

AAEA News

Call for Membership Selfies!

AAEA is looking into ways to update our website, specifically the [Membership page](#), with photos that better represent our diverse membership. The best way to represent our membership is with our members!

In a Zoom centric world, AAEA is requesting a “Zoom Selfie” from its members. The goal is to create a collage of virtual members.

Submissions

1. JPG or PNG format
2. Horizontal preferred
3. Big Smiles!

If taking a selfie with your mobile devices, please turn the device to the side. The image capture may be pasted into an email, or attached to an email and sent to info@aaea.org.

If taking a selfie using your computer, open Zoom or any software that is using your computer’s camera, and hit the button on your keyboard “PrtScr”. Then open Paint, Word, or an email and right click “paste” or ctrl + v. Then send that file to info@aaea.org.

**By submitting a photo you are consenting AAEA the right to use your image on the AAEA website.*

If you have any questions, please reach out to Allison Ware at aware@aaea.org. The deadline for selfie submissions is **March 31, 2021**.

2021 AAEA Travel Grants

2021 Travel Grants are now open for applications. These grants defray housing and transportation costs associated with attending the 2021 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting in Austin, TX, August 1–3, 2021. The amount of the travel grant awarded will depend on the number of applications received. There are Travel Grants for both International and Domestic travel.

The deadline for the 2021 Travel Grants is **May 20, 2021**, applications will be available soon. Notifications will be sent in June.

- [Domestic Applications](#)
 - [International Applications](#)
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AEPP Working Collection of Articles on COVID-19

These articles will appear in an upcoming special issue on COVID-19. Articles will be added to the collection as they publish online ahead of the special issue publication in early 2021.

View the collection here: [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)2040-5804.special-collection-on-covid-19](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)2040-5804.special-collection-on-covid-19)

Call for Papers**Special Issue, “Agricultural and Applied Economics and Inequity and Discrimination Faced by African Americans in the United States”***Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy*

The editors of AEPP invite authors to submit articles for a special issue on inequities and discrimination faced by African Americans in the United States related to topics within agricultural and applied economics. AEPP publishes research related to agriculture; animal, plant, and human health; energy; environment; food and consumer behavior; international development; natural hazards, natural resources; population and migration; and regional and rural development. In this Special Issue, we are particularly interested in the intersection of these topics with inequities and discrimination faced by African Americans. Possible topics for papers in this issue include, but are not limited to:

1. Implications of the Pigford v. Glickman suit and related cases on Black farmer land loss
2. Funding differences in experiment stations and extension systems between 1862 and 1890 institutions and impacts on African American outcomes related to food and agriculture
3. Evaluation of differences in intergenerational mobility of African American students between 1890 and 1862 institutions
4. Implications of agricultural land loss on present-day wealth and wealth-related disparities
5. Racial disparities, property values, and Black and white farmers in rural America
6. Disparities in federal and state funding at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions. Specifically, inequality in the distribution of funding support for research, teaching, and 4-H programs at 1890 institutions
7. Disparities by race in human capital development, income inequality, family/community resiliency, or disaster preparedness and their impacts on population and migration and/or rural and regional development, with a particular focus on the African American experience
8. Disparities by race in food security, with a particular focus on the African American experience
9. Black farmers' access to financial capital
10. Examination of alternative farm policy frameworks that continue systemic racism with government support and emergency payments. Black farmer participation levels in local food systems could be assessed in this context.

If you are interested in contributing to the special issue, please submit your paper to our online submission system by **January 16, 2022**. General instructions for submitting to AEPP can be found here. Please select that you are submitting to the Agricultural and Applied Economics and Inequity and Discrimination Faced by African Americans in the United States special issue when selecting submission type.

Composition of the Issue

1. Invited versus Open Call: The issue will contain a mix of invited papers and papers received in response to this open call.
2. Perspectives versus Original Research Papers: We are interested in publishing both perspectives articles and original research articles in this special issue.

3. Timeline: Journal submission deadline: **January 16, 2022**

Communication

Questions about the special issue including questions related to fit of potential submissions can be directed to Mindy Mallory (mllmallor@purdue.edu).

