The calendar year is winding down, but travel, planning, and reporting are heating up for many who work in the field of agricultural and applied economics. Since my last column, I have attended a conference on the east coast and one in Europe. I find it extremely valuable to converse with colleagues from other universities, the government, and industry. I observed other professional associations doing an outstanding job of engaging with their conference attendees who are employed in government and industry, and I hope AAEA can improve in this area. I am working with our leadership team to improve our engagement and service both from my own observations and from members’ feedback.

One specific area in which we are seeking improvement is employment services. The job market in agricultural and applied economics has changed a great deal over the past decade. More than in the past, recruitment occurs at the Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) meetings and most exchanges, prior to interviews, are electronic. We are considering new ways to support job seekers and employers who are participating in the ASSA job market, such as an AAEA Employment Services Reception for both employers and job seekers at the 2017 ASSA meetings. We also recognize significant hiring decisions are still made as a result of interviews conducted at AAEA Annual Meetings, especially in government and industry. Thus, we also plan to invest in the Annual Meeting Employment Center with increased staff support services and a simplified online interface. My colleagues on the Executive Board and I would appreciate additional suggestions about how to improve in this area.

I am happy to report, thanks to our collaboration between the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C–FARE), and AAEA Government Relations Committee, I have been invited to attend a meeting called “Raising the Profile of Agriculture” on December 1, 2015. The meeting is being hosted by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in conjunction with the USDA and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy. At the meeting, I will be invited to share ideas for bolstering research in the agricultural sciences—including economics—and for recruiting students to tackle the global challenges of food and energy production.

Please plan to attend the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting in Boston, July 31–August 2. The deadlines are quickly approaching. December 3, 2015, is the deadline for Track Sessions, Case Study Invited Paper Sessions, Invited Paper Sessions, and Pre/Post-conference Workshops. Proposals for Selected Presentations and Organized Symposia are due January 14, 2016. I am looking forward to an outstanding program in Boston!

Jill McCluskey
AAEA President
Call for Invited Paper Session Proposals

AAEA welcomes proposals for Invited Paper sessions for the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA. Papers in these Invited Paper sessions may be published in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE) in March 2017 subject to review. Proposals from individuals or groups need to be submitted using the online submission system by Thursday, December 3, 2015.

Proposed session formats must include either two papers with two discussants or three papers with one discussant. Four paper sessions will not be considered.

Proposals will be evaluated by how well they satisfy the following criteria:
- The proposed session supports the objective of the Association to further the development and dissemination of systematic knowledge of agricultural and applied economics.
- The importance of the session is well-justified.
- The proposed papers are innovative and the topics are likely to generate meaningful discussion during the presentation, as well as interest in a published version.
- It is likely the session format will be conducive to a clear, focused, and informative presentation of the topics proposed.
- The session theme and paper topics are not repetitive of themes and/or topics previously addressed in Invited Paper sessions.
- The set of sessions will appeal to a broad spectrum of the membership.

Proposals should include session title, session rationale, titles, and a two-page abstract of each proposed presentation, names with contact information of authors, discussants, and moderators.

Proposals will be reviewed and selected by a subcommittee of the AAEA Board. Final versions of the invited papers must be submitted to AgEcon Search by Wednesday, May 25, 2016, and should be submitted to the AJAE Proceedings Issue Editor by the same date if the authors wish the invited paper to be reviewed for publication in the AJAE.

If you have any questions about submitting an Invited Paper session proposal, please contact Anna Douangphachanh at adouangphachanh@aaea.org or at (414) 918-3190.

Renew Your AAEA Membership for 2016

You can now renew your AAEA membership for 2016 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 2016, so be sure to renew soon to ensure that you keep receiving services from AAEA throughout the upcoming year.
Call for Pre/Post-conference Workshop Proposals

The AAEA Executive Board invites proposals for Pre- and Post-conference Workshops at the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA. The deadline for proposals is Thursday, December 3, 2015. Selections will be finalized at the AAEA Executive Board meeting in early January and organizers will be notified soon thereafter by the AAEA President.

Submissions will be judged on the merits of the proposal and the space and time available at the Annual Meeting. Organizers will work with the AAEA Business Office to develop a budget for final approval at the January Board meeting.

The form asks proposers for the following information:

1. Title of proposed session and the proposed date and time that the workshop would take place (potential dates include Saturday, July 30, and Wednesday, August 3).
2. Objectives of the workshop, as well as the timeliness of the subject and why the content of the workshop is relevant to AAEA members/meeting attendees.
3. Potential speakers, presenters, or panel members, and the total time required for these presentations.
4. Intended audience and expected attendance at the workshop.
5. Contact information for organizers in charge of overall development and coordination (complete addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses).
6. Complete budget information, which includes: financial support expected, speakers’ fees, stipends, and honoraria, catering needs, administrative fees, and other income and costs. Detailed information will be needed, including any catering requests (e.g. boxed lunches, buffet, coffee breaks, etc.), so that a registration fee for the workshop can be determined.
7. Any requests for membership and/or registration fee waivers that may be required in order to properly conduct the workshop.
8. Any special software or electronic needs, including if the attendees will be required to bring a laptop.

Incomplete proposals cannot be considered. Please include as much information as needed when submitting; there is no minimum or maximum length for the proposal.

Submit proposals using the Pre- and Post-conference Workshop proposal form. Submissions should be sent to adouangphachanh@aaea.org by Thursday, December 3, 2015. For more information, contact the AAEA Business Office at (414) 918–3190.
Call for Case Study Invited Paper Session Proposals

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Case Study Invited Paper Session

AAEA welcomes proposals for Case Studies for a special Invited Paper session competition that will be part of the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA. Cases in this Invited Paper session may be published in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE) in January 2017, subject to review. Proposals from individuals or groups need to be submitted using the online submission system by Thursday, December 3, 2015.

