

Fall/Winter 2005
Volume 2, Issue 2

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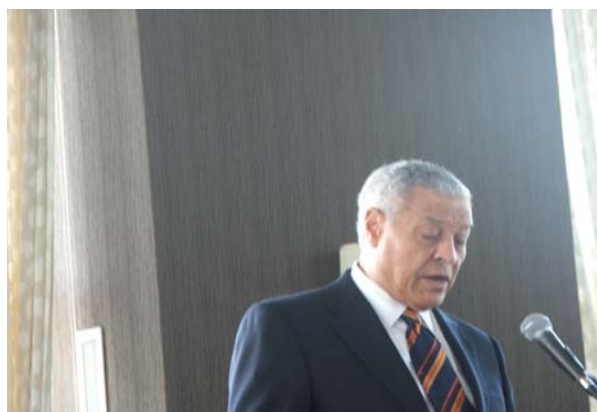
Newsletter of the Committee on the Opportunities & Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics

COSBAE is a Section of the American Agricultural Economics Association

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

COSBAE was birthed with great potential and has since encouraged professional advancement for Agricultural Economists through research, conference activities, and outreach events. It gives me great joy to witness and be a part of the wheel moving this organization forward. COSBAE's enthusiasm has helped foster alliances with other sections within AAEA which have been beneficial in several ways. Not only are more research and symposiums being presented at the Summer Meetings through these partnerships but there is also a greater level of diversity and unity within the association. All of this would not have been possible if it were not for the unwavering support from ERS, CSREES, AAEA, CWAE, COSBAE members and other interested parties.

As we approach the end of the year, it is often a good time to re-evaluate our section and outline a path for the coming year. Our accomplishments for 2005 are outstanding. COSBAE started the year hosting an organized symposium entitled "Bridging the Gap Between 1890 and 1862 Institutions in Agricultural Economics Programs" at the Southern Meetings in Little Rock, Arkansas in February. The interest generated from the discussion in Little Rock gave way to a greater effort of collaboration at COSBAE's 2005 Workshop in Washington, DC on June 13-14. Information from our workshop spilled over into a COSBAE/CWAE Track at the AAEA annual conference in Providence, Rhode Island on July 24-27 that addressed issues concerning "Diversity Within the Workplace." A COSBAE/CWAE luncheon was an additional activity that accompanied the Track Section. The attendees were inspired and challenged by a keynote address from "the one-and-only" Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr. Also during the luncheon ten Economists received the Outstanding Black Agricultural Economist Award (see photo) and five received an Honorable Mention Award. For copies of the program, Dr. Wharton's speech, and the awards brochure go to the COSBAE website and *recent events*--<http://www.cosbae.com/recent%20activities.htm>. All four of the activities organized by COSBAE in 2005 were very well received and quite informative.



Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr. speaking at the AAEA's
COSBAE/CWAE luncheon in Providence, RI

Message from the Chair (cont'd.)



Outstanding Black Agricultural Economist honorees (l to r, front row), Donald McDowell (NCA&T), Edmund Tavernier (Rutgers), Dave Weatherspoon (Michigan State), Desmond Jolly (Univ. of CA), Akin Adesina (The Rockefeller Foundation), Albert Allen (Mississippi State U.). Back row (l to r), William Amponsah, (NCA&T), Adelija Adesolji (Michigan State U.), Abebayehu Tegene (USDA-Economic Research Service), Curtis Jolly (Auburn University, not present)

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How can we keep the fire burning and hold the attention of our members and constituents? Simply put, we must continue to address important issues and become stronger advocates for diversity and unity. COSBAE has a lot to offer. We are hosting an organized symposium at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association and the Rural Sociological Association conference in Orlando, Florida and will participate in the AAEA conference in Long Beach, California. During the interim, we are considering an outreach program for the spring or early summer of 2006. Plans for this event are in the preliminary stages, however, we will keep you posted on its progress.

In closing, I must acknowledge the wonderful job the COSBAE executive committee has done to help make 2005 a

prosperous year. Each member has worked exceptionally hard to make my responsibilities as Section Chair easier. Special thanks go to Dr. Kenrett Y. Jefferson-Moore and North Carolina A&T University for conducting the survey and developing and editing a brochure for the 2005 Outstanding Black Agricultural Economist Award. In addition, COSBAE expresses its sincere gratitude and thanks to our AAEA President and Section Representative, Dr. Per Pinstrup-Andersen for his guidance and support. As we press forward to continue the LEGACY in 2006, let us not grow weary of doing good and seeking opportunities to advance our section and association. Thanks for your support!

