

## **Professional Focus & Personal Information**

**Daniel O'Brien, Ph.D., Extension Agricultural Economist, K-State Research and Extension**

### **Professional Focus and Interests**

Daniel O'Brien's main focus in his position as Extension Agricultural Economist for K-State Research and Extension is on analysis of grain and bioenergy markets, with supporting interests in Great Plains irrigated and dryland cropping systems and other farm management related topics. Approximately 85% of his efforts are directed toward analysis of supply-demand factors affecting domestic and international grain markets and their impact on U.S. prices for wheat, feedgrains and oilseeds. Analysis of ethanol-based demand for feedgrains and bio-diesel demand for soybeans are important parts of this effort, as is examination of markets for ethanol process co-products / distillers grains in the U.S. and abroad. The functional efficiency of delivery systems associated with Kansas City hard red winter wheat futures has been a recent issue of focus, leading to examination of grain futures delivery systems and of factors affecting the convergence of wheat cash and futures prices during futures contract delivery periods. Other areas of focus have included understanding the farm level economics of using crop residue for cellulosic ethanol production, the economics of irrigated and non-irrigated cropping systems in the Great Plains region, and the development of equitable farmland leasing arrangements associated with these same cropping systems.

#### **A. Grain Market Analysis and Bioenergy Economics (85% of focus)**

- Structure of U.S. and world feedgrain, wheat and oilseeds markets
- Bioenergy industry economics
- Indepth focus on markets for grain sorghum, sunflower and other specialty crops

#### **B. Crop Production Systems / Natural Resources (10% of focus)**

- The profitability of irrigated and dryland cropping systems and enterprises
- A supporting focus on natural resource issues related to the Ogallala Aquifer

#### **C. Other Extension Agricultural Economics – Related Issues (5% of focus)**

- Cropland and pastureland leasing arrangements and farmland values
- Crop insurance / risk management issues
- Farm financial management decisions
- Farm program decisions education
- Other agricultural economics-related educational activities

### **Personal Information**

Daniel O'Brien was raised on a diversified crop and livestock farm near Geneva in Fillmore County, Nebraska. He and his wife Lois have five children (three boys and two girls ranging from 7 to 13 years of age, with their youngest daughter being adopted from China). Lois received a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Liberty University in Virginia in 1990. They make their home in Colby in northwest Kansas, and participate in community youth activities such as Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, American Heritage Girls, and summer recreation programs. They are involved in their local church and in academically challenging homeschool educational activities.

### **Academic Training**

- Bachelor of Science – Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1978

- Master of Science – Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1980
  - M.S. Thesis: “The effect of agricultural cooperatives on rural fertilizer markets.”
- Doctorate/Ph.D. – Agricultural Economics, Iowa State University, 1993
  - Ph.D. Fields: Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Production and Finance
  - Ph.D. Dissertation: “Forecasting the probability distribution of U.S. harvest time average corn prices.”

## **Work Experience**

- Extension Agent – Agriculture & 4-H Youth Development, Nebraska Cooperative Extension, Lincoln County (North Platte), January 1980 – August 1983.
- Extension Agent – Agriculture & 4-H Youth Development, Nebraska Cooperative Extension, Pierce County (Pierce), September 1983 – August 1987.
- Graduate Assistant – Extension Agricultural Marketing, Iowa State University Department of Agricultural Economics, September 1987 – August 1988.
- Extension Associate – Agricultural Marketing, Iowa State University Department of Agricultural Economics, September 1988 – December 1992.
- Extension Farm Management Field Specialist, Iowa State University Extension, West Central Iowa (Onawa), January 1993 - February 1995.
- Extension Agricultural Economist – Northwest Research Extension Center, Colby, Kansas (March 1995 – May 2003)
- Extension Area Director / Administrator – Northwest Kansas (26 Counties), (June 2003 – December 2006)
- Extension Agricultural Economist – Northwest Research Extension Center, Colby, Kansas (January 2007 – present)