January, 2001

# What's Happening In AERS

Volume 1, Issue 1

**Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Idaho**

## Welcome

We have had several requests from individuals who are interested in finding out what is happening in AERS. We decided to respond to these requests by distributing a quarterly newsletter to inform our neighbors in the college and industry of our successes and challenges. Our intent is to keep you updated so if there is something we are doing that pertains to your area of interest you can give us a call and find our more about it. We also plan on publishing a yearly newsletter that will have a wider distribution and will be targeted more to alumni and friends. If you know of someone who you think will benefit by receiving this quarterly newsletter, please give us a call and we will add them to our email list. We hope you will find these newsletters informative and timely.

Best wishes on a successful 2001,

Larry Van Tassell

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## New to Our Department

We have a few new additions to our department!

*Dr. Ahamed Gheidi* is a visiting scholar from Saskatchewan who will be working with Dr. Jones. Dr. Gheidi received his MS in this department in 1980 and his PhD from Saskatchewan University. He was serving as Dean in the College of Agriculture at the University of Zanjan in Iran before coming to the University of Idaho for his sabbatical. He and Dr. Jones will be studying the effects of Iran moving towards greater trade liberalization on its domestic economy and its role in the world agricultural economy.

*Dr. Salahattin Bekmez* will be joining the department in January as a Post Doctoral Research Associate. He will be working with Dr. Jones on a study contracted to the NIATT by the Idaho Transportation Department. They will be looking at changes in Idaho's truck tax system. Dr. Bekmez received an undergraduate degree in Turkey and finished his MS and PhD degrees at Louisiana State University.

*Nancy Taylor* is working part-time on a tri-state grant project called: Understanding, Evaluating and Improving Direct Marketing Systems of Small Farms. This is a four-year project with Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Nancy is working for the University of Idaho in collaboration with a local non-profit group called Rural Roots on the grant project. Nancy earned a

double B.S. degree in Business Administration and Economics, and Art from Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1989 she received her M.A. in Art from the University of Idaho. Nancy worked for the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute as the Sustainable Agriculture Director for seven years. Since that time she has worked for Washington and Idaho State Departments of Agriculture as an Organic Inspector.

*Priscilla Salant* joined AERS in September as an Adjunct Assistant Professor. She works in the areas of rural and regional development. Her current projects include an assessment of the Ford Foundation's Rural Community College Initiative and research on low-income women in the northeastern U.S. In February, she will begin work on an social and economic indicators system for the Northwest Area Foundation. Priscilla received a B.A. in Economics from the University of California-Berkeley, and an M.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Arizona.

## Awards

Congratulations! A few members of our department are recognized for their efforts with the following awards:

- John Foltz- Elected to Idaho Cooperative Council Hall of Fame, Idaho Cooperative Council, November 20, 2000

- John Foltz- Award for Faculty Excellence, University of Idaho Alumni Association, November 30, 2000

- Neil Meyer- Gem Citizens Award from the Idaho Rural Partnership, December 2000.

- James Nelson- Award for Faculty Excellence, University of Idaho Alumni Association, 2001.

## Upcoming Events!

- AERS Faculty Retreat, January 29-30, SUB Gold Galena Room, 8:00a-5:00p.
- The department's Social Science Research Unit (SSRU) will be breaking new ground in January and February with a new technology: Interactive Voice Response (IVR). As part of a subcontract recently received from the Department of Health & Welfare, SSRU will be administering a long-term study using the new IVR system on a project related to assessment of substance abuse treatment programs in Idaho.
- Agribusiness Club's Farm Toy Buy, Sell and Trade Show will be held Saturday, March 3, 2001 from 9:00a to 3:00p at the Moscow Junior High School.
- The Agribusiness Club Regional Quiz Bowl competition will be held at WSU on March 10, 2001.
- Agribusiness Club's annual Agribusiness Golf Tournament will be held in mid-April, a date has not yet been set.
- February 2-3, technical committee review of a potential project for the Policy Analysis center on Western Public Lands will be held at The University Inn, Reno, NV.
- February 8, the mid-year review of A to Z Retained Ownership, Inc. will be held at 10:30am at the Bruneau Cattle Co. feedlot in Bruneau. Lunch and an educational meeting will follow at the Elks Lodge in Mountain Home.
- February 15, the quarterly meeting of the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission will be held in Twin Falls.
- February 17-23, the Society for Range Management Annual meeting will be held in Kona, Hawaii.

## Trips of Interest

### September, 2000

Joe Guenthner attended the World Potato Congress (WPC) in Amsterdam, Holland. The WPC is held every three years and has more then 700 people from 51 different countries in attendance. The WPC Board asked Joe Guenthner to chair a US proposal to host the event in 2006.

