

## **Organized Symposia**

### **SAEA 2015 Annual Meetings**

#### **Organized Symposium 1**

**TITLE: Delivering Education and Marketing Extension Programs through New Media: What Are Ag Economists Doing?** (Moderator: Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University)

**Organizers:** Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University; John Riley, Mississippi State University; Edward Evans, University of Florida; Gary Schnitkey, University of Illinois.

**Participants:** Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University; John Riley, Mississippi State University; Edward Evans, University of Florida; Gary Schnitkey, University of Illinois; John Anderson, American Farm Bureau Federation.

Extension outreach efforts continue to evolve with electronic and social media use increasingly touted as a way to engage with audiences. Panelists discussed what they have learned about audience needs and preferences through experiences with blogs, Facebook, Twitter, electronic newsletters, websites and apps. Impact assessment is a challenge.

#### **Organized Symposium 2**

**TITLE: Evaluating the Micro and Macro Impacts of Policy Changes on the Tomato Industry** (Moderator: Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University)

**Organizers:** Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University;

**Participants:** Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University; Serhat Asci, California State University; Ronald Knutson, Texas A&M University; Mechel Paggi, California State University; Marco Palma, Texas A&M University; James Seale, Jr., University of Florida; Fumiko Yamazaki, California State University; Lisha Zhang, University of Florida.

The principal issue addressed in this symposium involved the development of a methodology to objectively assess the impacts of structural change as deviations from a baseline. This issue was addressed utilizing the U.S. tomato industry and the impacts of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) as a case study example.

#### **Organized Symposium 3**

**TITLE: Crops Outlook for 2015** (Moderator: Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University)

**Organizers:** Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University; Nathan Smith, University of Georgia.

**Participants:** Alba Collart, Mississippi State University; Todd Davis, University of Kentucky; Don Shurley, University of Georgia; Aaron Smith, University of Tennessee.

This session featured four presentations that highlight the current and near-term situation and outlook of crops. A panel of experts was organized from the annual Southern Region Agricultural Outlook Conference, hosted by the Southern Extension Economists Committee. The panel

provided unique insights to the discussion by adding comments on hot topics of relevance to the United States and more specifically to the Southern states.

#### **Organized Symposium 4**

**TITLE: Food Security in an Imperfect World: Economic Perspectives on Causes and Remedies** (Moderator: William Meyers, University of Missouri)

**Organizer:** William Meyers, University of Missouri.

**Participants:** William Meyers, University of Missouri; Shida Henneberry, Oklahoma State University; Andrew Schmitz, University of Florida; Thomas Johnson, University of Missouri; Donna Mitchell, Texas Tech University; Isaac Sitienei, Louisiana State University; Norbert Wilson, Auburn University.

Food security is a “wicked problem” that defies easy answers and has frustrated the best intentions of global scholars and policy makers. This session is intended to explore various manifestations of food insecurity at macro and micro levels and differing approaches to analyzing the problem or proposed remedies.

#### **Organized Symposium 5**

**TITLE: Role of Crop Insurance On Agricultural Safety Net, Net Returns, And Land Values** (Moderator: Saleem Shaik, North Dakota State University)

**Organizers:** Saleem Shaik, North Dakota State University; Michael Langemeier, Purdue University.

**Participants:** Michael Langemeier, Purdue University; Gregory Ibendahl, Kansas State University; Saleem Shaik, North Dakota State University.

#### **Abstract**

Farm commodity and crop insurance programs once viewed as temporary and supplementary to agricultural earnings are increasingly viewed as permanent and of major importance. In this environment, the following question arises. What is the role of farm program payments and crop insurance payments on producer and land owner wellbeing? This session presented new empirical crop insurance research and its future implications.

