

WAEA News Update



The 2016 meetings were held jointly with the Canadian Agricultural Economics Association (CAEA) in Victoria. It was a great site and a successful meeting. Of the 200 attendees, 93 registered as WAEA members. Thanks to the CAEA and Dawn Thilmany for an excellent program. Our next meeting will be in Lake Tahoe, California from July 9-12, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort. The resort is on the lake and should be a wonderful place to have a meeting. The meeting will be held jointly with the Western Extension Committee (WEC). The current plan is that the WEC will hold their primary activities on Tuesday July 11. The WEC is planning a tour for July 12. Unlike most past years, we expect to have

activities until 5 PM on Tuesday and hope that most WAEA members will join the tour.

The 2016 WAEA award winners can be viewed [here](#).

A call for 2017 WAEA awards, fellows, and symposiums is included below. The call for selected papers and the graduate student paper competition will be in the next newsletter. The selected paper deadline will be at the end of January and the awards deadlines are February 15.

Eric Belasco has agreed to chair a committee to make recommendations about the Western Economic Forum (WEF). If you have an opinion about what WAEA should do or want to be a champion for continuing the WEF or offering something new, please contact Eric. A call for new JARE editors will go out early next year. The plan is for the new editors to be selected by next summer's meeting and to begin taking new submissions in January 2018.

The 2017 meetings will be held at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel and Spa in Anchorage on June 24-26, 2018. We hope to continue to meet with WEC in Anchorage. Finally the nominating committee has provided an excellent set of candidates who have agreed to stand for election as WAEA directors and officers. The individuals, their background, and vision statements are provided below. Please vote today! Voting is online and will close on November 18, 2016.

B. Wade Brorsen
WAEA President

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Important Dates

- 2017 WAEA Annual Meeting*
Lake Tahoe, CA, July 9-12, 2017
- 2018 WAEA Annual Meeting*
Anchorage, AK, June 24-26, 2018

WAEA Officer Elections

The following candidates have agreed to stand for election:

President

Lynn Hamilton, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

David Lambert, Kansas State University

Director

Aleksan Shanoyan, Kansas State University

Jo Ann Warner, Washington State University

Suren Kulshreshtha, University of Saskatchewan

Voting Instructions

Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/62CK55F> to submit your vote. The election deadline is **November 18, 2016**.

Candidate Statements – President

Lynn Hamilton
Professor
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Background

Lynn Hamilton is a Professor of Agribusiness at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she teaches agribusiness principles, agricultural

policy, and research methods. Her research interests include the regulatory environment faced by agribusiness firms, land use policy and renewable energy. She has been a member of WAEA since 2001, and is currently a WAEA Director (2013-2016). Dr. Hamilton has served on the Teaching Awards Committees for WAEA and AAEA, chaired the Industry Field Trip for the 2013 WAEA meetings in Monterey and served the AAEA for two years as chair of AAEA's Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics. She is also currently a board member for AAEA's Agriculture Economics and Management Section.

WAEA Vision Statement

It's an honor to be nominated to serve as president of WAEA. I have been a member of WAEA for almost 15 years, and have benefited tremendously

from my involvement in the organization. I find the meetings intellectually stimulating and professionally rewarding, as I return to my university with new ideas for research and teaching innovation. I have found WAEA an excellent outlet for presenting my work and I always receive constructive and useful feedback during the selected paper sessions. My vision would be to continue to develop and expand these benefits for graduate students and for early career academics. My goal is to establish an institutional membership in which a department would receive two free memberships per year to extend to new faculty members. That would introduce faculty members to WAEA early in their careers, when they can benefit most from networking and professional development opportunities.

I bring a perspective somewhat different from those of my colleagues at land-grant universities. WAEA should strive to serve all members, and there are a number of us who teach at non-land grant institutions. We serve primarily undergraduates, and focus heavily on innovations in agribusiness education and applied industry research. My goal as president is to ensure that those viewpoints are represented, and agribusiness education and industry partnerships are part of future WAEA meetings.

