

Spiro E. Stefanou

Curriculum Vitae

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Current:

Pennsylvania State University, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics

Spiro Stefanou Consulting, Principal

Public Service:

Positions

United States Department of Agriculture

Acting Deputy Undersecretary, Research, Education and Economics

01/2025 - 09/2025

I executed the duties and responsibilities of the REE Undersecretary and the USDA Chief Scientist, while awaiting the confirmation of the Undersecretary nominee.

The REE Mission Area has a \$ 4.4 bil budget and comprised of more than 8,500 employees across five organizations including the Agricultural Research Service, Economic Research Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the Office of the Chief Scientist. Together, these organizations advance agricultural research, innovation, data, and Extension addressing agriculture's highest priorities across the entire U.S. food supply chain.

Administrator, Economic Research Service

08/2020 –09/2025

I provided leadership and guidance for USDA/ERS research, analytical, and technical operations, overseeing a \$90 million budget and nearly 300 permanent staff that focus on relevant and timely research and analyses on the economics of agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America. I led the agency through the pandemic while also rebuilding a depleted agency to full staffing, hiring 70% of the staff and 80% of the leadership team; opening two new office facilities in Washington D.C. and Kansas City; and, modernizing the ERS IT infrastructure.

I had the concomitant duties of leading one of the 13 Federal statistical agencies. These last 5 years were quite consequential for the US federal

statistical system with the mandate to implement the *Foundations of Evidence based Policy Making Act of 2018*. I provided leadership to committees developing the policies and processes to meet the Act's requirements.

Public service committees & panels

Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research, Ex Officio Member	2025
USDA Statistics Committee, Co-Chair	2020 - 2025
Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP)	
Standing Member	2020 - 2025
ICSP Executive Committee	2022 - 2025
Standard Application Process Governance Board	2023 - 2025
Co-Chair, Standard Application Policy Working Group	2021 - 2023
Champion, Secure Access Regulations Working Group	2022 - 2024
U.S. Government, Interagency Policy Committees (IPC)	
R&D and Domestic Manufacturing (IPC)	2020 - 2025
Domestic, Violence and Extremism (IPC)	2020 - 2021
Organization of Economic Development and Cooperation	
Network on Agricultural Productivity and the Environment	2017 -
Co-organizer, International Conference (Paris), "Sustainable Agricultural Productivity to Address Food Systems Challenges: Measurement, Data, Drivers and Policies"	10/2024
Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics	
Board Chair	2018 - 2020
Member	2017 - 2020
<i>Academic Positions:</i>	
University of Florida	
Professor, Food and Resource Economics (unpaid leave of absence 9/2020-5/2021)	01/2015 – 05/2021
Affiliated Faculty, OneHealth Center	01/2017 - 08/2020
Professor and Chair, Food and Resource Economics	01/2015 – 06/2018
Wageningen University (NLD)	
Visiting Professor of Business Economics	01/2008 – 08/2020
Fellow, Wageningen School of Social Sciences	01/2011 – 08/2020
University of Crete (GRC)	
Academic Co-Director, Master of Business Economics in <i>Technology, Innovation Management, and Entrepreneurship</i>	01/2015 – 08/2020
Pennsylvania State University	
Professor Emeritus	01/2015 –
Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor of Agric. Economics	08/1983 – 12/2014

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute at Chania (GRC), 2002 - 2007
Visiting Professor, Economics and Management

Institute for Advanced Studies (AUS), 1993-1997
Guest Professor, Applied Microeconomics

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Nexus of Economics, Science and Policy	Modernization of official statistical systems
Innovation in the agricultural economy	Intersection of official data, economic and science
Sustainability of agricultural growth	Dynamics of economic adjustment

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Chair, AAEA Fellows Selection Committee, 2014-2015
Gamma Sigma Delta Research Award, Penn State Univ, 2013
Presidential Special Recognition Award, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, 2010
Gamma Sigma Delta, Honorary Society of Agriculture, elected 1997
Giannini Foundation Scholarship, University of California, 1979-1980

Fellowships

Fellow, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, 2006
Marie Curie Senior Fellow, Economics, University of Crete, 2006
Mansholt Senior Scholar, Business Economics, Wageningen University, 2006
Jean Monnet Fellow, European University Institute, 1990-1991

Teaching

Excellence in Education Award, Wageningen University (NLD), 2015
Thesis Advisor, AAEA Outstanding Dissertation Award student, 1988 & 1997.
Thesis Advisor, MEMS *Torries Prize for Outstanding Graduate Research* student, 2003
Thesis Advisor, Allan B. Colburn Outstanding Dissertation Award student, Univ of Delaware, 1991.
Harbaugh Faculty Scholar Award, Penn State Univ, 2001
Provost's Collaborative & Curricular Innovations Special Recognition Award, Penn State Univ, 1998

