What's Happening in AERS

Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

University of Idaho

September 2011
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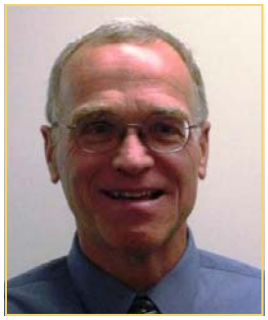
A Note from Dr. Makus



Since this newsletter will be my last opportunity to write the department head "column," I want to provide some comments about the upcoming transition. Our new Department Head, Cathy Roheim, will arrive in mid-October. We are looking forward to Cathy's leadership, and please join me in giving Dr. Roheim the warmest possible welcome to the University of Idaho, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and AERS. I will be going back to my old office, but I have certainly enjoyed this opportunity to serve such a impressive faculty and staff. I am looking forward to the upcoming transition in leadership, and I think we all realize change is an important part of a dynamic organization.

As is always true for late August and early September, the UI campus and halls of the AgSci building have come alive again. We have an excellent group of new students (both graduate and undergraduate) joining AERS, and the future looks bright indeed. Our numbers look strong this fall, and we should have final 10-day enrollment numbers to report shortly.

Many in AERS participated at our professional meetings, including a group of undergraduate students that competed in the Quiz Bowl competition in Pittsburgh. We were able to take a total of 8 students, thanks to support from the Dennis Conley endowment. Our teams fared well, with the top team ending up in 4th place after losing a close match to an excellent Texas A&M team. Additionally, AERS faculty member Dr. Stephen Devadoss was honored by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Associated (AAEA) for his outstanding work in graduate teaching. Several of our graduate students were able to make presentations at the AAEA meetings in Pittsburgh and the Western Agricultural Economics Associated (WAEA) meetings in Banff, Canada. Finally, a group of faculty from AERS and the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State, led by UI's Dr. Chris McIntosh, were successful in bidding for the editorship of the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (JARE) published by the WAEA. There is no doubt that AERS continues to make contributions to Idaho, the western region, and the US. Please contact me if I can provide additional information. Take care.

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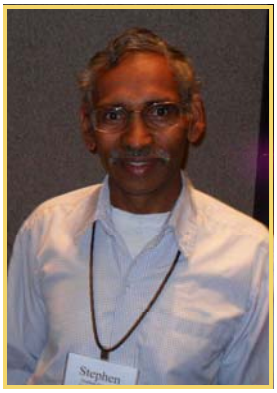
Upcoming Seminars

- Dr. Steve Cooke, September 16
- Jalal Jahir, October 7

Awards

Dr. Stephen Devadoss won the AAEA Graduate Teaching Award, so our congratulations to Stephen for his national recognition in graduate teaching. He was also a discussant at an Invited Paper Session on Farm Labor and Immigration, presented a poster with his WSU colleagues on China's productivity, and presented a poster with Rita Du on Recent US and China Trade Issues.

Congratulations!



AERS Word Search

Agricultural	Forms	Spring
Classes	Global	Thesis
CRN	Law	Waitlist
Deadlines	Masters	World
Economics	Office	
Ethics	Organization	
Faculty	Pass	
Fail	Registration	
Fall	Research	
Farm Management	Semester	

Z	S	R	E	T	S	A	M	Y	T	F	A	L	L
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M	U	S	K	C	A	E	P	X	S	W	B	V	A
R	N	E	J	Z	E	C	I	F	F	O	I	L	F
O	F	A	S	T	C	O	N	E	L	B	C	V	H
F	A	R	M	M	A	N	A	G	E	M	E	N	T
A	G	C	A	I	F	O	T	T	Y	L	R	H	Q
C	R	H	D	A	D	M	H	A	H	E	E	T	Y
U	I	E	L	R	P	I	I	F	L	E	T	S	A
L	C	C	R	N	C	C	C	L	A	S	S	E	S
T	U	K	O	S	P	S	L	P	Q	U	E	I	S
Y	L	O	W	E	R	T	Y	X	S	L	M	O	S
D	T	U	J	D	E	A	D	L	I	N	E	S	A
J	U	M	T	Y	F	L	P	U	R	T	S	A	P
O	R	G	A	N	I	Z	A	T	I	O	N	T	Z
R	A	N	O	I	T	A	R	T	S	I	G	E	R
P	L	A	W	A	I	T	L	I	S	T	U	R	M

