The 2014 WAEA meeting took place June 23-24 in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado. Attendance of 148 was up from 113 plus 22 guests as the meeting in Monterey, California last year.

I want to thank James Richardson and team for organizing an excellent meeting and making the arrangements for such an enjoyable event. I want to thank Greg Perry for selecting Colorado Springs. Our next meeting is joint with the AAEA July 26-28, 2015 in San Francisco, California.

Several outcomes of the 2014 summer WAEA board meeting are notable. First, the WAEA Distinguished Scholar Award has been renamed the WAEA Fellows Award. Second, we are pleased to have a new set of editors that will be transitioning to take over the JARE in the near future. Please welcome Jeff Peterson, David Lambert, Hikaru Peterson, and Tian Xia. We also thank Chris McIntosh, Larry Makus, Hayley Chouinard, and Gregmar Galinato for their continued service to JARE and WAEA as they finish out their term. Amy Bekkerman has provided excellent service to JARE in the past and will continue as technical editor/editorial assistant.

A call for 2015 WAEA awards, fellows, and symposiums is included below. Note that selected papers for the joint WAEA/AAEA meeting in 2015 will be handled through the standard AAEA selected paper process.

The 2016 WAEA meetings will be held jointly with the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society (CAES) in Victoria, British Columbia. The exact date and accommodation details are being finalized in an MOU. Please plan to take the opportunity to join with the WAEA and the CAES to enjoy beautiful Victoria in June 2016.

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 online by November 1, 2014.

Thomas L. Marsh
WAEA President
WAEA Officer Elections

The following members who have agreed to stand for election.

Voting Instructions

Please vote by November 1, 2014. Web ballots should be submitted at

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WXZVM52
Candidates for President (please choose one)

**Wade Brorsen**

*Professor*

*Oklahoma State University*

**Background**

Wade Brorsen is a Regents Professor and A.J. and Susan Jacques Chair in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. Wade’s research has addressed numerous applied issues related to the production and marketing of agricultural crops and livestock. His research has led to over 200 refereed journal articles and over 4,000 Google Scholar citations. He is a former editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics. He has been named the outstanding graduate teacher by both his university and the AAEA. In 2014, he was named an AAEA Fellow.

Wade is a Distinguished Scholar of the WAEA and has received the WAEA outstanding published research award. He has served the WAEA as editor of the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics and is presently an editorial council member. He has given the WAEA Keynote Address and served as the most recent chair of the outstanding published research award committee. The number of articles he has published in the WJAE and JARE is exceeded only by two others. He has been a continuous member of WAEA for well over 30 years.

**WAEA Vision Statement**

The WAEA is a successful organization and my primary vision is to keep it that way. I am more interested in seeing that existing programs are run well than I am in adding new programs. In terms of adding membership, I see our greatest opportunity in increasing our appeal to faculty whose primary roles are teaching and extension. The WAEA’s focus on western issues such as beef production, outdoor recreation, and water is not going to change. I see this focus as a strength of the WAEA. The three main activities of the association will continue to be our meeting, our journal, and our awards program. We may be able to make some small changes to our annual meeting to increase social interaction and participation such as adding a poster session with food provided. One of the strengths of the WAEA is that it has such great options for meeting sites. I pledge that I will not promote Oklahoma as a future meeting site. Instead, I think it is time that we explore the possibility of returning to Alaska.
Gary Thompson
Professor
University of Arizona

Background
Gary Thompson is a Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Arizona. After graduating from UC Davis in 1986, he joined the faculty at Arizona, where he has remained. He has served as department head since 2007. Gary’s research and teaching focus on applied econometrics and specialty crops, among other wide ranging topics. He has helped develop an innovative M.S. program in applied econometrics in which students analyze real-world business problems using very large proprietary data sets from American Express and other companies. He has taught econometrics to undergraduates and graduate students in Arizona, Italy (Fulbright in 2006; 2009-2012) and Barcelona (2013). He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala (1977-80) and speaks fluent Spanish.

He served WAEA in various capacities. He was editor of the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (2000-2003). He was instrumental in implementing payment of a nominal fee for on-time referee reports. Several of his favorite papers were published in JARE. Two of his M.S. students won outstanding M.S. thesis awards from the WAEA. Early in his career, he served as a director. He has refereed for JARE over the years, served on thesis award committees, and participated in Executive Council meetings while editor. Over two decades ago, he participated with Paul Wilson and Linda Calvin in seeking to bring colleagues from Mexico into the WAEA.

WAEA Vision Statement

Though WAEA is a regional association, it has always been an international association with active members from the western provinces of Canada and the western U.S. states. As such, WAEA provides unique venues for sharing scholarly endeavors, research results, extension programs, and teaching approaches. The size and quality of annual meetings is highly conducive to professional development, particularly for graduate students and young professionals. The JARE has continued to distinguish itself as a fine journal, ranked on par with several international journals in agricultural economics. WAEA has provided these valuable services while staying financially solvent.