INVITED ADDRESSES

Plenary Panel Address, UN FAO Global Agrifood Biotechnologies Conference, Rome (ITA), 2025
Keynote Address, Korean Rural Economic Institute-National Taiwan University Policy Roundtable on Sustainability and the Future of Agriculture, (Virtual), 2025
Plenary Address, Agricultural Economics Society Annual Meeting, University of Edinburgh, (GBR), 2024
Invited Symposium Presentation, European Association of Agricultural Economics, Rennes, (FRA), 2023
Plenary Address, African Productivity Conference, 2023
Invited Panel, International Conference on Agricultural Statistics, Washington, DC, 2023
Keynote Address, French Academy of Agriculture, Paris (FRA) 2022
Wageningen Social Sciences Masterclass: Strategically negotiating the scholarly publication process, Wageningen University, (NLD), 2018
Keynote Speaker, Symposium on Efficiency and Productivity Challenges for Indonesia, Padjadjaran University, Bandung (IDN), 2016

Keynote Speaker, HAWEPA Workshop, Issues in Dynamic Efficiency Analysis, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), (DEU), 2012
 Invited Advance Lecture Presentation, Taipei Productivity & Efficiency Conference, (TWN) 2009
 Plenary Presentation, Taipei Productivity & Efficiency Conference, (TWN), 2009
 Plenary Address, 3rd Hellenic Workshop of Productivity & Efficiency Measurement, Univ of Patras, (GRC), 2006
 Keynote Address, Conference: Policy & Competitiveness in a Changing Global Industry, Economic Research Service (USDA) & Farm Foundation, Washington, DC, 2005
 Plenary Speaker, EAAE PhD Workshop, Wageningen University (NLD), 2005
 Keynote Address, Methodological & Empirical Issues of Productivity & Efficiency Measurement in the Agri-Food System, 91st EAAE Seminar, University of Crete (GRC), 2004
 Plenary Address, 2nd Hellenic Workshop of Productivity & Efficiency Measurement, University of Patras (GRC), 2003
 Invited Speaker, Second International Conference on Applications of Dynamic Models to Economics, National Central University (TWN), 1996

VISITING POSITIONS

University of Porto, Economics, (PRT), 1996, 2007, 2010
 Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (DEU), April 2006
 Bilkent University, Economics, (TUK), May 2006
 University of Oviedo, Economics, (ESP), May 2001
 ITESM (Monterrey Tech), Food Engineering, (MEX), May 2001
 Wageningen University, Agricultural Economics and Policy, (NLD), January-April 1995, June 1996
 Tilburg University, Center for Economic Research, (NLD), March 1991
 University of Nitra, Mathematical Methods and Statistics, (SVK), November 1990, May 1991
 Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Agricultural Economics, (GRC), May 1985

INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Advisory and Organizer

Co-Organizer, International Conference “Sustainable Agricultural Productivity to Address Food Systems Challenges: Measurement, Data, Drivers and Policies,” 2024, OECD Headquarters, Paris (FRA)
 Member, Scientific Advisory Board, SIGMA NEXUS European Commission Funded project, 2021-2024
 Member, Network on Agricultural Productivity and the Environment, OECD, 2017-
 Member, USDA/ERS Climate, Resources and Technology Program, 2015-2016
 Member, USDA/ERS Agricultural Productivity Accounts External Review Panel, 2013-2014
 Coordinator, External Review Panel for the Hellenic Quality Assurance & Accreditation Agency (GRC), Department of Economics, University of Crete, 2013-2014.
 Member, *European Agricultural & Applied Economics Publishing Foundation*, 2007- 2013, (reappointed) 2013-2020
 Co-Organizer, Advanced Summer School in Economics & Econometrics, Univ of Crete, 2005-2020
 Co-Organizer, Summer School on Efficiency and Productivity Measurement, Wageningen University (NLD), 2003-2020
 Conference Organizer, “Policy & Competitiveness in a Changing Global Industry,” Economic Research Service (USDA) & Farm Foundation, Washington, DC, 2005
 Member, External Review Panel of the Mansholt Graduate School, Wageningen University (NLD), 2003
 Expert Advisor, Committee on the Future Sustainability of the Dutch Higher Education System, 2010

