WAEA
Western Agricultural
Economics Association

2026 Awards Program
Flagstaff, Arizona

June 23, 2026

2026 WAEA Awards Ceremony

Welcome…… Dayton Lambert, President

Award Presentations

- Outstanding Published Research
- Outstanding Extension Program
- Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching
- Outstanding Master's Thesis
- Graduate Student Paper Competition
- Outstanding JARE Article
- Outstanding JARE Article Reviewers
- WAEA Fellows

Closing…… Dayton Lambert, President

Outstanding Published Research Award

Dr. Eric Edwards (U.C. Davis), Dr. Nathan Hendricks (Kansas State University), Dr. Gabriel Sampson (Kansas State University)

Edwards, Eric C., Nathan P. Hendricks, Gabriel S. Sampson, 2025. "The Capitalization of Property Rights to Groundwater." *AJAE*, *107*(2): 390-410.

Outstanding Extension Program Award for Project

Center for Agricultural Profitability (CAP) team, Director, Jay Parsons, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, Less than 10 Years' Experience

Logan Britton, Kansas State University

Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, More than 10 Years' Experience

Elizabeth Yeager, Kansas State University

Outstanding M.S. Thesis Award

Caroline Roeder Helle, "The Influence of Livestock Grazing on Wildfire Risk in the Western United States: Economic and Management Tradeoffs."

Advisors: Nicole Karwowski and Randy Rucker, Montana State University

Graduate Student Competition Award

Outstanding JARE Article Award

Jean-Paul Chavas (U. Wisconsin-Madison) and Wei Zhang (Virginia Tech)

Chavas, Jean-Paul, Wei Zhang, 2025. "An Ex-Ante Analysis of the Effects of Climate on Agricultural Production Risk." *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 50(2): 240-263.

Outstanding JARE Reviewer Award, Less than 10 Years' Experience

Valerie Kilders, Purdue University

Outstanding JARE Reviewer Award, More than 10 Years' Experience

Stephen Devadoss, Texas Tech University

Outstanding Seniors

Colter Pohlman, Texas Tech University
Justin Barbee, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Montana Goodman, West Texas A&M University
Megan Nash, South Dakota State University
Madeline Lowry, Utah State University
Micah Lightfoot, New Mexico State University
Carissa Dalquest, Kansas State University
Emerson Lauterjung, Oklahoma State University
Clayton Rux, University of Wyoming
Amber Gwynn, Texas A&M University
Emerson Close, University of Saskatchewan

WAEA Fellow Award

Jason S. Bergtold Dr. Jason Bergtold is a Professor and University Distinguished Teaching Scholar in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. He earned his PhD in Economics from Virginia Tech in 2004, after which he worked for the USDA-ARS before starting at Kansas State University in 2008. Dr. Bergtold is passionate about teaching and actively engages students in and out of the classroom. He has taught over 5000 undergraduate students and mentored 42 graduate students at K-State. Dr. Bergtold also works with undergraduate students on his research projects, has directed two REU programs, and championed teacher training through the AAEA Teaching Academy. He has helped develop and served as editor for Applied Economics Teaching Resources. His excellence in teaching has been recognized by KSU, U.S.D.A., AAEA, and WAEA. Dr. Bergtold has an extensive interdisciplinary research program examining conservation, agricultural land use, rural community resilience, and alternative energy pathways. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed publications and helped raise over $49 million in grants.

Russell E. Tronstad Dr. Russell Tronstad is Distinguished Outreach Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at The University of Arizona. He holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1989) and received his M.S. and B.S. from Montana State University. His research and extension programs have encompassed issues ranging from risk management and crop insurance to operations research methods, vegetable grafting, beef marketing and alliances, soil health, organic certification, direct marketing, agritourism, beginning farmers, and Native American agriculture. Russ has been very fortunate to learn from and collaborate with colleagues in other disciplines and stakeholders in much of his work. His work has been recognized by the WAEA's Outstanding Extension Program Award (1997, 2005, 2006) and the Outstanding JARE Article Award (2011). He has served WAEA in numerous roles, such as Co-Editor of JARE (2000-03), President (2010-13), and Editor of WEF (2024-26).

