



# NEWSNOTES

SPRING 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Colleagues,

The time for our meetings at the Big Sky Resort in Big Sky, Montana on June 25-27, 2008 is a mere two months away. Annual association meetings are always a highlight in my year and I'm sure most of you feel the same way. I have especially looked forward to the WAEA annual meetings because they bring together colleagues who have a love of the West and who are often engaged in research related to western issues. The WAEA meetings are also usually held in beautiful western locations that are conducive to family vacations and outdoor activities. This year's meetings certainly meet those criteria. Big Sky is a gorgeous location within a short driving distance of some of the most lovely scenery and most exciting outdoor activities on the planet. These include Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park. Big Sky itself and the drive to Big Sky (such as up the Gallatin Valley from West Yellowstone) are also fabulous.

Besides being in a wonderful location, we should have a large and excellent meeting at the Big Sky Resort. Our presidential address will be given by Penny Diebel (Oregon State University) and is titled, "Ethics and Agriculture: A Teaching Perspective." Our keynote speaker this year will be B. Wade Brorsen (Oklahoma State University). The title of Wade's paper is "Research: Are We Valuing the Right Stuff?" These papers should both be excellent and thought-provoking as we contemplate the way forward for our profession. Approximately 175 selected paper abstracts were submitted for presentation consideration with 111 of them being accepted for presentation at this year's meeting. Special thanks is given to Vice President Russ Tronstad at the University of Arizona for his great work in managing the entire selected papers process including establishing an

electronic submission protocol for selected paper abstracts and reviews of abstracts. Three organized symposia will also be held – one on the economics of animal health issues and surveillance (Dawn Thilmany, organizer), one on the benefits and costs of a national animal identification system (Ted Schroeder, organizer), and one on the emerging market for environmental goods (Chris Bastian, organizer). We are working to put selected paper sessions together so that the final program will be able to be put up on the WAEA website soon. Questions about selected papers' sessions should be directed to Russ Tronstad at [tronstad@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:tronstad@ag.arizona.edu). A skeleton schedule for this year's meeting is the following:

### June 25<sup>th</sup>:

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. WAEA Council Meeting (Council members only)

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Opening reception – Western BBQ buffet with cash bar

### June 26<sup>th</sup>:

Breakfast on your own

8:30 – 10:15 a.m. Plenary Session – Presidential Address and Keynote Address

10:30 a.m. – noon Selected paper session #1

Noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Selected paper session #2

3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Break

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Selected paper session #3

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Social Hour (Cash Beer and Wine Station)

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Dinner including

8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Free entertainment (have invited the "Bearman, Kevin Sanders, to tell bear stories but not yet confirmed)

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## IMPORTANT DATES:

**WAEA ANNUAL MEETING**  
JUNE 25-27, 2008

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**June 27<sup>th</sup>:**

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and WAEA Business Meeting

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Selected paper session #4

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. – noon Selected paper session #5

Noon – 1:30 p.m. Awards Luncheon and Adjourn

This year's awards committee was been chaired by Chris McIntosh at the University of Idaho. We thank Chris and his committee for selecting very deserving recipients for our awards Clem Ward (Oklahoma State University) and his committee have also done an excellent job in selecting this year's Distinguished Scholars. I believe that all of those attending the meetings in Big Sky will find them to be memorable and well worth attending.

To register and make hotel reservations at Big Sky Resort go to the WAEA annual meeting website at <http://www.waeaonline.org/2008MeetingDocs.htm> (can also be reached through the WAEA website at <http://www.waeaonline.org> and then clicking "WAEA Meetings Big Sky, Montana under "Dates to Remember"). On the left-hand side of the page, click "Hotel Information" and then click "Big Sky Group Lodging Webpage" to get to the Big Sky Resort hotel and condominium page. Our Group Code is 000036113. You must register for hotel rooms no later than May 24, 2008 (see more information about hotel reservations later in this newsletter).

To register for the conference, instead of clicking "Hotel Information" at <http://www.waeaonline.org/2008AssnMtg/2008MeetingDocs.htm>, click instead "Conference Registration." You may register either online, by mail, or by telephone at 800.538.2663. Registration is \$200 for WAEA members and \$225 for non-members. Registration rates increase on May 24<sup>th</sup> to \$250 for members and \$275 for non-members. The dinner buffet at the opening reception, dinner on June 26, and breakfast and lunch on June 27<sup>th</sup> are included in the registration fee. Individual tickets for partners and children may be paid for separately when you register for the meetings (see further information later in this newsletter).

On a different note, we again offer our congratulations to incoming officers. Michael Boland (Kansas State University) becomes our president-elect at the Big Sky meetings. David Buschena (Montana State University) will become our vice president while Eric DeVuyst (North Dakota State University) and Ruby Ward (Utah State University) are our incoming directors. Finally, the Executive Committee voted to hold our 2009 annual meeting at the Hilton Kauai Beach Resort in Hawaii. With Big Sky in 2008 and Hawaii in 2009, we have great locations for our next two meetings. As I have said before, being a member of the WAEA has never been so good! Please register for the Big Sky meetings as soon as possible. You will be glad that you did.



