

WAEA News Update



The 2015 WAEA meetings were held jointly with the AAEA in San Francisco, California this past summer. Attendance and participating members posted record numbers, indicating that collaborative meetings are popular with our membership

I want to thank AAEA for their organizational leadership for those meetings, and Tom Marsh for an excellent program this summer. Our next meeting is joint with the Canadian Ag Economics Society (CAES) June 21–23, 2016 in Victoria, British Columbia.

Several outcomes of the 2015 summer WAEA board meeting are notable. First, we thanked our outgoing editor team, Chris McIntosh, Larry Makus, Hayley Chouinard, and Gregmar Galinato, and welcomed our new set of editors who will oversee the 2016-18 issues of *JARE*. This team includes Jeff Peterson, David Lambert, Hikaru Peterson, and Tian Xia.

A call for 2016 WAEA awards, fellows, and symposiums is included below. Note that selected papers for the joint WAEA/CAES meeting in 2016 will be handled jointly through with that association, including a joint graduate student paper competition. Watch for details on this year's selected paper process in the next newsletter.

The 2017 WAEA meetings will be held independently in Lake Tahoe, California from July 9-12, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort. It is a beautiful spot, so we hope it is an attractive venue for our meetings.

Finally the nominating committee has provided an excellent set of candidates who have agreed to stand for election as WAEA directors and officers. The individuals, their background, and vision statements are provided below. Please vote online by November 2, 2015.

Dawn Thilmany McFadden
WAEA President

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Important Dates

- 2016 WAEA/CAE Annual Meeting*
Victoria, BC, June 21-23, 2016
- 2017 WAEA Annual Meeting*
Lake Tahoe, CA, July 9-12, 2017

WAEA Officer Elections

The following candidates have agreed to stand for election:

President

T. Randall Fortenbery, Washington State University

Lynn Hamilton, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Director

James Sterns, Oregon State University

Michael McCullough, California Polytechnic State University

Karina Gallardo, TFREC, Washington State University

Corey Walters, University of Nebraska

Voting Instructions

Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YQTG35X> to submit your vote. The election deadline is

November 2, 2015.

Candidate Statements – President



Randy Fortenbery
Professor
Washington State University

Background

Randy Fortenbery is a Professor and the Thomas B. Mick Endowed in the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University.

He also serves as Chairman of the AgMarkets Advisory Comm. for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Prior to joining the faculty at Washington State he held the Renk Endowed Chair in Agribusiness at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, and served as the Associate Director of the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative.

From 1998 through 1999 Randy was Director of Research for Frontier Risk Management. Frontier is a futures trading company that manages speculative trading funds, and serves as hedge broker to some of the largest agribusiness firms in the U.S. From 1988-1992 he was Assistant Professor of Economics at North Carolina State University. Randy's research and extension work focuses on commodity price performance, market behavior, and the international trade of commodities. His international work includes projects in Ukraine, Honduras, Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique, South Arica, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Rwanda, Norway, and Brazil.

In addition to his academic work Randy is regularly engaged as a public speaker at the national and international levels. In the last two years he has given seven key notes at conferences including an international markets conference hosted by the Norwegian Center for Commodity Markets in Oslo, Norway, the combined meetings of U.S. Wheat and the National Association of Wheat Growers, and the 5th Risk Management and Commodity Trading Conference in Sao, Paulo, Brazil (up-coming). Randy's professional service includes the editorial board of Review of Agricultural Economics, Associate Editor of Commodity Markets (a new international journal), the WAEA advisory council, and several AAEA and SAEA committees. He served as chair of the

Marketing and Trade SBIR grant committee for USDA. He has been a continuous member of WAEA since 1988.

WAEA Vision Statement

A very attractive feature of WAEA is the atmosphere surrounding our annual meetings. The meetings provide an excellent environment for graduate students and others to present their work in a friendly environment where they receive excellent feedback while not being subjected to some of the less comfortable interactions that can happen in larger meeting venues. I believe we should market and build on that reputation by encouraging broader participation from faculty and graduate students whose primary interests include extension and/or teaching. We have had excellent leadership in recent years, and I would like to see us continue earlier efforts to make the meetings relevant to a diverse membership. This would include designing specific sessions for work directly related to extension programming and teaching strategies.

