

AERS NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND RURAL SOCIOLOGY

AERS UNDERGRADS USE COFFEE BREAKS AS STUDY TIME

Students in the AERS Department have been hard at work as midterms approach! Groups of students have been busy working on projects together and helping each other study for other classes.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, students have been meeting up after class to have an undergraduate coffee break in the AERS Library and trade commodities in the futures market for the Futures and Options Class. Last week Dr. Aaron Johnson brought homegrown llama sausage for them to enjoy as well!



Pictured above: from L to R: Lily Holmes, Kaycee Royer, Tara Stubbers

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Upcoming Seminars:

- * Scott Brown, Univ. of Missouri, April 18
- *If you would like to know more about our seminars or present in the future, please contact Paul Lewin, plewin@uidaho.edu

A NOTE FROM DR. ROHEIM

Hi friends,

Here in Moscow we're pretty excited that spring is on its way. The witch hazel outside the AgSci building is blooming, and the crocuses are cheering us all. Just as spring is blossoming, so are great achievements by faculty, staff and students in AERS. Inside you'll read about the awards received by Professors Neil Rimbey and Paul Patterson recognizing their career achievements — congratulations to both! In addition, you'll read about the timely and important research our faculty are presenting, such as Dr. McIntosh's presentation on the economics of potato virus Y at the recent Idaho Potato Conference.



We in AERS are tremendously proud of our students. Inside this newsletter you will learn more about a few of them, such as undergraduates Abby Biedenbach and Ayla Neumeyer, and graduate student Hilary Donlon. They represent only a small sample of the terrific students that AERS' professors are lucky to work with every day.

AERS is currently interviewing candidates for two new faculty positions. In addition, our Social Science Research Unit (SSRU) is busy interviewing for a new Administrative Director. There is certainly never a dull moment in AERS! I look forward to reporting back to you on the search outcomes in our next newsletter.

I hope you all enjoy the contents of this newsletter!

Cathy

TAYLOR AND EBORN PRESENT TO LEGISLATURE



Dr. Garth Taylor

“Idaho agriculture is bigger now than it has ever been. . . . it is projected to double every 15 years if it continues to grow at its current pace.”

The agricultural industry is the largest, most profitable industry in the state of Idaho, representing 20 percent of the overall income. AERS department extension faculty Garth Taylor, Ben Eborn and Paul Patterson compile a yearly economic report for Idaho agriculture’s financial condition. The report for 2013 (available at web.cals.uidaho.edu/idaahoagbiz) showed that agriculture earned record cash receipts for the third consecutive year, increasing by about 7 percent from \$7.6 billion in 2012. There was also a shift from crop-based to livestock-based agriculture. Cash receipts from livestock were up from 7 percent, with an 8 percent increase from cattle and

calves and a 6 percent increase from dairies.

With these increases, Idaho has become the third largest state in agricultural production in the Western United States, falling behind California and Washington. “Idaho agriculture is bigger now than it has ever been,” stated Taylor. He also projected that Idaho agriculture will double every 15 years if it continues to grow at its current pace.

Taylor and Eborn presented these findings in January, during the legislative session, to both the Idaho House and Senate Agriculture Committees. They also presented their findings to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee

(JFAC) with CALS Dean, John Foltz. This data has been very beneficial for the Idaho legislature and helps show the benefit of CALS research.

Agriculture is the major contributor to Idaho’s economy. The University of Idaho, and many other institutes nationwide, have worked hard to develop new products and improve production to make our food safe and affordable. As a result, we have reached a record low, spending less than 10 percent of our annual income on food in the United States. Hopefully, we can continue with this research and continue improving the agricultural industry to feed the world.

MCINTOSH PRESENTS ON THE ECONOMICS OF PVY

AERS Professor, Dr. Chris McIntosh, presented his findings on the economic loss of the potato virus Y (PVY) at the 46th Annual U of I Potato Conference and 35th Ag Expo. The conference was held on the Idaho State University campus in Pocatello during January 21-23. Presenters included specialists in soils, plants, entomology and economics, as well as agronomists, conservationists, and many others who were all there to educate growers about the newest findings in the potato industry. Growers

were also able to use the conference to get pesticide applicator credits to maintain their licenses.

In regard to PVY, McIntosh’s research showed that the virus costs Idaho’s economy about \$34 million per year. This estimate includes both direct and indirect losses associated with PVY. McIntosh worked with his former graduate student, Giri Raj Aryal, estimating Idaho’s annual potato yield loss from PVY to be 2.3 million hundredweight. McIntosh and Aryal then used a five-year av-

erage for the pricing calculation. These findings show what a large impact PVY has on Idaho’s potato industry, and presenting this to growers allows them to be more aware of the concerns associated with the virus.

