



AAEA News



Am I seriously “looking forward to Washington, D.C. in August”? You bet I am! This column should whet your appetite for a feast of professional learning, connections, and opportunity. With over 200 sessions, ten pre- and post-

conferences, and a new job fair, the meetings have something for everyone. I’ll end the column with updates on other AAEA initiatives in progress.

Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., Aug. 5–7

Home to the largest concentration of applied economists in the world, Washington, D.C., makes an ideal meeting venue for AAEA. This summer’s meeting will highlight economics that make a difference. The meeting will open with a keynote from African Development Bank, President **Akinwumi Adesina**. Dr. Adesina won the 2017 World Food Prize in large part for the way he designed and implemented incentive-compatible methods of targeting fertilizer and seed subsidies to Nigerian farmers. The meeting will close with the Galbraith Lecture by **Paul Romer**, professor of economics at New York University and recent Chief Economist at the World Bank. Dr. Romer has explored how the information economy is changing the role of cities, especially in the developing world. What will this transformation mean for the prosperity of rural areas?

For his President’s Address, **David Zilberman** has given me no clues. But those who know David will

expect a forward-looking vision of the bioeconomy, the political economy, and our roles as professionals. **John Antle**’s Fellows Address will tackle Data, Economics, and Computational Agricultural Science. What are the prospects for bioeconomic modeling and economists in the age of Big Data (and precise data) in agriculture? This year’s Invited Paper sessions will explore economics of gene editing, food waste, mobile phone platforms in developing countries, markets for pollution abatement, and teaching cases. Also, the Washington Update track session promises to be especially interesting in this Farm Bill year.

AERE is partnering with AAEA this year on an exciting pair of environmental policy sessions. The Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) has long been present at AAEA annual meetings with selected papers by AERE members. This year, AERE collaborated with AAEA Land, Water, and Environmental Economics (ENV) Section to invite speakers. The sessions on Applied Economics for Practical Policymaking and State and Regional Climate Regulation feature seasoned environmental policy thinkers from inside and outside government at this historically challenging moment.

AAEA will host a new Job Fair on Sunday, August 5, 2018. Expanding beyond the traditional one-on-one interview format of the Employment Center, this fair will attract a broad range of employers for all levels of graduates in agricultural and applied economics. AAEA members are uniquely qualified to apply economics to agricultural and food topics,

and the Job Fair aims to link employers to job candidates.

Pre- and Post-conference Workshops—ten in all—will take fullest advantage of being in the nation's capital. Note that all these workshops require advance registration, generally with a fee. Prepare for the meetings on Saturday, August 4, 2018, with pre-conferences that:

- Visit local breweries,
- Identify ways for 1890 and 1862 universities to collaborate, and
- Use the FoodAPS data for policy research.

After the meetings, starting Wednesday, August 8, 2018, dive deeper to:

- Communicate economic research to the media,
- Tour Maryland vegetable, grain, and oyster farms,
- Capitalize on Federal data for economic analysis,
- Research fresh produce mechanization, trade, and food safety,
- Understand animal health and biosecurity economics,
- Explore career avenues in Federal agencies and Congress, and
- Meet with NIFA project directors.

The Awards and Fellows Recognition Ceremony will give an opportunity to celebrate excellence in our professional community. This year's Fellows embody the disciplinary and topical breadth that are the hallmarks of applied economists. They include **John Beghin, Marcel Fafchamps, Thom Jayne, Jill McCluskey, and George Norton.**

Need a song to help you get ready to join us in the place where policy is made? In the Room Where it Happens.

Other AAEA activities

USDA economic research appropriations. Following my March column about threats to USDA-based economic research, the AAEA spearheaded a letter to the [House and Senate agricultural appropriations subcommittees](#). The letter described the benefits of USDA economic research, and it appealed to maintain Fiscal Year 2018 funding levels, specifically for such research at the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). It was truly heartening to see the community of agricultural and applied economists stand up to be counted. Fifty co-signatories joined the AAEA, including professional associations, academic departments and colleges, and/or their leaders. Check out the AAEA Government Relations Update to see the letter and other recent activities. My thanks to the Government Relations Committee and staff for thoughtful guidance in this process. Applied Economics Teaching Resources (AETR). The AAEA Board will soon begin review of applications for Inaugural Editor of AETR. Stay tuned.