Additional Information

Certainly, African Americans in the United States are not the only group to face inequities and discrimination related to topics in agricultural and applied economics. Future special issues will be organized around inequities and discrimination faced by other groups.

Call for Papers

Applied Economics Teaching Resources (AETR)

Applied Economics Teaching Resources (AETR) is an online, open access, and peer-reviewed professional publication series. The aim is to provide an inclusive outlet for research, teaching and Extension education scholarship encompassing but not limited to research articles, case studies, classroom games, commentaries, experiential learning, and pedagogy. The goal is to support and advance teaching and Extension education within the scholarly areas of agricultural and applied economics, and agribusiness economics and management. AETR seeks to publish articles that are diverse in both scope and authorship. It serves as a platform for addressing and contributing to our understanding of important societal issues, including inequality and discrimination, as well as how shifts in pedagogy (e.g., growing reliance on remote and hybrid learning modalities) may impact accessibility and inclusion.

AETR encourages submissions on a wide variety of topics, including social inequality and discrimination; remote learning; hybrid learning; curriculum development; teaching innovations; classroom games; and case studies. Guidelines for submission can be found at: <https://www.aaea.org/publications/applied-economics-teaching-resources/aetr-manuscript-submission-guidelines>. All submissions will go through a blind peer-review process with no charge for submission or publication. You can directly submit a manuscript at: <https://www.aaea.org/publications/applied-economics-teaching-resources>.

Please email if you have any questions or inquiries; send to aetr.editor@gmail.com. We look forward to your submission!

Call for Papers

Special Issue, “Fostering Diversity and Inclusion in Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics Classrooms and Departments”

Applied Economics and Teaching Resources

Applied Economics and Teaching Resources is calling for manuscripts on teaching methods, curriculum development, and programs to foster diversity and inclusion in agribusiness and agricultural economics classrooms and departments. Across the academy, researchers have documented the adverse effects of racial and economic inequality, gender discrimination, stereotype enforcement, and social polarization on university students in the United States. Less has been documented about these issues within agribusiness management, agricultural economics, and related undergraduate and graduate university programs. The goal of this special issue is to further our understanding of educational inequalities for students of different economic, racial,

sexual, and cultural backgrounds. Further, we seek articles that report on classroom, department, college, or multi-institutional programs designed to foster and support students from diverse backgrounds.

The special issue will highlight instructor, department, and college-level programs and policies which have resulted in improvements or exacerbated challenges in enhancing the learning experience and outcomes for underserved and under-represented graduate or undergraduate students. The issue will inform faculty and administrators approaches to creating a safe and caring space for inclusive student learning. Authors may also report on lasting impacts of programmatic shortcomings or innovations on minority students, alumni, faculty, and the profession. We encourage research that implements the collective trauma recovery framework, weaver-leader framework, active and learner-centered pedagogy, traditional and remote classroom environments, and personal or group narratives. We welcome research papers, methods papers, case studies, or commentaries. Authors may employ qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods approaches in researching both shortcomings and successes of programs.

Special Issue Editors: Dr. Mariah Ehmke, University of Wyoming (mariah.ehmke@uwyo.edu), and Dr. Kenrett Jefferson Moore, North Carolina A & T University (jykenret@ncat.edu).

Submissions will be accepted for the special issue through December 31, 2021. We encourage submissions sooner to be able to help readers benefit from accepted submission. All articles will go through a double-blind peer review process and be available online via Advanced Access for readers once accepted.

Manuscript submissions can be made on the AETR submission page at:

<https://www.aea.org/publications/applied-economics-teaching-resources>. Please read and follow submission guidelines. When submitting the manuscript, make sure to select the "Special Issue" option upon submission. If you have any questions about the special issue, please email the special issue editors. Questions about the review process and submission to AETR can be made to editor at aetr.editor@gmail.com.

(WEBINAR) The Meatless Revolution: Panel with Industry Experts

AAEA Webinar (Co-sponsored by FAMPS and AEM)

Background: The controversy surrounding plant-based vs. lab-grown vs. the traditional meat sector has many wondering how the food system will evolve in this new choice landscape. This symposium brings together both sides of the conversation – the alternative and the traditional meat sectors – to discuss the meatless craze that has swept the nation and the broader implications for the food system.

