

## President's Column

**May 2015**



AAEA members are looking forward to what looks to be a very well-attended Joint Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Registration numbers are high and the hotel is nearly full. The program looks excellent and I encourage anyone who is

considering attending to make your plans now. San Francisco is, of course, a great place to visit in the summer and the professional and intellectual climate of the meetings will be outstanding this year.

I am very pleased to congratulate recent AAEA Board alumnus Jayson Lusk for being elected as President of the AAEA. I have had the pleasure of seeing Jayson in action on the Board and he will make an outstanding leader for our association. I am also very pleased to welcome Allen Featherstone and Ani Katchova to the AAEA Board of directors. I've had the pleasure of interacting with both Allen and Ani over the years and will be very pleased to have their wisdom and insights as new members of the Board. I want to also thank Dan Sumner, Ashok Mishra, and Gopi Munisamy for their dedication to the profession and willingness to participate in the elections.

As my term draws to an end, I have often reflected on the successes and failures of the past year. Let me first say that the experience has been a highlight of my career and I have been very proud and honored to have had this wonderful opportunity. I want to preface the rest of my comments here by reminding you that you are, for

lack of a better term, the AAEA. Each member of this association serves other members and the profession through their actions to extend and communicate knowledge on important issues. I believe the AAEA is as strong and vibrant as it has ever been. As is true of most things, we have had to evolve to face new challenges and demands in a dynamic world. I think we, as an association, have done very well in this regard.

We have made extraordinary progress in our "communicating out" activities. We are working to fill a position within EDI for a professional communications director. We have the great fortune of having access to an immense wealth of talent in Caron Gala, the director of C-FARE. Caron will be working for AAEA through C-FARE to direct government relations. We have made important strides in clarifying our relationship with C-FARE in a manner that benefits everyone. C-FARE is an independent organization that serves as a contractor to AAEA. Through the efforts of an outstanding new Government Relations committee, we have clarified the set of outcomes and services that we have contracted with CFARE to provide. I cannot properly acknowledge everyone's contribution to this effort, but I did want to give particular thanks to Past President, Julie Caswell, who provided excellent leadership throughout this effort.

We have been successful in establishing the

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foundations for three new sections in the AAEA—the Africa Section, the South-Asia Section, and the Australia-Asian Section. Many have contributed to these efforts and I very much appreciate the energy and wisdom put into this important effort.

Particular thanks are due to Uma Lele, Tom Marsh, Melinda Smale, and Titus Awokuse for their special efforts on the behalf of the association.

Because I view each member as a part of the heart and soul of the association, I want to challenge you to consider some lingering issues that remain unsettled. While not so much being failures, there are several issues that I believe deserve the attention of future leaders of AAEA. We all owe a debt to our current (and past) editors of the *AJAE* for the exceptional wisdom, thoughtfulness, and balance that they have brought to our primary research outlet. They continue to elevate the status and scientific quality of the *AJAE*. We are fortunate to have such talent that is willing to sacrifice their own time and energy in such a vital role to the profession.

I do feel that our profession has not yet determined the proper role of invited papers. It is apparent to me that there is a wide range of opinions and expectations about what this role should be. I am frustrated that we have not made more progress on this. We have vacillated around a number of different policies in trying to determine the role and place of invited papers. A few facts are obvious. We of course want these papers to be of a very high quality. However, there is little agreement about how to define this quality. Most agree that these papers should not be judged according to the same standards as regular submissions but the relevant standards have not yet been defined. The fact is that we have had a very high rejection rate for these papers over the last few years.

A common perception has been that these papers “drag down” our impact factor. However, *AJAE* editor Jim Vercammen examined the contribution of the invited papers to our impact factor and found it to be very favorable as

compared to regular papers. I will also point out that some of the most highly cited *AJAE* papers were invited papers. There has been a long-standing belief among many that once invited, unless a paper is clearly unacceptable, it would be published in the proceedings issue. Many members still have this expectation. At the same time, rejection rates are running 50–70% and thus the outcomes are not congruent with these expectations.

I argued in favor of a requirement that all authors who agreed to participate in an invited paper session must submit a paper of a quality sufficient to be considered for publication. I now realize this requirement is not compatible with such a high rejection rate. I challenge future leadership and the entire membership to collectively work to clarify the role that we desire for invited papers.

