



## Member Profile



**Trent Smith**  
*Senior Lecturer*  
*University of*  
*Otago (New*  
*Zealand)*

### What motivated you to pursue Agricultural/Applied Economics as a profession?

As an undergraduate I had a rather vague notion that economics would provide skills and a conceptual framework that could be useful in the business world, so I made it my second major (after biological sciences) and proceeded on with a promising consulting career in the field of environmental microbiology/engineering. But while it was true that knowledge of economics often seemed to give me an edge in project management, with time I came to realize that many of the big societal (environmental) problems I was encountering in my work were economic at their core. Economics offers powerful theories of how markets work, and how they can fail, and if I wanted to work on these “big” problems, I needed more training. So I enrolled in the PhD program at University of

California, Santa Barbara (UCSB).

### Why did you join AAEA, and how has membership in the Association impacted your professional development?

Good question. My doctorate didn’t come from a traditional Agricultural/Applied Economics department; UCSB is a straight-up econ department, with few ties to AAEA or USDA or land grant funds. But the research path I wound up choosing was, arguably, all about food: I was writing about dietary choice and the obesity epidemic, and how the seemingly “irrational” behaviors associated with these phenomena posed really fundamental challenges to neoclassical economic theory. In those early years, it was the AAEA that reached out to me. I started receiving invitations to speak at conferences and workshops, and I discovered this really dynamic group of (AAEA-affiliated) scholars who were interested in the same questions, and were too intent on getting the answers to be slowed down by ideology, or dogma, or even disciplinary boundaries. I honestly believe the “applied”

ethos in the AAEA makes the science better.

In my experience, AAEA offers a fantastically supportive environment for young scholars, with the mentor program, and the many interest “sections” and the early-career leadership opportunities they provide. I recently returned from a wide-ranging sabbatical trip across Europe and the United States, where more than once I found myself singing the praises of the AAEA to fellow economists disenchanted with the “closed shop” nature of other professional groups.

### What advice would you give to an up and coming Agricultural/Applied Economist?

Follow your passion. Economics provides a powerful set of tools for asking and answering questions about human behavior and society. Use them to solve important problems, and to make the world a better place.

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# AAEA News

2015 AAEA & WAEA  
JOINT ANNUAL MEETING



## There is still time to register for the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting

The majority of the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting activities will take place at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. The room block reservation deadline was **Tuesday, June 23**. To make changes to your current reservation or to check availability, please call 1-877-622-3056 and make sure to mention that you are a part of the AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting.

For information on additional hotels in the area, please visit:

<http://www.sanfrancisco.travel/explore/hotels>.

The Marriott Marquis is located in downtown San Francisco. Right outside the hotel there is access to local shopping, restaurants, and other attractions. Inside the Marriott Marquis there is a grab & go market and The Mission Grille for breakfast, and Bin 55 Restaurant & Wine Bar as well as [The View Lounge](#) for dinner options. To find other dining or drink options that are near the hotel, click [here](#) or visit <http://bitly.com/1uUQb3b>.

### REGISTRATION:

Attendees will have access to concurrent sessions, plenary sessions, the Poster Reception and Welcome Reception on Sunday night, and the Closing Reception on Tuesday night. Tickets for the [luncheon](#), [the banquet](#), and [pre- and post- conference workshops](#) are not included with the main registration fee, but can be purchased during registration. Please note, the advanced registration deadline is approaching. All Registrations or ticket purchases will need to take place on-site in San Francisco after **July 9**.

Type	Advanced (May 28- July 9)	On-site (After July 9)
Professional Member	\$470	\$545
Professional Non-Member	\$620	\$695
Senior Member*	\$360	\$435
Senior Non-Member*	\$480	\$555
Graduate Student Member	\$140	\$180
Graduate Student Non-Member	\$255	\$300
Undergraduate Student**	\$20	\$20
*Senior Member: 65+ years of age and retired		
**Register undergraduate students via telephone by calling (414) 918-3190		

*\*Note to Government Employees:  
There are a limited number of spaces for ticketed events. To register for a ticketed event before your organization registers you for the Joint Annual Meeting, please call (414) 918-3190 or fill out the [registration form](#) (leave the joint meeting registration portion blank) and fax the form to (414) 276-3349.*

### HOUSING

[Marriott Marquis](#)

780 Mission Street  
San Francisco,  
California 94103



**Register Online**

**PDF**

OR Mail PDF to:  
AAEA Business Office  
555 E. Wells Street, #1100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
OR Fax PDF to:  
(414) 276-3349

**Pre-Conference Workshop:*****Rapid Agrifood System Transformation, Globalization, and International Development***

In 1999 there was an AAEA pre-conference workshop on “Agro-industrialization, Globalization, and International Development” that started a ball rolling of integrating agribusiness and development work among agricultural economists. The emphasis in 1999 was on the “midstream” of food supply chains, specifically on the rapid rise of large-scale agri-processing firms in developing countries; especially Latin America, parts of Southeast Asia, and Eastern Europe, induced by the then relatively recent liberalization of trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) and the recent surge in incomes and the start of urbanization. Attendant on that theme were developments in the economics of institutional change, an “upstream” theme of agri-processing links with contract farming, and the theme of the emergence of private quality and safety standards required of suppliers by large processors. Intensification, diversification, and commercialization of agriculture was surging on the heels of the relatively recent (1970s/1980s) Green Revolution. Public sector induced change in food systems (such as wholesale market investments) had been important over the several decades before the 1999 pre-conference workshop.

