

# KAYLEE K. WELLS

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. Agricultural and Applied Economics** (expected) 2025

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dissertation: "Grassland restoration and recreation in the U.S.: Valuation and its relationship to climate change beliefs and projected impacts"

**M.S. Agricultural Economics** 2019

Mississippi State University - Starkville, MS

**B.S. Environmental Economics and Management** 2017

Mississippi State University - Starkville, MS

Summa Cum Laude

## CERTIFICATIONS

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**Mentoring Certificate** 2023

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Graduate College

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Primary:** Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

**Secondary:** Non-Market Valuation, Big Data, Causal Inference, and Environmental Justice

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

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1. Netusil, N. R., S. T. M. Dissanayake, L. Lavelle, A. W. Ando, and **K. K. Wells**. 2023. "Does presentation matter? An analysis of images and text in a choice experiment of green roofs." *Q Open*, 3(1): 1-23. doi: 10.1093/qopen/qoad010

## WORKING PAPERS

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1. "U.S. grassland recreation under climate change: Evidence from big data and weather" (**Job Market Paper**)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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1. “The recreational value of grasslands in the Tallgrass Prairie region of the United States”
2. “Public access, ecological integrity, and people’s heterogeneous values of grassland restoration” *with Amy W. Ando, Sahan T. M. Dissanayake, Rich Iovanna, and Sarah Cline*
3. “Grassland restoration at the landscape level: Value based on a nationally representative sample” *with Amy W. Ando, Sahan T. M. Dissanayake, and Rich Iovanna*

## EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

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1. **Wells, K. K.** and J. N. Barnes. 2017. “Local food system economies for Mississippi.” *Mississippi State University Extension*, Publication 3164.
2. **Wells, K. K.** and J. N. Barnes. 2017. “Local food system economies for Mississippi counties.” (N=82). *Mississippi State University Extension*, Publication 3164-1 to 3164-82.

## PUBLISHED DATASETS

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1. Martinez, C., G. Pena, and **K. K. Wells**. 2024. “Prairie Directory of North America” (2013) Entries for the Tallgrass, Mixed Grass, and Shortgrass Prairie Regions of the United States. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. doi: 10.13012/B2IDB-0421892\_V1

## PRESENTATIONS

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1. Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Sessions at the Western Economic Association International Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, June 2024.
2. Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Conference, Washington, DC, May 2024.
3. USDA-NIFA W5133 Multistate Hatch Research Group Annual Meeting, Fort Collins, CO, February 2024.
4. Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop, Urbana, IL, October 2023.
5. Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Sessions at the Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, March 2023.
6. USDA-NIFA W5133 Multistate Hatch Research Group Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, March 2023.
7. Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK, February 2023.
8. Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, July 2022. (poster)
9. USDA-NIFA W4133 Multistate Hatch Research Group Annual Meeting, Hood River, OR, April 2022.

10. Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL, February 2019.
11. Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL, February 2018. (poster)
12. Mississippi State University Graduate Research Symposium, Starkville, MS, 2018. (poster)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Instructor** August 2023  
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
 Course: M.S./MAAE Math Camp
- Teaching Assistant** 2020 - 2023  
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
 Courses: ACE 255 The Economics of Food and Environmental Justice; ACE 310 Natural Resource Economics; ACE 500 Applied Economic Theory (grader)

## MENTORING EXPERIENCE

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- Mentor for Evan Smith (Undergraduate)** 2023  
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program
- Mentor for Carlos Martinez (Undergraduate) and Gisselle Pena (Undergraduate)** 2022  
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Prairie Directory of North America Data Compilation Project

## SERVICE

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1. **Reviewer** 2021 - present  
 American Journal of Agricultural Economics (3 articles) | Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy (1 article) | Ecological Economics (1 article) | Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics (1 article) | Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Conference 2023 (abstracts) | Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Sessions at the Western Economics Association International Annual Meeting 2024 (abstracts) | Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Summer Conference 2024 (abstracts)
2. **Graduate Student Representative** 2022 - 2024  
 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee  
 College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences  
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

3. **Judge** (posters) 2023  
Undergraduate Research Symposium  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
4. **Student Coordinator** 2022  
Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
5. **Secretary** 2021 - 2022  
Graduate Student Organization  
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
6. **Student Coordinator** 2021 - 2023  
program in Environmental and Resource Economics (pERE) Seminar  
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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1. **Outstanding PhD Student** 2022  
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2. **List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students** Spring 2021  
Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
3. **Illinois Distinguished Fellowship** 2019  
Graduate College  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
4. **Three Minute Thesis Competition - People's Choice Award** 2018  
Mississippi State University
5. **Graduate Student Case Study Competition - 2nd Place** 2018  
Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting
6. **Social and Behavioral Sciences Poster Competition (Master's Division) - 2nd Place** 2018  
Mississippi State University
7. **Stephen D. Lee Scholar** 2017  
Mississippi State University
8. **William A. Demmer Scholar** Summer 2016  
Mississippi State University/Michigan State University

## MEDIA MENTIONS

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1. Gregory, N. 2021. "Preserving the past: Study analyzes benefits of restoring cultural structures." *Mississippi Landmarks* 17(2): 6-7.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Programming/Software:** Stata, R, and ArcGIS

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Agricultural and Applied Economics Association  
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists  
Southern Agricultural Economics Association

## REFERENCES

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### **Amy W. Ando**

Department Chair and Professor  
Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics  
The Ohio State University  
2120 Fyffe Road, 250P  
Columbus, OH 43210  
Email: ando.21@osu.edu  
Phone: (614) 292-1714

### **Sahan T. M. Dissanayake**

Associate Professor  
Department of Economics  
Portland State University  
506 SW Mill Street, 450F  
Portland, OR 97201  
Email: sahan@pdx.edu  
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### **Jared Hutchins**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
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Email: jhtchns2@illinois.edu  
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