: Helen Curry, Georgia Institute for Technology

“Hybrid Development: Plant Breeders, Soil Scientists, and the Roots of a Green Revolution in Chile,” Joshua Frens-String, University of Texas

“The Afterlives of Early 20th Century Midwestern Rural Social Science and Contestations over the Meaning of Indonesian Agrarian Democracy,” Zhe Yu Lee, University of Wisconsin-Madison

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 Session IV

## **A. The Politics of Disseminating Agricultural Knowledge**

Chair and Moderator: Jess Gilbert, University of Wisconsin–Madison

“Connecting Histories of Gender and Racial Segregation in Agricultural Education and Extension Worldwide,” Margreet van der Burg, Wageningen University

“Deepening Connections to Land Through Agricultural Education in the Early Twentieth-Century American West,” Emma Masterson, University of New Mexico

“Knowing Apples: Pomological Illustration and Intellectual Property,” Lauren Freese, University of South Dakota

“Quality or quantity? What Cacao Biodiversity Teaches in Practice,” Edna Carolina Bonilla-León, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, Colombia

**B. Roundtable Book Discussion on *The Oxford Handbook of Agricultural History***

Chair and Discussant: Jeannie Whayne, University of Arkansas  
Joseph L. Anderson, Mount Royal University  
Helen Anne Curry, Georgia Institute of Technology  
Jonathan W. Daly, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Suzanne Moon, University of Oklahoma

**C. Missionaries at the Margins: Religion and Farm Reform in Modern North America**

Organizer: Alison Collis Greene, Emory University  
Chair and Comment: Michelle Berry, University of Arizona  
“The Refugee Home Society and the Religion of Farming in Ontario, 1851-1864,” MW Dougherty, Toronto Metropolitan University  
“Reforming Religion, Modernizing Migrants: A Religious History of FSA Migrant Camps in New Deal California,” Jonathan Ebel, University of Illinois  
“No Cedars of Lebanon: Missions and Timbering in an Eastern North Carolina Swamp,” Alison Collis Greene, Emory University

**D. Paying the Price for Pesticides and Fertilizers**

Chair and Moderator: Frederick Rowe Davis, Purdue University  
“Malice Aforethought or Incidental Ingestion? Social Anxieties and Arsenic Poisoning in the Cotton South,” Andrew Baker, Texas A&M University–Commerce  
“Fertilizing Racial Boundaries: The Growth of the Fertilizer Industry and Environmental Injustice in the US South, 1880-1920,” Andrew Loyd Craig, University of Georgia  
“Paying for Chemicals: Landscapes of Credit in Post-WWII American Agriculture,” Adam Romero, University of Washington Bothell

**E. Slavery, Anti-slavery, and Agricultural Reform on Southern Farms**

Chair and Comment: Drew Swanson, Georgia Southern University  
“Exhausted Earth: Fertility and Antislavery Critique,” Francesco Y. Asano, New York University  
“Resource Management and International Relations in Virginia's Early Agricultural Improvement Movement, 1798-1818,” James Cornelius, University of New Hampshire  
“‘At Great Profit and Pleasure’: The Politics of Crop Diversification in Antebellum Mississippi,” Aiden T. Daly, Mississippi State University  
“A Sugar Planter and the Courts in Antebellum Louisiana,” John Keeling, McNeese State University

12:30-5:30 Optional Tour

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**Saturday, June 8**

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7:30-8:30 Rural Women’s Studies Association Breakfast

8:30-10:00 Session V

**A. Drawing Borders on Land and People**

Chair and Moderator: Joshua Nygren, University of Central Missouri

- “The Crooked Straight Line as Boundary: Provincial Borders and the Impositions of Colonialism in Rural Saskatchewan,” Signa A. Daum Shanks, University of Ottawa
- “Properties of Empire: Environmental Histories of Law in Indian Territory and Oklahoma, 1890-1920,” Emma Herman, Harvard University
- “The Fremont-Madison Irrigation District and the Campaign to Build the Teton Dam, 1960-1976,” Dylan McDonald, New Mexico State University

