

# Chris Morris

## Curriculum Vitae

Iowa State University  
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### Research Interests

Factors influencing conservation practice adoption; public perceptions of sustainable agriculture; agricultural and environmental program and policy evaluation; trauma, inequality, and food justice in the U.S. food and agricultural system; human dimensions of climate change mitigation.

### Education

- **Ph.D. Candidate (ABD) Co-major in Rural Sociology and Sustainable Agriculture** **2020 – Present**  
Iowa State University, Ames, IA  
Major Professor: Dr. J. Arbuckle  
**Expected Graduation Date: May 2023**
- **M.S. Co-major in Rural Sociology and Sustainable Agriculture** **2018 – 2020**  
Iowa State University, Ames, IA  
Major Professor: Dr. J. Arbuckle  
Thesis Title: *Conservation plans and targeted conservation: Investigating two approaches to improving farmer practice adoption*
- **B.S. in Range Science** **1999 – 2003**  
Montana State University. Bozeman, MT

### Awards and Honors

- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Ph.D. winner, Three Minute Thesis competition, Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture Symposium **2022**
- Robert A. Sloan Graduate Award in Sustainable Agriculture **2021**
- Marvin B. Lind Scholarship in Rural Sociology **2021**
- 1<sup>st</sup> place Ph.D. winner, Three Minute Thesis competition, Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture Symposium **2021**
- Iowa State University Research Excellence Award—Master’s Thesis **2020**
- Marvin B. Lind Scholarship in Rural Sociology **2019**

## Career Experience

### ➤ **Rangeland Management Specialist**

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Bastrop, TX **2008 – 2018**
- Austin, TX **2005 – 2008**
- Pleasanton, TX **2003 – 2005**
- Developed conservation plans and provided technical assistance to over 1,000 farmers and ranchers to address their soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource concerns on conventional row crop farms, organic vegetable farms, livestock operations, and wildlife habitat management areas.
- Administered all aspects of over 200 USDA Farm Bill conservation cost-share program contracts including application, ranking, contract development, implementation, certification, payment, and evaluation.
- Conducted over 200 farm-wide environmental impact assessments to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal environmental laws and compliance with EPA endangered species regulations.
- Worked with multiple stakeholder partners to achieve conservation goals including city and county governments, county extension, state agriculture and wildlife agencies, and federal agencies.
- Supervised a four-employee field office for six months.

## Publications

### ➤ **Refereed Publications, Technical Reports, and Other Publications**

- Ranjan, P., Usher, E., Bates, H., Zimmerman, E., Tyndall, J., **Morris, C.**, Koontz, T.M. and Prokopy, L., 2022. Understanding barriers and opportunities for diffusion of an agricultural decision-support tool: An organizational perspective. *Journal of Hydrology*, p.127584. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2022.127584>
- **Morris, C.** and Arbuckle, J. 2021. Do conservation plans make a difference?: Evidence from Iowa farmers. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. 76 (5), 457-471. <https://doi.org/10.2489/jswc.2021.00166>
- **Morris, C.**, Arbuckle, J.G., DeLong, C., and Lindahl, C. 2021. Supporting on-the-ground conservationists: The Conservation Practitioner Poll. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. 76 (5), 92A-94A. <https://doi.org/10.2489/jswc.2021.0827A>
- **Morris, C.**, J.G. Arbuckle, C. DeLong, and C. Lindahl. 2021. Conservation Practitioner Poll 2021 Summary Report. Ankeny, IA: Soil and Water Conservation Society. <https://www.swcs.org/resources/publications/2021-conservation-practitioner-poll>
- **Morris, C.** 2021. A precision method for meeting natural resource goals. Pages 16-17. In Blauwet, M., McDermott, M., Morris, C., Muench, R., and Platner, E. (eds.) *Getting Into Soil and Water 2021*. Iowa Water Center. Ames, IA.

- **Morris, C.** 2020. Factors that influence farmer adoption of conservation practices. Pages 4-5. In Wright, J., Breja, S., and Hunter, J. (eds.) *Getting Into Soil and Water 2020*. Iowa Water Center. Ames, IA.
- **Morris, C.** 2019. Sociology and conservation: Seeing things from a farmer's perspective. Pages 18-19. In Wright, J., Breja, S., and Hunter, J. (eds.) *Getting Into Soil and Water 2019*. Iowa Water Center. Ames, IA

➤ **Manuscripts Under Review and In Development**

- Wald, D., Coberly, D., **Morris, C.**, Arbuckle, J. Stakeholder perspectives on sustainable agricultural transitions in Iowa. *Society and Natural Resources*. [Submitted]
- **Morris, C.**, Arbuckle, J., and Tyndall, J. Investigating Iowa farmers' acceptance of targeted conservation approaches over time. [In preparation]
- **Morris, C.**, Arbuckle, J. The effects of collective trauma on Iowa farmers. [In preparation]
- **Morris, C.**, Arbuckle, J. Learning from conservation practitioners: A mixed methods analysis of conservation delivery systems. [In preparation]

