



WAEA NewsNotes

April 2006

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President's Message

Greetings fellow WAEA members. All this planning has me excited about the meetings this summer in Anchorage. We have a great program planned, with a whopping 180 papers and symposiums submitted. We begin with the board meeting at 3:00 on Wednesday, June 28th. The reception, which is included in your registration fee, is from 6:30 to 9:00. Please join me for great Hors d'Oeuvres and the kind of stimulating conversation that can be found only at a convention full of economists. Well, come anyway. The meetings begin in earnest Thursday morning with a general session at 8:00 a.m. featuring Gary Brester's Presidential address, "Research and Publishing: Relevance or Irreverence?", and invited speaker Julian Alston who will discuss "Perspectives on Farm Policy Reform". I know these speakers will be provocative and informative. The remainder of the Thursday and Friday will host seven periods, with five selected paper sessions or symposiums to choose from in every time slot. We owe vice president Penny Deibel a huge debt of gratitude for her coordinating skills on the largest number of papers and symposium submissions in my memory.

A highlight of the meetings will be the awards luncheon on Friday, June 30. This is a fun time to honor our graduate students and peers for their outstanding accomplishments including recognizing our new WAEA Distinguished Scholars. I express my sincere appreciation to Mike Boland for chairing the awards selection process, to Bruce Webber for chairing the Distinguished Scholars selection, and to their committees. Admission and a very nice lunch are included in your registration. Guest tickets can be purchased when you register.

We have a quite a few activities planned too. Check the website before registering. We have an awesome dinner cruise option on Thursday night. I have also arranged for family tours on Thursday and Friday for those not attending the conference. Plan on attending the business meeting Friday at 7:30 a.m. Besides getting a free breakfast, we will discuss some important budget issues. Finally, thanks to Joshua Greenberg, we have an agricultural tour planned for Saturday after the conference. Details regarding meeting registration, accommodations, and the meeting schedule are on the WAEA web cite at <http://www.waeonline.org>

In addition to gearing up for the upcoming meetings activities, now is also the time to vote for your association's future leaders. We have a truly outstanding group of very productive and dedicated scholars who have graciously agreed to serve the WAEA and be slated for president elect, vice president, and two director positions. Please spend a minute completing the enclosed ballot. Your vote is essential and these folks deserve your support.

Finally, I want to thank Lynn Williams for his hard work as Secretary-Treasurer, Rhonda Skaggs for editing the Western Economics Forum and DeeVon Bailey, T.F. Glover, Paul Jakus and David Aadland for editing the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics. They will be missed as they turned the reins over to new editors on April 1st.



We offer an enthusiastic welcome to incoming editors, Dave Lambert, Doug Larson and George Davis.

See you in Alaska

Dana Hoag, WAEA President

NOTICES

Important Dates:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| April 30, 2006 | Outstanding Senior Award Nominations Due to Lynn Williams |
| May 15, 2006 | Ballots due |
| May 28, 2006 | Last Day for WAEA Room Rate and Availability |
| June 28-30, 2006 | WAEA Annual Meetings: Anchorage, AK Hilton |

OFFICER ELECTIONS

The following members have been nominated, and have agreed to stand, for election. Please vote by **May 15th**. Please vote for a president, vice-president, and two directors.

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| President: | Penelope (Penny) L. Diebel and DeeVon Bailey |
| Vice-President: | Michael Boland and Thomas I. Wahl |
| Director: | Robert Hearne, Catherine A. Durham, and Hayley H. Chouinard |

Two Ways to Vote:

e-mail: lynnw@csufresno.edu "WAEA Vote" in the message

or

send your ballot to: Lynn Williams
Department of Agricultural Economics
5245 North Backer Avenue MS PB 101
Fresno, CA 93740-8001



President

Penelope (Penny) L. Diebel

Dr. Diebel is an Associate Professor of Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics at Oregon State University. She is located in the off-campus program, OSU Agriculture at EOU in La Grande, OR. She received her B.S. in Outdoor Recreation Management and M.S. in Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics from Colorado State University. Her PhD in Agriculture Economics is from Virginia Tech. Dr. Diebel has a strong commitment to students and teaching. Penny is responsible for 6-9 courses a year, as well as academic and club advising. Her research has included issues in distance education techniques and student learning preferences, economic alternatives to grass seed field burning, alternative crop economics, weed-free hay cooperatives and water quality issues.

