

**AAEA Extension Section 2009 Election
Candidate Information**

John J. VanSickle

Professor, Food & Resource Economics Dept. University of Florida/ Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences

1. *Your education (degrees & institutions):*
B.S., Agricultural Business, Iowa State University
Ph.D., Economics, Iowa State University

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

Current Duties: Professor and Extension Specialist focusing on specialty crops and risk management. Director, International Agricultural Trade and Policy Center, University of Florida.

Selected Achievements: AAEA Award for Distinguished Extension Program, 1987, for work on computerized marketing of fresh produce. USDA Award for Superior Service, 1996, for work completed in helping the U.S. and Mexico achieve landmark trade agreements related to fresh vegetables. Developed FACTSim, a futures market trading simulation that helps students and industry gain a better understanding of the futures and options markets as a risk management tool.

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

The most important issue facing the AAEA Extension Section is to keep AAEA relevant in helping extension specialists excel in their duties. AAEA must serve as a conduit for research and education that can help to increase our abilities to serve the community with which we work. The extension activities organized by the AAEA should facilitate ideas for extension programming and provide recognition for outstanding extension programs. The AAEA must be seen as relevant in helping extension educators in their responsibilities.

The AAEA Extension Section must provide opportunities for extension educators to share programs and develop human capital for extension programming. The Extension Section should focus on those activities that will provide service to extension educators, and encourage them to belong to this association.