

ALYSSA McDONNELL

alyssa.mcdonnell@uconn.edu

EDUCATION

University of Connecticut	Ph.D. Agricultural and Resource Economics Overall GPA: 3.66 M.S. Applied and Resource Economics	Expected: May 2027 August 2021
University of Rhode Island	B.S. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics & B.A. Political Science	May 2018 Magna Cum Laude
Study Abroad: URI in Cuba Program	'Social Change in the Caribbean'-3 credit course	January 2016

Relevant Course Work: Environmental Economics, Applied Econometrics (Statistical Analysis), Microeconomic Theory, Water Resource Economics, Environmental Policy and Politics, Calculus I&II, Linear Algebra, Environmental Communications, Food Policy, Geographic Information Services

EXPERIENCE

University of Connecticut – Graduate Research Assistant; Storrs, CT	September 2023-Present
University of Connecticut –Research Assistant III; Storrs, CT	March 2022 – September 2023
University of Connecticut – Graduate Research Assistant; Storrs, CT	September 2019- March 2022
URI Economics Department Research Assistant; Kingston RI	Spring 2018
Land Trust Alliance - Policy Intern; Washington, DC	Spring 2017
URI Water Quality Extension - Coastal Fellow; Kingston, RI	Summer and Fall 2016
URI Disability Services - Note Taker; Kingston RI	Spring 2015, Fall 2016

Research

CT Early Care and Education Farm to School Study	September 2024 – Present
In this ongoing project I developed and tested a survey of Early Care and Education centers to quantify current food procurement practices (both local and non-local) and assess the feasibility of implementing farm to early care programs in their centers. This has included collaboration with UConn Extension programs, child nutrition professionals from the CT Department of Public Health, and sustainable food professionals from the CT Department of Agriculture. Additionally, we have conducted focus groups with early care providers and local non-profits to ensure our survey questions are clear and reasonable for the diverse population of ECE providers.	
NEWIR Manure: Nutrient, Energy, and Water Innovation for Resource Recovery	Aug 2019 - Present
I collaborated closely with chemical engineering graduate students specializing in life cycle analysis from the University of Nevada, Reno on this NSF INFEWS Grant. This research examines technologies that would reduce livestock waste contamination and recycle excess nutrients by growing algae to serve as a protein substitute for cattle feed, generate algae, and clean water. I provided economic estimates of the costs, both monetary and environmental, of dairy and livestock production in the US. I also conducted a literature review of existing nutrient management policy and nutrient markets in the US and internationally. I collaborated on a Life Cycle Analysis publication to examine various nutrient management technologies, including contributing to the policy analysis section.	
CT K-12 Farm to School Procurement Study	June 2022 – April 2023
In collaboration with the CT Department of Education and the CT Department of Agriculture, we surveyed 173 school food authorities in CT on their local food procurement practices. This included survey design and development, focus groups, respondent recruitment, and data analysis. Additionally, we recruited and interviewed 19 school food authority representatives for hour-long, semi-structured interviews to provide vital context for our understanding of what is feasible in school systems. We analyzed these data along with individual interviews then reported on trends in local procurement and policy recommendations to facilitate procurement of local food. These results were used by both by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and in legislative testimony for school food related bills.	
CT Grocery and Wine Study	July 2022 – December 2022
In response to proposed legislation we developed a survey and questionnaire to understand CT consumer preferences for the availability of wine and liquor in grocery stores. I collaborated with economists and industry stakeholders in designing the survey, and supervised a group of four undergraduate students to disseminate the survey to 10,000 randomly selected Connecticut residents and to organize response data. I also assisted in writing a literature review of policies pertaining to wine sales in Connecticut along with analysis of the survey data. The results from this study were used during testimony surrounding the bill. Additionally, we published a paper examining the	

effects a 2012 policy allowing Sunday alcohol sales had on alcohol purchases and liquor stores using data from grocery store scanners and business permit information.

CT Cost of Dairy Production (DOAG)

Aug 2019 - Present

I developed a new survey of dairy farms in Connecticut to estimate the cost of dairy production, the cost of manure handling and to better understand the day-to-day issues faced by dairy farmers in Connecticut. These results will be used by the CT Department of Agriculture to set dairy farm subsidies. This project included collaboration with soil scientists and dairy experts in UConn Extension to update the underlying economic model to estimate the cost of producing a hundredweight of milk in Connecticut. I worked directly with farmers to answer questions and assist in finding proper information. Additionally, on a quarterly basis I report CT cost of dairy production and pricing trends to the CT Department of Agriculture which are used to set relief payments for dairy farmers under CT PA 09-229.

