
Candidate Statements – President



Joe Outlaw
Texas A&M University

Background
Joe L. Outlaw is a Regents Fellow, Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University. He also serves as the Co-

Director of the Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) that conducts analyses of agricultural, conservation, crop insurance and renewable energy policy alternatives for the U.S. House and Senate Agricultural Committees. He earned his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Texas A&M University, all in agricultural economics.

Dr. Outlaw has a 100% Extension appointment in agricultural policy but also has a significant applied research program through his work with the AFPC, garnering over \$30 million in grants and contracts throughout his career. He also teaches undergraduate agricultural policy once a year with an average class size of 180 students. He has received over 30 individual or team awards for his work in agricultural policy and his efforts to educate colleagues and clientele across the U.S. on agricultural policy changes and program signup decisions. A few of his most noteworthy awards were being named Fellow of WAEA in 2018, SAEA in 2016 and by the Board of Regents at Texas A&M University in 2016, as well as being awarded the National Excellence in Extension Award for Outstanding Extension Specialist in 2015. He joined WAEA in 1990 as a graduate student.

WAEA Vision Statement

It is an honor to be nominated to serve as President of WAEA. I have been involved in agricultural policy for more than 30 years, but I learned about agricultural policy in the Western United States from my colleagues at Montana State, Oregon State, U.C. Davis, Nevada-Reno and Colorado at the annual meetings. Interaction with colleagues from the West has shaped

the work I have done for Congress throughout my career.

My vision statement for WAEA is pretty simple: if it isn't broken don't try to fix it. Most importantly, my goal would be to continue fostering the close knit—almost family-like—culture of colleagues in the West. I have had a lot of really great things happen in my career, but the achievements or projects I have enjoyed the most have come from working with others in teams or groups. As President, I would work to expand opportunities for the members of WAEA to work on projects together to address larger concerns in the region.

I would also continue helping disseminate quality research through JARE and the Western Economics Forum. I am currently serving as a guest editor for an upcoming issue of the Western Economics Forum that is focused on the effects of policies, both statutory and regulatory, on the West.

I also have a strong appreciation for the importance of the annual meeting as a place where new members to WAEA can find their niche. Becoming a member of WAEA and attending annual meetings was an important part of my personal and professional development. As a graduate student, I found the WAEA meetings to be a place where I could submit paper proposals for presentations and obtain positive feedback or helpful criticism in a non-confrontational atmosphere. This is why as a mentor to graduate students I insist they submit paper proposals to the WAEA annual meeting over all other associations. I feel it is much easier to learn how to deliver an effective presentation in an environment where the audience members want presenters to do well rather than showing the presenter how much they don't know. I have always found that faculty at WAEA meetings treat my students well and provide encouragement, which you don't always get at other meetings. An added benefit of the WAEA annual meeting is that the locations are generally destination locations where families are more likely to attend. I believe that it is the family environment of the WAEA that makes it unique, and I will strive to not mess it up.

Candidate Statements –President



Glynn Tonsor
Kansas State University

Background
Glynn Tonsor is a Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of

Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University (KSU). Glynn grew up on a farrow-to-finish swine farm in Monroe City, Missouri. Tonsor obtained a B.S. from Missouri State University and Ph.D. from KSU. He was a faculty member at Michigan State University from May 2006 to March 2010 when he joined the KSU faculty.

The majority of Tonsor’s interests and experiences span issues throughout the meat and livestock supply chain stemming from his hands-on background in the industry. Through active research, engaged outreach with industry, and first-hand knowledge with livestock production, Glynn has economic expertise in an array of topics. His resulting integrated research and extension program has resulted in multiple journal article publications, outreach contributions, and awards.

Glynn and his wife, Shauna, live in Saint George, Kansas with their children Ethan, Levi, and Aubree.

In addition to being a multi-year supportive member of the WAEA, Tonsor has contributed to the association as a Director, helped plan past annual meetings, and reviewed both journal article submissions for JARE and selected paper abstract submissions for annual meetings.