Candidate Statements –President



Dave Lambert
Kansas State University

Background
Dave has mostly enjoyed all aspects of his life, from the academic (B.A. (Zoology) and M.S. (Ecology Graduate Group)) from UC Davis and Ph.D. (Agricultural and Resource Economics) from Oregon

State University, to the inspirational. In the work/life balance, the emphasis has probably been on work, but with constant attention towards enjoying life.

Besides the academic degrees mentioned above, Dave has been a Board Member for C-FARE, President of the National Association of Agricultural Economics Administrators, Department Chair at North Dakota State University and Department Head at Kansas State University. He has served as Vice-President of the Western Agricultural Economics Association and has twice been editor or co-editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* (from 2006-2009 and is currently serving a three-year term).

WAEA Vision Statement

Staying the course would be my focus as WAEA President. We currently have about 450 members in the Association (regular, student, and senior members), which I believe is a healthy pool. Although “staying the course” would be my focus, we could investigate a few marginal changes. What

attracts members in the first place? Meetings? JARE and WEF? Belonging to a regional association of like-minded professionals? Links to the larger Associations (e.g., AAEA and AEA)? In these days of budget cuts, how powerful are these benefits?

There is a tradition of hosting WAEA meetings in desirable locations. We are blessed with a number of desirable locations in the West, and I would argue for retaining this tradition. Another benefit of our annual meetings is the opportunities afforded for conversations with people from other institutions about issues leading to future collaborations. Meeting with other ag economists is productive, but can we restructure our meetings to encourage cross-fertilization with folks from other disciplines? For example, might we coordinate with other professional groups such as the Society for Range Management or the American Water Resources Association for overlapping meetings?

Although the future of the *WEF* is in doubt, especially since the long-serving editor, Don McLeod, has stepped down, the *WEF* has been an excellent resource for the Association. It is an excellent site for publishing student award-winning papers and it can continue to serve as the outlet for applied work. Many of the numerous resource and agricultural issues facing the Western states should be addressed in its pages. The wishes of the Association members will of course guide my decisions, but something like *WEF* is important for furthering the work of Association members.

And, of course, we will retain the very high standards we have long used for the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*!

Candidate Statements – Director

Aleksan Shanoyan
Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural Economics
Kansas State University

Background

Aleksan (Alex) Shanoyan is an Assistant Professor in the Kansas State

University Department of Agricultural Economics. He received bachelor's degree from the Armenian National Agrarian University and earned his MS degree from the University of Illinois and the PhD from Michigan State University. Alex's research is in the area of agribusiness economics and management with the focus on supply chain coordination, strategic management, and business development. His most recent research projects examine contracting and vertical coordination strategies in beef and biofuel supply chains, big data applications in agriculture, and facilitation of agri-food supply chains in developing economies. Alex teaches courses in food and agribusiness management at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

WAEA Vision Statement

I am honored by the nomination to potentially serve WAEA members in a Director role. WAEA has a long history of successfully creating value for its constituents guided by the vision of its leadership and supported by the dedication of its members. Moving forward, the vitality of WAEA will continue to depend on its ability to create value for the current members and to communicate value proposition to the potential members. While the traditional strength of WAEA continues to be its relevance to researchers, the need for focused effort to further enhance the integration of research, teaching, and extension programs has been a recurring theme in the discussions with members and the leadership at the annual meetings. I believe that there is also a significant potential for further enriching the WAEA experience at the annual meetings by engaging more experts/members from industry and policy arena. If elected, I would join the efforts of the WAEA leadership in: i) identifying ways to provide more opportunities for its members to showcase their teaching and extension programs in the WAEA flagship platforms, ii) attracting and engaging new members with primary interests in extension and scholarship of teaching and learning within our field, and iii) communicating WAEA value proposition to potential new members from agri-food industry and policy spheres.

Candidate Statements – Director



Jo Ann Warner,
Associate Director
*Western Extension
Risk Management
Education Center
Washington State
University*

Background

Jo Ann Warner is the Associate Director

and Grant Specialist for the Washington State University Western Extension Risk Management Education Center, where she collaboratively directs and manages a competitive grants program in the 13 western states and U.S. Pacific Islands through a USDA/NIFA grant. In this role she conducts grants and evaluation training for a national audience of risk management educators and develops resource materials for outcome based program delivery for grant applicants and award recipients. She has experience in leadership development and has led national training efforts for Native American tribal producers as well as leading a six state consortium which provided training to new and beginning farmers. She has expertise in RFA development and tools for writing strong, deliverable proposals – including evaluations and impact reporting. She is also well versed in building successful partnerships across a diverse stakeholder base.

