

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

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7, No. 1

Winter/Spring 1993

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from Texas! Even though we did not return our favorite son, George Bush to the White House in the last presidential election, we are proud nonetheless. In his acceptance message to the nation, President Clinton emphasized the importance of "working together" to forge a new era--an era of change, for redirecting the nation.

At the summer AAEA meeting held this past August in Baltimore, outgoing chair of COSBAE Handy Williamson, Jr., issued a challenge to us all, a challenge which in essence states, that we must "keep the vision, and strive to be of service."

COSBAE continues to focus on the critical need to seek opportunities by encouraging initiatives that enhance the upward mobility of Blacks in the agricultural economics profession. As we look to the future, we mustn't forget the past--lest we repeat it. I am encouraged by the past accomplishments of COSBAE and the caliber of leadership of my predecessors. I applaud their efforts and the past accomplishments of COSBAE. For more than a decade, COSBAE has striven to promote the accomplishments of Black agricultural economists while providing access to opportunities.

As I have assumed the duties as chair of COSBAE, I accept the responsibility and the challenge--the challenge of leadership that has gone before me, of charting a course that is not only relevant but futuristic. We are donning a new

era in America. An era where, in the next decade, the number of Blacks, women, and minorities in the workforce will become ever more essential in meeting the critical needs of a highly skilled and qualified workforce.

Through the auspices of COSBAE, it is my hope that we can continue the work of COSBAE by expanding and seeking opportunities through linked visions. The COSBAE network: Linking Visions--Expanding Opportunities, is a concept or theme that the executive committee of COSBAE has put forth as a theme for 1993. At the winter meetings in Tulsa, this concept was expounded on in a preconference workshop held on Sunday afternoon, January 31, 1993.

For those of us who attended the recent SAAS meetings in Tulsa, we were proud to witness the installation of one of our own, Ralph Christy, as President of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association. In his presidential address, entitled "Economic Correctness and Agricultural Economics," Ralph reminded us of the need to adapt in order to remain relevant as agricultural economists.

As we now look forward to the summer meeting in Orlando, Florida, August 1-4, I encourage all who can and will to plan on attending. We anticipate a great program - a program which includes joint activities with our brothers and sisters from the Caribbean as well as student activities.

See you all in Orlando!

Alfred L. Parks

SAEA PRESIDENT CHRISTY GIVES ADDRESS
AT TULSA, OKLAHOMA MEETINGS

Ralph Christy, Cornell University, was officially sworn in as president of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) for the 1993-94 term at the recent SAAS meetings in Tulsa, Ok., Jan. 31 - Feb 3. Following is the precis of the presidential address he gave on Feb. 1 entitled "Economic Correctness" and Agricultural Economics."

This address is directed toward applied economists as they provide information to private and public decision makers. Central to this discussion is the role of markets as institutions in achieving society's desired ends. Current "economic correctness"--the view that unfettered markets are superior in achieving efficiency, growth, and welfare--has attempted to return a larger role to the private sector, but the relative roles of market-oriented versus government-oriented solutions to problems are often not well appraised.

The agricultural economics profession is at an intellectual crossroads. Because we are applied social scientists, as the world around us changes, we face the challenge of constant self-identification and self-evaluation. Views presented herein have called for agricultural economists to move simultaneously toward an understanding of the *strategic behavior* of firms in imperfectly competitive markets and toward an adoption of *policy analysis* consistent with a socially complex and globally integrated economy. We simply must find ways to accommodate both economic and business views of markets.

Today, "What can agricultural economics offer agribusiness?" is a

recurring question. To be effective in serving private decisionmakers, a focus on "micro-micro" aspects or strategic behavior of the firm will be required of agricultural economists. Agribusiness consists of large complex corporations, medium-size firms, and small entrepreneurs. The economic activity occurring within modern firms, although they vary in size, is being guided by the strategic behavior framework and techniques, used especially by the excellent ones, and less by market forces exclusively. This view of agribusiness must be incorporated within teaching, research, and outreach programs in departments of agricultural economics.

