

INFORMA ECONOMICS ANNOUNCES STAFF ADDITIONS

Informa Economics, Inc. announces several additions to the company's staff.

Revitalizing Informa Economics' Winnipeg, Canada, office is the addition of Sergio Novelli as a vice president and Kris Grant as an associate/analyst of the Canadian markets. Novelli's primary responsibilities include providing Canadian services within Informa Economics' Crops Group. This includes business development and project consulting for Canadian agriculture and agribusiness clients. Prior to joining the company, he had more than 20 years of experience in the industry and has worked as a market analyst with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and at the Canadian Wheat Board within the market analysis department. In those roles, Novelli was involved in several global agricultural studies to gauge the impact of proposed policies on Canadian agriculture. This work has fostered expertise with provincial crop insurance and cash advance programs in addition to a deep understanding of the Canadian Wheat Board and its policies. Novelli received his bachelor's degree in applied economics from the University of Manitoba.

Grant also joins Informa in May as an associate/analyst of the Canadian markets. His primary responsibilities include research and analysis for the company's Canadian market publications. Before joining Informa, Grant worked as a performance analyst in the financial services industry where he combined his knowledge of the financial markets with strong computational skills to streamline internal processes. He received his bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Manitoba where his studies were concentrated in finance.

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Informa Economics' Project Consulting Group has several additions to enrich Informa's international and domestic project consulting work. James Kielkopf joins Informa's Project Consulting Group as a vice president with responsibilities for research, client services, and consulting. With a background in banking, policy studies, and tropical agriculture, he also provides expert support for projects involving agribusiness finance, policy analysis, land values, and tropical agriculture. He came to Informa from the US Farm Credit System (FCS) where he served as the principal economist for AgriBank FCB, the largest of the FCS's five wholesale banks, encompassing the 15-state region of the American Midwest and about 55 percent of America's cropland. Before joining AgriBank, Kielkopf had 15 years of experience in finance and banking, including credit risk management and credit score modeling. He is fluent in Spanish and has lived and worked extensively in Latin America, establishing rural credit cooperatives and other international aid and development work. He also plants cocoa, rice, and soybeans on his farm in Ecuador, South America. He graduated from The Johns Hopkins University with a bachelor's degree in economics and earned his master's degree in applied and agricultural economics from the University of Minnesota. He is currently finishing his doctorate degree in New York City at the New School's Milano School of Management and Public Policy where he also teaches a course on the US farm bill process. He is a member of the Agricultural Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and the National Agricultural Credit Committee of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Ashley Jones also joins Informa Economics' Project Consulting Group. Her primary responsibilities include market and industry research. Prior to joining Informa Economics, she was a graduate research assistant at Kansas State University, analyzing stochastic production functions for Kenyan maize production. Her background is in international development, having participated in a month-long service learning project in Belize, as well as conducting her undergraduate and master's thesis in this area. Jones designed and implemented a series of interactive crop enterprise budgets to be used in calculating cash flows and identifying marketing opportunities for St. Matthew's School in Pomona, Belize. She also completed an analysis of Kenyan maize production, identifying whether variability exists in production and what inputs, specifically hybrid varieties, contribute to variability. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas and her master's degree from Kansas State University, both in agricultural economics.

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Callie McAdams also joins Informa Economics' Project Consulting Group with her responsibilities including assessment of agricultural policy as it relates to US producers, consumers, policymakers, and the food industry. Working at Informa's Washington, D.C., office, she also performs research and analysis of diverse domestic and international agricultural matters. McAdams has a background in a wide range of agricultural areas, including livestock, crops, and diversified agricultural production. Prior to joining Informa, McAdams was a research assistant at Texas A & M University where she modeled the influence of health information on consumers' willingness to pay for horticultural products. McAdams also interned with the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, working on marketing and crop production. McAdams received her bachelor's degree in agricultural business management and animal science from North Carolina State University and she received her master's degree from Texas A & M University in agricultural economics.