The research done by McIntosh and Aryal was funded from the USDA’s Specialty Crop Research Initiative. This group funds many research projects associated with potato diseases and their risks. McIntosh is in the process of applying for another grant to further his research in the future.



Dr. Chris McIntosh looking over new russet potato varieties created by CALS’ researchers and speaking with Dr. Jeff Stark of PSES.

JASON WINFREE ENJOYS HIS FIRST FEW MONTHS AT U OF I

Dr. Jason Winfree is in his second semester with the AERS department as an assistant professor. He graduated from Washington State University in 1999 with a B.S. in economics/mathematics. In 2003, Jason received his M.S. in statistics, as well as his Ph.D. in economics. He grew up on a nursery in George, Washington, which led him to pursue a career in teaching agricultural economics.

Before coming to the University of Idaho, he taught at the University of Michigan, where he specialized in sports economics, finance, and market structures. He decided to come to UI because he

wanted to teach agricultural economics, loved the area, and the position seemed like an overall good fit for him. He has really enjoyed his first few months here, and says that his favorite parts about teaching at UI are the positive attitudes of his colleagues and students, how well everyone gets along with each other, and the overall atmosphere and lifestyle that he has found here.

Jason has currently been working on looking at food quality standards and the timing of their implementation. Other research areas he has focused on include economics of market structures, in-

dustrial organization, collective reputation, and sports economics.

When asked about his future plans and goals, Jason said that he would like to continue what he is doing. He said that there is always room for improvement, and that striving to be a better teacher will always be important to him.

In his spare time, Jason enjoys spending time with his wife, seven-year-old son, and four-year-old daughter. He is an avid runner, an occasional hiker, and enjoys the lifestyle he has found on the Palouse.



Dr. Jason Winfree

The AERS would like to welcome both Jason and Paul as new members of the department. We have enjoyed working with you for the past few months and are excited for more to come!

PAUL LEWIN REFLECTS BACK ON A YEAR WITH AERS

The AERS Department is excited to have Dr. Paul Lewin, Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor of agricultural economics, as a new faculty member at the University of Idaho. Paul is originally from Chile, and obtained his B.S. in Agricultural Engineering and M.S. in Agricultural Economics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile in 1998 and 2000 respectively. For several years after earning his master's degree, Paul worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Then in 2011 he earned a Ph.D. from Oregon State University in Applied Economics. Paul continued to work for Oregon State University upon graduation, but also held a position at Moody's Corporation before joining the faculty at the University of Idaho in 2012.

When asked why he chose to become a part of the Vandal academic system, Paul responded that the faculty position matched his interests and he enjoys residing in the PNW. His first year in Moscow has been wonderful, and his favorite part of the U of I is the arboretum and botanical garden. Paul believes that Moscow is a nice town with a friendly community, and it's a good place to live, except for the long winters. Paul enjoys Moscow's farmer's markets and is looking forward to attending them again this summer.

Professor Lewin's recent projects are centered on working in extension and supporting local rural communities. He has been working on designing a regional economic development program for Idaho and teaching county officials

and community leaders how their local economies operate. Paul supports Idaho Rural Partnership's Community Review Program, and has also been working with the Idaho Rural Educational Task Force to improve education in rural areas. Paul is excited for the opportunity to change paradigms in rural Idaho, and hopes that his program will help the state develop value-added production chains and move away from exporting commodities. In addition, he is optimistic that his program will improve Hispanic civic engagement throughout Idaho.

Paul lives in Moscow, with his wife Margarita.



Dr. Paul Lewin



Dr. Neil Rimbey, with Lieutenant Governor Brad Little, who presented the award.

Congratulations to both Paul and Neil on their accomplishments and awards received!

NEIL RIMBEY RECEIVES THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN AG FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Professor Neil Rimbey was awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence in Agriculture for Environmental Stewardship during February's Larry Brannen Idaho Ag Summit held in Boise. His research and extension programs are aimed at analysis of grazing fees, wildfire and threatened species management, and many other critical range issues. His programs have put him at the forefront in range economics and service to the State. Presenting the award is Lieutenant Governor Brad Little.

SEMINARS

Jason Winfree presented his seminar titled "Collective Reputation with Exogenous Quality" on February 7.

Richard Sexton, University of California-Davis, presented his seminar titled "A WICKed Problem? Cost Containment in the Women, Infants, and Children Program" on February 27.

J.D. Wulforst presented his seminar titled "Climate, PNW Agriculture, and Producer Perspectives: Part one" on March 7.

