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Michael Swanson is an agricultural economist and consultant for Wells Fargo, the largest commercial agricultural lender in the United States. Based in Minneapolis, his responsibilities include analyzing the impact of energy on agriculture and forecasting for key agricultural commodities and livestock sectors. Mr. Swanson helps develop credit and risk strategies for Wells Fargo's customers, and performs macroeconomic and international analysis on agricultural production and agribusiness.

Mr. Swanson joined Wells Fargo in 2000 as a senior economist. Prior to working at Wells Fargo, he worked for four years at Land O' Lakes, a large national dairy cooperative based in Minnesota. There, he supervised the sales forecasting process as well as a portion of the supply chain for dairy products including scheduling the production, warehousing, and distribution of more than 400 million pounds of cheese annually.

Before working in the dairy processing business, Mr. Swanson worked for four years for Cargill Cafetera de Manizales S.A., the Colombian subsidiary of Cargill. His areas of responsibilities included grain imports and value-added sales to feed producers and flour millers. He started his career as a transportation analyst with Burlington Northern Railway, conducting system analysis and capacity studies.

Mr. Swanson received his undergraduate degree from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and master's and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.