She is currently the WAEA Vice-President and has served previously as WAEA Director, WAEA Awards Chair for 2005, and AAEA Outstanding Policy Contribution Award Committee Chair for 2005. She has been active in the AAEA Teaching, Learning and Communications Committee; National Food and Agribusiness Management Education Commission; Student Section-AAEA; NACTA; OSU Faculty Senate Distance Education Committee; OSU Writing Intensive Curriculum Program; the Eastern Oregon Regional Center For Support In Assessment, Learning, and Teaching (C-Salt) and other workshops and working groups. She is also an Oregon Writing Project Fellow and recipient of several teaching awards.

Vision Statement

I am honored to be a nominee for WAEA President. For over 10 years, I have been fortunate to observe the workings of the WAEA from the perspectives of a member, volunteer committee member or chair, and as an elected officer. The WAEA maintains a strong professional reputation through its journal, *JARE*, and its innovative *Western Economic Forum*. The WAEA continues to attract members because of this reputation but also because of the smaller, collegial nature of its organization. If elected President, I would like to work towards enhancing this reputation and increase the membership.

This year as Vice-President I am working to increase the number of WAEA Outstanding Graduating Senior Awards. These awards include a student membership for one year, which is often later converted to a graduate student paid membership. As President I would like to extend a membership drive to all of our western region universities and colleges. I would also like to see the WAEA continue to select meeting locations that highlight our western states and encourage attendance with easy access. We had above average submissions for this year's selected papers, which I expect will increase our recognition and membership. Our 2007 meetings, which are joint with the AAEA in Portland, OR, provide an opportunity to increase interest in the WAEA among regional agricultural and natural resource economists.



I would also like to see the WAEA solicit more teaching and outreach research for our journals and our annual meeting. For example, I would like to see more symposium proposals classroom techniques and communication applications usable by a broad audience.

I have always believed that there are great opportunities for sharing research, experience and collegiality by being a WAEA member and if elected President I hope to share these opportunities.

DeeVon Bailey

DeeVon Bailey is Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Economics at Utah State University. He is also the director of the Center for Food Quality in the Department of Economics at USU. Dr. Bailey received his BA in economics from Utah State University and an MS in agricultural economics also from USU. He received his Ph. D. in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University. Dr. Bailey is the current editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* but his term will end this year. Dr. Bailey served as a WAEA director from 2000-2002, served twice as a member of the Editorial Council of the *JARE* in 1994-97 and 2000-03, served as chair of the WAEA Individual Extension Award Committee in 1999, and has served numerous times as a reviewer for the *JARE* and also as a reviewer for WAEA selected paper sessions.

WAEA Vision Statement:

I am honored to be considered as a nominee for president of the WAEA. The WAEA is an organization that has nurtured me in my professional pursuits in many important ways. For example, it has provided an outstanding journal (the *JARE*) as an outlet for my research and has provided strong annual meetings in desirable locations. The WAEA has also provided me with invaluable information and contacts that have contributed in significant ways to published research and regional extension programs as well as in helping me communicate and collaborate with many cherished colleagues and friends. I would be pleased to have the opportunity as president to return in small measure the much good I have received as a result of my association with the WAEA.

My vision for the Association is to maintain the high standards we have established for ourselves in the *Journal, Forum*, and our annual meetings while looking for ways to improve how we are communicating with members, the broader profession, and decision makers. I am especially interested in making the *Journal* and *Forum* more accessible electronically to individuals and institutions. The *Journal* is our flagship and has a well-deserved reputation as the top regional journal in agricultural and resource economics. We need to seek cost effective ways to expand the distribution of the *Journal* as well as the *Forum* and papers presented at the meetings. I believe the new journal editors are also dedicated to the concept of greater electronic access and I will look forward to working with them to achieve this goal if I am elected to this position. In general, I believe that continued effort needs to be expended in promoting the activities of the



Association to a broader base. Maintaining outstanding publications is an important part of this, but getting those publications in the hands of more people is the other essential part of this strategy.