Format: This will be a guided Q&A session with questions that have been curated directly from our members.

- How is the traditional meat industry responding to the increasing demand for plant-based alternatives? Can you characterize the threat of plant-based/meat alternatives to the traditional sector?
- How are plant-based meat companies currently marketing their products to a diverse set of consumers that range from "meat lovers" to plant-product "experimenters" to those who are already "veggie lovers," vegetarian, or vegan? For the traditional meat sector, has this been effective from your perspective?
- As the popularity of plant-based meat grows, what labeling issues might emerge in this sector? Meat alternatives have been around for a long time, but as demand increases for plant-based alternatives, how might things change?

- Given the advancements in feed technology solutions (e.g., feeding seaweed to cows to reduce methane emissions), what is the traditional meat sector doing to meet the environmental concerns of production?
- What are the lasting impacts of COVID-19 on the meat industry? In what ways do the impacts of COVID-19 differ for the traditional meat sector and meat alternative sector? In what ways do they differ between foodservice and food retail?
- We will conclude the Webinar with an audience Q&A.

When: Wednesday, March 24th from 12 – 1:30 PM MST / 3 – 4:30 PM EST

Where: Zoom (Webinar link and registration email to follow!)

For more details, please visit <https://research.wpcarey.asu.edu/fab-lab/event/famps-meatless/>

Help Support the Economics Labor Market with Quality Data: The O*NET Data Collection Program and AAEA members

The O*NET Data Collection Program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, is seeking the input of expert Economists on our own job market characteristics. As the nation's most comprehensive source of occupational data, O*NET is a public resource for millions of job seekers, employers, veterans, educators, and students at www.onetonline.org.

The Agricultural & Applied Economics Association encourages you to volunteer to complete and return the O*NET questionnaires. Please be assured that your decision regarding participation in O*NET will not impact your standing with our organization and is completely voluntary... The AAEA leadership encourages you to participate so that there is accurate and rich information available about our sector.

You are considered an Expert Economist if you meet any of the following criteria:

- Conduct research, prepare reports, or formulate plans to address economic problems related to the production and distribution of goods and services or monetary and fiscal policy. May collect and process economic and statistical data using sampling techniques and econometric methods.
- You are currently active in the occupation (practicing, supervising, teaching and/or training) and based in the U.S.
- You have at least 5 years of experience with the occupation. (Includes those who are now supervising, training, or teaching IF you have at least one year of practice during your career)

How to Participate

If you meet these criteria and are interested in participating, please contact Matt Robinson at RTI International, the O*NET data collection contractor, at mrobinson@onet.rti.org or 919-926-6617.

Please provide the following:

- Full Name
- Company Name and Title
- Daytime Phone Number
- Email Address
- Address with City and State

Process and Participation Incentive:

A random sample of experts responding to this request will be invited to complete a set of questionnaires. Experts who are selected and agree to participate will receive \$40.00 and an oak-framed certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Department of Labor.

2021 AAEA Mentoring Research Workshop[Post-Conference Workshop \(PC54\)](#)

August 4–5, 2021

Austin JW Marriott

See below schedule for times each day

Registration fee: TBD

Space is limited

The objective of this workshop is mentor junior faculty (less than 5 years) to transition to agricultural and applied economic departments by providing an orientation to expectations for research, teaching and outreach and develop effective strategies for success. The workshop will focus on constructively criticizing research in progress. Mentoring will include networking, information about the profession, and discussion of current research trends and topic areas.

Mentees will be divided into small groups assigned to one or more mentors. Small group sessions will involve short research presentation by each mentee followed by feedback on their research by the group.

To apply for this workshop, submit a 250 word description of motivations for participating and desires for learning outcomes via email to mannen@aaea.org. If you have any questions, contact Mary Annen at 414-918-3190.