AAEA Communications Manager. [Allison Scheetz](#) has been promoted to AAEA Senior Communications Manager and is now the contact person for media inquiries, content for AEA's website, The Exchange, and social media. Assisted by [Sinais Alvarado](#), who continues to look after Choices Magazine, and Members in the News.

Keeping our meetings safe and accessible. This summer the AAEA Board will be considering proposals for policies to protect members from harassment and to facilitate child care during professional meetings. The Board will also review new mentorship programs. Stay tuned, and please let me know if you have thoughts to share with the Board.

Scott Swinton
AAEA President

2018 AAEA Election**Candidates for President-Elect**

[Keith Coble, Mississippi State University](#)

[Matthew Holt, Virginia Tech](#)

**Candidates for Director**

[Marc Bellemare, University of Minnesota](#)

[Rachael Goodhue, University of California, Davis](#)

[Rodolfo Nayga, University of Arkansas](#)

[Bradley Rickard, Cornell University](#)



In order to participate in the 2018 AAEA Executive Board Election and AAEA Section Elections, you must [join AAEA](#) by May 5, 2018. Log into your AAEA ["My Account."](#) The Election will close **May 15, 2018**.

Renew Your AAEA Membership for 2018

You can renew your AAEA membership for 2018 on the [AAEA website](#). Simply log in to the "My Account" section to renew. Completing your renewal online saves you time by filling out most of the information for you automatically.

The benefits of your AAEA membership only last through the spring of 2018, so be sure to renew soon to ensure that you keep receiving services from AAEA throughout the upcoming year.

2018 AAEA Annual Meeting***Working with the Media Session***

During the 2018 [Working with the Media session](#), AAEA members are encouraged to share their research with a new audience. Members will have a chance to openly speak to media personnel to discuss their hesitancy with participating in interviews. There will also be a few AAEA members who are well versed at being the expert for media interview requests.

Interested in getting started with communicating to a broader audience or want to get advice from experts in the field, this is a session you won't want to miss.

Session Information:

(subject to change)

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Room: Maryland A



If you have any questions please contact Allison Scheetz, AAEA Senior Communications Manager at ascheetz@aaea.org.

2018 AAEA Annual Meeting

Call for Applications: Travel Grants for Early Career Professionals and Graduate Students

The AAEA Trust seeks applications for Early Career Professional and Graduate Student Travel Grants. These grants defray housing and transportation costs associated with attending the 2018 AAEA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., on August 5–7. The amount of the travel grant awarded will depend on the number of applications received.

Eligibility Requirements

Qualifying applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements in order to be considered for a travel grant:

- Graduate student or Early Career Professional 2018 member of AAEA.
- Engaged at a college, university, or other non-academic institution (including agribusinesses, non-government organizations, government, and “think tanks”) in such applied economics fields as agribusiness, agricultural, consumer, food, development, environmental, health, marketing, regional, rural, or resource economics.
- No other sources of funding available (including university, department, grant, employer, etc.).
- Paper/poster accepted for presentation at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted through the [online application form](#). You will be asked to submit the following:

- Your name and email address;
- Institution and (if applicable) department at which enrolled/employed. You may indicate “not-yet-employed” if not a current student and without employment – please highlight degree-awarding institution and date awarded;
- Degree program underway (Graduate Student Applicants);

- Anticipated graduation date (Graduate Student Applicants);
- Professional rank or position (Early Career Professional Applicants);
- Number of years at Institution (Early Career Professional Applicants);
- Brief summary of research interests (1000 words or less);
- Applicant statement (500 words or less): description of the anticipated value gained from attending and participating in the Annual Meeting (including paper/poster presentations, awards and/or pre-/post-conference workshops in which you will be involved);
- Proposed travel budget;
- A nomination from a department, division head, or supervisor which includes written acknowledgement of the nomination and certification of your financial need, including certification that funding is unavailable from other sources. Self-employed or not-yet-employed applicants may submit a letter supporting the nomination from a colleague or mentor from their degree-granting institution or include a letter stating financial need.

Applications should be submitted by the individual seeking support; however, only two applications from each employing institution will be considered. In the event that more than two applications are submitted from a specific department or division, it will be up to the department head to decide which will be considered. If an applicant is self-employed or not-yet-employed they may seek a letter of support from a colleague or mentor from their degree-awarding institution. Any letter of support for an Early Career Professional not employed or a student at a degree-awarding institution will not

count against the maximum of two nominations from any department or other entity formally nominating other applicants.