As of 1999, however, very little to no work had been done by agricultural economics on a number of themes but a body of research pertaining to agrifood system transformation in developing countries would rise to prominence over the 15 years since the 1999 pre-conference workshop leading to our pre-conference in 2014 for a stocktaking of changes over the past several decades. The themes below were not really “gaps” in the 1999 preconference rather, they were not much treated then because much of the change noted in the themes below was only emerging in the mid to late 1990s and “took off” in the 2000s. This rush of new themes and real world changes drew much more attention to our general theme,

inducing research on these themes and deepening and the extension of the work on the prior themes. The new themes include: (1) downstream segment transformation, the “supermarket revolution” in Asia, Africa, Latin America; (2) further midstream segment transformation, with a “Quiet Revolution” along value chains in Asia and Africa of small and medium enterprise activity in processing, logistics, wholesale, cold storage, with concomitant rise of processed food and fresh produce consumption; (3) upstream segment transformation, both of inputs as products (such as the rise of Monsanto and Syngenta’s activities in developing countries), and of inputs as services (such as the development of outsourcing services of combine harvesting teams in China); (4) cross-cutting themes linking transformation of agrifood markets with rapidly increasing urbanization, with nutritional challenges such as obesity, with institutional change in food quality, safety, and environmental sustainability, with rural nutrition, with labor and credit markets; (5) impacts of the transformation of agrifood systems globalization on the rural poor and on farm technology modernization; this theme has included work on “poverty traps” and on the issues of inclusion and exclusion of small farmers in transforming markets.

The pre-conference workshop on agrifood system transformation, globalization, and international development will take stock of the emergence of this new field in agricultural economics; research and new thinking on the five new themes, the deepening that has taken place on the earlier themes, and to assess the implications for policy and for agricultural economics research going forward. This workshop is taking place Saturday July 25 at 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM. Please register for this before **July 9**. [Full Agenda Available Online](#)

*Workshop Organizers: Thomas Reardon, Bart Minten, David Zilberman, and Jo Swinnen*

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# SENIOR SECTION

## **Senior Section Track Sessions:**

### ***Examine the Implications of “Big Data” for Farm Risk Management***

In recent years, the term “Big Data” has marched boldly into our vocabulary. Many economists know about big data, but most are still learning about the full meaning of the advent of big data for the agricultural industry. The rapid expansion of more integrated input, output and climate data has the potential to change many aspects of farm management, especially risk management.

This track session, planned by the [Extension](#) and [Senior Sections](#) for the [2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting](#) in San Francisco, will explore some

of the issues that arise from this emerging scenario. The session will focus on how these new data, and analyses of these data, can influence risk management decisions and programs. An excellent line-up of knowledgeable speakers, chosen to reflect varied perspectives on this rapidly evolving topic, will share their perspectives. What can geo-spatial information add to crop insurance rating? How do farm organizations view this issue? What are the implications for USDA agencies and university researchers? **Ines Kapphan**, Product Manager at the Climate Corporation, will address how

industry sees the implications for risk management. The Climate Corporation aims to help farmers around the world with software, hardware and insurance products. Participants will have the opportunity to address and discuss these and other questions, gaining an increased appreciation for the challenges in this area.

It is expected this session will be of great interest to many applied economists. The session will take place Monday, July 27 at 2:45 pm, Room Sierra F.

### ***Incorporating Ethics into Economic Analysis***

What do ethics have to do with economic analysis? Ethical issues are created when there is a conflict of interest and/or values between or among economic entities. Such conflicts are pervasive among the types of problems examined in economics.

Examples include the principal-agent model, the externality problem and the design of economic policy that impacts diverse stakeholders.

Sometimes mainstream economists are reluctant to consider ethics as a viable facet of economic thought and analysis, in part because of the belief that economic analysis can remain value neutral. However, the maintenance of value neutrality is not

possible when interests and/or values conflict, since judgements have to be made about which interests or values take precedence and because such conflicts often affect the behavior of economic actors. This creates an opportunity, if not an expectation, for a consideration of ethics in economic analysis.

