

WAEA News Update Fall 2023



I hope that everyone had a fun and productive summer and that fall semester is going well. I would like to thank WAEA Past-President, Stephen Devadoss, for his excellent service to the association, particularly for the successful and well-run joint meeting with the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society (CAES) in

beautiful Whistler, British Columbia. CAES President Getu Hailu and Councilor Yu Na Lee were fantastic partners for conference planning. I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful job the WAEA Directors Kate Fuller and Mykel Taylor did with the selected papers' selection and Lisa Elliott and Kristi Hansen for overseeing the award programs.

Initial planning is underway for the 2024 Western Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, which will be held at the San Francisco Marriott Union Square. I am working with the WAEA Directors to plan for the meetings. Directors Vardges Hovhannisyan and Deepthi Kolady are in charge of the selected papers, while Directors Kate Fuller and Mykel Taylor are in charge of the WAEA awards. More information about the WAEA meeting will be forthcoming in the winter newsletter.

I have a couple of important announcements related to WAEA publications:

New JARE editorial team: It is with great pleasure and appreciation that I announce the WAEA Executive Council has accepted a proposal by Dr. Vardges Hovhannisyan (University of Wyoming), Dr. Simanti Banerjee (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Dr. Liang Lu (University of Idaho), and Dr. Fabio Santeramo (University of Foggia) to become the new editorial team for the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics for the issues appearing in the publication years of 2024 to 2026. I appreciate their willingness to serve the WAEA in this way. I also greatly appreciate the work of Dr. Jeffrey Reimer, Dr. Christian Langpap, Dr. Dayton Lambert, and Dr. Timothy Park for their efforts over the past three years. Amy Bekkerman will continue in her role as the production editor for JARE.

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Important Dates:

2024 WAEA Annual Meeting
June 22-25, 2024
San Francisco, California

2025 Joint AAEA/WAEA Annual Meeting
July 27-29, 2025
Denver, Colorado

New JARE submission portal: In addition to a new JARE Editorial Team, the WAEA Executive Council and the JARE Editorial Team have decided to switch to a new submission portal, effective January 1, 2024. Starting January 1 submissions to JARE will go through Editorial Express. Manuscripts that are in the system through Manuscript FastTrack will continue to go through Manuscript FastTrack.

New WEF editorial team: Dr. Russell Tronstad (University of Arizona) has agreed to serve as editor for WEF, along with Dr. Matthew Diersen (South Dakota State), Dr. Dillon Feuz (Utah State University), and Dr. Greg Torell (New Mexico State) as WEF Associate Editors. The team will manage the WEF for the next six issues, starting with the Spring 2024 issue. This will be for the publication years of 2024 to 2026. I greatly appreciate the team's willingness to work with the WAEA.

Information Related to AgEcon Search: [AgEcon Search](#) is a valuable site for review of literature in agricultural economics. The [WAEA collection](#) in AgEcon Search includes the archives of the *JARE* and Western Economic Forum articles and over 1800 WAEA conference papers dating back several decades. It also contains AAEA selected papers, posters, Choices, Applied Economics Teaching Resources (AETR) papers, and a few other miscellaneous publications in this link, <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/collection/11>, as well as [ERS Staff reports](#) dating back to 1980. Software updates allow researchers to preview any paper and see the number of downloads for individual and groups of papers. Journal articles now make up over 1/3 of the 171,000 papers in AgEcon Search and they come from over 125 journals originating in 47 countries.

WAEA Annual Elections: Finally, WAEA officer elections are underway. Two candidates (Dayton Lambert, Cory Walters) for WAEA President and four candidates (Ram Acharya, Xiaowei Cai, William Ridley, Haoying Wang) for WAEA Board of Directors have agreed to run for election. I very much appreciate the willingness of these candidates to run for election and devote their time and efforts to serve the association. In the following pages, you will find a link to the voting page and their nomination information. Voting will close on November 30, 2023. I strongly encourage WAEA members to vote by the deadline.

If you have any questions or concerns about WAEA or information contained in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me by e-mail (kschoengold2@unl.edu).



Karina Schoengold
WAEA President

WAEA Officer Elections

The following candidates are running for the WAEA election.

President

Dayton Lambert, Oklahoma State University

Cory Walters, University of Nebraska

Director

Ram Acharya, New Mexico State University

Xiaowei Cai, California Polytechnic State University

William Ridley, University of Illinois

Haoying Wang, New Mexico Tech

Voting Instructions

Please click the [link](#) to submit your votes. The election deadline is **November 30, 2023**.