Find the answers on Page 7

AERS Defense Students

June 2, 2011, **Sarad Nepal,** AERS Defense Seminar, "Economic Implications of Manipulating Physiological Seed Age for Idaho Ranger Russet and Russet Burbank Potatoes"

July 20, 2011, **Tim Nadreau**, AERS Defense Seminar, "The Effects fo State Budget Crisis on Higher Education"

July 26, 2011, **Scott Benson**, AERS Defense Seminar, "National Park Visitors: Cluster Analysis and Travel Cost Model Using Visitor Survey Data Collected by the Park Studies Unit."

Noteworthy News

Priscilla Salant, AERS faculty member and Coordinator for Outreach and Engagement, has been announced the Director of the Office of Community Partnerships at the University of Idaho by Provost Baker. The new Office of Community Partnerships is dedicated to supporting communities while providing hands-on learning opportunities for students and connecting university research with local priorities. The Office has staff in Boise and Moscow, and partners with UI Extension, which has offices in 42 of Idaho's 44 counties. The Office can help communities by:

- Developing service learning, internship, and student volunteer projects
- Gathering and analyzing information
- Making connections with UI Extension and other faculty
- Partnering on grant proposals

The Office strives to explore partnerships that address communities' priorities and is happy to help connect students, faculty, extension, and communities to one another and with other resources. For more information contact Priscilla (psalant@uidaho.edu), Darin Saul (dsaul@uidaho.edu), or Debbie Gray (dgray@uidaho.edu) or visit the website at www.uidaho.edu/outreachandengagement.

Presentations

Elbakidze, L., R. Nayga, "The effects of information about unobservable attributes on WTP in non-hypothetical valuation mechanisms" Principle paper at the Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Pittsburg, July, 2011.

Lu, L. and Elbakidze, L. "Weather forecast based conditional pest management: a stochastic optimal control investigation" Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Pittsburg, July, 2011.

Elbakidze, L. and Y. Jin, **""**Rooted in poverty? Assessing the links between development and transnational terrorism", annual meetings of the Western Economics Association International, San Diego, CA, June 2011.

Elbakidze, L., B. Faanunu, and A. Mamula, "Cost Effectiveness of Federal Water Acquisitions for Habitat Restoration", NAAFE (North American Association for Fisheries Economists) forum, Honolulu, HI, May 2011.

Grants

The Idaho Potato Commission awarded a grant to Joe Guenthner, Aaron Johnson, Chris McIntosh and Phil Watson. The title of the project is "Economic analysis of increasing the minimum size for fresh potatoes." Graduate student Whitney Plant Goodwin will also work on the project.

Idaho Potato Commission awarded a grant to Paul Patterson. The title of the project is "Cost of Potato Production in Idaho." The grant runs form July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012, with funding of $6,500.

Elbakidze, L., B. Contor, K. Cobourn, "Analysis of potential for ground water pumping lease markets in a segmented Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer" Idaho-NSF-EPSCOR, 2011, $64,708.

AERS Department Attended the AAEA Meeting

The AERS Department was well represent at our AAEA annual meeting in Pittsburgh. Three faculty attended, two graduate students, and 8 undergraduate students.

Dr. Levan Elbakidze was the organizer of an Invited Paper Session on Willingness to Pay (WTP) for Animal Welfare, and he and Jimmy Lu presented a paper on weather forecasting and pest management.

Dr. Larry Makus went as coach for the Quiz Bowl Team. We had eight undergraduate students there for the Quiz Bowl (two teams and two alternates). Attending were Jesse Smit, Elena Thompson, Val Pantone, SheilAnne Davis, Travis Chase. Ott Clark, Brian Dixon, and Layne Dustin. All of the students competed well against teams from across the US and one from Canada, and we are proud of their performance. The Idaho Gold team composed of Layne, Brian, and Val came in 4th place, losing to Texas A&M in an elimination round. Texas A&M was then eliminated by Florida Orange, and the two Florida teams competed for 1st and 2nd place. Our appreciation to the Conley Fund, or Advisory Board, and CALS for helping to support these students to travel to Pittsburgh.