PRESENTATIONS

Paul Patterson presented:

- "Overview of Budget Planner Crop Budget Generator" to the Western Farm Management Extension Committee in San Diego, CA on January 8.
- "2013 Cost of Potato Production for Idaho and Comparison with 2012" to the Potato "Cost of Production Advisory Committee in Pocatello, ID on January 21.
- "2013 Potato Cost of Production," "Past and Potential Future Trends in Potato Production Costs," and "Calculating, Allocating, and Optimizing Potato Machinery Costs" at the Idaho Potato Conference in Pocatello, ID on January 22-23.

PUBLICATIONS

"The Financial Condition of Idaho Agriculture: 2013." **Ben Eborn, Garth Taylor, Paul Patterson.**

"The Role of Agricultural Processing in Idaho's Economy: Status and Potential. **Paul Lewin, Kathleen Painter, Paul Patterson, Neil Rimbey, C. Wilson Gray.**

PAUL PATTERSON RECEIVES THE PAT TAKASUGI AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN IDAHO AGRICULTURE

Professor Paul Patterson was awarded the Pat Takasugi Award for Leadership in Idaho Agriculture, at February's Larry Brannen Idaho Ag Summit held in Boise, for his outstanding contributions to the statewide agricultural industry. He was credited for providing rigorous economic analysis, excellent leadership within and external to Extension, and communication of timely information beneficial to the agricultural sector.



Pictured above is Paul Patterson with CALS Dean John Foltz

AERS STUDENTS ATTEND IDAHO'S LEGISLATIVE SESSION

By: Jessica Reynolds

Each year, students from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences have the opportunity to take the Ag Econ 410 class—"Experiencing the Idaho Public Policy Making Process". This class provides students with the unique opportunity to visit the Idaho Capitol and see a lot of things "behind the scenes." Rick Waitley, founder of the Idaho Food Producers and an Idaho lobbyist, and Dr. Chris McIntosh work hard to put together a very educational three days for the students in this class.

This year there were eleven

students in attendance on this trip. Accompanying them to Boise were AERS department faculty members Jason Winfree and Chris McIntosh.

While in Boise, the class was able to meet with legislators, the Attorney General, the State Treasurer, the State controller, lobbyists, as well as many other individuals involved in Idaho's public policy making process. We were able to sit in on part of the House and Senate sessions, attend meetings with lobbyists and attend a committee meeting. The entire three days were filled with educational luncheons, dinners and activities. All of these activities provided us with the oppor-

tunity to be in a professional setting and also ask many questions regarding the policies in Idaho.

This public policy tour is truly a great chance for undergrads in CALS to experience some hands-on learning about policy making. Even if you don't have a lot of interest in policy making, these policies are how the government is run and these decisions play a huge role in the future of any citizen. Attending this trip provides each student with the background and education needed to understand how policies are made and I would highly suggest students to attend in future years.



Students in Boise on the Ag Econ Policy Tour.

AERS GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT, HILARY DONLON

Hilary Donlon is a second-year graduate student in applied economics at the University of Idaho. She graduated with a B.S. from Iowa State University in 2011, where she studied agricultural business and economics. Hilary has had the opportunity to be a part of the Regional Approaches to Climate Change (REACCH) project for her graduate research, which is a collaboration between University of Idaho, Washington State University, Oregon State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service.

Funded by the USDA and National Institute for Food and Agriculture, Hilary is a part of the Economic and Social Science Team working on

a longitudinal survey of wheat growers in northern Idaho, eastern Washington, and northern Oregon. The main goal of this survey is to gain an understanding of the cost of growing wheat in different agroecological zones of the Pacific Northwest. Hilary's responsibility is to interview over 40 farmers annually and collect data on how much it costs them to grow wheat during the crop year. She then summarizes the data she collects into an enterprise budget to calculate a cost per bushel and cost per acre. Once she has created the enterprise budgets, she then compares the values to different growing regions.

Dr. Kate Painter has assisted Hilary by teaching her how to

use enterprise budgets and estimate the cost of production. Hilary has enjoyed working with Dr. Painter, as well as a variety of other researchers outside of the University of Idaho. Hilary says that she has also really enjoyed the opportunity to speak with so many different farmers about their practices.

Hilary is passionate about agriculture and has been ever since she was young. She grew up in Iowa on her family's farm, which consisted of hogs, corn, and soybeans. Her love for agriculture has motivated her to pursue a career in it, specifically as a teacher, extension agent, or possibly even as a member of a government agency.

The AERS

Department has many outstanding undergraduate and graduate students who participate in numerous educational activities in and out of the classroom!



Hilary Donlon, AERS Graduate Student

AERS SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Abby Biedenbach, Junior majoring in Agricultural Economics and Animal Science, Dairy Option

Abby Biedenbach
Junior, Agricultural Economics and Animal Science, Dairy Option Major
William Folz Scholarship Recipient

Why did getting a degree in Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics appeal to you?
A degree in Agricultural Economics first became appealing to me after listening to a presentation by Dr. Levan Elbakidze about reallocation of water in Southern Idaho. I was fascinated by the application of mathematics and economic theory to agriculture. A degree in Agricultural Economics allows me to explore the relationships between economics, public policies, and agriculture while utilizing problem solving skills to find viable solutions to challenges facing agricultural industries today.

