There may be no better place to get a realistic appraisal of biofuels than the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota. - David Rotman, “The Price of Biofuels,” Technology Review, January/February 2008

Biofuels have been in the news almost constantly for the past year. On the positive side, we hear about the boost in economic development for the farm sector and rural communities, production of a domestic renewable energy supply, and the potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. On the negative side, there are questions and concerns about the impact of biofuel production on food prices around the world, about the amount of energy that can be supplied by biofuels, and about the ultimate carbon footprint of biofuel production if it brings new land under cultivation. The issues are complex, sometimes controversial, and critically important for our state, our nation, and the entire global economy.

Our department has been a leader in biofuels research and outreach. Our work is wide-ranging, rigorous, and multifaceted. That is why it was recognized by David Rotman in Technology Review, the world’s oldest technology magazine, which is published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology “…to promote the understanding of emerging technologies and to analyze their commercial, social, and political impacts.”

Our departmental web site lists seventy-nine publications on energy resources by our faculty, staff, and students since 2000. I count at least twelve current faculty and staff members who are working in the area or renewable energy and biofuels. Let me tell you about some of their work.

• Professor Jeff Apland is developing a sector model that will predict how changes in prices and policies will affect land use, production patterns, and incomes within a particular production region or watershed across all regions of the state.

• Professor Brian Buhr has analyzed the impacts of higher crop prices on livestock production and meat prices, and he has spoken on this topic to numerous audiences around the state.

• Professor Emeritus Vernon Eidman has researched the evolving economics of biofuel production and has been a featured speaker at regional, national, and international conferences.

• Professor Jerry Fruin has made thoughtful presentations on “ethanol economics” and the impact of biofuel production on world grain prices, agricultural transportation systems, and trade flows.

• Research Associate Jason Hill has played a critical role in several studies on the energy and greenhouse gas balances of alternative biofuel production systems and the prospective benefits of cellulosic ethanol produced from diverse stands of perennial prairie grasses.

• Professor Bill Lazarus has analyzed the economics of on-farm anaerobic digesters and has contributed to the analysis of energy policy alternatives while on sabbatical at the United States Department of Agriculture.

• Professor Steve Polasky has been a key participant in a series of widely cited studies that do a full-cost accounting of alternative biofuel production systems. These studies show that biofuels are a potential low-carbon energy source, but carbon savings depend on how biofuels are produced.

Continued on page 4.
I am pleased to announce Dr. Brian Buhr has accepted the position of head of the Department of Applied Economics effective July 1, 2008. Dr. Buhr has been a member of the Applied Economics faculty for nearly 16 years and maintains the E. Fred Koller Endowed Chair in Management Information Systems.

Brian grew up on a crop and livestock farm in northeastern Iowa and received his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Iowa State University. His research is primarily in commodity marketing and information systems, including assessing the economic impacts of traceability in supply chains, and the development and use of contracts in supply chain management, in addition to other areas. Recent scholarly achievements involved a multi-year project with the National Pork Board to evaluate the value of the Latino pork market and to create case-study examples of value added enterprises in pork production.

Brian has been recognized for his work with key agri-business leaders to evaluate the economic value of animal agriculture in Minnesota. As a result of Brian’s research findings, a statewide task force headed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to improve the economic potential for animal agriculture in Minnesota was commissioned; Brian serves as an adviser to this task force and to other related efforts.

His strong commitment to service in the University and the department is evident as the undergraduate major coordinator for the Agricultural and Food Business Management major, past Faculty Consultative Committee Chair, and University of Minnesota Faculty Senator. His teaching assignments have included the Commodity Marketing and Futures and Options marketing courses.

Brian succeeds Dr. Robert King, a leader of distinction. Among many notable accomplishments as department head, Rob has been a promoter of excellence in research, innovator of interdisciplinary graduate programs, recruiter of high quality students, and champion of public engagement. We are truly grateful for his tenacious leadership and commitment these past four years.

My thanks to the department’s participation in this important process, to Mark Ascerno for his leadership as chair of the committee, and the members of the search committee for their efforts in facilitating the search process for this critical role in CFANS.

Please join me in congratulating Brian.

Allen S. Levine, Dean
College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences

UPCOMING EVENTS
For further information on these and future events, see the departmental website: www.apec.umn.edu/News_Events.html

July 29 - University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin Reunion at the AAEA / ACCI Joint Annual Meetings in Orlando, FL at 9:00 -11:00 p.m. in room Bonaire 8 of the Caribe Royal Hotel.