➤ **Press**

- Blair, M. 2021. Former Texas NRCS employee researches what influences adoption of conservation practices. *Texas NRCS Newsletter*. October 10, 2021. [https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFARMERS/bulletins/2f0c1ef#link\\_24](https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFARMERS/bulletins/2f0c1ef#link_24)
- Soil and Water Conservation Society. 2021. Results from new poll offer boots-on-the-ground insight on improving the nation's conservation delivery system. *Soil and Water Conservation Society News*. September 1, 2021. <https://www.swcs.org/resources/news/results-from-new-poll-offer-boots-on-the-ground-insight-on-improving-the-nations-conservation-deliv/>

## **Grants and Fellowships**

- USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) North Central Region Graduate Research Grant "The Effects of Collective Trauma on Iowa Farmers" (Award # GNC21-330) **\$13,618** **2021**
- Brown Graduate Fellowship **\$10,000** **2020**

## **Research Experience**

➤ **Graduate Research Assistant**

**2018 – Present**

- Member of the ISU Consortium for Cultivating Human and Naturally reGenerative Enterprises (C-CHANGE), an interdisciplinary multi-university research team, conducting in-depth semi-structured interviews and analysis of stakeholder perspectives on sustainable agriculture and renewable biofuel value chains.
- Conducted focus groups and co-designed an inaugural survey of conservation professionals across six Midwestern states in an ongoing project partnership with the National Soil and Water Conservation Society.

- Served as an advisor to a multi-university research team conducting a technological readiness assessment for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Investigated the relationship between NRCS conservation plans and farmer adoption of conservation practices using survey data from the Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll (IFRLP).
- Examined change in farmer attitudes over time regarding targeted conservation approaches using survey data from the IFRLP and existing qualitative data from interviews and focus groups with farmers.
- Explored how farmers' experiences of collective trauma affect farm-level decision-making processes through in-depth interviews and a set of survey questions developed for the IFRLP.

➤ **Undergraduate Research Assistant** **1999 – 2003**

- Investigated the plant community and wildlife usage effects of various chemical brush management techniques on endangered Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat. Work conducted with the Colorado State University Mountain Meadow Research Center in Gunnison, CO.
- Developed new varieties of alfalfa for feedstock using greenhouse pollination and research plot field cultivation. Work conducted with the Montana State University Department of Animal and Range Science and the Agriculture Extension Service in Bozeman, MT.

## Teaching and Mentoring Experience

➤ **Instructor of Record**

- *SOC 382: Environmental Sociology*, Iowa State University **Spring 2022**

➤ **Guest Lecturer**

- “Social Inequality in the Global Food System” for *AGRON 342: World Food Issues*, Iowa State University. **Fall 2022**
- “The Conservation Practitioner Poll: Giving Conservationists a Voice.” 2021 Iowa Watershed Academy, Granger, IA. **Fall 2021**
- “A Mixed Methods Approach to Rural Sociological Research” for *SOC 302: Research Methods for the Social Sciences*, Iowa State University. **Fall 2021**
- “Sociological Issues in Agriculture” for *SOC 235: Social Problems and American Values*, Iowa State University. **Fall 2020**

➤ **Undergraduate Student Mentoring** **Spring 2022 – Spring 2023**

- Individually mentored 28 students (outside of class) from the SOC 382 course I taught regarding future course selection, academic success, and career options and strategies.
- Informally mentored 10 students from the ISU Soil and Water Conservation Club regarding career options and strategies.
- Currently serving as an informal mentor for the Agriculture and Rural Policy Studies major at ISU.

➤ **Graduate Student Mentoring** **Fall 2022**

- Currently informally mentoring one international graduate student co-majoring in Rural Sociology and Sustainable Agriculture at ISU.

- **Professional Mentoring** **2004 -- 2014**
  - Formally mentored seven new-hire trainees for the USDA-NRCS.
- **Workshop Leader** **2003 – 2018**
  - Led over 200 hours of workshops for K-12 students, farmers, and the general public on a variety of educational topics related to soil and water conservation.

