

**AAEA Extension Section 2009 Election
Candidate Information**

Henry M. “JH” Bahn

National Program Leader, USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service

1. *Your education (degrees & institutions):*

BS Univ. Maryland 1970

MS Univ. Maryland 1974

Ph.D. Penn State 1997

2. *Past employment/activities/awards/duties/accomplishments/points of interest/etc (please limit to 75 words or less):*

I provide leadership to a national Markets, Trade, Policy and International Development portfolio of over 600 projects funded at approximately \$65 million annually.

Previous positions include Extension Marketing Economist, Montana State University; Extension Farm Management Specialist, UMASS.

Awards include AAEA Leadership & Service to the Extension Section, 2008, 2000; USDA Exceptional Creativity in Identifying New Ideas to Support CSREES' Mission, 2006; USDA Economists Group Fred Woods Award for Excellence in Public Policy Research & Education, 2003.

3. *Your 150 word (or less) response to the question: What are important issues the Extension Section should address in the next several years?*

Three important issues face the Extension Section on the near horizon.

The Section and AAEA will benefit from increased collaboration on outreach. We can be especially helpful developing shared outreach materials and supporting Choices Webinars. The Section should serve both as an input to, and an outlet for, AAEA outreach.

Expanding service to extension economists. There are currently 475 economists with extension appointments in the U.S., and more who conduct outreach. We need to better serve this group, especially new and junior faculty whose interests include building effective work portfolios, getting promoted and achieving tenure.

Adapting to a changing funding environment. Faculty are under pressure to generate external funding, the growth of which is centered on competitive grants, as state and Smith Lever formula funding is declining in real terms. Achieving competitiveness in integrated and multiple discipline funding takes training, innovation, patience and broadening the focus of extension economics work.