AERS Conference Room Completed

The AERS Conference Room is completed! The light maple colored, boat shaped table gives the room a new look and allows plenty of room to walk around the conference table when the room is full. It also includes a porthole in the center for phone and speaker cables to make the room more user friendly. The room turned out great, so come down and check it out!

Students—Come Study at the Library!

Welcome back to school! As classes progress, and the amount of studying required increases, feel free to come use the AERS Department Library, Agriculture Science Building, Room 26. The library is a great place for small-group meetings, study groups, or for individuals to use when they are waiting for classes or meetings with professors. We even have a white board for brainstorming and some recent agriculture magazines to browse and keep you up to date with the ever-changing agricultural industry. Stop in whenever you want—the door is always open!

See you there!!

Trips & Meetings

Aaron Johnson attended:

- Presented at WERA 72 meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 12-14.
- Sales Training to seed salesmen in collaboration with Purdue University in Omaha, Nebraska on August 22-24.

Abelardo Rodriguez attended:

- Presented a paper at the Western Economics Association Conference in San Diego, California on June 29-July 2.
- Presented at the Intel Community Development society and Rural Sociology Society in Boise, Idaho on July 28-August 13.

Christopher McIntosh and Philip Watson attended:

- Annual meeting of the Western Agricultural Economics Association in Banff, Alberta Canada on June 28– July 2.

Deborah Gray attended:

- Idaho Rural Sociology Conference in Boise, Idaho on July 26-31.

Gina Greenway attended:

- The PAA Meeting in Wilmington, North Carolina on August 13-18.

J.D. Wulfhorst attended:

- Site-Visit on the CEAP Synthesis Project in Indianapolis, Indiana on June 8-9.
- The Pacific Northwest Section of the Society for Range Management in Yakima, Washington on June 15-17.
- REACH PNA Sociology and Economics planning meeting in Corvallis, Oregon on June 28-30.
- The Idaho Rural Conference in Boise, Idaho on July 27-30.
- IGERT Field Trip across Idaho on August 8-19.

Joseph Guenthner attended:

- The triennial meeting of the European Association for Potato Research in Oulu, Finland on July 24-29.
- The annual meeting of the Potato Association of America in Wilmington, North Carolina on August 14-18.
- Spoke at the Idaho Grower Shippers Association Meeting in Sun Valley, Idaho on August 29-September 2.

Kathleen Painter attended:

- 2011 Tammany Crop Tour in Lewiston, Idaho on June 14.
- REACH PNA Sociology and Economics planning meeting in Corvallis, Oregon on June 28-30.
- Soils and Water Conservation Society Meeting in Washington, DC on July 15-21.

Lavan Elbakidze attended:

- The annual meeting of the Western Agriculture Economics Association in San Diego, California on June 29-July 4

Lorie Higgins attended:

- The National Extension CoP Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on June 26-30.
- The Western Rural Development Center Specialists Meeting in Boise on July 25-31.

Stephanie Kane attended:

- Meeting with the City of Sandpoint, including the Mayor and his committee, in Sandpoint, Idaho on June 20.
- REACH PNA Sociology and Economics Planning Meeting in Corvallis, Oregon on June 28-30.
- Presented at the Rural Sociology Meetings in Boise, Idaho on July 27-30.

Whitney Goodwin attended:

- Spoke at the Idaho Grower Shippers Association Meeting in Sun Valley, Idaho on August 29– September 2.

Professional Meetings in Boise

By Lorie Higgins

The community development folks made a good showing at the recent joint Community Development Society / Rural Sociological Society meetings and the Idaho Rural Conference in Boise.

With the Idaho Rural Partnership and its member organizations, Priscilla Salant and Debbie Gray put on the rural conference and it was fantastic – amazing. The conference drew 150 participants from roughly 40 communities. Lorie presented "Culture as an Economic Driver" there and at CDS/RSS presented a multistate research project, "Beyond the Triple Bottom Line: How to Use the Community Capitals Framework as a Tool For Community Development and Program Evaluation." Co-authors included Debbie Gray, Extension Educators and Extension faculty from Washington and North Dakota. A comment from an audience member:

Ladies – don't know if CDS/RSS are doing an evaluation of the conference sessions, but just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed hearing about your work with using the CCF as an evaluation tool. This is an exciting application of CCF that can help a lot of process-type work and your examples are really helpful. I have recently been working on developing graphic recording skills with our Wisconsin Extension Systems Thinking Team and can see how we can draw detailed mind maps for evaluation. I am going to suggest using this process for some of our work. Thanks for the spark!

