

Organized Symposia

Annual Meetings, SAEA, Little Rock, Arkansas, February, 1998

TITLE: Internship Programs Revisited (Moderator: Randall D. Little, Miss. State Univ.).

Organizers: Randall D. Little and Lisa O. House, Miss. State Univ.

Participants: Wes Harrison, La. State Univ.; Bert Greenwalt, Ark. State Univ.; Lisa O. House and Juan Jose Herrera, Miss. State Univ.; and Jeremy Stevens, Ark. State Univ.

Internship programs provide an increasingly important complement to students' academic experience. However, administering effective internship programs requires a level of administrative commitment to ensure the experience is beneficial and that the program remains viable. There is much that departments can learn from each other about administering internship programs. The purpose of this organized symposium is to provide a platform for discussing internship programs, i.e., what works and what does not.

TITLE: Exploring the Potential Impacts of Federal Devolution of the Rural South (Moderator: Lionel J. [Bo] Beaulieu, Director, Southern Rural Devel. Center, Miss. State Univ.).

Organizer: Bo Beaulieu, Southern Rural Devel. Center, Miss. State Univ.

Participants: Dennis Fisher, Tex. A&M Univ.; Ronald C. Wimberley, N.C. State Univ.; Keith Ward, Auburn Univ.; and Mark Nord, USDA/ERS.

The 1996 FAIR Act, welfare reform, other bloc grants, Medicaid changes, and other "devolution" policies are federal initiatives that are shifting responsibilities and risks from the federal level to individuals, states, and local governments. These policy shifts will have unique and significant impacts on the rural South. Thus their impacts need to be understood, their potential negative effects mitigated, and their positive potential maximized. This symposium assembles some key individuals who have focused their activities on the study of devolution issues in the U.S. and Southern region.

TITLE: Technical Barriers to Trade and the New Wave of Protectionism: Identifying Roles for Extension and Research Economists (Moderator: Larry Sanders, Okla. State Univ.).

Organizers: C. Parr Rosson, III, and Flynn J. Adcock, Tex. A&M Univ.

Participants: John Greifer, USDA; Al Ortego, La. State Univ.; and Ken Posey, Tyson Foods.

Respondent: C. Parr Rosson, III, Tex. A&M Univ.

Import tariffs and quotas are scheduled for reduction under the Uruguay Round Agreements of GATT, or for elimination under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Many nations in search of protection are implementing technical trade barriers to limit the effects of foreign competition on domestic agricultural industries. The rapid development of new technology, coupled

with growing concerns about the environment, public health, and food safety, has increased use of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and other technical barriers to restrict or limit trade. This symposium provides a discussion of the current global status of technical barriers to trade and identifies potential extension and research responses to these issues. Participating in the discussion are members of health and safety policy implementing agencies, a private sector firm, and representatives of the land grant university system.

TITLE: Precision Agriculture: Economic Monitoring of the Knowledge and Information Process (Moderator: Timothy D. Hewitt, NFREC).

Organizers: Timothy D. Hewitt, NFREC; and Tony Windham, Ark. Coop. Ext. Serv.

Participants: Craig Kvien, Univ. of Ga.; John Sadler, USDA/ARS, Florence, S.C.; Eric Lund, Veris Technologies, Kans.; and Michele Marra, N.C. State Univ.

A difficult challenge exists when attempting to bring together technological advances and improvements that are economically viable and environmentally sound. Economic analyses and monitoring of changes in technology are important in assisting farmers' adoption of production practices that may reduce costs and/or increase yields. Precision agriculture is composed of a combination of new technologies that may increase efficiency while improving farm profits and providing environmental benefits. This symposium provides discussion about research efforts by the land grants and by industry in the precision farming area. The role of economists in monitoring the economic benefits and transferring relevant information is also discussed.

TITLE: Extension and Research Opportunities Through Southern "Feedout" Programs (Moderator: Lee Meyer, Univ. of Ky.).

Organizer: Lee Meyer, Univ. of Ky.

Participants: Charlie Forrest, Miss. State Univ.; Darrh Bullock, Univ. of Ky.; Jim McGrann, Tex. A&M Univ.; and Elwyn Deal, Clemson Univ.

Southern cattle producers have been experimenting with cattle finishing for more than seven years through extension-sponsored "feedout" programs. These cooperative programs assemble small lots of feeders from southern producers and send them to a western feedlot for finishing and marketing as educational and research programs to learn about cattle quality, performance, and retained ownership. This symposium provides a forum for animal scientists and agricultural economists to share information about program characteristics, to address common needs in both research and teaching, and to plan a cross-state and multi-disciplinary initiative to address issues such as standardization of procedures.

TITLE: Building a Market Economy for Agriculture: Progress and Challenges for Transition Economics (Moderator: William H. Meyers, Iowa State Univ.).