URI Coastal Fellowship

Summer and Fall 2016

I worked on the URI Water Quality Program Home*A*Syst intercept campaign to educate the public about safe well water practices in Rhode Island. Outreach activities included attending farmers markets to educate those in attendance about how to test and protect their well water. I also helped organize educational events for residents in towns with high rates of well-water in homes. Throughout the intercept campaign, I collected and outlined data about the current program to make recommendations for programmatic changes. These findings were presented to the Rhode Island Department of Health.

PUBLICATIONS

Glover, C. J., **McDonnell, A.**, Rollins, K. S., Hiibel, S. R., & Cornejo, P. K. (2023). Assessing the environmental impact of resource recovery from dairy manure. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 330, 117150.

Connolly, C., **McDonnell, A.**, Dosseh, C., Gentile, J. (2023). Farm to School in Connecticut. *Zwick Center Outreach Report*.

Connolly, C, Graziano, M, **McDonnell, A**, Steinbach, S. (2023). In *Cervisia Veritas: The Impact of Repealing Sunday Blue Laws on Alcohol Sales and Retail Competition*. *Journal of Wine Economics*. Forthcoming.

Carstensen, F., Connolly, C., Graziano, M., Gunther, P., Grumstrup, E., **McDonnell, A.**, Rollins, K. (2022). Wine Sales in Connecticut Grocery Stores: Consumer Preferences, Economic Impacts, and Review of Outcomes from Other Regions. *Zwick Center Outreach Report*.

GRANTS

UConn Extension, 2023, \$7,100 – Project: “Farm to School in Early Childhood Education”

Hartford Food Systems, 2023, \$37,122 – Project: “Local Food Counts”

CT Food Association, 2022, \$23,000 – Project: “Survey of Consumer Grocery and Wine Preferences”

CT Department of Agriculture, 2022, \$25,000 – Project: “Study of Food Procurement Amongst K-12 and Early Childhood”

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AND ACTIVITIES

UConn CAHNR Graduate Student Council- *Graduate Student Council Member (2020-2022 Academic Years)*

- Selected by faculty to represent Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics to College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources Graduate Student Council
- Advise and assist with planning Graduate Student Research Forum

UConn Agricultural and Resource Economics Student Club – *Vice President (2023-Present) Secretary (2020-2022)*

- Support student club for graduate students to connect with peers and faculty members
- Organize student events throughout the semester
- Support incoming students to the department by touring campus and sessions for current students to give advice

URI Student Action for Sustainability - *President (Fall 2016, Spring 2018)*

Fall 2015 - Spring 2018

- Developed and presented information at freshman orientations about how to successfully be sustainable on campus
- Organized student petition to ban the sale of expandable polystyrene (Styrofoam) containers on campus
- Organized homecoming game recycling event, recruited students to collect 450lbs of recyclables
- Organized first ‘University of Rhode Island Sustainability Hack-a-thon’

URI Debate Union – *Treasurer, Sustainability Director (2017-18 Academic Year)*

Spring 2016 - Present

- Kept track of finances, organized fundraisers and trips to tournaments for the debate team
- Led sustainability initiatives at URI hosted tournament
- Debated at various British Parliamentary style tournaments and the Lafayette Debates in Washington, DC

Sustainability Living Learning Community- Member

Fall 2014 - Spring 2015

AWARDS AND HONORS

- UConn Graduate Research Assistantship 2019-Present
- Marvin W. Kottke Scholarship Spring 2020
- Ellen Bishop-Carder Scholarship Fall 2019, 2020
- Bradford E. Southworth Family Scholarship 2017 - 2018
- Pi Kappa Alpha (Political Science Honors Society) 2018
- URI Coastal Fellowship 2016
- URI Dean’s List Fall 2014-Spring 2018

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Computer Skills: Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint), Aurora (Word Press), Qualtrics, Stata, Google Suite, ArcGIS

Certification: IRB Human Subjects Research (Social/Behavioral Research)

VOLUNTEERING

Bolton Sustainable CT Committee – At-Large Member

Fall 2019 - Present