Maintaining and increasing membership will need to be a priority for the WAEA regardless of who is president. I won't pretend to understand all the best methods for doing this and would welcome ideas from members about how best to recruit and maintain members if I am elected to this position. However, I believe the key to growing our membership requires us to provide value to current and potential members. I believe this can best be done by maintaining high standards for our publications and having our meetings in highly desirable locations. Also, the WAEA Council can and should be allowed to play a critical role in developing the direction of the Association and in helping to recruit and retain members.

I have observed firsthand the important role the President plays in the day-to-day operations of the Association through facilitating communication and arriving at solutions when different issues arise within and without of the Association. This is an essential element of helping the administration of the Association remain effective and efficient while remaining apparently seamless to its membership. I will dedicate myself to maintaining the same high standards of administrative excellence we have been able to enjoy in the past. This includes maintaining the strong financial position of the Association which has allowed us additional flexibility in our activities.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Michael Boland

Michael Boland is professor of agricultural economics at Kansas State University, University Distinguished Teaching Scholar, and associate director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. Dr. Boland took his doctorate and masters degrees in agricultural economics from Purdue University and has a masters in agricultural education (University of Minnesota) and bachelors in business (University of St Thomas). He has served the WAEA as the awards committee chair (2006); chair of various awards committees (undergraduate teaching awards, extension program awards); served on the MS thesis committee award; selected paper contributor and reviewer, multiple years; and recipient of Outstanding Extension Program (2002, 2004) and Undergraduate Teacher Less than 10 Years Experience (2001).

Dr. Boland teaches a capstone agribusiness management course, a graduate agribusiness course, and a graduate course in the Masters in Agribusiness program which is taught executive style. His extension program is focused towards cooperative managers and directors and his research program is focused on providing information to decision makers in agribusinesses. Mike has taught or lectured in more than 20 countries and



taken two short professional sabbaticals at Montana State University and El Zamorano in Honduras. He served as co-chair of the USDA National Food and Agribusiness Management Education Commission (2003-2004). Dr. Boland has co-organized an AAEA preconference in each of the past two years; served as treasurer, secretary, vice-president, and president of NCERA 194 Research on Cooperatives; and has chaired the AAEA selected paper reviews for the agribusiness economics and management category.

WAEA Vision Statement

The WAEA is one of my favorite professional organizations for agricultural economists. One reason is the collegial nature of the volunteers that work with WAEA in its leadership and committees. I do not want to see WAEA lose its identity. A key part of the vice-president's job is to organize the contributed papers for the annual meeting. The 2007 meeting will be held in conjunction with AAEA in Portland and it will be essential that WAEA has its own identity as part of that program so that members can attend the business meetings, awards ceremony, and contributed paper sessions without major conflicts with participation in similar AAEA activities. I also want to see WAEA maintain its identity in future years with meetings at other locations in the Western U.S. or Western Canada that offer easy access for members as well as create opportunities for networking and encourage graduate student participation in WAEA activities.

Thomas I. Wahl

Thomas Wahl is a Professor of Economics in the School of Economic Sciences and Director of the International Marketing Program for Agricultural Commodities and Trade (IMPACT) Center at Washington State University. He is also the Chair of the Executive Committee of the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium (IATRC). His research interests include international trade policy, international marketing, consumer economics, demand analysis, and Chinese agricultural policy. Dr. Wahl received his Ph.D. in 1989 from Iowa State University. His previous WAEA activities include participating as a reviewer, an author, and a presenter of selected papers at the annual meetings in addition to serving on selection committees for the Outstanding Published Research Awards Committee.

WAEA Vision Statement:

The WAEA seeks to maintain and build its membership. The association has an outstanding reputation and should continue to focus on issues that are of interest to Western agricultural and resource economists. The annual meetings shall be held in desirable locations in the West and to attract current and potential members by providing them with the opportunity to present quality papers. Graduate students should be encouraged to participate in the meetings to help them develop a professional network and to engage themselves as members of the association.