Mentors (subject to change)

- Titus Awokuse, *Michigan State University*
- Stephen Devadoss, *Texas Tech University*
- Deacue Fields, *University of Arkansas*
- Madhu Khanna, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* (organizer)
- Jayson Lusk, *Purdue University*
- Jill McCluskey, *Washington State University*
- Rudy Nayga, *University of Arkansas* (organizer)
- Junjie Wu, *Oregon State University*
- David Zilberman, *University of California, Berkeley* (organizer)
- Julie Caswell, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*
- Robbin Shoemaker, *Retired NIFA*

INITIAL AGENDA**Wednesday, August 4**

8:00 am – 9:00 am	<i>Registration/Check-in and Breakfast</i>
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Welcome

9:15 am – 10:15 am	General Session 1 – Orientation to an Agricultural and Applied Economics Department: Research, Teaching and Outreach Expectations
10:15 am – 12:15 pm	Small Group Sessions – will involve presentations by mentees about their working papers and feedback from mentors and other participants
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	General Session 2 – How to Develop an Effective Research Program in an Ag and Applied Economics Department: Strategies for Making an Effective Transition, Publication, and Tenure
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Small Group Sessions – will involve presentations by mentees about their working papers and feedback from mentors and other participants
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Networking, Mentors meet with their mentees
6:30 pm	Dinner
Thursday, August 5	
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am – 9:00 am	General Session 3 – Big Research Questions in Agricultural and Applied Economics by field that can attract Grant Funding
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Small Group Sessions – will involve presentations by mentees about their working papers and feedback from mentors and other participants
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Concluding Session: Wrap-up on Key Takeaways

Call for papers: Food for Thought: Economic Analysis in Anticipation of the Next Farm Bill

[AAEA Post-Conference Workshop, August 4, 2021 \(PC 53\)](#)

The AAEA Extension Section and Senior Section, along with the USDA Office of the Chief Economist and Texas A&M Agricultural and Food Policy Center are sponsoring a post-conference workshop following the AAEA 2021 meetings to encourage and highlight economic analysis in anticipation of the next Farm Bill.

The 2018 Farm Bill will expire in 2023, and typically ideas for a new farm bill begin to percolate a couple of years in advance. This post-conference workshop is intended to focus our profession on relevant topics so that our work will be useful to the debate that is likely to get underway later this year.

The workshop aims to engage AAEA members with policy professionals in a format organized around key program areas covered by the Farm Bill and will join analytical paper presentations by AAEA members with discussants experienced in policy analysis and farm programs. Our goal is to bring together knowledge and experience of the policy process with new approaches and ideas, across a wide spectrum of experience with policymaking.

We are looking for papers that are forward-looking and that engage in innovative ways with long-term and emerging policy issues that have surfaced over the last few years. While papers should be based on rigorous analysis, they should be accessible to a lay audience and should consider the practicalities of implementation as much as possible.

All papers will be made available on a shared access website, and a selection committee will choose up to three papers per session for presentation during the workshop. Selected papers will be posted on the Extension Section website for broad access and distribution. Papers presented at the post-conference will be eligible for publication in *Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy (AEPP)*, subject to review. Authors will need to submit their manuscripts for consideration after the conclusion of the meetings.

All policy areas generally included in the Farm Bill may be considered as presentation topics—the final workshop session organization will be determined based on available papers. Example topic areas may include: commodity programs/crop insurance, conservation programs, other farm and production related topics, nutrition and food systems, research and extension, and rural development.

Proposals should include title, one-page proposal, and affiliation and contact details of authors.

Proposals are due **March 31** and should be sent to Anne Effland (anne.effland@usda.gov) and Josh Maples (josh.maples@msstate.edu). Deadline for final papers will be June 15.

Call for Applications

The Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE) and the Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE) are pleased to announce our new mentoring program, Building the Pipeline. Upper-level undergraduate students from under-represented minorities, as well as female-identifying and non-binary individuals, with a strong interest in graduate education in applied and/or agricultural economics are invited to apply. Applications from 1890 and 1994 land grant institutions are particularly encouraged. For additional eligibility and application information, click [here](#).

