

The Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 2

Summer 1988

Message From The Chair

My term as chairperson of the Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics ends in August. Special thanks are due to those persons who helped plan Committee activities and supported the Committee during the 1987-88 year. The "executive board" or directors for the year were Ralph Christy (Louisiana State University), Richard Douglas (SunDiamond), Tesfa Ghebremedhin (Southern University), Donald McDowell (North Carolina A & T State University), Vin Samuel (New Jersey Department of Agriculture), Handy Williamson (University of Tennessee), Lionel Williamson (University of Kentucky), and James Houck, AAEA Board Representative (University of Minnesota). Tesfa and Vin, both of whom have been very active members, will rotate off the "executive board" in August. The next edition of the newsletter will include an announcement about the committee chair and the "executive board" for the 1988-89 year.

As I complete my term, it is useful to look back on the history of the Committee and assess the progress that we have made. The Committee was established in 1980 to "survey and ascertain information on the opportunities of Blacks in the agricultural economics profession." At that time, few Blacks presented papers at the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) meetings or attended the meetings. Furthermore, information was not available on the number of Black agricultural economists or the status of Blacks within the agricultural economics profession. Over the years, Black participation in the AAEA has increased and more Blacks are attending the AAEA annual meeting. Moreover, the Committee conducted and published a study entitled Opportunities and Status of Blacks in the Agricultural Economics Profession. We compiled and published the first Directory of Black Agricultural Economists in January 1987. This directory contains information (name, address, place of employment, educational background, research interests) on 96 persons. The directory is currently being revised and to date we have 122 persons included in it. The revised directory should be ready for distribution this summer. The Committee initiated this newsletter in 1987 as a means for disseminating information and highlighting the achievements of Black agricultural economists. Although much remains to be done, the Committee has made steady progress since its inception.

Each year the Committee plans activities to be held during the annual American Agricultural Economics Association meeting. These activities generally include a business meeting where we plan forthcoming events and set the agenda for the Committee, and a reception which provides an opportunity for renewing old acquaintances and networking. We have planned a full array of activities to be held during the upcoming AAEA meetings in Knoxville, Tennessee (see For Your Professional Calendar on page 2). If you will be attending the AAEA meetings, please join us in these activities. I look forward to seeing you there.

Joyce Allen

DR. T. T. WILLIAMS AWARDED BY S.A.E.A.

Dr. Williams was the 1988 recipient of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association's Honorary Lifetime Membership Award. Dr. T. T. Williams has, during a 37-year distinguished career, made many direct and indirect contributions to southern agriculture. Dr. Williams' professional career has been dedicated to solving problems that are regional, national and international in dimension.

For a period of twenty-five years, Dr. Williams served in various capacities at Southern University, including Professor and Department Chairman, Director for International Programs, and Administrative Assistant to the President. He is credited with establishing the Department of Agricultural Economics at Southern University. During this period, Dr. Williams was adjunct professor at Cornell University (1975) and Louisiana State University (1979).

Since 1980, Dr. Williams has served as Director, Human Resources Development Center, a campus-based unit at Tuskegee University charged with coordinating, developing and administering outreach programs. His chairmanships of the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference have yielded three significant publications to his credit: Strategy for Survival of Small Farmers (1985), Human Resource Development in Rural America - Myth or Reality (1986), and Ushering in the Twenty-First Century: Emphasis on the Rural South (1987).

Dr. Williams' career has been committed to solving rural development problems in the South, and programs administered by him have yielded a wide variety of professional publications. He was program chairman of a rural development conference in 1982 entitled "Task Force on Historically Black Colleges and Universities" sponsored by the Office of Rural Development Policy, USDA.

As an effective advocate for higher education (particularly the Land Grant System), he wrote extensively on topics related to higher education and human resources development in his book titled Unique Resources of the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, and in several journal articles.

Dr. Williams has vast experience in international development, having participated in research, outreach, and administrative programs in more than 25 countries, including a Fulbright Professorship, University Pertanian Malaysia (1966-67). He administered Southern University's 211-D international development program and coordinated four international conferences: (1) 1890 Land Grant Institutions (1978), (2) Cooperatives as a Development Tool (1978), (3) Manpower Needs for Development (1979), and (4) USDA/OICD Keys to International Development Seminar (1984).

Dr. Williams has received numerous honors, recognitions and awards for honorary and professional societies and associations during his distinguished career. He continues to be an active contributor to southern, U.S. and world agriculture. Dr. Williams provides a shining example of what hard work and dedication deserves. Our hats off to Dr. T. T. Williams!

