



President's Column

July 2015



The AAEA & WAEA Joint Annual Meeting in San Francisco is just two weeks away and we are looking forward to a full slate of outstanding presentations, activities, and opportunities for fellowship with new and old friends alike. I want to

take this opportunity to again remind you of a few special events that we have planned. I am very excited that we have my former professor, current colleague, and dear friend, David Dickey, as our Sunday night keynote speaker. Dave is one of the most highly cited scholars working in quantitative economics and needs no professional introduction. I am also very pleased that Dan Sumner, another former professor as well as long-time friend and collaborator, will be presenting the Fellow's address Tuesday morning. I've been accused of stacking the program with my old professors. Indeed, it might be true and I plead guilty as charged, but I promise that you will greatly enjoy the intellect and insights these two accomplished academics and their presentations will bring to the quality of these meetings!

We are also very pleased to have Professor Anne Case of Princeton as our Galbraith Forum Speaker. Dr. Case has published extensively in the fields of development, public economics, and health and we are all very much looking forward to what we know will be an informative and engaging talk. On Monday, the COSBAE, CWAE, and Extension

Sections have a luncheon at which Secretary Karen Ross, who leads the California Department of Food and Agriculture, will be the featured speaker. The International Section and the IATRC have a banquet Monday night at which Dr. David Lobell of Stanford University, who is a prolific writer on climate change issues, will be speaking.

This is my last column as AAEA President. I am very much looking forward to passing the torch and gavel to Jill McCluskey, our incoming AAEA President. I want to take advantage of what might be one of my last opportunities to address the membership as a whole. There are several personal thoughts that I'd like to share, with the full knowledge that we all see the world differently and each possess different ambitions, values, passions, and goals and that these comments may be of interest to no one but me.

I feel very fortunate to have had the great honor of serving as President of AAEA and to have enjoyed such a fulfilling career in Agricultural Economics. Any and all professional successes that I have enjoyed over the years came as a result of the support of family and friends as well as outstanding collaborators, teachers, colleagues, and students. My message is simple—no one succeeds by themselves and each and every one of us owes a tremendous debt to those we have trained and worked with. Remember to thank your colleagues and friends for your successes because

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such thanks are eminently meaningful to both the giver and the receiver.

While I feel immensely blessed to have been lucky enough to have had such a fulfilling career in research, teaching, and outreach, there are a few negative attitudes that I have encountered (and certainly displayed in my own behavior) that I detest. Too often our progress is marked by naked and unyielding criticism of views that we disagree with. Outside of a few issues in ethics and moral principles, there are few absolutes. If there were, we would have little of interest to work on and little to contribute to knowledge. I am often reminded of Sayre's law, which has been attributed to many different speakers, and was perhaps best paraphrased by Henry Kissinger as "the intensity of academic politics and the bitterness of it is in inverse proportion to the importance of the subject they're discussing."

I tried to detail these thoughts in my address last year but let me summarize the point by simply stating that no approach, viewpoint, technique, or theory in our professional work is absolute in its truth and invulnerable to critique. Be kind to those you criticize and couch such criticism within a positive context that will serve to motivate improvement and progress. We all must deal with rejection, both as a giver and a receiver. That said, be mindful of the impact that harsh views can have, especially on the younger of our profession who have not yet had the opportunity to build a hard shell to weather such criticism.

Likewise, be mindful of the transitory nature of your discoveries. I've been fortunate to have

known a few of the true "greats" in economics, including some of my AAEA colleagues. They all had a few things in common—humility, approachability, and a lack of ego. One of my favorite professors is a famous econometrician and he welcomed everyone to the table of learning, regardless of skill level or prior knowledge. There was only one requirement—an eager interest in learning. Fame has a very high depreciation rate.

I apologize for the preachiness of my remarks here. As I said, it is my last opportunity to communicate some thoughts that I believe are important, even if others don't share my views. The AAEA is a strong and vibrant organization. It is very well served by a multitude of volunteers, by a thoughtful Board of Directors, and by our professional partners at EDI. These professionals are the backbone of our Association and I want to publicly recognize and thank them (Brian Mondragon Jones and Dave Baumann in particular) for everything that they do.

I am satisfied that we made progress on a number of important issues, but much more remains to be done. As I have said earlier, this is your organization and each person's views and concerns are important. Don't be a free-rider and don't keep your concerns to yourself. The AAEA Board is here to serve you and to help our profession and Association continue to succeed. Thank you for your support and for the wonderful opportunity and trust that you have honored me with. See you in San Francisco!