The JARE continues to be a very well respected journal and one that attracts excellent work. I think we should work to enhance the exposure of the Western Economic Forum as well. I believe it has been well managed but we seems to lag a bit in terms of submissions. One way to increase submissions and visibility is to tie an issue to the annual meetings. Opportunities could include a graduate paper competition with the best paper being printed in the journal. In addition, we might consider inviting for submission a quality presented paper that focuses on extension programming and one on teaching methodology and/or evaluation.

I believe that the Association is relevant and serves our current membership well, thus I am not advocating for a new focus or significant changes in strategy or management. Rather, I see some opportunities for tweaks that could help us remain relevant to our traditional membership but also increase relevance for current graduate students and some colleagues who may not consider the current meeting format or the Western Economic Forum as appropriate places for their work.

Candidate Statements – President

Lynn Hamilton
Professor
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Background

Lynn Hamilton is a Professor of Agribusiness at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she teaches agribusiness principles, agricultural policy, and research methods. Her

research interests include the regulatory environment faced by agribusiness firms, land use policy and renewable energy. She has been a member of WAEA since 2001, and is currently a WAEA Director (2013-2016). Dr. Hamilton has served on the Teaching Awards Committees for WAEA and AAEA, chaired the Industry Field Trip for the 2013 WAEA meetings in Monterey and served the AAEA for two years as chair of AAEA's Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics. She is also currently a board member for AAEA's Agriculture Economics and Management Section.

WAEA Vision Statement

It's an honor to be nominated to serve as president of WAEA. I have been a member of WAEA for almost 15 years, and have benefited tremendously from my

involvement in the organization. I find the meetings intellectually stimulating and professionally rewarding, as I return to my university with new ideas for research and teaching innovation. I have found WAEA an excellent outlet for presenting my work and I always receive constructive and useful feedback during the selected paper sessions. My vision would be to continue to develop and expand these benefits for graduate students and for early career academics. My goal is to establish an institutional membership in which a department would receive two free memberships per year to extend to new faculty members. That would introduce faculty members to WAEA early in their careers, when they can benefit most from networking and professional development opportunities.

I bring a perspective somewhat different from those of my colleagues at land-grant universities. WAEA should strive to serve all members, and there are a number of us who teach at non-land grant institutions. We serve primarily undergraduates, and focus heavily on innovations in agribusiness education and applied industry research. My goal as president is to ensure that those viewpoints are represented, and agribusiness education and industry partnerships are part of future WAEA meetings.

Candidate Statements – Director

R. Karina Gallardo
Associate Professor
Washington State
University

Background

R. Karina Gallardo is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in the School of Economic Sciences. She is stationed at the Puyallup

Research and Extension Center and is affiliated faculty in the Center for Precision and Automated Agricultural Systems at Washington State University. She holds a BS in Food Science from Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (Lima, Peru), a Master in Science in Agricultural Economics from Mississippi State University and a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University.

Karina's primary research and outreach program goal is to enhance value-added agribusiness opportunities for specialty crops in the state of Washington. Her areas of research are focused on consumer demand analysis and the economics of technological change. Karina conducts research assessing consumers' preferences for fresh fruit quality, profitability and other factors affecting growers' adoption of new technologies, such as new cultivars, improved pest management systems, and labor enhancing mechanisms.

I feel honored to have the opportunity to apply to serve as Director of the WAEA. Throughout my career, WAEA has increased my awareness of how important applied research is to advancing agriculture, and has fueled my motivation to conduct research and extension in this exciting discipline. My WAEA membership has also served as a platform to learn from the most reputable agricultural economists in the U.S.

Vision Statement

As director, my vision is to work towards enhancing WAEA's prestige as the leading agricultural economics association in the Western U.S. To achieve this, I see that increasing attendee participation at annual meetings is crucial. I would advocate promoting attendance among junior faculty and promising graduate students. Additionally, I would actively encourage inviting entities, such as industry stakeholders, allied professionals, and extension specialists. Association members, including graduate students, will benefit professionally by learning from different stakeholders' who are on the forefront of economic issues currently impacting local, U.S. agriculture and the food system. Concurrently, stakeholders and allied professionals could increase awareness about different dimensions of agricultural economics and further advance their organizations and/or disciplines. Enhancing WAEA's leadership in times of competing interests seems challenging, but I am confident that by working with a group of motivated and passionate individuals, we can bring these ambitious goals into reality.

Candidate Statements – Director

Michael McCullough
Associate Professor
California Polytechnic
State University

Dr. Michael McCullough is an Associate Professor in the Agribusiness Department at California Polytechnic State University. Dr. McCullough joined the AGB department in

2008 after earning a M.S. and Ph.D. at Washington State University and a B.S. at Boise State University.