In this session, co-sponsored by the [Institutional and Behavioral Economics Section](#) and the [Senior Section](#), the presenters will consider both conceptual and empirical approaches to incorporating ethics into economics analysis, with

particular attention to the kinds of problems of interest to agricultural and applied economists. Noted speakers will discuss how contemporary ethics can provide promising modes of engagement with economists, how surveys and experimental economics can inform on the ethical motivations of consumers, how behavioral economics can be used to illustrate the ethical ramifications of nudging, and how specific

economic models can be modified to include explicit references to ethical considerations.

This promises to be a powerful session, with an increasingly relevant topic addressed by presenters noted for their work in ethics and behavioral economics. Put it on your meeting calendar: Tuesday, July 28, 1:00 pm, Room Sierra E. Seating may be limited.

### ***Track Session on Prospects for GMO Labeling***

The rapid adoption of GMO varieties of corn, soybeans, and cotton has precipitated consumer concerns about labeling food products containing GMO ingredients. Bills to require GMO labeling, or otherwise regulate legislatures in genetically engineered foods, have been introduced in over 30 states and more initiatives are in process. Connecticut and Maine have passed bills mandating the labeling of foods containing GMOs, but for both enactment is contingent upon passage of similar legislation in nearby states. Vermont's law to require labeling delayed enactment for two years and is being challenged in the courts. Last November, Colorado and Oregon voters rejected ballot measures that would have made GMO labeling mandatory. Similar measures were defeated in California in 2012, and in Washington in 2013. Congress also will be considering legislation, which would likely preempt state efforts.

This issue has significant international implications with the planted acreage of GMO crops in developing countries exceeding that of industrial nations. In many other countries, including the entire European Union, there is a requirement to label of genetically modified foods.

What are the prospects for GMO food labeling, and for GMO foods, in general? That's the question for this track session, co-sponsored by the [Senior](#) and [Extension Sessions](#) at the [2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting](#) in San Francisco. The presenters will discuss the factors that are involved in answering this question including; consumer reactions to GMOs, the costs of mandatory GMO labeling, and the potential for new developments. Two "outside" presenters will be **Alison Van Eenennaam**, Animal Scientist, University of California, Davis, and **Michael K. Hansen**, Senior Staff Scientist with Consumers Union, publisher of *Consumer Reports*.

Don't miss this session at 2:45 pm on Tuesday, July 28 in the Pacific H room. Come early if you want a seat!

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**Senior Section: Invited Paper Session*****Hunger Relief Programs: Improving Food Access***

The food bank network in the United States plays a key role in meeting food needs of persons who are food insecure. But how do we improve the efficiency of the hunger relief programs and address their nutritional content? This Invited Paper Session at the [2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting](#) in San Francisco, California, will review ongoing research and emphasize the future research needs of the food banks and their agencies to accomplish these objectives. The session is co-sponsored by the [Food Safety and Nutrition Section](#) and the [Senior Section](#).

Feeding America (FA) is the largest hunger relief provider in the United States with 200 food banks, the organizations that collect and distribute food to their agencies. These agencies support 58,000 feeding programs providing food assistance to 46.5 million people including 12 million children and 7 million seniors (Hunger in America Report 2014). Moreover, many of these households are facing significant diet-related health challenges. For example, 1 in 3 households have someone with diabetes and 58% report someone with hypertension (Hunger in America Report 2014).

Although distributing healthy food is a primary goal for food banks and their agencies, they face many challenges in meeting this goal. Budgets for purchasing food are always limited, and hunger relief agencies often have little influence over the nutritional quality of food they receive through donations.

The presentation of ongoing research in this area illustrates the potential for more work. (1) The first paper is an overview of food banking and will illustrate the application of behavioral economics to the challenge of improving the nutrition of program beneficiaries at food pantries. (2) Another two year-long study calculates monthly Healthy Eating Index (HEI) scores using electronic invoice data for 273 food pantries served by two major food banks in Minnesota. This involved capturing transaction data in electronic form and mapping the food items in the regular inventory to the Food and Nutrient Database for Dietary Studies (FNDDS). However, more than 30% by weight of the food moving through food banks to food pantries is free “miscellaneous” food donated by food stores and food distributors and is not part of the regular food bank inventory. This required the development of another method for characterizing the healthfulness of the food distributed. (3) An analytical model developed in New York helps food banks improve their gleaning operations, particularly for fruits and vegetables. In the model, gleaning opportunities arrive randomly to the food bank, and are processed with stochastic processing times that depend on the location of the farm, the volume of the harvest, and the availability of labor for gleaning. Consequently, the capacity levels and operating policies that maximize service level for a given operating budget can be determined.

This session offers valuable insights on the nutritional quality of hunger relief food and provides three examples of research studies to evaluate and improve the operations of this important segment of our food system. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the applied research opportunities related to this high-priority societal need. Join this session, Monday, July 27, at 1:00 PM in Salon 1 room.

