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Meet the Staff

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As a graduate student working towards a Ph.D., in both economics and statistics, Chad Hart faces a lot of challenges. When he isn't busy on his dissertation, he is busy with project research and writing at the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD).

"Chad is an amazing resource for specialized research within FAPRI", states Darnell Smith, FAPRI managing director. Because his research abilities are so adaptable, he has had an important role in studies ranging from sophisticated production modeling, to environmental impact analysis, to evaluation of agricultural risk and insurance.

Because of the breadth of his research and writing skills, he has been an excellent resource for articles in Iowa Ag Review. Articles such as "A Review of the New Corn Yield Insurance Futures and Options" (June 1996) and "Would Revenue Insurance Have Paid During the 1993 Flood?" (this issue), have provided valuable insight for agribusiness and farmers facing a changing investment culture.

The focus of Chad's dissertation is optimal investment in agriculture. "My dissertation," Chad explains, "deals with farm level data. Since economic theory suggests that financial variables (such as cash flow, debt, etc.) don't effect investments in machinery or other farm assets, I want to examine the available data to see how much these variables might impact farm investments, if at all." He has been working with data gathered from farms across the State of Iowa. Chad is looking at investments and debt held by these farmers, to build an econometric model that will explore various investment issues.

Originally from Stark City, MO, a small farming community about 60 miles west of Branson, Chad has felt a close connection to Iowa and the farming community here. Chad said, "At CARD, for the past several years, I've been asked to put my attention in the area of agricultural insurance, which is a dramatically changing field. I have a good combination of skills and experience to examine that area, so the challenge was an excellent choice for me. Working with the folks at CARD and FAPRI has been a good experience."

Iowa Ag Review is published by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at Iowa State University, a program of the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD). FAPRI is organized cooperatively by CARD at Iowa State University and the Center for National Food and Agricultural Policy at the University of Missouri-Columbia. It provides economic analysis for policymakers and others interested in the agricultural economy. Analysis that has been conducted jointly with the University of Missouri is identified here as FAPRI analysis. This publication presents summarized results that emphasize the Iowa implications of ongoing agricultural policy analysis, analysis of the near-term agricultural situation, and discussion of new agricultural policies currently under consideration.

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