Call for Nominations

CWAE Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Awards

Spring 2021

Purpose/Mission

The vast majority of awards in our profession reward accomplishments based on research, teaching, and/or extension accomplishments. While these are worthy areas of recognition, CWAE would like to also recognize those individuals who have made our profession a more welcoming and supportive place for all who strive to be applied economists. To this end, we have created two awards to recognize those individuals who have actively worked to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (as defined by the Association of American Colleges and Universities) and who have had a positive impact on students, colleagues, and the culture of their departments and our profession. We will recognize two categories of individuals: those who have been in the profession for less than ten years and those who have been in the profession for ten or more years (consecutive or nonconsecutive). Award recipients will be recognized annually at the CWAE/COSBAE annual luncheon at the AAEA Annual Meetings.

Eligibility

- Any AAEA member

- Academic, government, non-profit or industry, including self-employed economic consultants and contingent faculty
- Any career path welcome (including unique and non-traditional paths)
- Junior: Less than ten years (consecutive or nonconsecutive) of active work experience as an economist
- Senior: Ten or more years (consecutive or nonconsecutive) of active work experience as an economist

Evaluation/selection criteria for awards

Nominees will be evaluated based on the criteria below. We encourage nominations of individuals who aspire to meet these criteria even if they feel their contributions to diversity, equity and inclusion do not fully meet all of the criteria listed. Nominations will be reviewed by the CWAE Awards Subcommittee.

Evaluation criteria for junior award:

- Public advancement and prioritization of diversity, equity and inclusion within their workplace and/or the profession
- Demonstrated initial positive impact on students, peers, their employer culture, stakeholders and/or the profession through their efforts to catalyze change in the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Viewed as an emerging role model in diversity, equity and inclusion work by their peers, colleagues, mentees, students or others

Evaluation criteria for senior award:

- Public advancement and prioritization of diversity, equity and inclusion within their workplace and/or the profession
- Demonstrated sustained positive impact on students, peers, their employer culture, stakeholders and/or the profession through their efforts to catalyze change in the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Viewed as an established role model in diversity, equity and inclusion work by their peers, colleagues, mentees, students or others
- Takes active leadership in diversity, equity and inclusion efforts within their workplace, department, university, organization, field, and/or the profession.

Examples of avenues and methods through which this work may have been achieved and which could be discussed in the nomination (not intended to be exhaustive):

- Advocacy for equitable access to learning, resources, opportunities, and visibility in the profession
- Promotion and/or mentoring of groups or individuals that facilitate equitable access to learning, resources, opportunities, and visibility in the profession
- Service activities such as the development and championing of inclusive policies and processes
- Research on topics such as disparities in outcomes or discrimination or use of inclusive research methods such as community-based participatory research
- Inclusive teaching methods and curricula
- Development of inclusive workshops or workspaces
- Outreach and/or Extension programming that educates people about diversity, equity and inclusion or provides information and technical assistance to historically underrepresented or undervalued stakeholders
- Any other activities that promote diversity, equity and inclusion

Submission Requirements

Nominations will be accepted from either of the following:

1. Nominee (i.e., self-nomination)
2. A group of 2 or more individuals from within or beyond the nominee's organization

Nomination packets and letters of recommendation (self-nominations only) should be submitted to CWAE Awards Subcommittee Co-Chairs Zoë Plakias and Valentina Hartarska by **March 22, 2021** at:

aaea.cwae@gmail.com. Senders will be notified of receipt.

International Section's Best Publication Presentation on an International Topic Award

2020: "[Can insurance alter poverty dynamics and reduce the cost of social protection in developing countries?](#)"

written by: Sarah A. Janzen, Michael Carter and Munenubo Ikegami

Honorable mention: "[Global food waste across the income spectrum: Implications for food prices, production and resource us](#)," written by Emiliano Lopez Berrera and Thomas Hertel

Handbook of Agricultural Economics, Vol. 6***Session Available on AAEA YouTube Channel***

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Introduction to Handbook of Agricultural Economics, Volume 6