"What can markets do and what can they not do?" has long been one of the central concerns of economics as it applies to questions of public policy. Public-policy issues are increasingly a part of a larger interconnected world. It may not be readily apparent that the South Central Los Angeles uprising was, in part, about the functioning of markets (yes, it was also about justice, public policy, and individual responsibility). Policy questions are becoming more interrelated, and because we cannot simply draw boundaries around our applied disciplines, a broader view of social problems must be incorporated in our analyses of today's social problems. As agriculture becomes a smaller part of the economy, we must aggressively point out agriculture's contributions to the economy and identify the impacts of agriculture on the environment, labor markets, consumers, and other participants within the system.

Like other professionals, economists are sometimes reluctant to apply the tools of economics and management to the study of their own

circumstances. While most departments have completed some type of strategic-planning exercise, we have little knowledge of how this effort influences resource allocation or directions taken within our programs. Little is known about how the strategic-planning effort influences the performance of departments, colleges, and universities. Furthermore, as a discipline, agricultural economics has operated in a fairly decentralized manner. Many of our activities are project-driven at an individual state level. Tightening federal and state resources for research will change the way we do business. In the future, national priority-setting exercises will demand individual and organizational inputs from agricultural economists for the development of a strategy designed to increase public support for our research agenda. Strategic behavior has application for the management of departments, colleges, and universities and, perhaps, for a broader set of professional issues as well. We must employ strategic-management techniques in our teaching, research, and outreach programs.

Finally, within respective units, discussions are taking place on the appropriate titles of the agricultural economics profession, affiliated associations, and scientific journals. Some hold the view that the comparative advantage of agricultural economists is in applying our tools to a broad range of problems. Others caution us not to forget our traditional base of support--agriculture. We must do more than change names. The challenge for applied economists is to design and evaluate alternative institutional arrangements within an economy and, consequently, provide guidance for public and private decisionmakers. Economic

correctness aside, as we approach the twenty-first century, it will take the combined efforts of the private sector and an enlightened public sector to solve the entrenched and emerging economic and social problems of this nation.

FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

AAEA Annual Meetings

Orlando, FL, August 1-4, 1993

COSBAE Activities at the AAEA meetings:

Joint reception with the
Caribbean Agro-Economic Assoc.
Tuesday, August 3, 1993

Free Session

Title: The Perceptions of African-American Students and Professionals About Career Opportunities in Agricultural Economics

Summary: Students, faculty, government and private professionals will engage in a dialogue to address the concerns, research findings and possible remedies regarding the paltry supply and employment opportunities for African-American agricultural economists.

Organizers: Donald R. McDowell
Dept. of Agricultural Economics
145 Carver Hall
North Carolina A&T State University
Greensboro, NC 27411
Ph. (919) 334-7054 Fax 334-7674

Alfred L. Parks
Dept. of Agriculture
Prairie View A&M University
P. O. Box 486
Prairie View, TX 77446
Ph. (409) 857-3016 Fax 857-2811

Chair: Alfred Parks, Prairie View

Participants: Magid Dagher, Univ. of Arkansas-Pine Bluff; Dewitt Jones, Southern University; Donald McDowell, North Carolina A&T State Univ.; Jerrell Meikle, Prairie View; and Mack Nelson, Fort Valley State College

Student Session

Academic Bowl - participating schools: Prairie View, North Carolina A&T, Fort Valley State, Southern Univ., Univ. of Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC), December 5-7, 1993, Tuskegee University

COSBAE Preconference Workshop to be held jointly with the PAWC - Saturday, December 4, 1993

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ARD Ninth Biennial Research Symposium: Highest Attendance in its History

Four hundred sixty-four presidents, deans, directors, scientists, students and staff of 16 historically black land grant institutions and Tuskegee Univ., the USDA and commercial businesses attended the Association of Research Directors' Ninth Biennial Research Symposium held at the Atlanta Marriot Marquis, Atlanta, GA, this past October.

