



WAEA NewsNotes

May 2005

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President's Message

San Francisco here we come! It is hard to believe it, but the WAEA summer meetings will be here very soon. We are meeting jointly with the Western Economics Association International (WEAI) and the Canadian Agricultural Economics Association (CAEA). Our meetings begin on Wednesday, July 6 with the executive and council business meeting that afternoon (CAEA has paper sessions at this time, so if you are not involved in the business meeting, plan to attend their sessions on the 6th – check out their schedule as they have a very interesting set of topics that are of interest to both Canada and the US). Our reception is early evening of July 6 held jointly with the CAEA. The first WAEA general session is bright and early at 8:15 a.m. Thursday, July 7 where Dana Hoag will present a much anticipated presidential address on the future role of Extension in our profession. Corny Gallagher, seasoned agribusiness executive with Bank of America, will present his visions about global agricultural markets and related agricultural economics research needs. This session will assuredly be both provocative and informative. You will definitely not want to miss it. We also have a large number (one of the largest in recent memory) of organized symposiums and selected paper sessions addressing a broad set of substantive issues and topic areas. We all owe vice president Jill McCluskey a huge debt of gratitude for her tireless efforts coordinating the selected papers for the meetings.

A highlight of the meetings will be the awards luncheon on Thursday July 7. This is a fun time to honor our graduate students and peers for their outstanding accomplishments including recognizing our new WAEA Outstanding Scholars while having invaluable time to network and visit with friends and enjoy what has been a highly recommended San Francisco-style lunch at the historic John's Grill. I express my sincere appreciation to Penny Diebel for chairing the awards selection process and Dale Menkhaus for chairing the Outstanding Scholars selection. Details regarding meeting registration, accommodations, and meeting schedule are on the WAEA web cite at <http://www.waeonline.org>

In addition to gearing up for the upcoming meetings activities, now is also the time to vote for your association's future leaders. We have a truly outstanding group of very productive and dedicated scholars who have graciously agreed to serve the WAEA and be slated for president elect, vice president, and two director positions. Please spend a minute completing the enclosed ballot. Your vote is essential and these folks deserve your support.

Ted Schroeder, WAEA President



NOTICES

Important Dates:

- June 10: Completed election ballots due
June 15: Register for WAEA annual meetings to avoid late fees:
<http://www.waeaonline.org>
July 6-8: WAEA annual meetings San Francisco Marriott with WEAI & CAEA

Secretary's Message

I would like to convey my gratitude to Dawn Thilmany, Bruce Godfrey, Dee Von Bailey, Ted Schroeder, the WAEA membership, and the staff at Sheridan Press for their (your) understanding and patience through the transition of the secretary/treasurer office and duties from Dawn and Colorado State University to me and California State University, Fresno. The missteps and delays have been my responsibility while the aforementioned have been extremely helpful in aiding me to find my way. Thank you all.

Mark Twain once said "The coldest winter I ever spent was summer in San Francisco."

OFFICER ELECTIONS

The following members have been nominated, and have agreed to stand, for election. Please vote by June 10th. Please vote for a president, vice-president, and two directors.

- President: Dave Lambert and Gary Brester
Vice-President: Russell Tronstad and Penelope (Penny) L. Diebel
Directors: Eivis Qenani-Petrela, Jeffrey M. Peterson, F. Bailey Norwood and Mark Manfredo

Two Ways to Vote:

e-mail: lynnw@csufresno.edu "WAEA Vote" in the message or
send your ballot to: Lynn Williams
Department of Agricultural Economics
5245 North Backer Avenue MS PB 101
Fresno, CA 93740-8001



