

April 2004

What's Happening
In
AERS

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Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Idaho

A note from Dr. Van Tassell

Things have been running fairly smoothly in AERS so far this year. We have been enjoying biweekly discussions regarding our mission and the direction we want to go as a department. We hope to conclude those discussions with a three-day on-campus retreat after the semester breaks. We hope to emerge with a new strategic plan that incorporates some of the excellent direction given by our advisory board.

I would like to congratulate Chris McIntosh and John Foltz for their promotion to full professor and to Garth Taylor for his promotion to associate professor with tenure. I would also like to recognize Dennis Conley, a graduate of AERS and member of our Advisory Board, for being awarded the 2004 Potato Industry Honoree Award from the Washington State Potato Foundation.



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Trips of Interest



JANUARY

J.D. Wulfhorst attended the Quivira Coalition Meeting in Albuquerque, N.M. January 14-16, 2004.

Neil Rimbey met with personnel from Amalgamated Sugar Co. and U of I on a project dealing with the feasibility of producing and marketing pressed beet pulp as animal feed.

Neil Rimbey attended a Winter Beef School in Cambridge, ID and one in Jordan Valley, OR. Graduate Student



Bobbi Wilhelm presented information related to her research project on the economics of retained ownership of beef cattle at both schools.

Neil Rimbey traveled to Bruneau, Idaho to weigh and process A to Z Retained Ownership, Inc. cattle consigned to the retained ownership educational program for 2003-04. There are 271 head of cattle in the program this year from 17 Idaho ranches.

Neil Rimbey attended the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. During this meeting, he participated in a meeting of the Associate Editors of the Journal of Range Management. He also moderated the symposium, "The Changing Faces of Rangeland Users: Implications for Management and Rangeland Sustainability," and was coauthor on two presentations. He also served as a judge for the Graduate Student Presentations and Poster contests. Proceedings from this Symposium are available at www.ragelands.org.

Murat Isik and **Lorie Higgins** visited Boise, Idaho to meet with USDA and EPA watershed researchers.

FEBRUARY



J.D. Wulforst presented a paper "Shadows of Secrecy and the Nuclear Power Renaissance" at the 3rd annual Global Conference on Ecological Justice and Global Citizenship in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Stephen Cooke travelled to Boise to present "Expanding the Sales Tax Base: Effects on Idaho's Economy in 2000" to the Idaho Senate Local Government Taxation Center.



J.D. Wulforst and **Neil Rimbey** presented "Owyhee County Economic and Social Setting" during public meetings in Marsing and Bruneau, ID and Jordan Valley, OR.

Neil Rimbey attended the Mid-Year meeting of A to Z Retained Ownership, Inc. in Bruneau and Grand View, ID.

J.D. Wulforst and **Neil Rimbey** presented material on the social and economic assessment of Owyhee County to the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association Winter Meeting in Oreana, ID.

MARCH



Stephen Cooke attended the Southern Regional Science Association meetings in New Orleans for a discussant on the paper "The New Geography of Welfare Policy in the U.W." by Scott Allard.

Foltz, John went to Anchorage, Alaska to work with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation to create a regional cooperative to manage local village drinking and waste water systems in southwestern Alaska.

Murat Isik attended the Western Regional Workshop on USDA/CSREES Competitive Grants in Reno, Nevada.

Jim Nelson went to Pocatello to meet with the director of the Museum of Idaho and discuss impacts of the museum on the Pocatello economy and the potential of conducting a study of the impacts of the Pocatello Cultural District (Museum of Idaho, Art Museum, Center for the Arts) on the local economy.

Jim Nelson traveled to Lava Hot Springs, Idaho to work with community leaders, entrepreneurs, and personnel from the Department of Water Resources to collect data for an analysis of potential economic impacts on the community from enclosing the local swimming pool (heated from natural hot springs) so the pool could be kept open year round. An increase in "off-season tourism would be expected.



Neil Rimbey visited Twin Falls for strategic planning with the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission.

Neil Rimbey traveled to Ledor, Salmon and Challis to interview ranchers on the A to Z Project and to give a presentation at the Challis Experimental Stewardship Program (Owyhee County Social and Economic Situation).

