TITLE: Cuba: Prospects and Issues for Agricultural Trade (Moderator: David Schweikhardt, Michigan State University)

Organizer: Multistate Research Project, S1043, "Economic Impacts of International Trade and Domestic Policies on Southern Agriculture"

Participants: Henry Thompson, Auburn University; Flynn Adcock, Texas A&M; Jonathan Coleman, U.S. International Trade Commission; William Messina, University of Florida; Daniel Whitley, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service; Andrew Schmitz, University of Florida

Three papers address U.S.-Cuba agricultural trade. Beginning in 2000, U.S. companies were permitted to sell agricultural and food products to Cuba for the first time since 1961. Annual U.S. sales values have varied significantly since that time. Changes in U.S., Cuban and third country policies will influence future trade patterns.

TITLE: Economic Impact of Dietary Guidelines on the South (Moderators: Ronald D. Knutson and Marco A. Palma, Texas A&M University)

Organizer: Ronald D. Knutson and Luis A. Ribera, Texas A&M University

Participants: Mechel Paggi, California State University, Fresno; Luis A. Ribera, Texas A&M University, Henry Bryant, Texas A&M University; Hyeyoung Kim, University of Florida.

The thrust of the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) is to substantially reduce intake of calories and fats as part of the fight against obesity. If implemented it would have substantial impacts on agriculture. This symposium will address the potential economic impact of the 2010 DGA on U.S. agriculture.

TITLE: Encouraging Excellence in Communication in Undergraduate Agribusiness Programs (Moderator: Michael A. Gunderson, University of Florida)

Organizers: Michael A. Gunderson, University of Florida

Participants: Michael A. Gunderson, University of Florida; Vicky Salin, Texas A&M University; Michelle Santiago, Sam Houston State University

Employers desire “soft” skills in addition to topical skills. Assigning writing intensive assignments can burden instructors with excessive grading, particularly as agribusiness programs have grown. This session aims to identify strategies that will encourage faculty to use writing assignments in their classes, but manage the workload that accompanies such assignments.
**TITLE: Graduate Degrees in Agricultural Economics: Perspective to Enhance Expectation and Preparation** (Moderator: Jerrod Penn, University of Kentucky)

**Organizer:** Jerrod Penn, University of Kentucky

**Participants:** Lyudmyla Kompaniyets, University of Kentucky; Jerrod Penn, University of Kentucky; H. Mikael Sandberg, University of Florida; Jeffrey Gillespie, Louisiana State University

To empower undergraduates on the opportunities and expectations of graduate degrees in agricultural economics, this symposium provides a comprehensive view on graduate programs. Each speaker’s perspective provides unique insight on graduate program expectations and experiences, improving undergraduates’ understanding of the purpose and process of graduate school.

**TITLE: Graduate Students as Course Instructors – Is this the New Model for Graduate Programs in Agricultural and Applied Economics?** (Moderator: James A. Sterns, University of Florida)

**Organizer:** James A. Sterns, University of Florida

**Participants:** Jennifer Tywman, University of Florida; Michael E. Wetzstein, University of Georgia; Wes Harrison, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center; Michael A. Gunderson, University of Florida

Historically, graduate students have taught courses, though more frequently now as teaching FTEs are reduced. Panelists discussed benefits and risks of this trend (e.g., effects on budgets, time to degree, teaching quality), affirming that graduate students can excel as teachers but cautioning against systematic shifts to this practice.

**TITLE: Impacts of Panama Canal Expansion on U.S. and Southern Agricultural Trade** (Moderator: Eric Wailes, University of Arkansas)

**Organizer:** Flynn J. Adcock, Texas AgriLife Research, Texas A&M System

**Participants:** Mickey Paggi and Fumiko Yamazaki and Srinivasa Konduru, California State University-Fresno; Jason Bittner and Timothy Baird, University of Wisconsin; Rafael Costa, Texas AgriLife Research; John Robinson, Texas AgriLife Extension Service; Steve Fuller, Texas A&M University; Lynn Kennedy, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

The estimated completion of the Panama Canal Expansion is 2014. The expansion will potentially alter U.S. agricultural trade and competitiveness. Southern U.S. agriculture participates in agricultural trade, benefiting from export opportunities while enduring import competition. This symposium identified the potential impacts of canal expansion
on U.S. and southern agricultural trade.

**Title:** Innovative Approaches to Retain and Sustain Young and Beginning Producers in Agriculture (Moderator: H.L. Goodwin, University of Arkansas)

**Organizers:** H.L. Goodwin and L. Paul Goeringer, University or Arkansas

**Participants:** Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University; Josh Detre, Louisiana State University; L. Paul Goeringer, University of Arkansas.

Young and beginning producers (YBPs) face high startup costs and often lack land access, resulting in higher cost structures and limited size economies compared to experienced producers. Studies indicate YBPs wish to reduce costs and farming time and increase profits. This symposium provides a forum to discuss innovative approaches to sustain YBPs in agriculture.

**Title:** Opportunities and Challenges in Farming: Potential for Nontraditional Entrants (Moderator: H.L. Goodwin, University of Arkansas)

**Organizer:** Mary Ahearn, Economic Research Service, USDA

**Participants:** Mary Ahearn, Economic Research Service, USDA; H.L. Goodwin, University of Arkansas; Valentina Hartarska, Auburn University; A. Lee Meyer, University of Kentucky.

Currently, the general demographic of principal operators of U.S. farms are most commonly white, male, and over the age of 50. Farming can be a challenging, yet highly rewarding occupation and lifestyle choice for new entrants, including women, minorities, and younger individuals entering farming. This symposium will review the opportunities and challenges for nontraditional entrants into farming and discuss innovative ways in which entrants organize their businesses for success. Research priorities and effective extension strategies will also be discussed.

**Title:** Using Smart Phone and Tablet Technology to Enhance Extension Programs

**Organizer:** Jay Yates, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

**Participants:** Jackie Smith, Texas AgriLife Extension Service; Larry Falconer, Texas AgriLife Extension Service; Job Springer, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation; Gregg Ibendahl, Mississippi State University

Extension professionals are increasingly being asked to do more with less. New technology allows them to be in more than one place at a time and to develop new decision aids which can be carried to the field. This symposium showcases the work the presenters have done in this area.
TITLE: When the Well Goes Dry: Addressing Drought Impacts on and off the Farm

Moderator & Organizer: Dave Shideler, Oklahoma State University

Participants: David Anderson, Texas A&M University; Brad Watkins, University of Arkansas Rice Research and Extension Center; Ross Pruitt, Louisiana State University AgCenter; Kurt Guidry, Louisiana State University AgCenter; Larry Sanders, Oklahoma State University

Reflecting on the extreme drought experienced in AR, LA, OK and TX, this symposium discussed the impact felt by agriculture in each state. Methods for capturing impact data in a timely and useful way and reporting the results were also discussed.