



# NEWSNOTES

By: Dawn Thilmany and Ray Huffaker

**January 2003**

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<http://www.waeaonline.org>

## Presidential Note

Dear WAEA Colleagues:

Let me begin with some friendly exhortations. First, please make plans to attend the summer meeting in Denver, held in conjunction with the Western Economics Association International. The WEAI runs excellent sessions with a wide variety of subject-matter offerings. In combination with WAEA sessions, everyone should find something of interest. Second, please nominate your colleagues for WAEA awards in teaching, research, and extension. You will find nomination information on the WAEA website.

I want to spend the body of my note reflecting on a question that never disappears: What should our profession be named? I attended a session on this subject at last summer's AAEA meetings. It continues to evoke diverse and vehemently-held opinions that pit the gravitational pull of the past against hopes of remaining relevant as a discipline into the future.

Mathematicians solving difficult problems begin by determining whether similar problems have been solved in the past. In that vein, we might consider names selected by disciplines that once had names similar to ours. For example, over the last decade, Agricultural Engineering departments have switched to variations on Biological Systems Engineering.

What might we gain by following suit and switching the name of our profession to Biological Systems Economics? First, the name fits the traditional discipline because agriculture is a biological system. Second, the name is broader and better covers our incursions into fisheries, ecological and environmental economics. Third, the name describes a field of study and is devoid of underlying political connotations. In contrast, agriculture is as well recognized as a political-action group as it is a subject of study. Fourth, given that biological systems engineering departments are alive and well in Colleges of Agriculture, we know that it works.

Please accept my wishes for a safe and happy holiday season, and a productive new year.

Best regards,

Ray Huffaker

## NOTICES

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### Dues Notice

Some of you have renewed your membership for 2003 either through Dawn Thilmany at Colorado State University or AAEA. If so, we thank you for your continued support. A copy of the 2003 membership application and dues notice is enclosed with this issue of NewsNotes. Payment for 2003 dues should be sent to Secretary-Treasurer Dawn Thilmany. If you have any questions concerning the status of your membership, please contact Dawn at [thilmany@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:thilmany@lamar.colostate.edu).

### Graduate Travel Fellowships

Funds partially defray the direct travel costs of graduate students attending the WAEA Annual meetings, with preference going to those involved in the program or Awards program.

Fellowships are awarded to graduate students who are current members of the WAEA based on their scholarly and leadership potential in the field and association. The one-page application (enclosed) must be filled out and mailed to the address below by May 1, 2003.

Dr. Jill McCluskey  
Department of Agricultural Economics  
Washington State University  
Pullman, WA 99164-6210

### Upcoming Meetings

Look for registration materials for our joint meetings with Western Economics Association International in your mail this spring. Vancouver was a great success and we expect Denver to be a great program venue.

### Hawaii in 2004 !

At last summer's annual meeting the Executive Council decided that the 2004 WAEA meeting will be held in Hawaii, June 30-July 4, 2004, at the Hyatt in Waikiki. Visit their website at:

<http://www.hyattwaikiki.com/>

## **NOMINATION FOR AWARDS**

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Nominations are solicited for the following awards that will be presented at the WAEA Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. All award mailings must be postmarked by March 16, 2003, and should be sent to the committee chairs for each award category.

### **Graduate Paper or Master's Thesis Award**

#### ***Purpose of Award:***

To recognize outstanding research by graduate students in WAEA institutions.

#### ***Nature of the Award:***

The award will be called "Outstanding Graduate Paper or Thesis Award for the Western Agricultural Economics Association." This award will be made annually at the WAEA meeting. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$500 check and a travel grant to help defray the cost of attending the annual meeting.

#### ***Eligibility Requirements:***

Nominees must have completed the master's degree at a WAEA institution during 2002. Only thesis or graduate papers bearing a 2002 completion date may be submitted from a WAEA institution. Only one paper or thesis may be submitted from an institution. Ph.D. dissertations are not eligible.

#### ***Evaluation Criteria:***

- Importance of the problem or topic
- Significance of the results
- Quality of the work
- Effectiveness of reporting

#### ***Procedures:***

Five copies of each thesis or graduate paper will be sent to the chair of the selection committee. All nomination materials become WAEA property and will not be returned to the nominees or nominators. Selection of the award winner(s) will be made by a committee.