Jo Ann has a Masters in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University with a study focus in emotional intelligence which has resulted in a series of academic partnerships and publications on retention and longevity for Mexican Immigrant Farm Workers. Growing up on a farm and living for 20 years on a farm prior to entering the academic arena has provided her with both practical experience and insights for curriculum content and appropriate delivery and evaluation methodologies for farm and ranch training programs. She also works closely with special emphasis audiences and has conducted extensive outreach for tribal organizations and producers, the Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program and the 1994 institutions.

She brings knowledge from her past experience in health care management and HR oversight and was also a successful business owner for 8 years (wholesale/retail bakery). She gained her initial grant experience through a leadership role in community development. Jo Ann has been a member of WAEA since 2013.

WAEA Vision Statement

In the short time that I have been involved with WAEA and particularly as a non-faculty member, I have appreciated the hospitality of this association, and the opportunities it has afforded me to interact with a diverse group of professionals. It is rewarding to be a part of a dynamic organization that is fearless in addressing some of the most challenging agricultural issues of our times.

As a director my goal would be to build upon WAEA's strengths and successes through an expanded membership base that includes not only academic professionals at land grant institutions, but draws from a broader stakeholder base of agricultural professionals including non-land grant institutions and industry experts who can contribute effectively to WAEA's mission. I would like to help create a stronger and more diverse membership base through inviting and encouraging partnerships from within the cadre of Extension specialists and ag professionals around the west who can benefit from the mission and goals of WAEA and who can contribute to the association's multi-disciplinary work occurring across regions and fields.

I would like to support the development of young career professionals especially, through a mentoring process that would foster collaborative relationships with experienced members. There are many hurdles to overcome as a young career professional and I believe that the Association as a whole recognize the many inherent challenges with attracting and cultivating their involvement. I would actively work within the Executive Council to address how we could further tap the potential of this audience through a mentoring network.

Candidate Statements – Director



Suren Kulshreshtha
Professor
University of
Saskatchewan

Background
Suren Kulshreshtha is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. He is stationed in the city of

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. He holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in agricultural economics from Agra University, India, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Manitoba, Canada.

Suren’s primary research program is varied and changed over the years. He started in econometric applications, and later on moved to irrigation economics, and greenhouse gas management for agriculture. More recently his program has been related to climate change issues and adaptation measures for mitigation of greenhouse gases as well as adaptation to extreme climatic events.

I feel honored to apply to serve as a Director of WAEA. My membership in the WAEA has served me well by providing me a platform to learn from the most reputable agricultural economists in the field.

WAEA Vision Statement

As a Director of the WAEA, my vision is to work towards enhancing WAEA prestige as the leading association and voice for issues related to agricultural production and agri-businesses in Western U.S. and Canada. To secure this, increasing attendee participation in annual meetings and other activities of the WAEA is crucial, especially for the Western Canadian Agricultural Economists. Increasing awareness of the WAEA activities among the young professionals (including graduate students) in Canada and U.S. needs to be our top priority. At the same time, we cannot ignore industry stakeholders, professionals in allied sciences, and extension professionals working directly or indirectly in the fields related to agricultural production and agri-business. Although this appears to be a challenging set of tasks, by working with motivated and passionate professionals, we can achieve these goals and make them into reality.

2017 WAEA Call for General Award Nominations

The deadline for all submissions is Wednesday, **February 15, 2017**. For questions, please contact Scott Fausti (email: sfausti@csumb.edu) or Kerry Litzenberg (email: litz@tamu.edu).

letter of nomination should summarize the research of the nominee with respect to the criteria outlined above.

Send nominations to Matt Stockton at matt.stockton@unl.edu. *Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted.*

Graduate Paper or Master's Thesis Award

Purpose of the Award: To recognize outstanding research by graduate students from WAEA institutions.

