July 2003

What's Happening In AERS

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Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Idaho

A note from Dr. Van Tassell

We are finally getting settled into our newly renovated facilities, with most everyone moving to a different office. As part of our upgrade, we added a new "Smart Board" to our refurbished seminar room (see picture on back page). This will allow for easy interaction with the internet and computer applications in a group setting.

We were also able to conduct a successful search for a new faculty member in natural resource economics. Murat Isik has recently been hired and will join the department August 15, 2003. Murat received his PhD at the University of Illinois and is currently working as a research scientist for the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development at Iowa State University. Murat is from Turkey and will have a 75% research and 25% teaching appointment.

We hope everyone has a relaxing and productive summer—assuming those words are not antonyms for you.

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Trips of Interest

April

Neil Rimbey met with the Oregon State University faculty at Union, Oregon on April 29, 2003. He was looking at collaboration on possible research/extension programs and funding sources.

Priscilla Salant traveled to Dallas, Texas on April 26-27, 2003 to attend the 2003 Annual Conference of the Council on Foundations.

Wilson Gray attended the Cornell Program on Dairy Policy from April 22-24, 2003 in Memphis, Tennessee.

J.D. Wulfhorst organized and hosted a CORE Curriculum Service-Learning trip to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. A group of faculty and students helped plant over 500 trees as part of a local restoration project, as well as learned about CTUIR history, culture, and government.

May

John Foltz presented a session at the Western Agricultural Banking School held at Washington State University on May 20, 2003. The session was entitled, "Agricultural Marketing Alternatives and Strategies."

Sandra Cann and Barbara Foltz traveled to Nashville, Tennessee on May 17-21, 2003 to attend the Field Directors and Technologies Conference.

Joe Guenthner made a workshop presentation titled, "*Biotechnology Acceptance,*" at the Agricultural Biotechnology Short Course held May 4-16, 2003 in East Lansing, Michigan. The course was sponsored by Michigan State University and the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). The 31 attendees were all from Africa.

Joe Guenthner went down under to Mollybrook, Australia on May 19-21, 2003, to facilitate a strategic planning session for Technico, an Australian biotechnology company. Technico is a global firm that owns patented seed potato technology.

Wilson Gray traveled to Boise, Idaho on May 13-15, 2003 attending the COIN annual meeting.

In May, J.D.Wulfhorst completed an 8-week Service-Learning Seminar with other UI faculty and staff.

June

Priscilla Salant traveled to Inverness, Scotland, June 22-27, 2003 attending the Rural Network conference as part of a project for the Northwest Area Foundation.

Wilson Gray traveled to Kansas City on June 16-18, 2003 attending the Livestock Marketing Information Center TAC meeting.

Larry Makus attended and presented a paper entitled, "The United States as an Economic Participant in the World Wheat Production and Trade," at the 1st Central Asian Wheat Conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan from June 10-13, 2003. **Dr. Makus** then spent the week of June 16-20 in Astana and Petropovlovsk in northern Kazakhstan working on an FAO project focusing on an economic analysis of no-till production practices for spring wheat.

Publications

Foltz, John and Jay Akridge. "A Spring Tune-up for Your Business." *Feed and Grain,* April/May 2003.

Patterson, Paul, Bryan Hopkins and Jason Ellsworth. "Skyrocketing Nitrogen Prices and Potato Production." *May 2003 Potato Growers of Idaho: U of I Column.* April 2003.

Patterson, Paul, Mikkelsen, R.L., A.M. Johnston and N.W. Christensen. "Optimizing Nitrogen Fertilizer Applications for Potatoes and White Winter Wheat." *Potash and Phosphate Institute.* April 2003.

Patterson, Paul, William H. Bohl, and Stephen L. Love. "Seed Piece Spacing Affects Economic Return of Potato Crop." *March 2003 Spudvine: University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System*. April 2003.

Gray, Wilson. "BSE Detected in Canada." May 2003. EI 03-02

Gray, Wilson. "Idaho State Report to TAC." June 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.
- On June 17, 2003 **Wilson Gray** went to the LMIC-TAC meeting, Oklahoma Fed Cattle Simulator, Clem Ward, Derrel Peel, Steve Kuntz.
- **Wilson Gray** attended the LMIC-TAC meeting, Livestock Traceability and Identity Preservation, Lee Meyer, Neil Hammerschmidt, DeeVon Bailey, Eluned Jones, Richard Baines, on June 18, 2003.
- **Wilson Gray** attended the Achieving Risk Management Success (ARMS) workshop held in Cassia County in April.
- On May 13, 2003 in Boise, Idaho **Wilson Gray** attended the "Right Risk" ranch management game workshop, for COIN meeting.
- Lost Rivers Grazing Academy V, N M Cummings REEC was held in Carmen, Idaho on June 8-12, 2003, **Wilson Gray** attended.