I want to address an issue that I am sure many members will disagree with me on. I have always been bothered by the fact that nearly all of our awards require nomination. I believe this has the potential to penalize modesty and thereby potentially fail to recognize outstanding work. I have always appreciated the fact that the Outstanding *AJAE* article is not subject to such requirements and the concomitant potential perils of self-nomination. This makes the recognition more meaningful.

Of course, nominations are a vital part of the awards process. However, I would like to see the rules amended to allow award committees to make their own nominations, even after outside nomination deadlines have passed.

I wish everyone a great summer. In my final column, I will attempt to address a few more such issues. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco.

**Barry Goodwin**  
***AAEA-President***

## Member Profile

**A Gene Nelson** *Professor Emeritus*  
*Texas A&M University*



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

My interest in Agricultural Economics was stimulated by Dick Gibb, new PhD from Michigan State University, who taught the introductory course in agricultural economics I took during my freshman year at Western Illinois University. Then I was committed when I enrolled in graduate school at Purdue University and took courses from Don Paarlberg, J. Carroll Bottum, and Ludwig Eisgruber. I immediately became aware of the influence our profession has on both the public and private policy of the food, agricultural, and natural resource sectors.

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

I joined the AAEA in 1964 when I began my master's program at Purdue University. Coincidentally, the 1964 annual meetings were held on the Purdue campus. I also wanted my own copies of the Journal – they weren't available online in those days.

Through the AAEA, the Journal, and the meetings, I became aware of the breadth of the profession and its continuing evolution. These changes over time have allowed the profession to maintain its relevance in responding to the current issues facing society.

As a new Professor Emeritus, it is interesting to consider the Association's impact on my career. I think it is the networking that is most important. The AAEA and particularly the annual meetings provide the venue to learn

from your colleagues and forge collaborations to pursue joint efforts in research, teaching, and extension.

Serving as department head at both Oregon State University and Texas A&M University brought me to the AAEA meetings searching for young talent to hire as faculty members. Over the years, I have always been impressed with the quality of the young people entering our profession.

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

Pay attention to what is going on around you. What can you contribute to the important issues of day? Break these difficult problems into their component parts, find collaborators, and tackle these small parts one at a time, accumulating the results to work toward solutions. In some cases, these collaborators will come from other disciplines. Learn about how these other disciplines do things and bring the ideas home to use in your work.

Get involved in the AAEA – volunteer for committees and become of a member of at least one Section. Sections provide an easy way to connect with other agricultural and applied economists with common interests, and through your involvement you will also influence the content of the meetings through the track sessions.

Finally, tell the story of your and your colleagues' accomplishments, and take your findings to the decision makers who can use them. I have heard too many times that agricultural and applied economics is "a well-kept secret." We need to do a better job of communicating how our profession makes a difference.

# AAEA News

## 2015 AAEA & WAEA JOINT ANNUAL MEETING



## Housing and Registration is Open: 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting

The majority of the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting activities will take place at the Marriott Marquis San Francisco. The room block at the Marriott Marquis is currently full. Rooms may become available, as some reservations may change. Check to see if there are open rooms at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/AAEA2015> or by calling 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.

## REGISTRATION RATES

Type	Early (Before May 27)	Advanced (May 28– July 9)	On-site (After July 9)
Professional Member	\$395	\$470	\$545
Professional Non-Member	\$545	\$620	\$695
Senior Member*	\$285	\$360	\$435
Senior Non-Member*	\$405	\$480	\$555
Graduate Student Member	\$105	\$140	\$180
Graduate Student Non-Member	\$220	\$255	\$300
Undergraduate Student**	\$20	\$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

## Extension Tour: Sonoma County Wine, Apple Cider, and Olive Oil



We will depart from the Marriott Marquis Hotel at 7:00 AM. The tour of Sonoma County will begin in Sebastopol. Devoto Gardens is a 20-acre diversified family farm that was founded in 1976 by Susan and Stan Devoto. The farm started out as one of the North Bay's original micro-green growers, and slowly evolved in biodiversity. Together with their three daughters, the family grows over 50 varieties of [heirloom apples](#), [specialty cut flowers](#), and [pinot noir grapes](#). The tour of the farm will be followed by a tasting of their hard apple ciders.



The second stop will be in Geyserville where we will meet with one wine-grape grower to talk about farming practices, wine production, marketing strategies, and key challenges. Also, the Sonoma County Cooperative Extension viticulture advisor will provide an overview of the county's vineyard industry and answer

questions. The discussion will continue over wine and a box lunch.



