

**Agricultural History Society
Annual Meeting, 2021**

*Schedule is in Eastern Time Zone

Tuesday June 1

11:00-12:30 **Opening plenary**

Challenging Regional Environments

R. Douglas Hurt, Purdue University, Chair

“At the River’s Edge: Agriculture, the Mississippi River, and the Corps of Engineers”

Jeannie Whayne, University of Arkansas

“Wheat, Fruit, Cotton: The Three Eras of California Agriculture”

David Vaught, Texas A&M University

“Challenging the Idea of a Challenging Environment on the Great Plains”

Thomas D. Isern, North Dakota State University

Comment: Mark Hersey, Mississippi State University

12:30-1:00 **Break**

1:00-2:30 **Session 1**

Making American Meat

“Feeding Bovines or Feeding Bugs? How Rumenology Affected the Postwar Feed Industry”

Nicole Welk-Joerger, North Carolina State University

“From Corn-fed to Golden Hue: Success and Failure in the Marketing of Convenient Meat”

Margaret Weber, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

"Making America 'Meat Conscious': The Meat Industry’s hidden hand in Scientific Research, 1922–1933,"

Daniel T. Gresham, St. Mary’s College

Chair and Comment: Robert Wilcox, Northern Kentucky University

Disease Knows No Borders: Histories of Agricultural Contagions and Transnational Crossings in the North American West

“A Certain Disease Among the Silkworms”: *N. bombycis* and the Global Prospects of Mormon-made Silk in the Utah Territory, 1860s-1875

Sasha Coles, University of California, Santa Barbara

Nested Diseases, Nested Tensions: Disease Management and Conflicting Jurisdictions in Early 20th-century Montana Borderlands

Kerri Keller Clement, CU-Boulder
Sugar Scourge: Abandoned Farms, *Eutettix tenellus*, and the Curly Top Disease Outbreak
in the Intermountain West, 1919-1934
Matthew C. Godfrey, Joseph Smith Papers Project
Frozen Borders: The 1952 Canadian Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak
Rebecca Kaplan, Science History Institute
Chair and comment: Jeremy Vetter, University of Arizona

2:30-3:00 **Break**

3:00-4:30 **Presidential Plenary**

The Justice For Black Farmers Act: Historical Perspectives

Valerie Grim, Indiana University
Adrienne Petty, College of William and Mary
Monica White, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Moderator: Bobby J. Smith, II, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

4:30-5:30 **Social Hour**

Since we cannot physically mingle, breakout rooms will be provided.

Wed. June 2

11:00-12:30 **Session 2**

Roundtable on Amy C. Offner's *Sorting Out the Mixed Economy*

Mary Summers, University of Pennsylvania, Chair
Eve Buckley, University of Delaware
Timothy Lorek, College of St. Scholastica
Tore Olsson, University of Tennessee
Theresa Ventura, Concordia University
Amy Offner, University of Pennsylvania, Author

Marketing Rural Identity to the Nation

“Impressions of the South: Crops, Cultures, and Communities in Clare Leighton’s
Southern Harvest (1942)”

Clare Griffiths, Cardiff University

“Playing Indian: The Rise and Commercialization of Modern American Bowhunting”

Drew Swanson, Wright State University

“Individual Sellers or Collective Marketers: Ideological Divides over Selling Canola on
the Canadian Prairies, 1970-2012”

Laura Larsen, Independent Scholar

Chair and Comment: Wayne Anderson, University of Iowa

A Crop of Infirmities: Rural Health Care in the United States

“Public Health Care for the Rural Poor: 19th Century Institutional Medicine”

Megan Birk, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“Healing the Sick and Spreading the News: Amish Women and Health Crises in 1930s Pennsylvania”

Katherine Jellison, Ohio University

“Creating a Climate for Mental Health: Working through Iowa’s Farm Crisis of the 1980s”

Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Iowa State University

Chair and Comment: Jenny Barker-Devine, Illinois College

Energy Crops: A Roundtable on Agricultural Energy Production

Joseph Bohling, Portland State University

Jeffrey Manuel, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Thomas Rogers, Emory University

Kate Stevens, University of Waikato

12:30-1:00 **Break**

1:00-2:30 **Presidential Address**

“Of ‘Honey Ponds’ and ‘Flapjack Trees’: Farm Propaganda at the Century of Progress and American Negro Expositions, 1933-1940”