Reflecting the Trust's goal of broadening participation in the Annual Meeting, preference

may be given to individuals working under institutional circumstances not normally conducive to AAEA meeting attendance. The deadline for submission is **May 23, 2018**. To apply, please visit <https://aaea.execinc.com/edibo/TravelGrants2018App>.

2018 AAEA Annual Meeting

Call for Applications: International Travel Grants

The AAEA Trust seeks applications for AAEA Annual Meeting International Travel Grants. These grants defray housing and transportation costs associated with attending the 2018 AAEA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., on August 5–7. The amount of the travel grant awarded will depend on the number of applications received. The funds for these travel grants are provided by a grant from USDA–ERS.

Eligibility Requirements: Qualifying applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements in order to be considered for a travel grant:

- Resident of and residing in a country outside the U.S.
- [2018 member of AAEA](#)
- Engaged at a college, university, or other non-academic institution (including agribusinesses, non-government organizations, government, and “think tanks”) in such applied economics fields as agribusiness, agricultural, consumer, food, development, environmental, health, marketing, regional, rural, or resource economics.
- No other sources of funding available (including university, department, grant, employer, etc.)
- Paper/poster accepted for presentation at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Application Process: Applications must be submitted through the [online application form](#). You will be asked to submit the following:

- Your name and email address
- Institution and (if applicable) department at which enrolled/employed. You may indicate “not–yet–employed” if not a current student and without employment – please highlight degree–awarding institution and date awarded
- Degree program underway (Graduate Student Applicants)
- Anticipated graduation date (Graduate Student Applicants)
- Professional rank or position (Early Career Professional Applicants)
- Number of years at Institution (Early Career Professional Applicants)
- Brief summary of research interests (1000 words or less)
- Applicant statement (500 words or less): description of the anticipated value gained from attending and participating in the Annual Meeting (including paper/poster presentations, awards and/or pre-/post conference workshops in which you will be involved)
- Proposed travel budget
- A nomination from a department, division head, or supervisor which includes written acknowledgement of the nomination and certification of your financial need, including certification that funding is unavailable from other sources. Self-employed or not–yet–employed applicants may

submit a letter supporting the nomination from a colleague or mentor from their degree-granting institution or include a letter stating financial need

Applications should be submitted by the individual seeking support; however, only two applications from each employing institution will be considered. In the event that more than two applications are submitted from a specific department or division, it will be up to the department head to decide which will be considered. If an applicant is self-employed or not-yet-employed they may seek a letter of support from a colleague or mentor from their degree-awarding institution. Any letter of support for an Early Career Professional not employed or a student at a degree-awarding institution will not count against the maximum of two nominations from any department or other entity formally nominating other applicants.

Reflecting the Trust's goal of broadening participation in the Annual Meeting, preference may be given to individuals working under institutional circumstances not normally conducive to AAEA meeting attendance. The deadline for submission is **May 23, 2018**. To apply, please visit <https://aaea.execinc.com/edibo/TravelGrants2018App>.

AAEA invited paper sessions 2019 ASSA Annual Meeting

President-Elect David Zilberman is soliciting proposals and suggestions for [AAEA invited paper sessions at the 2019 Allied Social Sciences Association](#) (ASSA) Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, January 4-6, 2019.

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 [American Journal of](#)



[Agricultural Economics](#). Authors will be contacted by the *AJAE* 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 31, 2018**, in Word or PDF format to Mary Annen at mannen@aea.org.

2018 AAEA Annual Meeting Post-conference Workshop *Science Communications and Media Engagement*

Cost: \$25

Workshop Description: AAEA has engaged the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Center for Public Engagement with Science and Technology to conduct a communications workshop for our members. This four hour workshop will be divided into two parts. The first part, termed Science Communication Fundamentals, focuses on the core components of successful public engagement. Participants are introduced to the AAAS public engagement framework, a guide they can apply to all kinds of interactions. Participants also learn how to identify a public engagement goal, determine the relevant audience, craft tailored messages to achieve their goal and rehearse their engagement scenario. This workshop includes both facilitator presentations and attendee exercises. Examples include:



- learning why economics communication is valuable and how to engage in outreach activities
- understanding and connecting to public audiences
- selecting audiences and developing targeted engagement strategies
- identifying individual strategic communications goals
- handling interaction with stakeholder audiences
- accessing resources to communicate science and economics and find outreach opportunities

The second component termed Strategic Media Engagement provides agricultural economists an understanding of established best practices with regard to media engagement. It includes:

- overview of the science media landscape
- strategies for effective targeting of messages
- handling interaction with media and public audiences

The registration fee is only \$25 and includes light refreshments. Workshop size is strictly limited to enable better communication among attendees and presenters, so please register early to assure your place.

