

**Annual Report to the AAEA Executive Board (2002-2003)**  
**AAEA Food Safety and Nutrition Section**  
**July 2003**

The Food Safety and Nutrition Section was formed to encourage the analysis of public and private food safety and nutrition strategies with regard to their impacts on consumer and producer behavior, and food quality. In addition, the Section seeks to facilitate communication about food safety and nutrition research among Association members, other scientists, and public policy analysts. Finally, the Section aims to contribute to the ongoing development of methods to measure the welfare effects of changes in food quality and public and private food policies.

We currently have 73 dues-paying members and a balance of \$2,496.98 (as of March 31, 2003). The Section had three main activities this year: organizing and submitting a Track proposal for the 2003 AAEA meetings; establishing a new website; and electing new officers.

1. FSN Section Track at the 2003 AAEA meetings.

The Food Safety and Nutrition Section is sponsoring a coordinated set of five organized symposia to address food safety and nutrition policy interests. The section's track proposal is available at <http://www.arec.wsu.edu/foodsafety/index.htm>. The sessions provide an array of methodological, policy and discussion oriented sessions:

- Analyzing the Ex-Post and Ex-Ante Economic Effects of HACCP Food Safety Regulations Performance Standards for Food Safety: An Economic Analysis
- Performance Standards for Food Safety: An Economic Analysis
- Economic Incentives as Health Policy—Using Income and Food Prices to Influence Dietary Quality
- Causes of Growth and Disparities in Obesity in the United States
- Tough Choices for Low-Income Food Consumers: Nutrition, Consumption Insurance, and Multiple Program Participation

Two food safety symposia focus on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) policies, which have become the dominant regulatory policy for controlling foodborne pathogens. The first symposium compares and contrasts how HACCP has been applied to four different foods groups and the economic lessons learned from variation in industry response and regulatory implementation, enforcement, and standard setting. The symposium on performance standards is complementary to the HACCP session, since performance standards can be used to verify HACCP compliance.

Three symposia provide current research on the economics of obesity, dietary choices, and food assistance programs. The prevalence of obesity has doubled in just over two decades; the symposium on obesity will bring together economists and nutritionists to discuss improvements in the measurement of and policy response to this epidemic. The symposium on economic incentives and health policy plays to the strengths of economics as a discipline, in illuminating the intersection between individual choices and health

policies. The symposium on food choices facing low-income consumers offers a novel theory of food stamp participation as an insurance mechanism; a study of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program; an econometric model of dietary choice accounting for the endogeneity of both food stamp and WIC participation; and a study of the wrenching choice between food and heat in northern climates.

## 2. Establishing a new Food Safety and Nutrition (FSN) Section Website

At-large executive committee member, Jill McCluskey of Washington State University, prepared the new section website which can be accessed from the AAEEA website (under sections) or at <http://www.arec.wsu.edu/foodsafety/index.htm>. This useful resource includes announcements for conferences, award nominations, and research jobs. It provides links to important Section records and reports the names and contact information for the current officers and executive committee members. The website contains links to other internet sites for food safety and nutrition information. A new feature, in process, is posting research papers on food safety and nutrition. We are asking Section members for submissions.

## 3. Elections

The following officers and executive committee members served for the 2002-2003 year:

Tanya Roberts, Chair - USDA ERS

Mario Teisl, Past Chair - University of Maine

Christine Ranney, Chair Elect - Cornell University

Parke Wilde, Secretary/treasurer, USDA ERS

Jill McCluskey, At-large Board Member - Washington State University

Jutta Roosen, At-large Board Member – University of Keil, Germany

Laurian Unnevehr, Section Rep. to the RAE Editorial Board - University of Illinois

The immediate past chair, Mario Teisl, organized the elections committee in Spring 2003. The other members were Julie Caswell and Jay Variyam. Mario reports the results:

Elise Golan, Chair Elect - ERS

Sandy Hoffman, At-large Board member - Resources for the Future

(Jutta Roosen has served her two-year term).

## 4. AAEEA Pre-conference Ideas to be Discussed

At the 2002 business meeting, the Section talked about organizing an AAEEA pre-conference proposal for 2004 on a topic relating to the economics of nutrition and obesity research. We are soliciting and developing ideas for discussion at the Section business meeting on Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 in room 512G. AAEEA Board members are invited to join the discussion!

Report submitted by Tanya Roberts, Chair, FSN Section