WAEA Vision Statement

I am honored by the opportunity to potentially serve the WAEA membership as President. As with other associations, several issues will impact the future success of the WAEA. Given multiple possible directions for the association, it is important to directly assess the situation and preferences of current and future, potential members to gain an improved understanding that can guide the WAEA moving forward.

Meanwhile, upcoming joint meetings with the CAES in Banff (2021) and the AAEE in Anaheim (2022) present a timely opportunity. Each joint meeting will be attended by regular WAEA meeting attendees and other, less regular attendees. Accordingly, a focused survey assessment of factors driving participation in WAEA meetings and activities will be conducted. The goal of this assessment is to directly identify preferences of current and future, potential members. This information in turn will guide WAEA decisions to design annual meetings and other activities to best align with preferences of targeted members.

Beyond this assessment of preferences, my view on further integrating land-grant university missions would underlie my efforts as WAEA President. Specifically, I would support additional integration across research, teaching, and extension such that WAEA activities reflect modern realities in our respective academic units while also better appealing to off-campus stakeholders.

Candidate Statements – Director



Joshua Berning *Colorado State University*

Background

Joshua Berning is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University. Josh received his PhD in Economics from Washington State University, an MS in Forest

Resources from the University of Idaho and his BA in Economics from Valparaiso University. Prior to graduate school, he worked in the IT industry for 4 years and taught English in Japan. His research focuses on food marketing policy, food access and consumer health outcomes. Over the past few years, he has been developing research on the brewing industry as well.

Josh attended his first WAEA meeting in 2007 as a graduate student. After that, Josh began his academic career on the east coast (at the University of Connecticut and the University of Georgia) where he became involved with the AAEE. He has been the chair of the FAMPS section and BEER section as well as part of the selected presentations committee and nominating committee. Now that he's back in the Rockies, he is excited to get involved with the WAEA again. This spring, he was part of the MS thesis award committee for the WAEA.

WAEA Vision Statement

There are many important issues in the west making it an exciting time to be an agricultural economist. The WAEA is well-positioned to make contributions to understanding these issues and to assist members engaging these issues through research, teaching and extension. That's why I'm excited to become involved with the WAEA in the role of Director.

The Association has been successful across numerous activities. Going forward, there must be continued effort in reaching out to new members and engaging with existing membership. Importantly, members must take value with them after engaging with the WAEA. Students must find value in participating in the WAEA both in the present and going forward with their careers. Mid and late-career professionals must find value in taking leadership roles and helping to guide the future direction of the WAEA.

Building impactful sessions at the annual meeting is one way for students, mid and late career faculty to create value. It is essential to be efficient with our time and other resources each summer. Earlier investments in developing relevant sessions can pay large dividends. In addition, finding ways to deliver more from these sessions is essential. For instance, turning working papers into published papers as well as outreach for stakeholders and the public. Providing feedback on graduate student papers and presentations can help to improve the quality and impact of work being presented as well.

Mentoring is another fruitful activity that allows members to engage and grow relationships. The benefits to the mentee are generally obvious. However, as I move through the middle part of my career, I realize how much value there is for the mentor as well. It is important to continue to provide opportunities for building mentoring relationships.

Finally, to keep the WAEA vibrant and impactful, we must seek ways to be inclusive of both current and potential membership. The landscape we work in is changing. And there is an important opportunity for the WAEA to be an active and engaged part of this process.

Candidate Statements – Director



Lisa Elliott
*South Dakota State
University*

Background

Lisa Elliott is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at South Dakota State University. She received her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Missouri. Recently, her research and

and extension programming has focused on enabling producers to quantify and manage their value-at-risk (VaR). Calculations of VaR are made given larger, more volatile farm portfolios and complex grain marketing contracts. Lisa's extension programming has included workshops hosted in the First Dakota Bank e-trading Lab, along with educational webinars, publications, online-videos, and risk management tools.

Lisa attended her first WAEA Annual meeting in 2010, and has attended the vast majority of annual meetings since. She joined the WAEA Council in 2016, and has presented, reviewed, and coordinated reviews for selected paper abstracts for the WAEA meetings.

