Many thanks to all who made the Denver meeting a great success. Dawn Thilmany of Colorado State University put together a great pre-conference education tour. My concept of organics and the potential for organics was changed forever by this tour. The “Agritainment” farm gave all an opportunity to witness how profitable thinking outside the box can be. High mountain bulls, Harmony Market and the New Belgium Microbrewery gave those attending an opportunity to witness value added in action.

Thanks to Russ Tronstad for these tour pictures.

Forty-five Section members participated in the annual business meeting. A result of the meeting was the suggestion for the development of a Graduate Student Extension Award for the 2005 AAEA meetings. Guidelines for this award are being developed by a Committee consisting of Larry Sanders (Oklahoma State U. who suggested the award), Don Ricks (Michigan State University) and Margot Rudstrom (U. of Minnesota). A cash prize will be given to the student who best extends their thesis work to Extension/Outreach presentation and publication. Details on application and the competition will follow in future newsletters.

The business meeting was followed by an Extension Section Reception attended by about 80. The Center for Farm Financial Management (CFFM) was a co-sponsor of this event so please thank Kevin Klair and Bob Craven when you see them. Lowell Catlett gave the Extension Luncheon crowd of over 120 an entertaining as well as an informative talk about “Trends That Change Everything.” At the luncheon, the Award for best Extension website was presented by Ron Plain to Penn. State University. Alabama A&M received honorable mention. The seven symposiums held as part of the Extension Track were all well attended. Submitted symposium Powerpoints and papers will be listed on the Extension Section Website. This years Outstanding Price Forecaster Awards were presented to J. Walt Prevatt, Auburn U., for Livestock; James G. Robb, Livestock Marketing Info. Center for Poultry; Bill Brooks, Edairy Inc, for Dairy; Delton C. Gerloff,
This is the first annual call to submit proposals for Extension Section Track Organized Symposia to be presented at the 2005 AAEA meeting in Providence Rhode Island. Submitted proposals will be reviewed by the Section Board and four will be selected for presentation as part of the Extension Track. The deadline for submission is November 1, 2004. Presentations within a symposium must all pertain to a topic or relate to a theme. Examples (and these are only examples) of such symposium themes might be aquaculture/mariculture outlook; urban agriculture; urban/rural ag. issues; agricultural tourism; water quality/resource issues; how to value extension/outreach programs; outlook for the next farm bill; etc.. If a symposium is not accepted as part of the Track, submitters will be notified in time to submit their proposals to the general AAEA competition.

**Guidelines for Proposals:**
Symposium proposals must be Extension or Outreach related. Presentations within the symposium should relate information or educational products that Extension/Outreach specialists can use or will be of value to them in their own programs. Submit your proposal electronically by November 1, 2004 to Sam Funk at funk@agecon.ksu.edu in Word© or pdf format. Include:
- Title,
- Names of organizers with addresses, phone #’s, fax #’s, and e-mail.
- Short Abstract (50 words max including figures, tables) briefly summarizing the symposium,
- Extended Abstract (1300 words max including figures, tables) giving a detailed description of the symposium and the
- Moderator, speakers and the title of each speaker’s presentation.
A symposium is 90 minutes long. The last 30 minutes are usually reserved for discussion and audience participation.

**Call for 2005 AAEA Track Papers, Pre/Post Conferences**
The Denver meeting is over and now it’s time to think about Rhode Island 2005. The AAEA Executive Board is soliciting proposals for Principal Papers, as well as Pre and Post Conferences, for the Rhode Island meeting. The deadline for these proposals was announced in the July/Aug. AAEA newsletter as November 1. The Extension Section would be glad to support papers and Pre and Post Conference Proposals as part of the track. However, principal papers included in the track sessions must go through the AAEA principal papers competition. Also, Pre and Post Conferences must be approved by the AAEA. Contact Jim Novak at jnovak@acesag.auburn.edu if you have an interest in promoting your Principal Paper session or Pre/Post Conference as part of the Extension Section Track.
AAEA Executive Board and Foundation Board Nominees

Extension nominees are needed for the AAEA Presidency, the Executive Board and the Foundation Board by October 11, 2004. Two Executive Board and 2 Foundation Board directors are needed in 2005. If you or any of your colleagues are interested, please nominate them (or even yourself) for membership on the Boards. Nominees should be sent to the AAEA Interim Executive Director, Betty Eckebrecht (415 S. Duff Ave., Suite C, Ames, Iowa 50010-6600. E-mail: betty@aaea.org). We would like to see some good people as President or on these Boards who have an appreciation for Extension/Outreach work. We would also appreciate knowing about and potentially offering our support to these nominees. Please drop us an e-mail on your nominees (jnovak@aceag.auburn.edu) so that we can offer our support.

Extension Award Nominees Needed

Very few AAEA award nominees were put forward in 2004. We know that there are many worthy programs out there. Please consider nominating your colleagues or yourself for the AAEA Extension Award. AAEA will have an Extension Award for new Extension professionals (under 10 years experience) in 2005. Look for the guidelines on the Extension Award on the AAEA website and in the AAEA newsletter and consider applying or nominating your colleagues for these awards.

2005 AAEA Fellows

The Extension Section very much encourages and would like to support nominees for the 2005 Fellows Award. According to the AAEA guidelines the criteria for selection is “continuous contribution” to the advancement of agricultural economics in research, teaching, extension, administration or business and membership in the AAEA for 10 years. Continuous contribution in the Extension context means “leadership in the development of extension programs extensively utilized by other professionals.” In the context of business, government or NGO it means outstanding performance. Guidelines for submission are listed in the July/August AAEA newsletter. Deadline for submission is October 11, 2004.

Extension Section Website

Just a note to check out the Extension Section website at www.aaea.org/sections/Extension/index.html. The website contains this issue and past newsletters, information on the Section and some pictures.

Upcoming Events

National Public Policy Education Conf.: St. Louis, Sept 19-22 www.farmfoundation.org
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