Research and Teaching Activities

Dr. McCullough believes strongly in the Teacher-Scholar model of higher education. His research interests deal with the economics of the beer and wine and agricultural production and policy. Dr. McCullough has been an active member of the WAEA since 2007. He has presented at annual meetings, reviewed selected abstract submissions, and helped out with the 2013 meeting's industry tour.

WAEA Vision Statement

The WAEA is a vital part of our academic community in the West. The respected Association has had a long-standing tradition of quality research, outreach, and support of teaching excellence that engenders a diversity of thought and supports all types of professional activities. In addition, the JARE and WEF

are premier places to publish quality and relevant applied research. I am very thankful for the opportunities that the WAEA has given me and am very excited to be able to give back. It would be my pleasure to help keep this tradition going serving the Association and members in a way that best fits today's changing agricultural environment.

My vision for the WAEA is to maintain the exceptional reputation the members have built, to remain an inclusive organization, and to encourage involvement by younger academic professionals, agricultural industry professionals, and public policy officials. I believe there is an opportunity to support and develop the careers of new agricultural economists. The fostering of new ideas in scholarship, teaching, and outreach is important to the sustained excellence of agricultural economics.

Programs that help young agricultural economists develop their careers will not only grow and sustain membership but also strengthen the profession as a whole. There is a large transition between graduate school and a professional career that is not always outwardly discussed. The Association can help minimize negative aspects of the transition between career stages. If elected, I would work hard to help develop program and policy that fosters career growth, meeting attendance, and a positive lifelong relationship between members and the Association. I've always appreciated the welcoming and inclusive environment that the WAEA offers and want to make sure it is extended to all in the Western States and beyond.

Candidate Statements – Director**James Sterns**

*Associate Professor
Oregon State
University*

Background

Associate Professor James Sterns joined the Faculty of the Department of Applied Economics at Oregon State University in 2013. His teaching and research focus areas

are agribusiness management and the performance of agri-food systems in the Pacific Northwest. His prior work experiences include 12 years as a faculty member of the Food and Resource Economics Department at the University of Florida. During his career, he has served in a range of leadership and service roles. He currently is the Chair of the Agribusiness Economics and Management Section of the AAEA. He also has served as the Chair of the WERA-72 Coordinating Committee on Agribusiness and Competitiveness, Chair of the AAEA Institutional and Behavioral Economics Section, Chair of the AAEA Teaching, Learning and Communications Section, and Chair of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association's Undergraduate Committee. He also has worked internationally, including extended work assignments in Cameroon, France, Ecuador and Haiti. He is married and the father of three K-8 school-aged children. He was born and raised in rural Kansas and has fond childhood memories of visiting his grandparents' farm in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

WAEA Vision Statement

I am honored to have this opportunity to stand for election to the Executive Council. If elected, I would serve with three goals in mind. First, do no harm – I have always been impressed with the strength and enduring success of the WAEA. Like all regional associations, there have been challenges, but the cohesive, supportive network of scholars within the Western Association, its relevant and timely programming at its annual meetings, and its support of graduate students and early career faculty members are successes that need to be sustained by the Association's leadership. Second, focus on our value proposition – historically, regional associations have existed within the agricultural economics profession for a very important reason: to sustain a focused, cohesive scholarly community that can extend the breadth and depth of research, teaching and outreach in subject areas that are particularly important to a region. The context in which WAEA members work and serve stakeholders is sufficiently different to justify this focused effort. Put simply, the WAEA leadership needs to continue to value and prioritize scholarly pursuits that reflect the "Western" in the Association's name. Third, listen closely – I am relatively new to the region and the WAEA, but have twelve years of active engagement, service and commitment to the Southern Ag Econ Association. That track record will provide a solid foundation for service on the WAEA Executive Council, but I know I have much to learn about the specificity of the region and this organization. Hence, I will be an advocate for the Executive Council to actively solicit ideas from our members and to nurture an open and welcoming culture within our Executive Council.

Candidate Statements – Director



Corey Walters
Assistant Professor
University of
Nebraska-Lincoln

Background

Cory Walters is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Prior to joining UNL, he was an Assistant Professor at the University of

Kentucky. He earned his Ph.D. and M.A. from Washington State University and a B.S. from Montana State University.

