

What's Happening in AERS

Department of Agricultural
Economics and Rural
Sociology

University of Idaho

April 2007
Volume 7, Issue 1

A Note from Dr. Van Tassell



As most of you are aware, we lost a dear friend and colleague with the passing of Jim Nelson last December. I personally will miss his friendship and counsel, along with his distinctive laugh.

As with most departments in the college, things seem to continually be changing. We are trying to bring our faculty Agribusiness position hire to a closure and have recently received approval to begin a search to fill the Community Development position the was vacated with the death of Dr. James Nelson and to fill a faculty position in natural resources. We also are awaiting approval by the State Board of Education for a new position in bioregional planning.

Best wishes to everyone as we continue on the path of a momentous 2007!

Did you hear?

We will be cooperatively teaching M.S. classes with the School of Economic Sciences at WSU to expand curriculum at both universities and save teaching resources. As WSU has done, we are re-naming our M.S. degree to **Applied Economics**—reflecting broader career fields in our discipline. As an option, three emphasis areas may be selected to indicate research context: Agricultural Economics; Natural Resources; Agribusiness. Changes take effect Summer 2007.



Janis T. Steffens

joined the department last December as our Administrative Assistant 1. She came to us from the 6th Street Marketplace coffee house across the street. She has been living on the Palouse since 1991 and is a WSU graduate. Janis has energetically undertaken the position, including our website. Welcome abroad, Janis!



Leroy Stoddick,

Quantitative Analyst, retired this March after nearly 27 years service with the university. Over his tenure, Leroy assisted many faculty in developing several economic optimization and computer programming models.

The assistance he provided to faculty and students alike will definitely be missed. We wish you a wonderful time in this next phase of your life, Leroy!

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Publications

Yuliya Bolotova, John M. Connor, and Douglas J. Miller. "Factors Influencing the Magnitude of Cartel Overcharges: An Empirical Analysis of Food Industry Cartels," *Agribusiness: An International Journal*, Vol. 23, Issue 1, Winter 2007: 17-33.

Ben Eborn, **Paul Patterson** and **Garth Taylor**. The Financial Condition of Idaho Agriculture: 2006 projections. Moscow, ID: University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Juliet Windes, **Paul Patterson**, Bryan Hopkins, Jason Ellsworth, Brad Brown, Kelly Olson, and Patricia Dailey. Saving Energy and Fertilizer Costs: Best Management Practices for Southern Idaho Grain Producers. CIS No.1172. Moscow, ID: University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System. (2007)

John Holman, Carl Hunt, Jodi Johnson-Maynard, **Larry Van Tassell**, Donn Thill. 2007. Livestock use as a non-thermal residue management practice in Kentucky bluegrass seed production systems. *Agronomy Journal*. 99(1):203-210.



Activities of Interest



Chris McIntosh and **Steve Cooke** took the AgEc 410 UI agriculture students (18) to Boise as part of the "Experiencing the Idaho Public Policy Making Process" sponsored by the Food Producers of Idaho. Students met with legislators, attorney

general **Laurence Wasden** (photo to left, front and center), secretary of state **Ben Ysursa**, newly confirmed director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture **Celia Gould**, agriculture lobbyists, and legislative committees, including the Joint Finance and Appropriation committee. Students were present for Dean Hammel's presentations to JFAC and the Food Producers of Idaho. **Pictured: House of Revenue and Tax Commission Room: Will Farris, Dan Moore, Cody Coates, Monica Klein, Connie Klein, Rebecca Fielding, Steele Brown, Wyatt Prescott, Devin Fielding.** (Also attending: Drew Brammer, Jesi Brock, Joe Limbaugh, Tim Topliff, Zack Zumstein, Adam and Dallin Carter, Laura and Bob Gourley.)



To U of I Ag Econ students with Best Wishes!

*Public Policy Legislative Tour
January 23, 2007*



*Laurence Wasden
Attorney General*

Laurence Wasden and AgEc 410 Students



Awards

Neil Rimbey received the Idaho Section Society for Range Management President's Award, January 17, Boise, ID.

On February 20, **Neil Rimbey** received an Award for Continuous 10 Year Membership in the LIA Foundation, Leadership Idaho Agriculture.