The symposium featured educational and peer networking opportunities. Research scientist and undergraduate and graduate students presented informative competitive and non-competitive papers and posters concerning current research achievements in the areas of plant and soil science, rural development, food science and human nutrition,

and animal science. A total of 196 competitive and non-competitive papers, 100 competitive and non-competitive posters, and 27 exhibits were presented at the symposium.

Dr. James Walker, Jr., senior associate director, 1890 Research, greatly attributed to the success of the symposium. He served as chair of the ARD's Planning Committee and coordinated all events with the aid of Fort Valley State College, the host institution. Under his coordination, the Ninth Biennial Research Symposium became the largest attended symposium since its inception.

(excerpts from "Perspectives" South Carolina State University, Fall, 1992)

COSBAE: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Nominations Subcommittee is accepting nominations for: (1) 1993-94 Chairperson of the AAEA Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE) and (2) the Executive committee -- responsible for overseeing the affairs and activities of COSBAE. You may nominate yourself or others for these positions. Send names of nominees, position that you are nominating them for, their address and telephone number by May 14 to:

Adell Brown, Chair
Nominations Subcommittee
P. O. Box 10010
Southern University
Baton Rouge, LA 70813
Telephone: (504) 771-2242

For additional information contact Brown or any member of the

Nominations Subcommittee listed below.

Joyce Allen (University of Illinois, 217/244-2809); Donald McDowell (North Carolina A&T State University, 919/334-7054); and Lionel Williamson (University of Kentucky, 606/257-1637).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Elton R. Smith Chair
Michigan State University, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources invites applications and nominations for the Elton R. Smith Professor in Food and Agricultural Policy. The person holding this endowed chair will be tenured in the Department of Agriculture Economics as an associate or full professor. This individual should provide the qualities of leadership and breadth of vision that Elton R. Smith brought to Michigan and the nation as President of the Michigan Farm Bureau and Vice President of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Responsibilities of the successful candidate include:

- Conducting outstanding research on food and agricultural policies of importance to the state and nation in a global market context.
- Providing policy education leadership for undergraduate, graduate and extension programs.
- Encouraging and leading policy research and education efforts with colleagues across the College and University including raising extramural funds.

- Providing intellectual leadership in the state, national, and international policy processes while participating with farmers, agricultural organizations, state and federal governments, consumer groups, private sector firms, national and international organizations and others as appropriate.

Michigan State University is searching for an agricultural economist with a distinguished record of achievement, a multidisciplinary orientation, an understanding of political process, significant domestic and trade policy research, teaching and extension capabilities and a demonstrated commitment to the land grant philosophy.

The Department of Agricultural Economics has long had a strong tradition in farm, food and trade policy. Several faculty have a full-time focus in agricultural and trade policy, while many others have policy interest in food production and marketing, environment and food safety, rural economic development and local government, and international agricultural development. The Department has 35 faculty, over 80 graduate students, and 400 undergraduates. The Department has an excellent support staff and superior computing equipment for faculty, staff and graduate students.

Applications and nominations for the Elton R. Smith Endowed Chair in Food and Agricultural Policy will be received until March 31, 1993, or until a suitable candidate is identified. The position is available July 1, 1993. The position is 60% research, 20% extension, and 20% teaching. Applications, nominations, and inquiries about this position

be addressed to:

Dr. Larry G. Hamm, Chair
Department of Agricultural Economics
202 Agriculture Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1039
Phone: (517) 355-4567
FAX: (517) 336-1800

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD: THE FORUM ON BLACKS IN AGRICULTURE

The Forum, a USDA recognized employee organization based in Washington, D.C., annually awards a scholarship to a minority student attending a historically Black college or university. The student must be an undergraduate majoring in an agricultural/home economics related field. Deadline for applications is May 15, 1993.

For more information contact: Dean,
College of Agriculture and/or the
USDA Liaison at your institution or
you may contact:

Edgar Lewis, Chairman
FORUM Scholarship Committee
USDA/ACS
P. O. Box 96576
Washington, D.C. 20090-6576
(202) 690-3407

The 1992 award went to Mr. Anthony Hudson, a senior at Alabama A&M University, majoring in agribusiness education, with a 3.59 GPA.

