2013-2014 Merit Review
Sayed H. Saghaian (Mehdi), Associate Professor, DOE – 70% research, 30% teaching.

I. RESEARCH

Hatch Project: (PI.) “Food Safety Incidents and the Food Supply Chain: The Impacts on Consumers and Producers and the Strategic Response of Supply Chain Managers and Food Industry Leaders.” Termination date is March 31, 2017.

Grant Proposals Submitted: (3 proposals)

Published Refereed Journal Articles: (12 publications)


**Journal Articles Under Review** (6 articles)


**Refereed Proceedings:** (2 proceedings)


**Published Refereed Abstracts:** (14 abstracts)


**National and International Conference Presentations:** (22 presentations)


6. Adekunle, O. (presenter) and S. Saghaian. (2014).” A Hedonic price analysis of internet auctions for the BLM’s Wild horses and Burros: An overview of management strategies for the BLM to increase public adoption rate of Wild horses and Burros.”Selected Paper, the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) Annual Meetings, February 1-4, Dallas, Texas.


21. Wells, P., W. Osborne (presenter), and S. Saghiai. (2013). “The Expansion of Food Retail in Developing Countries and Its Effects on the Hunger Index.” Selected Paper, the Southern Association of Agricultural Economics (SAEA) Annual Meetings, February 2-6, Orlando, Florida.


**Ph.D. Student Advising:** (3 students)

1. Li, Xiaqian, Director, in progress, defense scheduled for December 2014.
2. Li, XL, Co-Director, in progress.
3. Mahdi Asgari, Co-Director, in progress.

**MS Student Advising:** (4 students)

3. Tan Shi-Kwan, 2013, committee member.
4. Wells, P. 2013, committee member.

**Other Graduate Student Committees:** 2 Ph.D. and 2 MS committees.

**Undergraduate Advising:** 15 students in 2013, 14 students in 2014.

**Internships:** Three students.

**Research Gate Score:** 6.61

**Full Text Downloads:** 143
II. TEACHING: (5 classes)
1. Currently I am invited/teaching a short course in International Agribusiness Trade at the Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran.

III. PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Committees, Elected Positions, and Office Held:
Full Member, Graduate Faculty in Agricultural Economics, since 2008.
Committee Member, AEC Undergraduate Program Committee, since 2012.
Advisor, Agribusiness Club, since 2011.

Professional Membership:
American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA).
Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA).
Food Distribution Research Society (FDRS).
AAEA Agribusiness Economics & Management Section (AEM).
Western Extension & Research Activities on Agribusiness, Project 72 (WERA-72).
International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA).

Journal Reviews: Reviewed articles for the following scientific journals:
1. American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE).

NARRATIVE
My overall research program (Hatch Project) concentrates on the impact of food safety incidents on the food supply chain. I focus on market effects of food safety shocks, consumer behavior toward food safety incidents, and food industry leasers’ and producers’ strategic responses to food safety crises. I am currently spending my sabbatical leave at the Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey. I am collaborating on an ongoing research on milk, beef, and poultry markets there. In recent years in Turkey, the number of sheep in the country has shown significant decreases and the number of cattle has stagnated. With limited imports, red meat prices in the country have shown considerable increases since 2006, and the recent liquidation of dairy herd has also contributed to the increase in red meat prices.

Evaluation of the links between these markets is part of the economic analysis on the red meat market in Turkey I’m conducting. I’m using time-series techniques to discover how the milk and beef markets interact in the long-term and how the price transmission among these markets
occurs. Furthermore, we’re looking at the poultry sector in Turkey. Major poultry producers in Turkey are vertically integrated and have their own distribution channels. The Competition Authority (CA) in Turkey penalized 27 broiler chicken producers in 2009, for agreeing to restrict supply and control prices, hence, forming a cartel. The CA based its punishment decision on communication records among major broiler chicken producers, using raw price series without any statistical or econometric analysis. In our research, time-series methods are employed to test directly for the presence of market power along the supply chain in the poultry sector for both demand and supply sides in Turkey. The results of this research are important for policy development regarding food, dairy, and red meat markets, and may influence subsidies provided to these markets by the government. My sabbatical leave will end by the end of December.

Regarding teaching performance, I teach the Agribusiness Management course, AEC 422, to our undergraduate seniors. AEC 422 is considered to be the capstone course for our undergraduate students specializing in Agribusiness Management. I also teach an advanced version of the Agribusiness Management course, i.e., AEC 622, for our M.S. and Ph.D. students. I usually get fairly good teaching evaluations for my course, especially for AEC 622. However, in 2013 my teaching evaluations for 622 dropped mostly due to pushing my students (maybe too far) to submit their research projects for presentation to annual national conferences. However, my student evaluations for the class recovered and were back over 3.6 in 2014, and in both 2013-14 years, students had a huge success in getting their research get accepted, presenting at the SAEA. I believe the low 622 teaching evaluation in 2013 was an outlier, inconsistent with all my previous evaluations, and should have no impact on my merit review ranking. Currently, I am the director of three Ph.D. dissertations and a member of two other Ph.D., and two M.S. committees.