

Nicholas A. Potter  
Research Agricultural Economist  
USDA Economic Research Service, Conservation and Environment Branch

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## Education

- 2021 **Doctor of Philosophy**, Economics, Washington State University, Pullman WA, USA  
**Fields:** Environmental Economics, International Trade
- 2005 **Master of Science**, Applied Mathematics, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Amherst MA, USA
- 2002 **Bachelor of Arts**, Economics, Hampshire College, Amherst MA, USA

## Research Experience

- Research Agricultural Economist** 2021 – Present  
United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service
- Conduct rigorous economic research on water resources and agriculture using confidential and public data sources; write official research reports for public, policy, and research audiences; and review interagency research and policy outputs
- PhD Research Assistant** 2016-2021  
Washington State University
- Utilized HPC clusters to conduct research on climate impacts on agriculture using satellite-based climate data and survey-based datasets
- Associate in Research** 2012-2016  
Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Engaged in research on pesticide residues and nutritional content on organic and conventionally produced agricultural products
- Research Assistant** 2011-2013  
National Bureau of Economic Research
- Developed code and conducted causal analysis using confidential panel data on individuals participating in the [Moving to Opportunity](#) project

## Teaching Experience

- Instructor, Fundamentals of Microeconomics** 2018  
Washington State University
- 211 students, rated 4.2 out of 5
- Certifications:**
- Data and Software Carpentry Instructor 2018

## Academic Publications

- Ward, Frank, **Nicholas A. Potter**, and R. Aaron Hrozencik. 2025. “Managing Agricultural Water Use in the Western United States A Search for Efficient Climate Adaptation Institutions.” *Agricultural Water Management* 308, March 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agwat.2024.109279>.
- Cameron-Harp, Micah, Nathan Hendricks, **Nicholas A. Potter**. 2024. “Predicting the spatial variation in cost-efficiency for agricultural greenhouse gas mitigation programs in the U.S.” *Carbon Balance and Management* 19(6). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13021-024-00252-6>.
- Hrozencik, R. Aaron, **Nicholas A. Potter**, and Steven Wallander. 2023. The Cost-Effectiveness of Irrigation Canal Lining and Piping in the Western United States. In Libecap, Gary and Ariel Dinar (Eds.), *American Agriculture, Water Resources, and Climate Change*. University of Chicago Press.
- **Potter, Nicholas A.** 2019. “rassqs: An R package to access agricultural data via the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) 'Quick Stats' API.” *Journal of Open Source Software* 4(43): 1880. <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01880>.

## Other Publications

- **Potter, Nicholas A.**, R. Aaron Hrozencik, and Steven Wallander. 2025 (Forthcoming). Irrigation Organizations – Governance Structure and Finance. Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Hrozencik, R. Aaron, **Nicholas A. Potter**, and Steve Wallander. 2025. Irrigation Organizations – Water Metering and Pricing. U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service Economic Brief No. 40. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=111040>.
- Sichko, Christopher, **Nicholas A. Potter**. 2022-2024. Normalized Prices. ERS Data Product, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/normalized-prices/>.
- **Potter, Nicholas A.**, R. Aaron Hrozencik, and Steven Wallander. 2023. Irrigation Organizations – Water Inflows and Outflows. U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service Economic Brief No. 36. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=107066>.
- Hrozencik, R. Aaron, Grant Gardner, **Nicholas A. Potter**, and Steve Wallander. 2023. Irrigation Organizations – Groundwater Management, Economic Brief No. 34, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=106347>.

## Working Papers

- Yourek, Matt, Dan Haller, **Nicholas A. Potter**, Kirti Rajagopalan, Kairon Shayne Garcia, Jonathan Yoder. Under review. “Water rights forfeiture in Washington State from 1967 to 2019.”
- **Potter, Nicholas A.** and Jonathan Yoder. “Water rights on the frontier: An economic model of forfeiture.”
- **Potter, Nicholas A.**, Micheal Brady, and Kirti Rajagopalan. “Climate effects on diverse high-value irrigated agriculture.”
- **Potter, Nicholas A.** “Do longer growing seasons mitigate the yield impacts of extreme temperatures?”

## Conference Papers/Presentations

- **Potter, Nicholas A.** and R. Aaron Hrozencik. 2023. "Accounting for Non-Local Climate in Estimating Climate Impacts on Agriculture." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
- **Potter, Nicholas A.** and R. Aaron Hrozencik. 2023. "The Economic Implications of Declining Snowpack for Tribal and Irrigated Agriculture Water Supplies." Universities Conference on Water Resources (UCOWR), Fort Collins, CO.
- **Potter, Nicholas A.** 2023. "Plant Early, Plant Often: Extreme Heat Impacts depend on Winter Climate." Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) Summer Conference, Portland, ME.
- **Potter, Nicholas A.** 2022. "Measuring the Implications of Declining Snowpack on Surface Water Availability and Irrigated Agriculture." The Workshop on Environmental Economics and Data Science (TWEEDS), Eugene, OR.
- **Potter, Nicholas A.** 2022. "Measuring the Implications of Declining Snowpack on Surface Water Availability and Irrigated Agriculture." AGU Chapman conference on Solving Water Availability Challenges through an Interdisciplinary Framework, Golden, CO.
- Hrozencik, R. Aaron, **Nicholas A. Potter**, and Steven Wallander. 2022. "A National Estimate of Irrigation Canal Lining and Piping Water Conservation." NBER Workshop: Economic Perspectives on Water Resources, Climate Change, and Agricultural Sustainability, Online.
- **Potter, Nicholas A.** and Jonathan Yoder. 2019. "On the Frontier of Water Rights: Beneficial Use and Relinquishment in Settling the Columbia River Basin." Universities Conference on Water Resources (UCOWR), Snowbird, UT.
- **Potter, Nicholas A.**, Michael Brady, and Kirti Rajagopalan. 2018. "Climate Impacts on Agricultural Productivity in the Fruitful Rim." 9th Annual Northwest Climate Conference, Boise, ID.
- **Potter, Nicholas A.**, Michael Brady, and Kirti Rajagopalan. 2018. "Using Climate Analogues to Obtain a Causal Estimate of the Impact of Climate on Agricultural Productivity." Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

## Service

### Peer Review

- 2024: Journal of Open Source Software, 1 article, 1 software package
- 2024: AAEA Summer Conference, 5 abstracts
- 2023: R Open Science Consortium, 1 software package
- 2023: Journal of Open Source Software, 1 article, 1 software package
- 2023: Natural Resource Modeling, 1 article
- 2021: AAEA Summer Conference, 4 abstracts

### Other Service

- 2024: Instructor, USDA Data Science Training Program
- 2022: Mentor, USDA Pathways Internship
- 2018-2021: Instructor, Software and Data Carpentries

- 2012: Volunteer, Big Brothers Big Sisters
- 2008-2011: Volunteer, US Peace Corps, Guinea and Niger