



<http://www.waeaonline.org>

## NEWSNOTES

By: Dawn Thilmany and Ray Huffaker

**APRIL 2003**

### Presidential Note

Dear WAEA Colleagues:

The program for the summer meetings is being finalized. This year the WAEA is meeting jointly with the Western Economic Association International (WEAI) in Denver. The WEAI meeting begins on Friday (July 11) and ends on Tuesday (July 15). The WAEA sessions begin Sunday (July 13) and also end Tuesday. The WAEA Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, and the Presidential and Distinguished Scholar addresses for Sunday afternoon. WAEA members have full access to WEAI sessions and scheduled activities. The WAEA is planning an informal social for members and guests at the Rock Bottom Brewery in Denver for Monday evening. You can register for the meetings through a link on the WAEA webpage.

For the first year, the WAEA Distinguished Scholar Awards will be presented. The award is designed to recognize professional excellence in a number of areas, and not simply to duplicate the AAEA Fellows Award. See the WAEA website for more information, and please consider nominating eligible colleagues for the award in the future.

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Best regards,

Ray Huffaker

## WHAT'S NEW

### 2003 JOINT WEAI-WAEA ANNUAL MEETINGS

We are excited about the plans being made for this year's joint annual meetings with the Western Economic Association International. In addition to our program of events, WAEA members will have access to all of WEAI's sessions and activities. Members can now register on-line at: [http://www.weainternational.org/reg\\_form.htm](http://www.weainternational.org/reg_form.htm)

**Note that WAEA membership is all that is needed for the membership registration rate. To get the best rate, please register by May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Look for more details on the program on the WAEA webpage in the near future. Beyond the WEAI events that you can choose to attend, WAEA will host a social event on Monday evening, July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Rock Bottom Brewery (within walking distance of the conference hotel). After the day's program, we will move to the Brewery and host appetizers for our members and their guests. There will be a no-host bar for refreshments.

### ATTENTION DEPARTMENTAL AWARD COMMITTEES:

Please send your nominations for WAEA Outstanding Senior Undergraduate Student awards majoring in Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics at your University to: Dr. Dawn Thilmany, Secretary-Treasurer WAEA, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1172. We will then send award certificates to you, or directly to the student at your request and notify the recipient of their free one-year membership in WAEA.

### THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ANIMAL DISEASE ON THE ANIMAL PRODUCT MARKETING SECTOR—A FARM FOUNDATION SHOWCASE CONFERENCE, July 11<sup>th</sup>, Denver, Colorado

The potential economic impacts of an animal disease outbreak on the U.S. livestock sector are more public in light of increased attention to Homeland Security. Building on the work of past research from the U.S. and other countries that have measured how diseases have and will impact their production, consumption, trade, and tourism, this program will go one step further by placing emphasis on the analysis of marketing sector impacts from a producer, processor, distributor and retailer standpoint. Discussion from academic, government, and industry representatives will be used to critique past analyses and future work since it is important to make future research as informative as possible for policy makers and private interests. If you are a livestock, marketing, consumer, policy or food safety professional, we urge you to attend. The conference is supported by the Farm Foundation, in cooperation with Colorado State University and with support from the USDA-Economic Research Service.

### AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Young Professionals Conference for Agricultural Economists will be held June 19-21, 2003 at Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Since the WAEA, under the leadership of Andrew Barkley, played a role in the development of this activity, we strongly encourage WAEA members to attend and Western Institutions to support the attendance of their faculty. WAEA will reimburse up to \$200 of the costs of attendance for those from the Western region (payable at the time of the conference). Please see Registration Form on page 8 or more information and to apply for WAEA support.

### 2004 WAEA ANNUAL MEETINGS

Remember to start planning for the 2004 WAEA meeting will be held in Hawaii, June 30-July 4, 2004, at the Hyatt in Waikiki where will host our own set of meetings and papers. Visit the hotel website at: <http://www.hyattwaikiki.com/>

### NEW EDITORS AT JARE

The new editors of JARE as of April 1, 2003 are:

DeeVon Bailey, Editor  
Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
Department of Economics  
Business Building, Room 606  
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Utah State University  
Logan, Utah 84322-3530  
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and the editorial team includes (at the same mailing address):

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### 3 NewsNotes

Congratulations to the new team of editors for an outstanding proposal, good luck during your transition!

