

# A note from Dr. Van Tassell

It is exciting to begin a new school year. We have 61 undergraduate and 15 graduate students in our program. Twelve of the undergraduates are taking classes at our Idaho Falls site. The 61 undergraduate students are the most we have had since 1999.

We appreciate all the work everyone does for the college and our department. Especially those of you out throughout the State who are continually putting a good word in regarding our programs and are being such a great example of what UI stands for.

I would also like to welcome Ben Eborn, a recent graduate of our M.S. program, as a member of our department this year. Ben will be teaching some undergraduate classes while Larry Makus is on sabbatical at WSU. Ben will also be assisting some faculty with research.

Larry Van Tassell



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### Trips of Interest

### July

Neil Rimbey traveled to Fruitland for the **A to Z Year-end Meeting** and banquet, which was held on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

On July  $10^{th}$  Neil Rimbey traveled to Mackay for the **A to Z Year-end Meeting** and banquet.

<u>Neil Rimbey</u> went to Boise on July 11<sup>th</sup> for the **Leadership Idaho Agriculture** Graduation and Board Meeting.

On July 14<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup>, <u>Joe Guenthner</u> went to Hamburg, Germany to represent the **Potato Association of** 

**America (PPA)** as its President. This was at the triennial conference of the European Association for Potato Research (EAPR). Joe made a presentation about strengthening ties between the two associations.

Stephen Devadoss, Garth Taylor, Jim Nelson, Neil Rimbey Larry Van Tassell, Paul Patterson, Chris McIntosh, and Larry Makus attended the American Association of Agricultural Economists at Long Beach California. July 26<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **August**

Neil Rimbey along with J.D. Wulfhorst met with the agency people and county officials of Owyhee County, Idaho on August 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.

Joe Guenthner traveled to Toronto, Canada and served as President at the **86**<sup>th</sup> **Annual Meeting of the Potato Association of America (PAA)**. While there Joe accepted the chair of committee that will investigate joint membership, joint meetings and consolidating journals with the European Association for Potato Research (EAPR). This meeting was held August 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

Neil Rimbey attended the **Intermountain Cow Symposium Planning Meeting** in Twin Falls, Idaho on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

<u>Larry Van Tassell</u> traveled to Boise to assist in the Ag Pavilion at the Western Idaho State Fair August 22-23.

On August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Neil Rimbey, Paul Patterson, Garth Taylor, Wilson Gray, Larry Van Tassell, and Jim Nelson traveled to Idaho Falls for the **AERS Extension Planning Meeting**.

### September

<u>Jim Nelson</u> participated in the **Annual Economic Development Conference.** This was held at the Western Regional Office, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce in San Diego, CA.

J.D. Wulfhorst attended the **NSF Engineering & Computing Education Conference** in Washington,
D.C. This trip is combined with a professional development trip supported in part by the Idaho
EPSCOR office. September 30 through October 1.



#### **Undergrad Student Activities**

Five Undergrad students traveled to the SS-AAEA Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California July 27-31. They competed in the Undergrad Academic Quiz Bowl contest with one team placing 5th and the other in the top 10 out of 44 teams from 32 different universities from all over the US and Canada. Lindy Hill presented a paper in the undergrad paper contest. Jessica Krebs and Anne Konen are new officers on the 2002-03 SS-AAEA Executive Board. The students are looking forward to the many activities of this year and the 2003 annual meeting in Montreal, Canada.

### **Publications**

Kronenberg, Jeff, Jim Nelson, Shannon Williams and Wilson Gray. "Evaluation of Opportunities for Marketing the Milk from Dairy Farms in the Salmon, Idaho Area," A.E. Extension Series No. 02-07, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Idaho, Moscow. Report to the City of Salmon, Idaho, July 2002. Work funded by USDA, Rural Development.

**Peterson, Steve**, and **Jim Nelson.** "The Economy of Canyon County," A.E. Extension Series No. 02-09, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Idaho, Moscow. Report to the Canyon County Agricultural Foundation for the Environment, August, 2002. Work funded by the Canyon County Agricultural Foundation for the Environment.

VanTassell, Larry W. "Assessment of Non-Thermal Bluegrass Seed Production." Research Bulletin No. 161. University of Idaho, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. August, 2002. <a href="http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/news/Asmt\_Bluegrass">http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/news/Asmt\_Bluegrass</a> Seed\_Prod.pdf

**Van Tassell, L.W.**, R.Conner, A. Seidl, and N. Wilkins. "Grassland Dynamics." *Choices*. Spring 2002. PP 24-25.

Vasquez, Orestes H., James R. Nelson, and Joel R. Hamilton. "Regression Analysis to Determine the Effects of Land Characteristics on Farmland Values in South-Central Idaho," *Journal of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers*, September, 2002.

Cooke, Stephen, David Holland, and Roxana Julia-Wise. "A Computable General Equilibrium Analysis of a Property Tax Limitation Initiative in Idaho." Land Economics 2002.

L.A. Torell, J.A. Tanaka, **N. Rimbey**, T. Darden, **L. Van Tassell**, and **A. Harp**. 2002. "Ranch-Level Impacts of Changing Grazing Policies on BLM Land to Protect the Greater Sage-Grouse: Evidence from Idaho, Nevada and Oregon. PACWPL Policy Paper SG-01-02

## **Courses/Seminars**

**J.D. Wulfhorst** is participating in the 2002-2003 UI Humanities Seminar, "Sense of Place: Time, Memory, and Imagination in the Pacific Northwest."

### **Presentations**

<u>Jim Nelson</u> presented a paper at the Western Agricultural Economics Meeting, Long Beach, CA, "Determining the Effects of Land Characteristics on Farmland and Values in

South-Central Idaho." Co-authors are Orestes Vasquez, Khaliela S. Wright, James R. Nelson, and Joel R. Hamilton. A.E. Research Series 02-05.

## **Noteworthy News**

- Larry Makus is on sabbatical at Washington State University, Pullman. for the current academic year. He can be reached at the Agricultural Economics Department or by e-mail: lmakus@wsu.edu
- In August Steve Cooke was appointed to the US/EPA National Small Systems Affordability Criteria Work Group, National Drinking Water Advisory Committee.
- In September J. D. Wulfhorst received matching funds from the Idaho EPSCOR office to hire two undergraduate research assistants for Fall 2002. These two students are Janel Falk and Bernardo Alvarez.
- Joe Guenthner contributed to Potatotrak.com. This is a free website sponsored by several potato organizations and agribusinesses. Potatotrak.com launched its inaugural season by providing timely information to the US potato industry each week from April through August. Potato crop progress information was reported in 42 counties in ten states. Joe Guenthner wrote the national summary each week.
- Jim Nelson would like to make an announcement of a \$210,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce Proposal for Funding of Comprehensive Technical Assistance to Idaho Economic Development Districts and Rural Idaho Communities.
- J.D. received a small travel grant from the UI Research Office to assist in his travel and participation to the 2002 International Symposium on Society and Natural Resources.
- Jim Nelson began a project funded by the Office of Rural Health, Idaho Department of Health

and Welfare, to evaluate economic impacts of rural health care on Idaho counties.

 Another project Jim Nelson began is funded by the Energy Division of the Idaho Department of Water Resources to evaluate potential impacts of geothermal development on Idaho communities.

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