#### **Nominations should be sent to the following address by March 16, 2003:**

Cheryl S. DeVuyst  
North Dakota State University  
Dept. of Agbus & Appl. Economics  
PO Box 5636  
Fargo, ND 58105-5636  
Phone: (701) 231-8000      Fax: (701) 231-7400  
Email: [cdevuyst@ndsnext.nodak.edu](mailto:cdevuyst@ndsnext.nodak.edu)

## **Undergraduate Teaching Awards**

### ***Purpose of Awards:***

To recognize outstanding teaching of students and related activities by members of the association. The award may be made annually at the WAEA meeting.

### ***Nature of Awards:***

Two awards may be given. The first is the "Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association with less than 10 years experience." The second is the "Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association with more than 10 years experience." Each winner will receive a certificate.

### ***Eligibility Requirements:***

Nominees must be members of the Association and be actively involved in teaching and related activities. Previous award winners are not eligible for the same award.

### ***Evaluation Criteria:***

- Personal interest in and availability to students,
- Mastery of subject matter (course content),
- Creativity in designing and using innovative teaching methods,
- Impact on learning, based on student and peer evaluation, and
- Impact on departmental teaching program

### ***Procedures:***

Nominations may be made by Association members and/or departments located within the geographic scope of the Association. The nominator should submit a Nomination Packet including a letter of recommendation, supplementary tables and supporting items if desired. The letter of nomination, limited to three pages single spaced, should summarize the teaching accomplishments of the nominee with respect to the criteria outlined above. Summary tables may be added to provide supplemental and supporting data. A maximum of three supporting items (letter of recommendation, publications, videos, etc.) may also be included. Each letter, publication, video, etc. counts as one item. Send five copies of all materials to the chair of the awards committee. All nomination materials become WAEA property and will not be returned to nominees or nominators. Selection of winner(s) will be made by a committee.

### **Nominations should be sent to the following address by March 16, 2003:**

#### Less than 10 years:

Eric Schuck  
Colorado State University  
Dept. of Ag & Res. Economics  
B334 Clark Bldg.  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1172  
Phone: (970) 491-7346 Fax: (970) 491-2067  
Email: [eschuckg@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:eschuckg@lamar.colostate.edu)

#### More than 10 years:

William Amspacher  
Cal Poly State University  
Dept. of Agribusiness  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407  
Phone: (805) 756-5018  
Fax: (805) 756-5040  
Email: [wamspach@calpoly.edu](mailto:wamspach@calpoly.edu)

## Extension Program Awards

### ***Purpose of Awards:***

To recognize outstanding extension programs by members of the Association.

### ***Nature of Awards:***

Two awards may be given annually. The "Outstanding Extension Program Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association, for Project" is given to programs that are of less than or equal to five years duration. The "Outstanding Extension Program Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association, for Career" is given to programs that are of more than five years duration. These awards may be made annually at the WAEA meeting. Winners will receive a certificate.

### ***Eligibility Requirements:***

Nominee(s) must be actively involved in programs of informal education for audiences external to the university. The program may be that of either an individual or a group of individuals working as a team. If given to a team, at least one member of the team must be a member of the Association. If given to an individual, the winner must be a member.

### ***Evaluation Criteria:***

- Importance of the problem or subject,
- Overall effectiveness of the program,
- Appropriateness of the economic analysis,
- Effectiveness of communication methods, and
- Evidence of accomplishments of objectives and positive impact on target audience.

### ***Procedures:***

Nominations must be made by Association members and/or departments located within the geographic scope of the Association. The nominator should submit a nomination packet, including a letter of recommendation, supplementary tables and supporting items if desired. The letter of nomination, which is limited to no more than three pages single spaced, should summarize the teaching accomplishments of the nominee with respect to the criteria outlined above. Summary tables may be added to provide supplemental and supporting data. A maximum of three supporting items (letter of recommendation, publications, videos, etc.) may also be included. Each letter, publication, video, etc. counts as one item. Send each of five copies of all materials in a self-contained binder/folder/envelope to the chair of the awards committee. All nomination materials become WAEA property and will not be returned to nominees or nominators. Selection of winners will be made by a committee.