Barry Goodwin
AAEA President

AAEA News

Today is the Last Day to Register!

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

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

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

Registration:

All Registrations or ticket purchases will need to take place on-site in San Francisco after **today (July 9)**.

Attendees will have access to concurrent sessions, plenary sessions, the Poster Reception and Welcome Reception on Sunday night, and the Closing Reception on Tuesday night. Tickets for the [luncheon](#), [the banquet](#), and [pre- and post- conference workshops](#) are not included with the main registration fee, but can be purchased during registration. Please note, the advanced registration deadline is approaching.

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

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

2015 AAEA & WAEA
JOINT ANNUAL MEETING



JULY 26-28, 2015

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>.



[Marriott Marquis](#)

780 Mission St.
San Francisco,
California 94103



SENIOR SECTION

Senior Section Track Sessions:

The Future of the CGIAR

The early CGIAR (international agricultural research) centers played a key role in the Green Revolution, developing high yielding varieties of rice and wheat that responded well to the post-WWII decline in the price of nitrogen fertilizer. The resulting productivity growth of these and other crops staved off starvation by lowering food prices and raising incomes of small farmers and farm workers. The CGIAR research outputs made major contributions to post-WWII economic development. These successes led funding agencies to the mistaken conclusion that global food security was no longer an issue and by the late 20th century public sector funding in both developing and developed countries began a gradual decline.

The price spikes of the mid and late 2000s reminded the world that food security was not in fact assured. The expected population and income growth in developing countries and the

realization climate change would pose a growing threat to agricultural production caused donor agencies to review their support for agricultural research. They struck a bargain with the CGIAR institutions, promising (and ultimately delivering) a substantial increase in funding if the CGIAR would restructure itself to be more effective in a rapidly changing global agricultural environment. It is now generally accepted the initial efforts at reform were less than successful and a second round of reform efforts is underway.

This track session, co-sponsored by the AAEA Latin American and Senior Sections, is organized as a panel discussion to provide an opportunity for attendees to learn about the recent history of the CGIAR, its attempts to reform, and the state of the latest reform efforts. The panel, moderated by Gerald Nelson, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois and former senior

research fellow at IFPRI, includes Karen Brooks, leader of one of the new CGIAR research programs, Prabhu Pingali, former director of economic research at one of the CGIAR centers, professor at Cornell University and head of the newly created Tata-Cornell Agriculture and Nutrition Initiative, and Philip Pardey, Professor at the University of Minnesota and one of the leading thinkers in the economics of agricultural research investments. Although the final plans for CGIAR reform are still being developed, the panelists will be knowledgeable about the proposed alternatives and the prospects for future international agricultural research.

This session will be a great opportunity to look into the future of a major international agricultural research institution. The session will be held Monday, July 27, at 1:00 PM in room Sierra J.

The Role of the Developing Countries in Shaping the Future of the Global Trade System

The post-war era of leadership of the multilateral trade system by the US, Europe, Japan, and Canada has come to an end. The future of the trade system will increasingly depend on the active participation of emerging countries such as China, India, Brazil, Russia, Indonesia, Korea, and South Africa. Moreover, the developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America will also play an important role in building a trade system that meets their needs. Developed countries remain crucial to reaching agreement on new trade rules and up-holding current agreements, but these countries can no longer determine the agenda alone.

The sorry state of the WTO Doha Round underlines the ennui that surrounds the multilateral trade system. The action has moved to mega-regional agreements, and countries that previously had preferential access into the European market now are aggregated into Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the EU. Developing countries face the dilemma of choosing whether to participate and which Partnership to join. Regions where no such partnerships exist face additional problems of access into major markets.

How the emerging and developing countries respond to these tectonic changes in the world trading system will have major ramifications for agricultural as well as manufactured trade.

- Will the trend towards open markets, with tariffs bound and reduced and subsidies constrained continue into the future?

- Or will the need for policy space (for food security and rural development) lead to a weakening of the constraints on agricultural and food policies?
- Can the mega-regionals deliver open market access and subsidy limitation?
- Or will they find it necessary to take a pass on sensitive domestic issues relating to agricultural programs?

This track session, co-sponsored by the International and Senior Sections, is designed as a panel discussion to elucidate these questions and provide tentative answers from the viewpoints of each of the major regions of the developing world. These five expert panelists are; Will Martin from World Bank, Gopinath Manisamy of the Economic Research Service, Alberto Valdes at Catholic University of Chile, Ousmane Badiane from the International Food Policy Research Institute, and Peter Timmer from the Center for Global Development. The panel discussion will be moderated by Tim Josling with the Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford University.