Christopher B. Barrett, Cornell University & David R. Just, Cornell University

Concentration in Food and Agricultural Markets

John Crespi, Iowa State University & James MacDonald, USDA-ERS

Discussant: Alan Love, Washington State University

Trade in Agricultural and Food Products

Christophe Gouel, INRAE & Carl Gaigne, INRAE

Discussant: Ian Sheldon, Ohio State University

The Economics of Food Loss and Waste

Tim Richards, Arizona State University; Steve Hamilton, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; and Brian Roe, Ohio State University

Discussant: Harry DeGorter, Cornell University

Producers, Consumers, and Value Chains in Developing Countries

Marc Bellemare, University of Minnesota, Jeffrey Bloem, USDA-ERS, & Sunghun Lim, Texas Tech University

Discussant: Hope Michelson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Risk Management in Agricultural Production

Jesse Tack, Kansas State University & Jisang Yu, Kansas State University

Discussant: Jean-Paul Chavas, University of Wisconsin

The recording of this event is available to view online, [here](#).

Thursday, March 4, 2021

Introduction to Handbook of Agricultural Economics, Volume 6

Christopher B. Barrett, Cornell University & David R. Just, Cornell University

The Triple Nutritional Burden

William Masters, Tufts University, Amelia Finaret, Allegheny College & Steve Block, Tufts University

Discussant: John Hoddinott, Cornell University

The Economics of Health and Nutrition Related Food Policies: The Effects on the Public Health and Malnutrition

Vincenzina Caputo, Michigan State University & David Just, Cornell University

Discussant: Carola Grebitus, Arizona State University

Empowering Communities Using an Integrated Design of Food Networks *(Removed from video)*

Kathleen Liang, North Carolina A&T State University

Discussant: Zoe Plakias, The Ohio State University

Psychophysiological Measures and Consumer Food Choice

Marco Palma, Texas A&M University

Discussant: Brian Roe, The Ohio State University

The recording of this event is available to view online, [here](#).

FSN and FAMPS Post-conference Workshop

We are planning a post-conference workshop on data linking. Please take this 15-minute survey to help us tailor the program specifically to the needs of its participants, and be entered to win a \$50 gift card. Multiple gift cards are available.

Click [here for the survey link](#).

Here are some additional details about the workshop:

Applied economists are at the forefront of evidence-based policymaking, which is more essential than ever given many concurrent challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, the recession, inequality, and climate change. One of the best ways to tackle these immense policymaking challenges is through the strategic use of quantitative and qualitative data. However, the technical and logistical skills needed to leverage the data revolution may be a barrier for many applied economists, even when contextual, econometric, and disciplinary knowledge is already present. Applied economists now have access to more data than ever before, but often a complete analysis requires the knowledge, use, and integration of multiple datasets and there are few resources available to help train applied economists in using available data.

Your participation in this survey is critical. The results of the survey will be used to tailor the programming of a post-conference workshop aimed at filling this training gap, specifically to the needs of its participants. The post-conference workshop is titled: "Evidence-Based Policymaking for Applied Economists," and is co-sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Marketing and Policy (FAMPS) and the Food Safety and Nutrition (FSN) sections of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). More information is available at <https://www.aaea.org/meetings/2021-aaea-annual-meeting/events/ticketed-events/pre--and-post-conference-workshops>

Government Relations & Washington Update

AAEA Increases Washington Engagement

Since the beginning of the year, AAEA has been increasing its engagement in Washington, DC. Lowell Randel, AAEA's new Washington Representative, is meeting with key government officials and partners to discuss the importance of agricultural and applied economics and identify opportunities to advance AAEA priorities.

Randel has met with USDA officials including ERS Administrator Spiro Stefanou and USDA Chief Economist Seth Meyer to discuss ways AAEA and its members can work with them more closely.

Randel has also been busy working with coalitions including the National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research (NCFAR) and the AFRI Coalition to build support for the federal investment in agricultural research, extension and education. AAEA is helping coordinate an NCFAR Congressional Briefing that will highlight the importance of ERS and NASS programs to Congressional staff.