Adrienne Petty, College of William and Mary

2:30-3:00 **Break**

3:00-4:30 **Session 3**

The Primacy of Indigenous Knowledge

_____ “Relevance of Traditional Knowledge in Prevention and Management of Droughts in India--a Historical Perspective”

Baisakhi Bandyopadhyay, The Asiatic Society

“A New Deal for Hopi Agriculture: Restructuring Subsistence on the Hopi Indian Reservation, 1930-1950”

Tai Elizabeth Johnson, Longwood University

Panel Chair: Nick Timmerman, Langston University

State Power and Challenges

“‘Don’t Go Big, and Don’t Go Home’: Canada’s Dynamic Supply Management Model and the Resiliency of Smallness”

Jodey Nurse, University of Waterloo

Bruce Muirhead, University of Waterloo

“An Amorphous Border: Making Modern Agronomy across the 49th Parallel”

Micah Chang, Montana State University

“The Rural Credit Mechanisms as the Channel of the Transfer of Value in the Early 1930s Turkey”

Beyhan Erkurt, Bartin University

Chair: Bobby J. Smith, II, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Roundtable on Sara Egge’s *Woman Suffrage and Citizenship in the Midwest*

Katherine Jellison, Ohio University

Valerie Grim, Indiana University

Nancy Berlage, Texas State University

Jenny Barker-Divine, Illinois College

Anne Effland, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Sara Egge, Centre College, Author

The “Riches” of Ditches: Agricultural Drainage in the United States

“Making Wet Places Drier: Mapping the Evolution of the North American Drainage Enterprise”

John Baeten, Indiana University

“Draining the Lowcountry of its Black Majority: Environmental and racial engineering in the Jim Crow Lowcountry, 1895 – 1915”

Caroline Grego, Queens University of Charlotte

“Properly Planned Hillside Drainage”: How Drainage Engineers Shaped Soil Conservation and Expanded the State, 1913-33”

Joshua Nygren, University of Central Missouri

Panel chair & comment: Erin Stewart Mauldin, University of South Florida

4:30-5:30 Grad Student and Early Career Social Hour

Since we cannot physically mingle, breakout rooms will be provided.

Thursday June 3

11:00-12:30 **Session 4**

Bound Up in Commodity Chains: Labor, Environments, and Power

“Building the Everglades Food System: Corporate Consolidation and Farm Labor in the 1960s”

Charlie Fanning, University of Maryland

“The Emergence of the Coyote in the Commodification of Labor Migration”

Cristina Salinas, University of Texas at Arlington

“Canker, Cold, and Control: Citrus’s Mid-1980s Crisis”

Terrell Orr, University of Georgia

Chair and Comment: Christian Zolniski, University of Texas at Arlington

Soils and Climates

“The Challenge of Alkali Soils in the American West”

Jeremy Vetter, University of Arizona

“Historic Management of the Chesapeake Nitrogen Cycle: The Failure of Agricultural Bioregionalism”

Lynn A. Nelson, Middle Tennessee State University

Chair: Jama Grove, Centenary College of Louisiana

Roundtable: Interpreting Environments: Bringing Rural, Urban, and Agriculture to the Table

Kristin Ahlberg, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State

Debra A. Reid, The Henry Ford

David Vail, University of Nebraska-Kearney

Elaura Guttormson, Tennessee Agricultural Museum

Discussion: Audience

12:30-1:00 **Break**

1:00-2:30 **Session 5**

African American Tactics for Rural Survival

“Slavery, Struggle, and Opportunity in Arkansas’ ‘Morass’”

Kelly Houston Jones, Arkansas Tech University

“‘Come now and let us reason together’: African-American Home Demonstration Empowerment Pedagogy Develops Rural Women Leaders, 1928-1955 ”

Shari Williams, Auburn University

“Promoting Farm Sustainability among African American Farmers”

Cassandra Hawkins, Mississippi Valley State University

“The Myth of ‘Forty Acres and a Mule’: African American Land Ownership in the South and the work of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and the Emergency Land Fund”

Courtney Tutt, Amistad Research Center
Chair and Comment: Valerie Grim, Indiana University

Roundtable: Should Agricultural Historians Care about the New Materialism?