For Your Professional Calendar

AAEA Meeting, July 31 - August 3, 1988, Knoxville, Tennessee.

The annual meeting of the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) will be held from July 31 - August 3, 1988 in Knoxville, Tennessee. For additional information or registration forms contact: AAEA Business Office, 80 Heady Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1070, (Telephone: (505)294-8700)

The activities that the Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics have organized or will sponsor or participate in at the AAEA meeting are listed below:

Business Meeting

The Committee will hold its semi-annual business meeting on Sunday, July 31 from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Executive Board Room of the Holiday Inn. The meeting is open to all persons who are interested in helping the Committee to achieve its goals and objectives.

Reception

The Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics will hold its annual reception on Tuesday, August 2, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Great Smokey A & B Rooms in the Hilton Hotel. All are welcome to attend. Please come and bring your friends and colleagues.

Organized Symposia

TITLE: The Forgotten Poor: Rural Poverty Issues in the 1980s.

DATE: Tuesday, August 2, 1988

TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

ORGANIZER AND MODERATOR: Joyce Allen

PRESENTERS: Glenn Nelson, Professor, University of Minnesota, "The Changing Composition of the Rural Poor."

Joyce Allen, Senior Research Associate, Joint Center for Political Studies, North Carolina A & T State University, "Poverty Differentials by Place of Residence."

David Dodson, Executive Vice President, Manpower Development Corporation, "Development Strategies for Distressed Rural Communities."

Carlton Davis, Professor, University of Florida, "Discussion: The Forgotten Poor."

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TOPIC: Agricultural Cooperatives and the Changing Structure of Agriculture

DATE: Tuesday, August 2, 1988

TIME: 1:30 - 3:15 p.m.

ORGANIZERS: Ralph D. Christy and Tesfa Ghebremedhin

MODERATOR: Ralph D. Christy

PRESENTERS: Randall Torgerson, Agricultural Cooperative Service, USDA, "Agricultural Cooperatives in the Industrial Food Markets."

Ralph D. Christy, Louisiana State University, and Tesfa Ghebremedhin, Southern University, "Agricultural Cooperatives for Small Scale Agriculture."

Roger Ginder, Iowa State University, "Agricultural Cooperatives and Extension Programs for the Future."

Lionel Williamson, University of Kentucky, "Agricultural Cooperatives and University Instructional Programs."

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The 46th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) will be held at Tuskegee University, December 4 - 6, 1988. "CRITICAL ISSUES AND POLICY FOR RURAL DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES -- THE SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE -- LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES OUTREACH ACTIVITIES" is the conference theme. Abstract for selected papers are due August 15, 1988. For further information, please contact: T. T. Williams, Ph.D., PAWC Program Coordinator, Tuskegee University, P. O. Box 681, Tuskegee, Alabama 36088, phone (205) 727-8764.

THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published by the Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics. Special thanks is due to Vin Samuel for conducting a survey which identified the need for and led to the creation of our newsletter. Thanks Vin for a job well done. Ralph D. Christy and Doris Newton will serve as co-editors of the NEWSLETTER. The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University will serve as host institution. If you have any information you wish to have placed in the NEWSLETTER, please forward to:

Ralph D. Christy, Editor
Department of Agricultural Economics
and Agribusiness
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-5604
Phone: (504) 388-3284

or

Doris Newton, Assistant Editor
USDA/ERS
1301 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

The NEWSLETTER is prepared by Ms. Susan K. Duhe.

Employment

Fellowships. The National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy at Resources for the Future is sponsoring the 1989 Leadership Development Program. The program provides an opportunity for up to twenty-five mid-career professional to obtain four week public policy fellowships.

The next program will run from February 5 - 18 and March 5 - 18, 1989, in Washington, DC.

An applicant must meet the following requirements: (1) have completed at least a baccalaureate degree, and (2) have at least five years' work experience in a field related to food and agriculture. A tuition fee of \$1,500 is charged to successful fellowship applicants to partially defray program costs. Limited tuition fellowship support from the National Center is available to fellows in special circumstances, based on need; requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

An application form and further details can be obtained by writing to:

1989 Leadership Development Program
National Center for Food
and Agricultural Policy
Resources for the Future
1616 P St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

or by calling Ann Rolasky at the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy at (202) 328-5117.