August 24 - Maroon and Gold Day at the Minnesota State Fair. Check out the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences booth in the U of MN Building and presentations on the U of MN Stage.

August 27-28 – New Graduate Student Orientation, afternoon only on August 27 and all day on August 28.

August 28 – Annual BBQ / Picnic in Como Park at the end of Grad Student Orientation.

August 27-September 1 - Freshman Welcome Week.
We are very sad to convey the news that University of Minnesota Regents’ Professor Emeritus G. Edward Schuh died on May 4, 2008 from complications following heart surgery on May 1. He was 77. When he died, Ed was surrounded by his wife, Ignez, and their three daughters, Audrey, Susan, and Tonya. A visitation was held on May 8th and the funeral was held on May 9th at St. Jerome’s Church in Maplewood, MN.

Ed was a Hoosier and received his B.S. degree in agricultural education from Purdue University in 1952. He went on to study agricultural economics at Michigan State University, where we was awarded his M.S. degree in 1954. After two years in the U.S. Army, he entered the graduate program in economics at the University of Chicago, where he completed his Ph.D. in 1961.

Ed joined the agricultural economics faculty at Purdue University in 1961 and quickly rose to the rank of professor in 1965. He was a visiting professor at the Federal University of Vicosa in Brazil from 1963 to 1965, and it was there he met his lifelong love, Ignez. This also was the beginning of a lifelong connection with Brazil that continued until his death. In July 2004, Ed was honored by the Brazilian Society of Agricultural Economics with a new award—Legendary Member of the Society—in recognition of his lifetime contributions. In April 2005, he received the National Order of Scientific Merit, Grã Cruz, from the Brazilian Academy of Science and the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology. This is Brazil’s highest scientific award and is considered the equivalent of the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Ed remained at Purdue University until 1979 but during that time served as program advisor to the Ford Foundation, as senior staff economist on the President’s Council of Economic Advisors under President Ford, and as deputy deputy undersecretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs at USDA.

Ed joined what was then the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota in 1979 as department head—and served in that capacity until 1984. This was a time of growth and change in the department, with many new faces, and a constant stream of high-level visitors. In addition, there were new initiatives focusing on state, national, and international issues, and we had a large, diverse graduate program with outstanding students—many of whom are now leaders in our profession. Ed also was very successful in attracting gift funds. He played a key role in establishing our first endowed chair—the E. Fred Koller Chair in Agricultural Management Information Systems. Later, he was successful in raising endowment funds for the Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy, a center that has contributed significantly to our department over more than 20 years.

Ed resigned as department head in the early fall of 1984 to become director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at the World Bank, where he remained until 1987. He returned to the University of Minnesota as dean of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and served in that capacity until 1996. He later became the Orville and Jane Freeman Professor in International Trade and Investment Policy, a position he held until his retirement in November 2007.

Ed made truly significant professional contributions through his work on the following: trade, foreign exchange rates, and international financial markets in an open world economy; poverty and food security; agricultural policy; and science and technology policy. He received the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) award for Best Published Research in 1971 for his book Agricultural Development in Brazil, and three years later his article on “The Exchange Rate and U.S. Agriculture” received the Best Article prize from the American Journal of Agricultural Economics. Ed served as president of AAEA in 1981–82 and was elected a Fellow of the Association in 1984. He was also a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He received honorary doctoral degrees from the Federal University of Vicosa and from Purdue University. In 1998 he was elected a Regents’ Professor, the highest honor possible here at the University of Minnesota. And on June 4, 2008 Ed was honored in memorium as a 2008 recipient of the University of Minnesota President’s Award for Outstanding Service for providing exceptional service to the University community.

Ed’s published work will continue to inspire and challenge scholars for many years to come, but the impacts he had on the lives of the people around him will be just as long lived. Ed was completely devoted to Ignez and their children. One rarely had a conversation with him without getting some news of Ed’s family and being asked about one’s own. Ed was a mentor for countless graduate students from all around the world, and was always a trusted friend to colleagues everywhere.
Donald Liu Recognized Nationally for Teaching Excellence

To address the national priority of developing human capital for scientific and professional expertise in the food and agricultural sciences, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), offers a national awards program for Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences. This awards program recognizes faculty who promote effective and innovative pedagogy, as evidenced by successive years of sustained, meritorious, and exceptional teaching.

In late 2007, Professor Donald Liu was selected as one of six regional award winners under this program. Donald received his award at the annual meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, held in New York City on November 10–13, 2007.