Respectfully,  
Christopher G. Davis

## **COSBAE HOSTED WORKSHOP AT USDA**

**by Keithly Jones, Professional Activities Chairman**

### ***COSBAE Workshop Stimulates Dialogue on Bridging the Gap Between 1890 and 1862 Land Grant Institutions' Agricultural Economics Program***

In June 2005, COSBAE hosted a workshop on bridging the gap between 1890 and 1862 land grant institutions' agricultural economics programs. The workshop was held at the Economic Research Service (ERS) and funded by ERS and the Cooperative State Research Extension and Education Service (CSREES). About 80 participants from 1890, 1862, other private institutions, and government agencies attended the workshop. The workshop focused on the state of Agricultural Economics in 1890, 1862, and other private institutions; the under-representation of minorities in graduate Agricultural Economics programs, academia, and other research professions; and strategies to bridge the gap between 1890, 1862, and other private and research institutions' teaching, research, and extension programs.

The workshop was very well received and a series of recommendations aimed at fostering collaboration among institutions in research, teaching, and extension resulted. Below are the main recommendations from each workgroup.

#### **Extension**

- Need for the land-grant system to develop methods, such as faculty exchanges, to expand extension.
- Equitable financial incentives are needed for collaborations and grant procurement.
- Petitioning of USDA to take a close look at competitive programs to determine whether barriers are being inadvertently created.
  - USDA agencies need to involve more 1890 personnel on grant proposal review panels.
  - USDA should invest in broadening its base of representation on national committees, panels, etc.
  - USDA should create more lead opportunities on major grants for 1890s.
- Professional organizations and societies should promote a balanced portfolio of extension, research, and teaching.

#### **Research**

- Develop strategies to procure research funds from Agricultural Research Directors (1890s), Agricultural Experiment Stations (1862s), Kellogg Foundation, NRI (sabbatical & planning funds), Farm Foundation, and AAEE.
- Faculty/staff/student exchange for research assignments.
- Plenary session on research collaboration at AAEE & SAEA (COSBAE) and PAWC.
- COSBAE hosts website with short vita focusing on current research interests of 1890 and 1862 land-grant researchers.
- Cooperation with 1890 and 1862 land-grant institutions with library resources.

## WORKSHOP AT USDA (cont'd.)

### Teaching

- Prepare students for success in agricultural economics by introducing them to agriculture and social science at an early age; mentor to build confidence and leadership for tomorrow's food and fiber sector; document success stories and use them in communication/recruiting activities; expand and create intern opportunities and cooperative work experiences.
- Distance learning through the recognition and expansion of USDA e-learning activities as well as other e-learning possibilities.
- Share study abroad programs between 1890 and 1862 institutions.
- Develop exchanges among USDA, 1862, and 1890 faculty/staff
  - examples: seminars, short-term work assignments, guest lectures;
  - consider in-person and virtual exchanges.
- Build a multicultural perspective by sharing faculty, summer projects/internships, and student exchanges.

COSBAE has made steps to establish a task force in each of the focus areas to assist with implementation of the above recommendations. Spearheading these task force are: Jay Akridge and Dovi Alipoe (teaching); Ray McKinnie and Deacue Fields III (Extension); and Dave Weatherspoon and Fisseha Tegegne (Research). Dialogue on how best to implement these recommendations will continue through a series of organized symposiums at the SAEA and AAEA and through small informal groups.

## MEMBER NEWS

\* **Ababayehu “Abe” Tegene** will become Branch Chief of the Food Markets Branch, Food Economics Division, USDA-Economic Research Service effective January 2006.

\* **Fisseha Tegegne** (Tennessee State University) received the 2004 Excellence in Research award from the Southern Rural Sociological Association.

\* **Doris J. Newton** (USDA-ERS) is a 2006 candidate in the federal government’s Executive Leadership training program.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### AAEA

**Proposals, Nominations Sought for 2006 Annual Meeting.** For more details go to:

<http://www.aaea.org/SPPPOSCalls.pdf>  
Submissions deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2006.

### Microfinance and Development

#### **Agricultural Finance Review**

Special Issue: Micro Credit and Micro Finance in Development  
*Agricultural Finance Review* is soliciting papers of broad interest dealing with micro credit and finance in development. The purpose of this edition, slated for the Fall 2006 issue, is to increase the exposure of development finance to AFR readers and scholars and to broaden the scope of the Journal. To this end the Journal will

consider any subject paper whether it is review, policy, theoretical or applied.

• **Topic areas** on agriculture, food, agricultural business, technology adoption, limited resources and others are welcome.

• **Papers with global reach** are encouraged, as are short case studies of successful or unsuccessful micro finance/credit programs.

• **All papers will be peer reviewed**

• **Page charges will be limited to \$25 per printed page.** To encourage submissions from scholars residing in lesser developed or developing countries page charges may be waived entirely at the request of the author.

• **Further information about the Journal** and style can be found at

<http://afr.aem.cornell.edu/>.

