

SS - AAEA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

Chapter Updates

Kansas State

Kansas State University Ag Econ Club took two trips in the past year. The first trip was to the Kansas State Capital to meet with the Secretary of Agriculture and several Senators to discuss current agricultural issues. We also visited northeast Arkansas to learn about some of the local ag corporations. One of the community service projects our club participated in was the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. We look forward to competing in Orlando at the quiz bowl competition.

Oklahoma State

Oklahoma State's chapter had an active year. The chapter welcomed new and returning members back to school at an annual cook-out in the fall. The club participated in the Into The Streets community service event in November. Members worked the men's basketball's concession game to raise money for the club. During the January meeting, the club had a panel of local farmers and ranchers. The February's meeting panel was graduates of the agricultural economics department who no longer worked in the agricultural industry. These speakers helped us to learn ways we can utilize our degrees. The quiz bowl team traveled to Dallas for SAES in February and they look forward to the AAEA meetings in July.

Purdue University

The Purdue University AAEA student chapter has been busy with the end of the semester approaching. We are about to host elections and we are planning final events. The chapter is preparing for the AAEA Conference in Orlando. The quiz bowl teams are organized and are practicing. Several individuals are completing research to present at the undergraduate paper competition.

Texas A&M

The Texas A&M Chapter had an active year. The chapter opened the semester with a public lecture about ag in Iraq. More than 250 students and community members attended. We invited the AAEA Chapter from Prairie View University (sister 1890 institution) to participate in the event. Members participated in the World Food Day teleconference after the event. The Vice-Chancellor for International Agriculture Program and Director of the Borlaugh Institute discussed U.S. efforts in developing the agriculture sector in Afghanistan. Two senior professors in the Department of Agricultural Economics discussed the cons in the job interviews and career opportunities in agribusiness. The chapter increased its community involvement and community service through the Big Event and a canned food and toy drive. We visited nearby high schools to educate them on global water problems within the United Nations Water Decade. We are now in a membership drive.

SAEA Competition

In February the SAEA Competition was held in Dallas, which featured 44 students from 11 schools. Students who participated in quiz bowl were divided into teams of three. This allowed the competitors to meet and to work with each other.

The students placing in the competition were:
1st : Alicia Taylor, Josh Thurman, and John Barreca
2nd : Alex Bynum, Sara Beth Waller, and Robert Withers
3rd : Kelly Braswell, Bryan McDuffie, and Katelyn Koontz

We thank Corey Miller of Mississippi State, Kurt Stevenson of Virginia Tech, Joey Melhourn of the University of Tennessee-Martin, Don Williams of West Texas A&M and Mikael Sandberg of the

University of Florida for their dedication and assistance in making this year's SAEA quiz bowl tournament successful.

Letter from the President

I hope this newsletter finds all of you nearing the end of a successful spring semester. Best of luck on exams and to those of you who are graduating, congratulations!

The 2008 AAEA Annual Meeting is quickly approaching. It's never too early to make travel accommodations. I cannot stress enough how many exciting attractions are in the area, so if you are able to spend some additional time before or after your trip, take advantage of what Orlando has to offer!

Please ensure that you are up to date on the changes we have made to the formatting and scheduling of this year's undergraduate competitions. Also, new this year, we welcome a Keynote Speaker to our business meeting. I think you will find the message and delivery of our notable guest to be both thought-provoking and entertaining.

This past February, I had the pleasure of attending the SAEA meetings in Dallas. I suppose I'm becoming more and more nostalgic as my participation in quiz bowl nears its end but I was impressed by the talent and enthusiasm of those in Dallas, especially newcomers to the event. I wish all of you nothing but success in the years to come.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns or if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you in Orlando!

Sincerely,
Alicia Taylor

Important Dates

May 15: Registration for Paper Competition, Academic Bowl Competition, Outstanding Chapter Award, and Creative Club Award.

Chapter Membership is past due (but late applications are accepted).

June 15: Papers for paper competition due.

AAEA Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL is July 27-29, 2008.

At The AAEA Meetings

Sunday, July 27, SS-AAEA Orientation and first three rounds of Bowl Competition.

Monday, July 28, remainder of bowl competition, final round at awards banquet 5 PM.

Tuesday morning, July 29, paper competition.

Tuesday, 4-6 PM, July 29, SS-AAEA Symposium, banquet, and SS-AAEA Business Meeting.

Additional Information

For additional information, e-mail or call SS-AAEA Senior Advisor, Bailey Norwood (email: bailey.norwood@gmail.com- phone: 405-744-9820)