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When it comes to commodities, most investors turn to the likes of Jim Rogers and George Soros, legendary gurus that have long held the spotlight in this asset class. And while their contributions to the commodities world have certainly helped shape the market we know today, there is one group of individuals that is often overlooked, though they have continually played a major role in the natural resources market: professors.

These professors have not only helped our understanding of the often complex commodities market, they have also been pioneers in the field, allowing investors of all walks to look at the space from a different perspective. For those wondering who exactly is behind the commodity-focused academia scene, we highlight several accomplished commodity-friendly professors (in no particular order):
[If you’re a commodity friendly professor, drop us a line and let us know a bit about your work; we’d be happy to add you to the list.]

Campell R. Harvey

In addition to being a finance professor at the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University, Campbell R. Harvey is a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. His blog [Garden of Econ](http://www.gardenofecon.com) is a great resource for investors wanting a macro perspective.

- **University**: Duke University
- **Specialties**: Portfolio Management, Asset Allocation, Global Risk Management
- **Academic Work**: [The Golden Dilemma](http://www.gardenofecon.com/book)

Craig Pirrong

Craig Pirrong is a professor of finance and Energy Markets Director of the Global Energy Management Institute at the Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston. Pirrong’s blog [Streetwise Professor](http://www.streetwisedocuments.com) is packed with key insights every commodity trader should read.

- **University**: University of Houston
- **Specialties**: Economics of Derivatives Markets and Risk Management.
- **Academic Work**: [Searching for the Missing Link: High Frequency Price Dynamics and Autocorrelations For Seasonally Produced Commodities](http://www.streetwisedocuments.com/missinglink.html)
Roger Dahlgran

Roger Dahlgran is a professor at the University of Arizona and is an expert of econometric modeling of futures markets, particularly agricultural markets. He has also received awards and recognition for his development and use of futures trading simulation software.

- **University**: University of Arizona
- **Specialties**: Econometric Modeling, Futures-Market Price Behavior, Agricultural Markets
- **Academic Work**: Ethanol Futures: Thin but Effective? – Why?

Colin Carter

Colin Carter is a professor at the University of California, Davis and the Director of the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics. Carter has done extensive research on China’s grain market and international trade, and has a new book out, *Futures and Options Markets*.

- **University**: University of California, Davis
- **Specialties**: Commodity Markets, Agricultural Trade, International Trade
- **Academic Work**: Commodity Booms and Busts

Ke Tang
Ke Tang is a professor of finance in the Hanqing Advanced Institute of Economics and Finance and School of Finance at the Renmin University of China. His work in commodity markets and asset pricing models is well noted in both the academic and financial communities.

- **University**: Renmin University of China  
- **Specialties**: Commodity Markets, Chinese Stock Markets, Continuous-time Asset Pricing Models  
- **Academic Work**: *Index Investment and the Financialization of Commodities*

### Wei Xiong

Wei Xiong is a professor of economics at Princeton University and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. His work on the *Financialization* of commodities with Professor Ke Tang is widely referenced in many recent policy discussions and public debates of commodity futures markets.

- **University**: Princeton University  
- **Specialties**: Financial Economics  
- **Academic Work**: *Feedback Effects of Commodity Futures Prices*

### Scott H. Irwin
Scott H. Irwin is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is recognized as a national and international leader in agricultural economics, and his works are frequently cited by other academic researchers, policy-makers, and the media.

- **University**: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **Specialties**: Agricultural Price Analysis and Forecasting, Commodity Futures and Options Markets, Price Risk Management
- **Academic Work**: Measuring Index Investment in Commodity Futures Markets

**David A. Bessler**

David A. Bessler is a professor of agricultural economics at Texas A&M University. Bessler is noted for his contributions in time series analysis of agricultural markets, out-of-sample forecasting for model assessment and policy, and the use of algorithms on inductive causation.

- **University**: Texas A&M University
- **Specialties**: Applied Decision Analysis, Price Dynamics, Agricultural History
- **Academic Work**: Asset Storability and Price Discovery in Commodity Futures Markets: A New Look

**L. Alan Winters**
L. Alan Winters is a professor of economics at University of Sussex and former Program Director of the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London. He is one of the world’s leading specialists on empirical and policy analysis of international trade and development.

- **University**: University of Sussex
- **Specialties**: International Trade, International Labor Mobility, Agricultural Protection
- **Academic Work**: Distributional Effects of WTO Agricultural Reforms in Rich and Poor Countries

**Alex Winter-Nelson**

Alex Winter-Nelson is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The professor has done extensive research on food and cash crop marketing in Africa, as well as the relationship between agricultural technology and nutrition.

- **University**: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **Specialties**: Agricultural Technology, Cash Crop Marketing in Africa
- **Academic Work**: Purpose and Potential for Commodity Exchanges in African Economies

**Phillip Garcia**
Philip Garcia is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Professor Garcia has more than 200 research publications focusing on agricultural economics, including 100 journal articles, 11 book chapters, and 90 published proceedings and abstracts.

- **University**: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **Specialties**: Marketing and Price Analysis, Futures and Options Markets, Risk Management, Econometric Modeling of Feed-Livestock Markets
- **Academic Work**: [New Evidence on the Value of Public Information in Commodity Markets](#)

**Jian Yang**

Jian Yang is a professor of finance at the University of Colorado’s Business School in Denver. Yang’s work has been cited by the World Bank, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, as well as many other notable names in the industry.

- **University**: University of Colorado, Denver
- **Specialties**: International Finance, Time Series Econometrics, Futures Markets
- **Academic Work**: [Futures Trading Activity and Commodity Cash Price Volatility](#)

**Terry Roe**
Terry Roe is a professor in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota. Professor Roe has consulted various organizations regarding agricultural economics, including the World Bank, USDA/ERS, USAIS and the European Commission.

- **University**: University of Minnesota
- **Specialties**: Agricultural Development and Policy, International Trade, Macroeconomics, Regional Economics
- **Academic Work**: Measuring Commodity Price Volatility and the Welfare Consequences of Eliminating Volatility

**Parantap Basu**

Parantap Basu is a professor of macroeconomics at Durham University’s Business School and is the Director of the Centre for Economic Growth and Policy. Professor Basu was also a member of the scientific committee for advising the European Commission during 2010 to 2011

- **University**: Durham University
- **Specialties**: Asset Pricing, Business Cycles, Growth and Inequality.
- **Academic Work**: What Explains the Growth in Commodity Derivatives?

**Helyette Geman**
Helyette Geman is a professor of finance at Birkbeck, University of London where she serves as the Director of the Commodity Finance Centre in addition to being a research professor at John Hopkins University. Geman has published numerous books about commodities, and has been an advisor to major banks, energy and mining companies as well as commodity houses.

- **University:** University of London
- **Specialties:** Quantitative Methods, Systematic Trading, Energy, Metals, Agriculture, Risk
- **Academic Work:** [Forward Curves, Scarcity and Price Volatility in Oil and Natural Gas Markets](#)

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*Disclosure: No positions at time of writing.*

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