Candidate Statements – President



Dayton Lambert,
Oklahoma State University

Background
Dayton Lambert is a Professor,

the Willard R. Sparks Chair in Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University. His research interests include production economics, technology adoption, microeconometrics, regional economic impact and contribution analysis, and spatial statistics. Dayton is an editor for the *Journal of Agricultural & Resource Economics*. He also serves on the editorial boards of *Applied Economic Perspectives & Policy* and the *Review of Regional Studies*. He has published over 180 peer-reviewed articles with over 6,300 Google Scholar citations. Dayton has served as committee chair for 13 Master's theses and six Doctoral dissertations and as a committee member for 45 Master's theses and 18 Doctoral dissertations.

Notable awards and recognition include Oklahoma State University's James A. Whatley Award for Meritorious Research, the University of Tennessee's Chancellor's Award for Success in Multidisciplinary Research, The United States Department of Agriculture-Economic Research Service's (USDA-ERS) Helios Award for Outstanding Research, the USDA-ERS Helios Award for Research of Enduring Quality, Purdue University's Department of Agricultural Economics Apex Alumni Award, and the American Association of Retirement Communities Research Award.

Selected service to the profession includes serving as a President of the Southern Regional Science Association, a committee member of the American

Agricultural Economics Association Mentoring Award Subcommittee, Chair of the American Agricultural Economics Association Community and Regional Economic Network, Chair of the NE1029 USDA Hatch Multistate Regional Project, and serving on external review panels for USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[CV Linked](#)

WAEA Vision Statement

It is an honor to be nominated to serve as WAEA President. WAEA's purpose is to promote agricultural economics scholarship to identify and solve farm, agribusiness, and natural resource problems for the western United States and Canada, to improve the problem-solving capacity and effectiveness of those concerned with identifying and addressing these issues, and to work with other associations and institutions to accomplish these endeavors. Our association achieves these goals through annual meetings, JARE and WEF journals, and occasionally joint meetings with other associations. Our association does a great job recognizing outstanding scholarship, instruction, service, and outreach efforts among its members at the annual meetings. A small addition to the program could be a poster contest for undergraduate and graduate students during the reception. I would work with the executive board, the board of directors, and the WAEA account executive to ensure the association's success toward its objectives continues. One of the biggest attractions of WAEA's annual meetings is site locations. The 2024 President-Elect is responsible for choosing the 2027 site. Alaska is a desirable location to have meetings. It will have been nine years since the meetings were in Alaska by 2027. As WAEA President-Elect, I will seek to return our annual meeting to Alaska.

Candidate Statements – President

Cory Walters,
University of
Nebraska

Background

Cory Walters is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Nebraska. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics and M.A. in Agricultural Economics from Washington State University and B.S. in Agricultural Business from Montana State University. Dr. Walters integrated applied research and extension program centers on risk management, commodity marketing, crop insurance policy analysis and food policy.

The WAEA was the first agricultural economics conference he attended as a master's student, leaving a strong and lasting impression. Dr. Walters has continued attending and presenting at the WAEA meetings as a graduate student and faculty member. Throughout his time as a WAEA member, he has published and reviewed in JARE, won the JARE outstanding journal reviewer with seven or fewer years of experience, won the outstanding extension award for project and served as WAEA director.

WAEA Vision Statement

My vision is to keep the WAEA a strong and welcoming association. I plan on building upon what others have created. The WAEA's strength comes from three primary activities: the annual meeting, the journals JARE and Western Economic Forum, and awards. For the annual meeting I would select a location that interests members, is accessible to foreign students, and is of reasonable cost. Achieving these three objectives should generate attendance, especially for graduate students. Further, I will continue efforts to attract faculty with teaching and extension appointments. For JARE and Western Economic Forum, I would like to enhance exposure and one idea would be to promote publications through short podcasts that would be available on social media. We would start with a trial run to observe how the system evolves. No expenses would be borne by WAEA initially as I would work through the University of Nebraska communications. Not to force any unwilling authors to participate, I would ask for volunteers. There are great papers in JARE and Western Economic Forum that need to be made more visible to lay audiences, popular press, and social media. I will continue supporting the awards program as I believe it is important to recognize the great work done by our colleagues. I am also interested in hearing ideas from others in WAEA leadership positions and the members.

Candidate Statements – Director**Ram N. Acharya, New Mexico State University****Background**

Ram Acharya is a professor and graduate program coordinator in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business at the New Mexico State University. He obtained a

Ph.D. in Economics from Auburn University, an M.S. in Resource Economics from the University Pertanian Malaysia (Agricultural University of Malaysia), and an M.A. in Economics from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. His earlier studies at Arizona State University focused on fruit and vegetable industry issues related to pricing behavior, market power, spatial competition, and demand analysis. His recent studies at New Mexico State University are focused on sustainable production practices, consumer demand for value-added food products, and the use of discrete choice experiments to measure willingness to pay for food products. He teaches Applied Production Economics, Advance Agricultural Marketing, and Agricultural Trade and Policy and serves as a graduate program coordinator of the department.