The final stop is McEvoy Ranch in Petaluma beginning with a walk in the orchards and vineyards. This introduction to McEvoy Ranch provides an overview of its history, its commitment to environmental responsibility, its wine program and how they produce award-winning olive oil. We'll walk in the orchards and vineyards where we will talk about the horticulture of their plantings. Next, we'll visit their state-of-the-art mill for an explanation of their unique process of extracting oil. To finish the tour, they will lead us through an oil tasting and sensory evaluation. Following the tour, we will enjoy a wine tasting featuring McEvoy Ranch's current releases. Their retail shop will be open at the end of your visit to purchase olive oil, wine, body care or other estate-produced and artisanal gift items.

The tour includes walking some distance around the properties. Comfortable shoes will provide stability on uneven/gravel surfaces. The weather will be hot or very hot. Please bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a water bottle.

### SCHEDULE

- 7:00 AM Departure  
Marriott Marquis
- Stop 1:  
8:45 AM Arrival  
10:00 AM Departure  
Devoto Gardens and Orchard
- Stop 2:  
10:45 AM Arrival  
12:30 PM Departure  
Geyserville
- Stop 3:  
1:30 PM Arrival  
4:00 PM Departure  
McEvoy Ranch
- 5:30 PM Arrival  
Marriott Marquis

The deadline to register for the Extension Tour is **June 25, 2015**. You can register for a ticketed event while registering for the 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting in San Francisco:  
<http://www.aaea.org/meetings/annual-meeting/2015-aaea--waea-joint-annual-meeting-new/registration>

### International Section: Announcement of Track Sessions

The AAEA [International Section](#), the largest of the Association's sections, 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, Saturday, July 25, on "Rapid AgriFood System Transformation, Globalization, and International Development", organized by Tom Reardon (Michigan State), Bart Minten (IFPRI), David Zilberman (University of California, Berkeley) and Jo Swinnen (KU Leuven). The pre-conference 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 come join us, contribute to what promise to be stimulating discussions, hear cutting-edge research presentations, renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

**International Section Track Session: *Economics of Food Losses and Waste: What are the right questions?***

This International Section track session is scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2015 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 Streletskaya**. 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.



**2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting: Abstract Decision**

Abstract decision letters were sent on March 20, 2015 to the designated presenter. If you did not receive a notification, please contact AAEA by emailing us at [info@aaea.org](mailto:info@aaea.org) or (414) 918-3190.

**Call for Participation:**

***2015 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association AEM/ Graduate Student Section Case Study Competition***

The AEM/Graduate Student Section Case Study Competition allows graduate students to test their communication skills and their ability to apply their knowledge of agricultural economics and agribusiness subjects to practical situations. Students competing in the competition will receive a copy of the case study at least two weeks in advance of the Joint Annual Meeting.

Each team should prepare an oral summary of their solution to the case that will last no more than 15 minutes. Presentations lasting over 15

minutes will be penalized. After the presentation, teams should be prepared to answer questions from the judges on their interpretation of the case.

Teams can be comprised of up to three graduate students. Students may either compete as a team from the same school, or may choose to be mixed with students from other schools. If there is only one student from a school that wants to participate, the student can compete on their own, or he/she can be matched with other students. In the case of

teams that are matched with individuals from different universities, competitors will be notified of their teammates as soon as possible, but no later than the same day the case is announced.

**First Place:** \$300  
**Second Place:** \$200  
**Third Place:** \$100

The number of rounds will be determined by the number of teams entered. The final round will be composed of the top three teams. In addition to plaques and cash prizes, the three finalist teams will also be recognized during the [AAEA Awards Ceremony](http://bit.ly/1FG6g1H) (<http://bit.ly/1FG6g1H>).

**Sunday, July 26, 8:00 AM–3:00 PM:**

First Rounds of Competition

**Monday, July 27, 1:30 PM–4:00 PM:**

Final Round

**Monday, July 27, 6:30 PM–7:45 PM:**

AAEA Awards and Fellows Recognition Ceremony

Students participating in the case study competition will need to be registered for the

Joint Annual Meeting and the Case Study Competition.

1. Students should register for the 2015 Joint Annual Meeting through the 2015 Annual Meeting Registration Form which is available online at <http://www.aaea.org/meetings/annual-meeting/2015-aaea--waea-joint-annual-meeting-new/registration>.
2. Each team must also complete the Case Study registration form identifying their teammates and send it to AAEA no later than **June 15, 2015**.