President

Dave Lambert

Dave Lambert is Professor and Department Head in Agribusiness and Applied Economics at North Dakota State University. Dr. Lambert served on the faculty at the University of Nevada, Reno from 1984 to 1998. He received a B.A. in Zoology and an M.S. in the Ecology Graduate Group at the University of California, Davis. His 1985 Ph.D. is in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Oregon State University. Dr. Lambert has been a member of the WAEA since 1981. He served for six years on the WAEA council, has moderated sessions at annual meetings, reviewed papers for both *JARE* and for WAEA annual meetings, and served on the Editorial Council for *JARE* from 1998-2000. He was a member of the *JARE* Published Research Award Committee (1998) and chaired the Selected Papers Committee (1995) and the Outstanding Published Research Committee (2004). He was Vice-President of the WAEA from 1996-97. Dr. Lambert initiated and coordinated the electronic posting of selected papers of the 1997 WAEA annual meetings, the first regional or national agricultural economics association annual meeting to electronically post selected papers. Dr. Lambert currently serves on the Board of the Council for Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics, a national organization furthering the contributions of agricultural and resource economists in research and policy making.

WAEA Vision Statement:

The WAEA serves an international membership of agricultural and resource economists. The commitment of the Association to its members is embodied in the Association's mission: to enhance the contribution of agricultural economics to human welfare through professional development of its members.

The Association has many strengths. *JARE* is recognized as a leading journal for applied research addressing agricultural, resource, and food industry problems. Expansion to a thrice annual publication schedule increases the visibility of the Association, as well as increases the journal's attractiveness for contributors and potential members. Establishment of the *Western Economics Forum* fills a niche for applied economists to communicate research ideas in a timely manner and to contribute to policy debates on agricultural and resource problems. Our annual meetings are valued by members for their scale and their relevance to common research, outreach, and teaching issues. Alliances with the Western Economics Association increase opportunities for members to collaborate with colleagues having parallel professional interests. Ties to the AAEA, though strained at times, provide important contacts with our larger national organization. These strengths are maintained by the efforts of highly motivated members promoting the WAEA and expanding its reach into new areas. The Association has not been passive!

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for President. My goals, if elected, would be to continue support for *JARE* as a highly-respected professional journal, promote the *Forum* to expand the reach of our members' work, and increase collaboration with the



WEA, the AAEA, and other associations where synergism could further contributions by WAEA members. My involvement with C-FARE provides a valuable link for representing Western interests at the national level. Finally, preparing for the 2006 meetings in Alaska provides the Association with a wonderful opportunity to focus on the nexus of agricultural, resource, energy, and rural issues in developing a program of wide appeal to current and prospective members.

Gary Brester

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. He served as a WAEA Director from 1999-2001, and as WAEA Vice-President from 2002-2003. He has served two terms as a member of the *JARE* Editorial Council (2001-2003, 2003-2005), and was a member of the *Choices* Editorial Advisory Board from 1998-2002.

WAEA Vision Statement:

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 non-members. 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 *JARE*. Professional publications provide a tangible forum for learning, debate, and critical thought regarding current societal concerns. We should continue to support *JARE*'s editorial teams through monetary compensation and timely reviewer responses. I am disappointed that we have resorted 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. Hence, each of us should willingly accept the important service component of providing quality, timely reviews. We must encourage reviewers to provide unbiased critical reviews that improve our theoretical and applied research knowledge. 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.

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. We must improve our teaching of students and adult-learners regarding the intricacies of controversial issues related to international trade, value-added, taxation, subsidies, comparative advantage, natural resources, and market structures.

WAEA annual meetings provide an important venue for improving human capital, encouraging responsible governance, and increasing visibility. A variety of benefits, costs, and efficiencies exist when sharing meeting venues with other professional organizations. I hope that we continue to, at least occasionally, maintain a separate meeting venue. Finally, the WAEA should sponsor a low-cost, quasi-formal employment center at our annual meetings to encourage graduate student participation and improve the efficiency of our labor markets.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Russell Tronstad

Russell Tronstad is a Professor and Extension Specialist of Agricultural and Resource Economics with the University of Arizona. He received a B.S. in Agribusiness (1983) and M.S. in Applied Economics (1985) from Montana State University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois (1989). Dr. Tronstad has served the WAEA as Director (1999-2001); Co-Editor of *JARE* (2000-2003); *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, *Western Economics Forum*, and Selected Paper contributor and reviewer, multiple years; and recipient of Outstanding Extension Project Awards (1997 and 2005).

