March, 2001

What's Happening In AERS

Volume 1, Issue 2

Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Idaho

Welcome

We have had several requests from individuals who are interested in finding out what is happening in AERS. We decided to respond to these requests by distributing a quarterly newsletter to inform our neighbors in the college and industry of our successes and challenges. Our intent is to keep you updated so if there is something we are doing that pertains to your area of interest you can give us a call find out more about it. We also plan on publishing a yearly newsletter that will have a wider distribution and will be targeted more to alumni and friends. If you know of someone whom you think will benefit by receiving this quarterly newsletter, please give us a call and we will add him/her to our email list. We hope you find these newsletters informative and timely.

Best wishes on a successful 2001,

Larry Van Tassell

In this newsletter:

Events of Interest	pg. 1
Presentations	pg. 2
New to Our Department	pg. 2
Trips of Interest	pg. 2
Publications	pg. 3
Noteworthy Etc.	pg. 3

Events of Interest

- ✓ *Steve Cooke* developed a website for NE-162 Regional Research Committee (www.its.uidaho.edu/scooke/NE-162.htm). He will also serve as Chair of the meeting of regional research on rural development (NE-162) April, 5 in Austin, TX.
- ✓ *J.D. Wulfhorst* participated in the steering committee for the NSF-IGERT proposal and also began Latah County Rural Needs Assessment project with SSRU.
- ✓ *Neil Meyer* is putting together a survey on Producers'Ideas for National Ag Policy to be mailed to Idaho producers in April.
- ✓ *Joe Guenthner* was Master of Ceremonies at the Vandal Sports Awards banquet. Joe also served on the screening committee for the men's and women's head basketball coach positions.
- ✓ *Joe Guenthner* made an invited presentation titled "Understanding Trends in Retail" at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the National Potato Council in San Diego, California January 16-18.
- ✓ *Joe Guenthner* spoke at the annual membership meeting of the Sun Valley Potato Co. in Burley on February 20th. His presentation was about retail trends in the fresh potato industry.
- ✓ *Joe Guenthner* will complete a sabbatical leave on April 2nd. During his leave, Joe

wrote a book titled "The International Potato Trade." The book is being published by Woodhead Publishing in Woodhead, England.

- ✓ *Paul Patterson* was a guest on KID AM 590 Radio in Idaho Falls to discuss the current farm situation and to answer questions from listeners.

Presentations

Paul Patterson presented *Is Your Land Lease Equitable?* at the University of Idaho Eastern Idaho Cereal Schools in Ashton, Idaho on February 27th.

Paul Patterson presented *Equipment Leasing vs. Custom vs. Ownership* at the Idaho Barley Risk Management Workshop in Rexburg, Idaho on February 23rd.

J.D. Wulfhorst presented the paper *Comparison of Influential Factors on Community Among Indian and non-Indian Groups* at the 2001 National Association of Native American Studies in Houston, Texas.

J.D. Wulfhorst presented *Alternative Methods for Natural Resources Research* at the Taking Nature Seriously: Citizens, Science, and the Environment Conference in Eugene, Oregon.

New to our Department!

Antonio Gomez from Pamplona, Spain has joined our department. Antonio received his Baccalaureate degree in Economics and Business Studies in the Basque Country University in Spain. His PhD was earned from the Universidad Publica de Navarra at Pamplona, where he is now an assistant professor in the Economics Department. This semester he will be working with Dr. Devadoss in an applied general equilibrium model on world wheat market. During the academic year 1999-2000, Antonio was a post-doc visiting scholar at the University of Colorado at Boulder where he met Dr. Devadoss.

Trips of Interest

January, 2001

January 4th through the 8th Larry Makus traveled to New Orleans to attend the SS-AAEA board meeting.

Also in January, Larry Makus presented a Cooperative Leadership seminar in Spokane, Washington.

February, 2001

February 8th and 9th Dr. Makus traveled to Idaho Falls to attend a dedication of Banion Student Center.John Foltz traveled to Boise to the Idaho Cooperative Council Board meeting, FFA Legislative Breakfast, Ag Summit, and Leadership Idaho Agriculture Alumni meetings February 20th through the 22nd.

February 21st through the 23rd, Stephen Devadoss presented the paper *Dynamic Analysis of Price Determination in a Bilateral Monopoly* at the Missouri Valley Economic Association meetings in Kansas City, Missouri.

Priscilla Salant traveled to Newark, New Jersey to visit Project GRAD, a school improvement program pioneered in Houston, Texas on February 25th through the 28th.

March, 2001

John Foltz traveled to Boise to give an update on a grant project at the Idaho Hay Association Annual meeting on March 2nd.

J.D. Wulfhorst took several trips in the month of March. March 1-2 he went to Idaho Falls to research with INEEL to develop a survey on perceptions of risk to water quality. March 13-19, JD traveled to Tooele County, Utah to conduct research with the Skull Valley Goshute Indians of Utah who are currently soliciting a temporary storage facility for high-level nuclear waste. March 20-21 he conducted field interviews with bluegrass farmers in Lake Creek Watershed for an integrated management project on water quality. JD was in Pendleton, Oregon conducting a fieldtrip with graduate students to Umatilla Indian Reservation to learn about local

perspectives on natural resource issues and fulfill a UI service-learning project requirement.

Jim Nelson traveled to Fort Worth, Texas to participate in the Southwestern Economics Association, where he presented a paper and was a discussant for two other papers.

Priscilla Salant also took several trips during the month of March. On the 9th she attended the Board of Directors meeting for Rural Development Initiatives. March 15th Priscilla attended the Leadership Development Summit, organized by the American Association of Community Colleges, in Washington D.C. Priscilla was in St. Paul, Minnesota on March 29-30 to present a seminar on economic information systems to the staff from the Northwest Area Foundation.

Stacie Woodall traveled with Bob Smathers to meet with wine grape growers around Canyon County to obtain info about the establishment and production costs of operating a vineyard. The data collected will be used for their project on the grape and wine industry.

Publications

- Jim Nelson, along with Roxana Julia-Wise and Robert Fletchers, wrote the paper entitled *Measuring the Impacts of Colleges and Universities on State and Local Economics-Don't Forget the Value of Education*.

- John Foltz wrote *Keeping Your Edge as a Manager* which was published in "Feed and Grain" in their February/March 2001 issue.

- Bob Smathers, David Wattenburger, and Terry Finerty wrote *The Economic Feasibility of Growing Colorado Blue Spruce* which was published in December, 2000.

- Bob Smathers, Wilson Gray, Neil Rimbey, et al. wrote *Revised Livestock Costs and Returns Estimates in the Fall, 2000.*

Noteworthy Etc., Etc., Etc.

❖ J.D. Wulfhorst served on a water resources panel for a future issues class at Moscow Senior High School.

❖ Steve Cooke will attend the Southern Regional Science Association in Austin, Texas on April 5-7. (There he will chair the session on Rural Development and be a discussant for another session on Rural Development.

❖ J.D. Wulfhorst was a participant in the University of Idaho Research Office Proposal-writing workshop. Also, he was a participant in a new NSF Research Education for Undergraduates project on campus to be conducted the next three summers.

❖ John Foltz traveled to Seattle March 15th through the 18th and 22nd through the 25th for two regional swim meets, which his sons John and James participated in. The meets were for the top 5% of swimmers in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Wyoming.

If you have information you would like to have put in our next newsletter please contact the editor Noél Gray at:
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