Frank Uekotter, University of Birmingham, Chair
Mark Hersey, Mississippi State University
Kendra Howard-Smith, SUNY Albany
Timothy LeCain, Montana State University, Bozeman
John Soluri, Carnegie Mellon University
Josh Specht, University of Notre Dame
Sarah Waltenberger, Deutsches Museum

Women Reshaping Agriculture

“Tejano Ranching Women in the Spanish and Mexican Borderlands”
William V. Scott, Texas Tech University
“Women as Landowners? A Different View on Social, Economic, and Legal
Emancipation in Hungary in the 19th and 20th Centuries”
Daniel Luka, University of Pecs
“Curb Markets, the Cooperative Extension Service, and Commerce: The Role of Rural
Alabama Women in Creating Anti-Poverty Systems, 1914-1929”
Kathryn L. Beasley, Independent Scholar
“Women, Food Science, and Industry: Popularizing Coconut Consumption in the
Philippines, 1954-1965”
Philip Cerepak, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Chair and Comment: Melissa Walker, Converse College

**Producing Extremes: A Reconsideration of Agricultural Environments from a Global
Extraction Perspective, c.1815-c.1985**

“Conquering” the Infertile: How Coffee Became a Frontier Crop in the Minas Gerais
Cerrado, Brazil, 1970-1990”
Jonathan Coulis, Emory University
“Rethinking “Agrarianism” in Extreme Environments: Whaling Management in the
British Antarctic.”
Daniella McCahey, Texas Tech University
“Finding a Place for Water: Waste, Value and Nature in Malwa’s Opium, c.1820- 1915”
Shatam Ray, University of New Mexico
Chair: Jeffrey Manuel, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

2:30-3:00 **Break**

3:00-4:30 **Plenary**

“Fabián García: The George Washington Carver of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands”

Peter Kopp, University of Colorado Denver
Moderator: Julia Brock, University of Alabama

4:30-5:30 **Special Session**

“Challenging the Format of Agricultural History: Digitizing James Madison's Agricultural Logs”

Joe Makuc, Temple University
Molly Nebiolo, Northeastern University
Moderator: Bobby J. Smith, II, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Friday June 4

11:00-12:30 **Session 6**

Film Screening and Discussion: *A Time to Rise/Uthan de Vela* (1981) by Anand Patwardhan

Please register for this event by visiting the session in Pheedloop and clicking on the Eventbrite link. Registration is free.

Anand Patwardhan and Jim Munro’s 1981 documentary film *A Time to Rise (Uthan da Vela)* shares the struggles of Punjabi farmworkers in British Columbia to establish the Canadian Farmworkers Union. Join us for a screening of this film followed by a discussion with filmmaker **Anand Patwardhan** that will be moderated by **Sajdeep Soomal**, University of Toronto.

Co-sponsor: **Sanghum Film** showcases works that transit the boundaries of language, form, and genre within and beyond the Indian subcontinent. Inspired by the Pali and Sanskrit word "Sangha," meaning association, assembly, community, Sanghum Film is dedicated to bringing together Toronto cinephiles around independent and experimental film and video from South Asia and its diasporas. By engaging local filmmakers, programmers and writers in Toronto with the diverse histories of political filmmaking and aesthetic experimentation that have emerged in South Asia, Sanghum Film incubates cross-cultural conversations about form, medium and content within moving image culture.

Publicizing and Remembering the 1980s Farm Crisis

“‘It Won’t Be a Quiet Funeral’: White Crosses as a Symbol of the 1980s Farm Crisis”

Wayne Anderson, University of Iowa

“‘We Voted Them to Go with Our Bucks’: The South Dakota Legislature Goes to Washington ”

Cory Haala, Marquette University

“The Curious Case of Oscar Lorick: Race, Advocacy, and Respectability in Farm Crisis-era Public Advocacy”

Rebecca Shimoni Stoil, Clemson University

“‘Brewing Violence in the Farm Belt’: Memory and Murder in the 1980s Farm Crisis”

Allison Wanger, University of Iowa

Chair and Comment: Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Iowa State University

Engaging Rural Identities

“Recapturing Kenji Miyazawa’s Rural and Agricultural Roots”

Neil Shafer Oatsvall, Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts

“Hoeing Out the New South: The Material Culture of the Hoe and the Segregation of Modernity ”

Ryan Kline, Auburn University

“Agrarian Apocalypse: Mysticism and Christian County, Kentucky, 1880-1900”

Mike Davis, Hampton University

Chair and comment: James Giesen, Mississippi State University

Modernizations Adjusted? Agrarian Development from Planning to Practice

“How to Feed an Empire?: Agrarian Science, Indigenous Farming, and Wheat Autarky in Italian-occupied Ethiopia (1937-1941)”