JARE in the mail as they lead us through a transition to a three issues a year publication.

The WAEA continues to appreciate the University of Arizona's editorial team for their work....look for your April

## **OFFICER ELECTIONS**

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The following people have been nominated and have agreed to stand for election. We appreciate the willingness of these individuals to serve the Association:

**President – Gary Brester and Ted Schroeder**

**Vice President – Dana Hoag and Rhonda Skaggs**

**Directors – David Buschena, Penelope (Penny) L. Diebel, Matthew Diersen, and Paul Patterson**

**If you are viewing this from the Webpage, Dawn Thilmany sent a ballot to all individuals that she has record of having paid dues for 2003.** If you believe this is an error please let her know. This is especially important for those individuals who may have paid WAEA dues through AAEA.

We welcome any suggestions or nominations for future President, Vice-President and Board of Directors candidates.

**You may cast your ballot via e-mail by sending Dawn your preference ([thilmany@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:thilmany@lamar.colostate.edu)) with the number in the upper right-hand corner of your ballot. Ballots are due MAY 31st.**

### **Candidates for President:**

#### **Gary Brewster**

Gary Brester is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Montana State University, and Ph.D. from North Carolina State University.

Dr. Brester co-chaired the 1997 WAEA Selected Papers Committee and served as a WAEA Director from 1999-2001. He was a member of the *Choices* Editorial Advisory Board from 1998-2002. He is currently a member of the JARE Editorial Council and Vice-President of WAEA.

#### **WAEA Direction**

I am honored to have been nominated as a candidate for President of WAEA. Such governance positions provide an opportunity to return some of the benefits that one receives from our professional organizations. Our professional organizations serve a single purpose -- to promote the development of human capital of both members and society. Thus, WAEA must continue to make significant contributions to economic education of policy-makers, agricultural producers, agribusiness managers, and consumers. These contributions result

from excellence in research, teaching, and outreach activities.

The WAEA can contribute to this educational challenge by maintaining the high scholarly standards of the JARE. Professional publications provide a tangible forum for learning, debate, and critical thought regarding current societal concerns. Our support of JARE can be increased by supporting our editorial teams through monetary compensation and timely reviewer responses. I am disappointed that we have had to resort to monetary compensation to obtain timely reviews. Although free-rider and externality issues exist, reviews support the primary purpose for WAEA's existence. A strong association provides both tangible and intangible benefits to both individuals and our profession. We must encourage reviewers to provide unbiased critical reviews that improve our theoretical and applied research knowledge. Antagonistic attacks on research results that do not match a reviewer's ethos or are not sufficiently "innovative" does not advance our discipline. We need to educate both current and future reviewers on the appropriate role of critical evaluation. Reviews must be based on the foundation of our profession -- the basic tenets of economic thought.

## 4 NewsNotes

Teaching/outreach skills are improved by recognizing the complementarity between research activities and our ability to illuminate economic thought processes. Research develops analytical and critical thinking skills -- the same skills we seek to develop in our student and adult learners. Research and the exchange of teaching techniques are the vehicles for teaching improvement.

I support recent decisions to provide monetary compensation to future *JARE* editors/editorial teams so that we can successfully compete for critical scarce resources and maintain the high standards set by previous editors/editorial teams. In addition, we need to realize the tremendous demands on our Secretary/Treasurer, and the need for continuity in this position. Thus, we should consider some type of compensation (e.g., clerical support, travel grants, etc.) that will allow us to continue to fill this position with the expertise that we have come to expect. I favor a three-year cycle of annual meetings in which we share meeting venues with the *AAEA* and *WEA* in two-out-of-three years. I would like to see the *WAEA* hold its own annual meeting every third year at smaller, resort destinations. Finally, the *WAEA* should sponsor a low-cost, quasi-formal employment center at our own annual meetings and when we meet with the *WEA* to encourage graduate student participation and improve the efficiency of our labor markets.