Nature of the Award: The award will be called "Outstanding Graduate Published Paper or Thesis Award for the Western Agricultural Economics Association." This award will be made annually at the WAEA meeting. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$500 check.

Eligibility Requirements: Nominees must have completed the master's degree at a WAEA institution during the 2016 calendar year. Only thesis or graduate published papers bearing a completion date within the calendar year prior to the association meeting may be submitted from a WAEA institution.

Evaluation criteria:

- (1) Importance of the problem or topic
- (2) Significance of the results
- (3) Quality of the work
- (4) Effectiveness of reporting

Procedures: Nominations must be made by departments located within the geographic scope of the Association. Only one nomination per institution can be submitted. A letter of nomination and an electronic copy (pdf format) of the thesis needs to be emailed to the chair of the selection committee. The

Outstanding Published Research Award

Purpose of the Award: To recognize outstanding research by members of the Association.

Nature of the Award: The award will be called “Outstanding Published Research Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association.” This award shall be made annually at the WAEA meeting. The winner(s) will receive a certificate.

Eligibility Requirements: At least one of the authors must be a member of the Association in the year the paper was published. Only research reports bearing a 2016 publication date will be considered. Articles published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* (JARE) are not eligible. Textbooks will not be considered published research for the purpose of this award.

Eligibility Criteria:

- (1) Importance and significance of the results,
- (2) Quality of the work, and
- (3) Effectiveness of reporting

Procedures:

- (1) Nominations must be made by WAEA members and/or departments located within the geographic scope of the Association.
- (2) An electronic copy (**pdf format** is preferred) of each publication will be emailed to the chair of the selection committee.
- (3) Selection of the award winner(s) will be made by a committee.

Send nominations to Brian Whitacre at brian.whitacre@okstate.edu. *Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted.*

Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Awards

- With less than 10 years' experience
- With more than 10 years' experience

Purpose of the Awards: To recognize outstanding teaching of students and related activities by members of the Association.

Nature of the Awards: Two awards may be given. (1) The first shall be called "Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association with less than 10 years' experience." (2) The second will be called "Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association with more than 10 years' experience." The winner(s) will receive a certificate(s). This award will be made annually at the WAEA meeting.

Eligibility Requirements: Nominees must be members of the Association and be actively involved in teaching and related activities. Previous award winners are not eligible for the same award.

Evaluation Criteria:

- (1) Personal interest in and availability to students,
- (2) Mastery of subject matter (course content),
- (3) Creativity in designing and using innovative teaching methods,
- (4) Impact on learning, based on student and peer evaluation, and
- (5) Impact on departmental teaching program.

Procedures:

- (1) Nominations may be made by Association members and/or departments located within the geographic scope of the Association.
- (2) Nomination Packet:
 - a. The nominator should submit a letter of nomination, supplementary tables and supporting items if desired. The letter of nomination should summarize the teaching accomplishments of the nominee with respect to the criteria outlined above. The nomination letter is limited to no more than three pages (single spaced).
 - b. Summary tables may be added to the letter of nomination to provide supplemental and

- supporting data. NOTE: Summary tables will not be counted as part of the three-page limit for the nomination letter and will also not be counted as one of the three supporting items.
- c. A maximum of three supporting items (letters of recommendation, publications, videos, etc.) may also be included. Each letter, publication, video, etc., counts as one item.
 - (3) Electronic files of all materials shall be sent to the chair of the awards committee. Supporting materials may be scanned and submitted.
 - (4) Selection of the award winner(s) will be made by a committee

Send nominations to Kerry Litzenberg at litz@tamu.edu. *Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted.*

Outstanding Extension Program Awards

- For Project
- For Career

Purpose of the Awards: To recognize outstanding extension programs by members of the Association.

Nature of the Awards: Two awards may be given annually. (1) The first shall be called the “Outstanding Extension Program Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association, for Project.” This award shall be given to programs that are of less than or equal to five years duration. (2) The second award shall be called “Outstanding Extension Program Award of the Western Agricultural Economics Association, for Career.” This award shall be given to programs that are of more than five years duration. These awards may be made annually at the WAEA meeting. The winner(s) will receive a certificate.