*Submissions comprised of three hard copies and a cover letter should be sent by April 30, 2006 by mail to AFR editor, Calum Turvey, W.I. Myers Professor, Department of Applied Economics and Management, 356 Warren Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14853- 7801*

*or as a pdf or word attachment by e-mail to [calum.turvey@cornell.edu](mailto:calum.turvey@cornell.edu)*

*Partial Support for this Special Issue is being provided by W.I. Myers Endowment*

The Soil and Water Conservation Society seeks abstracts of oral papers and poster papers for presentation at a workshop that will be held October 11-13, 2006, at the Westin Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. The deadline for abstract submissions is June 1,

2006. Please submit your abstract via this  
web link: [www. swcs.o r g/en/swcs\\_  
international\\_ conferences/managing\\_  
agricultural\\_ landscapes](http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conferences/managing_agricultural_landscapes)



## **JOBS**

***The Department of Resource Economics and Policy at the University of Maine*** invites applications for a tenure-track, assistant professor position in the field of resource and environmental economics. Responsibilities include advising graduate (M.S.) and undergraduate students and teaching three courses per year. Candidates must demonstrate the capacity for excellent teaching and the potential for high-quality scholarship and publications. The successful candidate must develop a research program that attracts external funding and addresses environmental issues of importance to state and federal policymakers. Candidates with an interest in applied policy analysis are especially encouraged to apply. Potential on-campus collaborations exist with the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, Canadian-American Center, School of Marine Sciences, Cooperative Extension and other units.

Required qualifications include a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics, Economics, or a closely related field by the time of appointment. Please send a cover letter, vitae, three letters of references, and a sample of research to: George Criner, Chair, Department of Resource Economics and Policy, Attn: Assistant Professor Search Committee, 5782 Winslow Hall, Room 206, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469-5782. *Review of applications will begin Feb. 1, 2006. The position will begin in September of 2006, with a possibility of an earlier start date if it is mutually agreeable and funding is available. The University of Maine is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.*

**Position: Assistant Professor in Wildlife Resources and Livestock Systems Economics, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.**

**Location:** University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

**Department:** The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics has 13 faculty and 4 academic professionals. Its mission is to provide nationally prominent teaching, research and extension programs that address issues related to agricultural production and agribusiness including rural firms in natural resource-based industries, economic development, and environmental regulation and risk management. The Department offers BS and MS degree programs and cooperates in several interdisciplinary programs particularly in the applied biological, environmental and natural resource sciences.

**Description:** A nine-month, tenure-track position, 50% teaching, 50% research. The position specifically addresses the economic opportunities to research design, management, and risks of the interface of wildlife and livestock production systems. Particular emphasis is put upon food and fiber production with risk/biosecurity management, relating to animal diseases and wildlife recreation trade-offs, that impact or enhance production systems. Teaching responsibilities normally will include three to four courses per year with emphasis on quantitative methods, wildlife resource economics, recreation resource economics, and rangeland resource economics. Additional responsibilities include academic advising of undergraduates and graduate students as well as direction of MS thesis projects.

Research responsibilities require developing a nationally recognized program for biological production systems related to economic profitability and sustainability constrained by production and policy oriented-regulatory risks. The program could include work in the areas of livestock and wildlife systems, predation mitigation, and animal disease control as well as system design and decision models. Ability to use and analyze spatial data is important. Multidisciplinary research efforts, including working with other social scientists and researchers in the general and applied life

sciences, are essential. The latter includes working with existing SARE and wildlife species projects in the Colleges of Agriculture, Business and Environment and Natural Resources, respectively. The incumbent will be expected to pursue external grant funding, supervise research assistants and/or associates, publish in regionally/nationally recognized refereed journals and develop a nationally recognized program of research. The incumbent is expected to fulfill university service requirements by serving on committees at the Department, College, and/or University levels, as well as participating in professional associations and national committees.

**Qualifications:** Ph.D. in Economics or Agricultural and Applied Economics with specialization in natural resource and environmental economics, livestock/wildlife production economics and quantitative methods. Knowledge of appropriate theory and risk analysis applications as well as a willingness to work in a multidisciplinary context on issues related to the structure and management of biological production systems are essential. The ability to work with spatial data and develop spatially distributed models using Geographic Information Systems tools would be a valued assets.

**Applications:** Complete applications will include letter of interest describing skills (as they are relevant to the position), vita, official transcripts, 4 letters of recommendation, teaching evaluations and sample publication. Evaluation of applications will begin February 10, 2006 with an anticipated start date of mid August 2006. Please forward applications to:

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University of Wyoming  
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**About Our Organization...**

COSBAE 's mission is to encourage and promote the interests of black agricultural economics professionals within the AAEA structure and the broader agricultural community. Recognizing the importance of

shared knowledge among all ag colleagues, COSBAE membership is open to all interested parties. Membership is \$10 per year. To join, please contact the AAEA office at [www.aaea.org](http://www.aaea.org).