MAE readers might remember that this is not the first time Donald has been recognized for his teaching excellence. He was inducted into the University of Minnesota’s Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2006, when he received the Horace T. Morse Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education. Also in 2006, Donald received the Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for More Than Ten Years’ Experience from the American Agricultural Economics Association. For his innovative use of technology in the classroom, he was selected as a Fellow of the University of Minnesota Digital Media Center in 2005. Donald also received a Distinguished Teaching Award (Tenured Category) from the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences, and the Teaching Award of Merit from the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture in 2001.

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Donald Liu

Robert P. King, Professor and Department Head

Department Head Notes Continued from Page 1.

- Professor Ford Runge has written extensively on the food versus fuel conflict and has proposed policy reforms that would allow ethanol subsidies to adjust to reflect corn supplies and prices.
- Professor Ben Senauer has also written on the food versus fuel conflict. In addition, related to the issue of climate change, he recently organized a conference on the impact restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions will have on key sectors of the U.S. economy, including the food sector.
- Professor Steve Taff has developed data bases on biomass resources around the state and has been a key participant in several studies of biomass-based energy production. He is also beginning work on the design of a low carbon fuel standard that has the potential to yield significant rewards for biofuels produced with low carbon emissions.
- Research Fellow Doug Tiffany has built a national reputation for his careful analyses of the profitability of biofuels and wind energy economics. Much of his current work focuses on technologies for converting existing ethanol plants to production processes that will enable them to use biomass and qualify for low carbon fuel premiums.
- Finally, I have served on the NextGen Energy Board, which was established by Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty to research and recommend how the state can invest its resources to most efficiently achieve energy independence, agricultural and natural resources sustainability, and rural economic vitality.

I believe these efforts illustrate applied economics at its very best. We are working on problems of critical concern to society – often in collaboration with scholars from other disciplines. We are careful about problem formulation, objective and rigorous in our analysis, and we communicate our findings to local, national, and international audiences to ensure that our research has both professional and public impact.

In closing, I want to build on and extend David Rotman’s words: there is no better place to find solid applied economic analysis than the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota.
Steve Polasky Named Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Seven University of Minnesota professors were named in 2007 as Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for their scientifically or socially distinguished contributions to the advancement of science. Among them, Professor Stephen Polasky of the Department of Applied Economics, was recognized for his distinguished contributions to the field of environmental economics—in particular, for his work on biodiversity conservation and endangered species policy.

Steve is the Fesler-Lampert Professor of Ecological and Environmental Economics in the department. Previously he held faculty positions in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Oregon State University from 1993 to 1999, and in the Department of Economics at Boston College from 1986 to 1993. Steve was the senior staff economist for environment and resources for the President’s Council of Economic Advisers in 1998–99. In addition, he served as associate editor and co-editor for the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, and is currently serving on two EPA committees—the Science Advisory Board Environmental Economics Advisory Committee, and the Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services Committee. He also serves on the Science Council of The Nature Conservancy. In 2006, Steve was selected as a Founding Fellow of the University of Minnesota’s newly established Institute on the Environment.


AAAS is the world’s largest general scientific society and the publisher of the journal, Science. AAAS was founded in 1848 and includes 262 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. The tradition of AAAS Fellows began in 1874.

Candidates for Fellow are nominated in three ways: by Steering Groups from the Association’s 24 sections; by being nominated by any three Fellows, who must be current members of AAAS; or by being nominated by the CEO of AAAS. Each Steering Group then reviews the nominations in its section, but the final choice is made by the AAAS Council, which votes to decide who will be elevated to Fellow. This year’s AAAS Fellows were presented with an official certificate and a rosette on February 16, 2008 at the Fellows Forum during the 2008 AAAS annual meeting in Boston.

Departmental colleagues and friends congratulate Steve as he joins the ranks of an elite group of outstanding scholars. Among them are Regents’ Professors Emeriti Vernon Ruttan and G. Edward Schuh, who were named AAAS Fellows in 1986 and 1989, respectively.

Donald Liu continued from page 4.

A letter written by Department Head Robert King nominating Donald for the USDA/CSREES award included the following description of Donald’s talents.

“Donald is a talented teacher-scholar. He is truly committed to guiding, assisting, and engaging students through the processes of learning and growth that are the essence of a baccalaureate and post-graduate education. He is dedicated to his students, willing to expend great efforts both in and outside of the classroom to enhance their learning experiences, and innovative in his use of technology to leverage the impact of his efforts. He is also an educational leader, who has worked tirelessly to help colleagues improve their teaching and has made thoughtful contributions to teaching program design and administration.”