Eligibility Requirements: Nominee(s) must be actively involved in programs of informal education for audiences external to the university. The program may be that of either an individual or a group of individuals working as a team. If given to a team, at least one member of the team must be a member of the Association. If given to an individual, the winner must be a member.

Evaluation Criteria:

- (1) Importance of the problem or subject,
- (2) Cost effectiveness of the program,
- (3) Appropriateness of the economic analysis,
- (4) Effectiveness of communication methods, and
- (5) Evidence of accomplishments of objectives and positive impact on target audience(s).

Procedures:

- (1) Nominations must be made by Association members and/or departments located within the geographic scope of the Association.
- (2) Nomination Packet
 - a. The nominator should submit a letter of nomination, supplementary tables and supporting items if desired. The letter of nomination should summarize the accomplishments of the nominee with respect to the criteria outlined above. The nomination letter is limited to no more than

- three pages (single spaced).
- b. Summary tables may be added to the letter of nomination to provide supplemental and supporting data. NOTE: Summary tables will not be counted as part of the three-page limit for the nomination letter and will also not be counted as one of the three supporting items.
- c. A maximum of three supporting items (letters of recommendation, publications, videos, etc.) may also be included. Each letter of recommendation, publication, video, etc. counts as one time.

(3) Electronic files of all materials shall be emailed to the chair of the awards committee. Supporting materials may be scanned and submitted.

(4) Selection of the award winner(s) will be made by a committee.

Send nominations to Joann Warner at warnerj@wsu.edu. *Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted.*

Call for WAEA Fellow Award Nominations

Deadline: February 15, 2017 (*Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted*).

Send Applications to Dawn Thilmany, Dawn.Thilmany@colostate.edu.

Purpose of the Award: To recognize individuals making an enduring contribution over their career to agricultural, resource, and/or environmental economics in the Western states and the WAEA, demonstrating excellence in some combination of the following areas of performance:

1. Basic and applied economics research
2. Integration of knowledge (textbook writing or synthetic reviews)
3. Service or outreach drawing on economic expertise
4. Teaching (undergraduate and/or graduate)
5. Administration (institution and/or WAEA)

Nomination Process: Any member of the association may nominate any living member for the honor of election as WAEA fellow by submitting the name to Dawn Thilmany Dawn.Thilmany@colostate.edu no later than midnight, February 15, 2017.

Documentation shall include a brief vitae (not to exceed six pages, double-spaced) along with a nomination letter describing why the person is worthy of the honor. The total nomination package will be limited to a maximum of eight typed, double-spaced pages. A nominee must be a current member of the association, having been a member for a total of at least 20 years.

Nomination Pool: The WAEA Fellow Award Selection Committee is responsible to augment the pool of nominees obtained from the general membership with economists who they feel should be considered for this recognition.

WAEA Fellow Award Selection Committee: The WAEA Fellow Award Selection Committee shall operate with a chairperson revolving annually and is comprised of four fellows, the past president of the association, and WAEA directors.

Announcement of Election: The names of the newly elected fellows shall be announced at the annual meeting of the association by the president of the association or his/her appointed representative, who shall read a statement regarding the achievements of each fellow and shall present a plaque of recognition to each person so honored. The statements regarding achievements and photographs of the winners shall be published in the September issue of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.

Call for Organized Symposia Proposals

The WAEA is seeking organized symposia proposals for the 2017 annual meeting in Lake Tahoe, CA. Each symposium should consist of two or more speakers with ample time devoted to discussion, but we are open to a variety of formats (panels, speakers with discussants, audience participation). At least one author must be a member of the WAEA.

If a symposium is accepted, all presenters need to register for the annual meeting by April 28, 2017 to have the symposium included in the program. The proposal should include 1) title of symposium; 2) motivation for need and importance of the topic; 3) potential presenters, including a brief description of their papers or discussion topics; and 4) session format (panel, short presentation or other structure). Please submit proposals via email to Wade Brorsen in pdf format at wade.brorsen@okstate.edu by February 15, 2017.