What's Happening in AERS

Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

University of Idaho

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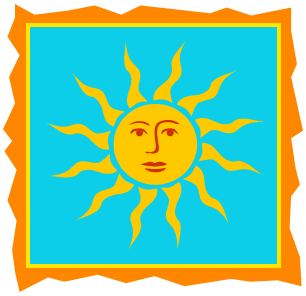
A Note from Dr. Van Tassell

We just concluded what has become our annual summer on-campus faculty retreat. We had some insightful discussions on our research, outreach and academic missions and made great strides on finalizing our strategic plan. Part of our strategic plan includes undertaking discussions later this summer with Washington State University regarding how we can share under-enrolled upper division and graduate classes. We also made plans to share our outreach intentions with our advisory board this October and receive their valued insight.

Most of you have heard that John Foltz, former professor in AERS, was named Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs in the college. We are finalizing authorization to recruit for John's former position and hope to start interviewing at our summer association meetings in Providence, Rhode Island and have someone on board by next summer. Matt Stockton has agreed to accept a one-year extension on his appointment to help us meet our class commitments.

Congratulations also are in order for John Foltz as he will receive the Western



Association of Agricultural Economists Teaching Award this month in San Francisco, CA.

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Activities of Interest

April

John Foltz's graduate student, Lacey Menasco, has had her case study, which is a part of her thesis, accepted for use in the American Agricultural Economics Association graduate student case study competition at the AAEA meetings in Providence, Rhode Island in July. Her case study evaluates eMerge Interactive's management strategy in the animal ID business.

Neil Rimbey attended the quarterly meeting of the BLM Resource Advisory Council in Boise on April 19 and the annual meeting of the Joint Fire Science Program in Boise on April 20.

Jim Nelson and **Lindy Widner** traveled to Reno, NV on April 19-21 to work with the University Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada on an economic feasibility study of a proposed Wild Horse Monument and Adoption Center.

Activities of Interest

On April 28, **Paul Patterson** appeared on the Channel 8-TV program "Tough Talk.." Panel members discussed the impact of groundwater pumping curtailment and mitigation that resulted from an order on April 19th by the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

May

Neil Rimbey attended the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission meeting in Boise on May 20.

Priscilla Salant attended the Governor's Conference on Rural Development, Recreation and Tourism, May 4-8 in Idaho Falls and introduced a new publication, "*Profile of Rural Idaho,"* and discussed its content and implications.

June

Neil Rimbey, Paul Patterson and **Chris McIntosh** all attended the departmental retreat in Moscow on June 6th and 7th.

Neil Rimbey traveled to Jackpot, NV and Three Creek, ID on June 19 and 20 for the Idaho Rangeland Committee and Idaho Woolgrowers Range Tour.

Neil Rimbey attended a meeting in Union, OR on June 27 to explore the potential for collaboration on regional research projects with Oregon State University faculty.

Paul Patterson received a 20 Year Certificate in June from the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

Priscilla Salant presented "*Profile of Rural Idaho"* at the Idaho Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference in Moscow on June 7 and discussed implications for Idaho's County Commissioners.

Priscilla Salant was a panel of experts participant at Brookings Institution & Sonoran Institute: "West towards Prosperity: Beyond Myth to a Sustainable Future." Phoenix, Arizona, June 2005.

Presentations

April

Priscilla Salant and **J.D. Wulfhorst** presented "Cornerstones of a Quality Survey" at the 2005 UI Annual Extension Conference in April.

Priscilla Salant attended the Western Rural Poverty Conference: *Poverty Research in the Rural West: Informing Community Strategies, Shaping Public Policy,* April 7-8, 2005. She was responsible for synthesizing the discussion and presenting outcomes from the conference in "Perspectives," a newsletter published by the RUPRI Rural Poverty Research Center.

May

April Beasley, James Nelson and **Joel Hamilton.** "Econometric Analysis of Development Pressure on Irrigated Farmland in the Boise Metro Area." Paper presented at the Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference, Bellingham, WA, May 2005.

Steve Cooke. "For Just a Penny More: How Idaho raised $100 million in taxes, solved the 'structural problem,' and sustained the economy." Presented at the Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference, Bellingham, WA, on May 20, 2005.

June

Paul Patterson and **Bob Smathers** conducted six Trade Adjustment Assistance Technical Training Workshops for Idaho potato producers in Twin Falls, Burley, Pocatello, Blackfoot, Idaho Falls and Rexburg, June 28-30, in cooperation with the Potato Growers of Idaho and the Western Risk Management Center.

Rimbey, N.R. and **L.A. Torell**: Public Lands: Ranching Issues in the West. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Livestock Marketing Information Center, June 6-8, Post Falls.

