

Call for Abstracts

The Impact of Contract Design on Commodity Futures Market Performance
for
Contract Design in Commodity Futures Markets Workshop in Washington, DC
May 21 and 22, 2009

This Workshop is sponsored by
Economic Research Service-USDA, Commodity Futures Trading Commission
and
Farm Foundation

Workshop organizers seek two-page research abstracts that examine critical issues and market conditions that affect the design and performance of commodity futures contracts. The organizers welcome submissions examining how contract design factors may differentially affect long and short market participants, execution costs, contract use/volume, and price discovery and behavior. Submissions that examine how contract design factors may affect or be influenced by hedging demand, speculative interest, underlying commodity market characteristics/conditions, or competing exchange and OTC contracts will also be considered.

Abstracts may be based on empirical or theoretical analysis, or provide descriptive assessments of issues affecting contract designs. Preference will be given to submissions that address contemporary market issues. Previously published work is not eligible. Graduate students are encouraged to submit abstracts.

Industry, academic and government analysts, as well as graduate students, are invited to **submit abstracts by April 17, 2009**. Up to eight abstracts will be selected for presentation at the workshop May 21-22. This workshop is designed to encourage interaction between industry, academic and government analysts interested in the performance of and factors affecting commodity futures contract design.

Authors will be notified of acceptance decisions by May 1, 2009. Authors of selected abstracts will be asked to prepare 30-minute presentations. Each presentation will be followed by comments from invited discussants and audience questions.

Authors of selected abstracts and invited discussants will be reimbursed for travel and hotel expenses to the May workshop. There is no publication commitment associated with the workshop. Workshop presentations and papers will be posted on the Farm Foundation Web site.

Submissions are to be made electronically and sent to: Sarahelen (Sally) Thompson, Director, Market and Trade Economics Division, Economic Research Service-USDA, sthompson@ers.usda.gov

Please refer questions to: Greg Pompelli, USDA Economic Research Service, 202-694-5353, pompelli@ers.usda.gov

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