### **Ted Schroeder**

Ted Schroeder is a professor of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University where he has been a faculty member with a research and teaching appointment since 1986. He holds a B.S. from University of Nebraska and Ph.D. from Iowa State University. He has been a *WAEA* member for 16 years. Schroeder has served the *WAEA* as: Vice President; Elected Director; Executive Council Member; *JARE* Editorial Board; Best *JARE* Article Selection Committee; Published Research Award Committee; Annual Meetings Selected Paper Committee; and Selected Paper Reviewer.

Together with several outstanding present and former students and colleagues, Schroeder is part of a recognized research and extension program in livestock and meat marketing and price analysis. His publications include numerous journal articles (12 in *JARE* and *WJAE*); many book chapters, research reports, and extension publications (16 presented/invited *WAEA* meetings papers/symposiums); and a number of invited professional/industry meetings presentations. He is major professor to 27 completed graduate students; he serves as his department's director of graduate studies; advises 10-20 undergraduate students; and teaches courses in applied regression and price analysis and forecasting.

### **WAEA Vision**

The *WAEA* is widely recognized as a leading agricultural economics professional organization. Our most important service is producing a premiere journal. *JARE* is our flagship and it has earned a reputation as an outstanding journal that is an excellent source of rigorous research addressing critical issues. We must continue to provide support to our journal editors to help them attract the highest quality article submissions and provide them with thorough and timely reviews. We also need to review resource support by the association for our journal editors.

The *WAEA* annual meetings are a highlight and provide a venue for sharing the latest research, providing thought-provoking symposiums, networking, and recognizing outstanding student and member achievement. The substantial benefits that accrue from in-person professional interchange at meetings alone justify their existence. Offering meetings that provide the highest value for the expense is a priority. The western U.S. and Canada offer outstanding meetings locations and we need to continue to have our annual meeting in locations that are both attractive and affordable. Having more student participation in meetings is a personal goal. We can do more to make the meetings attractive to our young professionals. Getting them involved early in their careers is essential to fostering lasting participation. Alliances *WAEA* has developed with other associations such as Western Economics Association International, *AAEA*, and Canadian Agricultural Economics Society are productive and should continue. Having meetings jointly with these associations some years and alone at other times attracts broader audiences and maintains our identity as a strong independent association, consistent with our western heritage.

Communication with our members must be an association priority. The *WAEA* newsletter is a good source of information and needs to provide essential information about the association. The recently introduced Western Economics Forum has established itself as a publication addressing timely pressing issues of broad interest. I support getting this publication in the hands of as many interested parties as we can. Additional distribution methods should be explored. The *WAEA* web site is an essential source for information dissemination. Enhanced electronic access to the association and its many services must continue to be actively pursued.

The Western Agricultural Economics Association offers an excellent service to the profession. As our profession evolves, our programs are changing focus, our information and education delivery methods are advancing, our funding sources are transforming, our accountability is heightening, and demands for our time are challenging us to new levels of efficiency. The *WAEA* leadership has an important responsibility to formulate the association so it is responsive to serving these evolving needs.

### Candidates for Vice President:

#### Dana Hoag

Dana Hoag is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University. He was also an Assistant and Associate Professor at North Carolina State University and policy advisor to the U.S. Environmental Agency Protection in Washington, D.C. He received his B.S. and M.S. from Colorado State University and Ph.D. from Washington State University. Dr. Hoag served on WAEA executive council, as a WAEA director, chaired the awards committee, has been a member of the extension award and outstanding published research award committees, and has presented several papers at the meetings. He also established and serves as editor of a new journal for the WAEA called the Western Economic Forum.