WAEA Vision Statement:

The WAEA exists to serve its membership. One of the primary responsibilities of the Vice-President is to coordinate selected paper presentations at the annual summer meeting. Given that next year's summer meeting is scheduled to be in Alaska (June 28-30, 2006) for the first time, I anticipate that a large number of quality papers will be submitted. Thus, if elected as Vice-President, I will work to ensure that the 2006 summer meetings have the ability to handle more paper sessions than usual. The annual summer meetings need to be attractive for both faculty and graduate students to rebuild membership numbers. Graduate student opportunities to present papers and enter competitions along with desirable summer meeting locations for tourism activities are items I would support. The WAEA also needs to continue to provide resources to support



the quality reputation of *JARE* and build awareness and readership of the *WEF* to help attract more members.

Penelope (Penny) L. Diebel

Dr. Diebel is an Associate Professor of Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics at Oregon State University. She is located in the off-campus program, OSU Agriculture at EOU in La Grande, OR. She received her B.S. in Outdoor Recreation Management and M.S. in Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics from Colorado State University. Her PhD in Agriculture Economics is from Virginia Tech. Dr. Diebel has a strong commitment to students and teaching. Penny is responsible for 6-9 courses a year, as well as academic and club advising. Her research has included issues in distance education techniques and student learning preferences, economic alternatives to grass seed field burning, alternative crop economics, weed-free hay cooperatives and water quality issues.

She is currently a WAEA Director, WAEA Awards Chair for 2005, and AAEA Outstanding Policy Contribution Award Committee Chair for 2005. She has been active in the AAEA Teaching, Learning and Communications Committee, National Food and Agribusiness Management Education Commission, Student Section-AAEA, NACTA, OSU Writing Intensive Curriculum Program and other workshops and working groups. She is also an Oregon Writing Project Fellow and recipient of several teaching awards.

WAEA Vision Statement:

I have been fortunate to observe the workings of the WAEA as a Director for the past few years. The WAEA maintains a strong professional reputation through its journal, *JARE*, and its innovative *Western Economic Forum*. The ability to maintain a quality research outlet, while experimenting with new forms of communication and discussion is one way in which WAEA sets itself apart from other professional associations. The WAEA continues to draw people in for these reasons and also because of the smaller, collegial nature of its members and officers. I would like to be a part of this organization as it addresses how to be more inclusive without losing those characteristics that maintain its current membership. I would also like to see the WAEA continue to select meeting locations that highlight our western states, encourage attendance and have easy access. Whatever the WAEA's next challenge is, I feel we need to continue to be attentive to our members' needs and willing to try innovative approaches to meet their needs.



DIRECTORS

Eivis Qenani-Petrela

Eivis Qenani-Petrela is Assistant Professor of Agribusiness at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Dr. Qenani-Petrela teaches courses in agricultural economics, diversity, and labor management. Her research interests include agricultural labor, population, resource and development, and housing investments. She received her Ph.D. in 2002 from Washington State University. Dr. Qenani-Petrela's WAEA activities include reviewer, author, and presenter for selected papers at the annual meetings.

WAEA Vision Statement:

The WAEA needs to maintain and build membership. The *Journal* has an outstanding reputation and should continue to focus on topics that are of interest to Western agricultural and resource economists. The annual meetings should be held in desirable locations, so they will be attractive for members and potential members to attend. The strategy to offer inexpensive dues to graduate students is sound, since they are likely to continue their memberships after they graduate.

