



In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Art
Phillip Moore

Will present his scientific paper

Investing in Farmland or Farmers?

Wednesday, April 8, 2020
9:00 am
via Zoom (meeting ID: [586 230 002](#))

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Nalini Chhetri, co-chair
Dr. Bryan Leonard, co-chair
Dr. Milan Shrestha, member

Abstract

Day-to-day Decision Makers on agricultural operations play a key role in maintaining both a sustainable and food secure agricultural society. This population, also defined as Principal Producers by the 2017 USDA Agricultural Census Report, has witnessed a significant decline in recent years, raising many questions surrounding why farmers are retiring faster than they can be replaced. To look closely at this phenomenon, this study focuses on the State of Ohio to hear first-hand from producers what they need to be successful through a series of semi-structured interviews. This study also maps recent changes in variables that define this issue from 2007-2017 using QGIS and USDA open source data. The findings from this study provide evidence linking declining rates of principal producer populations with specific features consistent with industrial agriculture. These findings are specific to the State of Ohio, but also raise much larger questions about which populations are experiencing more rapid rates of farm exit, and what implications these trends have for food security on a broader scale.