WAEA Vision Statement

It is an honor to be nominated to serve as a WAEA Director. It would be my privilege to serve as a WAEA Director. After attending several WAEA meetings, I realized the regional focus was unique in providing members with a more focused network for professional development.

As a Director, I would seek new ways for the WAEA to continue to capitalize and promote the regional focus. The western United States and Canada have unique challenges, yet the members of the organization possess a common understanding and interest in regional issues. WAEA can help us meet the increasing demands of research, teaching, and extension with increasingly limited budgets and resources by providing forums for feedback, networking, professional development, and workshops.

I would be committed to continuing the long tradition from previous leadership teams of the following: i) hosting vibrant, relevant WAEA annual meetings, ii)

providing a respected, broad-based awards program, iii) maintaining high-quality and relevant journals, (e.g. Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Western Economics Forum), iv) providing enriching professional opportunities for all members, including students and young professionals, and v) providing oversight and management to continue fiscal viability of our organization.

As a Director, I would seek new ways to:

Highlight members' critical work (*e.g., providing more visibility on WAEA website and specifically inviting the public, non-members, to some strategic events (e.g., farm policy and outlook)*), specific symposium that the public may have an interest in attending and providing an opportunity for the public to engage with our members).

-Embrace technology to enhance members' abilities to be effective and impactful scholars, researchers, and educators (*e.g., recording a strategic session that all members who may not be able to attend could access and allow public viewing*).

-Foster opportunities for members to capture efficiencies through member's responsibilities to research, teaching, and extension

-Foster opportunities for members to connect with individuals from the Ag- and non-ag private sector, as well as academics from non-ag areas such as, data science and computer science that could result in productive, collaborative partnerships and/or professional development opportunities (*e.g., hosting a panelist discussion in areas driven-by member interests and hosting a speed-networking event*).

Candidate Statements – Director



Kristi Hansen
University of Wyoming

Background

Kristi Hansen is an Associate Professor and Extension Water Resource Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wyoming. She has an undergraduate degree in Economics from Reed College in Portland

Oregon and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from University of California, Davis. Prior to obtaining her Ph.D., she worked in the electricity industry in the Pacific Northwest, for a trade organization representing publicly-owned electric utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and municipalities. Dr. Hansen’s research is in water resource economics, “payment for ecosystem services” markets, wildlife habitat conservation policy, and experimental economics. Her extension programs seek to inform and improve regional decision-making in water allocation and terrestrial habitat conservation. Several of her current research/extension projects focus on analyzing the risks and impacts of different ways that Wyoming and other upper Colorado River Basin states could meet their obligations to downstream states under the Colorado River Compact. Other recent studies investigate alternative groundwater management strategies and collective decision-making over the Wyoming portion of the Ogallala Aquifer; and market design for a compensatory mitigation conservation program in Wyoming. Dr. Hansen has served as the Chair of W-4190, a multi-state research committee focused on water resource management and policy. She has been a member of WAEA since her graduate student days and recently joined the Western Extension Committee.

WAEA Vision Statement

Thank you for considering me for the position of WAEA Director. I have appreciated the opportunity that WAEA annual meetings provide to interact with colleagues and to stimulate my thinking on agricultural and natural resource management problems. WAEA has always been an effective and efficient way for me to acquire new perspectives, both from colleagues working on similar issues in a different region and colleagues working on issues in a completely different context but with similar research themes and/or stakeholder concerns. I find I have also taken advantage of these networking opportunities differently at different stages of my career, because the potential for mentoring and networking at WAEA is significant, not just for graduate students and early-career faculty but for students and faculty at all stages of their careers. As a WAEA Director, I would work to continue moving WAEA in the direction of facilitating these interactions and conversations, to help WAEA members be as effective as possible at finding the resources, contacts, and support they need to do their jobs well. WAEA is already well-positioned to encourage applied research, effective outreach, and collaboration among researchers, stakeholders, industry professionals, and conservation NGOs. As a WAEA Director, I would work to enhance WAEA’s ability to help its members address future challenges facing agriculture, rural communities, and our natural resource base. Thank you again for your consideration.