Organizers: William H. Meyers, Iowa State Univ.; Gail Cramer, Univ. of Ark.; and Wojciech Florkowski, Univ. of Ga.

Participants: Gail L. Cramer, Univ. of Ark.; Wladyslaw Piskorz, Undersecretary of State, Office of the Commissioner of European Integration, Warsaw, Poland; and Natalija Kazlauskienė, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agr. and Forestry, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Discussants: Wojciech Florkowski, Univ. of Ga.; and H. L. Goodwin, Univ. of Ark.

Building a market economy for agriculture in transition economies is a challenging and frustrating endeavor, since the basic marketing and policy infrastructure that we take for granted in the United States and Western Europe cannot be easily replicated. Those engaged in the region, whether it be technical assistance or research, face many of the same problems though the particular circumstances

in each country vary widely. The session explores the changing role of government, infrastructure and institutional needs, required market mechanisms, and policy implications in the transition economies of Europe as they address agricultural and rural development challenges.

TITLE: The Rural Land Market (Moderator: Lonnie Vandever, La. State Univ.).

Organizers: John E. Reynolds, Univ. of Fla.; and J. H. Atkinson, Purdue Univ.

Participants: John E. Reynolds, Univ. of Fla.; Ben Klugh, Ark. State Statistician, USDA; J. Walter Prevatt, Auburn Univ.; Steve Henning, La. State Univ.; and J. H. Atkinson, Purdue Univ.

Discussants: Russell Lamb, Federal Reserve Bank, Kansas City; and Charles Barnard, USDA/ERS.

Stakeholders in rural areas, as well as observers, are interested in the operation of the rural land market and the value of rural land. For many years, agricultural economists have studied the relationships among agricultural land values, agricultural income, government program payments, the characteristics of farmland, and other factors. Land value changes in some states and regions differ significantly from U.S. trends. This symposium examines current state-level studies of rural land values, estimates of agricultural land values by the National Agricultural Statistical Service, USDA, and issues concerning data on rural land values.

TITLE: Management-Focused Education for Agriculture (Moderator: Steve Isaacs, Univ. of Ky.).

Organizers: Steve Isaacs, Univ. of Ky.; and Johnny Jordan, Clemson Univ.

Participants: Johnny Jordan, Clemson Univ.; Geoff Benson, N.C. State Univ.; and A. J. (Jack) McAllister, Univ. of Ky.

This symposium presents discussion examples from management-focused Extension educational efforts in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Kentucky. The presenters compare these whole-farm oriented methods with the traditional production- and finance-focused methods that have addressed specific, narrow topics. Presenters will explore the subject matter and describe the multi-session, workshop delivery approaches that have led to the success of this type of Extension programming. Additionally, the SAEA audience is given the opportunity to participate in one example exercise used in the management workshops.

TITLE: Exploring Funding Opportunities for Rural Development Activities in the South (Moderator: Lionel J. [Bo] Beaulieu, Southern Rural Devel. Center, Miss. State Univ.).

Organizer: Bo Beaulieu, Southern Rural Devel. Center, Miss. State Univ.

Participants: Louis E. Swanson, Colo. State Univ.; and Deborah M. Tootle, La. State Univ.

This joint symposium offers social scientists with an interest in rural development an opportunity to hear the important ingredients for securing funding from major public and private sector sources involved in rural development work. Participants in this panel session have all functioned in a leadership role in awarding grants for rural development research and outreach activities.

TITLE: The North American Free Trade Agreement: Continuing Impact Assessment and Institutional Responses (Moderator: Mike Reed, Univ. of Ky.).

Organizers: C. Parr Rosson, III, and Flynn J. Adcock, Tex. A&M Univ.

Participants: Gary Fairchild, Univ. of Fla.; Jason Johnson, Tex. A&M Univ.; Hal Harris, Clemson Univ.; Geoff Benson, N.C. State Univ.; Parr Rosson, Tex. A&M Univ.; Larry Sanders, Okla. State Univ.; John Syme, Clem-

son Univ.; Flynn Adcock, Tex. A&M Univ.; Bill Herndon, Miss. State Univ.; and Dave Schweikhardt, Miss. State Univ.

The potential impacts of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) were overstated, both positively and negatively. Since NAFTA's implementation, sociopolitical and economic events in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico have occurred which offset the effects of NAFTA. There have been, however, both

benefits and costs for various sectors of U.S. agriculture as well as a variation of results within certain sectors. This symposium provides an update on progress and a better understanding of the effects of NAFTA on Southern agriculture, including fruits, vegetables, forest products, grains, cotton, meats, poultry, and dairy. Discussants include extension and research faculty members from the Southern Extension International Trade Task Force and the Center for North American Studies.