

D. Harshanee Jayasekera

Post-doctoral Research Associate, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute

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[LinkedIn](#)

Education

- Ph.D. Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Economics, and Demography, Pennsylvania State University, 2022
- MS. Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University, 2016
- BA. Economics (Hons.), University of Colombo (Sri Lanka), 2013

Professional Experience

- 2022-Present – Post-doctoral Research Associate, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

Selected Outputs:

Publications and Multimedia

Journal articles, book chapters, reports

2024

- **Jayasekera, D.H.**, Powers, C., Aiken, J.D., Schoengold, K., and Rimšaitė, R., September 2024. “Nitrate contamination in Nebraska’s drinking water.” *The Water Report*, 247, 1–11.

2023

- **Jayasekera, D.H.**, Rimšaitė, R., and Bell, J.E., August 2023. “Nitrate contamination in drinking water.” *The Actuary*, <https://www.theactuarmagazine.org/nitrate-contamination-in-drinking-water/>.

Briefs, infographics, blogs, newsletters

2024

- **Jayasekera, D.H.**, February 2024. “Nitrate trends in domestic wells in Nebraska.” Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2024/02/nitrate-trends-in-domestic-wells-in-nebraska>.

2023

- Barry A., Keza, O., Williss, R., Rimšaitė, R., **Jayasekera, H.**, and Brozović, N., November 2023. “Private well water in Nebraska.” Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/-/media/projects/dwfi/news/2023/reducing-nitrate-intake/2023-11-07_privatewellmanagersgraphic.pdf.
- **Jayasekera, D.H.**, September 2023. “Nitrate management in Nebraska community water systems is a complex issue.” Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2023/08/nitrate-management-in-nebraska-community-water-systems-is-a-complex-issue>.

Videos and Podcasts

2023

- Featured researcher, LinkedIn video clip about the economics of nitrate contamination in Nebraska. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, December 2023, https://www.linkedin.com/posts/waterforfood_economic-nitrate-groundwater-activity-7142876288893001729-6QQD?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop.

Presentations and Engagements

2024

- “The Impact of USDA Disaster Designations on Farmland Values in the United States” (Co-authors: A. Melkani and T. Mieno). Poster presentation at Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, July 2024, New Orleans, LA.
- “Environmental justice implications of nitrate contamination in drinking water in Nebraska.” Invited presentation for the 3rd International Conference on Sustainable Groundwater in Agriculture, June 2024, San Francisco, CA.
- “Health-based water quality advisories and implications for recreational fishing in Nebraska.” Selected paper presentation at the Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting, March 2024, Chicago, IL.
- “Health and economic cost of groundwater nitrate contamination in Nebraska.” Invited presentation for ENV 970 Weekly Student Seminar, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, February 2024, Omaha, NE.

2023

- “Environmental justice implications from drinking water nitrate contamination in Nebraska.” Poster presenter at American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting, December 2023, San Francisco, CA.
- “The Economic Impact of Nitrate Contamination in Drinking Water.” Speaker at The UNMC Water, Climate and Health Program Research Seminar Series, December 2023, Omaha, NE.
- “The economic cost of groundwater nitrate contamination in Nebraska.” Nebraska Water Center Spring Seminar, March 2023, Lincoln, NE.

Selected External Support:

- Evaluating the relationships of environmental exposures to pediatric cancer in the central United States, Rimšaitė, R. (PI) and **Jayasekera, D.H.** (co-PI), *College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center*, \$23,509; 2024.
- Health and economic impact analysis of nitrate contamination of groundwater in Nebraska, Rimšaitė, R. (PI) and **Jayasekera, D.H.** (co-PI), *College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center*, \$100,000; 2022-2025.

Selected Professional Development, Awards, Media Coverage:

Professional Development, Mentoring, Board Engagement

- Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis, Online Workshop Valuing Nonmarket Benefits, 2023.
- Transferring Your Research into Teaching, Certificate from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2023.

Media Coverage

- “Water experts encourage partnerships to address climate change.” Courthouse News Service; June 18 2024, available at: <https://www.courthousenews.com/water-experts-encourage-partnerships-to-address-climate-change/>.