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The Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 1

Spring 1988

Message From The Chair

The Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics held a business meeting in New Orleans in January during the annual meeting of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists. The reports from the various subcommittees indicated that we had many accomplishments last year and can look forward to another productive year. Plans are underway to develop and submit proposals for organized symposia for the 1988 AAEA meetings, to host a reception at that meeting, to update the Directory of Black Agricultural Economists, and to develop and submit a proposal to a journal for a set of papers focusing on limited resource farmers, rural poverty, and economic development in the Caribbean and Africa.

The Committee is planning activities to commemorate the centennial of the 1890 (historically black land grant) colleges. These colleges which are located in the southern and border states have educated many black agricultural economists and provided them with opportunities to teach, conduct research, and administer agricultural programs. In fact, the majority of the persons listed in the Directory of Black Agricultural Economists received at least one degree from an 1890 college. In addition, these colleges have a history of providing service to rural people, especially those with low income. The committee will join with the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA), the AAEA Foundation, and the Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) in sponsoring activities to celebrate the centennial of the 1890 colleges. Please contact me if you would like to help plan these activities.

Many people have asked me questions about the organizational structure of the Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics. We are a committee of the AAEA. The president of AAEA appoints members to the committee. In recent years, the persons appointed by the president have served basically as an "executive board" and have encouraged other agricultural economists to chair and serve on subcommittees and participate in committee activities (the "executive board" is listed on page 2).

The Committee meets twice a year - during the annual meeting of the SAEA and the AAEA - and the meeting is open to all who are interested in helping the committee to fulfill its objectives. The "executive board" welcomes your input and would like to hear from you regarding the committee's mission, structure, activities, newsletter, etc. If you are interested in serving on the "executive committee", please contact me immediately.

The AAEA is seeking nominations and expressions of interest from persons willing to serve on the various AAEA committees (see announcement on page 2). I encourage black agricultural economists to volunteer to serve on these committees. We need to be represented on the committees and our perspectives and insights can help enrich the decisions that are made.

On a personal note, I have changed jobs since the publication of the last newsletter. My new address and telephone number are: Joint Center for Political Studies, Suite 400, 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004, (202) 626-3593. Don't hesitate to contact me with your questions or comments about the Committee. I look forward to hearing from you and serving as your chair for 1987/88.

Joyce Allen

CLIFTON ELECTED TO OFFICE

Ivery Clifton (University of Georgia) was elected to the 1st Vice President of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association. As 1st Vice President he will be responsible for developing the invited paper session for the Association's 1989 annual meeting.

Ivery D. Clifton, Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Georgia; B.S. 1965, M.S. 1967, Tuskegee University; Ph.D., 1976, University of Illinois; IEM, 1982, Harvard University. TVA, 1966-67; USDA-ERS, 1970-76; University of Georgia, 1976-present. Interim Chairman, Division of Agricultural Economics and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Georgia, 1987. Member, AAEA contributing papers committee, 1978-81, and Opportunities and Status of Blacks Committee, 1985-present. Member, SJAE contributing papers committee, 1987, and SJAE Editorial Council, 1985-present. University of Georgia Chapter Gamma Sigma Delta and Phi Kappa Phi. Trustee Leadership Georgia Foundation, 1983-1985. Over 50 publications and professional papers including 3 SJAE abstracts. Chairman, Academic Governance, University of Georgia, and 1980-81 College of Agriculture Outstanding Grantsman Award.

AAEA News

Membership. Are you a member of the American Agricultural Economics Association? AAEA is a professional society for agricultural economists and others who are interested in agricultural economics. Its objective is to further the systematic development of knowledge of agricultural economics in order to improve agriculture and agriculture's contribution to the general economy. AAEA members receive *Choices* magazine, the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, and the *AAEA Newsletter*. Membership dues are \$45 per year for regular members and \$22.50 for junior (student) members. For information on joining AAEA, contact the AAEA Business Office, 80 Heady Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011-1070, (515)294-8700.

Employment Service. The AAEA operates a year-round employment service that is free of charge but limited to members of the association. The employment service is aimed particularly at recruitment of:

- women and minorities
- M.S. and B.S. students

- nonpermanent U.S. residents
- experienced professionals

For applications and additional information, contact Lona Christoffers at the Business Office.

Publications. The AAEA Business Office has copies of the report entitled "Opportunities and Status of Blacks in the Agricultural Economics Profession" which was prepared by the Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics. Send your requests for a copy of this report to the Business Office. The cost of the report is \$2 to cover postage and handling.

