



**PRESS RELEASE**

*For immediate release*

***Farm size and productivity growth are focus of conference***

**OAK BROOK, IL Jan. 30, 2017:** Economic researchers will gather in Washington, D.C., this week to discuss how agricultural productivity differs by farm size, drawing on new evidence from around the world.

The conference—*Farm Size and Productivity: A Global Look*—will examine the relationship between agrarian structure and agricultural productivity growth. A collaboration of USDA’s Economic Research Service and Farm Foundation, NFP, the conference will be Thursday and Friday, Feb. 2 and 3, at the First Floor Auditorium of Patriot's Plaza III, 355 E. Street SW, Washington, D.C. Sessions will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 2, and 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 3.

Several of the papers to be presented go beyond comparisons of land productivity to total factor productivity (TFP). Data from newly available panels of farms will be used to compare differences in productivity levels, as well as productivity growth by farm size. Other studies examine how specific policies, institutions and behaviors may explain observed productivity differences across farms.

“Agricultural productivity growth is a key factor in the ability of global agriculture to feed the world’s increasing population,” says conference organizer Keith Fuglie, an economist in the Resource and Rural Economics Division of ERS. “This conference is an opportunity to expand our understanding of the relationship between the size and structure of farm operations and agricultural productivity in different locations and farming systems worldwide.”

Presentations will include case studies from the U.S. Corn Belt, Australia’s grain industry, the European Union, Ukraine and countries in Latin America, Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

This conference is targeted to public policy officials, economists and those interested in global development and productivity. The workshop is free of charge but registration is requested. Complete online registration at: <https://secure.farmfoundation.org/eventReg.jsp?event=432&>.

Papers presented will be posted on [ResearchGate](#) after the event.

***FOR MORE INFORMATION***

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*USDA's Economic Research Service has as its mission to anticipate trends and emerging issues in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America and to conduct high-quality, objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making. ERS shapes its research program and products to serve those who routinely make or influence public policy and program decisions. Key clientele include White House and USDA policy officials; the U.S. Congress; program administrators/managers; other Federal agencies; State and local government officials; and organizations, including farm and industry groups interested in public policy issues. [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov)*

*Farm Foundation, NFP works as a catalyst for sound public policy by providing objective information to foster a deeper understanding of issues shaping the future for agriculture, food systems and rural regions. Since its founding in 1933, Farm Foundation has been a non-advocacy organization—it does not lobby or advocate positions. The Foundation's action comes in bringing industry leaders together to address evolving issues that will shape the future of the industry. [www.farmfoundation.org](http://www.farmfoundation.org)*