

## Renata Rimšaitė

Senior Program Manager, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute

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### Education

- Ph.D. Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Economics, Pennsylvania State University, 2017
- B.S. Economics, Frostburg State University, 2011
- B.A. Law, Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania), 2007

### Professional Experience

- 2022-Present – Senior Program Manager and Research Assistant Professor, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska
- 2024-Present – Research Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2019-2022 – Water Markets Program Manager, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska; National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2018-2019 – Postdoctoral Scholar, Pennsylvania State University

### Selected Outputs:

#### **Publications and Multimedia**

*Journal articles, book chapters, reports*

#### **2026**

- Goncalves, I.Z., Neale, C.M.U., Jardim, T.M., Bispo, R.C., Ritzema, R., and **Rimšaitė, R.**, 2026. “Irrigated agriculture in the United States: Current status and future frontiers.” *Agricultural Water Management*, 328, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agwat.2026.110319>.

#### **2025**

- **Rimšaitė, R.**, 2025. “Water governance to increase agricultural resilience.” *PLOS Water*, 4(12): e0000470, <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pwat.0000470>.
- Jayasekera, D.H., Munde, S., Snow, D.D., and **Rimšaitė, R.**, 2025. “Trends in nitrate contamination: Implications for communities reliant on groundwater for drinking.” *Environmental Research Communications*, 7(8), <https://doi.org/10.1088/2515-7620/adf60e>.

#### **2024**

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

#### **2023**

- Jayasekera, D.H., **Rimšaitė, R.**, and Bell, J.E., 2023. “Nitrate contamination in drinking water.” *The Actuary*, <https://www.theactuarymagazine.org/nitrate-contamination-in-drinking-water/>.
- Garrick, D., Balasubramanya, S., Beresford, M., Wutich, A., Gilson, G.G., Jorgensen, I., Brozović, N., Cox, M., Dai, X., Erfurth, S., **Rimšaitė, R.**, Svensson, J., Jones, J.T., Unnikrishnan, H., Wight, C., Villamayor-Tomas, S., and Mendoza, K.V., 2023. “A systems perspective on water markets: Barriers, bright spots, and

building blocks for the next generation.” *Environmental Research Letters*, 18(3), <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/acb227>.

- **Rimšaitė, R.** and Brozović, N., 2023. “Groundwater development paths in the U.S. High Plains.” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Water Resources Management and Policy*. Oxford University Press, <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199389414.013.832>.
- **Rimšaitė, R.** and Brozović, N., 2023. “Groundwater transfers in Nebraska.” Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://docs.nebraska.edu/dwfi/reports-and-working-papers/Groundwater%20Transfers%20in%20Nebraska.pdf>.

## 2022

- **Rimšaitė, R.**, Brozović, N., Munezero, S., and Hayes, F., 2022. “Statewide groundwater management through local conservation districts,” Case study 6: United States (Nebraska), World Wildlife Fund, Washington, DC, <https://www.worldwildlife.org/publications/sustainable-groundwater-management-for-agriculture>.

## 2021

- Oamek, G. and **Rimšaitė, R.**, 2021. "Economic impact of the irrigation equipment and services industry." Irrigation Association and Irrigation Innovation Consortium, <https://www.irrigation.org/IA/Advocacy/Research-Reports/Economic-Impact-Study/IA/Advocacy/Economic-Impact-Study.aspx>.
- **Rimšaitė, R.**, Gibson, J., and Brozović, N., 2021. "Informing drought mitigation policy by estimating the value of water for crop production." *Environmental Research Communications*, 3(4), <https://doi.org/10.1088/2515-7620/abf160>.

## Briefs, infographics, blogs, newsletters

## 2026

- **Rimšaitė R.**, April 2026. “Crop diversity as an economic water strategy.” *Irrigation Today*, Economy column, <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/crop-diversity-as-an-economic-water-strategy/>.
- **Rimšaitė R.**, January 2026. “Building resilience when rain can’t be trusted.” *Irrigation Today*, Economy column, <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/building-resilience-when-rain-cant-be-trusted/>.