#### **Organized Symposium 6**

**TITLE: Graduate Student Training: How to be an Effective Teaching Assistant** (Moderator: Michael Vassalos, Clemson University)

**Organizers:** Michael Vassalos, Clemson University; Jerrod Penn, University of Kentucky.

**Presenters:** Jerrod Penn, University of Kentucky; Kelly Davidson, University of Florida.

Working as a teaching assistant is a very rewarding but challenging experience. This symposium focused on three issues that concern a number of teaching assistants: i) different teaching/learning styles, ii) how to engage students during the lecture, and iii) the challenges/strategies of teaching a large lecture-style course.

## **Organized Symposium 7**

**TITLE: The Future of Water Resources in the South: Challenges and Potential Solutions**

(Moderator: Tatiana Borisova, University of Florida)

**Organizer:** Tatiana Borisova, University of Florida.

**Participants:** Tatiana Borisova, University of Florida; Steve Amosson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; Tracy Boyer, Oklahoma State University; Bridget Guerrero, West Texas A&M University; Robert Hogan, Texas A&M University; John Riley, Mississippi State University; Larry Sanders, Oklahoma State University; Amanda Smith, University of Georgia; Nathan Smith, University of Georgia; Bradley Watkins, University of Arkansas; John Westra, Louisiana State University; David Willis, Clemson University; Jeff Mullen, University of Georgia.

The symposium focused on identifying critical water resource challenges facing the Southern US and related economic impacts on agriculture, public water supply, and in-stream water uses. The team also discussed current and emerging water allocation policies, their costs and benefits, and tradeoffs and economic implications for various stakeholder groups.

## **Organized Symposium 8**

**TITLE: Extension Program Development: Advice and Tips from Recognized Specialists**

(Moderator: John Riley, Mississippi State University)

**Organizer:** Lawrence Falconer, Mississippi State University Extension Service

**Participants:** Lawrence Falconer, Mississippi State University Extension Service; John Michael Riley, Mississippi State University Extension Service; Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University; Delton Gerloff, University of Tennessee.

The session provided insights on Extension programming for young faculty. Topics included: 1) importance of program planning, design, implementation and measurement, 2) traditional and non-traditional funding sources that enrich an Extension program and provides needed grant activity for promotion, and 3) participation in extension committees and award package development that aids in promotion.

## **Organized Symposium 9**

**TITLE: The European Union (EU) Trade Embargo on Export of Selected Agricultural Products and Food: Low Food Prices in Poland, High Prices in Russia?** (Moderator: Mike Reed, University of Kentucky)

**Organizer:** Wojciech Jan Florkowski, University of Georgia

The invasion of Crimea, a part of the sovereign Republic of Ukraine, by Russia in March 2014, and the subsequent annexation of the region led to economic sanctions against Russia. The Russian government responded with mutual trade sanctions against exports of agricultural products and food from the EU and Ukraine. The purpose of the session was to present the actual and estimated economic losses to agricultural producers in the EU, especially the fruit and vegetable farmers and the meat and dairy processing industries.

**Participants:** Wojciech Florkowski, University of Georgia; Henryk Wnorowski, University of Bialystok; Kazimierz Meredyk, University of Bialystok; Joanna Baran, Warsaw University of Life Sciences; Anna M. Klepacka, Warsaw University of Life Sciences; Marcin Wyskokinski, Warsaw University of Life Sciences.

### **Organized Symposium 10**

**TITLE: Livestock Outlook for 2015** (Moderator: Nathan Smith, University of Georgia)

**Organizers:** Luis Ribera, Texas A&M University; Nathan Smith, University of Georgia.

**Participants:** Nathan Smith, University of Georgia; Kenneth Burdine, University of Kentucky; John VanSickle, University of Florida; J. Jones, Oklahoma State University; H.L. Goodwin, University of Arkansas

This session featured four presentations that highlight the current and near-term situation and outlook of livestock. A panel of experts was organized from the annual Southern Region Agricultural Outlook Conference, hosted by the Southern Extension Economists Committee. The panel provided unique insights to the discussion by adding comments on hot topics of relevance to the United States and more specifically to the Southern states.