CALS Awards



Annually, the College acknowledges the efforts of its many people through an awards process. Units select students, staff, and faculty for outstanding service. Join us in congratulating the achievements of everyone nominated. Our nominees are:

Joe Guenther, R.M. Wade Excellence in Teaching.

Larry Makus, Outstanding Academic Advisor.

Michele Mattoon, Management Support Staff.

William Brewer, Capital Press Outstanding Freshman in Agriculture.

Lindy Black, Outstanding Sophomore.

Danielle Breeding, Capital Press Outstanding Junior in Agriculture.

Natalie Delano, Outstanding Senior.

Presentations

January

At the University of Idaho Potato Conference, Pocatello, ID, January 17, 2007, **Paul Patterson** presented:

- Potato Storage Economics: How Much Does It Cost?
- Equipment Economics: Can You Optimize Your Investment?
- Calculating Production Costs.
- Organic Potatoes: Pest and Crop Management Workshop.

Jan Boll, Erin Brooks, Kzrysztof Ostrowski, Brian Crabtree, Jeremy Newson, **JD Wulfhorst**, **Larry Van Tassell**, **Naga Srinivasa Tosakana**, Robert Mahler, Tom Lamar, Greg Fizell, David Vollmer. "Evaluation of Conservation Practices: Interdisciplinary Analyses & Modeling." Presented at the USDA/CSREES National Water Conference, Savannah, GA, January 28-31, 2007.

Steve Cooke gave a presentation to the Economic Outlook and Revenue Assessment Committee of the Legislature on the amount of General Fund Revenue predicted for FY08, January 5, 2007.

Neil Rimbey presented the following:

Intermountain Cow Symposium, "A to Z Retained Ownership, Inc.: Lessons Learned and Opportunities for the Future." Twin Falls, ID, January 4, 2007.

Winter Beef School, "Cattle Feeding Economics: Recent Developments and Future Implications." Cambridge, ID, January 18, 2007.

Gem County Beef School, "Cattle Feeding Economics: Recent Developments and Future Implications." Emmett, ID, January 22, 2007.

Owyhee County Beef School, "Cattle Feeding Economics: Recent Developments and Future Implications." Bruneau, ID, January 23, 2007.

Owyhee/Malheur Beef School, "Cattle Feeding Economics: Recent Developments and Future Implications." Jordan Valley, OR, January 24, 2007.



Canyon County Beef School, "Cattle Feeding Economics: Recent Developments and Future Implications." Caldwell, ID, January 25, 2007.

Lemhi County Beef School, "Cattle Feeding Economics: Recent Developments and Future Implications." Salmon, ID, January 30, 2007.

February

At the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting in Reno, NV, February 11-16, 2007, L.A. Torell, **Neil Rimbey** and J.A. Tanaka presented, "Grazing Permit Value (2007)," and **Neil Rimbey** presented, "Idaho State Land Grazing Lease Rates: How are They Derived and is the System Working?" (2007).

February 26-27 at the Idaho Alfalfa and Forage Conference in Twin Falls, ID, **Neil Rimbey** presented, "Pricing of Alfalfa Hay and Forage."

March

March 19-21, 2007, **Joe Guenther** gave an invited presentation, "Acceptance of Biotechnology," at the Basics of Biotechnology Conference, sponsored by Michigan State University, USDA FAS and the Egyptian Agricultural Genetic Engineering Research Institute, in Cairo, Egypt.

March 13, 2007, **Paul Patterson** presented "U.S. Ethanol Production – Impacts on Feed Prices" at the 2007 Southeast Idaho Forage School in Preston, ID.

Meetings/Trips



January

Paul Patterson attended the Western Farm Management Extension Committee Annual Meeting, Kona, HI, January 10-12.

January 16-18, **Larry Van Tassell** attended the 2007 UI Potato Conference in Pocatello, ID.

Larry Van Tassell attended the USDA/CSREES National Water Conference to report on grant progress, January 29-31.

Neil Rimbey attended:

Annual Meeting of W1192 and New Mexico Society for Range Management, January 8-11, Albuquerque, NM.

Idaho Section Society for Range Management in Boise, ID, January 17.

Weiser River Cattlemen's Meeting and Beef School in Cambridge, ID, January 18.