Jeffrey M. Peterson

Jeffrey M. Peterson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University (KSU). His specialty area is natural resource and environmental economics, and he teaches courses on these subjects at both the M.S. and Ph.D. levels at KSU. He also teaches an intermediate microeconomic theory course in the undergraduate program. His research focuses on water scarcity and water quality issues, specifically common-property groundwater depletion and the performance of water quality trading programs. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University in 1997 and 2000, respectively. Peterson has been a member of the WAEA since 2001. His service roles to the association since joining include refereeing for the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (JARE)*; and authoring, presenting, and moderating sessions at the WAEA annual meetings.

WAEA Vision Statement:

Due to outstanding past management and leadership, I believe the WAEA is arguably the best value of any professional association catering to agricultural economists. Its annual meetings consistently attract broad attendance, and I have found the group of participants to be of an ideal size and composition for professional networking and exchanging ideas. The association's flagship publication, *JARE*, has maintained its excellent reputation as an outlet for relevant, up-to-date, and high-quality research. Given this track record of



success, the WAEA leadership should focus on maintaining the quality and reputation of its products, and any management changes should be incremental and tactical. For example, one such change to consider is whether the WAEA could do more to recruit new members from specific groups. Graduate students and professionals who migrate into the Western region stand to benefit a great deal from quickly being integrated in the WAEA. Additionally, there are undoubtedly economists outside the Western region who have interests in common with current WAEA members, and there are likely mutual gains from reaching out to these individuals.

F. Bailey Norwood

F. Bailey Norwood is an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. His major research interests are livestock marketing, impacts of production and manure management regulations on the livestock industry, statistical model selection, non-market valuation and the market for agricultural college graduates. Bailey teaches two undergraduate courses; one in agricultural marketing and price analysis and the other in quantitative methods for agribusiness management. Bailey received his Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D. from Clemson University, Kansas State University and North Carolina State University, respectively. As an author and reviewer for the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, as well as a paper presenter at the WAEA annual meetings, Bailey is currently seeking to be elected as Director of the WAEA.

WAEA Vision Statement:

The WAEA has served the agricultural economics community well by providing a well-attended annual conference in addition to two prestigious publications. The *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* is regularly considered second only to the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, and the new publication *Western Economic Forum* has illustrated the association's desire to address relevant and timely issues. The reputation of papers presented at the annual meetings and the two aforementioned publications should be maintained.

I particularly like the meeting location strategy employed by the WAEA; sometimes holding the meetings jointly with other associations, and other times seeking more interesting locations. This provides a nice balance between those who like to minimize the number of association meetings they attend and other WAEA members who like to plan their vacation to coincide with association meetings. If elected, I would be interested in surveying members' interest in hosting an undergraduate quiz bowl competition at the WAEA annual meetings, as conducted by other agricultural economic associations.



Mark Manfredo

Mark Manfredo is an Assistant Professor in the Morrison School of Agribusiness and Resource Management at Arizona State University. Dr. Manfredo teaches courses in agribusiness finance and commodity marketing. His research focuses on price forecasting and risk management in Agribusiness. Dr. Manfredo received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1999 with fields in agricultural finance and commodity marketing and price analysis. Dr. Manfredo has been both an author and reviewer for the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (JARE)*, and has served as a reviewer for the WAEA awards program. He has been a member of WAEA for approximately four years.

WAEA Vision Statement:

I am excited about the opportunity of serving the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) as a director. The WAEA has an outstanding reputation within the Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness fields. My goal as a director is to both maintain this outstanding reputation, and to ensure the continued prosperity of the organization. It is also important to make important non-academic constituents (e.g., industry, government, etc.) aware of the work and contributions of the WAEA. This is particularly true given the important economic issues facing the West such as increased urbanization and consolidation in the agribusiness sector.



BALLOT

President: Vote for One

Dave Lambert

Gary Brester

Vice-President: Vote for One

Russell Tronstad

Penelope (Penny) L. Diebel

Director: Vote for Two

Eivis Qenani-Petrela

Jeffrey M. Peterson

F. Bailey Norwood

Mark Manfredo