

# Spring 2021 Edition



## 2021 Annual Meeting Information

It is with a hefty dose of enthusiasm and excitement that I communicate information about our upcoming hybrid joint meeting this summer. To this end, I applaud the efforts of the AAEA Board and AAEA President, Dawn Thilmany, for navigating the uncertainties of the last year and maintaining our annual meeting. For many of us, these meetings provide opportunities to build on research capabilities and ideas, while expanding social networks or just catching up with old friends. There are some notable COVID-19 protocols, including a vaccination requirement, limited social events, mask wearing, and social distancing. For more information on these requirements, as well as general information on the conference, stay updated by checking the conference website (<https://www.aaea.org/meetings/2021-aaea-annual-meeting>).

With regard to the annual meeting, I would like to highlight a few items. First, hotel ([link](#)) and conference ([link](#)) registration are open. When registering, your registration fee will be the same whether you register as a WAEA or an AAEA member. As with many meetings, registration prices increase the longer you wait. Also, you will have the option to sign up 'virtual-only' or to attend 'in-person.' Second, when going through the registration process, you will notice that under the Events page there will be a **WAEA Business Luncheon** on Sunday, August 1 from noon – 2:30pm. Whether you register as a primary WAEA or AAEA member, you will have access to joining this event, which will include the WAEA business meeting, presidential address by incoming president, Glynn Tonsor, and the WAEA awards ceremony. Third, there will be sessions throughout the conference that will be focused specifically on western issues. While more details will be provided once those dates/times are finalized, I would like to highlight the WAEA keynote address that will be delivered by USDA Chief Economist, Seth Meyer, on Monday (Aug. 2). Also, we look forward to hosting our graduate student competition on Saturday (July 31), organized symposiums on Sunday (Aug. 1) and Tuesday (Aug. 3). Fourth, as detailed in communications from AAEA, this meeting will officially be a hybrid meeting. As such, our business meeting/presidential address/awards ceremony luncheon, keynote address, and other sessions will be livestreamed so that those who are attending virtually are also able to participate.

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### Future Meetings:

#### 2021 Joint AAEA/WAEA Meeting

July 31 – Aug. 2, 2021  
Austin, TX

#### 2022 WAEA Annual Meeting

June 26 – 28, 2022  
La Fonda on the Plaza  
Santa Fe, NM

#### 2023 Joint CAES/WAEA Meeting

July 17 – 20, 2023  
Hilton Whistler Resort  
Whistler, BC, Canada

Finally, I am happy to report the finalized upcoming WAEA conference schedule that is shown on the previous page. We have secured these great locations that were lost over the last couple of years without losing a dime. Santa Fe, NM and Whistler, BC, are some excellent locations that I look forward to attending in future years. Additionally, the CAES will be joining us in 2023.

### Last Call for Organized Symposia

There is still some space for organized symposia at the annual meeting. If you have an idea for a session or a proposal, please let me know ASAP. I am currently working to put the finishing touches on two sessions that take place on the morning of Sunday, August 1 and still have a few slots open.

### WAEA Outstanding Senior Award

The WAEA Outstanding Senior Award recognizes outstanding undergraduate seniors who have achieved academic excellence at their institution and are expected to make important contributions to western agricultural, resource, and/or environmental economics in their career. One senior standing student may be selected by each degree granting institution in the nineteen western states of the United States (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) and four western provinces of Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan). Each department makes their own eligibility criteria, selection process, and outstanding senior award decision. Award winners will receive a certificate and recognition in the WAEA awards program and on the WAEA website. Certificates are mailed to each department rather than the student. Please send selected senior names and department contact information to Eric Belasco, [eric.belasco@montana.edu](mailto:eric.belasco@montana.edu).

### Graduate Student Competition

This is a final reminder that the WAEA is soliciting submissions of quality papers by graduate students. To be eligible for the competition, a student must: a) Be the lead author on a selected paper or paper at the joint AAEA/WAEA conference this summer; b) Be a member of the WAEA; and c) Present the paper in person at the joint AAEA/WAEA meeting in Austin, TX. (Note: There may be capabilities for a student to present virtually. If you are only able to present in a virtual option, please submit your paper and indicate that you can only present in a virtual option.) Submissions must include a draft of their paper and are due to Lynn Hamilton ([lhamilto@calpoly.edu](mailto:lhamilto@calpoly.edu)) by May 28, 2021.

If you have any questions or concerns about the WAEA or information contained in this newsletter, I would love to hear from you by email ([eric.belasco@montana.edu](mailto:eric.belasco@montana.edu)). Over the next month, the next communication will arrive in your inbox with more specific information about the annual meeting. Until then, I hope you have a great start to summer!!

Sincerely,



Eric J. Belasco  
WAEA President