Michele Sollai, Graduate Institute of International Development and Studies

“‘To help them improve their lot...’: The Near East Foundation in Iran, 1945-1979”

Joshua Thew, Graduate Institute, Geneva

“Steppe School: Lower Agricultural Schools and Roots of Agricultural Science on the Kazakh Steppe, 1887-1907”

Jack Seitz, Tennessee Wesleyan University

Chair and Comment: Antonio Chamorro, FLACSO Ecuador

Rhythms of Representation: Codes, Texts and the Lives of Agriculture in South Asia

“Text of Power/Text of Taming: Colebrooke and Codification of Agrarian Representations”

Ashesh Kumar Dhar, University of Hyderabad

“Averting Catastrophe: Kṛṣiparāśara and the Agrarian Ecology in Early Medieval Bengal”

Sagnik Saha, University of Hyderabad

“Harvesting and Agricultural ‘Residue’?: Indian Saltpeter, Imperialism and Scientific Discourse in Early Twentieth Century”

Shreyashi Paul, Amity University, Kolkata

Chair: Albert Way, Kennesaw State University

12:30-1:00 **Break**

1:00-2:30 **Session 7**

Introducing Commodities: Plants and Their Possibilities

“Neither Bread nor Cookies: Apt Seeds, Surplus Crops, and U.S. Visions of Wheat Production in Colombia, 1952-1962”

Rebecca Tally, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY

“Taming Kudzu: The Sakae Bio, Inc. Farm, 1990-1999”

Kenneth Reilly, University of Western Ontario

“The Many Phases of Millets in India: Discourses, Drivers, and Consequences”

Swaran Viswanathan, Indian Institute of Technology

Plant domestication as Globalization: A Call for Agricultural “Deep History”

Daniel Fuks, Cambridge University

Chair: Julia Brock, University of Alabama

“Gender Relations are Central”: A Roundtable on the Scholarship of Grey Osterud

Katherine Jellison, Ohio University, Chair

Mary Hoffschwelle, Middle Tennessee State University

Jodey Nurse, McMaster University

Debra A. Reid, The Henry Ford

Grey Osterud, Independent Scholar

Agricultural Intersections: Integrating Foreign Policy Sources into Ag History

“The United States and Food Aid”

Michael Franczak, Yale University

“Sweet and Sour: Foreign Relations and Agricultural Policy during the Reagan Administration”

Laura Kolar, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State

“‘P.L. 480 does as much good for our farmers as its beneficiaries’: Documenting Agricultural Policy in the *Foreign Relations* Series

Kristin Ahlberg, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State

Chair & Comment: Tore Olsson, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Editorial Drop-in Session

The editors of the *Agricultural History* (Albert Way), *Environmental History* (Mark Hersey), and NEXUS series of University of Alabama Press (Alan Marcus) will be available for one-on-one meetings on Friday, 1:00–2:30. If you would like to discuss publishing with one of them, please email them directly to schedule a 15-minute time slot. Albert Way: away5@kennesaw.edu; Mark Hersey: mhersey@history.msstate.edu; Alan Marcus: aimarcus@history.msstate.edu.

2:30-3:00 **Break**

3:00-4:30 **Session 8**

Harnessing Rivers: Irrigation, Labor, and Flood Control

“Taming the Female River: Agriculture and River Training in Colonial Punjab”

Aysha Shafiq, Independent Scholar

“‘Bent on Trouble’: Irrigation, Adaptation, and Failure Along the Rio Grande in Albuquerque ”

Denise Holladay Damico, St. Francis University

“Roaring Through Disaster: Arkansas’ Response to the 1927 Mississippi Flood”

Sarah Riva, University of Arkansas

Chair and Comment: Emily Pawley, Dickinson College

Agricultural Architecture and Agency

“The Jewish Agency Open Cowsheds: Israeli Third Way Rural Design, 1956-1968”

Martin Hershenzon, Tel Aviv University

“Land, Labor, Sugar, Fire: Building Across the British Atlantic”

Jonah Rowen, Cooper Union

“‘Starting from that earth’: On the Transatlantic Economy, the Arts, and Humanized Landscape”

Adrienne Rooney, Rice University

“Greenhouse in the Desert: Environmental Futures and the Legacy of Desertification at the Environmental Research Laboratory