## Information about Big Sky Meeting

### Hotel and Food Accommodations at Big Sky Resort:

Reservations at Big Sky Resort should be made by no later than May 24, 2008. This is done online at the WAEA annual meeting website at <http://www.waeaonline.org/2008AssnMtg/2008AssnMtg/2008MeetingDocs.htm> (can also be reached through the WAEA website at <http://waeaonline.org> and then clicking "WAEA Meetings Big Sky, Montana under "Dates to Remember"). On the left-hand side of the page, click "Hotel Information" and then click "Big Sky Group Lodging Webpage" to get to the Big Sky Resort hotel and condominium page. Our Group Code is 000036113. A one night's room charge is required to hold a room and must be paid within 10 days of making your reservation and within 30 days of your arrival. This is what dictates May 24<sup>th</sup> as a target for hotel reservations. Big Sky Resort has a cancellation policy that requires the forfeiture of the one night's room deposit for cancellations within 30 days of arrival. Rooms not reserved by May 24<sup>th</sup> will be released and will be sold at higher rates.

The hotel rooms at the Big Sky Resort are very nice. The Shoshone Condominiums can easily sleep four people and have kitchenettes. This may be important to you because if you are not planning on eating at restaurants at the resort you will probably want to buy groceries and bring them to the resort. Grocery stores are located in the location called the "Meadow" at Big Sky but this is a few miles (about 15 minutes drive) down the road from the Big Sky Resort where the meetings will take place. There are very limited alternatives for buying groceries at the Big Sky Resort itself, but there are many very good restaurants (see Summer Dining Options at big Sky at <http://www.waeaonline.org/2008AssnMtg/2008DiningOptions.pdf>).

### Food Included in Registration:

Your registration will include four meals. This includes an western BBQ buffet as part of the reception on June 25<sup>th</sup> (cash bar also at the reception), another dinner buffet on the evening of June 26<sup>th</sup> (cash beer and wine bar will be available for the 30 minute social period prior to dinner), plated breakfast at the business meeting on the morning of June 27<sup>th</sup> and a plated lunch at the Awards' Luncheon. Separate tickets for other guests may be purchased as part of your reservation package or may be paid for when you check in at our reservation table in Big Sky. Children 4-11 are given a 25% discount off the regular adult meal cost (see on-line registration for adult and children prices for individual meals at <http://www.waeaonline.org/2008AssnMtg/2008MeetingDocs.htm> and click "Conference Registration"). Children over 11 are required to pay the adult price while children under four eat for free. We are subsidizing the meal served at the reception to the degree possible to help facilitate the involvement of families at that particular event. There will be free entertainment (Yellowstone "Bearman" invited) on the evening of June 26<sup>th</sup> following dinner.

### Outdoor Activities:

Opportunities for outdoor activities abound at Big Sky. For information about outdoor activities see <http://www.waeaonline.org/2008AssnMtg/2008OutdoorActivities.pdf>. We are trying to arrange for representatives from companies that do white water rafting and horseback riding to be near our registration table from noon – 5 p.m. on June 25<sup>th</sup> and again from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Other activities can be booked on your own at the telephone numbers provided at the above link. These activities include anything from golf to mountain biking to fly fishing. Of course, both the north and west entrances to Yellowstone National Park are only an hour's drive from Big Sky Resort, so you will have no excuse not to have a great time in the outdoors.

## Transportation to Big Sky Resort:

Routes for reaching Big Sky Montana are many:

The closest airport to the Big Sky Resort is Bozeman, Montana – 41 miles.

Other airports include:

West Yellowstone, MT - 47 miles (*limited number of flights on Delta from Salt Lake City during the summer*)

Idaho Falls, ID - 156 miles

Billings, MT – 186 miles

Salt Lake City, UT 370 miles

Big Sky Resort is off of US Highway 191 which connects to I-90 near Bozeman, MT. US 191 also connects to US Highway 20 which connects to I-15 in Idaho Falls, ID. *All of these are excellent and scenic roads!*

More information about travel to Big Sky Resort, including shuttle service and car rentals, is available at

<http://www.waeaonline.org/2008AssnMtg/2008TransportationOptions.pdf>.

## Membership and Dues

Membership in WAEA comes with many benefits, including an exceptional journal, new newsletter format with timely articles, and joint and independent meetings with great content and networking opportunities. Still, we have been able to retain low dues given past financial management successes and a solid membership base. Dues for 2008 will remain as follows:

	<u>Domestic:</u>	<u>International:</u>
Regular	\$25	\$30
Student	\$5	\$10
Senior	\$12	\$17
Family	\$30	

Please promote our association to your colleagues and graduate students. It is a great value. A membership form for 2008 is on the next page.

## Membership Application and Dues Notice for 2008

includes a subscription to the

### JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
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