DIRECTORS

Robert Hearne

Robert Hearne is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at North Dakota State University. He teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in Microeconomics and Natural Resource Economics. Bob's research focuses on water resources management, the valuation of non-market environmental goods and services, and natural resource management institutions. He received his M.S degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Kentucky and his PhD in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota. Bob is a member of the W-1190 Western Water Research Group and the W-1133 Western Valuation Group.

WAEA Vision Statement

The WAEA is a well-respected organization which provides quality meetings in desirable locations as well as the reputable *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* (JARE). The WAEA should maintain its policy of periodically collaborating with the American Agricultural Economics Association and the Western Economics Association in its annual meetings and periodically having smaller meetings. It should maintain the quality of presented papers at these annual meetings as well as the reputation of the JARE. Efforts should be made to stimulate the quality and readership of the Western Economics Forum. New efforts should be made to ensure continued outreach to interested audiences in the private sector as well as all levels of governmental decision makers.

Catherine A. Durham

Catherine A. Durham is an Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Oregon State University, stationed at the Food Innovation Center Experiment Station in Portland, Oregon. Cathy has a research and extension appointment and is part of an interdisciplinary team of agricultural economists and food scientists that works with food producers and processors to answer questions that will aid industry success. Her research interests include domestic and international marketing of food and agricultural products. Her extension activities are based on her research in marketing but often extend into areas such as new industry development and food processing issues. Cathy received her Master's degree from the U. of Arizona and her Bachelor's and Ph.D. from the University of California at Davis. Cathy published in and served as a reviewer for the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, and participated in the WAEA annual meetings as a presenter and moderator.

WAEA Vision Statement:

I am pleased to have the opportunity of serving the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) as a director. The WAEA already has an effective approach that encourages members to attend annual meetings by program development and choice of



locations. It is in the interest of all association members to encourage others to join and to participate in WAEA and as a director such activity would be particularly important. My personal goal as a director would be to promote interdisciplinary and food industry-academic activities in the WAEA. In addition, I am a great admirer of JARE for the quality of its articles and its efforts to encourage a timely review process. A second goal would be to encourage a study of how that review process compares to other journals, as I believe it could be useful to the economics community as a whole.

Hayley H. Chouinard

Hayley H. Chouinard is an Assistant Professor in the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University. She received a B.S. in Business – Finance and an M.S. in Applied Economics from Montana State University, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California, Berkeley (2002). Her research focuses on the welfare effects associated with the allocation of natural resource access, and measuring the consumer demand for retail grocery products and related policies to improve consumer health. Hayley has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in agricultural policy, natural resource economics, and microeconomics. She also co-organized a biennial semester abroad program for undergraduates to study global natural resource economic issues in Florence, Italy. Hayley has served as a reviewer for the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*; moderator, reviewer, author and presenter for selected papers at the annual meetings; and selection committee member for the 2005 Outstanding Masters Thesis Award.

WAEA Vision Statement:

As an Assistant Professor, I have found my membership in the WAEA a valuable resource for scholarly engagement and opportunity. My main focus as a Director would be to maintain the characteristics of the Association that provide such great value. The publications, *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, and the *Western Economic Forum*, together reach a broad audience with high quality and policy relevant research. Additionally, the decision to compensate editors and reviewers has resulted in excellent participation in the peer-review process. The WAEA should continue to promote these research outlets and the scholarly interaction brought about by them.

The annual meetings have been a highlight of my experience with the Association. The level of professional interaction has been unmatched. I appreciate the opportunity to meet with other organizations, as this provides exposure to an amazing variety of economic analysis of issues relevant to the West. I am also attracted to the outstanding meeting destinations, and the well-preserved identity of the organization when the meetings are held independently. This deliberate annual meeting schedule should be maintained.

BALLOT

President: Vote for One ✓

Penelope (Penny) L. Diebel

DeeVon Bailey

Vice-President: Vote for One ✓

Michael Boland

Thomas I. Wahl

Director: Vote for Two ✓ ✓

Robert Hearne

Catherine A. Durham

Hayley H. Chouinard