April 2003

What's Happening In AERS

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Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Idaho

A note from Dr. Van Tassell

Spring is a time of renewal and change for everyone and AERS is not left out of the excitement. We are currently in the middle of a search for a new faculty member specializing in natural resource economics. We have several applicants and are excited to start the interview process sometime in April. Garth Taylor is chairing the search committee.

We are looking forward to finally moving into our renovated office space over the next couple of weeks. The main office will remain in Room 39 but several faculty will move into the newly renovated offices in the northeast corner of the Ag Science Building.

We have also received approval to implement our new undergraduate curriculum. The curriculum will be based on two managerial economics classes and will incorporate several one credit hour modular courses topped by a new capstone class. A number of new subjects, such as Personal Selling, will be added.

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Trips of Interest

January

Chris McIntosh and Jim Nelson attended the Ag Econ 404 trip to Boise, Idaho. The Ag Econ 404 trip exposes undergraduate students to the public policy process as it affects agriculture in the state of Idaho. Students met with Governor Kempthorne, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, various legislators, lobbyists, and government officials from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the USDA. Students attended committee meeting in the house and senate, as well as sessions of both chambers.

Lorie Higgins finished the fieldwork phase of the scoping process for the Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. Area Plan Revision project. Seventy individuals were interviewed in the Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce Counties. The final report summarizing the findings will be available the first week of April.

Lorie Higgins attended the workshop for the Extension Food and Nutrition Program Assistants. The workshop was held on January 30, 2003 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. This workshop, called "10 points in 60 seconds," focused on creating clear and compelling messages about organizations and issues.

J.D. Wulfhorst participated in a Writing Workshop in Arizona on January 3-6, 2003. The workshop was sponsored by the Community Forestry Research Fellowship Program, hosted by UC Berkeley, and funded by the Ford Foundation.

February

John Foltz attended the Idaho Cooperative Council Board meeting in Boise, Idaho on February 17-18, as an ex-officio member. He also helped the group host the FFA Leadership breakfast for members of the Idaho legislature and Idaho FFA members from around the state.

Chris McIntosh and Larry Van Tassell attended the Ag Summit meetings in Boise, ID from February 10-11, 2003.

Steve Cooke attended the annual meeting of rural development research committee (NE-1011) in Rio Rico, AZ on February 26.

Lorie Higgins attended the Idaho Weed Conference and Idaho Weed Control Superintendents Association on February 4-6, 2003. Lorie conducted professions development trainings.

Lorie Higgins attended Idaho Kids Count and the Idaho Community Count Conference, "Paring the Road to Community Change," in Boise on February 18-19, 2003.

J.D. Wulfhorst participated on the USDA-SBIR Rural Development Review Panel in Washington, D.C. on February 10-13, 2003.

March

John Foltz attended the Food and Agricultural Marketing Policy Section (FAMPS) of AAEA. His sessions included presentations and discussions on Country-of-Origin labeling (COOL). In addition John attended a conference with his graduate student, WakaWaka Ngatchou, who is analyzing Country-of-Origin issues between New Zealand and the U.S.

Lorie Higgins, Jim Nelson, and Priscilla Salant met with Idaho's economic development district directors in Twin Falls, Idaho on March 17, 2003. They presented UI CALS Community and Economic Development Extension programs.

J.D. Wulfhorst co-authored a paper entitled, "Indian Time: Cultural Considerations for Inclusive Social Science Research" with Janel Falk for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Salt Lake City, March 13-15, 2003.

Publications

Foltz, John, John Fulton, and Joan Fulton. "Managing Change," *Feed and Grain*. January 2003.

Foltz, John and Christine Wilson. "Keeping the Lid on Workers' Comp Costs." *Feed and Grain*. February/March 2003.

McIntosh, C.S. and P. Nolte. "Agricultural Statistics 101." *American Vegetable Grower*. 51:2 (February 2003) pages 30-31.

McIntosh, C.S. and P. Nolte. "Statistics Play a Significant Role in Decision Making Process." *The Spudvine: Idaho Grower News from the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System*. February 2003.

Eborn, B. and G. **Taylor**. "Trends in Idaho Crop and Livestock Cash Receipts, Farm Program Payments, and Farm Income." *Idaho Economics.* March 2003.

