

## Scott Callahan

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Raleigh, NC 27695

### EDUCATION

**North Carolina State University**, Raleigh, NC

Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, November 2016 (expected graduation date: December 2017)

- Dissertation Topic: “Three Essays on the Political Economy of Agricultural Programs”

#### References

- Professor Barry Goodwin (Primary Advisor): [barry\\_goodwin@ncsu.edu](mailto:barry_goodwin@ncsu.edu), (919)515-4620
- Professor Stephen Margolis: [steve\\_margolis@ncsu.edu](mailto:steve_margolis@ncsu.edu), (919)513-2565
- Professor Walter Thurman: [wally\\_thurman@ncsu.edu](mailto:wally_thurman@ncsu.edu), (919)515-4545

**North Carolina State University**, Raleigh, NC

M.A., Economics, August, 2014

**Arizona State University**, Tempe, AZ

B.S., Economics, Mathematics Minor, May, 2012

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

**Primary Fields:** Agricultural Economics, Political Economy.  
**Secondary Field:** Environmental Economics

### HONORS AND AWARDS

Arizona State University: graduated Magna Cum Laude, Honors College, 2012

### WORKING PAPERS

S. Callahan. *Do Campaign Contributions from Individual Farmers Influence Agricultural Policy? Evidence From Farm Bill Amendment Votes on Cotton Subsidy Programs.* [**Job Market Paper**]

This paper contains an analysis of the impact of direct campaign contributions on farm bill amendment votes seeking to reduce cotton subsidy programs. By cross referencing the names of cotton subsidy receiving farmers in the FSA dataset with individual campaign contributors in the FEC dataset, politically active cotton farmers are identified using fuzzy matching techniques. Using a simultaneous probit-tobit model, the effects of campaign contributions by both cotton political action committees and individual cotton farmers on the vote decisions of legislators are estimated. Results indicate that, while cotton PAC contributions have a greater effect on legislator vote decisions than individual cotton farmers, cotton farmers appear to largely contribute to the same legislators as their PACs.

S. Callahan. *Campaign Contributions Made by Farmers: Does Geography Affect Behavior?*

This essay contains a reduced form analysis of campaign contributions made by subsidy receiving farmers, in order to better understand if contribution strategies for campaigns in the House of Representatives by individual farmers differ based on whether or not the candidate represents their local congressional district, a non-local congressional district within the donor's state, or an out of state congressional district. This is accomplished by applying a Tobit model to a panel of contributions, recording zero values of farmers in a given congressional district contribute nothing to a given legislator. Results indicate that farmers appear to contribute heavily to local campaigns regardless of the power of the legislator to influence agricultural legislation, while the ability of legislators to influence agricultural legislation becomes a more important driver of campaign contributions in more

distant elections.

S. Callahan. *Agricultural Disaster Payments: Are They Still Politically Allocated?*

This essay studies the political allocation of agricultural disaster subsidies. Exploiting a major change in agricultural disaster policy which occurred with the passage of the 2008 farm bill, disaster subsidy disbursement under both the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program and the SURE program that ran from 2008-2014 are estimated, and the effects of political factors on subsidy disbursement are compared. Results indicate that the transition from ad-hoc emergency disaster programs to a permanent agricultural disaster program did not reduce the political allocation of agricultural disaster subsidies, affirming results from both the prior agricultural disaster subsidy and FEMA disaster relief literatures.

WORK IN PROGRESS H. Fell, A. Naumenko, S. Callahan. *Coal Plant Closures: Politics, or Prices?*

CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS

**Presentations of Research**

- Selected Paper Presentation, AAEA Conference, Boston, MA, 2016.
- Presenter/Discussant, Public Choice Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2017.
- Selected Poster, AAEA Conference, Chicago, IL, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL  
ACTIVITIES

**Membership**

- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
- Public Choice Society

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

**Appalachian State University**, Boone, NC

*Lecturer*

**August, 2017 - Present**

- ECO2200: Business and Economic Statistics II, Fall 2017.

**North Carolina State University**, Raleigh, NC

*Instructor*

**August, 2014 - May, 2017**

- EC202: Principles of Macroeconomics, Fall 2014.
- ARE201: Introduction to Agricultural Economics, Spring 2015, Spring 2016.
- EC201: Principles of Microeconomics, Summer 2015.
- EC205: Principles of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics, Summer 2016.
- ARE336: Intro to Environmental and Resource Economics, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017.

*Teaching Assistant*

**January 2014 - August 2014**

- EC202: Principles of Macroeconomics, Spring 2014.

COMPUTER SKILLS SAS, LaTeX, Microsoft Office, plus some experience with Matlab, STATA, and ArcGIS.