

Luke Byers

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Education

Master of Science Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University May 2022 (expected)

Bachelor of Science Agricultural Business, University of Wyoming May 2020

Bachelor of Science Economics, University of Wyoming May 2020

- Minor in Honors Program

Senior Research Thesis: *Theoretical Market Situations for Corn and Gasoline Subject to Variable Implementations of the Renewable Fuel Standard.* **Supervisor:** Dr. Benjamin Rashford

Skills/Training/Languages

- R and RStudio, National Geographic TOPO, GeoLocate, Lifemapper, Microsoft Office Suite
- Latin (Reading, writing, and speaking basic to intermediate level). Three years of formal education
- Portuguese (Reading, writing, and speaking basic to intermediate level). Informal education in Portugal

Relevant Work Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, Kansas State University (August 2020 –)

- Used R and RStudio to perform statistical analyses on Uniform Commercial Code collateralized equipment lien filings data for agricultural sector
- Authored official code currently used to categorize loans registered with Kansas Farm Management Association
- Reviewed abstracts submitted for recommendation to the 2021 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Kansas State University (August 2020 – December 2020)

- Taught homework and test review at help sessions offered throughout the semester
- Graded student submissions of tests and assignments
- Assembled presentations of statistical analyses on student performance
- Served as student resource in AGECE 500: Production Economics and AGECE 520: Market Fundamentals and Futures/Options Trading

Data Manager, Rocky Mountain Herbarium (August 2017 – May 2020)

- Used R and RStudio to organize information from data collections of over 6,000 plant specimens
- Assisted in the management of data collection for 1.3 million plant specimens and over 45,000 fungal specimens
- Synthesized geographic information of over 12,000 specimens for occurrence forecasting models using GIS
- Trained and directly supervised the work of two employee assistants in specimen handling, data entry, and office duties
- Funded through the National Science Foundation: Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections Grant
- One of the largest and fastest growing botany research facilities in the United States

Management Intern, Sherwin-Williams Paint Company (May – August 2019)

- Assisted manager in pricing analysis, profit/loss report analysis, inventory management, and customer service
- Assisted sales representative in sales calls, information management, contractor troubleshooting, and project evaluation
- Assisted regional headquarters in developing prospecting tools for improved sales effectiveness

Academic Projects

Simulated Market Environment Project, University of Wyoming Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics (January 2019 – May 2019)

- Competitive group class project where groups act as firms in simulated market situation
- Groups tasked to make production economics decisions to maximize profitability
- Highest performance ever achieved by any group in the history of the class at the University of Wyoming

Agricultural Law Policy Project, University of Wyoming Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics (August 2018 – December 2018)

- Policy research paper was selected to be used as course material in future sections of the course
- Selection accompanied by written recommendation for enrollment in law school
- Research conducted on the merits of the Energy Policy Act of 2005

Awards/Honors

Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (January 2019 – Present)

- One of the oldest and most selective collegiate honors societies in the United States
- Organization oriented towards scholastic leadership and community service
- Invitations exclusive to top 7.5% in upper class postsecondary academic achievement

Botany Service Award, University of Wyoming Botany Department (November 2018)

- Awarded to one student annually for outstanding contribution to the Botany Department
- Created a new indexing system for organizing over 45,000 fungus specimens
- Streamlined access to research materials for resident scientists

President's Honor Roll (all semesters 2017-2019)

Rocky Mountain Scholars Award (2017 – 2020)

J Patrick Kauffman Scholars Award (2017 – 2018)

Y Cross Ranch Endowment (2017 – 2020)

Andrew Vanvig Scholarship (2018 – 2019)

Oscar & Amanda Schmale Agricultural Scholarship (2019 – 2020)

Timothy R. Donoghue Graduate Scholarship (2020 – Present)

Loren E. & Phyllis L. Harris Scholarship (2020 – Present)

Volunteer Work

Eagle Scout Rank, Boy Scouts of America (March 2017)

- Project surrounded the restoration of a location on the National Register of Historic Places, Maclay's Mill
- Turned the site of the 18th century grist mill to a place where local residents could enjoy the outdoors while observing the mill's original site

Senior counselor in Greencastle, Pennsylvania and Esmoriz, Portugal

- Led children ages 4 – 18 in recreational and educational activities in overnight, outdoor environments
- Acquired basic oral and written communication skills in the Portuguese language
- Worked in groundskeeping with lawn care, tree pruning, line painting, and mold removal
- Staffed in kitchens cooking meals, managing inventories, and serving staff and campers

American Red Cross of Wyoming

- Installation and maintenance of household safety equipment in neighborhoods throughout Laramie, WY
- Collaborated with Red Cross staff to train homeowners on emergency home escape plans

Conferences/Presentations

Sherwin Williams Northwest Region District Managers Conference: *Generating Value for Customers and Employees Using the Lead Generation 2.0 System.* Seattle, WA (August 2019)

- Delivered to northwest region's board of district managers, regional manager, and human resource directors
- Explored tactics for using preexisting consumer marketing strategies within the company to acquire talented employees from the labor market
- Demonstrated Customer Relationship Management software use for internal salesperson recruitment

Other Work Experience

Farm Operations Employee, Beidel Bros. Dairy Farm (September 2015 – August 2016)

- Responsibilities included milking cows, feeding calves, assisting in calving, maintaining milking equipment, and administering medicine, injections, and insemination to several hundred dairy cattle
- Completed nine-hour days and three o'clock morning starts in adverse outdoor conditions while executing responsibilities and demonstrating precise attention to detail
- Maintained critical lines of communication with farm operators and owners concerning production progress, livestock health, and equipment operations

Freelance Landscaper (May 2016 – June 2018)

- Hired self out to local residents for lawn maintenance, tree planting and pruning, and landscape architecture on multiple landscaping projects
- Managed finances in equipment investment, materials costs, and price negotiation
- Supervised, scheduled, and paid an assisting employee

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References

Dr. Chris Bastian, Professor

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Dr. Mariah Ehmke, Associate Professor

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Dr. Alexandre Skiba, Associate Professor

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Burrell E. Nelson, Rocky Mountain Herbarium Curator

Department of Botany

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