Please direct any questions regarding the 2015 AAEA Case Study Competition to Dr. Brent Ross ([ross@msu.edu](mailto:ross@msu.edu)) or GSS Section Chair, Josh Maples ([josh.maples@okstate.edu](mailto:josh.maples@okstate.edu)).

*Agribusiness Economics  
and Management (AEM)*

**Graduate Student Section**

### 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 also 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

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### 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!

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### 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*

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### **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 Cooperative 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. July 28 from 2:45 pm–4:15 pm in 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. July 27 from 9:45 am–11:45 am in 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*

## Government Relations Update



The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) has a long history of service representing agricultural and applied economists in Washington, DC. We have also had a close relationship with AAEE. Last year, we entered into a series of dialogues about ways that we can enhance the community and the Association. C-FARE's strengths are our communication, contacts, and programming aimed at policymakers here in Washington. Our mission is to bring the work of agricultural and applied economists to decision makers or their staff in Washington. Our board

discussed at length with AAEE leadership how we can bring AAEE closer into the DC policymaking community. The result is an annual contract in which a Government Relations Committee with AAEE will work with us building messaging and programming with the AAEE and C-FARE brand on it. Our most recent first attempt was our Spring Jon Brandt Forum on Capitol Hill. This year's forum topic was "[\*Strategies for Investing in Rural America.\*](#)" We would like to thank AAEE's leadership and its members for this closer relationship and allowing us an opportunity to bring the work of AAEE members to Washington.

**Roger Coupal**  
*C-FARE Board Chairman*

### Budget and Appropriations

#### ***Overall Budget and Appropriations Context***

Federal spending was flat or declined in the past few years due to the stringent budget caps set in the 2011 Budget Control Act (PL 112-25). Under the Budget Control Act, discretionary spending measured as outlays grows by less than 2% between 2015 and 2018, after which it keeps pace with the projected 2.4% annual rate of increase in budget authority. The December 2013 budget agreement known as Ryan-Murray (PL 113-67) eased spending caps in fiscal year (FY) 2014 and FY 2015. This agreement is scheduled to end on October 1, 2015 (end of FY 2014).

As a result, the key component of this debate is how to deal with the discretionary spending caps created in the 2011 debt limit increase law. The Budget Control Act would reduce the deficit to \$1.4 T by 2025, and the President's budgets would reduce the deficit to \$1.8 T. As we observe the movement of the bills, any snags in the appropriations process increase the likelihood that another bipartisan agreement would need to be negotiated. So far, both chambers' committees on appropriations have adopted a fiscal 2016 spending blueprint, also known as the subcommittee 302(b)s (see subcommittee allocations below).

(In billions of dollars)	Fiscal 2014 Enacted	Fiscal 2015 Enacted	Obama Request Fiscal 2016	House Fiscal 2016	Senate Fiscal 2016
Agriculture	20.88	20.58	21.47	20.65	20.51
Interior-Environment	30.06	30.42	32.21	30.17	30.01
Commerce-Justice-Science	51.6	50.1	52.05	51.38	51.07

### ***FY16 Agriculture Appropriations and Budget***

Early in the budget and appropriations process for agriculture, [farm groups organized together](#) to urge Congress not to reopen the four-year Farm Bill during the FY16 process. As a result, no action was taken to separate out authorizations at this time. After the release of the President's budget request, research-oriented coalitions submitted letters

of support for research and data accounts. (See a summary of request for research and data programs [here](#).) See a FY16 letter from the [National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research](#) [here](#) and one from the [Friends of Agricultural Research and Analysis \(FASA\)](#) [here](#). The appropriations staff members are writing the final bills for

consideration in the subcommittees now that both chambers have adopted the 302(b) levels.



### ***Science Authorization Bill***

The *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015* (H.R. 1806) was passed by the House of Representatives on May 20. The bill takes the same approach to renewing the authorization of the National Science Foundation as the FIRST Act did last year by separating out the funding authorization so that it is allocated by NSF directorate. This puts the Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE) at a disadvantage because of both the relative size (it is only 5% of the entire NSF budget) and the misconceptions that the public has about social sciences. H.R. 1806 effectively cuts the SBE Directorate by 45%. The Consortium of Social Science Associations has undertaken a

grassroots campaign to protest against the reauthorization language. See COSSA's letter [here](#). Follow [@COSSADC](#) on Twitter via [#NOtoHR1806](#) [#stand4science](#). The President has stated that he will [veto](#) the COMPETES Act as it is currently written.