Rimbey, N. L.A. Torell, J.A. Tanaka, T. Darden, L. **Van Tassell**, and A. Harp. "Economic Impact of Changing Public Land Grazing Policies to Protect the Greater Sage Grouse: Evidence from Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon. *Idaho Economics.* March 2003.

Courses/Seminars

- **John Foltz** attended the Chaired Cooperative Leadership Seminar in Spokane, WA, on January 8-10, 2003. This was Dr. Foltz's 11th year heading up this program, which is a developmental and educational program for cooperative directors and managers in the Pacific Northwest. The target audience is agricultural co-ops in a six state region.

Presentations

Stephen Cooke presented a paper at the Western Regional Science Association entitled, "Understanding the Decline in Real Wages in the Rocky Mountains of the U.S. Between 1978 and 1988: A Test of the Power and Barrett Wages-Paid Hypothesis."

Larry Makus, while on sabbatical at WSU, presented a farm management short course at the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIIAME) from February 17-24, 2003 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Larry Makus presented two seminars in Almaty, Kazakhstan on February 19th and 20th, 2003 at Kazak State University and the Kazak Research Institute for Farming. Dr. Makus also visited with a group of private farmers near Alamty.

Neil Rimbey attended the New Mexico Section Society for Range Management Annual Meeting on January 22-23, 2003 in Albuquerque, NM. Neil gave a presentation called, "Sage Grouse Recovery: Estimating the Economic Impacts."

Neil Rimbey attended the Western Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting on March 9-13, 2003 in Poipu Beach, Koloa, HI. At the meeting, Mr. Rimbey gave a presentation entitled, "Estimating the Economic Impact of Leafy Spurge in Idaho."

Chris McIntosh presented "Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics," to the 35th Annual Idaho Seed Potato Growers seminar on January 21, 2003.

Larry Van Tassell was invited to present "Ranching on Public Lands: A Reasoned View" at the 18th Annual Arizona Agribusiness Forum in Tucson, AZ on March 7, 2003.

J.D. Wulfhorst presented a paper entitled, "Tribal Sovereignty, Injustice & America's Nuclear Waste," at the 2nd Annual Conference on Environmental Justice and Global Citizenship in Copenhagen, Denmark, February 13-15, 2003.

J.D. Wulfhorst presented preliminary results from a social survey conducted (jointly with Larry Van Tassell) with Kentucky bluegrass farmers in Idaho to the 2003 Annual Grower Meeting for Seeds, Inc., March 11th.

Noteworthy News

J.D. Wulfhorst was invited to join and participate as the lead evaluator on a new coordinating committee for the Idaho Aquifer Academy, a joint effort for education and outreach, between the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRI) and

the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL).

The Agribusiness Club held a successful Farm Toy Show and Sale at the Moscow Junior High School on March 8, 2003. This was the 6th annual event and was attended by numerous vendors and farm toy collectors from the region. The club uses the show and sale as a fundraiser to support club activities including field trips and scholarships.

We would like to announce our new Financial Technician, Michele Mattoon. Michele's first day in the department was March 24, 2003. We are happy to have her as a new addition to the Department.

Neil Rimbey is on sabbatical in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Neil arrived in Las Cruces on November 1st and will be returning to Caldwell on May 1st. He is working on a project dealing with hedonic modeling of ranch values in the west with his colleague at New Mexico State University, Dr. Allen Torell.

On February 10, 2003, **Lorie Higgins** facilitated a strategic planning session with the District 1 Extension.

February 19, 2003, **Lorie Higgins** conducted strategic planning training for small acreage landowners as part of the 2003 Small Acreage Landowner Enterprise Development Series.

Lorie Higgins attended the co-facilitated second regional economic summit-planning meeting in Lewiston, Idaho on March 24, 2003.
On January 13, 2003, **Lorie Higgins** met in Lewiston, Idaho and worked with a range of public and private sector community and economic groups. They are to begin planning a north-central Idaho and southeast Washington Economic Summit.

J.D. Wulfhorst obtained Affiliate Faculty status with the University of Montana. J.D. assisted a doctoral student in Forestry, with social science methods, on a research project focusing on grass banking in the West.

J.D. Wulfhorst guest lectured on the Snake River, Snake River Plain Aquifer, and Community Perceptions of contamination risk from radioactive wastes to the UI CORE class, "The New Wild West" (March 13) as well as a Sociology of Health course at the University of North Carolina (March 18).

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