Proposals are requested for case studies that show how the application of economic principles to decision making in the public and/or private sectors leads to better decisions. Any topic area that illustrates the application of economic principles is acceptable. Topic areas focusing on emerging issues such as: renewable ingredients, energy economics, food safety, and company environmental policies (e.g., green scorecard) are encouraged. Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Deals with a problem that has a high level of importance/interest/relevancy to members of AAEA.
- Clear and concise teaching objective(s) and target audience(s) (e.g. undergraduate students, graduate students, extension audiences).
- Case summary that presents solutions and explanations of how the learning objectives are realized.
- Leads to a better understanding of how the application of economic principles improves decision making.
- A general description of the teaching plan for presenting the case to include expected student use of reference materials.

Proposals should include case title, names, and contact information of the authors, and a case outline that covers the company or situation profiled, as well as a detailed outline for the case study. The outline should be 3–5 pages in length and a maximum of 2,000 words. The proposal must also contain an outline and ideas for a teaching note, although the teaching note will not be published with the case. Of the cases submitted, three winning case submissions will be accepted for presentation at the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting by March, 2016.

Selected case studies (with teaching note when applicable) should be completed by Thursday, April 14, 2016. These completed versions will be reviewed by the Case Study Invited Paper Committee, and feedback to improve the cases will be provided to the author(s). Final versions of the cases must be submitted to AgEcon Search by May 25, 2016, and should be submitted to the AJAE Proceedings Issue Editor by the same date if the authors wish the case study to be reviewed for publication in the AJAE. Contact adouangphachanh@aaea.org or call (414) 918–3190 with any questions.
Call for Track Sessions

Track Sessions sponsored by AAEA Sections

The AAEA Executive Board invites Track Session proposals for the 2016 AAEA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA. Section leaders need to submit the initial proposals which need to be submitted by Thursday, December 3, 2015, to Sarah Kenner at skenner@aaea.org. Final, detailed submissions associated with each session are due by March 5, 2015. The AAEA Business Office will work with each Section that submits proposals on the final submission.

Tracks are a set of multiple sessions submitted by AAEA Sections, scheduled throughout the meeting and devoted to a common interest area or topic. The AAEA President determines the number of sessions allocated to each section. All Section leaders have been notified of their allocations.

Section leaders are responsible for managing and submitting Track Session proposals. If you are interested in submitting a proposal for a Track Session, please contact the chair of the Section for more information about the session topics they are seeking. Proposals submitted to the AAEA Business Office by an individual will be referred back to the Section for approval and official submission.

AAEA has created a Track Session Outline form for Section Leaders to use when submitting their initial outlines in December. This form should be submitted for each session, by the leader of the sponsoring section.

Specific Track Sessions can also be considered as Invited Paper sessions. These sessions need to be submitted through the abstract submission system as an Invited Paper session (see the call for Invited Paper Sessions for more information), and included with the initial Track Session proposals due in December, with an indication that it has also been submitted as an Invited Paper Session. If the proposed Invited Paper session is not accepted, it will still be included as a traditional Track Session.

Please contact Sarah Kenner at skenner@aaea.org or (414) 918–3190 if you have any other questions about submitting or participating in a Track Session.
AAEA Proudly Presents Four New Sections:

AFRICA SECTION

AUSTRALASIA SECTION

BREWING AND ENOLOGY ECONOMIC RESEARCH (BEER)

EXPERIMENTAL ECONOMICS SECTION
Call for Papers:

12th Annual Meeting of the International Water Resource Economics Consortium (IWREC)


Submissions of papers are now being accepted on the following topics:

- Addressing the food–energy–health environment and water nexus
- Assessing large- and small-scale irrigation investments
- Moving toward integrated urban and basin management
- Dealing with groundwater depletion
- Ensuring environmental flows
- Managing floods and droughts and their economy–wide impacts
- Improving transboundary water management

Within these topics, papers with a focus on economic growth and/or poverty linkages are encouraged. Papers on other topics that fall under the theme of the meeting will also be considered. The papers should be policy-oriented and analytically rigorous.

The Annual Meeting will begin with a reception on the evening of September 11, 2016, and span over two days with 6–7 sessions and 1–2 panel discussions on September 12–13, 2016.

Schedule

- January 31, 2016: Papers due
- March 31, 2016: Decision sent to authors (accept, revise and resubmit, reject)
- April 30, 2016: Final papers due
- May 31, 2016: Final decision on papers

Please submit papers to iwrec2016@worldbank.org. Papers should be no longer than 12 text pages (not including reference list, tables, and graphics). All text should be in 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1.5 line-spacing; and 1” margins on all sides.

The Organizing Committee will consider only papers submitted by members of IWREC. To become an IWREC member, please send a request by email to john.janmaat@ubc.ca with "Joining IWREC" in the subject line. There is no IWREC membership fee.

The Organizing Committee is considering publication plans for special journal issues.

Further Information

For more information, send an email to iwrec2016@worldbank.org or sscheierling@worldbank.org

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 24
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The Exchange is published biweekly by the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association.
Submit all items to:
AAEA
555 E. Wells Street, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 918-3190
Fax: (414) 276-3349
e-mail: info@aaea.org
Website: www.aaea.org

Coming up in the next issue of The Exchange...

- Government Relations Update
- 19th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis
- Call for papers – Fifth AIEAA Conference – June 2016
  *Be sure to check out the AAEA Events & Deadlines Calendar*