I would seek to enhance these services by helping choose attractive sites for annual meetings, encouraging participants to self-organize some paper sessions, and dedicating more money to support graduate travel and engagement in those meetings. Joint meetings with WAEI and AAEA as well as organized symposia at other times of the year may be ways to attract existing members and find complementarities with non-members. Every effort should be made to continue the trajectory of the JARE as the flagship publication through emphasis on high-quality editing and refereeing. The Western Economic Forum, having demonstrated relevance to practical issues at the forefront in many Western states, deserves continued support.

Like many previous candidates, I would seek innovative ways to keep current members while attracting new members. I would build on the excellent efforts our past presidents by polling them to enumerate and evaluate membership-increasing ideas. We need to ensure we meet the professional needs of young faculty members. We can also continue to reach out to our alumni in non-academic settings to forge stronger professional ties.
Candidates for Director (please choose two)

Eric Belasco
Assistant Professor
Montana State University

Background

Dr. Eric J. Belasco is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. He earned his M.S. and Ph.D. from North Carolina State University and a B.S. from Saint Mary’s College of California. Dr. Belasco’s research and teaching activities are in the areas of risk management, livestock marketing, and agricultural policy. He has been a dedicated member of the WAEA since his first annual meeting in 2008. In addition to serving as a member of the WAEA, he has contributed to the association by publishing and reviewing journal articles in the JARE and reviewing paper abstract submissions for the annual meeting. In addition to this service, he recently served as the program coordinator for the SCC-76 regional committee and is currently the secretary/treasurer for the AAEA Applied Risk Analysis section.

WAEA Vision Statement

Throughout my career I’ve received incredible value from participating in the WAEA, which makes the opportunity to serve this group an honor. To me, this value comes in the form of being able to work amongst peers with similar interests and questions. Annual meetings provide an opportunity to discover that researchers within this region face many of the same issues, but approach the solution in different ways. These issues being discussed and disseminated through JARE, annual meetings, and Western Economics Forum present the largest value to most members.

That being said, the main issue facing the WAEA is to find innovative ways to create value to its many users. This value is increased by finding new ways to incorporate graduate students and young researchers into WAEA in order to provide a strong foundation for the future of the organization. Finding ways to incorporate early career professionals into the WAEA will increase the likelihood of maintaining membership as those members will start to identify the WAEA as their organization. Encouraging young faculty members to organize symposia and other sessions/events is a good way to improve the value of the sessions, especially to newer members. If elected, I will be committed to finding new ways to add value to WAEA membership through improved annual meetings and WAEA outlets in an effort to strengthen the organization as well as its members.
Jon Biermacher
Associate Professor and Agricultural Economist
Samuel Noble Foundation

Background

Dr. Jon T. Biermacher is an Associate Professor and Agricultural Economist at the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation. He has been on the SRNF faculty for 9 years, after earning his Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Biermacher received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Dr. Biermacher’s research and outreach program in southern Oklahoma focuses on the economic evaluation of forage-based beef production systems, management practices, and technologies; assessing the economic viability of precision agricultural technologies; economic evaluation of specialty and horticultural cropping systems; and bioenergy economics. He attended his first WAEA annual meeting in 2006 and has been a dedicated member since that time. He has made contributions to the association by serving as a reviewer of manuscript submissions for JARE, selected paper abstract submissions and by providing presentations of his research findings at a number of the association’s annual meetings. Dr. Biermacher is also At Large Director of the AAEA’s Extension Section.

WAEA Vision Statement

The experiences that I have gleaned from my membership and participation in our annual meetings have been tremendously valuable to my career as an agricultural economist. I believe this is true with all WAEA members and would certainly be true for new members as well. However, the recent crop of agricultural economists entering into Western State universities, government agencies, private businesses and other institutions that employ professional agricultural economists often have fewer financial resources than their predecessors for membership dues and registration and travel fees necessary for participation of our association’s annual meetings. If elected, I will advocate for retention and recruitment policies that focus on maintaining current membership and attracting new members into the Association. Further, I will lobby on behalf of the membership to continue the WAEA tradition of seeking out and securing unique, enjoyable, agreeable and affordable locations throughout the Western States to hold our annual meetings. In summary, I strongly believe in advocating for policies and programs that add value to WAEA and believe in encouraging all of our membership to become actively involved in the Association’s actives and wellbeing.
Michael McCullough
Associate Professor
California Polytechnic State University

Background
Dr. Michael McCullough is an Associate Professor in the Agribusiness Department at California Polytechnic State University. Dr. McCullough joined the AGB department in 2008 after earning a M.S. and Ph.D. at Washington State University and a B.S. at Boise State University.