#### **B. Where do Animals Belong?**

- Chair and Moderator: Joseph L. Anderson, Mount Royal University
- “‘A More Exotic Game Animal’: Hog Hunting Culture in the American South,” Charles E. Jones, Mississippi State University
- “Borderland Animal Violence: El Paso and Belonging in the American West, 1880-1920,” Neil Knapp, Marian University Ancilla College
- “Atomic Cows: The Alamogordo Herd at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 1945-1965,” Annamaria Haden, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

#### **C. Valuing Farm Labor on the Move and In Place**

- Chair: Alison Collis Greene, Emory University
- “Peasants, Workers, and Productivity--A Media History of Greenhouse in China,” Yandong Li, University of Washington
- “‘Farmers Are More Like Migrant Workers Than They Think’: The Campbell’s Soup Boycott in Northwest Ohio, 1979-86,” Chase W. Fleece, Bowling Green State University
- “‘Put Them Out!’: Migrant Labor and the Colorado-New Mexico Boundary in the 1930s,” Derek R. Everett, Metropolitan State University of Denver/Colorado State University

#### **D. Political Border or Agricultural Border?**

- Chair and Comment: Jeremy Vetter, University of Arizona
- “Periphery between the Iron Curtain and the Soviet Borderlands? Agriculture in Central Europe during the 1950s,” Dániel Luka, University of Pécs
- “Inner Colonization as Agrarian Borderland Settlement: Max Sering and the German East, 1871-1945,” Robert L. Nelson, University of Windsor
- “The Global Seeds of Empire: Plant Explorers in Russian Central Asia and Beyond,” John B. Seitz, Tennessee Wesleyan University

#### **E. Possession and Dispossession in Rural America**

- Chair and Moderator: Connie Lester, University of Central Florida
- “Agricultural Gentrification and Loss at the U.S. Southwestern Urban Edge,” Amado Reyes Guzman, University of Arizona
- “The Function of Dispossession: Farming and Fear in Rural Alabama during the Civil Rights Era,” Allie R. Lopez, Baylor University
- “Rethinking Forty Acres and a Mule in African American History,” Frances H. O’Shaughnessy, University of Washington

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 Session VI

#### **A. Marginalized Crops, Marginalized Farmers**



Chair and Moderator: Karen-Beth Scholthoff, Texas A&M University

“Surviving on the Margin: Farming beyond Goyder’s Line in South Australia, 1900-1945,” Derek Byerlee

“Hiding in the Shadows: The Growth of the Coconut Sector in the Gold Coast, ca.1874-1957,” Abdul Kuba, University of Mississippi

“The Modern Neoprohibitionist Culture War Against Wine,” Victor Geraci

### **B. Elite and Popular Cosmopolitanisms in Brazilian Agriculture**

Organizers: Matthew Abel, Kenyon College and Roberto Saba, Wesleyan University

Commentator: Heather Roller, Colgate University

“Relocating the Frontier: Framing Agrarian Conflict in the Brazilian Amazon,” Matthew Abel, Kenyon College

“From the Global South to the Global West: Brazil at the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition, St. Louis, 1904,” Roberto Saba, Wesleyan University

“Practice Makes Perfect: Teaching Agriculture Knowledge in Japanese Brazil,” Andre Kobayashi Deckrow, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

### **C. Historical Memory as Borderlands**

Organizer: Nancy K. Berlage, Texas State University

Chair: Katherine Jellison, Ohio University

“Agricultural Colleges, Cooperative Demonstration, Screens, Contour Ploughing and Canning: Modernizing and Forgetting in Histories of Farmers’ Organizing and Agricultural State Building,” Mary Summers, University of Pennsylvania

“Remembering, and Not Remembering, the Farm Crisis of the 1980s.” Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Iowa State University

