Yoonsung Jung, PhD, joined the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences as a biometrician/agricultural statistician. Dr. Jung, a native of South Korea, earned his doctorate from Kansas State University in 2009. His dissertation in experimental design specialized in crossover design proved fruitful as he worked as a statistical consultant for the extension research service at KSU for five years. Prior to Prairie View A&M University, Dr. Jung served at Alcorn State University for three years where he taught statistics in undergraduate and graduate studies for the education/psychology department and advanced technology department, respectively.

Having a passion to find new ways to unlock the values of statistics in the minds of students, Dr. Jung has collaborated with Dr. Laura Carson to develop an agricultural statistics curriculum. No matter the career path chosen, students will find themselves faced with decisions and must be able to make an informed decision with the data presented. Thus, this keen insight serves as a useful tool for students and scientists. “But I think these are exciting times, times of expansion and growth. And key to making each project a successful is ensuring that the influx of money is used productively,” insists Dr. Jung.

Although it’s too early for Dr. Jung to say what his priorities will be for CARC, he’s committed to expanding funding for training. Because CARC has collaborative research projects that involve observational data, formulating an analysis plan for all methods of analysis is paramount. He senses strong support from the research director and a great deal of interest from other researcher’s projects. Dr. Jung is generating data analysis and sets with Drs. Gary Newton and Louis Nuti for the international goat research center, while developing data sets and analysis with Dr. Velva McWhinney for a research publication of Oxidative Potential of Available Oils to Consumers Residing Proximity of PVAMU.

Agriculture has always embraced statistical methods. There have been experiments conducted on wheat and the results were studied dating back to 1843. However, in today’s agricultural arena, statistics are used in applications from determining land erosion to observing animal behavior. For example, scientists can record data from a herd to determine a percentage that will defend themselves from predators while others will run away. This data can help scientists predict the herd’s lifestyle and culture.

In ECON 101, the level of productivity is the single most determinant of a country’s standard of living. Dr. Jung wants to ensure proper application in agricultural research and appropriate analytic techniques for research data. Therefore, statistics can change the way we view tomorrow and the way we live today.

*Dr. Jung resides in Cypress with his wife Ryunghee Kim and son Andrew Jung.