#### WAEA Vision

The WAEA provides many quality services. However, we could be more inclusive to non-academic professional economists. I was fortunate to be a director recently during a time when the association embarked on several new efforts to better serve our members. With the Executive Committee's support, Dr. Thilmany and I had an opportunity to start the Western Economic Forum. The WEF targets a niche between CHOICES and JARE, with a focus on western issues. It illuminates ideas and information about what our colleagues are doing in western states. So far, with three issues, we have articles from 10 states and Canada in or stated five topic areas (<http://dare.agsci.colostate.edu/thilmany/waea.htm>). If elected, I would continue to help the association serve its members without relying on exploiting our volunteers.

#### Rhonda Skaggs

Rhonda Skaggs is a Professor Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business at New Mexico State University. She received her B.S. and M.S. from Colorado State University, and her Ph.D. from Utah State University. She was employed as a Research Associate at the University of Wyoming, and has been with NMSU since Fall 1989. Dr. Skaggs has served the WAEA as a Council Member (since 1995), Director (1998 – 2000), Chair of the Awards Committee (1999), author of articles in the JARE, and reviewer for WAEA Selected Papers (2000).

#### WAEA Direction

The WAEA is my professional organization of choice. My association with the WAEA has been both personally and professionally rewarding. The *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* has an excellent and well-deserved reputation, and I believe that the journal should continue to serve the interests of the western agricultural economics profession. Membership in the WAEA has declined over several years, largely due to reductions in faculty numbers at several departments in the region. Unfortunately, the WAEA is not the professional organization of choice for many agricultural economists at western universities. Many of our co-workers do not perceive the WAEA to be an organization of their peers. If elected, I will work to spark new interest in the organization among our non-member colleagues.

### Candidates for Director:

#### David Buschena

David Buschena is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. He received his BS in agribusiness at Southwest State (Minnesota) University, a MS at the University of Minnesota, and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. He teaches classes in agricultural marketing, managerial economics, graduate microeconomic theory. WAEA activities include numerous paper reviews for the JARE and of selected papers, Advisory Council Member (2001-present), and chair of the 2002 Master Thesis Awards Committee.

#### WAEA Direction

The WAEA has a strong, committed core of members who have in the past and continue to benefit from the

association and to support it. The WAEA remains a strong association at the regional and the national level thanks to the strength of the JARE and the WAEA annual meetings. The new "Western Economics Forum" is a commendable effort to broaden the reach of the association's publication efforts. The association membership's joint interest in agricultural and resource issues is a source of comparative advantage in providing relevant policy contributions to a wider audience, and thus to increase interest and membership in the association.

Present and former editors of the JARE have enhanced its quality, continuing its status as arguably the strongest regional journal in the field. Ensuring the JARE's quality through is imperative for the WAEA to serve and retain our core membership. I support efforts toward providing monetary compensation to JARE editors order to continue to attract and retain them.

## 6 NewsNotes

There appears to be some potential to increase the visibility of the WAEA apart from the *JARE* in some moderate, but important ways. During joint meetings such as with the AAEA, I would propose symposia in addition to the valuable Presidential and Fellows address that highlight the WAEA's unique contribution to the field. Regional associations and journals might be featured more prominently on the AAEA's and on the CAES's web-sites. The WAEA should search for ways to reciprocate with these national organizations. I support the current format of joint meetings with the AAEA and CAES and with the WEAI when feasible.

The WAEA has taken some useful steps to increase student interest through travel grants and awards. We must continue to search for ways to increase membership from this group, perhaps by awarding *JARE* subscriptions to thesis and dissertation award nominees. Additional steps should be considered to increase membership from students and from industry groups.

### **Penelope (Penny) L. Diebel**

Penny is an associate professor with the Agricultural and Resource Economics department of Oregon State University. Penny works with 6 other OSU faculty in an undergraduate satellite program in LaGrande on the Eastern Oregon University campus. She earned her B.S. in Outdoor Recreation Management (1983) and her M.S. in Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics (1986) from Colorado State University; and her PhD in Agricultural Economics from Virginia Tech (1990). She taught and conducted research in the Agricultural Economics Department at Kansas State University for 4 years. Penny has been with the OSU Agriculture Program at LaGrande for 8 years, her primary responsibility is teaching and advising, while also conducting small research projects.