DIRECTORY OF BLACK AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

The AAEA Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics is in the process of updating its Directory of Black Agricultural Economists. If you are not currently listed in the Directory but would like to be

included in the next edition, please complete the form enclosed in this newsletter. If you are listed in the directory and your entry needs to be updated (i.e., new address, title, telephone number, area of specialty, type of work) you need to complete the enclosed form also, to ensure that the information published is correct. The Committee encourages you to make copies of the form and distribute them to black agricultural economists who do not receive the NEWSLETTER.

NOTABLES

Donald Bellamy, formerly with the Economic Research Service, USDA, has taken a position with Agricultural Cooperative Service, USDA.

Adell Brown, Jr., Extension Economist, Southern University, was accepted into the National Extension Leadership Development (NELD) program. This program aim is to develop Extension's leadership for the 21st century. It is a two year program with a \$13,500 stipend. He was also appointed by the Governor of Louisiana to the Louisiana Task Force on African Trade and Development--a newly created task force to explore trade opportunities between black Louisiana businesses and Africa.

Ralph Christy is president of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association for 1993-94.

Carlton G. Davis, Distinguished Service Professor, University of Florida, returned to Florida in July 1992 after 18 months as Visiting Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, University of the West Indies (UWI), Trinidad. While at UWI he: (1) assisted in planning the 21st Conference of the Caribbean

INFORMATION FOR THE DIRECTORY OF BLACK AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

Name _____
Place of Employment _____
Position/Title _____
Office Address _____

Telephone: Office _____ Home _____
Mailing Address (if different from above) _____

Work Activities/Responsibilities in Current Position (Check as many as applicable):

Research	_____	Staff work	_____
Teaching	_____	Extension	_____
Administration	_____	Consulting	_____
Other (specify)	_____		

Area(s) of research interest:

Educational Background (list highest degree first):

Degree	Year	University	Major	Specialties
Received	Received			(see codes on p. 2)

Are you currently enrolled in school?

Yes _____ If so, Name of university _____
Major _____
Degree and date expected _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM BY May 30, 1993 AND MAIL TO:

DONALD R. MCDOWELL
P.O. BOX 21384
GREENSBORO, NC 27420

SUBJECT MATTER SPECIALIZATION CODES

8810 Farm Mgmt/Prod. Econ	8860 Agricultural Finance	8900 Consumer Econ
8811 Farm Production Econ	8861 Farm Financial Mgmt	8901 Consumer Demand
8812 Farm Mgmt.	8862 Farm Lending/Instt	8902 Consumer Educ
8813 Farm Accts/Recordkeep	8863 Financial Markets	8903 Consumer Regul/Prot
8814 Farm Firm Growth	8864 Macro-Econ Finance	8904 Consumer Finance
8820 Agricultural Marketing	8865 Farm Real Est/Val/Pric	
8821 Firm/Plant/Market Effic.	8866 Risk Mgmt	8910 General Econ
8822 Food Proc/Distrib	8867 Insurance	8911 Micro-Econ Theory
8823 Transport Loc/Storage	8868 Taxation	8912 Macro-Econ Theory
8824 Int'l Loc/Interreg Trad	8870 Natural Res/Env Econ	8913 Int'l Economics
8825 Market Regulation	8871 Water Resources	8914 Labor Economics
8826 Mkt Sys/Struc/Perform	8872 Forestry	8915 Industrial Economics
8827 Futures Markets	8873 Fisheries	8916 Institutional Econ
8828 Corp Organiz/Policy	8874 Recreation	8917 Welfare Economics
8829 Pricing Systems	8875 Land	8918 Int'l Trade Theory
	8876 Env/Chem-An Wast Mgt	8919 Reg Econ/Local Theory
	8877 Mineral Resources	8920 Decision Theory
	8878 Energy	
8830 Agbusiness Mgmt	8880 Community Res Econ	8930 Resrch Meth/Econometric/Stats
8831 Business Administration	8881 Commu Facil-Wtr/Sewr/With	8931 Econometric Meth
8832 Managerial Economics	8882 Employment	8932 Statistical Meth
8833 Finance/Acctg	8883 Housing	8933 Mathematical Meth
8834 Marketing/Advertising	8884 Regional Econ	8934 Syst Anlyz/Simulation
8835 Dec Anlyz/Risk Mgmt	8885 Land Use Zoning/Planning	8935 Data Collection
8836 Forecasting/Planning	8886 State/Local Govt Finance	8936 Resrch Meth/Philosophy
	8887 Industrialization	
	8888 Economic Planning	8940 Other Specialties
8840 Ag Price/Inc/Pol Anlyz	8890 Human Resource Economics	8941 Agr Animal Sci
8841 Commo Sup/Dem Anly	8891 Education	8942 Agr Plant Services
8842 Agr Situation/Outlook	8892 Health Services	8943 Sociology
8843 Agr Income/Expenses	8893 Poverty	8944 Political Sci
8844 Agr Policy Anlyz	8894 Welfare Program/Food Prog	8945 Law
8845 Agr Sect Perform Meas	8895 Employee Training/Dev	8946 Engineering
8846 Farm Structure	8896 Demography	8947 History
		8948 Research Mgmt
8850 Int'l Agr Trade/Dev		8949 Public Admin
8851 Trade Policy		
8852 Food Asslet Programs		8950 Other
8853 Technical Assistance		
8854 Commo Anlyz/Proj		
8855 Country/Regional Anly		
8856 Economic Growth/Dev		
8857 Agr Sector Anlyz		