This session is highly relevant to current events in the international community with implications for US trade. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more. This session will be held Tuesday, July 28, at 4:30 PM in room Sierra F.

Immigration and Agricultural Labor

Farm labor in the United States is made up of approximately 1.1 million workers and has been relatively stable for at least the past decade. Immigrant labor is an important component of many, if not most, agricultural enterprises. The 2010 Population Survey estimates that 57.2% of the agricultural

hired labor force was foreign-born. Approximately 62% of those foreign employees worked in crop production, while the remainder worked in livestock. Moreover, during the past decade, approximately half of the farm labor force was made up of undocumented workers. The preponderance of undocumented workers in the farm labor force has made immigration policy a major issue for agriculture.

Presentations will examine whether the recent slowdown in Mexico-US migration to fill farm jobs is likely to persist, and how US agriculture is responding to the end of farm labor abundance.

- Philip Martin, University of California, Davis, will provide an overview of the current border issues and their implications from labor availability.
- A national survey of US dairy farms will be analyzed by Flynn Adcock, Texas A&M University, to determine the importance of hired immigrant labor to US milk production, the effects of immigrant labor losses on US milk production and herd size, and the economic impacts on economic output, income and employment in the US dairy sector and supporting industries.
- The third presentation by Juan Murguia, North Dakota State University, uses laboratory experiments to better understand the causes of agricultural and non-agricultural labor market discrimination in Hispanics job-seekers.

You will not want to miss this track session focusing on an issue of high interest and relevance to our nation's food production systems. This session, co-sponsored by the Latin American and Senior Sections, will be held Monday, July 27, at 4:30 PM in room Sierra K.

Measuring Wealth for Developing and Evaluating Rural Development Policy and Strategy

What is the role of wealth in determining the economic health of rural communities? This track session, co-sponsored by the CRENET and the Senior Section, will focus on this recent shift in emphasis from income to wealth in rural research and policy. Creating and sustaining wealth is being emphasized in contemporary rural development policy and strategy. The optimal combination of wealth investments has the potential to improve the long-run

prosperity, resiliency, and upward mobility of people in rural places. However, what constitutes wealth and how it should be measured in the 21st century may differ from the wealth assets of the 19th and 20th centuries; highlighted by John Pender et al.'s 2014 book, *Rural Wealth Creation*, and Thomas Piketty's recent book, *Capital*. Presenters from Louisiana, Idaho, Colorado, and New York will describe their on-going research efforts to measure wealth in

rural regions and understand the place-based implications of these wealth assets:

- Measuring United States County-Level Economic Resilience to a Recession: What factors contributed to the ability, or resilience, of some communities to resist a recession and to recover more quickly from it?
- Measuring the Rural Wealth Creation Impacts of Local Food Systems:

What progress has been made toward a more formal rural wealth creation approach and developing a set of rural wealth creation metrics associated with local food system initiatives?

- Measuring the Comprehensive Wealth of

Communities:
Implications of Spatial Equilibrium vs. Disequilibrium: If the assumptions of mobile labor and a fixed land supply are relaxed, will the estimates of rural wealth per capital be biased?

Don't miss this opportunity to discuss these critical issues about wealth creation and measurement in rural areas. The session will be held Monday morning, July 27, at 9:45 AM in room Sierra K.

Responding Successfully to Funding Opportunities

Three key pieces of advice for successful responses to funding opportunities – Look, Read, Respond – are emphasized in this track session, co-sponsored by the Agribusiness Economics and Management Section and the Senior Section.

When funding opportunities are presented in RFPs, timely responses demonstrating thoughtful and practical consideration of the request can open the doors for greater cooperative efforts that are mutually beneficial. But first you must understand what the requesting organization is seeking. This session will provide insights from a panel with experience seeking external economic analyses and what they see as key benchmarks for successful responses to RFPs.

The session is organized as a panel discussion to provide opportunities for attendees to interact and raise questions. The panel members include:

- Sam Funk, United Soybean Board

- Robbin Shoemaker, USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- Nancy Lutz, Program Director, Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate, National Science Foundation
- John Lee, former department head and ERS administrator

Who isn't interested in successfully responding to funding opportunities to support our programs in applied economics? This session will be a great opportunity to interact with representatives of the organizations that provide these opportunities.