August 8, 2018
Marriott Wardman Park
Room: Wilson A, B, & C
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

View all [Pre- and Post-conference Workshops](#) on the Annual Meeting website.



Undergraduate Student Section (SS-AAEA)

2018 AAEA Annual Meeting

Undergraduate Student Section Activities

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 2018 AAEA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., August 5–7. Our section offers a wide variety of professional development opportunities for undergraduate students of agricultural and applied economics:

- Academic Bowl Competition
- Student Paper Competition
- Earl O. Heady Decision Sciences Spreadsheet Competition
- Outstanding Chapter Competition
- Creative Club 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 evening reception on Sunday, August 5, 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, August 6, immediately following the final round of the Academic Bowl Competition, we recognize and celebrate student accomplishments at the Awards 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 are only \$40 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/aaea-annual-meeting>.

2018 AAEA Annual Meeting

Call for Participation: AEM/GSS 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 [2018 AAEA Annual Meeting](#) in Washington, D.C.

AEM/GSS Case Study Competition Rules: 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.

AEM/GSS Case Study Competition Prizes: The top three teams will receive plaques and cash prizes.

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

Specific Information for the 2018 Case Study Competition: The number of rounds will be determined by the number of teams entered. The final round will be composed of the top 3 teams. In addition to plaques and cash prizes, the three finalist teams will also be recognized during the AAEA Awards Ceremony.

- **Sunday, August 5, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm:** First Rounds of Competition
- **Monday, August 6, 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm:** Final Round (if necessary)
- **Monday, August 6, 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm:** Awards Ceremony

Students participating in the case study competition will need to be registered for the Annual Meeting AND the Case Study Competition.

1. Students should register for the 2018 AAEA Annual Meeting with the online Registration Form: <http://www.aaea.org/meetings/2018-aaea-annual-meeting/registration-travel/annual-meeting-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, 2018**: <https://www.aaea.org/UserFiles/file/2018CaseStudyCompetitionRegForm.docx>

Please direct any questions regarding the 2018 AAEA Case Study Competition to Dr. Eric Micheels (eric.micheels@usask.ca) or GSS Section Chair, William Maples (wmaples@okstate.edu).

2018 AAEA Employment Center and Job Fair

Registration is now open for the 2018 Employment Center taking place August 5–7, during the [2018 AAEA Annual Meeting](#) in Washington, D.C. New this year, AAEA will be hosting a job fair on **Sunday, August 5, 2018**. This one-day event will take place in the Employment Center from 9:30 am to 5:00

pm. This is a great opportunity for employers to connect with potential candidates.

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 D.C.!

**2018 AAEA Annual Meeting:
Extension Competition for Graduate Students**

Overview: The Extension and Graduate Student Sections of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association announce a competition for graduate students for 2018. This competition, sponsored jointly by the Extension Section and the Graduate Student Section, provides graduate student competitors the opportunity to develop extension and outreach programs from their research. The development of education materials and presentations suitable for a general public audience is expected.



We encourage all departments with graduate students in agricultural economics, agribusiness, natural resource economics, community resource economics, applied economics or similar programs related to agriculture and/or the food system to tell their students about this important competition.

Purpose for the Competition: To provide incentives to graduate students to learn to prepare and present appropriate analytical results for an extension (usually non-economist) audience. This can be based upon the graduate student's research for a thesis or dissertation, or other projects. Participation in the competition is expected to enhance the professional growth of participating students regarding extension programs.

Who's Eligible?: Eligible applicants are:

- Graduate students currently engaged in agricultural economics, agribusiness, natural resources, and community resource economics.
- Applied or similar economics MS or PhD programs related to agriculture and/or the food system.
- Those who graduated from such programs in 2017 or later.

Note: Participants must identify and work with a mentor with experience in outreach or extension activities.

