

Scott H. Irwin
Academic Bio
September 2023



Dr. Scott H. Irwin is the Laurence J. Norton Chair of Agricultural Marketing at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is a prominent figure in the field of agricultural economics, with his research widely cited by academic researchers across the globe. He has written hundreds of scholarly articles in his career, including more than twenty in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, the flagship journal of the profession. He has also written two books, most notably *Back to the Futures*, a fun and entertaining introduction to the world of commodity futures markets.

Irwin's research extends from commodity market speculation to biofuels policy. He has been an active participant in the worldwide debate about the impact of financial index investment in commodity markets, popularly known as financialization. His significant contributions have led to invitations to testify before esteemed bodies like the U.S. Congress, OECD, and CFTC. Dr. Irwin is also a leading authority on biofuels markets and policy, regularly addressing topics such as ethanol and biodiesel markets, the Renewable Fuel Standard, and the RIN market.

His work on commodity markets is valued not only within academic circles but also among journalists, market analysts, traders, and policymakers. He is a frequent media commentator for prestigious outlets like *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Financial Times*, and *Bloomberg*. In addition, Dr. Irwin has been invited to write op-eds and articles for *The New York Times*, *Washington Times*, and *Time* magazine. He has over 40,000 followers on social media, the largest following for an agricultural economist in the world.

Dr. Irwin's visionary leadership has also played a pivotal role in advancing agricultural extension programs, benefiting countless farmers in Illinois, the U.S., and throughout the world. He was the director of the award-winning *farmdoc* project at the University of Illinois for nearly a quarter of a century. The publications, databases, and decision-tools at *farmdoc* provide a "one-stop source" for farm-level decision-making. In 2011, he led the development of *farmdoc daily*, which publishes one original research-based article every day. This site has been dubbed the "*Wall Street Journal* of ag business."

Dr. Irwin's achievements have earned him numerous accolades and honors, including being named a Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) in 2013, the highest honor bestowed by the association. His career is also marked by numerous awards from the AAEA, including the Distinguished Group Extension Program Award, Quality of Research Discovery Award, Quality of Communication Award, and the Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis. His dedication to the field extends to serving in various capacities within the AAEA, including elected positions on the Executive and Foundation Boards.

Dr. Irwin's academic journey began with a B.S. in Agricultural Business from Iowa State University, followed by an M.S. and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University. Currently, he teaches courses on commodity price analysis. His lifelong passion for commodity markets, ignited during his childhood as he accompanied his father to the local grain elevator to monitor prices from 'Chicago,' continues to drive his contributions to the field of agricultural economics.