## 2025

- Cobbing, J., Knutson, C., and **Rimšaitė, R.**, December 2025. “Agriculture and water rights on tribal lands in the United States.” Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2025/12/agriculture-and-water-rights-on-tribal-lands-in-the-united-states>.
- **Rimšaitė R.**, November 2025. “The economic impact of regulatory water policy tools.” *Irrigation Today*, Economy column, <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/the-economic-impact-of-regulatory-water-policy-tools/>.
- Williss, R., **Rimšaitė, R.**, Aiken, D., Knutson, C., and Brozović, N., 2025. “Primary water rights systems in the United States,” Infographic. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://go.unl.edu/water-rights>.
- **Rimšaitė R.**, August 2025. “Irrigation technology development and adoption challenges.” *Irrigation Today*, Economy column, <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/irrigation-technology-development-and-adoption-challenges/>.
- Williss, R., **Rimšaitė R.**, Melkani, A., Brozović, N., 2025. “Irrigation and yield stability,” Infographic. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://go.unl.edu/irrigation-yield>.
- Gerlach, C. and **Rimšaitė R.**, June 2025. “Huskers tackle global irrigation challenges through immersive trip to Ghana.” *Nebraska Today*, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, <https://news.unl.edu/article/huskers-tackle-global-irrigation-challenges-through-immersive-trip-to-ghana>.
- Williss, R., **Rimšaitė R.**, Melkani, A., Brozović, N., 2025. “Commonly irrigated crops in the US,” Infographic. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://go.unl.edu/irrigated-crops>.

- Williss, R., **Rimšaitė R.**, Melkani, A., Brozović, N., 2025. “Common irrigation methods in the US,” Infographic. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://go.unl.edu/irrigation-methods>.
- **Rimšaitė R.**, May 2025. “Considering energy costs in irrigated agriculture.” *Irrigation Today*, Economy column, <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/considering-energy-costs-in-irrigated-agriculture/>.
- Melkani, A., **Rimšaitė R.**, Brozović, N., and Mieno T., March 2025. “Economic impact of groundwater regulation: Case study of Nebraska.” Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2025/03/economic-impact-of-groundwater-regulation-case-study-of-nebraska>.
- **Rimšaitė R.**, January 2025. “Navigating legal systems for sustainable water use.” *Irrigation Today*, Economy column, <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/navigating-legal-systems-for-sustainable-water-use/>.

## 2024

- **Rimšaitė R.**, December 2024. “Irrigated agriculture and rural economies.” *Irrigation Today*, Economy column, <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/irrigated-agriculture-and-rural-economies/>.
- **Rimšaitė R.** and Mieno, T., November 2024. “Testing micro-credential courses to offer new opportunities for learners and instructors.” Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2024/11/testing-micro-credential-courses-to-offer-new-opportunities-for-learners-and-instructors>.
- **Rimšaitė R.**, August 2024. “Designing frameworks for water transfers.” *Irrigation Today*, Economy column, <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/designing-frameworks-for-water-transfers/>.
- **Rimšaitė R.**, April 2024. “Toward alignment of water users’ goals.” *Irrigation Today*, Economy column, <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/toward-alignment-of-water-users-goals/>.
- **Rimšaitė R.**, January 2024. “Investing to lower water risk in agriculture.” *Irrigation Today*, Economy column, <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/investing-to-lower-water-risk-in-agriculture/>.

## 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/resources/institute-resources/2023-11-07\\_privatewellmanagersgraphic.pdf](https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/resources/institute-resources/2023-11-07_privatewellmanagersgraphic.pdf).
- Brozović, N. and **Rimšaitė R.**, November 2023. “Sneak peek – groundwater policy research in progress.” Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2023/11/sneak-peek--groundwater-policy-research-in-progress>.
- **Rimšaitė R.**, November 2023. “Searching for agricultural water management solutions.” *Irrigation Today*, Economy column, <https://irrigationtoday.org/features/searching-for-agricultural-water-management-solutions/>.
- Williss R., **Rimšaitė R.**, Melkani, A., and Brozović, N., 2023. “Agricultural water use in the United States,” Infographic, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/resources/reports-and-working-papers/agricultural-water-use-in-the-united-states.pdf>.
- Williss R., **Rimšaitė R.**, Melkani, A., and Brozović, N., 2023. “Agricultural water use trends in the United States,” Infographic, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/resources/reports-and-working-papers/agricultural-water-use-trends-in-the-united-states.pdf>.