AAEA is actively engaged with coalition partners in the budget and appropriations process for fiscal year 2022. AAEA recently joined a letter with 139 national and state organizations congratulating Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on his recent confirmation and calls for increased investments in agricultural research. The letter asks Secretary Vilsack to support a balanced portfolio that includes both extramural and intramural research, competitive and capacity funding, extension and outreach, and statistics and economics. AAEA is also supporting coalition letters to Congress requesting federal investments in key agricultural research programs within NIFA, ERS and NASS.

With the transition in Presidential administrations, the budget and appropriations process for fiscal year 2022 will be delayed. It is common for incoming presidential administrations to miss the traditional timeframe of early February for annual President's Budget proposals. In many cases, the incoming administration will provide a high-level overview of its budget priorities and a more detailed, full budget proposal later in the spring. It appears that the Biden Administration is likely to follow this pattern, which will delay the annual budget and appropriations process for fiscal year 2022.

While Congress awaits the first Biden budget, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are considering a return to earmarks. The process for Congressionally directing appropriations spending to member priority projects was halted in 2011 after a series of controversies related to earmarks. Democratic leaders in both the House and Senate have indicated a desire to reinstate the process and the House Appropriations Committee has recently released its framework and rules for what the committee is calling "[Community Project Funding](#)". The Senate is expected to announce its approach to earmarks in the near future. In the past, agricultural research accounts were home to dozens of annual earmarks, including some related to agricultural economics.

AAEA will keep members updated on policy developments and opportunities to advance agricultural and applied economics as it continues to increase its engagement in Washington.

AAEA at ASSA

Call for Submissions

AAEA invited paper sessions at the 2022 ASSA Annual Meeting

President-Elect Madhu Khanna is soliciting proposals and suggestions for AAEA invited paper sessions at the 2022 Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, January 7-9, 2022.

The objective of AAEA sessions at the ASSA Annual Meeting is to share new knowledge of interest to economists. The AAEA encourages sessions that will draw widely from ASSA attendees, including sessions jointly sponsored with other ASSA member associations.

A subcommittee of the AAEA Board will review all proposals. Preference will be given to proposals that

- 1) Cover issues of national and international importance,
- 2) Expand capabilities and tools for economic research,
- 3) Promise a high-quality collection of papers suitable for publication.

Papers in approved Invited Paper sessions are eligible to be peer reviewed for publication in the proceedings issue of the *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policies*. Authors will be contacted by the *AEPP* editors with manuscript submission details.

Proposed formats for the 2-hour sessions may include either three papers with one discussant or else four papers with no discussant. All proposals must include a plan for fostering participant interaction. Proposals should include the session title and paper titles, as well as the names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of the session organizer, moderator, paper presenters, and discussants. Proposal text should begin with a short justification of the session, followed by one paragraph abstracts describing the objective and contributions of each paper. The organizer is responsible for ensuring that all individuals identified in the proposal are willing to participate.

All speakers and discussants must be members of AAEA, although the proposal may request a membership waiver under special circumstances. Participants must register for the ASSA meeting.

Please send proposals by **May 26, 2021**, in Word or PDF format to Mary Annen at mannen@aaea.org.

AAEA Sessions at ASSA 2021 Available on YouTube

Sunday, January 3

[The COVID-19 Pandemic: Insights from Agricultural Economists](#) (A1)

Chair: Craig Gundersen, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

[View the recording of this session on YouTube](#)

[Contracting in Agriculture](#) (A1)

Chair: Clark Lundberg, San Diego State University

[View the recording of this session on YouTube](#)

Monday, January 4

[Big Data and Near-Real-Time Monitoring of Food Emergencies](#) (A1)

Chair: Rob Vos, International Food Policy Research Institute

[View the recording of this session on YouTube](#)

[Food Quality Inspection, Certification, and Disclosure](#) (A1)

Chair: John Bovay, Virginia Tech

[View the recording of this session on YouTube](#)

Tuesday, January 5

[The Impact of COVID-19 on Rural Economies](#) (A1)

Chair: Heather Stephens, West Virginia University

[View the recording of this session on YouTube](#)

Other News

Call for Proposals for Research on Food Security and Resilience *MRR Innovation Lab 2021*

The MRR Innovation Lab invites researchers at U.S. universities to submit proposals for research projects that support our mission to generate and transfer into action innovations that will bolster resilience, keeping rural individuals, households, communities and markets in positions of economic viability from which they can sustain and accelerate a path of inclusive agricultural growth.