On behalf of AAEEA's Government Relations efforts, C-FARE is part of a group to increase the awareness that DC policymakers and the public have of social science. This effort is being organized in coordination with efforts by the [National Academies of Science Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education](#).

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

Unfortunately, threats to the National Science Foundation's SBE Directorate exist not only on the authorizing side but also in the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Commerce, Justice, and Science. The House of Representatives Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations passed its appropriations bill out of committee on May 20. The [report language](#) in the bill directs the NSF to ensure that the math, biophysical, computer, and engineering sciences receive "no less" than 70% of all of the funding in research and related activities. As a result, compared with FY15 levels, the implications of the [report language](#), should it be retained all the way through the appropriations process, is that GEO and SBE Directorates would shoulder a cut, while the remainder of the NSF research and related activities are either flat funded or experience an increase. The actual cut amount is unknown, but sources state that it would be between 10 and 15%.

## ***National Science Foundation Supports the Agricultural and Applied Economics Profession***

NSF is increasingly funding SBE and cross-directorate initiatives that support the agricultural and applied economics sciences.

- [Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems](#)

- [Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems](#)

Please let us know if you've received funding from the NSF by emailing us at [info@cfare.org](mailto:info@cfare.org), indicating the program, topic, and contact information.

## ***What's in Store for FY17 Budgets?***

The Executive Office of Management and Budget has indicated that federal departments should trim their FY17 requests by 5% in the [annual White House spending blueprint](#).

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## **C-FARE Events**

### ***DC Summer Intern Breakfast Briefing Series***



C-FARE invites students with an interest in economics who are interning in Washington, DC this summer to participate in our [2015 Summer Intern Breakfast](#)

[Briefings](#). The briefing series focuses on how to navigate careers on Capitol Hill or at agencies and non-governmental organizations.

These briefings are designed to allow students to hear from professionals who have received a degree in agricultural, natural resources, or applied economics about their career paths and receive insight on potential classes to take and other details regarding the necessary background to succeed in Washington, DC. (\*Please RSVP if you'd like to attend.) Thank you!

- **Friday, June 19** – The Economic Experience on the Hill

- **Friday, June 26** – Career Insights from USDA Economists
- **Tuesday, June 30** – Field Highlights from Experts in Industry
- **Friday, July 10** – Opportunities in Natural Resource and Environmental Economics (Contact [info@cfare.org](mailto:info@cfare.org) with any questions. Locations TBA.)

### ***Education and Outreach Webinars***

- **Wednesday, June 3 Webinar @ 12 PM ET** – Adapting Agriculture to a New Climate Reality, with Dr. Bruce McCarl of Texas A&M University. Live from USDA. [RSVP here](#).
- **Friday, June 12 Webinar @ 2 PM ET** – Pollinator Economics, with Dr. Mariah Ehmke, University of Wyoming and Dr. Jennifer Bond of USDA ERS. [RSVP here](#).

## ***Jon Brandt Public Policy Forum 2015***

On Tuesday, April 14, with core funding from the AAEA Trust, C-FARE cosponsored a forum to

explore "[Strategies for Investing in Rural America](#)". The forum took place in the U.S. House of

Representatives Office Building and was followed by a reception

outside of the U.S. Senate Office Buildings.

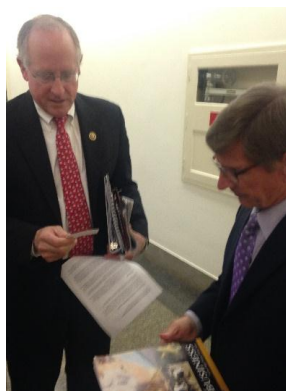
The 2015 Jon Brandt Public Policy Forum discussed economic opportunities afforded by the synergies among rural innovation, entrepreneurship, and infrastructure that contribute to more productive rural economies. The Forum speakers explored choices that boost the kind of growth in rural America that support U.S. economic vitality and competitiveness.