Abelardo presented "Enhancing the Competitiveness of Latino Businesses in Idaho: E-Commerce and Broadband Education," and J.D. offered "Community Impacts and Foreign-Born Labor in Idaho's Changing Dairy Industry with Priscilla, Stephanie and Phil. Stephanie, Barbara, J.D. and colleagues in Oregon and Washington presented "Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Tillage Practices in Northwest Dryland Agriculture," and J.D.'s graduate student, Renee Hill, presented a poster, "Drinking Water & Conservation Governance in Rural Costa Rica from both Community Organization and National Policy Perspectives."

The Western Rural Development Center hosted a community development specialist meeting during the same week. Lorie and Harriet Shaklee represented Idaho. On day two, educators were invited and three from Idaho attended. The outcome of the meeting is development of a plan to share resources as a region. That means we can bring in trainers for local government training, youth entrepreneurship, community business matching and other effective programs being offered in western states.

Lorie also attended a meeting of community development topic team members working on leadership programs. From that meeting came the beginnings of a proposal to team up with Idaho Rural Partnership to provide leadership training to communities that participate in the IRP's Idaho Community Review program.

NASS Position Opening

The National Agricultural Statistics Service has a job opening in Boise. NASS is responsible for collecting data for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The appointment is not to exceed 13 months but may be extended up to 3 additional years. It is a full time position and is open to all U.S. Citizens.

For more information go to:

http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=102178496&JobTitle=Survey+Statistician+%28Agriculture%29/Mathematical+Statistician&q=USDA+NASS&where=&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&x=39&y=15&AVSDM=2011-09-02+09:44:00

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If you have information you would like to include in our next newsletter please contact the editor, Jessica Reynolds, at the address to the left or at reyn1344@vandals.uidaho.edu

We're on the Web!

http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/aers

Z	S	R	E	T	S	A	M	Y	T	F	A	L	L
S	T	E	K	S	P	R	I	N	G	S	F	A	I
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P	L	A	W	A	I	T	L	I	S	T	U	R	M

Answers to AERS Word Search, Page2

Clubs

The Agribusiness Club

Jessica Reynolds, President
Aaron Johnson & Larry Makus, Advisors

The Agribusiness Club has started the year with a bang. We attended the CALS Back to School Picnic, where we met many students and recruited some new members. The day after the picnic, the club had a team to play softball against other clubs in the College of Agriculture. Thank you to everyone who came and played, we had a lot of fun and played a great game!

We have many new members this year and we are excited for the speakers and events planned over the course of the year; including some fun social events in the area. If you are interested in getting involved in the club, or just want to come see what we are all about, come to our next meeting on **Wednesday, September 28th, at 5:45pm** in the Agriculture Science Building, Room 62.

The Collegiate Farm Bureau

Erica Louder, President
Joe Guenthner, Advisor

The Collegiate Farm Bureau is off to a great start this year! At the end of August the chapter hosted a picnic for state and district Farm Bureau representatives. The event was well attended and we generated a lot of support for our organization. I want to give a big welcome to all our new members who have signed our email list! I hope that you will find Collegiate Farm Bureau to be a great asset to your college experience. We try to make CFB a fun and low commitment organization that provides excellent networking opportunities and learning experiences.

This semester we will have two major events that the club will be hosting. The first is the District 5 Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet which is scheduled for October 4th. At this event all YF&R members from District 5, which includes our Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter, will compete for the opportunity to represent our district at the state event. The other event is also a discussion meet but strictly for collegiate members. It will be held November 17. The top two competitors of this meet will qualify to attend the National YF&R Conference held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They will represent Idaho in the national collegiate discussion meet. For information about the AFBF Discussion Meet follow this link: http://www.fb.org/index.php?action=programs.yfr.collegiate