Larry Van Tassell presented a seminar to faculty at Washington State University on Using

Scenario Analysis to Forecast the Use of Public Lands for Livestock Grazing.

## October, 2000

Larry Makus, who is on the Coordinating Committee at WSU traveled to Richland, WA for a meeting at Tri-State Ag. Distance Delivery Alliance (TADDA).

Joe Guenthner attended the Rural Community College Initiative's annual institute in North Carolina.

Neil Meyer attended the Implan Conference in Fort Collins, CO to present a paper on the use of model to evaluate economic effects of national natural resource policies on Valley County.

Neil Rimbey and Larry Van Tassell attended a regional range research meeting in Rapid City, SD and presented research on Grazing on Public Lands in the 21st Century.

Larry Van Tassell was invited to Washington D.C. to testify before a Senate Committee on the impacts of USFS policy decisions on the ranching industry.

## November, 2000

John Foltz attended the Idaho Co-op Council's annual meeting where he made the presentation "Measuring the Health of Your Co-op".

J.D. Wulfhorst attended Henry's Fork Watershed Symposium in Rexburg, the Research Planning with INEEL Collaborators in Idaho Falls, and a mini-extension conference where he made a presentation with Neil Meyer and Garth Taylor.

## December, 2000

Priscilla Salant visited five community colleges in five states (Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky, North Dakota, and South Dakota). While in Texas she attended a meeting of the Advisory Panel on the Rural Community College Initiative.

Larry Makus and Larry Van Tassell attended another TADDA meeting with Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Science department heads for U of I, OSU, and WSU in Pendleton, Oregon.

## January, 2001

Neil Rimbey was in Albuquerque, NM for several meetings January 8-12. He attended the Western Regional Research Project W192, Governing Board, Policy Analysis Center for Western Public Lands, and the New Mexico Section of the Society for Range Management meetings. He also presented a paper on the Policy Analysis Center for Western Public Lands.

## Publications

- Devadoss, Stephen and Lanclos, Kent, "Trade in Imperfectly Competitive Industries: The Role of Market Size and Consumer Preferences", *Applied Economics,* October 2000, 32:1189-1200.

- Dearien, Christy, and Salant, Priscilla, "A Local Government Guide to the Internet: Online Resources for Communities", TVA Rural Press, December 2000.

- Akridge, Jay, and Foltz, John, "ISO/HAACP Plans for Working with Your Clientele", *Feed and Grain Magazine*, Oct/Nov, 2000.

- Schumaker, Sarah, and Nelson, James R., "Utilization of Land Prices and Income Multipliers to Evaluate Nonagricultural Pressures on Farmland in Canyon County, Idaho." A.E. Research Series No. 01-01, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Idaho, Moscow, January 2001.

- Nelson, James R., et al. "Economic Contributions of Colleges and Universities to State and Local Economies – Don't Ignore the

Value of Education", accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Economics Association, Forth Worth, Texas, March 2001.

- Meyer, Neil. "The Valley County Economy, A Regional Input/Output Model", AEE 00-9, University of Idaho, Moscow.

- Meyer, Neil. "A Social Assessment of Valley County". AEE 00-13, University of Idaho, Moscow.

- Meyer, Neil. Contribution of Recreation to Valley County Economy", AEE 00-14, University of Idaho, Moscow.

## Courses/Seminars

- "Measuring the Health of Your Co-op", presented by John Foltz at the Idaho Co-op Council.
- John Foltz presented "Development and Use of Case Studies" at the Western Region Teaching Symposium this fall.
- "The Importance of Agriculture and Agribusiness in Idaho", presented by John Foltz at the Palouse Sunrisers Kiwanis Club
- Larry Makus presented a seminar on Grain Market Outlook to the Nez Perce County Grain Growers meeting.
- Dr. Jones' Ag Econ 481 course will be taught under the new title "Agricultural Markets in a Global Economy" with revised content.

## Noteworthy Etc., Etc., Etc.

❖ Jim Nelson is serving on the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers*, 2000-present.

❖ John Foltz' youngest sun James received his Eagle Scout award at a Court of Honor on November 17, 2000.

❖ James Nelson has a contract for $98,000 with Idaho Transportation Department to conduct a study of proximity damage to property owners from construction and improvement of roads and highways, 2000.

❖ J.D. Wulfhorst continued work on the Integrative Management Project in Lake Creer Watershed.

❖ J.D. also published a fall newsletter for the Natural Resources Research Group with the Rural Sociological Society.

**Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Department**
**University of Idaho**
**P.O. Box 442334**
**Moscow, ID 83844-2334**
**(208) 885-7635**
**Fax (208) 885-5759**

If you have information you would like to have put into our next newsletter please contact the editor Noél Gray at:
P.O. Box 442334
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83844-2334
(208) 885-6262
ngray@uidaho.edu