

Annual Report to the AAEA Executive Board (2001-2002)

AAEA Food Safety and Nutrition Section

The Food Safety and Nutrition (FSN) Section is doing well. We currently have 83 dues-paying members (up from 76) and a balance of \$1,757.34 (up from \$898.94). The Section had four main activities this year: organizing and submitting a Track proposal for the 2002 AAEA meetings; reviewing and passing a revised set of bylaws; appointing FSN representatives to other boards and electing new officers.

1. FSN Section Track at the 2002 AAEA meetings.

Members of the FSN Section's executive committee worked with section members to develop a Track proposal for the AAEA meetings. The track includes five organized symposia. The organized symposia are on the following topics:

- Food Manufacturer Responses to Bioengineered Foods; Monday, July 29 1:30 – 3 p.m.
- Determinants of Obesity and the Efficiency of Federal Programs in Reducing Obesity; Tuesday, July 30, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
- Comparing Animal Health Challenges and their Economic Impacts within a Global Context; Tuesday, July 30, 1:30 – 3 p.m.
- The Economics of Innovation for Improved Food Safety in the United States; Tuesday, July 30, 3:30 – 5 p.m.
- New Developments in Tracking Foodborne Illness: Epidemiological Evidence and Economic Analyses; Wednesday, July 31, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

2. Review and amendment of the Bylaws.

The Section's executive committee reviewed the original bylaws during the summer of 2001. Several proposed revisions to bylaws were made to clarify several procedural and timing issues. The revised bylaws were circulated to members and were discussed at the last year's business meeting. A ballot on the revisions was distributed to voting members after the AAEA meetings. The revised bylaws were passed (11-0) during a special election.

3. Appointment or election of FSN representatives

As one of the new sections of AAEA we were asked to elect a FSN representative to the AAEA Nominations Committee; Jill McClusky was elected to this committee by the membership. We were also asked by the Editors of the *Review of Agricultural Economics* to forward a FSN representative to the journal's Editorial Council. Members of the Editorial Council do not serve as reviewers but provide guidance regarding the journal's mission. The FSN Executive Committee voted to nominate Laurian Unnevehr for consideration by the Editors; the Editors approved our nomination, Laurian will be serving on the Editorial Council through the end of 2004.

4. Election of the Executive Committee

The Section elected new members to the Executive Committee. Open positions were chair-elect, secretary-treasurer and one at-large seat. Incoming members are; Chair-elect: Christine Ranney; Secretary/Treasurer: Parke Wilde; and At-Large: Jill McClusky. Current members of the Section's executive committee are: Mario Teisl (outgoing chair); Tanya Roberts (outgoing chair-elect; incoming chair); Steve Crutchfield (outgoing secretary-treasurer); Jutta Rosen (at-large); and Neal Hooker (outgoing at-large).

Report submitted by Mario Teisl, Chair, FSN Section

Incoming Chair's Message AAEA Food Safety and Nutrition Section

AAEA Now Main Forum for Food Safety and Nutrition Research!

NE-165 has provided a focal point for economic research on food safety and nutrition for 15 years. The many conferences and proceedings brought together a critical mass of researchers and policy makers and crystallized how economic research can contribute to the analysis of food safety and nutrition. NE-165 formally ends in September 2002. Heartfelt THANKS! to Julie Caswell for her leadership of the food safety/nutrition portion of the regional research committee.

With the creation of the AAEA Food Safety and Nutrition Section, under the able leadership of Helen Jensen and Mario Teisl, NE-165's legacy has a new home. Both food safety and nutrition are of increasing importance to policymakers in the USA and worldwide. Policymakers are looking to economists for research advice on a diverse set of issues, such as:

- Analysis of food safety regulatory options (HACCP, Microbial Performance Standards, Food Safety Objectives, WTO rules, CODEX guidelines) and their likely impact on the marketplace and innovation.
- Analysis of how to incorporate consumer risk perceptions, risk assessment models, and risk ranking to set regulatory priorities and frameworks, such as for GMOs, pesticide risks, and microbial risks.
- Analysis of the economic impact of public policies and private actions related to nutrition, obesity, and food insufficiency.

In the coming year, I look to the members of this AAEA section to suggest and organize sessions for both the summer and winter meetings, and maybe a pre- or post-conference on food safety and nutrition research topics. YOU know the issues and how best to showcase your research. I expect to hear from you! (Email: tanyar@ers.usda.gov, 202-694-5464)

Tanya Roberts, chair-elect AAEA Food Safety and Nutrition Section