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### International Section Track Sessions:

#### **Announcement**

The AAEA [International Section](#), will sponsor 10 distinct sessions at the [2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting](#) in San Francisco. We are grateful to our co-sponsor Sections and Committees for making it possible to put together the largest track session offering in our Section's history, despite the triennial international conference two weeks later in Italy. Come join us and hear the exciting research being presented by a wide range of scholars.

The track sessions include sessions on (organizers and their affiliations in parentheses):

- 1) "Making Agricultural Research Matter to Women Farmers" (Corrine Valdivia, University of Missouri), co-sponsored with the Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE)
- 2) "Food Security in an Imperfect World: Method, Causes and Remedies" (Ashok Mishra, Louisiana State University), co-sponsored with the Applied Risk Analysis section
- 3) "Reexamining Agricultural Commercialization in the Developing World: The Cash versus Food Production Tradeoff" (Ben Wood, 3ie), co-sponsored with the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE)
- 4) "Guiding Investments in Sustainable Agricultural Intensification in Sub-Saharan Africa" (Melinda Smale, Michigan State University), co-sponsored with the Committee on the Opportunity and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE)
- 5) "Economics of Food Losses and Waste: What are the right questions?" (Willi Meyers, University of Missouri), co-sponsored with the Agribusiness Economics and Management Section
- 6) "Emerging Development Issues in Rural China: Land titling, agricultural subsidy, distance education and non-farm employment" (Songqing Jin, Michigan State University), co-sponsored with the China section
- 7) "Agriculture in Africa: Telling Facts from Myths" (Luc Christiaensen, World Bank), co-sponsored with the China section
- 8) "The Role of the Developing and Emerging Countries in Shaping the Future of the Global Trade System" (Tim Josling, Stanford University), co-sponsored with the Senior section
- 9) "Soil Tests & Smallholder Farmers: How potent a productive input is soil fertility information?" (Travis Lybbert, University of California, Davis)
- 10) "Ebola: Predicting it, Addressing it, and Food Security Impacts" (George Norton, Virginia Tech)

The Section is also sponsoring a pre-conference workshop on Saturday, July 25, on "[Rapid AgriFood System Transformation, Globalization, and International Development](#)", organized by Tom Reardon (Michigan State University), Bart Minten (IFPRI), David Zilberman (University of California, Berkeley) and Jo Swinnen (KU Leuven). The pre-conference workshop will take stock of the emerging literature on food system transformation in developing countries, partly in response to globalization and urbanization over the past 20 years.

Please join us; contribute to what promises to be stimulating discussions, hear cutting-edge research

presentations, renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

### ***Economics of Food Losses and Waste: What are the Right Questions?***

This International Section track session is scheduled for Monday, July 27, from 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM in Sierra I. Come to hear presentations by **Steve Sonka** on “Reducing Postharvest Loss: Are We Asking the Right Questions?,” **Harry de Gorter** on “Economics

of Food Losses and Waste: Concepts and Practical Implications,” **David Just** on “The Role of “Nudge” Type Policies in Reducing Food Waste: A Behavioral Economics Approach,” and discussions by **Tom Johnson** and **Nadia Streletskaia**. Waste

and loss have been widely discussed but not deeply analyzed. This session will provide an opportunity to explore these issues more extensively and stimulate ideas for further research.



### **Call for Judges: SS-AAEA Academic Bowl**

I am seeking volunteers to judge the SS-AAEA Academic Bowl at the [2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting](#) in San Francisco, CA. Our competition will run from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Monday, July 27. Our highest demand for judges takes place early in the day when we are operating three rooms for the competition. Please email [Tyler.Mark@uky.edu](mailto:Tyler.Mark@uky.edu) if you are able to judge and also list your time preferences/availability in the following time slots:

- 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
- 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

If your university is bringing a team or two to compete, please let me know how many students you intend to bring.



Many thanks for your help in making this a great experience for all the student competitors! Please contact me at [Tyler.Mark@uky.edu](mailto:Tyler.Mark@uky.edu) if you have any questions.

**Tyler B. Mark**  
SS-AAEA, Junior Advisor





### Undergraduate Student Section Activities Announcement

On behalf of the Undergraduate Student Section of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, we cordially invite you and your students to attend and participate in the [2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting in San Francisco](#) (July 26–28). Our section offers a wide variety of professional development opportunities for undergraduate students of agricultural and applied economics:

- [Academic Bowl Competition](#)
- [Student Paper Competition](#)
- [Outstanding Chapter Competition](#)
- [Creative Club Competition](#)
- [Earl O. Heady Decision Sciences Spreadsheet Competition](#)

In addition to the aforementioned competitions, students can interact with representatives of major graduate programs in our profession to discuss MS and PhD programs. Our reception on Sunday night (July 26) is a great opportunity for your students to meet and forge lifelong friendships with other students from over 20 domestic and several Canadian universities. On Monday night, immediately following the final round of the Academic Bowl Competition, we recognize and celebrate student accomplishments at the AAEA Awards & Fellows Recognition Ceremony. Additionally on Monday night, in our section's business meeting, students have the opportunity to run for elected student leadership positions within our section.

