# Taylor Gillit

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## *Education*

**Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural and Applied Economics** August 2026 – Present
*Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas*

- Advisor: Darren Hudson, Ph.D.
- Expected Graduation: May 2029

**Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics** June 2024 – May 2026
*Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas*

- Advisor: Darren Hudson, Ph.D.
- Thesis: *"Consumer Willingness to Pay for Reduced Carbon and Water Footprints in Fluid Milk"*

**Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness** August 2021 – May 2024
*Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas*

- Minor: Political Science

## *Experience*

**Graduate Research Assistant** June 2024 – May 2026 | August 2026 – Present
*Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas*

- Design and conduct research in agricultural and applied economics
- Perform quantitative analysis of survey data using R and Stata and interpret results
- Prepared research for thesis defense, conference presentations, and manuscript preparation

**Economics Intern** May 2026 – August 2026
*American Soybean Association, Saint Louis, Missouri*

- Conducted economic research on U.S. soybean markets, including the effects of biofuel and export demand
- Assisted economists with research reports and market analysis to support agricultural policy work
- Traveled to industry meetings and engaged with stakeholder groups to discuss soybean market developments and industry priorities
- Assisted economists with additional research projects, including data collection, analysis, and preparation of research materials

**Student Assistant** January 2022 – May 2023 | August 2023 – May 2024
*Department of Animal and Food Science, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas*

- Reconciled financial accounts and processed transactions for faculty and staff
- Managed onboarding paperwork, compliance documentation, and personnel records
- Recorded and summarized meeting minutes
- Supported daily office operations, scheduling, and administrative coordination

**Congressional Intern** May 2023 – July 2023
*Representative Ronny Jackson, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

- Conducted constituent outreach and assisted with casework services
- Drafted memos, letters, and briefing materials for congressional staff
- Prepared meeting notes and summaries for legislative meetings
- Supported daily office operations

## *Research Projects*

**Market and Food-Price Effects of Soybean Oil Biofuel Demand**
*Internship Report, American Soybean Association*

- Updated an equilibrium displacement model using current market data and re-estimated supply and demand elasticities
- Evaluated the effects of increased soybean oil biofuel demand on soybean, soybean oil, soybean meal, and downstream food markets
- Developed counterfactual demand scenarios to examine the relative effects of biofuel and export demand on soybean prices and producer revenues
- Analyzed the EPA's proposed Renewable Fuel Standard requirements to evaluate their projected effects on soybean markets, food prices, and consumer food expenditures

**Consumer Willingness to Pay for Reduced Carbon and Water Footprints in Fluid Milk**
*Master's Thesis, Texas Tech University*

- Designed and implemented a choice-based conjoint analysis survey in Qualtrics to evaluate consumer preferences for reduced carbon and water footprints in fluid milk
- Collected and analyzed survey data from 1000 U.S. consumers to examine the value of environmental attributes in dairy products
- Estimated mixed logit models in R to quantify consumer willingness to pay for reductions in carbon and water footprints
- Examined preference heterogeneity based on environmental orientation and the presence of children in the household to identify differences in consumer valuation

## *Presentations*

**Are Consumers Willing to Pay for Lower Water Footprint Milk?** 2026
*Ag Water Sustainability Summit, Lubbock, Texas*

- Coauthors: Darren Hudson, Luis Sandoval, Michael Ballou
- Poster Presentation

**Willingness to Pay for Reduced Carbon and Water Footprint in Milk** 2026
*2026 Annual Meeting of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association, Louisville, Kentucky*

- Coauthors: Darren Hudson, Luis Sandoval, Michael Ballou
- Paper Presentation

## *Publications*

**Has Biofuel Demand Replaced Export Demand in U.S. Soybean Markets?** October 2026
*Economist Angle, American Soybean Association*

- Coauthor: Scott Gerlt
- View Publication

## *Awards and Honors*

**Ag Water Sustainability Poster Competition**
*Ag Water Sustainability Summit, Lubbock, Texas*

- 1st Place

## *Technical Skills*

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| Software: | R, Stata, Latex |
| Tools: | Qualtrics, Microsoft Office Suite |
| Other Skills: | Quantitative data analysis, survey design, econometric modeling and interpretation, academic writing |