### **Nominations should be sent to the following address by March 16, 2003:**

Project: Mike Boland  
Kansas State University  
Dept. of Agricultural Econ, 342 Waters Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506-4011  
Ph: (785) 532-4449 Fax: (785) 532-6925  
Email: [mboland@agecon.ksu.edu](mailto:mboland@agecon.ksu.edu)

Career: Herb Hinman  
Washington State University  
Dept of Ag & Res Economics  
Pullman, WA 99164-6210  
Ph: (509) 335-2855 Fax: (509) 335-1173  
Email: [hinman@wsu.edu](mailto:hinman@wsu.edu)

## **Published Research Award:**

### ***Purpose of Award:***

To recognize outstanding research by members of the Association.

### ***Nature of the Award:***

The award will be called "Outstanding Published Research Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association." This award may be made annually at the WAEA meeting. The winner(s) will receive a certificate.

### ***Eligibility Requirements:***

At least one of the authors must be a member of the Association in the year the paper was published. Only research reports bearing a 2002 publication date will be considered. Textbooks will not be considered published research for purpose of this award. Articles published in JARE are not eligible.

### ***Eligibility Criteria:***

- Importance and significance of the results,
- Quality of the work, and
- Effectiveness of reporting

### ***Procedure:***

Nominations must be made by WAEA members and/or departments located within the geographic scope of the Association. Five copies of each publication will be sent to the chair of the selection committee. All nomination materials become WAEA property and will not be returned to nominees or nominators. Selection of winner(s) will be made by a committee.

### **Nominations should be sent to the following address by March 16, 2003:**

Jay Noel  
Cal Poly State University  
Dept. of Agribusiness  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407  
Phone: (805) 756-5014  
Fax: (805) 756-5040  
Email: [jnoel@calpoly.edu](mailto:jnoel@calpoly.edu)



## Membership Application and Dues Notice for 2003

includes a subscription to the  
*Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*  
 increasing to 3 issues in the 2003, Volume 28

Name and Mailing Address (if employed by a government agency or university, office address is preferred.)

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E-Mail Address:

*Do you want to receive WAEA newsletter via (circle appropriate): electronic, paper, both*

(Please check appropriate category)

Type of Membership	U.S., Canada, & Mexico	International
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$25.00	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (requires departmental certification)**	\$5.00	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (persons who have retired)	\$12.00	\$17.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (two memberships, one copy of Journal sent)	\$30.00	\$40.00
Lifetime Dues	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 55-59 \$240	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 60-64 \$190
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 65-69 \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 70+ \$80

*\*\*I certify that the person named above is eligible for student membership.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Department Head or Staff Member*

Make check or money order (U.S. dollars) payable to:

**WESTERN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION**

Members are not guaranteed shipment of any journals or newsletters published prior to their membership date.

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send payments to:

Dawn Thilmany, Secretary-treasurer, WAEA  
 Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
 Colorado State University  
 Fort Collins, CO 80523-1172

Phone: (970) 491-7220 Fax: (970) 491-2067; E-mail: thilmany@lamar.colostate.edu

**Graduate Travel Fellowship**  
Application

Application Deadline is **May 1, 2003**

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX** \_\_\_\_\_  
(last) (first) (initial) (area) number number

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

WAEA member? Yes/No

On 2003 WAEA Program? Yes/No Presenting Paper?\_\_\_\_ Receiving Award?\_\_\_\_ Other (describe)\_\_\_\_\_

Estimated travel costs: airfare \$\_\_\_\_\_ hotel \$\_\_\_\_\_

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**Education:** (Optional: Include a recent C.V. in place of this part)

College and Graduate Schools (most recent first)	Graduation mo/yr	Degree level	Major field	GPA
_____	____/____	_____	_____	_____
_____	____/____	_____	_____	_____
_____	____/____	_____	_____	_____

**Briefly List Leadership and Service Activities involved in during Graduate Studies:**

**Briefly Describe Current Research and/or Employment:**

**Briefly Describe your Career Goals after Completion of your Degree:**

**Briefly Describe your Professional Development Goals as they relate to Attendance at the Meetings:**