Committees. Lester Manderscheid, President Elect of AAEA is seeking nominations and expressions of interest from persons who are willing to serve on AAEA Committees. About one-third of AAEA committee members rotate off committees each year, and volunteers are needed to replace them. If you would like to serve on a committee, contact Manderscheid by March 15 at the following address: Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University, Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1039. AAEA has the following committees: Standing Committees - Awards, Economic Statistics, Extension, Fellows Election, Finance Committee, Industry Committee, International Committee, Membership, Nominating, Professional Activities, Resident Instruction, Tellers. Special and Ad Hoc Committees - Choices Advisory Council, Economic Education, Employment Services, Information Retrieval, Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics, Professional Relations Between the People's Republic of China and the United States, Selected Papers, Women in Agricultural Economics.

For Your Professional Calendar

A.A.E.A. Meeting, July 31 - August 3, 1988, Knoxville, Tennessee.

The first annual Hunger Research Briefing and Exchange, April 6 - 8, 1988 at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island sponsored by Brown University's Alan Shawn Feinstein World Hunger Program and InterAction.

Symposium on Multiple Job-Holding Among Farm Families in North America, May 16 - 17, 1988, The Rosslyn Westpark Hotel, Arlington, Virginia.

XX International Conference of Agricultural Economists, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 24 - 31, 1988.

Necrologies

Jonathan Massaquoi, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics at North Carolina A & T State University died October 30, 1987 in Chapel Hill, N.C. He was 33 years old.

Massaquoi was a native of Bo, Sierra Leone and had lived in the United States since 1975. He received a B.S. degree in economics from High Point College in 1979, a M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from North Carolina A & T State University in 1982, and a Ph.D in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University in 1986.

He joined the North Carolina A & T faculty in 1985 and taught courses in production economics, microeconomic theory, and agricultural marketing. He was conducting research on rice self-sufficiency in Sierra Leone, the supply and demand of persons with degrees in agriculture, and the job requirements for

agricultural graduates. In addition, he served on the Agricultural Economics Department's Admissions Committee and Comprehensive Examination Committee.

Eddie Watson, an Agricultural Economist with the Soil Conservation Service in Syracuse, New York died August 16, 1987 in a drowning accident. Watson was 28 years old.

He was born in Tallulah, Louisiana and during his youth he raised championship hogs as a 4-H member. Watson was valedictorian of his high school class. He graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from Southern University in 1981. Watson received a M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University in 1985 and was enrolled in a doctoral program in Agronomy at Cornell University at the time of his death.

He joined the Soil Conservation Service in 1978 as a student trainee and was hired as a permanent employee after receiving his bachelor's degree. He worked there part-time while pursuing his graduate degree.

In 1984, he was appointed as a member of the AAEA Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics. He served on this committee until 1987.

Employment Opportunities

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) anticipates that it will be hiring approximately 20 agricultural economists within the next 12 months.

Career positions in FAS are typically filled at the entrance level by candidates who are highly qualified Agricultural Economists and possess a Master's degree.

Individuals interested in further exploring career opportunities are welcome to contact the Recruitment Office at (202) 447-5951 or (202) 382-1587.

THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published by the Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics. Special thanks is due to Vin Samuel for conducting a survey which identified the need for and led to the creation of our newsletter. Thanks Vin for a job well done. Ralph D. Christy and Doris Newton will serve as co-editors of the NEWSLETTER. The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University will serve as host institution. If you have any information you wish to have placed in the NEWSLETTER, please forward to:

Ralph D. Christy, Editor
 Department of Agricultural Economics
 and Agribusiness
 Louisiana State University
 Baton Rouge, LA 70803-5604
 Phone: (504) 388-3284

or

Doris Newton, Assistant Editor
 USDA/ERS
 1301 New York Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20005

The NEWSLETTER is prepared by Ms. Susan K. Duhe.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES (Continued)

Head, Department of Agricultural Economics
Mississippi State University
Starkville, Mississippi

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Head of the Agricultural Economics Department is responsible to the Dean, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, Director, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, and the Director, Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service. The Head provides leadership and administration of statewide teaching, research and extension programs in Agricultural Economics; has responsibility for coordination of budget and personnel management functions; and is expected to establish and maintain working relationships with other units in the university, agricultural clientele groups, the agribusiness community, government agencies, and professional societies.