J.D. Wulfhorst attended the 46th annual meeting of the Idaho Academy of Science in Pocatello.



Publications



Isik, M. 2004. "Does Uncertainty Affect the Divergence between WTP and WTA Measures?" *Economics Bulletin*, 4(1)(2004): 1-7.

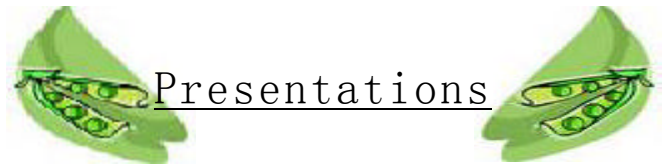
Isik, M. 2004. "Incentives for Technology Adoption under Environmental Policy Uncertainty: Implications for Green Payment Programs." *Environmental and Resource Economics*, 27 (March 2004): 247-263.

Isik, M. 2004. "Risk Aversion, Proportional Profit Taxes and Input Demands under Uncertainty" *Risk, Decision and Policy*, 9 (January-April):1-7.

Foltz, John and Christine Wilson. 2004. "Cultivating Innovation." *Feed and Grain Magazine*, January.

Jones, James R., S. Beckmez, and L Stodick. 2003. "A Horizontal/ Vertical/ Equity Analysis of conversion of Idaho's Tax on Heavy Trucks." *Northwest Journal of Business and Economics*, 1-14.

Wulfhorst, J.D. "America's Nuclear Waste: Tribal Sovereignty, Injustice, and Technological Conflict," in a book with coeditor Anne Haugestad of Norway.



J.D. Wulfhorst, Neil Rimbey and Tim Darden presented "Rattlesnakes, Cattle, and Sagebrush—Sociology in Owyhee County." at the Society for Range Management annual meeting in January, Salt Lake City, Utah.

J.D. Wulfhorst presented "Regional Comparisons of Kentucky Bluegrass Farmers' Perceptions in Idaho" at the annual meeting of the Nez Perce Prairie Grass Growers Association in Greencreek, ID in January.

Lorie Higgins and **J. D. Wulfhorst** did a joint guest lecture for Matt Carroll's (a Rural Sociologist at WSU) Environmental Ethics course.

Neil Rimbey and G. Shewmaker presented "Adjusting Forage Value for Moisture Content" at the Idaho Alfalfa and Forage Conference. Proceeding available through UI Twin Falls R&E Center.

Tanaka, J., **N. Rimbey**, L.A. Torell, "New Faces: What Does it Mean for Sustainable Rangeland Management? Presented at the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 2004.

Torell, L.A., **N. Rimbey**, O. Ramirez and D. McCollum, "New Faces and the Changing Market Value of Western Ranches." Presented at the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, Utah, January.

Wilhelm, B., **N. Rimbey**, J. Church, W. Cook, B. Glaze, **W. Gray**, J. Hawkings, S. Jensen, G. Keetch, P. Momont, E. Morrison, S. Williams. "A to Z Retained Ownership, Inc." Legislative Poster Session, January, Boise, Idaho.

Jim Nelson made a presentation at a Canyon County workshop on farmland preservation on the value of Canyon County farmland to the local economy.





Courses/Seminars



John Foltz led a field trip to Primeland Cooperatives for Ag Econ 478 - Advanced Agribusiness Management. The class will be working on a project with this regional agribusiness.

Steve Cooke presented the poster, "Expanding the Sales Tax base: Effects on Idaho's Economy in 2000" at the CES poster session in the Statehouse Rotunda, Boise.



Noteworthy News



Stephen Cooke attended the Annual Meeting of NE-1011 multistate research project on rural development in New Orleans.

John Foltz was recently elected vice president of the newly formed University of Idaho Academic Advising Association (UI ACADA), a group dedicated to increasing advising effectiveness and raising recognition of student advising.

The 2003 Crop Costs and Returns Estimates are now available on the AERS website at http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/aers/r_crops.htm



Awards



John Foltz received the Silver Beaver Award from the Inland Northwest Council, Boy Scouts of America. This is the highest award a BSA Council can confer upon an adult volunteer.

John Foltz received the Award for Faculty Excellence from the University of Idaho Alumni Association.

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