## 2022

- **Rimšaitė R.**, and Brozović, N., September 2022. “Agricultural groundwater transfers in Nebraska: Decision process for buyers & sellers.” Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/files/docs/agricultural-groundwater-transfers-in-nebraska.pdf>.
- **Rimšaitė R.**, Munezero, S., and Brozović, N., 2021-2022. “Transferring groundwater in the High Plains.” Infographic series, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/our-work/research-and-policy/transferring-groundwater-in-the-high-plains>.

- **Rimšaitė, R.**, (ed.), 2020-2022. “Drought, Water, Health and Economics.” Monthly newsletter, Issue 19, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://conta.cc/3DG3mRs>.

#### 2021

- **Rimšaitė, R.** and Brozović, N., April 2021. "Experiences using economic incentives to support the Platte River ecosystem." Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2021/04/experiences-using-economic-incentives-to-support-the-platte-river-ecosystem>.

#### *Videos and podcasts*

#### 2026

- Guest host (with M. Beaman and J. Schneider). “Locally led strategies for protecting groundwater resources.” Daugherty Water for Food Podcast, episode 51, March 2026, <https://dwffpodcast.libsyn.com/51-locally-led-strategies-for-protecting-groundwater-resources>.

#### 2024

- Featured researcher (with I. Zution Goncalves; host A.Elnes). “Navigating Climate Change in Nebraska.” Daugherty Water for Food Podcast, episode 39, November 2024, <https://dwffpodcast.libsyn.com/39-navigating-climate-change-in-nebraska>.
- Host, YouTube video with intern Ally Barry. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, May 2024 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SRS\\_SyeNmk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SRS_SyeNmk).

#### 2023

- Featured researcher, LinkedIn video clip about Nebraska’s water transfers and management. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, September 2023, [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/waterforfood\\_watertransfers-watermanagement-drought-activity-7103044700126814210-nqUO?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/waterforfood_watertransfers-watermanagement-drought-activity-7103044700126814210-nqUO?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop).
- Featured researcher, LinkedIn video clip about incentive-based water management. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, August 2023, [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/waterforfood\\_incentivebased-watermanagement-watermarkets-activity-7101956863428096001-okfQ?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/waterforfood_incentivebased-watermanagement-watermarkets-activity-7101956863428096001-okfQ?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop).
- Host, YouTube video interview with interns Ally Barry and Ornella Uwayo Keza. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, February 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvgLj18e7u4>.

#### 2022

- Featured researcher, podcast about incentive-based water management. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, October 2022, <https://dwffpodcast.libsyn.com/18-renata-rimait-dwfi-and-national-drought-mitigation-center>.

#### 2021

- Host, YouTube video interview with intern Sarah Munezero. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, May 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neFQUHteG40>.

#### **Presentations and Engagements**

#### 2026

- “Groundwater transfers in the High Plains region: Examples from Nebraska and Kansas.” Invited speaker, virtual, March 27 2026, Spatial Considerations for Local Groundwater Markets workshop, University of California, Berkeley.
- “College of Arts and Sciences Majors at Work.” Invited representative of the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, career event, March 24 2026, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln.