*Keynote Speaker:* [Mary McBride](#), [President of CoBank](#), CoBank's Strategies for Rural Investment  
*Agricultural Economist:* [Dr. Sarah Low](#), [Economist of the Resource and Rural Economics Division](#), [USDA Economic Research Service](#), Rural Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Infrastructure: Perspectives from Applied Economics Research  
*Speaker Panel:* Successful Strategies for Rural Development Outcomes, [Moderated by Mike Adams of AgriTalk](#)

- [Kerry Kelton](#), CEO, Mid-South Synergy and NRECA Board Member, TX
- [Greg Wagner](#), Economic Development Planner, West Central Initiative, MN
- [Brian Whitacre](#), Associate Professor, Oklahoma State University, OK
- [Alison Davis](#), Professor, University of Kentucky, KY

The 2015 Forum featured:

*Co-sponsors of 2015 Forum*



*Dr. Alison Davis connected with Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY) as part of AAEA's government relations activities connecting agricultural economics professionals to policymakers.*

*Dr. Parr Rosson describes some of the work that the Texas A&M University Department of Agricultural Economics does related to the Texas economy to House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway.*



*Former Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and Oklahoma State University Agricultural Economics Department Alumni, Frank Lucas (R-OK) speaking to the Brandt Forum attendees.*



*From left to right: Mike Adams, Mary McBride, Sarah Low, Representative Lucas (R-OK), Ranking Member Peterson (D-MN), Brian Whitacre, Chairman Conaway (R-TX), Alison Davis, Kerry Kelton, and Greg Wagner*

### **Powering Prosperity: Bioeconomy Policy to Stimulate Growth**

1st Event in Agricultural and Rural Energy Economics Symposium Series, occurred in March 2015 in DC

The energy and environment solutions offered by the bioeconomy are somewhat understood, but the networks and collaborations needed for an effective transition from a fossil-fuel based economy remain subtle. With an eye toward future growth, the first session on the U.S. energy economy will assess the economic lessons learned, relating to bioenergy, bio-based products policy, and industry growth. We will hear from expert economists and industry leaders on critical issues and then take a deep-dive into an industry success story.

Speakers:

Panel Presentations on Markets, Growth Obstacles, Risks, and Policy Options for the Future – Moderated by [Jim Lane, Biofuels Digest](#)

- [Wallace Tyner, Purdue University](#) – What are the implications of contemporary energy and agricultural market conditions for the bioeconomy? <<video>>

- [Mark J. Riedy, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP](#) – What are the obstacles to growing the bioeconomy? What are the energy and industrial policies needed to move forward? <<video>>
  - [Madhu Khanna, University of Illinois](#) – What are the challenges to a sustainable bioeconomy? What agricultural & environmental policies needed to achieve sustainability? <<video>>
  - [Dennis Hall, Ohio State University](#) – What are the paths for moving forward? <<video>>
- Moderated Case-Study Panel on Aviation Fuels Successes – Moderated by [Harry Baumes, USDA Office of the Chief Economist, Office of Energy Policy and New Uses](#)*
- [Steve Csonka, Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative](#)
  - [Jason Bergtold, Kansas State University](#)
  - [Joseph Bryan, Department of the Navy Energy Office](#)

## Nominations

### ***NSF Requests Nominations to Advisory Committees***

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has issued its [annual call for recommendations](#) for membership to [Advisory Committee for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences](#). This committee advises NSF's offices and directorates on program management, research direction, and policies impacting the agency. Please contact C-FARE at [info@cfare.org](mailto:info@cfare.org) by **June 15** if you are interested in being nominated. Please put NSF SBE Advisory Committee in the subject line. Thank you.

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## Reports

### ***NRC Report Offers Guidance on Team Science***

Team science, also known as multi-disciplinary or transdisciplinary science, is a process that universities are increasingly encouraging faculty to undertake. The National Research Council (NRC) appointed the Committee on the Science of Team Science, chaired by Nancy J. Cooke, Arizona State University, to conduct and release a [consensus study](#) to provide guidance for these science teams or groups. The study

was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Elsevier. The final [report](#) was released on April 24.

Who are the winners and losers in "team science"? Do applied economics professionals have outcomes from team science that help them to excel in their career? We'd like to hear from you at [info@cfare.org](mailto:info@cfare.org).

### ***Leveraging Innovation to Feed the Future***

The Chicago Council released a [report](#) on the role of research innovation in the agricultural sector. This report suggests that the "United States needs to double investments in agricultural and food research over the next 10 years to help meet these challenges. It can begin by taking the following actions:

- Forge a new science of agriculture to increase productivity sustainably, nutritiously, and economically.