Donald’s colleagues and students—past and present—congratulate him on this richly deserved recognition.
News from Department Alumni

In each issue of the Minnesota Applied Economist, we like to feature a few of our departmental alumni. If you have news to share about yourself or have news of other alumni from the department, please contact apecmae@umn.edu.

Neil Conklin

Neil received his Ph.D. from the department in 1981 with Reese Dahl as his advisor. His dissertation title was, “An Economic Analysis of the Pricing Efficiency and Market Organization of the U.S. Grain Export System.” Neil was named the sixth president of the Farm Foundation in January 2008. Neil previously served as director of the market and trade economics division of USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS). In that role, he has initiated the ERS research program on the economics of bioenergy, and directed development of new modeling frameworks on global trade policy analysis. Before joining ERS in 1999, Neil spent six years at the Farm Credit Council as vice president and chief economist. He previously worked at the Office of Management and Budget, and has had teaching assignments at Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, and Colorado State University.

Emmett Dacey

Emmett earned his B.S. in applied economics in 2002 with Terry Roe as his advisor. Immediately after graduating from the University, Emmett moved to California to attend graduate school at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he earned his M.A. in economics. He then accepted a position as a junior staff research analyst with LECG, a consulting firm specializing in antitrust litigation. After several promotions, he has advanced to senior economist, where his primary job responsibility is supporting expert witnesses. Emmett and his wife, Barb, live in southern California, where they enjoy mountain and valley views and the absence of mosquitoes!

Lung Fai Wong and Lai Chun Kan

Fai and Lai graduated from the department in 1985 and 1983, respectively. Lai received her M.S. with Burt Sundquist as her advisor. Her thesis title was “Creation and Management of a Farm Records Data Base.” Fai graduated with a Ph.D. from the department in 1985 with Vern Ruttan as his advisor. His dissertation was titled, “A Comparative Analysis of Agricultural Productivity Growth Among Socialist Countries,” which was awarded the Best Thesis in 1985 by the department. After 10

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Shefali Mehta Receives the Mary A McEvoy Award for Public Engagement and Leadership

Congratulations to recent Ph.D. graduate Shefali Mehta on being named one of the 2008 recipients of the Mary A. McEvoy Award for Public Engagement and Leadership. Two McEvoy awards are given annually to University graduate or professional. To win the award each recipient must demonstrate leadership and public engagement that is clearly “above and beyond” his or her normal duties and responsibilities. Criteria for the award include demonstrating creativity and assistance that 1) benefit an individual, group, or community, or 2) strengthen the democratic way of life. In addition, each recipient of the McEvoy Award also receives the President’s Student Leadership and Service Award. The McEvoy and President’s Awards were distributed at a banquet on May 5, 2008.

In his nomination letter, Department Head Robert King noted Shefali’s very significant role in founding and leading the Teaching SMART program. This program links volunteer undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Minnesota with elementary school students in active learning experiences that focus on math and science. The program introduces young public-school students not only to the excitement of science, but also to a diverse group of University students who provide concrete evidence that real people from all sorts of backgrounds can attend and be successful at college. For more information about the Teaching SMART program, please go to http://www.tc.umn.edu/~t-smart/.

In his nomination letter, Rob King commented on Shefali’s leadership qualities; “Like all good leaders, she defines clear goals and maintains a sharp focus on them. She is persuasive and persistent, yet she also listens to others, and is prepared to adapt her thinking. She is creative and has a wonderful ability to communicate innovative ideas to others in a simple, convincing manner. She has seemingly boundless energy. Perhaps most important, though, she is truly connected with, and concerned about, the needs of others.”

Alumni News continued from page 6.