## 2025

- “Groundwater governance in Nebraska.” Speaker for a State Department delegation from Egypt, UAE, Iraq, Bahrain, Israel, Oct 7 2025, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Lincoln, NE.
- “Surface water.” Moderator, Sep 19 2025, The Great Plains Water Conference, Omaha, NE.
- “Water smart communities.” Moderator, Sep 18 2025, The Great Plains Water Conference, Omaha, NE.
- “Economic considerations for thriving in a changing climate.” Invited panelist, Sep 9 2025, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Washington, DC.
- “Water for food in a changing climate: Pathways to adaptation and mitigation – System level policies and partnerships.” Session chair and host, Aug 26 2025, World Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden.
- “Water management challenges and solutions in agriculture across aquifers.” Invited panelist at the joint University Council of Water Resources and National Institutes for Water Resources conference, June 4 2025, Minneapolis, MN.
- “Indigenous communities and water: Navigating challenges and ensuring access.” Organizer, Water for Food Global Conference, April 30 2025, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Lincoln, NE.
- “Water risk: How shifting irrigation patterns affect rural economies.” Organizer, Water for Food Global Conference, April 29 2025, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Lincoln, NE.
- Ghana study tour for Yeutter Institute undergraduate student fellows. Organizer (with E. Anders, N. Brozović, J. Cobbing, C. Gerlach, N. Lefore), March 15-22 2025, Ghana.

## 2024

- “The structure of the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute.” Invited panelist at the 2<sup>nd</sup> “Harnessing the Heartland” meeting, Sep 10 2024, Iowa City, IA.
- “Water governance in the US.” Speaker for a visiting delegation from the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program, July 30 2024, Lincoln, NE.
- “Adaptable water management tools: Groundwater transfers in Nebraska.” Invited guest speaker at the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy, July 12 2024, Scottsbluff, NE.
- “Water use trends, risk, and governance in agriculture.” Speaker for a visiting delegation from Bahia state, Brazil, July 11 2024, Lincoln, NE.
- “Agricultural water use, hydrology, and policy trends: Challenges and insights for action.” Invited Nature Hub session organizer & speaker (with N. Brozović), 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, May 20 2024, Bali, Indonesia.
- Invited keynote panelist at the 2024 DWFI Student Research Forum, April 17 2024, Lincoln, NE.
- “Groundwater use for agriculture in the High Plains region and beyond.” Invited seminar speaker (with R. Williss) at the National Center for Alluvial Aquifer Research Seminar Series hosted by USDA-ARS Sustainable Water Management Research Unit and Mississippi State University, April 3 2024, Stoneville, MS.
- “Understanding Ogallala region cross-cutting risk: Water, climate, and the economy.” Invited panelist at the 2024 Ogallala Summit, March 18-19 2024, Liberal, KS.
- “Groundwater governance in Nebraska.” Speaker for visiting delegation from Japan, Feb 1 2024, Lincoln, NE.

## 2023

- “Food security and climate change.” Invited guest lecture, virtual, Oct 4 2023, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center.
- “Irrigation’s role in sustaining value and mitigating risk.” Invited panelist at the Irrigation Association webinar, July 26 2023, Lincoln, NE.
- “Water markets: Groundwater transfers in Nebraska.” Invited guest speaker at the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy, July 14 2023, Scottsbluff, NE.

- “From policies to practice: Solutions to strengthen global to local drought risk management.” Invited panelist at the Water for Food Global Conference, May 8 2023, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Lincoln, NE.
- “Environmental Roundtable.” Invited panelist at the student government event, April 26 2023, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- “Science & Innovation: Future of Water.” Presenter and moderator for the Earth Day Spring Digital Meeting, U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action, April 20 2023, Lincoln, NE.

## 2022

- “Using incentive-based management tools to help achieve groundwater sustainability goals.” Invited seminar speaker at the Agronomy and Horticulture Seminar Series, Nov 18 2022, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- “How does Nebraska’s water policy compare to other regions in the US?” Invited guest speaker at the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy, Nov 17 2022, Nebraska City, NE.
- “Ag irrigation's role in risk and sustainable water management.” Virtual workshop co-organizer and co-facilitator. Irrigation Innovation Consortium, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, National Drought Mitigation Center, Nov 9 2022, Lincoln, NE.
- “Agricultural water risk. Sustainability-linked finance in agriculture.” Selected presentation at the Conservation Finance Roundtable, Nov 3 2022, Durham, NC.
- “Agricultural groundwater transfers in the High Plains.” Selected presentation at the Sustain Valencia 2022 conference, Oct 8 2022, Valencia, Spain.