To encourage participation, the student registration fees have been discounted this year from \$50 to \$20 per student. As a further incentive to participate, there is a total of \$1,800 in prize money, various award plaques, and of course bragging rights to be national champions in a given competition. All of the required registration forms, competition rules, and overview of the Undergraduate Student Section may be found at <http://www.aaea.org/membership/sections/ss-aaea/>. If you have any questions, please contact me at [steven\\_vickner@wilmington.edu](mailto:steven_vickner@wilmington.edu).

**Dr. Steven S. Vickner**  
*Associate Professor*  
*Wilmington College*

### Register for the 2015 Employment Center

Registration is now open for the 2015 Employment Center taking place July 26–28, during the [2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting](#) in San Francisco, CA. The Employment Center offers a great opportunity for highly qualified candidates to connect with a number of employers during the Joint Annual Meeting. This year's Employment Center features a simplified registration and

posting process that is integrated into the [AAEA Job Board](#). Applicant registration is **FREE**.

For more information, please visit the online [Employment Center](#). If you have any questions please feel free to contact [Sarah Kenner](#). We hope to see you in San Francisco!



## **Agricultural Finance and Management (AFM) Section Track Sessions:**

The AAEA Agricultural Finance and Management (AFM) Section will sponsor two track sessions at the joint AAEA and WAEA meeting this July in San Francisco. The AFM section focuses research efforts on topics related to agricultural and applied finance; credit markets and financial institutions, farm and agribusiness management, financial performance and investment strategies, international and micro finances, land economics, price analysis and forecasting and risk management. The AFM section encourages you to join us for our two track sessions to learn more about current issues in “Cooper

ative Finance” and “Lending in Volatile Times.”

The track sessions are the following:

- 1) **“Current Issues in Cooperative Finance”** organized by Brian Briggeman (Kansas State University) with Keri Jacobs (Iowa State University), Phil Kenkel (Oklahoma State University), and Gregory McKee (North Dakota State University) as participants. Tuesday, July 28 from 2:45 PM–4:15 PM in room Sierra A
- 2) **“Lending in Volatile Times”** organized by Ryan Larsen (North Dakota State University) with Nathan Kauffman (Kansas City Federal

Reserve Bank), Todd Kuethe (University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign), Frayne Olson (North Dakota State University), Lee Shulz (Iowa State University), Christopher Wolf (Michigan State University), and Joleen Hadrich (Colorado State University) as participants. Monday, July 27 from 9:45 AM–11:45 AM in room Sierra J.

We look forward to thought-provoking discussions and interactions within these track sessions in July.



## **Crop Insurance and the 2014 Farm Bill: Reports and Analyses from the Field**

*October 5-7, 2015 · Louisville, KY · Marriott Louisville Downtown*

**AAEA Business Meeting**

Monday, July 27, 8:00 am–8:30 am

AAEA's annual Business Meeting will be held during the annual meeting in San Francisco, CA on Monday, July 27 in the Yerba Buena Ballroom, Salon 9. This meeting gives members the chance to hear about the state of the association. Updates will be given by the AAEA President, the Finance Committee, and the AAEA Trust Committee. Additionally, Board members and Editors who are completing their terms will be recognized for their service. Lastly, those in attendance will be given an opportunity to voice any questions or concerns that they may have. We hope you'll join us in San Francisco!

**2015 AAEA & WAEA  
JOINT ANNUAL MEETING****AAEA Publications now Current on RePEc!**

AAEA is pleased to announce that the AAEA publications are now up-to-date on RePEc (Research Papers in Economics). RePEc is a collaborative effort of hundreds of volunteers in 84 countries to enhance the dissemination of research in Economics and related sciences. The heart of the project is a decentralized bibliographic database of working papers, journal articles, books, books chapters and software components, all maintained by volunteers. The collected data are then used in various services that serve the collected metadata to users or enhance it.

RePEc has become an important metric of research output and contributions in economics. The service is particularly important in its tracking of citations and other metrics of academic output such as page counts. It has also become an important repository for research, including working papers and reporting on research in progress.

Until recently, AAEA content was not getting uploaded to RePEc and the archives of *AJAE* were not available on the site. This was due in part to a technical issue with the way data was transferred between AAEA's publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP). Through the diligent work of the AAEA Executive Board, technical staff at OUP, and technical staff at RePEc, the data issue was corrected and content is now available for *AJAE* and *AEPP*. We are grateful to the significant effort that our partners at OUP put into achieving this important recognition for our membership. We owe a special thanks to Byron Bonparth for his efforts.

