

WAJDI BELGACEM

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROFILE

Applied economist with experience analyzing agricultural markets, public policy, and regional industry change. Skilled in R, Python, and Stata; builds complex datasets and translates quantitative findings into research reports, Extension publications, and presentations.

EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research Associate, South Dakota State University (Aug 2025–Present)

- Conduct applied economic research on South Dakota and Northern Plains agriculture, including statewide analysis of the dairy sector, weather and climate risk, and technology adoption.
- Write research reports and publications for decision-makers, including SDSU Extension pieces on South Dakota dairy production and farm resilience written for producers, industry, and policymakers.
- Build and maintain data collection and analysis workflows in R and Python, integrating USDA, NOAA, PRISM, satellite, and survey data into clean, documented datasets.
- Produce data tables, visualizations, and presentations that translate quantitative findings for technical and non-technical audiences.
- Contribute economic analysis and research design to USDA-NIFA and university research proposals.

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Aug 2021–Aug 2025)

- Analyzed federal insurance programs and their performance for producers across the Northern Great Plains, combining program records, weather data, and satellite-derived measures.
- Built and validated large spatial and panel datasets and delivered findings through peer-reviewed publications and presentations at national meetings.
- Structured analyses independently, from question definition and data collection through estimation and interpretation.

Research Assistant, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Greece (Sep 2019–May 2021)

- Quantified environmental impacts of food-consumption changes on land use, water use, emissions, and biodiversity using agricultural and environmental data from FAO, Eurostat, and national statistical agencies.

Junior Financial Analyst, Arab Tunisian Bank (ATB), Tunisia (Jul 2016–Aug 2018)

- Collected, reviewed, and organized financial and business information from client files and prepared analysis summaries for business clients and credit review.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics University of Nebraska–Lincoln Risk Management and Production Economics	2021–2025
M.S. in Business Economics Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Greece Environmental Economics	2018–2020
B.S. in Business Administration, Major in Finance Tunis Business School, Tunisia Minor: Accounting	2012–2016

TECHNICAL & ANALYTICAL SKILLS

Econometric Analysis	Panel-data modeling, program evaluation, and production efficiency analysis
Risk & Insurance Analysis	Weather-risk measurement, insurance performance, and coverage selection
Geospatial & Survey Analysis	Spatial data integration, geocoding, satellite and weather data, and producer surveys
Programming & Data Tools	R, Python, Stata, SQL, Excel, MATLAB, SAS
Machine Learning	Regression, classification, clustering, and model evaluation

Publications and research available at wajdibelgacem.com and on [Google Scholar](#).