Agro-Economic Society (CA-ES) in Belize, Central America, July 14-18, 1992. The conference theme was "Sustainable Agricultural Development in the Caribbean". (2) organized the joint meeting between the AAEEA/CA-ES to be held in Orlando, Florida, August 1-4, 1993.

Davis attended the Miami Conference on the Caribbean in December 1992. Conference participants had a satellite interactive session with then President-elect Clinton.

Alfred L. Parks was appointed Associate Director, "Cooperative Agricultural Research Center" at Prairie View A&M University.

Mark Wenner, formerly at ERS-USDA, is with ABT Associates, Inc., 4800 Montgomery Lane, Bethesda, MD 20818

The following individuals were among 1992 summer interns at the Economic Research Service, USDA, Washington, DC:

Gilda Alexander, Univ. of Florida
Harold Ballou, Univ. of Florida
Sean Chance, Univ. of Florida
Marva Corley, Howard University
Veronica French, Hampton University
Anna Jackson, Southern University
Traci Johnson, South Carolina State
Tarra Johnson, Florida A&M
Jeanine King, South Carolina State
Allen Malone, Prairie View A&M
Ryan Moorhart, South Carolina State
Lisa Moultrie, Ft. Valley State
Tonya Robinson, Southern University
Adrienne Smith, Kentucky State Univ.
Angela Stewart, Alcorn A&M Univ.
Anne Young, Spelman College

The Newsletter

The Newsletter is published by the Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics. Doris Newton is Editor.

Please send any articles, announcements, achievements, or comments for the Newsletter to:

Doris Newton
USDA-ERS
1301 New York Avenue, NW
Room 1140A
Washington, D.C. 20005-4788
(202) 219-0868

Deadline: materials for next issue - August 30, 1993

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Have you moved recently? If so, please contact Doris Newton, editor, by phone or address listed above in order that you may continue to receive the NEWSLETTER.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

COSBAE NEEDS YOU!! TO WORK ON A NEWSLETTER SUBCOMMITTEE.

The newsletter subcommittee would consist of the following positions.

Newsletter editor--responsible for getting information from "site representatives;" compiling and preparing materials for newsletter format; proofing finals and getting final copy to printer.

Site representatives--one person representing each of the following: 1890 and 1862 institutions, government, and private sector. Responsible for collecting information of interest to COSBAE membership and for forwarding materials to the editor.

Contact Doris Newton, address above.