## 2021

- "State of local water markets in agriculture: a Nebraska case study." Invited panelist at virtual Water for Food Global Forum, Oct 28 2021, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Lincoln, NE.
- "Experiences using economic incentives to support the Platte River ecosystem." Virtual workshop organizer and facilitator, April 8 2021, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Lincoln, NE.
- "Increasing representation one step at a time." Presentation about the Diversity & Inclusion Committee's work at the School of Natural Resources Winter Seminar Series, Jan 28 2021, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## Selected External Support:

- Economic development and natural resources, Thompson, E. (PI), Schoengold, K., **Rimšaitė, R.**, Jarrett, U., Avileis, F., Herian, M., *Nebraska State Chamber Foundation*, \$250,000, 2025-2026.
- USDA support of the Drought Monitor, Svoboda, M. (PI), Fuchs, B., **Rimšaitė, R.** (economic analysis task lead), Brozović, N., Cobbing, J., Haigh, T., Knutson, C., Mieno, T., Smith, K., Tadesse, T., and Wardlow, B., *USDA-OCE*, \$1,280,000; 2025-2026.
- Central Kansas Water Bank review, **Rimšaitė, R.** (PI), Brozović, N., Cobbing, J., Mieno, T., and Schoengold, K., *Kansas Department of Administration*, \$135,880; 2025-2026.
- USDA support of the US Drought Monitor and hub activities, Svoboda, M. (PI), Fuchs, B., **Rimšaitė, R.** (economic analysis task lead), Haigh, T., Knutson, C., Mieno, T., Smith, K., Tadesse, T., and Wardlow, B., *USDA-OCE*, \$1,275,000; 2024-2025.
- 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.
- USDA support of the US Drought Monitor and hub activities, Svoboda, M. (PI), Fuchs, B., **Rimšaitė, R.** (economic analysis task lead), Bathke, D., Haigh, T., Knutson, C., Mieno, T., Smith, K., and Tadesse, T., *USDA-OCE*, \$1,275,000; 2023-2024.
- 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.

- USDA support for enhancements to the US Drought Monitor and engaging the USDA climate hubs, Svoboda, M. (PI), Fuchs, B., Bathke, D., Haigh, T., Knutson, C., Mieno, T., **Rimšaitė, R.** (economic analysis task lead), Smith, H., Tadesse, T., Wardlow, B., *USDA-OCE*, \$1,325,000; 2022-2023.
- Economics-related assistance for water resource projects, **Rimšaitė, R.** (PI), Brozović, N., and Svoboda, M., *Headwaters Corporation*, \$30,100; 2022.
- Supporting enhancements to the US Drought Monitor, B. Fuchs (PI), Svoboda, M., Bathke, D., Haigh, T., Knutson, C., Mieno, T., **Rimšaitė, R.** (economic analysis task lead), Smith, K., Tadesse, T., and Wardlow, B., *USDA-OCE*, \$1,275,000; 2021-2022.
- Assessment of water markets, Brozović, N. (PI), **Rimšaitė, R.**, Chandra, A., and Gibson, K., [*multinational company*], \$47,400; 2021.
- Economics-related assistance for water resource projects, **Rimšaitė, R.**, (PI), Brozović, N., and Svoboda, M., *Headwaters Corporation*, \$24,200; 2021.

### **Selected Professional Development, Awards, Media Coverage:**

#### **Professional Development, Mentoring, Board Engagement**

- Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Liaison Committee; member, 2025-2028.
- Multistate Research Project W5190: Management and Policy Challenges in a Water-Uncertain World; leadership team, 2025-2028.
- Stockholm World Water Week; co-convener for seminar series, 2025.
- Conservation Finance Boot Camp, Conservation Finance Network, Yale School of the Environment, 2023.
- Nebraska Water Leaders Academy Class X, 2021.

#### **Media Coverage**

- “The truth about how groundwater regulations affect land values,” Nebraska Farmer, June 18, 2025, <https://www.farmprogress.com/farm-policy/nebraskas-groundwater-regulation-model-balancing-farmland-value-and-resource-preservation>.