years working at the Minnesota House of Representatives and Vancouver City Hall in British Columbia, Canada, Fai and Lai returned to Hong Kong in 1994 to join their family business. Fai and Lai currently work hard operating Sammy’s Kitchen & Bath, a franchise kitchen and bathroom remodeling business with sales networks in Canada, the U.S., Mexico, and Hong Kong. The cabinet factory is located in rural southern China with 500–700 workers, mostly from the local area. As Fai said, “Although we are not involved in the Chinese agricultural sector in any academic capacity, we are making indirect contributions to rural China through job creation.” In his “free time,” Fai serves as a member of the Central Policy Unit of the Hong Kong government and provides advice on policy issues related to China. Fai completed an M.S. degree in education in 2004 as part of his “retirement” program to help rural Chinese learners. He has done some teaching at the Open University of Hong Kong on China’s economy, and his most recent publications are related to web-based education. Fai and Lai’s children are studying abroad as did their parents. Fai and Lai’s son, Wayne, is at the University of California in Irvine, and their daughter, Siming, is studying in Vancouver. Fai and Lai would like to re-connect with old friends from the department, so please feel free to email Fai at faiwong@sammys.com.hk.
On December 13, 2007, members of the Department gathered with members of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education and representatives of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences to celebrate the establishment of the Hammill Fund for Economic Education. This new fund will support programming and general operations of the Minnesota Council, with an emphasis on providing support for students aspiring to become certified to teach economics at any grade level who enroll in courses offered by the Department of Applied Economics. Those courses will be attuned to training teachers plus demonstrating curriculum and didactics to help teachers prepare their students to meet State standards for economics and financial understanding.

This new fund was initiated by a generous gift from Jim and Mary Hammill, who are long-time friends of the Council. Jim is an alumnus of our department, having received his B.S. degree in 1957 and his M.S. in 1960. During his graduate student days, Jim became friends with Jim Houck and largely through that friendship he stayed in touch with us through the years. Then in the early 1990’s after Jim Houck had played a key role in bringing the Minnesota Council into our department, Jim Hammill quickly became the Council’s most loyal volunteer. His efforts over the years have been remarkable … and this gift from Jim and Mary added a new dimension to this relationship.

During the recognition ceremony for Jim and Mary, Minnesota Council Director Claudia Parliament offered her sincere thanks. She then went on to say that this gift would have an immediate impact, as it had been the inspiration for her to team-teach a course on “Using Children’s Literature to Teach Economics and Personal Finance” with Professor Terry Johnson from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction during the 2008-09 academic year. She noted that, “This will be the first time we will use these Council-developed materials with undergraduate students who are training to be licensed teachers. Proceeds from the Hammill Fund will be used to purchase materials for student taking the class.”

In his remarks, CFANS Dean Allen Levine thanked Jim and Mary on behalf of the College, the Department, the Minnesota Council, and the many students who will be helped in the years to come. He went on to say, “We thank you for your thoughtfulness and insight, for your passion for economic education, and for being an inspiration and example to us all. The new Hammill Fund for Economic Education is a wonderful example of personal generosity connecting the ideas and expertise of our university with teachers and students. We are all very grateful.”
Visitor from China Offers a Chance to Reconnect

We always welcome opportunities to learn about the accomplishments of our alumni. A phone call to the main office last November was the starting point for a remarkable – and moving – chance to reconnect.

Jamason Chen – a digital media consultant, photographer, and broadcast technician here at the University of Minnesota – called to say that Huang Yihuang had just arrived in Minneapolis to attend the opening of the “Three Gorges” photography exhibit at the Minnesota Center for Photography. Yihuang’s father, Huang Yong-shih, had graduated from our Department in 1951, and Jamason asked whether Yihuang could visit us the following day.

Rob King, Louise Letnes, Missy Sullivan, and Chinese graduate student Haochi Zheng greeted Yihuang and Jamason when they arrived in the department. Yihuang is a professor of the history of photography at Wuhan University. He had travelled to Minnesota to present a lecture at the opening of the Three Gorges exhibit.

Speaking through Jamason and Haochi, who served as interpreters, Yihuang told us that his father had served as Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Wuhan University. He went on to say that in the early 1960’s, his father had written an article on Chinese agricultural policy, calling for a move toward greater reliance on market forces. Yihuang shared copies of the article as well as a series of unsigned attacks on it. He also shared a copy of an official pronouncement from the government that subsequently supported his father’s position.

On a more personal note, Yihuang told us that his father’s thesis was lost during the Cultural Revolution, when all the English language books and papers in their home were destroyed. He had vivid memories, though, of the stories his father had told him about life in Minnesota. Learning of this loss, we were happy to present Yihuang with a copy – taken from the original in Waite Library – of his father’s long-lost thesis. In return, Yihuang gave us copies of his father’s papers, and these are now a valued part of the Waite Library collection.