### **New Members of the AAEA Executive Board Announced**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2015 AAEA Executive Board election!

Jayson Lusk from Oklahoma State University was chosen as President-Elect. Allen Featherstone from Kansas State University and Ani Katchova of The Ohio State University were elected as Directors.

The election opened on April 15, 2015 when AAEA e-mailed 1,965 electronic ballots and mailed 89 paper ballots for a

total of 2,054 ballots. AAEA received votes from 685 members before the May 15, 2015 deadline.

Following the 2015 AAEA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Barry Goodwin will become the Past President and Jill McCluskey will take over as President. Michael Boland, Hayley Chouinard, David Just, and Holly Wang will continue as Directors. Please take a moment to get to know the members of the [2015 AAEA Executive Board](#) and to thank

them for their generous donations of time and energy as volunteer leaders.

Please also extend a special thank you to the members of the Board who are completing their terms. Julie Caswell, Keith Coble and Scott Swinton will rotate off the Board at the end of the 2015 Annual Meeting. Their commitment and guidance throughout the last three years is deeply appreciated!

## Other News

### **AJAE: Free Virtual Issue on Energy**

In this virtual edition of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* we highlight the recent research on emerging sources of energy, including biofuels, natural gas and wind and their economic and environmental implications. While these are potentially low carbon sources of energy that can contribute to energy security for the United States, their production has led to controversies about their economic and environmental impacts and the trade-offs they generate between food and fuel production, energy security and environmental quality. This virtual issue includes both papers that provide original estimates and reviews of existing evidence on these topics. These papers show the extent to which the expansion of biofuels has led to an integration of agricultural and energy markets and its implications for the link between energy prices, agricultural commodity prices and land values. They provide evidence of the positive and negative environmental impact of these alternative energy sources and ways to monetize these effects. They highlight the challenges for policies seeking to induce a shift in demand to low carbon energy sources and provide empirical estimates of the energy and carbon prices needed to induce production. This issue illustrates the significant role for economic analysis in drawing attention to the societal implications of emerging technologies and in designing policies to reduce unintended consequences.

**Madhu Khanna**  
*Editor*

- [Long-run and Short-run Co-movements in Energy Prices and the Prices of Agricultural Feedstocks for Biofuel](#)  
Robert J. Myers, Stanley R. Johnson, Michael Helmar and Harry Baumes
- [Wind versus Nuclear Options for Generating Electricity in a Carbon-Constrained World: Strategizing in an Energy-Rich Economy](#)  
G. Cornelis van Kooten, Craig Johnston and Linda Wong
- [Is the Shale Energy Boom a Bust for Nearby Residents? Evidence from Housing Values in Pennsylvania](#)  
Sathya Gopalakrishnan and H. Allen Klaiber
- [The Impact of Biofuels on Commodity Food Prices: Assessment of Findings](#)  
David Zilberman, Gal Hochman, Deepak Rajagopal, Steve Sexton and Govinda Timilsina
- [Economic, Energy Security, and Greenhouse Gas Effects of Biofuels: Implications for Policy](#)  
Madhu Khanna and Xiaoguang Chen
- [Vegetable Spirits and Energy Policy](#)  
Charles Towe and Constant I. Tra
- [Supply of Cellulosic Biofuel Feedstocks and Regional Production Pattern](#)  
Madhu Khanna, Xiaoguang Chen, Haixiao Huang and Hayri Ön

## Government Relations

### **Budget and Appropriations**

#### ***FY16 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations and Budget***

In our last report, we indicated the [report language](#) in the NSF House appropriations bill directs the NSF to ensure that the math, biophysical, computer, and engineering sciences receive no less than 70 percent of all the funding in research and related activities. As a result, compared

with FY15 levels, the implications of the House [report language](#), should it be retained all the way through the appropriations process, is that SBE Directorate would shoulder a cut, while the remainder of the NSF research and related activities would either be flat funded or would

experience an increase. The actual cut amount is unknown, but sources state it would be between 10% and 15%. Fortunately, the Senate version, [approved on June 10 out of committee](#), does not contain this language.

#### ***USDA FY16 Budget and Appropriations***

The [House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee](#) moved its bill to the committee level last week on June 18. The bill includes funding of the [US Commodity Futures Trading Commission](#) at \$250M, while bringing funding for many agencies within the [USDA Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area](#) back to funding levels equal to those of fiscal year (FY) 2014. The relative impact per agency varies greatly. An added component of this impact is the real cost of the transfer of lease payments in FY 2015 from the General Services Administration (GSA) to USDA agencies. This makes the USDA-Economic Research Service (ERS), which pays rent equal to 7.7 percent of its total FY 2015



appropriation, and the USDA–National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), which pays rent equal to 5.6 percent of its FY 2015 appropriation, especially vulnerable to any cuts below the FY 2015 appropriations levels. Other agencies, such as the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, only have about 0.8 percent of their total appropriation tied up in rent.