Production must be increased while using fewer resources, improving nutrition, and providing solid incomes to food producers.

- Build research capacity. Support for university and research institutions in developing countries is critical to innovations that work in the local context.
- Bolster research on climate change. Research must focus on building resilience and

addressing threats to the food system by climate change.

- Expand nutrition-sensitive agricultural research. Nutrition should be a key priority of research to combat chronic malnutrition.
- Reduce food waste. Innovations for reducing food waste are vital to help offset the production needed to meet increased demand.

### The Fourth International Agricultural Risk, Finance, and Insurance Conference

The Waterloo Research Institute in Insurance, Securities and Quantitative Finance (WatRISQ), University of Waterloo, is pleased to invite you to the 4<sup>th</sup> International Agricultural Risk, Finance, and Insurance Conference (IARFIC), June 7-9, 2015, in Washington, DC. IARFIC is a non-profit international conference that brings together academia, government, private sector, producer groups, NGOs, and other stakeholders, to discuss critical Issues, global perspectives, best practices, and innovations within the field. The past three conferences were a tremendous success, held in 2012-Beijing, China, 2013-Vancouver, Canada, and 2014-Zurich, Switzerland, with select best papers published in special issues of *Agricultural Finance Review* by Emerald Group Publishing.

Please join us for a unique reception at the House Committee on Agriculture, Longworth House Office Building. All other conference activities will be hosted at the [Park Hyatt Washington](#), including the keynote addresses, plenary sessions, research presentations, and gala dinner.

IARFIC is co-hosted by the China Institute for Actuarial Science, China, the Central University of Finance and Economics, China, the Warren Centre for Actuarial Studies at the University of Manitoba, Canada, and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, USA.

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

- **Joe Glauber**, PhD, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and former Chief Economist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), USA
- **Brandon Willis**, Administrator, Risk Management Agency (RMA) in the USDA's Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services, USA
- **Mary Frances Miller**, FCAS, MAAA, FCA, Hon FIA, CPCU, AIM, Founder nd



Senior Consulting Actuary, Select Actuarial Services, USA

- **Bruce Sherrick**, Professor and Director, TIAA-CREF Centre for Farmland Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
- **Joshua Woodard**, Assistant Professor and Zaitz Family Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellow in Agricultural Finance and Business, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, USA

#### PLENARY SESSION TOPICS

1. *Big Data: technical and policy challenges*. Moderated by: **Barry Barnett**, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University, USA.
2. *Improving agricultural insurance ratemaking: underlying assumptions regarding market volatility, price/yield relationships, etc.* Moderated by: **Calum Turvey**, WI Myers Professor of Agricultural Finance, Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, USA.
3. *China: update and innovations*. Moderated by: **Qiao Zhang**, Professor, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China.
4. *Agricultural insurance and the way forward: long-term sustainability of agricultural insurance programs, including a discussion on program design, role of government, and subsidy*. Moderated by: **G. Cornelis van Kooten**, Professor of Economics and Canada Research Chair in Environmental Studies, University of Victoria, Canada.

## PROGRAMME

- Sunday, June 7, 2015: Registration (4-6PM), and Reception (7-9PM)
  - Monday, June 8, 2015: Conference (7AM-9 PM), and Gala Dinner (6:30-10 PM)
- Tuesday, June 9, 2015: Conference (7AM-5 PM)

REGISTRATION ([www.iaarfic.org](http://www.iaarfic.org))

Regular registration fee: \$895 USD\*

Academic and student registration fee: \$395 USD\*

\*Note: Add \$100 USD to registration fee after April 1, 2015. Registration fee will be charged in CAD using an approximate exchange rate of 1.20

## AAEA Events &amp; Deadlines

- [June 7, 2015 – The Fourth International Agricultural Risk, Finance, and Insurance Conference](#)
- [June 15, 2015 – Call for Participation: 2015 AAEA – AEM/ Graduate Student Section Case Study Competition](#)
- [July 9, 2015 – 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting: Advance Registration Deadline](#)
- [July 25, 2015 – Pre-Conference Workshops](#)
- [July 26–28, 2015 – 2015 AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting](#)

## 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



The Exchange Volume 37, Issue 11  
May 2015

**The Exchange** is published biweekly by the  
Agricultural & Applied Economics  
Association.

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