Deadlines

3/15/21 11:59 pm PT: Letter of Intent (one paragraph)

4/19/21 11:59 pm PT: Full Proposal

Funding

Maximum request amount: \$750,000

Researchers

Each proposal must identify at least one PI from a U.S.–based university and one from a host–country institution. The MRR Innovation Lab will subcontract with the PI from the lead US university.

Researchers will be expected to work with the MRR Innovation Lab staff to distill themes and findings of research projects into a coherent, evidence–based voice for integration of results into policy and program design.

Projects

The proposed research must be completed no later than June 2025.

Proposals should tie into one or more MRR research priorities:

- Enabling Resilient Escapes from Poverty
- Financial and Agronomic Innovations for Inclusive Growth and Resilience
 - Resilient Market Systems for Broadly–based Agricultural Growth

We encourage those that include deliberate learning objectives related to gender, youth and nutrition either as a primary focus of the research or as relevant cross–cutting issues.

Projects will take place in Feed the Future resilience–focused (includes Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe) or target countries (Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Kenya, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda).

While the MRR Innovation Lab is a research organization, our goal is to achieve concrete development outcomes through research. A proactive and joint effort between individual researchers and the MRR Innovation Lab can help ensure not only that its social science research reaches its full impact by being incorporated into development policy and programs, but also that this impact is demonstrable and measurable.

The MRR Innovation Lab is funded in support of the US Government's Feed the Future Initiative and the related Global Food Security Act (GFSA) of 2016. The [Global Food Security Research Strategy](#) calls for a "pipeline of innovations, tools and approaches designed to improve agriculture, food security, resilience and nutrition priorities in the face of complex, dynamic challenges."

Selection

Proposals will be reviewed by the MRR Innovation Lab Director, Associate Director and independent reviewers; the MRR Board of Directors will make final selections in May 2021.

The MRR Innovation Lab anticipates funding 4–6 proposals under this solicitation.

Questions on this solicitation may be directed to the BASIS/MRR Innovation Lab office at basis@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-7252.

[Download the full 2021 Request for Proposals PDF.](#)

31st International Conference of Agricultural Economists—Moves Virtual

The IAAE Board of Directors wishes to announce that the 31st ICAE Conference, initially scheduled for New Delhi in August 2021, will now be a **Virtual Event**, tentatively from August 17–31. This extended period is to accommodate our participants from diverse time zones.

Online conferences have their challenges, but we hope the new software solution we have identified will allow us to try a range of new and exciting options that will enhance the benefits to our members.

Contributed Papers and Organized Symposium submissions: The deadline for submission of papers and symposia has been extended to **Tuesday March 30, 2021** to allow more time for submissions. All proposals already submitted for review remain eligible for selection. To that effect, we are extending the opportunity to those who may wish to update and/or revise their submissions until the above deadline.

While we are still finalizing the registration fee, the good news is that the fee will be substantially lower than usual. We are also still exploring fundraising opportunities to help sponsor participation by early-career academics and professionals, especially those from low- and lower-middle-income countries.

Further announcements on the conference format will follow soon.

For more information and updates about this announcement and subsequent announcements, contact *Jeffers Miruka: Director of Communications*, at communicationsdirector@iaae-agecon.org. Also check frequently on our [website](#), and follow us on our social media platforms below for continued updates.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IAAEAgEcon/>

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Anti-Harassment and Code of Conduct Policy

AAEA is committed to the fair, ethical treatment of all of its members and all other individuals participating in AAEA activities or activities connected with, or related to, AAEA activities, while providing an atmosphere that promotes a variety of research, teaching and extension/outreach activities.

AAEA has zero tolerance for, and prohibits any type of, discrimination or harassment, including sexual harassment, either within the organization, at professional meetings, in the field, or anywhere professional activities are conducted under the aegis of the AAEA.

View the [policy](#) here.