## **Professional Presentations**

- **National & Regional Conference Presentations**
  - Morris, C., (Arbuckle, J.). “The Effects of Collective Trauma on Iowa Farmers” 2022 Rural Sociology Society Conference, Denver, CO. August 4, 2022.
  - Morris, C., (Arbuckle, J.). “Getting Conservation on the Ground: A Mixed Methods Analysis of Conservation Delivery Systems” 2022 Soil and Water Conservation Society National Conference, Denver, CO. July 31, 2022.
  - Morris, C., (Arbuckle, J.). “The Effects of Collective Trauma on Iowa Farmers” 2022 Agriculture, Food, and Human Values/Association for the Study of Food and Society Conference. May 21, 2022.
  - Morris, C., (Arbuckle, J.). “The Effects of Collective Trauma on Iowa Farmers” (Poster) 2022 Midwest Sociological Society Conference. April 14, 2022.
  - Morris, C., (Arbuckle, J., Tyndall, J.). “Investigating Iowa Farmers’ Acceptance of Targeted Conservation Approaches Over Time” 2020 Rural Sociological Society Graduate Student National Conference, Virtual Meeting. October 26, 2020.
  - Morris, C. (Arbuckle, J., Tyndall, J.). “Investigating Iowa Farmers’ Acceptance of Targeted Conservation Approaches Over Time” 2020 Soil and Water Conservation Society National Conference, Virtual Meeting. July 29, 2020.
  - Morris, C. (Arbuckle, J., Tyndall, J.). “Investigating Iowa Farmers’ Acceptance of Targeted Conservation Approaches Over Time” Research Poster. 2020 Midwest Sociological Society Conference, Omaha, NE. [Cancelled due to Covid-19]
  - Morris, C., (Arbuckle, J.). “Do Conservation Plans Make A Difference?: Evidence From Iowa Farmers” 2019 Soil and Water Conservation Society National Conference, Pittsburg, PA. July 30, 2019.
- **Local Conference Presentations**
  - Morris, C., (Arbuckle, J.). “Iowa Farmers and Targeted Conservation: Investigating Changes in Support Over Time” 2021 Iowa Water Conference, Ames, IA. April 9, 2021.
  - Morris, C., (Arbuckle, J.). “Investigating Iowa Farmers’ Acceptance of Targeted Conservation Approaches Over Time” 2020 ISU C-Change Conference on Science for a Changing Agriculture, Des Moines, IA. [Cancelled due to Covid-19]

- Morris, C., (Arbuckle, J.). “Investigating Iowa Farmers’ Acceptance of Targeted Conservation Approaches Over Time” 2020 Iowa Water Conference, Ames, IA. [Cancelled due to Covid-19]
- Morris, C., (Arbuckle, J.). “Do Conservation Plans Make A Difference?: Evidence From Iowa Farmers” 2019 Iowa Water Conference, Ames, IA. March 12, 2019.

## **Certificates and Trainings**

- Rural Sociological Society Teaching Professional Development Certificate **2022**
- Midwest Sociological Society/AKD Certificate of Teaching and Learning **2022**
- Preparing Future Faculty Scholar **2021 – 2022**
- Graduate Student Teaching Certificate **2021 – 2022**
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Educator Training **2021 – 2022**
- Annual Inclusive Classroom Training **2021 – 2022**
- 2-hour weekly seminar on grounded theory **2021 – Present**
- 1-hour weekly Project LEA/RN teaching workshop **2021 – Present**
- 8-hour seminar series on grant writing **2019**
- 9-hour seminar series on research writing **2019**

## **Service**

### ➤ **Institutional**

- Member of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean’s Graduate Student Advisory Council **Fall 2022**
- Graduate Program Development Committee
  - Graduate Student Representative **Fall 2022 – Spring 2023**  
(Sociology and Criminal Justice Department)
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee
  - Graduate Student Representative **Fall 2021 – Spring 2022**  
(Sociology and Criminal Justice Department)
- ISU Graduate and Professional Student Senate
  - Senator **Fall 2019 – Spring 2020**  
(Representing Sociology and Criminal Justice Department)

- Personnel Committee
  - Graduate Student Representative (Sociology and Criminal Justice Department) **Fall 2019 – Spring 2020**
  
- ISU Sustainable Agriculture Student Association
  - **Co-President** **2021**
  - **Treasurer** **2019 – 2020**
  - Food At First Garden Subcommittee Member **2019 – Present**
  - Constitution Committee Member **2022**
  - **Conference Funding Committee Chair** **2021**
  
- ISU Graduate Students in Sociology
  - **President** **Fall 2020 – Spring 2021**
  - **Vice President** **Fall 2019 – Spring 2020**
  - Constitution Committee Member **Summer 2022**
  - Awards Banquet Planning Committee Member **Fall 2019 – Spring 2020**
  - Personnel Committee Member **Fall 2019 – Spring 2020**
  
- ISU Soil and Water Conservation Club
  - **Lead Editor** for *Getting into Soil and Water* Publication **2020**
  - Member of Editing Team for *Getting into Soil and Water* Publication **2019**
  
- **Professional**
  - Reviewer for *Land Use Policy* Journal **2021**
  
  - Soil and Water Conservation Society
    - Iowa Chapter Student Activities Committee Member **2018 – 2021**
    - Conference Session Moderator **2019 – 2022**
  
  - Agriculture and Human Values Society
    - Conference Session Moderator **2022**
  
  - Practical Farmers of Iowa
    - Regional Grazing Group Initiative Project Partner **2019**
    - Conference Session Moderator **2018 – 2020**
  
- **Community**
  - Food At First meal and food pantry volunteer **2018 – Present**
  
  - Food At First Garden volunteer **2020 – Present**

## **Professional Affiliations**

- American Sociological Society
  - Environmental Sociology Section
  
- Rural Sociological Society
  - Sociology of Agriculture and Food Research and Interest Group
  - Natural Resources Research and Interest Group

- Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society
- Soil and Water Conservation Society
- Midwest Sociological Society
- Alpha Kappa Delta International Honors Society of Sociology
- Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture
- Practical Farmers of Iowa

## **Software**

- SPSS, AMOS, R, Stata, Mplus, JMP, NVivo, ArcGIS, Microsoft Office Suite