

# STAR INSIGHTS FORUM

December 6, 2022  
Weyers Cave, VA



Dr. Alex White received his BS in Agricultural Economics from Virginia Tech, focusing on farm management and agricultural financial management. His MS is in Agricultural Economics from Ohio State, with a concentration in farm management. His Ph.D. is from Virginia Tech, where his research centered on retirement planning strategies for agricultural producers and small business owners.

Alex has taught a wide variety of college courses at Ohio State, NC State, Ferrum College, and Virginia Tech for the past 30+ years. The courses he has taught include Ag Financial Management, Farm Management, Small Business Management, and several courses in Personal Financial Management. He has served as an extension agent and an extension specialist (personal/farm financial management) for Virginia Cooperative Extension. He is an assistant coach for Virginia Tech's Dairy Challenge teams. Alex was an assistant coach for the 2004 and 2007 national championship teams in the American Express Financial Planning Invitational.

In August 2012 Alex began working full-time in the fields of personal financial management (focusing on retirement planning) and farm/business consulting. He worked with individuals and small business owners throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

Alex is currently on faculty at Virginia Tech in the Dairy Science unit of the School of Animal Sciences. He also teaches courses for the Agricultural & Applied Economics. Alex continues to work with regional and national agricultural organizations such as the North American Farmers Direct Marketing Association (NAFDMA), the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course (MAHSC), the Farm Financial Standards Task Force, as well as the FFA and Farm Bureau Young Farmers in the mid-Atlantic region.

Alex has worked with Farm Credit in several capacities over the years. He has conducted workshops and presentations for Farm Credit of the Virginias for the past 20 years. He also teaches at the Agricultural Leadership Institutes for Carolina Farm Credit and AgCarolina Farm Credit. He has worked with Northwest Farm Credit on training in financial management for several years. He has helped to train Farm Credit personnel through his work with Farm Credit University. For the past 10 years he has presented programs on personal financial management to the Farm Credit Young Farmer Institutes in VA and WV. He was also a Farm Credit borrower-member.

Outside of work, Alex spends his time restoring a 1943 Farmall H tractor, target shooting, renovating on his old house, and woodworking. Alex and his brothers operate a small BBQ business in northern MD – partially to make money, but mostly to eat BBQ with friends!



Dr. Bart Fischer currently serves as the Co-Director of the Agricultural & Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University, as an AgriLife Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, and as Senior Advisor for Federal Relations in the Office of the Vice Chancellor. Dr. Fischer teaches agricultural and food policy to approximately 170 undergraduate students each spring semester, and his applied research focuses on solving real-world policy problems for agricultural producers and on anticipating potential policy changes for Congress to consider.

Before joining the university in September 2019, he served for more than 8 years at the Committee on Agriculture in the U.S. House of Representatives, most recently as the Deputy Staff Director & Chief Economist under the leadership of Ranking Member K. Michael Conaway (TX-11). He was involved in virtually every major agricultural policy development in Washington, D.C., during his time with the committee, including helping craft and pass the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills.

Dr. Fischer graduated from Oklahoma State University with bachelor's degrees in Agricultural Economics and Business Administration (with a double major in Accounting and Finance). He holds a master's degree in Environmental Policy from Cambridge University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University.

Dr. Fischer is the 5th generation to be raised on his family's wheat, cotton, and cattle operation in Southwest Oklahoma, and he continues to be actively involved. He and his wife Karalyn reside in College Station, TX, with their three children.

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Charley C. Martinez is an Assistant Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Tennessee. He also serve as director of the UT Center of Farm Management. His research and Extension work involves the fields of farm and financial management, livestock and meat market economics, and policy. The goal of his programming is to enhance the long-term economic sustainability of farms in Tennessee and across the United States. Charley received his BS in Agricultural Business-Ranch Management from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University. While at Texas A&M- Kingsville, he was a member of the Livestock and Meat Judging Teams. Charley has spent time with Cargill Beef Solutions and Rio Beef Feed yards and he's still involved with the family's Simmental and Simbrah herd back in Texas.



Dr. Joe Moritz was trained in nutrition and feed manufacture at Ohio State and Kansas State Universities. He joined the faculty at West Virginia University in 2002. Moritz maintains a 45% research, 30% teaching, and 25% extension appointment. His research focus is on nutritional consequences of feed manufacture. Moritz enjoys helping commercial integrators as well as back-yard poultry enthusiasts produce safe, affordable, and nutritious poultry products. Moritz's laboratory has published over 60 peer-reviewed journal articles and presented data at regional, national and international meetings. He has been the major advisor to over 40 students that have earned their MS and PhD degrees. He instructs approximately 200 undergraduate students per year and leads an active, student centered research program. Moritz has been recognized numerous times for excellent teaching and research. Most notable, Moritz was the recipient of the Land O' Lakes/Purina Mills National Teaching Award and the American Feed Industry Association Poultry Nutrition Research Award.

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