We would also like to extend an invitation to those with experience writing RFPs and reviewing proposals, and to those who have successfully responded to RFPs and developed cooperative initiatives to add their advice to the discussion. By sharing our individual experiences, we can make this a particularly lively and beneficial session. The session will be held Tuesday, July 28 at 9:45 AM in room Sierra K.

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

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

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

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

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

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



International Section Track Sessions:

Announcement

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

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

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

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

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

presentations, renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

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

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

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

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



Call for Judges: SS-AAEA Academic Bowl

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

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

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



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

Tyler B. Mark
SS-AAEA, Junior Advisor



Undergraduate Student Section Activities Announcement

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

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

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

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

Dr. Steven S. Vickner
Associate Professor
Wilmington College

Register for the 2015 Employment Center

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

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

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



Agricultural Finance and Management (AFM) Section Track Sessions:

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

“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. Tuesday, July 28 from 2:45 PM–4:15 PM in room Sierra A
- 2) **“Lending in Volatile Times”** organized by Ryan Larsen (North Dakota State University) with Nathan Kauffman (Kansas City Federal

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

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



[Registration Now Open](#)



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

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

Obituary

George Louis Casler



George Louis Casler, age 85, of 450 Savage Farm Drive, Ithaca, New York, died on June 12, 2015. George was born on September 17, 1929, at Litchfield, Herkimer County, New York. The son of Charles B. And Nellie Donahoe Casler, he was raised on the family dairy farm. He graduated from West Winfield Central School (now Mt. Markham) in 1946 as Valedictorian of his class. He entered the College of Agriculture at Cornell where he was a member of Alpha Zeta honorary agricultural fraternity and graduated with a Bachelor of Science with distinction 1950. After Cornell, he farmed in Cortland and then Seneca County at Sheldrake where he met Patricia Hungerford and they were married in 1955. Pat and George celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2005 at the Sheldrake Point Vineyard which is located on the farm they owned and operated early in their marriage and their 60th anniversary at Glenora Winery on March 19th, 2015.

After a back injury in 1958, George returned to Cornell and earned a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics in 1959. He worked as a farm management extension specialist at Cornell from 1959–1962. In 1962, he entered Purdue University and was awarded a PhD in Agricultural Economics in 1966. He returned to Cornell in 1965 as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics and became a Professor in 1975. George was involved in teaching, research and extension. He was a leading member of a team of Cornell Agricultural Economists that won the Outstanding Extension Program award from the American Association of Agricultural Economics for an educational program on the Federal Dairy Buyout Program. At the time of his retirement from Cornell in 1995, he was presented with an Excellence Award by the New York State Association of County Agricultural Agents for his work in Farm Management Extension. George was a member of the American Association of Agricultural Economics (AAEA) and served on several regional and national committees related to the AAEA. He was a member of the Northeast and North Central farm management extension committees. He was co-author of a chapter in a book on nutrient pollution from run off from farmland. This book and a Cornell bulletin were translated into Japanese. He also co-authored a text book in 1977 with Richard Aplin and Cheryl P. Francis titled Capital Investment Analysis. For many years after, his former students would tell him how they used this resource all the time. For 18 years he worked with accountants and lawyers on the changes each year in farmers' income tax.

Casler was a lifetime member of the American Wine Society where he and Pat were involved in many of the national meetings. George was the chairman of the (Cayuga) chapter for many years. He was a member of City Club of Ithaca, a group of fellows who meet for lunch once a week. George served on the Corporation Board of Alpha Zeta fraternity and was a long term Treasurer. He also served two 3-year terms as treasurer of the Cornell College of Agriculture Charitable Trust which provides financial assistance to students in the college.

George is survived by his wife, Patricia, and sons William (Lynne Kohring) Casler of Cincinnati, Ohio, Donald (Barbara Flynn) Casler of Garden City, New York, and Dale (Carol DiGiacomo) Casler of

Ithaca. Three grandsons, Donald Jr., Jack, and Michael. He is survived by three brothers Homer Casler of West Exeter, N.Y, Robert Casler of Nelliston, N.Y., and Richard Casler of Herkimer, N.Y. He was predeceased by his parents, three brothers, Fred, James and Stanley, and by sister Ruth Casler Paddock and Doris Casler Wagner (James) of Fayetteville, N.Y.

A memorial service will be held at Kendal at Ithaca, 2230 Triphammer Road, Ithaca, N.Y., on July 25th at 2 PM Contributions can be made to the United Way of Tompkins County, Cals Charitable Trust or the charity of one's choice.

AAEA Events & Deadlines

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

Job Openings

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



Social Media



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Submit all items to:

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