Ram has been serving the profession in various capacities, including Charing SAEA award committees (M.S. Thesis, Dissertation, and Outstanding Teaching), Best Paper Selection Committees (International Food and Agribusiness Management Association: IFAMA), Judging student case competitions (*IFAMA*), and serving as a Managing Editor of the International Food and Agribusiness Management Review. He also actively participates in WAEA activities by reviewing manuscripts submitted for publication in its journals, encouraging graduate students to participate and present research papers, and serving on M.S. Thesis Award Committees on several occasions.

WAEA Vision Statement

I am grateful for being nominated for WAEA Director and would be honored to serve in this position. The WAEA has played a significant role in my professional advancement by providing opportunities to learn about emerging issues, present and publish my research, network and collaborate with my colleagues, students, and other professionals, and serve on different committees. This opportunity to serve as one of its directors will allow me to repay the association and help students and young professionals. In addition to supporting WAEA leadership in its mission, I will actively seek opportunities to increase its membership, expand its reach to other professional organizations and industry groups I am currently involved with, and develop and promote programs that recognize and encourage students and early career professionals to participate in the WAEA activities. I appreciate your consideration!

Candidate Statements – Director

Xiaowei Cai, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Background

Dr. Xiaowei Cai is a Professor in the Department of Agribusiness at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. Dr.

Cai received her PhD in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She obtained her BS in International Finance and MS in Agricultural Economics from Nanjing Agricultural University in China. Dr. Cai teaches Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness Data Literacy, and Agribusiness Finance. Her current research focuses on potential anti-competitive behavior in the U.S. and global food systems, consumer food purchasing behavior and health outcomes, farmland valuation, and financial modeling. Dr. Cai has been an active WAEA member for over fifteen years. She has also served as a reviewer for JARE and the WAEA annual meetings.

WAEA Vision Statement

Over the last 15 years, WAEA has been a crucial platform that facilitated my research dissemination, and fostered a vibrant intellectual community where members share their insightful ideas and seek productive collaborations. The stimulating and inclusive culture of the WAEA has been instrumental in my entire professional development. Having benefited tremendously from being part of the WAEA, I am honored to run for the director role of this esteemed association. If I am entrusted with this remarkable responsibility, I will serve the WAEA and its members with unwavering commitment. My primary goal as an incoming director would be to ensure that the existing programs align closely with the evolving needs of the WAEA members and the dynamic landscape of the agricultural economics discipline. The core functions of the WAEA consist of its annual meetings and the distinguished awards it distributes. I will work diligently with the WAEA

leadership to enhance the impact and relevance of these programs. Additionally, I plan to actively pursue strategies to continue to expand the influence of the WAEA on academia as well as on the agricultural industry. I believe that the strength of any academic community is found in its diversity, so I am committed to promoting inclusivity and diversity and welcoming professionals from diverse backgrounds. Moreover, I recognize the importance of sustaining the strong bonds between the WAEA, universities, and the agricultural industry in the Western states. We are able to collectively address the challenges and opportunities in the food and agriculture sector if we continue to develop strategic partnerships and collaborations with key stakeholders. Strengthening these relationships will also develop new avenues for greater applied research opportunities and impactful initiatives that can benefit the larger community. Once again, I am willing to dedicate my vision, expertise, and effort to make the WAEA an even more thriving hub for scholarly collaboration and industry outreach. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Candidate Statements – Director

William (Bill) Ridley,
University of Illinois

Background

William (Bill) Ridley is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He

received a PhD in Economics from the University of Colorado and an MS in Applied Economics from the University of Idaho. His research focuses on international trade, trade policy in food and agriculture, and applied econometrics. His latest research examines trade policy issues in international food and commodity markets. He is also currently studying the relationship between climate change and the agri-food supply chain at both the domestic and international levels. Bill teaches courses on international trade in food and agriculture and applied microeconomic theory at the University of Illinois.

Bill first joined the WAEA in 2012 as a graduate student and attended his first WAEA meeting in 2013 in Monterey, California. Since then, he has been an active participant in WAEA meetings, having been the beneficiary of WAEA Graduate Student Travel Grants in 2013 and 2015. He has also been active in publishing and reviewing submissions at JARE.