Jessica Ngan, Princeton University

Co-chair: Nikki Moore, Wake Forest University

Co-chair: Fabiola Lopez-Duran, Rice University

Comment: Meredith Tenhoor, Pratt Institute

Roundtable: Collecting Agricultural History

J.L. Anderson, Mount Royal University, Chair

Pete Daniel, Curator (Retired), National Museum of American History

Leo Landis, Curator, Museum and Historic Sites, State Historical Society of Iowa

Elaura Guttormson, Director, Tennessee Agricultural Museum

Alesha Shumar, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Debra Reid, Curator of Agriculture and the Environment, The Henry Ford

Discussion: Audience

Routes to Modernity

“Transforming East Tennessee with Technical Expertise”

Cynthia Culver Prescott, University of North Dakota

“Concrete Changes: Hurricane Recovery, Colonialism, and Puerto Rican New Deal, 1935-1955”

Geoff Burrows, National Endowment for the Humanities

“Chemical Champions and Agrarian Agnostics: Selling Herbicides to Canadian Farmers”

Royden Loewen, University of Winnipeg

“The Markland Experiment: Redefining Home in the Aftermath of Newfoundland’s First Land Settlement Community ”

Shannon Bateman, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Chair and Comment: Andrew Baker, Texas A&M University-Commerce

4:30-5:30 **Social Hour**

Since we cannot physically mingle, breakout rooms will be provided.

Sat. June 5

11:00-12:30 **Session 9**

Modernization in the Americas

“Natural Partners: Chile’s Nitrate Fertilizer Economy and the Remaking of Agriculture in the U.S. South, 1900-1945”

Joshua Frens-String, University of Texas, Austin

“Spheres of Agricultural Knowledge: Production and Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge on Cacao Cultivation in Colombia, 1948-1962”

Edna Carolina Bonilla-León, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, Colombia

The Influence of the Southwest on Aldo Leopold's Thinking

Q.F. Linn, Nanyang Technological University

Panel Chair: Casey Lurtz, Johns Hopkins University

Settlement and Survival in Hard Conditions

“Bad conditions should lead the way: Agricultural Innovation in Place in the Sauerland, 1876-1889”

Justus Hillbrand, University of Maine

“Historicizing Climate Change and Forced Migration on Food Production/Security in Nigeria: Focus on Northern Nigeria”

Emmanuel Osewe Akubor and Beatrice Amili Akubor, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

Panel chair: Margaret Weber, Iowa State University

Wine, Coffee, Tea, and the Princess Tree: Globalizing Agriculture

“Shifting the American Palate: UC Davis and Evangelizing *vitis vinifera*”

Gabriella Maria Petrick, University of Stavanger

“Recreating the Caribbean in South Asia: Coffee Cultivation and West Indies Planters in 19th Century British Ceylon”

Raymond Hyser, University of Texas, Austin

“‘The Future Wealth of America’: Old China Trade, American Entrepreneurs, and Tea Cultivation in the Antebellum South ”

Yiyun Huang, University of Tennessee

“The Peculiarities of the Princess Tree: Paulownia farming in the United States”

Whitney Snow, Midwestern State University

Panel chair: Jama Grove, Centenary College of Louisiana

12:30-1:00 **Break**

1:00-2:30 **Session 10**

Mechanics, Machinery, and Learning to Labor

“Challenging Machines: Midwestern Farmers Make Machines Work in the Field, 1845-1875”

James Rick, College of William and Mary

“International Harvester’s Touring Advocate of Adaptive Crops: The Interior Pacific Northwest, 1913”

Larry Hasse, Whitworth University

Panel chair: Michelle Martindale, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley

Agriculture in the Wake of War

“War, Foodways, and Agroecosystems in Modern Mexico”

Nicole Mottier, Stetson University

“A Tale of Two Towns: Shifting agricultural practices between Palestine and Israel”

Lily Eilan, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

“Soviet Grain Procurement and Peasant Accommodation, Penza Province, 1920”

Peter Fraunholtz, Northeastern University

Panel chair: Julia Brock, University of Alabama

And Now for the Rest of the Story: Braving the World of Financial Records

“Findings from Sarah Homer’s Diary in Monson, Maine”

Christina Gessler, Independent Scholar

“Day Books and Ledgers: Going Deeper into the Story of Agricultural Life in the Early Nineteenth-Century”

Wayne Duerkes, Independent Scholar

“The Role of Bank Directors in Lending: Interwar Kansas”

Jaclyn Miller, South Texas College

Panel chair: Linda English, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley

2:45-3:30 **AHS Business Meeting**

3:30-4:45 **Awards Banquet and Adjournment**

4:45-5:30 **Awards Social Hour**