Candidate Statements – Director



Ashok Mishra
Arizona State University

Background

Ashok Mishra is the Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation Chair, Morrison School of Agribusiness in the W. P. Carey School of Business, at Arizona State University. He received a Ph.D. in

Economics at North Carolina State University (1996) and a M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics at the University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom (1989). Before joining ASU, he held positions at Louisiana State University (LSU) (2007-2015) and USDA-Economic Research Service (1997-2007) where he conducted research on farm policy, farm finance, farm household and labor economics, and survey analysis of the U.S. farm sector and rural communities. His recent work focuses on climate change adaptation in Vietnam, the Philippines, and India and also examines value chain analysis in Nepal and India. He has examined value chain systems for both high-value and low-value crops and investigated their influence on livelihood strategies and income security of farmers in these countries. Dr. Mishra works closely with economists at the European Commission and various international institutes including IRRI in the Philippines, ICRISAT in India, IFPRI in Washington, DC, and CIMMYT in Mexico. At ASU he teaches courses focusing on agribusiness finance, risk and insurance, food security, and public policy. Dr. Mishra recently developed and deployed the International Management and Agribusiness course which serves as an international business core course for the W. P. Carey School of Business, with annual enrollment of over 700 students.

Dr. Mishra has published more than 160 papers in peer-reviewed journals, 12 book chapters, and 3 edited books, and has presented or co-authored more than 220 presentations at national and international conferences. He is currently serving as Co-Editor of *Agricultural Economics*, the journal of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), and is the Editor for *Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies (JADEE)*. He served as Co-Editor of *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* (2011-2013), Associate Editor of the *Agricultural Finance Review* journal (2010 to present), Editor of the *Journal of*

Agricultural and Applied Economics (2007-2010), and also served as a guest editor for *Land Use Policy Journal* in 2012.

The quality of his research output has been recognized through several awards, most notably Outstanding Journal Article awards for articles in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, the *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, *Applied Economics*, *Agricultural Finance Review*, and *China Agricultural Economic Review*. In 2013, LSU recognized his research efforts by honoring him with a 2012 Mid-Career Scholar Rainmaker Award. He also received the 2013 LSU Distinguished Faculty Award and the 2012 LSU Gamma Sigma Delta Research Certificate Merit. His contributions to the field of agriculture and social sciences was recognized with the award of the 2013 Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture Award from the LSU Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society. Dr. Mishra has served as Chairman of the AAEA Selected Paper Committee, Chairman of the AAEA Economics Statistics and Information Resources Committee, member of the AAEA Trust Committee, and member of the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE). Currently, he serves as Chairman of the AAEA Employment Service Committee.

Vision Statement

It is an honor to stand for election to the executive committee of the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA). I have been a member of the WAEA since I was in graduate school at North Carolina State University. Agricultural Economics is a rigorous academic discipline and a field of tremendous importance to society and the well-being of farming and rural people. I am proud to be an economist and I care deeply about our profession. I have worked in a variety of settings, including state and federal government and Ph.D. granting research universities. I appreciate the wide range of activities agricultural economists engage in, our intellectual rigor, and our topical diversity.

As a Director, I would like to work with the WAEA leadership and membership with four goals in mind. The first goal is fundraising. Money raised through fundraising could be used for a variety of projects to enhance the WAEA, including travel scholarships for graduate students, sponsoring undergraduate paper presentations, and funding early-career professional programs. I have raised about \$35,000 for the AAEA in establishment of Appreciation Clubs for Economists.

My second goal is to establish a committee to review paper submissions by graduate students to enhance the quality of graduate student paper presentations at WAEA meetings. Third, I would like to provide support to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (JARE), the flagship journal of the WAEA, by seeking ways to increase international readership and submission of manuscripts from abroad. As a current and past editor of journals in our field, I understand the need to increase the visibility and citation counts of articles published in JARE, and attracting greater global attention towards the journal can help towards this goal.

Finally, I would like to organize workshops at the WAEA annual meetings focusing on strategies to enhance career development opportunities for our early career members (e.g., mentorship program) as well as highlight new methods and issues in agricultural and applied economics. I believe that these programs will provide valuable benefits to WAEA members and enrich the current contributions of the association.