



Environmental Sciences Graduate Program Student Seminar Series

Understanding Climate Adaptation Decisions in the Eastern Corn Belt

Dr. Robyn Wilson

April 9th, 2021 | 2:00-3:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/99820921442?pwd=d3hpTS9wYnc2Z29uZDR4NE4wNy81UT09>

Meeting ID: 998 2092 1442



Abstract

Climate change in the Eastern Corn Belt Region (ECBR) is projected to bring higher temperatures, more variable and extreme levels of precipitation, and longer growing seasons. While these possibilities imply opportunity for increased production, managing change sustainably will be increasingly challenging. We conducted a survey of farmers in the ECBR to assess how farmers are currently adapting, and how likely they are to adapt to projected changes. Preliminary results indicate that, compared to earlier assessments of climate beliefs in the Midwest, less farmers are now unsure that climate change is happening, and more believe the changes are caused by humans. The most concerning climate impact was more frequent extreme rainfall events. However, overall concern, and interest in adaptation was still relatively low. Regardless of the climate scenario presented, 28% of respondents opted to not make any adaptations, and these individuals were older and more likely to be using conventional tillage. The total number of adaptations reported in a given scenario increased as the probability of experiencing the changing climate conditions increased, and as the respondent reported higher levels of education, experiencing more climate impacts, and plans to pass on their farm to a family member. The implications of these findings for future policy and programming will be discussed.