“WUR’s portrait gallery of white male rectors: reflections on integrating inclusivity in cultural heritage.” Dr. Margreet van der Burg, Wageningen University

“The Uses of the Past: Farm Women and Historical Memory in the early Twentieth Century.” Nancy K. Berlage, Texas State University

### **D. Busting the Stereotypes: New Angles on Agriculture in Texas**

Organizer: Rebecca Sharpless, Texas Christian University

Chair and comment: Evan P. Bennett, Florida Atlanta University

“Production Value of Enslaved Labor in Antebellum Texas: Livestock, Cash Crops, and the Texas Frontier,” Deborah M. Liles, Tarleton State University

“Amber Waves on the Texas Prairie: North Texas and Wheat,” Rebecca Sharpless, Texas Christian University

“Southwest Texas’ Farmers On The Teat: The AAA’s Corn Hog Adjustment In The Winter Garden,” William V. Scott, Texas Tech University

12:00-1:30 Lunch at conference site (included in registration)

1:30-3:00 Session VII

#### **A. Making Place in Rural America**

Chair and Moderator: Kathy Jellison, Ohio University

“The Old Farm Won’t Be Given Over to Strangers’: Farm Women and the Many Preservations of Thread Creek Farm,” Maxwell Harrison, Iowa State University

“Making the Barn a Home: Southwestern North Dakota’s Farmhouse Architecture and ‘Making It’ on the Edge of the American West,” Travis Olson, University of Wisconsin—Madison  
“A Highway Runs through It: Ames, Iowa State University, and the Extension of Sixth Street into Modernity,” Michael Belding, Iowa State University

**B. Roundtable Discussion of Aaron Eddens’s Seeding Empire: American Philanthrocapital and the Roots of the Green Revolution in Africa (University of California Press, 2024)**

Chair: Bart Elmore, Ohio State University  
Glenn Davis Stone, Sweet Briar College  
Timothy Lorek, College of St. Scholastica  
Aaron Eddens, Grand Valley State University

**C. Racial Boundaries on the Farm**

Chair and Moderator: Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University  
“‘The Stigma of Stoop Labor:’ Beet Agronomy, Mechanization, and Labor, 1923-1950,” Micah Chang, Montana State University  
“Born to Suffer: The Racialized Treatment of Agricultural Workers in the Bracero Program,” Annaliese Martinez, University of Texas at Austin  
“Contesting Racial Borders in the Future Farmers of America,” Rachel A. Storm, History Colorado

**D. Systemizing the Unknown or Unappreciated**

Chair and Moderator: Nicole Welk-Joerger, American Board of Internal Medicine  
“Making Soil a System: Unraveling Hans Jenny’s State Factor Model of Soil Formation,” Sara Tridenti, Princeton University  
“Plight of the Rightofway Domain: The Borderlandscapes of Frank E. Egler, 1951–1975,” Thomas William Okie, Kennesaw State University

**E. The Agricultural Stakes of Revolution and Reform**

Chair and Moderator: Dániel Luka, University of Pécs  
“Left SR Influence and the Kuchka Uprising: Borderland Dynamics at the Outset of the Russian Civil War,” Peter Fraunholtz, Northeastern University  
“Liberalization of Grain Trade: The Enlightenment Reforms, Antonio Genovesi and the Neapolitan School in 18th-Century Naples,” Giulia Gioeli, Università LUMSA

3:00-3:30 Coffee Break

3:30-5:00 Session VIII – Closing Plenary

**Are You an Agricultural Historian or Do You Work for a Living?: Thinking Big about the Agricultural Historian Profession**

Chair: Bart Elmore, Ohio State  
Wayne Anderson, University of Iowa  
David Vail, University of Nebraska at Kearney  
Margaret Baker Weber, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
Nicole Welk-Joerger, American Board of Internal Medicine

5:30-6:30 AHS Business Meeting

6:30-8:00 Awards Reception

8:00-9:00 Post-Conference Unwind