### ***The Economic Research Service and the National Agricultural Statistics Service***

As a result of the impact of the GSA rent transfer, the cuts to USDA–ERS of 8.6%, back to FY 2014 levels, suggested in the House appropriations bill, will have a direct impact on USDA–ERS programs. As many of you know, the USDA–ERS generates the [farm financial statistics](#), [consumer prices and expenditures for food](#), [measures of food consumption behavior](#), [estimates of food security](#) and the distribution of hunger in the United States. USDA–ERS also conducts, using federal data, [science-based research and analysis](#) on the consequences of changes in farm management, food taxation, nutrition assistance, food safety, agri–environmental quality, rural development, and other circumstances, programs, or alternative policies. During the 2012–2013 sequestration and rescission process, USDA–ERS reduced its emerging issue–related cooperative research and competitive funding programs. We understand that, in FY 2016, it is likely that the agency will only be able to move forward by reducing core programs critical to the agricultural economy via essential related research and industry analysis.

Similarly, the NASS \$11.2M cut to core programs will most likely impact the data products within the agricultural estimates portion of its agency budget. The markets for tradable agricultural commodities hinge on NASS statistical reports. Farmers, ranchers, farm and commodity groups, agricultural

businesses, researchers, and international traders rely on the accurate, objective, reliable, timely, and accessible statistics in reports released by NASS over the course of every year. The agency also is responsive to the data needs associated with critical issues that emerge in the agricultural sector, such as the recent [avian flu outbreak](#). In 2011, NASS was forced to suspend, eliminate, or reduce the frequency of reporting on a [variety of “minor” commodities](#). However, the 6.5 percent decrease in non–census funding proposed by this bill would require deeper cuts to agricultural estimates.

The leadership in the legislative and executive branches has stated that the nation could achieve rare bipartisan policymaking success in agricultural market and trade development in 2015. However, as the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress continues to move forward, federal investments would best reflect this intention if decisions acknowledge that relatively small FY 2016 budgetary investments in ERS (\$7.3M) and NASS (\$11.2M) will effectively maximize the integrity of the international agricultural marketplace. These investments seem small, but have a great impact on thousands to millions of farm and agri–business operations throughout the supply chain. They also directly impact the opportunity to advance the applied agricultural economic research and analysis that AAFA members undertake.

### ***The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)***

NIFA would also endure a cut, mostly shouldered via its extension programs. The flagship competitive grants program, AFRI, received a \$10M *increase* in the draft bill.

The language for the bill is located [here](#).

**FY16 Ag. Appropriations Funding Table**

<i>(Thousands of Dollars)</i>	<i>2014 Actual</i>	<i>2015 Enacted</i>	<i>2016 Request</i>	<i>House Ag. Appropriations Subcommittee</i>
<i>Office of the Chief Economist REE</i>	\$16,777	\$17,377	\$17,465	\$16,777
<i>Economic Research Service</i>	\$78,058	\$85,373	\$86,023	\$78,058
<i>National Agricultural Statistics Service</i>	\$161,206	\$172,408	\$180,346	\$161,206
<i>National Institute of Food and Agriculture</i>	\$772,559	\$791,900	\$786,874	\$781,510

**Friends of Agricultural Statistics and Analysis (FASA)**

With the support of the AAEA Government Relations Committee, the Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE) has partnered with the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) to co-chair a new agricultural statistics and research group called the "[Friends of Agricultural Statistics and Analysis](#)." The goal of the group is to support continued

maintenance and growth of the resources needed to support knowledge and information from agricultural, food, and resource statistics and analysis. FASA serves as a forum for stakeholders who depend on the reliable production of timely, accurate, objective food, agricultural, rural economy and resource statistics and market information. C-FARE and COPAFS invite interested individuals to connect with the

group via LinkedIn. Organizations, companies, and institutions interested in joining the group should contact [agricultural.statistics@gmail.com](mailto:agricultural.statistics@gmail.com). Please enter the subject "New Member Information." If you know of organizations that you think might be interested, please send along the name of each organization with a contact name so that we can be in touch.

**FASA Inaugural Event**

A Briefing on the Statistics and Data that Underpin the Success of US Agriculture will take place on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 1310 Longworth House Office Building from 12:00-1:00 PM ET\* and at 328A Russell Senate Office Building from 3:00-4:00 PM ET. Summary: The USDA produces a vast amount of data and information that directly

informs decisions by food and agricultural market participants, agricultural input and food businesses, banks and other credit institutions, and those who make food, farm, economic development, and trade policy. American agriculture, rural America, food, and resource-based industries depend on the production of

accurate, reliable, timely, and objective food, agricultural, rural economic, and resource

statistics and market information. \*Sandwiches will be served.