Special Thanks to Award Committee Chairs and Members

Awards Committee Co-Chairs

Amy Hagerman, Oklahoma State University
Kate Brooks, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Outstanding Published Research Award

Eric Belasco (Chair), Montana State University
Diane Charlton, Montana State University
Xiaoli Etienne, University of Idaho

Outstanding Extension Program Award

Glynn Tonsor (Chair), Kansas State University
Kate Fuller, United States Department of Agriculture

Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Awards

Aleksan Shanoyan (Chair), Kansas State University
Daniel Mooney - Colorado State University
Thomas Krumel - North Dakota State University
Na Zuo - University of Arizona

Outstanding M.S. Thesis Award

Kelly Grogan (Chair), University of Wyoming
Chris Gustafson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Man Li, Utah State University
Karina Gallardo, Washington State University
Nadia Streletskaya, Oregon State University
Justin Bina, Arizona State University

Graduate Student Competition

Karina Shoengold (Chair), University of Nebraska-Lincoln
William Ridley, University of Illinois
Sherzod Akhundjanov, Utah State University
Vardges Hovhannisyan, University of Wyoming

JARE Awards

Vardges Hovhannisyan (Managing Editor), University of Wyoming
Simanti Banerjee, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Liang Lu, University of Idaho
Ram Acharya, New Mexico State University

WAEA Fellow Awards

Dustin Pendell (Chair), Kansas State University
Christopher Bastian, University of Wyoming

Past WAEA Fellows

Julian M. Alston, University of California, Davis
Joseph Atwood, Montana State University
DeeVon Bailey, Utah State University
Andrew Barkley, Kansas State University
Christopher T. Bastian, University of Wyoming
Jason Bergtol, Kansas State University
David A. Bessler, Texas A&M University
Steven C. Blank, Virginia Tech University
Michael Boland, University of Minnesota
Gary W. Brester, Montana State University
Wade Brorsen, Oklahoma State University
Susan Capalbo, Oregon State University
Oral Capps, Jr., Texas A&M University
Harold O. Carter, University of California, Davis
Ken Casavant, Washington State University
Hayley Chouinard, Colorado State University
Bonnie G. Colby, University of Arizona
Stephen Devadoss, University of Idaho
Francis Epplin, Oklahoma State University
Scott W. Fausti, California State University, Monterey Bay
T. Randall Fortenbery, Washington State University
E. Bruce Godfrey, Utah State University
Chennat Gopalakrishnan, University of Hawaii
Tom Harris, University of Nevada
Shida R. Henneberry, Oklahoma State University
Dana Hoag, Colorado State University
Richard E. Howitt, University of California, Davis
Davis Warren E. Johnston, University of California, Davis
Davis Richard Just, University of Maryland
Stephen R. Koontz, Colorado State University
Ronald D. Lacewell, Texas A&M University
Jeffrey T. LaFrance, Monash University
F. Larry Leistritz, North Dakota State University
Kerry K. Litzenberg, Texas A&M University
John Loomis, Colorado State University
Jeff Luckstead, Washington State University
Jayson Lusk, Purdue University
Thomas Marsh, Washington State University

Alex F. McCalla, University of California, Davis
Bruce McCarl, Texas A&M University
Christopher McIntosh, University of Idaho
Jill McCluskey, Washington State University
Vicki A. McCracken, Washington State University
Dale Menkhaus, University of Wyoming
Dragan Miljkovic, North Dakota State University
Ron Mittelhammer, Washington State University
James Mjelde, Texas A&M University
Gian Carlo Moschini, Iowa State University
A. Gene Nelson, Texas A&M University
Joe Outlaw, Texas A&M University
Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University
Gordon Rausser, University of California, Berkeley
James W. Richardson, Texas A&M University
Ted Schroeder, Kansas State University
Rich Sexton, University of California, Davis
J. Scott Shonkwiler, University of Nevada-Reno
Richard Shumway, Washington State University
Vincent H. Smith, Montana State University
Dawn Thilmany, Colorado State University
Glynn Tonsor, Kansas State University
Russell E. Tronstad, University of Arizona
Michele M. Veeman, University of Alberta
Clement E. Ward, Oklahoma State University
Frank Ward, New Mexico State University
Myles J. Watts, Montana State University
Bruce Weber, Oregon State University
Norman K. Whittlesey, Washington State University
Paul Wilson, University of Arizona
Jonathan Yoder, Washington State University
Robert A. Young, Colorado State University
Doug Young, Washington State University

Thank you for attending this year's meetings. WAEA hopes to see you next year at our annual meeting in Eugene, Oregon (June 20 - 22, 2027).