Presentations

Priscilla Salant gave a presentation at a meeting of Native Americans in Philanthropy entitled, "Data Sources for Native Americans."

On May 21, 2003 in Spokane, Washington, Jim Jones, Leroy Stodick and S. Bekmez presented a paper at the 37th Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference entitled, "Implications of the American Trucking Association vs. State of Idaho Heavy Truck Tax Case for Idaho Taxpayers"

J.D. Wulfhorst co-authored a paper ("To Include or to Not Include-Sensitivity to Cross-Cultural Research in Idaho") with Environmental Science graduating senior, Janel Falk, that was presented at the Idaho Academy of Sciences in Lewiston.

J.D. Wulfhorst presented data from a bluegrass producer's survey at a field tour as part of a research project analyzing alternatives to burning bluegrass residue.

Noteworthy News

Bonnie Brunson, Dan Colemean, Scott Johnson, Spencer Larsen and Sam Lusk received their Agribusiness degrees at the Idaho Falls commencement on May 8, 2003.

John Foltz is serving on a subcommittee of the American Phytopathology Society. This society is developing a questionnaire to be sent to university, regulatory agency and industry people regarding the relative risks of potential pathogens and toxins in our food and feed supply as a result of increased concern over food bioterrorism.

J.D. Wulfhorst participated in a planning meeting for the Groundwater Awareness Project, a new joint effort being organized by the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and the UI Water Resources Research Institute.

During the month of May, **SSRU** worked of the following surveys:

- *4 Southwest Idaho counties phone survey for **Dr. J.D. Wulfhorst** and **Dr. Neil Rimbey**, calling 2,400.*
- **SSRU** is continuing the IVR survey for the Department of Health and Welfare on alcohol and drug abuse, 100/month.

- Another phone survey on "Married & Loving It" will be wrapping up in mid-June. It is a survey evaluating a class for Barbara Petty, District IV Bonneville Extension Office.

The year-end meetings of A to Z Retained Ownership, Inc. were held on June 4 in Challis, Idaho and June 5 in Fruitland, Idaho. Near record fed cattle prices this spring resulted in a high degree of profitability for the twenty-two ranches participating in the program this year. Preliminary information indicates that steers placed on feed last fall averaged $90/head profit, gained an average of 3.45 lbs/day and consumed 6 lbs of feed for each pound of gain. Heifers averaged $130/head profit, gained an average of 3.25 lbs/day and consumed 6.18 lbs of feed to produce a pound of gain. Bobbi Wilhelm, AERS graduate student from Pocatello, attended the two A to Z meetings and will be working with **Neil Rimbey** this summer and fall on an analysis of the retained ownership program over its eleven year life.

J.D. Wulfhorst chaired two Environmental Science Master's students, who completed their program and theses in April, Wendy Shields ("Community Involvement in the Forest Stewardship Contracting Initiative ") and Andriy Polovsky ("Stumpage Price Determination in Ukraine: Economic, Social, and Environmental Aspects").

SSRU began making calls for the Crime Study. They are calling a random sample of 3000 throughout Idaho.

The "Married and loving it" survey, done for **J.D. Wulfhorst** was completed as was four Southwest Idaho Counties.

Outcome calls (Substance Abuse) were completed for June and mail surveys were sent.

Pre-survey calls were completed on the Thin Meats Thermometer Study. Thermometers, directions, brochures & recipes were sent to 1200 respondents. Post-survey calls will begin in July.

The Outstanding Environmental Science Faculty Award for 2002-2003 goes to one of our own faculty members, **J.D. Wulfhorst**, we are so proud of you.

Larry Makus is now roaming the halls with us again after his return from a one year sabbatical. It is so nice to see his smiling face…welcome back Larry!

As a part of Phase III of his project with INEEL, **J.D. Wulfhorst** organized data collection efforts to get special interest group responses to INEEL operations. Assisting him with the data collection at INEEL Science Workshops and Hydrogeology Tours was Janel Falk and Robin McCoy.

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