Competition Application Information: Applications should be addressed to Kate Fuller at kate.fuller@montana.edu and must include:

1. Student's name, university, department, address and contact information.
2. Title of the extension program to be delivered.
3. A summary of the proposed extension program. This should include target audience, delivery plans, communication methods and activities planned for distributing the information to the public such as with fact sheets, pamphlets, press releases, reports, web sites, streaming videos, spreadsheets, workshops, PowerPoint presentations and training activities to be conducted (4 page maximum).
4. A profile of the student applicant's background as well as the related thesis title and brief description of the research (maximum 1 page).
5. The mentor's name, address and description of the mentor's role in assisting the student with this project.

Submission Deadline: Applications must be submitted electronically no later than **5:00 pm EST on May 31, 2018.**

Awards: Cash awards will be given to those judged to be the top three graduate students in this competition. Award funding is provided by the AAEA Extension Section through membership dues and via support provided by sponsors. Awards are:

First Place: \$1,000 and a plaque

Second Place: \$300 and a certificate

Third Place: \$200 and a certificate

Other finalists receive finalist certificates

The top three competitors selected will be recognized at the [2018 AAEA Awards and Fellows Recognition Ceremony](#). All finalists are guests at the [Extension Luncheon](#) on Monday, August 5, at 11:30 am at the [2018 AAEA Annual Meeting](#). Luncheon tickets will be provided to all finalists.

Submit Entries to:

Dr. Kate Fuller

Competition Committee Chair

Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics

Montana State University

Email: kate.fuller@montana.edu

Member Awards

Clifton R. Wharton Award

Uma Lele



Uma Lele (AAEA Fellow and member) was presented the *Clifton R. Wharton Award*, on April 17, 2018 at Cornell University in recognition of her numerous contributions to economic development, gender equity, and research over a distinguished career at the World Bank, multilateral scientific organizations, and U.S. universities. She was the first woman to receive a doctorate degree at Cornell's Agricultural Economics Department, now called the Charles Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management in the College of Business. Ralph Christy (Former AAEA President) stated that "Uma was an excellent representation of Wharton's work in developing countries, a shining example that inspires others who are seeking to make

positive impacts in emerging economies". The Wharton award was created in 2007 to honor the outstanding work of Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr. (AAEA Fellow) in the areas of higher education, business and public policy and philanthropy. The award is presented each year by the Emerging Markets Program at Cornell University to a person who has distinguished him- or herself with "Outstanding Service, Leadership and Contribution to Economic Progress in Emerging Markets."



Holladay Medal**Barry Goodwin**

A world-renowned agricultural economist in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics has been awarded North Carolina State University's (NC State) highest honor for faculty achievement.

Barry K. Goodwin received the Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal for Excellence during the annual Celebration of Faculty Excellence on May 1.



Others from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences who were honored include Julieta Sherk, for her Fulbright Scholar Award, and Rodolphe Barrangou, for a National Academy of Sciences Prize in Food and Agriculture Sciences.

Goodwin is a prodigious researcher, widely cited for the 138 peer-reviewed publications he's written on a range of topics – from risk management and agricultural policy analysis to international trade and econometrics. In supporting Goodwin's nomination for the award, Keith Collins, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief economist, noted Goodwin's influence on agricultural policy.

"I know first-hand that his work has provided federal policy officials information for regulatory and policy decisions," Collins said. "The board (of the Federal Crop Insurance Corp.) has made decisions affecting many hundreds of millions of dollars in insured liability based on Dr. Goodwin's analysis."

Goodwin has also been a dedicated teacher and mentor. As former student Lisa House, now a faculty member at the University of Florida, noted, "Barry understands that training graduate students is not just aiding them in writing a dissertation but helping them experience many different facets of professional life."



Goodwin has been on the NC State faculty for 22 years. He has also served at The Ohio State University and Kansas State.

Now a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Graduate Alumni Distinguished Professor in CALS, Goodwin also holds a faculty appointment with the Poole College of Management's Department of Economics.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Troy State University, master's from Mississippi State, and PhD from NC State.

Other News

USDA Workshop***Innovation and Design in Vertical Agriculture and Sustainable Urban Ecosystems***

A workshop sponsored by The U.S. Department of Agriculture & The U.S. Department of Energy

June 27 – 28, 2018

Washington D.C.

As the global population grows, so too does food demand as well as constraints on land and natural resources. By the year 2050, the world's population will approach 10 billion people, and at least 2 out of 3 people will live in urban centers.

With this increased urbanization comes the unique opportunity to develop engineering and agricultural innovations within urban systems that sustainably stimulate growth to help meet future needs.