Kirsten Rasmussen also is a consultant within Informa Economics' Project Consulting Group. Working at Informa's Washington, D.C., office, her responsibilities include performing research and analysis of diverse domestic and international agricultural matters, focusing on assessing agricultural policy as it relates to US producers, consumers, policymakers, and the food industry. Prior to joining Informa, Rasmussen was a research and teaching assistant at the University of Illinois in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics where she studied commodity markets and agricultural trade policy, and analyzed pork price integration among China's regional markets. Rasmussen also was an intern at the US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in Beijing, China, where she contributed to FAS' Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN) publications on China's agricultural sector. Rasmussen received her bachelor's degree in French and philosophy with a minor in international studies from Illinois State University, Normal, Ill., and her master's degree in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Ill.

Two economists also join Informa Economics' Transportation, Industrials and Energy Services Group. Scott Sigman joins Informa Economics as a senior consultant and Sijesh Aravindhakshan joins the company as an energy analyst.

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Sigman has over 25 years of experience in global trade and transportation planning, assessment of economic impacts, preparation of reports, business plans, assessments and studies focused on container intermodal as well as multimodal freight operations. He has intertwined public and private enterprise business development experiences with a range of operational experiences in transportation including hazardous materials management, as well as port homeland security cargo planning. Sigman has worked with a global container shipping company in sales, trade management and marketing; worked with the largest global special container fleet in managing utilization and logistics for assets held by the company; and worked for the state port authority in Indiana in public planning and business development. He also has experience in budgeting, marketing, proposal writing as well as overseeing responses to requests for proposals (RFPs) through application of professional project management methodologies. Freight handling, including agricultural commodities and economic development experiences with infrastructure finance, consulting and environmental planning exercises have included engaging community stakeholders for major projects. Deep water maritime and inland waterways and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway market development have involved transport economics, costing and routing assessments. Working within the contexts of inspection procedures and applied regulatory compliance initiatives in which he has been involved have included foreign trade zone documentation procedures, while aligning transport asset and infrastructure financing experiences at federal, state and local levels. Sigman has applied analysis in consultative evaluations of transport modal shift, supply chain logistics, collaborations with engineering and construction management for transport facility development, and has been integral to staffing logistics operations. He received his bachelor's degree, with a double major in economics and international relations, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned his master's in economics, focused through the Sea Use Law, Economics and Policy Programme from the University of London-London School of Economics and Political Science in London, England.

Aravindhakshan's responsibilities include fundamental analysis of the energy markets, price forecasting, and supporting consulting projects in the areas of petroleum and renewable energy. Before joining Informa, he was a research assistant professor at North Dakota State University (NDSU) at the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies. At NDSU, he conducted research in the area of renewable energy production and taught macroeconomics for undergraduate students. He was a research assistant at Oklahoma State University and has extensive research experience in renewable energy production and quantitative finance. He has been published in international peer reviewed journals and made presentations at academic conferences in the area of renewable energy. He also worked as an agricultural officer for the government of Kerala, India. He received his master's degree in agribusiness and applied economics from NDSU and a doctorate in agricultural economics, with a minor in quantitative finance, from Oklahoma State University.

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Galen Williams joins Informa Economics' Livestock, Meat, Poultry and Dairy Group. His primary responsibilities include fundamental analysis of the hog and pork markets, price forecasting, client communication, and support for projects that include a livestock component. Williams has a strong background in animal agriculture, having managed a cow-calf operation and worked with show cattle. He was instrumental in developing a data management and reporting program for the Oklahoma Quality Beef Network. Williams received his bachelor's degree in animal science and his master's degree in agricultural economics, both from Oklahoma State University.

06-21-11

Informa Economics, Inc., a division of Informa plc, is a world leader in comprehensive agriculture, food industry, agribusiness and commodity research, information, analysis and consulting. With a core team of research analysts and consulting specialists, Informa Economics serves many of the world's leading agribusinesses. The company's economic expertise and client base combine to provide unique insights and strategic and long-term planning for companies around the world. For more information, visit the Informa Economics Web site at www.informaecon.com.