Scientific Committees

- Scientific Committee member, 91st EAAE Seminar on *Methodological & Empirical Issues of Productivity & Efficiency Measurement in the Agri-Food Sector*, University of Crete, Rethymno (GRC) 2004
- Scientific Committee member, 120th EAAE Seminar on *External Cost of Farming Activities: Economic Evaluation, Risk Considerations, Environmental Repercussions & Regulatory Framework*, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh), Chania, Crete (GRC), 2010
- Scientific Committee member for the following International Efficiency & Productivity Workshops:
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| EWEPA VIII (Univ of Oviedo, 2001) | NAPW IV (NYU-Stern, 2006) |
| HEWPEM I (Univ of Patras, 2001) | APPC (Seoul National Univ, 2006) |
| NAPW II (Union College, 2002) | NAPW IV (NYU-Stern, 2008) |
| EWEPA IX (Univ of Oviedo, 2003) | NAPW X (U of Miami, 2018) |
| HEWPEM II (Univ of Patras, 2003) | vNAPW XI (U of Miami, 2020) |
| HEWPEM III (Univ of Patras, 2006) | EWEPA XIX (Technical U of Munich, 2026) |

Contracted Consultancies

- American Mushroom Institute
- Anti-trust and economic consultation
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (London)
- World Bank, Water Global Practice Group, Short-term Advisor, Morocco

EDITORIAL POSITIONS & SERVICE

- Managing Editor, *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 2013-2016
- Guest Editor *AAEA Centennial Issue, American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 2009
- Co-Editor, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1998-2002
- Associate Editor, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1991-1997
- Associate Editor, *NJAS: Wageningen Journal of Life Sciences*, 2008-2017
- Associate Editor, *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, 2001-2008
- Associate Editor, *Journal of Productivity Analysis*, 2002-2020
- Guest Co-Editor, *Journal of Productivity Analysis Special Issue: Modeling R&D in U.S. Agriculture*, 2008
- Editorial Board, *Northeastern Journal of Ag & Resource Econ (Ag & Resource Econ Review)*, 1989-1992

EDUCATION

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|-------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ph.D. | Agricultural Economics | University of California, Davis |
| M.S. | Agricultural and Resource Economics | University of Maryland |
| B.A. | Anthropology | George Washington University |

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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| Agricultural & Applied Economics Association | European Asso of Agricultural Economists |
| Agricultural Economics Society | International Society for Efficiency & Productivity Analysis |
| American Asso of the Advancement of Science | International Statistics Institute |
| American Economic Asso | |
| American Statistical Asso | |

SERVICE TO PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (formerly American Agricultural Economics Association)*
- Galbreath Forum and Award Committee, 2023 -
- Fellows Selection Committee, 2011-2016, (Chair 2014-2015)
- AAEA Trust Committee, 2010-2011
- Communications/Publication Committee, 2009-2011, (Chair)

Director, 2006-09

Board Ad Hoc Committee on Publications Negotiations, 2008

Board Task Force on Selected Papers, Poster and Symposia, 2006

Board Task Force on Annual Meetings Structure, 2006

Awards Committee, Publication of Enduring Quality Award, 2003-2005

Communications/Publication Committee, 2001-2003

Editor & *Ex Officio* Board Member, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1997-2002

Associate Editor, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1991-1996

Awards Committee, 1991- 1996, 1998-2002, 2013-2016

Symposium Organizer, 1992

Professional Relations with Economies in Transition Committee, 1992-1996

Selected Papers Review Committee, 1988-1990,

Topic Leader, Production Economics and Technical Change, 1988

Committee on Economic Education, 1987-1988

European Association of Agricultural Economists

ERAE Awards Committee, 2011

Plenary Speaker, EAAE PhD Workshop, 2005

Northeastern Association of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Distinguished Member Review Committee, 1993-1995

Master Thesis Award Review Committee, 1988-1990

Selected Papers Review Committee, 1984-1986

COUNTRIES OF EXPERIENCE

Africa: Morocco

Asia: Indonesia, Taiwan

Europe: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom

Latin America: Chile, Mexico

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

I have offered over 200 presentations at meetings of professional societies, workshops and departmental colloquium series with over 90 of these presentations in 25 different countries. I also served on 12 scientific organizing committees for international conferences, workshops and summer schools in Europe, South America and Asia.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

I have published two books and over 120 articles, book chapters and monographs appearing in outlets such as *Agricultural Economics*, *American Enterprise Institute Research*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, *Empirical Economics*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, *Harvard Data Science Review*, *International Journal of Production Economics*, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, *Journal of Productivity Analysis*, *OMEGA: International Journal of Management Science*, *Operations Research: International Journal*, *PLOS ONE*, *Statistical Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics*, *Sustainability*