What are your future career goals?
I would like to be a policy analyst specializing in either environmental or agricultural policies.

How do you think your education will help you accomplish these goals?
My degree in Agricultural Economics lends itself very well to a career pathway in policy analysis due to several reasons. I've had the opportunity to develop my understanding of economic theory, sharpen analytical skills, and had exposure to the public policy making process while studying at the University of Idaho. I believe the curriculum I have studied here has made me a "well-rounded" undergraduate poised to find success in both graduate school and a future career.

What clubs/extracurricular activities have you been involved in?
I am a member of Delta Zeta Sorority, currently serving as President, past Vice President of Programs and Treasurer. I'm also a member of University of Idaho Swim and Dive Team.

What is your favorite thing about being a Vandal?
Our fight song! I love when I'm wearing my Vandal gear while traveling throughout the year and I pass by someone who chants "I-D-A-H-O, Idaho, Idaho, go, go, go!" Our fight song embodies the strong sense of pride and tradition at the University of Idaho. Singing the fight song serves as a common experience for every University of Idaho student, whether a current undergraduate or from the class of '61.

"Thanks to all the alumni and friends who have supported the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology (AERS). Your gifts make it possible to fund scholarships, professional development and experiential opportunities for our students. Every gift makes a difference and is sincerely appreciated."

AERS ENDOWMENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Alumni Scholarship

Scholarship contributed to by alumni and friends. Supports full-time undergraduate students of any class standing seeking a degree in Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics. AERS department faculty focus awards based upon academic achievement and leadership potential.

The Karl and Grete Lindeborg Scholarship Endowment

Scholarship established in honor of former AERS professor Karl Lindeborg and awarded to a deserving graduate student in Applied Economics, based upon academic achievement and potential for success in their chosen field.

Raymond G. and Bonnie K. Turner Agricultural Economics Scholarship Endowment

Scholarship created by Raymond and Bonnie Turner to students pursuing a degree in AERS, based upon scholastic ability, academic promise, and financial need.

Described above are individual funds that have been established to support AERS activities. You can contribute any time by mailing a check payable to *University of Idaho Foundation, Inc.*, 875 Perimeter Drive MS 443147, Moscow, ID 83844-3147. Please include to which scholarship or endowment you would like your donation designated. You may also contribute online at the UI Gift Website: www.uidaho.edu/give.

If you are interested in establishing your own scholarship or endowment, please contact Kim O'Neill at 425-359-2411 or kimoneill@uidaho.edu.

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**AERS STUDENT, AYLA NEUMEYER, RECEIVES
IDAHO WHEAT COMMISSION SCHOLARSHIP**

Each year, the Idaho Wheat Commission awards undergraduate scholarships to deserving students in the state. Ayla Neumeyer, a sophomore majoring in Agribusiness at the U of I, was one of these recipients last year. Since her time at the University, Ayla has been very involved. She was a State FFA Officer, a Peer Mentor for CALS, and is currently serving as a CALS Ambassador. Upon graduation, Ayla would like to be an agricultural lobbyist to advocate for agriculture and "keep the United States a place where farmers and ranchers can continue to meet the needs of the growing world populations." To read more about Ayla and the scholarship look at the Winter 2013 edition of the Idaho Grain Magazine—"Voices of a New Generation."



Ayla Neumeyer,
Idaho Wheat Com-
mission Scholarship
Recipient

**CFB ATTENDS IDAHO YOUNG FARMERS AND
RANCHERS CONFERENCE**

This Semester the Collegiate Farm Bureau has participated in some fun and informative events. In January the club took six people to the Idaho Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference in Boise. At the conference they were able to attend some excellent workshops and listen to some great speakers. In addition, they were also given the opportunity to tour the Idaho capitol.



In February, Brett Wilder and Caleb Aoi attended the National Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference in Virginia Beach. At the convention they represented Idaho for the National Discussion Meet. Both competed very well in their discussion meet and did University of Idaho Collegiate Farm Bureau proud. While there, they were able to sit in on some workshops and listen to motivational speakers.

Upcoming events include our Spring Trip, where we will tour Hillco located in Nezperce, Idaho. We will also be having our annual Poker night, set for April 17th. The first, second, and third place participants will receive \$100, \$50, and \$25 gift cards to TriState. If you have any questions about the events please feel free to contact Tara Stubbers at stub2904@vandals.uidaho.edu.

*If you have information you would like to include in
our next newsletter please contact the editor, Jessica
Reynolds, at our mailing address to the left or at
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