Application: Send letter of application, personal resume', transcripts of all college or university work and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five (5) professional references, or send nominations to:

Mr. Milburn Gardner, Personnel Officer
P. O. Box 5446
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics
Berry College
Mount Berry Station
Rome, Georgia 30149

Responsibilities: This is a 100% teaching position with opportunities for release time to do research. Teaching undergraduate courses in Agricultural Economics, Farm Management, Agribusiness Management, Introduction to Agriculture and other courses of a general nature. The person selected for this position will also be expected to help develop and teach a new course and share in the advising of approximately 100 agriculture majors.

Application: Applications, including complete resume, official transcripts and a list of five references should be sent to:

Dr. Jack McCroskey, Head
Department of Agriculture
Berry College
Mount Berry Station
Rome, Georgia 30149

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Summer Minority Program. The American Economic Association (AEA) is sponsoring a Summer Minority Program for promising Black, Hispanic, and Native American undergraduates who are interested in pursuing the Ph.D. in Economics. Students need not be majoring in Economics and those who are studying Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to juniors and seniors. The program will be held from June 1 to July 27 at Temple

University in Philadelphia. Successful applicants to the program will take courses in intermediate micro and macroeconomic theory, mathematics for economists, and applied econometrics; participate in seminars and take field trips. They will receive paid expenses (travel, housing, food, tuition, books and instructional materials) plus a \$1,200 cash stipend. Preference will be given to applications received by April 15. Notification of acceptance will be made by May 1. For application forms and further information, contact:

Dr. Michael D. McCarthy, Program Director
AEA Summer Minority Program
Economics Department
Ritter Hall
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA 19122
(215) 787-8887 or (215) 787-8452. (After March 31, the second number will ring in the program office).

Summer Positions. The Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. anticipates hiring a few undergraduate and graduate students for summer positions. Students are typically hired as economics assistants, statistical clerks, or economists. To apply for a position, students need to submit a SF171 (Application for Federal Employment) and either a college transcript or List of College Courses form by March 16. For application forms or additional information, contact either Sandra Burgess, USDA/EMS, Room 4321 South Building, 14th Street & Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250, Telephone (202) 447-8257 or Delisa Robinson, USDA/EMS, Room 1443 South Building, 14th Street & Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250, Telephone (202) 447-3660.

Fellowships. The National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy at Resources for the Future is sponsoring a Resident Fellowship Program for 1988/89. The fellowships are offered to individuals holding a Ph.D. in any discipline. Persons employed by a university, the government, or private sector are eligible to apply. Applications are welcomed from professionals who will be on sabbatical or other leave of absence. Stipend is negotiable. Research support, office facilities at Resources for the Future, and an allowance for moving expenses will be provided. Application deadline is April 4. For additional information, contact: Ann Ralovsky, Resources for the Future, 1616 P Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Telephone (202) 328-5000.

Notables

Joyce Allen has taken a position as Senior Research Associate on the staff of the Joint Center for Political Studies in Washington, D.C. where she is conducting research on labor market issues and domestic food and agricultural policies. (202) 626-3593.

Adell Brown is on a 1 year assignment with the USDA Cooperative State Research Service in Washington, D.C. (202) 535-0972.

Ralph Christy was on assignment in Jamaica during the Fall of 1987 at the College of Agriculture, Port Antonio, Jamaica.

Ivery Clifton of the University of Georgia, Department of Agricultural Economics, was promoted to Professor.

Allie Felder, Senior Vice President of the National Cooperative Business Association, received an award from Ohio State University. (Contact Eugene Jones for additional information (614) 292-6971).

Magid Dagher has been appointed Associate Professor in the Department of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff where he is teaching and conducting research. He was formerly a visiting Professor in the Agriculture and Resource Economics Department at the University of Maryland - College Park. (Contact Magid for more information (501) 541-6865).

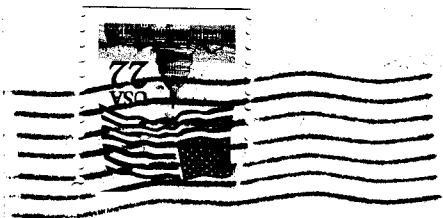
Tesfa Ghebremedhin of Southern University received an award at the Seventh Biennial Research Symposium sponsored by the Association of Research directors. His award winning paper was entitled "The Importance of Off-Farm Employment in the Rural Economy of Louisiana."

Dawn Gyawu has transferred from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Agency for International Development.

Dewit Jones, Agricultural Economics Department Chairman, was recently appointed Assistant Dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics at Southern University.

Abdhul Mu'Min of North Carolina A & T State University received the second place award. His paper was entitled "Evaluating Decision Rules and Planning Tools in Farm Decision-Making: A Conceptual Framework."

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