Gem County Beef School on January 22, Emmett, ID.

Owyhee County Beef School, January 23, Bruneau, ID.

Owyhee/Malheur Beef School, January 24, Jordan Valley, OR.

Canyon County Beef School, January 25, Caldwell, ID.

Burger Tract Planning Meeting in Twin Falls, ID, on January 29.

Challis Stewardship and Lemhi County Beef School, January 30, Challis and Salmon, ID.

Jarbidge Area BLM Data Fair in Twin Falls, ID, on January 31.

February

Yuliya Bolotova attended the Agricultural Summit in Boise, ID, on February 20-21.

Neil Rimbey attended the Jarbidge RMP Planning Meeting in Boise, ID, February 8.

Neil Rimbey attended the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, February 11-16, Reno, NV.



February 26-27, **Neil Rimbey** attended the Idaho Alfalfa and Forage Conference at Twin Falls, ID.

March

Joe Guenther participated at the Agricultural Biotechnology Conference in Cairo, Egypt, March 17-22.

March 1, **Neil Rimbey** met with **Lorie Higgins** and Janie Burns, in Caldwell, ID,

Neil Rimbey met with Idaho Woolgrowers, US Forest Service, congressional representatives, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Office of Species Conservation, Boise, ID, on March 15.

Neil Rimbey participated in Anna Davis Retirement festivities, Caldwell, ID, on March 17.

Neil Rimbey and toured ranch with wildlife marketing alternatives in Meridian, ID, on March 20.

*May Graduates

B.S. Agribusiness Majors

Jessica Bennett	Brian Jemmett
Cody Coates	Ryan John
Natalie Delano	Kelly McDaniel
Bryce Dorsing	Daniel Moore
William Farris	David Norton
Karla Hatfield	Timothy Toppliff

M.S. Agricultural Economics Majors

Arun Adhikari	Nick Fullmer
Rajendra Anjanappa	Robert Hale
Lorea Barron	Elhadji Laouan Sidi
Bharathkumar Kulandaisamy	



Jim Nelson's presence is deeply missed and we are often reminded of his excellence and cheer. His legacy continues through the impact his life has made on agriculture in so many ways. If you would like to contribute to the James Nelson Endowment, please send your donation to:

Gift Administration Office
PO Box 3147
Moscow, ID 83844-3147

**Department of Agricultural
Economics and Rural Sociology
of Idaho**

PO Box 442334
Moscow, ID 83844-2334
Phone 208-885-6264
Fax 208-885-5759



If you have information you would like to include in our next newsletter please contact the editor, Victoria Seever at the address to the left, or

vaseever@uidaho.edu

We're on the web:

www.ag.uidaho.edu/aers

Noteworthy News

The Agribusiness Club

The Agribusiness Club has been busy planning its spring activities, including a field trip to the Boise valley and the annual Agribusiness Golf Tournament. After much deliberation, the Agribusiness Club has decided to discontinue the Farm Toy show as a fundraiser. The amount of time to schedule, conduct, and arrange a location for this event just outgrew the Club's capability. Plans are to replace the Farm Toy Show with an Agribusiness community pancake feed next spring as a way for the Club to become more involved in the community's agribusiness sector. Talia Blair from the Vandal Solutions program and Phil Kaufman from Monsanto Seed were guest speakers for spring meetings.

This article by **Larry Makus**, Club Advisor.

Horizons

Horizons II, a community leadership program funded by the Northwest Area Foundation with an emphasis on poverty reduction, continues in 14 northern Idaho communities. **Mary Schmidt** serves as Project Director, with co-principal investigator, **Priscilla Salant**, and program manager, **Debbie Gray**.

Recently, more than 500 community members participated in Study Circles, which provides an opportunity for community members to talk about and explore ways to address critical issues in their communities. Focusing on "Thriving Communities: Working Together to Move from Poverty Prosperity for All," they discussed how poverty is more than just economics, what it looks like in their community, and why it exists. In the next 3 months, communities will participate in LeadershipPlenty®, a leadership development curriculum from the Pew Partnership for Civic Change.

This article by **Debbie Gray**, program manager.

(See the College foyer display, showcasing Horizons II)