

Robert H. Craven

Associate Director, Center for Farm Financial Management
Extension Professor
Department of Applied Economics
University of Minnesota

130 Ruttan Hall
1994 Buford Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
(612) 625-6701

rcraven@umn.edu
<http://cffm.umn.edu>
Fax: 612-625-3105

Education

M.S. Agricultural Economics, University of Minnesota, 1981.
B.S. Animal Science, University of Minnesota, 1978, With Honors.

Work Experience

2020 - present Associate Director, Center for Farm Financial Management, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota.

1997 - 2020 Director, Center for Farm Financial Management, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota.

1996 - present Extension Professor, University of Minnesota Extension, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota.

1982 - 1995 Extension Educator, various ranks, Minnesota Extension Service, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota.

Extension Teaching

Educational activities include teaching the principles of farm financial management, the use of computerized farm management tools, and grain marketing to Extension Educators, Extension Specialists, agricultural lenders, community college agriculture instructors and farm managers.

Served as instructor or presenter in over 500 educational workshops and conferences.

Educational Program and Software Development

FINPACK FINPACK, A Farm Financial Planning and Analysis System. Used by over 2,000 lenders and educators with about 50,000 producers annually.

Extension Risk Management Education CFFM provides national technology support for ERME and its four regional centers. It includes developing and managing the Ag Risk & Farm Management Library (agrisk.umn.edu), the national ERME website (ExtensionRME.org), and the online proposal and reporting system used by the program.

FINBIN CFFM's farm financial benchmarking effort facilitates collaboration among 15 state farm management associations and provides FINBIN (finbin.umn.edu), the largest publicly available farm financial benchmarking database in the U.S. Over 45,000 reports were generated on the site last year.

AgPlan CFFM developed and supports AgPlan, an online tool to help farmers, fishermen and small businesses develop business plan. It includes an outline, tips, resources and samples. Over 6,000 plans were started in AgPlan last year.

FarmAnswers In 2016 CFFM launched FarmAnswers.org, the NIFA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program (BFRDP) clearinghouse. The purpose of the clearinghouse is to provide a source of resources for new and beginning farmers. FarmAnswers includes a library of resources, list of programs, tool boxes, blogs and news, and a searchable database of NIFA BFRDP funded projects

Minnesota Crop Insurance Conference Co-lead this annual two day conference. The attendance has been over 550 the past seven years.

Select Recent Publications

Craven, Robert H.; Nordquist, Dale W.; Klair, Kevin; Loppnow, Rann R.; Richardson, D. Wynn; Nordquist, David. FINPACK Release 6.0.0. St. Paul, MN: University of Minnesota, Center for Farm Financial Management, 2019. 1 cd-rom disk

Nordquist, Dale W.; Loppnow, Rann R.; Richardson, D. Wynn; Craven, Robert H.; Nordquist, David. RankEm / Portfolio Risk Analyst Release 5.5.0. St. Paul, MN: University of Minnesota, Center for Farm Financial Management, 2019. 1 cd-rom disk

Balance Sheets, Income Statements & Cash Flows (PowerPoint)

Craven, Robert.

First Dakota, Agrivision Beginning Farmer Program, March 2019, Mitchell, SD, 2019.

Extension & Partner Response to Farm Financial Situation and Mental Health Stress (PowerPoint)

Craven, Robert.

Cooperative Extension National C-FAR presentation to US House and Senate ag staffers, June 2019, Washington, DC, 2019.

Credit Analysis From Cash To Accrual (PowerPoint)

Craven, Robert, Van Nurden, Pauline.

Iowa Agricultural Credit School, June 2019, Ames, IA, 2019.

The Numbers and Beyond: Traits of Successful Farms (PowerPoint)

Craven, Robert, Van Nurden, Pauline.

National Agricultural Bankers Conference, November 2019, Dallas, TX, 2019.

Awards

AAEA Distinguished Extension Group Award, Center for Farm Financial Management, 2017.

Distinguished Staff Award, University of Minnesota College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences Alumni Society, 2017.

University of Minnesota Extension Dean's Award for Distinguished Team, Farm Bill Education Team, 2015.

AAEA Extension Section Outstanding Electronic Media Education Award, AgPlan, 2014.

AAEA Distinguished Extension Group Award, Winning the Game, 2004.

U of MN Extension Distinguished Extension Team, Winning the Game, 2004.

Other Activities

I continued to be heavily involved in the family farm in southwestern Minnesota. It is a cash grain operation with 900 acres of corn and soybeans. I am the primary manager of the business and use most of the computer tools the Center develops. These tools continue to be one of the essential ingredients in the management of the business. This has been very important in helping me be more effective in my role in Extension. I not only work with farmers, but I am directly involved in the management of a farming operation facing today's challenges in agriculture.

Grant Award Summary for Robert H. Craven

Grant Amount	Grant Sponsor	Grant Title	Start Date	End Date
\$ 476,322	USDA-NIFA	Innovating to Expand Farm Financial Management and Benchmarking	09/01/2016	08/31/2018
\$ 451,749	USDA-NIFA	Expanding the Diversity of Farm Financial Benchmarking	09/01/2017	08/31/2019
\$ 388,693	USDA-NIFA	Enhancing the Value of the National Farm Financial Benchmarking Database	09/01/2018	08/31/2020
\$ 2,882,304	USDA-NIFA	Digital Center for Risk Management Education	09/01/2018	08/31/2023
\$ 800,000	USDA-NIFA	Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Clearinghouse	09/01/2019	08/31/2023
\$ 490,360	USDA-NIFA	Expanding Farm Financial Benchmarking Database Partnerships	09/01/2019	08/31/2021
\$ 459,482	USDA-NIFA	Expanding the Farm Financial Benchmarking Database	09/01/2020	08/31/2022

Robert Craven Bio

Robert Craven is an Extension Economist and Associate Director of the Center for Farm Financial Management, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota. Areas of specialty include business management, credit analysis and grain marketing. His work for the Center has focused on development of [FINPACK](#), nationally recognized ag credit analysis software. In addition, he has led a number of USDA projects that have developed practical tools and websites for farmers and the professionals who serve them. He has been an invited speaker at numerous conferences and seminars including the National ABA Ag Bankers Conference and the USDA Ag Outlook Forum. He has taught over 450 workshops on farm management and marketing.

Bob Craven is also actively involved in a 1,200 acre family farming operation in southwestern Minnesota.