Vertical agriculture operations could augment production while offering lower emissions, higher-nutrient produce, and reduced water usage and runoff. And placing vertical farms in the context of a renewable urban ecosystem – where one industry's waste is another's raw material – could stimulate sustainable economic growth.

At this free workshop, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Energy, representatives from the public and private sectors will identify and discuss challenges, opportunities and possibilities associated with vertical agriculture and sustainable urban ecosystems. Information on featured speakers can be found on the back page of this brochure.

The public may attend all morning programs, but your RSVP is required. For additional information or to RSVP, please contact Sarah Federman at Sarah.Federman@osec.usda.gov or David Babson at

David.Babson@osec.usda.gov.

Featured Speakers Include:



(Featured Speakers, left to right: Dr. Sabine O'Hara, Dr. Dickson Despommier, Dr. Raymond Wheeler, Dr. Weslynn Ashton, Nate Storey, Nick Starling.)

Dr. Sabine O'Hara, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). As Dean of CAUSES, she is responsible for academic, research and community outreach programs, and is leading the UDC's efforts to build a cutting-edge model for Urban Agriculture and Urban Sustainability that improves the quality of life and economic opportunity for urban populations. Sabine is a respected author, researcher and higher education executive, and is well known for her expertise in sustainable economic development, global education and executive leadership.

Dr. Dickson Despommier, microbiologist, ecologist, and Emeritus Professor of Public and Environmental Health at Columbia University. Despommier is widely considered to be the originator of the modern concept of vertical farming.

Dr. Raymond Wheeler, Plant Physiologist, NASA – As the lead for Advanced Life Support Research activities at the Kennedy Space Center, Wheeler has been studying ways to grow safe, fresh food crops efficiently off the Earth. Astronauts on the International Space Station recently harvested and ate a variety of red romane lettuce that they activated and grew in a plant growth system called "Veggie."

Dr. Weslynn Ashton, Associate Professor of

Environmental Management and Sustainability, Illinois Institute of Technology Stuart School of Business. Ashton's research focuses on industrial ecology, optimizing resource flows in socio-ecological systems, and developing entrepreneurial solutions to social and environmental challenges. She currently leads projects examining urban food system sustainability with Plant Chicago and the Chicago Food Policy Action Council.

Nate Storey, Chief Science Officer, Plenty, Inc. – Plenty is building a global network of field-scale indoor farms to transform produce from a boring commodity to a delicious movement for all. Located near communities around the world, Plenty farms will utilize cutting-edge growing technologies and proven plant science to deliver industry-leading yields of locally-grown, backyard-fresh produce. By shaving thousands of miles and weeks off the journey from farm to table,

Plenty will transition agriculture to a reliable, predictable, and resource-efficient model.

Nick Starling is the chairman of Skyscraper Farm, LLC. Nick has been researching vertical farming since 2011. During this time, he has discovered a variety of improvements needed to feed the world while dramatically reducing water usage and eliminating agricultural runoff.

Register Now:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/innovation-design-vertical-agriculture-and-sustainable-urban-ecosystems-tickets-44896967037>

Member in the News:

Do you know an AAEA Member who has made statewide, national, or international news? Send a link of the article to Sinais Alvarado at salvarado@aaea.org or info@aaea.org

[View other Members in the News HERE](#)

Member Benefits

- [Membership Directory](#)
- [Mentorship Resources](#)
- [Mentorship Discussion Board](#)
- [AJAE Current Issue](#)
- [AEPP Current Issue](#)
- [Members in the News Highlights](#)
- [Member Profiles](#)

Working with the Media:

What research are you working on? Want to be an expert source for journalists working on a story? Contact Allison Scheetz at ascheetz@aaea.org

[View all Press Releases HERE](#)

Job Opportunities:

- [Assistant Professor/Extension Specialist](#)
University of Idaho
(Posted: 05/01/2018)
- [Assistant Professor in Agricultural Finance and Risk Analysis](#)
North Dakota State University
(Posted: 04/30/2018)
- [Endowed Chair in Agricultural Policy](#)
Louisiana State University
(Posted: 04/24/2018)
- [Postdoctoral Research Associate](#)
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
(Posted: 04/16/2018)

These current positions and more can be found on the [AAEA Job Board](#). Sign up for listserv emails regarding new positions [HERE](#).

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Submissions to *The Exchange*:

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