Dr. Walters' outreach and research program focuses on improving Nebraska and regional grain producers' production, marketing and management abilities. His extension and research interest's focus on the use of public (crop insurance and Farm Bill) and private (futures markets) risk management tools to manage farm income risk. He also investigates policy-important areas of federal crop insurance, fertilizer decisions, and environmental quality. His teaching

responsibilities at University of Kentucky included undergraduate classes in agricultural futures markets and grain marketing. He has contributed to the association by presenting at annual meetings, reviewing annual meeting abstract submissions, and publishing in and reviewing for JARE.

Dr. Walters grew up on a farm in Montana where he continues to be active in the decision making process as well as labor (nearly free) during harvest.

Vision statement

The WAEA is a highly regarded agricultural economics association tackling western U.S. agriculture and natural resource issues. The WAEA addresses these issues through a professional forum containing a wide scope of thought. The association's annual meeting represents a very important venue to present research aimed at discussing issues related to the western U.S. JARE represents a consistently top outlet for high quality applied research. My vision for the WAEA is to sustain its identity as a high quality agricultural economics association. I believe the WAEA identity can be strengthened upon by focusing on improving linkages between agricultural industry professionals, academic professionals (especially younger faculty), and public policy professionals. Improving linkages would lead to additional opportunities for research collaboration, data, funding, job placement for graduate students, and memberships.

2015 WAEA Call for General Award Nominations

The deadline for all submissions is Thursday, **February 18, 2016**. For questions, please contact Dustin Pendell (phone: 785.532.3525; email: dpendell@ksu.edu) or Lynn Hamilton (email: lhamilto@calpoly.edu).

Graduate Paper or Master's Thesis Award

Purpose of the Award: To recognize outstanding research by graduate students from WAEA institutions.

Nature of the Award: The award will be called "Outstanding Graduate Published 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.

Eligibility Requirements: Nominees must have completed the master's degree at a WAEA institution during the 2014 calendar year. Only thesis or graduate published papers bearing a completion date within the calendar year prior to the association meeting may be submitted from a WAEA institution.

Evaluation criteria:

- (1) Importance of the problem or topic
- (2) Significance of the results
- (3) Quality of the work
- (4) Effectiveness of reporting

Procedures: Nominations must be made by departments located within the geographic scope of the Association. Only one nomination per institution can be submitted. A letter of nomination and an electronic copy (pdf format) of the thesis needs to be emailed to the chair of the selection committee. The letter of nomination should summarize the research of the nominee with respect to the criteria outlined above.

Send nominations to Jordan Suter at jordan.suter@colostate.edu. *Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted.*

Outstanding Published Research Award

Purpose of the 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 shall 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 2014 publication date will be considered. Articles published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* (JARE) are not eligible. Textbooks will not be considered published research for the purpose of this award.

Eligibility Criteria:

- (1) Importance and significance of the results,
- (2) Quality of the work, and
- (3) Effectiveness of reporting

Procedures:

- (1) Nominations must be made by WAEA members and/or departments located within the geographic scope of the Association.
- (2) An electronic copy (**pdf format** is preferred) of each publication will be emailed to the chair of the selection committee.
- (3) Selection of the award winner(s) will be made by a committee.

Send nominations to Jonathan Yoder at yoder@wsu.edu. *Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted.*

Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Awards

- With less than 10 years' experience
- With more than 10 years' experience

Purpose of the Awards: To recognize outstanding teaching of students and related activities by members of the Association.

Nature of the Awards: Two awards may be given. (1) The first shall be called "Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association with less than 10 years' experience." (2) The second will be called "Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association with more than 10 years' experience." The winner(s) will receive a certificate(s). This award will be made annually at the WAEA meeting.

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:

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

Procedures:

- (1) Nominations may be made by Association members and/or departments located within the geographic scope of the Association.
- (2) Nomination Packet:
 - a. The nominator should submit a letter of nomination, supplementary tables and supporting items if desired. The letter of nomination should summarize the teaching accomplishments of the nominee with respect to the criteria outlined above. The nomination letter is limited to no more than three pages (single spaced).
 - b. Summary tables may be added to the letter of nomination to provide supplemental and supporting data. NOTE: Summary tables will not be counted as part of the three-page limit for the nomination letter and will also not be counted as one of the three supporting items.
 - c. A maximum of three supporting items (letters of recommendation, publications, videos, etc.) may also be included. Each letter, publication, video, etc., counts as one item.
- (3) Electronic files of all materials shall be sent to the chair of the awards committee. Supporting materials may be scanned and submitted.
- (4) Selection of the award winner(s) will be made by a committee

Send nominations to W. Marshall Frasier at Marshall.Frasier@colostate.edu. *Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted.*

Outstanding Extension Program Awards

- For Project
- For Career

Purpose of the Awards: To recognize outstanding extension programs by members of the Association.