### Other Events in DC

#### **[AAAS 2015 Riley Lecture: A University President's Perspective on the Economic Importance of Pursuing a Unifying Message to Make Agriculture a National Priority](#)**

On behalf of the agricultural and applied economics profession, the Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics has participated in the Riley Memorial Foundation's events aiming toward "Pursuing a Unifying Message." These efforts center on building a coalition of stakeholders from industry, universities (public and private), and the broad research community engaged in agricultural, food, and resource science. At the last meeting of university participants, C-FARE proposed the effort focus on developing a greater emphasis on the agricultural research "solution supply chain." This terminology was meant to encourage the celebration of research and analysis that occurs at many different places within the agribusiness and resource sectors that involve social, behavioral, biophysical, economic, and biochemical sciences. As a result, the Riley Board decided to advance this idea in its [report](#), connecting it to an innovation deficit resulting from a lack of agricultural research investments.

### C-FARE Events and Resources

#### ***The Economics of Food Waste in the Contemporary Marketplace—Video Links***

Food waste occurs when edible food is thrown out at the retail, restaurant, or household level. Supermarkets and other food retailers discard edible foods that are discolored or oddly shaped, whose properties are unappealing to the consumer. The quantity of edible food lost

in the US is not insignificant; 31 percent, or 133 billion pounds, of the 430 billion pounds of the available food supply at the retail and consumer levels went uneaten in 2010. The value of this food loss is estimated to be about \$161.6 billion, with about 1,249 calories lost per US citizen

per day in 2010. Experts will describe the work being done to estimate the amount of food waste in the United States and evaluate the costs, trade-offs, infrastructure, and networks needed to understand and ameliorate food waste.

#### ***Webinar Speakers***

- [Jean Buzby—Chief of Diet, Safety, & Health Econ. in Food Econ., USDA ERS](#)
- [Rosetta Newsome, CFS—Director, Science and Policy Initiatives, IFT](#)
- [Tiffany P. Kollar, ID—Office of Resource Conservation and Recover, US EPA](#)

#### ***Climate Change, Choices, Agriculture, and the Adaptation Imperative—Video Link***

The connection between climate change and agriculture is multifaceted. A major assertion in the [2014 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) and the [2014 National Climate Assessment by the US Global Change Research Program](#) reports is that climate change is already affecting

agricultural productivity and adaptation is occurring in response. Evidence suggests these effects are spatially heterogeneous and are likely to intensify in the next century. In a recent theme presented by the [Agricultural and Applied Economics Association's](#) [Choices Magazine](#)

addresses some of the controversies, imperatives, and unmet expectations that have arisen in the last

decade related to agricultural and climate change, in addition to the challenges that lie ahead.

### **Webinar Speaker**

- [Bruce McCarl, Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University](#)

### **The Economics of Pollinator Services, Industry, and Health—Video Links**

In mid-May, the White House released the inter-agency [National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators](#) and its accompanying [Pollinator Research Action Plan](#).

Additionally, the [House Agriculture Committee](#) hosted a hearing to discuss the government response to

pollinator health. Each event highlighted the importance of understanding the economics of pollinator health in the agricultural industry. Intramural and extramural agricultural economic research programs are responding to information needs by building the wealth of knowledge needed to deconstruct

the challenges to pollinator health across the nation. In this webinar, you will hear from expert economists about the supply and demand of pollinator services, the land uses and conservation approaches that can support pollinator habitat, and other aspects of the agricultural economics of pollination.

### **Webinar Moderator**

- [Tom Van Arsdall, Public Affairs Director of the Pollinator Partnership](#)

### **Webinar Speakers**

- [Jennifer Bond, Economist, Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture](#)
- [Mariah Ehmke, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wyoming](#)

For updates on committee hearings and other events in D.C., please follow C-FARE on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or LinkedIn. Report Prepared by Caron Gala, Executive Director of C-FARE.

## AAEA Events & Deadlines

- [July 9](#) [2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting: Advance Registration Deadline](#)
- [July 25](#) [Pre-Conference Workshops](#)
- [July 26–28](#) [2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting](#)
- [July 27](#) [COSBAE, CWAE, & Extension Section Speaker Series Luncheon](#)  
[AAEA Fellows and Annual Awards Ceremony](#)  
[International Section Speaker Series and Banquet](#)  
[Reunions and Receptions](#)
- [July 29](#) [Post-Conference Workshops](#)

## Job Openings

Be sure to visit the [AAEA Job Board](#)! Our new platform allows employers to post open positions on the site and browse the resumes of qualified candidates. Applicants can apply for these positions online and upload their resumes anonymously, protecting their personal information



## Social Media



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