On November 17, Rob King and Missy Sullivan attended the opening of the Three Gorges exhibit. Yihuang presented a lively lecture on the ongoing transformation of the Three Gorges region and on the remarkable group of photographers who had contributed to the exhibit. At the end of his lecture, he told the moving story of his family’s connection to the University of Minnesota. We hope that, some day, Yihuang will have a chance to visit us again.
AgEcon Search Continues to Increase Its Web Presence

You may be familiar with AgEcon Search, http://agecon-search.umn.edu/, the free-to-the-user Web resource with the full text of 28,000 working papers, conference papers, and journal articles in agricultural, resource, and other areas of applied economics. Did you know that the Department of Applied Economics and the University of Minnesota Libraries run AgEcon Search?

We are often asked how AgEcon Search is funded. It is currently funded by a combination of in-kind support from the University; by 150 or so groups that upload their own papers; by the Special Projects Fund of the Farm Foundation; by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resources Sciences; and by regional, national, and international agricultural economics associations. In addition, individuals and organizations may also contribute to the University of Minnesota Foundation Fund #2313, the AgEcon Search Fund. You can donate online at http://www.giving.umn.edu/, or by sending a check, made out the University of Minnesota Foundation–Fund #2313, at the address below. In addition, please mark your check “For the AgEcon Search Fund.”

University of Minnesota Foundation

CM-3854

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Currently there are many important projects that need funding, including the following projects that highlight our ongoing commitment to making lesser-known papers available to a wider audience.

- Inputting papers that are on the Web but are hard to find.
- Digitizing smaller regional journals and making their papers available free-of-charge to users of AgEcon Search.
- Promoting the use of AgEcon Search among students, researchers, and policy makers, especially those who lack access to expensive indexes and online journals.
- Identifying and digitizing material produced in less-developed countries, because this material traditionally has been hard for researchers to find.
- Establishing a center in Africa to gather materials for AgEcon Search and to promote its use by African researchers, students, and policy makers.

Since 1994, we have recruited participants, uploaded papers, sent weekly e-mail updates to economists, and promoted the use of AgEcon Search. Currently over 150 academic institutions, government agencies, and professional societies contribute their material to AgEcon Search, and its papers have been downloaded nearly 1.5 million times.

Although the project began as a way to easily distribute the working papers produced at the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin, and North Dakota State University, AgEcon Search has grown to include research papers from all over the world. In addition, conference papers from the American Agricultural Economics Association have been included since 1997, and other large associations have also begun adding papers from their meetings, including the following professional organizations.

- African Association of Agricultural Economists
- Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society
- European Association of Agricultural Economists
- International Association of Agricultural Economists

AgEcon Search and its coordinators, Louise Letnes and Julie Kelly, were honored this year by two groups. First, the American Library Association presented AgEcon Search its Oberly Award for agricultural bibliography; and second, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition named AgEcon Search as a partner.

A migration to new software has just been completed, which has greatly enhanced searching capabilities and allows all papers in AgEcon Search to be found when searching Google.
Recent Publications

For information on locating a copy of a publication now available on the Internet, contact the highlighted author at the department by calling 612-625-1222.

Environmental and Resource Economics


The Economic and Ecological Impact of Oak Wilt in Minnesota by Shefali Mehta, Tetsuya Horie, David Smith, Robert Venette, Robert Haight, Frances Homans, and Abigail Walter. PowerPoint presented at Distributed Graduate Seminar, Economic Impacts of Non-Native Forest Pests and Pathogens on North America, National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, February 5-8, 2008, Santa Barbara, CA.


Recent Publications (cont.)

**Food Systems**


How Should the Farm Business be Organized? A Look at Your Operation’s Set-up Should Help Determine Which Option is Best for You by Gary Hachfield. AgWeek, v.23, no.25, January 28, 2008.


Recent Publications (cont.)


http://www.springerlink.com/content/p0827h/


http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/mn/p08-02.pdf


http://www.cffm.umn.edu/Publications/pubs/FarmMgtTopics/2007MinnesotaFarmFinancialUpdate.pdf


http://cornandsoybeandigest.com/marketing/wheat-explodes-0301/index.html


Growth, Development and Trade


http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/isu/wp070028.pdf

Recent Publications (cont.)


Recent Publications (cont.)


Public Sector Economics


Why Do They Leave? Child Care Subsidy Use in Oregon by Deana Grobe, Roberta Weber, and Elizabeth Davis. Journal of Family and Economic Issues (Online First), to be published in March 2008.

Would you like to receive the Minnesota Applied Economist electronically? Do you have suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter? We would love to hear from you! Please contact us at apecmae@umn.edu.

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation. The University's mission, carried out on multiple campuses and throughout the state, is threefold: research and discovery, teaching and learning, and outreach and public service.