Penny's WAEA activities include presenting papers at WAEA meetings, receiving the WAEA 2000 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award; and serving on the WAEA Teaching Awards Committee. She has also been active in the AAEA serving as a CWAE Board member, Chair of the CWAE Undergraduate Breakfast, AAEA Selected Papers Reviewer, Student Section-AAEA Advisor 1995-98, AAEA Selected Poster Chair and is currently co-chair of the Teaching, Learning and Communications Section of the AAEA.

### **WAEA Vision**

WAEA serves its constituency as a communication channel, discussion board and information server for agricultural and resource issues in the western US and Canada. Members appreciate the relevance of issues and clarity of presentation by the WAEA through the *JARE*, the *WEF* and the WAEA meeting. WAEA is in a position to

expand this strong relationship with current members and attract new members by considering new and innovative channels of communication and the extension of current channels to

new audiences. Among the activities WAEA might consider are: issue tracks at the annual meetings, more open discussion forums/symposiums at annual meeting or outside of the annual meeting, co-sponsorship of activities and/or alliance with other organization addressing issues of interest to current WAEA members and groups which WAEA would like to include as members. The co-sponsorship/alliance suggestion could include working with current professional activities such as the Western Regional Teaching Symposium and working with current or establishing new activities for undergraduates in the western region institutes, in particular strengthening relationships with smaller, teaching institutions. WAEA can use these opportunities to broaden its membership and secure a role in western research, policy and education.

### **Matthew Diersen**

Matthew Diersen is an Assistant Professor in the Economics Department at South Dakota State University. He received a B.A. from the University of Minnesota - Morris, an M.S. from North Dakota State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He has an Extension appointment focused on risk management. He has co-authored an article for the *JARE*. His service experiences include reviewing poster abstracts and selected papers for the AAEA and serving as Chair of NC-221, the Regional Committee on Agricultural Finance.

### **WAEA Direction**

The WAEA serves an important niche and its relevancy has become more evident to me as I encounter more problems specific to the western region. The WAEA is foremost a networking environment. The association also provides a forum for recognizing the accomplishments of its members. The *JARE* is not a regional journal anymore, but it fills a niche of its own. To remain effective, the WAEA needs to remain focused on problems specific to the Western and Great Plains States and Provinces and on natural resource problems.

The WAEA may improve itself by achieving economies of scope from better interaction among and between teaching, research, and extension people across university boundaries. One way the WAEA could become more relevant is to build on the Western Economics Forum and facilitate a meaningful information clearinghouse. This may be achieved by highlighting outputs of interest to the region (new teaching modules, Extension publications, etc.). Finally, the WAEA could take an expanded role in lifelong learning by coordinating WAEA accredited modules targeted to practicing economists with M.S. degrees, Extension educators, and various professional organizations.

**Paul Patterson**

Paul Patterson is an associate professor in the Morrison School of Agribusiness and Resource Management at Arizona State University, where he has been since 1995. He received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics at Purdue University in 1994. Prior to his doctoral studies he worked as an economist with the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in agribusiness marketing, agribusiness policy, applied economics and management science. He is also a faculty advisor to the National Agri-Marketing Association student club at ASU. His current research focuses on topics related to international trade and agricultural marketing with a focus on the fruit and vegetable sector. This work includes studies on advertising, commodity promotion, and market performance.

**WAEA Direction**

If selected to serve as a Director for the Western Agricultural Economics Association, I am committed to promoting the advancement of our profession through the activities of this association. I have a particular interest in promoting activities that encourage the professional development of our students and strongly support our ongoing thesis competition. I will also work to support the high level prestige that the *Journal of Agricultural and*

*Resource Economics* has achieved and in other endeavors that promote scholarship within our discipline. He received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics at Purdue University in 1994. Prior to his doctoral studies he worked as an economist with the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in agribusiness marketing, agribusiness policy, applied economics and management science. He is also a faculty advisor to the National Agri-Marketing Association student club at ASU. His current research focuses on topics related to international trade and agricultural marketing with a focus on the fruit and vegetable sector. This work includes studies on advertising, commodity promotion, and market performance.

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