Nature of the Awards: Two awards may be given annually. (1) The first shall be called the “Outstanding Extension Program Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association, for Project.” This award shall be given to programs that are of less than or equal to five years duration. (2) The second award shall be called “Outstanding Extension Program Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association, for Career.” This award shall be given to programs that are of more than five years duration. These awards may be made annually at the WAEA meeting. The winner(s) 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:

- (1) Importance of the problem or subject,
- (2) Cost effectiveness of the program,
- (3) Appropriateness of the economic analysis,
- (4) Effectiveness of communication methods, and
- (5) Evidence of accomplishments of objectives and positive impact on target audience(s).

Procedures:

- (1) Nominations must be made by Association members and/or departments located within the geographic scope of the Association.
- (2) Nomination Packet
 - a. The nominator should submit a letter of nomination, supplementary tables and supporting items if desired. The letter of nomination should summarize the accomplishments of the nominee with respect to the criteria outlined above. The nomination letter is limited to no more than three pages (single spaced).
 - b. Summary tables may be added to the letter of nomination to provide supplemental and supporting data. NOTE: Summary tables will not be counted as part of the three-page limit for the nomination letter and will also not be counted as one of the three supporting items.
 - c. A maximum of three supporting items (letters of recommendation, publications, videos, etc.) may also be included. Each letter of recommendation, publication, video, etc. counts as one time.
- (3) Electronic files of all materials shall be emailed to the chair of the awards committee. Supporting materials may be scanned and submitted.
- (4) Selection of the award winner(s) will be made by a committee.

Send nominations to Eric DeVuyst at eric.devuyst@okstate.edu. *Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted.*

Call for WAEA Fellow Award Nominations

Deadline: February 18, 2015 (*Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted*).

Send Applications to Tom Marsh, tl_marsh@wsu.edu.

Purpose of the Award: To recognize individuals making an enduring contribution over their career to agricultural, resource, and/or environmental economics in the Western states and the WAEA, demonstrating excellence in some combination of the following areas of performance:

1. Basic and applied economics research
2. Integration of knowledge (textbook writing or synthetic reviews)
3. Service or outreach drawing on economic expertise
4. Teaching (undergraduate and/or graduate)
5. Administration (institution and/or WAEA)

Nomination Process: Any member of the association may nominate any living member for the honor of election as WAEA fellow by submitting the name to James Richardson jwrichardson@tamu.edu no later than midnight, February 24, 2015. Documentation shall include a brief vitae (not to exceed six pages, double-spaced) along with a nomination letter describing why the person is worthy of the honor. The total nomination package will be limited to a maximum of eight typed, double-spaced pages. A nominee must be a current member of the association, having been a member for a total of at least 20 years.

Nomination Pool: The WAEA Fellow Award Selection Committee is responsible to augment the pool of nominees obtained from the general membership with economists who they feel should be considered for this recognition.

WAEA Fellow Award Selection Committee: The WAEA Fellow Award Selection Committee shall operate with a chairperson revolving annually and is comprised of four fellows, the past president of the association, and WAEA directors.

Announcement of Election: The names of the newly elected fellows shall be announced at the annual meeting of the association by the president of the association or his/her appointed representative, who shall read a statement regarding the achievements of each fellow and shall present a plaque of recognition to each person so honored. The statements regarding achievements and photographs of the winners shall be published in the December issue of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.

Call for Organized Symposia Proposals

The WAEA is seeking organized symposia proposals for the 2016 annual meeting in Victoria, BC. Each symposium should consist of two or more speakers with ample time devoted to discussion, but we are open to a variety of formats (panels, speakers with discussants, audience participation). At least one author must be a member of the WAEA, and we encourage submissions that include members of both the WAEA and CAES.

If a symposium is accepted, all presenters need to register for the annual meeting by April 29, 2016 to have the symposium included in the program. The proposal should include 1) title of symposium; 2) motivation for need and importance of the topic; 3) potential presenters, including a brief description of their papers or discussion topics; and 4) session format (panel, short presentation or other structure). Please submit proposals via email to Dawn Thilmany in pdf format at dawn.thilmany@colostate.edu by February 18, 2016.