Dr. McCullough believes strongly in the Teacher-Scholar model of higher education. His research interests include the study of the production, transportation, and regulatory environment of specialty crops, as well as the consumption and production of fermented foods. Dr. McCullough has been an active member of the WAEA since 2007. He has presented at annual meetings, reviewed selected abstract submissions, and helped out with the 2013 meeting’s industry tour.

WAEA Vision Statement
The WAEA is a vital part of our academic community in the West. The respected Association has had a long-standing tradition of quality research, outreach, and support of teaching excellence that engenders a diversity of thought and supports all types of professional activities. In addition, the JARE and WEF are premier places to publish quality and relevant applied research. I am very thankful for the opportunities that the WAEA has given me and am very excited to be able to give back. It would be my pleasure to help keep this tradition going serving the Association and members in a way that best fits today’s changing environment of agricultural environment.

My vision for the WAEA is to maintain the exceptional reputation the members have built, to remain an inclusive organization, and to encourage involvement by younger academic professionals, agricultural industry professionals, and public policy officials. I believe there is an opportunity to support and develop the careers of new agricultural economists. The fostering of new ideas in scholarship, teaching, and outreach is important to the sustained excellence of agricultural economics.

Programs that help young agricultural economists develop their careers will not only grow and sustain membership but also strengthen the profession as a whole. There is a large transition between graduate school and a professional career that is not always outwardly discussed. The Association can help minimize negative aspects of the transition between career stages. If elected, I would work hard to help develop program and policy that fosters career growth, meeting attendance, and a positive lifelong relationship between members and the Association. I’ve always appreciated the welcoming and inclusive environment that the WAEA offers and want to make sure it is extended to all in the Western States and beyond.
Glynn Tonsor
Associate Professor
Kansas State University

Background

Glynn Tonsor is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University (KSU). Glynn grew up on a farrow-to-finish swine farm in Monroe City, Missouri. Tonsor obtained a B.S. from Missouri State University and Ph.D. from KSU. He was a faculty member at Michigan State University from May 2006 to March 2010 when he joined the KSU faculty.

The majority of Tonsor’s interests and experiences span issues throughout the meat and livestock supply chain. Through active research, engaged outreach with industry, and first-hand knowledge with livestock production, Glynn has economic expertise in an array of topics. His resulting integrated research and extension program has resulted in multiple journal article publications and numerous outreach contributions.

Glynn and his wife, Shauna, live in Saint George, Kansas with their children Ethan, Levi, and Aubree.

In addition to being a supportive member of the WAEA, Tonsor has contributed to the association by reviewing journal article submissions for JARE and selected paper abstract submissions for annual meetings.

WAEA Vision Statement

I am honored by the opportunity to potentially serve the WAEA membership as a Director. As with other associations, a key issue is maintaining membership and attendance at flagship events including annual meetings. While the implications of declining travel support has been regularly noted, if elected I would attempt to call further attention to the benefits side of annual membership and meeting attendance decisions.

Consistent with my view on further integrating land-grant university missions and widely involving off-campus stakeholders, I believe additional discussion and focused effort within the WAEA could be exerted in aiding further integration of research, teaching, and extension programs of both faculty and student members. Moreover, I believe the WAEA could benefit from further incorporating experts from outside academia as well as engaging non-members within academia to be more involved. In sum, a focused effort to examine and extend the set of opportunities presented may offset persistent concerns with the cost of remaining active in the association by increasing the value of WAEA membership and annual meeting attendance.
2015 WAEA Call for General Award Nominations

Greg McKee and Karina Schoengold

The deadline for all submissions is February 24, 2015. For questions, please contact Greg McKee (phone: 701.231.8521; email: Gregory.Mckee@ndsu.edu) or Karina Schoengold (email: kschoengold2@unl.edu).

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 2014 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 Ted Schroeder at tcs@ksu.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 2014 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 letter of nomination should summarize the research of the nominee with respect to the criteria outlined above.

**Send nominations** to Jeff Luckstead at j luckste@uark.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, 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 Derrell Peel at derrell.peel@okstate.edu. Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted.
Call for WAEA Fellow Award Nominations

Deadline: February 24, 2015 (Electronic submission only. Materials may be scanned and submitted).

Send Applications to James Richardson jwrichardson@tamu.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 James Richardson jwrichardson@tamu.edu no later than midnight, February 24, 2015. 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 December issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics.
Call for Organized Symposia Proposals

The WAEA is seeking organized symposia proposals for the 2015 annual meeting in San Francisco, CA. Each symposium should consist of two or more speakers with ample time devoted to discussion. 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 May 1, 2015 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 Thomas L. Marsh in pdf format at TL_MARSH@WSU.EDU by February 24, 2015.