WAEA Vision Statement

I am deeply grateful to have the opportunity to run for WAEA Director. Having been involved with WAEA for over a decade, first as a graduate student and now as a faculty member, and having benefited considerably from the opportunities that the organization provides to its members, I would be honored to have the chance to serve the Association in this role. My mission as director will be to ensure that the WAEA continues to thrive and that its core functions are managed efficiently, as well as to foster efforts to grow the Association and promote initiatives to expand its reach and impact.

If elected, I will work to support the WAEA's current

programs and help to develop initiatives to move the organization forward. I will also strive to promote a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment within the organization, efforts that I view as essential in light of the profound and growing diversity within our discipline. Given the importance and successful track record of the annual meeting, I will work to ensure that this event is efficiently managed and that it continues to provide members with unparalleled opportunities to present research, network, and interact with colleagues. In addition, I look forward to helping with the management of the WAEA's professional development opportunities and awards programs, recruitment of new members, and helping to support the enduring relationships that the WAEA maintains with agricultural and applied economics departments and other stakeholders within the organization's geographical scope. I will also work with WAEA leadership and members to promote outreach to graduate students and faculty in order to maximize the Association's visibility, and to identify avenues for the organization's advancement and growth. I look forward to this opportunity and I appreciate your consideration.

Candidate Statements – Director



Haoying Wang, New Mexico Tech

Background

Haoying Wang is an associate professor of management at New Mexico Tech (NMT), a small STEM research & education college in central

New Mexico. He was the only economist (hence the only agricultural economist) at New Mexico Tech until 2022. Haoying received his B.S. degree in Material Science and Engineering from Jilin University and his M.A. degree in Political Economics from Xiamen University, both in China. He later earned his M.S. degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Arizona and his Ph.D. degree in Applied Economics (AEREC) and Operations Research from Penn State. Before joining NMT in 2017, Haoying was a postdoctoral researcher at Cornell University worked with Ariel Ortiz-Bobea at the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management.

Haoying teaches undergraduate-level financial economics and internet economics and graduate-level financial management and decision & risk analysis at NMT. Haoying has advised undergraduate student research projects through the NSF REU program and AFRL (Air Force Research Lab)'s Sophomore Research Program. He also supervised and completed seven master's thesis projects at NMT to date. His research lies between regional economics and environmental economics with a focus on agriculture and Native American issues. He is also passionate about applying advanced GIS analysis and remote sensing data in studying challenges faced in agriculture. His research has been supported by the USDA, the NPS, the USGS, and NM state agencies. Among these, he secured the first USDA AFRI regular research grant in NMT's history.

At NMT, Haoying serves as the junior faculty representative on the university faculty senate Budget

& Research Committee. He led initiatives that established a B.A. in Business Management degree and an M.S. in Engineering Management degree at NMT. He is currently leading efforts to develop a minor in Economics program and a space resources graduate program at NMT. Outside NMT, Haoying serves as a board member of the Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association (serving a four-county area). He also serves as journal associate editor for Resources Policy and PLOS Climate. Haoying joined the WAEA and attended his first WAEA meeting in 2013 in Monterey, CA. He has been actively attending the WAEA annual meeting since then. He published his first paper co-authored with an undergraduate student at WEF.

WAEA Vision Statement

I am very honored to be nominated for the role of WAEA Director, and I greatly appreciate the potential opportunity to serve the profession. 2023 marks the 10-year anniversary of my involvement with the WAEA. Over the past ten years, I have met many great mentors and made invaluable friendships through the WAEA meetings, which are indispensable to my professional growth. With the climate and economic development challenges faced in the US West, I envision the WAEA be pivotal in identifying pathways and developing solutions through combining research, outreach, and services. If elected, I expect to dedicate my best effort while collaborating with the association leadership and stakeholders to the following initiatives:

Grow the association: I will explore ways to bring more interdisciplinary research into our annual meetings and publications. This has been proved effective by the increasing relevance of agricultural economics research to policy and industry in recent years. I will also focus on attracting more student attendance, especially graduate students. Because of the timing of the WAEA meeting, the annual meeting can organize job market panels and mock interview sessions to help graduate students develop essential job market skills.

Make WAEA more inclusive: To support the new DEI initiative of the WAEA, I will strive through

various channels to (1) engage researchers and scholars from small colleges and universities and increase their attendance at the WAEA annual meeting; (2) increase WAEA meeting attendance from states that have had low attendance historically (e.g., New Mexico); (3) attract attendance from tribal colleges and universities in the US West and Canada and organize sessions and programs themed around indigenous agriculture, resource, environment, and rural economic development issues.

Augment our impact: I will focus on bringing visibility to JARE and WEF by (1) inviting area experts to organize special and virtual issues on interdisciplinary topics and (2) developing conference grant proposals to support workshops on special topics endorsed by JARE and/or WEF.

Thank you for your consideration!