

March 2007

American Agricultural Economics Association

# Extension Section Newsletter

<http://www.aaea.org/sections/extension/>

## 2007 AAEA Annual Meeting

Members of the AAEA Extension Section are looking forward to another successful annual meeting, to be held in Portland, Oregon, July 28-31. Once again we will sponsor an **Agricultural Study Tour** on Saturday (see related article). On Sunday at 2:30 pm the annual **Section Business Meeting** will be held, followed by the **Extension Section Reception**, generously hosted by the Center for Farm Financial Management (University of Minnesota) and the Farmdoc website (University of Illinois). On Tuesday the **Extension Luncheon** will feature Bob Stacey, Executive Director of 1,000 Friend of Oregon, as well as several Section awards.

The Extension Section will sponsor six **Organized Symposia** on Monday and Tuesday. Symposia titles are:

- Agricultural Policy Outlook
- Crops Outlook
- Livestock Outlook
- Measuring the Impact of Extension Economics Programming
- Outreach Efforts Focused on sustaining Small and Mid-sized Farms and Local food Systems (joint with COSBAE)
- Changing Dynamics in cooperative Extension and the role of Extension Economists: Change or Changed Agents?

In addition, the Extension Section will collaborate with the Economics, Statistics and Information Resources Committee (ISIRC) to present four 90-minute workshops to help agricultural economists improve their skills with computer analysis packages and data bases. Computers and Internet access will be supported by a grant from the AAEA Foundation.

## 2007 Extension Section Pre-Conference Study Tour of Oregon Ag

William Jaeger and Bart Eleveld of Oregon State University have volunteered to organize this year's tour. We will visit commercial farms and nurseries in the Willamette Valley, about an hour south of Portland, tour a farmers' market, and investigate field crops, hazelnut orchards, a commercial nursery, a vineyard and winery, and Stahlbush Island Farm (an innovative commercial operation focusing on sustainable agriculture with organic crops). At one stop we will hear about land use issues between commercial farming and sand and gravel mining in the area. Lunch and breaks will be provided.

Nestled between the Coastal and Cascade mountain ranges, the fertile region of Oregon's Willamette Valley has been a popular destination ever since the mid-1800s when settlers traveled the Oregon Trail looking for the "Promised Land." Farms generating some of the Northwest's best produce, wines and meats dot the countryside, leading to bustling metropolitan cities and leading research institutions.

From pine trees to grape vines, the Willamette Valley's vast landscape is one of the most diverse in all of the Northwest. The region is a mix of family-owned farms, historic communities and natural wonders. It has the distinction of being the birthplace of Oregon's world-class wines, and is home to breathtaking gardens, acres of wildflowers, delicious organic produce and vigorous hiking trails. The extraordinary beauty of the valley's natural environment makes the region one of the most popular and scenic areas in the state of Oregon.

### **2007 Extension Luncheon**

Our luncheon this year will feature **Bob Stacey, Executive Director of 1000 Friends of Oregon**, a 30-year old public interest group that promotes rational land use planning in Oregon. Their goals are to build livable urban and rural communities, protect family farms and forests, and conserve natural and scenic areas. He will compare the results of different land use policy approaches in Washington County, Oregon, and Clark County, Washington, two counties adjacent to the Portland metropolitan area.

### **AAEA Extension Award Winners**

Besides the outstanding individual program and individual awards presents by the general AAEA, the Extension Section will again recognize an outstanding extension web site. Detail will be forthcoming. A new award to be presented this year will go to one or more graduate students who develop a proposed extension/outreach program based on their thesis or dissertation research.

### **AAEA Executive Board Nominees**

A ballot for several new representatives to the Extension Section Executive Committee will be issued sometime in March. This year will choose a president-elect, representatives from the Northeast Region and the 1890s institutions, and one at-large representative. Watch for the ballot and exercise your right to vote!

Also on the ballot will be several proposed changes to the Extension Section by-laws. These changes were discussed and recommended at the annual Section business meeting at Long Beach.

## AAEA Extension Section Membership

Remember to check the box for Extension Section dues when you renew your AAEA membership. It could be the best \$10 you ever spent!

## 2006 - 2007 Extension Section Executive Committee

Your 2006-2007 Extension Section Executive Committee members are listed below. Feel free to contact any of them if you have questions or suggestions about AAEA Extension Section activities.

Office	Name	e-mail	Phone number
President	William Edwards	wedwards@iastate.edu	(515) 294 - 6161
Past President	Karen Klonsky	klonsky@primal.ucdavis.edu	(530) 752 - 3563
President Elect	Ken Bailey	<a href="mailto:baileyk@psu.edu">baileyk@psu.edu</a>	(814) 863 - 8649
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