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Chair, Department of Agricultural Economics. The University of Missouri-Columbia is seeking applications for the position of Chair, Department of Agricultural Economics. The Chair is responsible for administration and promotion of the teaching, research, extension and international programs of the department and reports directly to the Dean of the College of Agriculture. Candidates should possess a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics or closely related field. The candidate should have an outstanding professional record; demonstrated leadership and administrative ability, a perspective which takes into account the department's state, national and international dimensions, and an understanding of the teaching, research and extension functions of a land grant university. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Applications consisting of a complete resume, including listing of publications and accomplishments, plus names and addresses of five references should be sent to:

Jon A. Brandt, Chair,
Search Committee
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Missouri-Columbia
200 Mumford Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

Applications will be received through September 1, 1988 or until the position is filled. The University of Missouri is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

Notables

Dr. Handy Williamson, Jr. has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville effective July 1, 1988. Dr. Williamson was formerly the Deputy Director of Research and University Relations at the Agency for International Development (AID) in Washington, DC where he was employed from 1985 - 1988. From 1977 - 1985, he served as Research Director and Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics at Tennessee State University at Nashville. Prior to these appointments, Dr. Williamson was Associate Director of the Center for Rural Development Research and Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics at Tuskegee University from 1974 - 1977.

During his appointments at Tuskegee and Tennessee State, Dr. Williamson provided technical assistance on research projects in Africa and the Caribbeans, and worked on manpower research studies in the Philippines.

Dr. Williamson earned the B.S. in Vocational Agriculture from Alcorn State University in 1967, M.S. in Agricultural Education from Tennessee State University in 1969, M.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Missouri in 1971, and the Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Missouri in 1974.

Dr. Allie Felder, Jr., Senior Vice President, Emeritus, National Cooperative Business Association, was presented the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1987 by The Ohio State University. Dr. Felder's career at NCVA has spanned more than 30 years, beginning in 1956. He was Director of the Cooperative League's Office in India (1960 - 1968). During his years in India, Dr. Felder laid the foundation for and assisted the Indian cooperatives in programs involving supervised credit; hybrid seed production and distribution; cooperative education; training and research; consumer cooperatives; rural health centers; rural electrification; fertilizer production and distribution; milk marketing; oilseed processing; management improvement and the utilization of Food for Peace financing as a development instrument. Prior to this, he worked as a consultant in India for both the American International Association of Economic and Social Development and the Cooperative League of the USA (1956 - 1959).

Prior to this, Dr. Felder spent six years as Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics at Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia. He also taught for one year at the International Cooperative Training Center at the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Felder received the B.S. in Agriculture from Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia in 1943, M.S.C. in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology from the University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois in 1948, and the Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology from Ohio State University in 1954.

Many honors have been bestowed on Dr. Felder including the recognition by the Prime Minister of India who presented him the National Cooperative Union of India's Certificate of Honor in recognition of his personal and professional efforts in India. Dr. Felder has been honored by four U.S. Presidents who have appointed him to six successive terms as the cooperative member to the Board of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, where he serves presently.

Tesfa Ghebremedhin received the 1987-88 Southern University Chancellor's Research Excellence Award. This award is given to the top scientist on the Baton Rouge Campus.

Joyce Allen, Joint Center for Political Studies, was elected to the board of the Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE).

Ralph D. Christy, Louisiana State University, was selected to receive an AAEA \$1,000 travel grant to attend the 20th International Conference of Agricultural Economists which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Tesfa Ghebremedhin, Southern University, participated in a panel discussion at the Symposium on Multiple Job-Holding Among Farm Families in North America which was held in Arlington, Virginia on May 26-27, 1988.

Herb Gilbert, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, presented a paper at the 13th Annual Conference of the Caribbean Studies Association which was held in Pointe-A-Pitre, Guadeloupe from May 24-28. His paper was entitled "An Economic Analysis of U.S. Narcotics Control Policy in the Caribbean and Latin America." The paper dealt with crop substitution.

Vicki Martin, a Junior in the Agricultural Economics Program at Fort Valley State College has accepted a summer internship with the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC.

Letitia Toomer has taken a position as an assistant state agricultural economist for the Soil Conservation Service in Syracuse, New York. She is formerly a research associate in the School of Agriculture, Home Economics and Applied Programs at Fort Valley State College.

Lionel Williamson, University of Kentucky, was a discussant at the Symposium on Multiple Job-Holding Among Farm Families in North America. He discussed three papers presented at the session on "Public Programs for the Multiple Job-Holding Farm Family."

Dr. Nathaniel B. Brown, Jr., Fort Valley State College, was recently selected to the Southern Rural Development Center's (SRDC) Task Force on: "Alternatives for Leadership and Human Resource Development in Rural Communities in the South." Dr. Brown joins ten other professionals and specialists throughout the Southern Region whose task will be to determine the status, magnitude, and implications of Leadership and Human Resource Development problems in the Rural South.