ENDOWMENT PURPOSE

The Buck family has been involved in agricultural production in California for more than 100 years. To pay tribute to her family’s long heritage in agriculture and to honor her late husband, Congressman Frank H. Buck, Jr., Eva Benson Buck endowed a chair in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. The purpose of the chair is to conduct applied agricultural economics research to benefit production agriculture in California.

RESEARCH

My research supported by the Buck Chair Professorship investigated economic forces driving agriculture in California and globally. The approach is to use economic modeling to specific econometrics to test hypothesis about supply and demand and related relationships and use such relationships to simulate outcomes of shocks to markets.

The primary support for our research is competitive grants and contracts. We currently have about $2 million in grant funded research underway. The Buck funds helps support research on important topics for which direct grant funding is not (or not yet) available. It funds mainly student effort or other research support and allows work to be pursued thoroughly even after grants or other funds have been exhausted.

Our work has recently focused on:
(a) Agricultural issues, such as

1. Impact of climate change and climate change policy
2. Regulations of farm practices
3. Agribusiness standards affecting commodity demand
4. Farm programs especially risk management
5. International trade patterns and policies
6. Drought and other factors driving change in California agriculture
7. Obesity
8. Labor market dynamics
(b) Agricultural industries and markets, such as
   1. Milk and dairy
   2. Grapes and wine
   3. Tree nuts
   4. Other tree and vine crops
   5. Beef cattle and meat
   6. Hogs and pork
   7. Eggs
   8. Cotton
   9. Other field crops

TEACHING
I taught the undergraduate course in "Economics of Agricultural Sustainability" in 2016. In addition, I am responsible for research supervision for advance undergraduates in internship classes at my Agricultural Issues Center and graduate students working on PhD degrees, primarily in Agricultural and Resource Economics. Buck funds are used to support the research of both groups and, especially allow graduate students to pursue promising and innovative topics even if specific grant funding is not available. Often students supported with Buck funds, go on to receive fellowships or other research awards based on preliminary work done with Buck support. In addition, students benefit from the secure research environment that allows the team to follow innovative ideas irrespective of specific funding.

STUDENTS
Jisang Yu completed his PhD and is now an assistant professor in Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. He published several academic papers over the past year and outreach briefings related to his research on risk management policies and crop insurance. He presented research papers at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and has a major article now under review. He has been a mentor and supervisor to undergraduates and provided technical research advice to beginning graduate students.

Georgi Gabrielyan will complete his PhD within the next few months. He won an award for his research and presented papers at meeting of the American Association of Wine Economists and the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium. His research on wine trade policy explains patterns of US wine imports and exports. He also taught a course in statistical methods for students of managerial economics and helps students learn to apply statistical tools.

Yolanda Pan successfully completed her coursework for a Ph.D. and has begun research in the impact of climate change on crop acreage and livestock location patterns. She has been a mentor to undergraduate research assistants and beginning graduate students.

Nina Anderson and Lisa Knapp both graduated with degrees in managerial economics and have excellent employment in agribusiness. Nina was the co-author of several publications related to drought and farm costs of production and was the top UC Davis graduate in managerial economics (out of a pool of more than 200) for
2016. Lisa worked closely with Gabrielyan on econometrics related to wine and milk demand. Both contributed to a variety of recent studies primarily working with complex data.

**OUTREACH**

We publish several outreach articles each year. In addition, we provide dozens of interviews for media from television and radio to newspapers and magazines. I provide facts and commentary about agricultural events and issues on a regular basis for agricultural outlets and summarize agricultural economic issues for the general press. We also give dozens of talks to industry groups and popular audiences. I involve members of my research group, including students, in these outreach efforts whenever possible.

**PROGRAM UPDATES**

My coauthors and I won the 2015 prize for Best Article in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics for 2015. Another group of coauthors and I won the 2016 prize for best research awarded by the Food and Agricultural Marketing Policy Section of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.

Our work on understanding the economic impacts on agriculture of the California drought continues to garner much attention.

**THANKS**

Thank you for your contribution to the Frank H. Buck Jr. Professorship that I hold at the University of California, Davis. For more than 20 years the funding from the Buck Foundation has allowed us to conduct important research and outreach and provide mentorship to students in agricultural economics and agribusiness. Never has there been more demand for high-quality objective research on agricultural issues. Economic and business issues are fundamental to understanding how agriculture can contribute to feeding the nation and the world and to stimulating the economic progress needed to effectively meet our challenges. Your continued support and confidence in our work is much appreciated.