Jared Wolfley, Bob Smathers, J.D. Wulfhorst and **Larry Van Tassell** attended the Bluegrass Field Day in Worley, ID on June 2. Jared presented "The Economics of Non-thermal Bluegrass Seed Production" and J.D. presented "Regional Comparisons of the Public's Perception of Bluegrass Residue Burning."

Jared Wolfley and **J.D. Wulfhorst** attended the Hatter Creek Bluegrass Seed Field Day on June 9. J.D. presented "Regional Comparisons of the Public's Perception of Bluegrass Residue Burning."

Presentations

Priscilla Salant presented two sessions at the International Rural Network Conference, June 19-24, Abingdon, VA. *"You Can't Speak French in Idaho: Translating Lessons from Europe into the U.S. Context" and "The Role of Higher Education in Rural Development: Conceptual Framework, Institutional Models and Case Studies"* (with Dave Namie and Norm Walzer).

Publications

John C. Foltz and **Jay Akridge.** "From the Outside Looking In: Consider the Benefits of a Customer Advisory Board," *Feed and Grain Magazine*, April/May 2005.

Priscilla Salant (UI) and **Alan Porter (Idaho Commerce & Labor).** *Profile of Rural Idaho, 2005*. Researchers: Christine Dearien and Debbie Gray (UI), and Tony Tenne (Idaho Commerce & Labor).

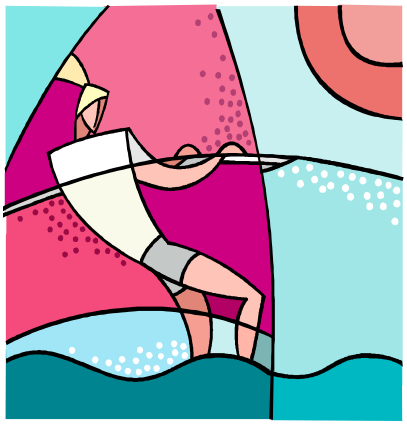
Publications

Paudel, Krishna P. and **Christopher S. McIntosh.** 2005. Numeraire Choice in Agricultural Supply Analysis. *Applied Economics,* 37:1209-1214.

Patterson, Paul E., Robert Smathers, Keith Esplin and **Bryan Hopkins.** Trade Adjustment Assistance for Idaho Fresh Potatoes: *Technical Assistance Curriculum.*

Steve Peterson, James R. Nelson, and **Lindy Widner.** "Economic Impacts of the HealthCare Services Industry in Idaho — *Economic Impacts of Care and Concern."* Published by the Idaho State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Boise. April 2005.

Smathers, R.L., P.E. Patterson, N.R. Rimbey and **C.W. Gray.** 2005. Production Costs and Budgeting: *Idaho Forage Handbook*. Bulletin No. 547. Moscow, ID: University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.



J.D. Wulfhorst and **Janel Falk Chin** published an article:

Chin, J.F. and J.D. Wulfhorst. 2004. "The importance of Equity in Cross-Cultural Research." *Journal of the Idaho Academy of Science* 40 (2):10-21. Janel is a former undergraduate student from the UI and is currently a student at the School of Law at the University of Colorado.

Awards

John Foltz received the **2005 Outstanding Teaching Award** (more than 10 years of experience) from the Western Agricultural Economics Association. The award will be presented at their annual meeting in July in San Francisco.

Courses & Seminars

J.D. Wulfhorst completed the first offering of a new web-only course, WESTERN U.S. WATER RESOURSES POLICY & ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY in the spring 2005 semester, with 17 students around the Rocky Mountain West in Colorado, Idaho, and Montana. The course is located at http://www.agls.uidaho.edu/westernwater/ and had the unique opportunity on its inaugural offering to discuss both the Nez Perce Settlement and water calls in southern Idaho.

On June 7-9, **Joe Guenthner** taught an Ag Biotechnology short course at Michigan State University, East Lansing, to 30 participants from China.

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Noteworthy News

The Agribusiness Club had an active spring and summer. The Club held their annual Golf Scramble at the Moscow Elks Club in late April. The weather was uncharacteristically lovely and the day was enjoyed by all. After a tie score, a one hole "putt-off" gave first prize to a team of older gentlemen primarily from the MMBB department (Al Lingg, Dick Heimsch, Wes Chun, and Gary Post.) The Agricultural Economics faculty team came through with the consolation prize!

The Club is sending eight members to the national Quiz Bowl competition in Providence, Rhode Island in late July. The Club appreciates the generous contribution of Dennis Conley and support from the Agricultural Economics Advisory Board in making this trip to the national competition possible.

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

Regan Benson, our Administrative Assistant, is enjoying her new job as a Mom. She and her husband, Aaron, welcomed Noah George on June 7, 2005. Noah weighed 6 lbs., 15 oz, and was 19½ inches long. The department held a baby shower on May 19, where Regan and Aaron were presented with a jogging stroller and other gifts.

Noah George Benson