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Organized Symposia

TITLE: Competitive Impacts and Opportunities from Freer Trade on Southern Fruits and Vegetables. (Moderator: Albert Allen, Mississippi State University).

Organizers: C. Parr Rosson, III and Flynn J. Adcock, Texas A&M University.

Participants: P. Lynn Kennedy, Louisiana State University; Tom Spreen, University of Florida; C. Parr Rosson, III and Flynn Adcock, Texas A&M University; John Vansickle, University of Florida; and Jose Peña, Texas A&M University.

The purpose of this symposium was to examine crucial issues resulting from increased trade in fruits and vegetables as a result of freer trade under the North American Free Trade Agreement, the World Trade Organization, and Free Trade of the Americas. Import competition, exchange rate devaluations, developing country debt and infrastructure, and U.S. antidumping policy were identified as major sources of change. Citrus production is affected by growing competition from Brazil, while domestic consumption of fresh product is declining. Melons and onion production is facing more competition from Mexico, whereas some U.S. production is shifting south into other countries. U.S. antidumping policy is being used to reduce adverse impacts of import competition, but much of that policy is coming up for review and may not be in place over the longer term.

TITLE: Contracting in Agriculture: Producer Preferences and Contract Design. (Moderator: John Lee, Mississippi State University).

Organizers: Darren Hudson, Mississippi State

University and Joe Parcell, University of Missouri.

Participants: Darren Hudson and Jayson Lusk, Mississippi State University; Joe Parcell, University of Missouri; Jeff Gillespie, Louisiana State University; and Brent Hueth, Iowa State University.

The purpose of this symposium was to examine critical issues surrounding contracting in agriculture. The structure of agriculture continues to change rapidly, with increased pressure for identity preservation and increased coordination of vertical supply chains. The presenters in this session addressed issues of producer utility for contract attributes, design of contracts when no market price exists, and livestock production and marketing contracts. The session fostered an exchange of ideas about important research and education.

TITLE: The 2001 or 2002 Farm Bill and the United States Position in Trade Talks. (Moderator: Robert E. Young II, University of Missouri).

Organizer: Robert E. Young II, University of Missouri.

Participants: Chad Hart, Iowa State University; Gerry Kiely, Agriculture, Fisheries and Consumer Affairs (AG), Delegation of the European Commission to the United States; and Greg Frazier, Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.

The United States has significantly increased its domestic agricultural support in the last few years. New proposals receiving consideration in Congress continue higher levels of increased support to the point where there is a noticeable probability of the United States

exceeding World Trade Organization (WTO)-allowed expenditures. This weakens the United States' position in these talks. The symposium discussed the support measures in the new or pending farm legislation and the likelihood of exceeding WTO limits. It also heard the opinions of trade negotiation officials from the United States and the European Union as to the longer-term effects.

TITLE: A University/USDA Partnership for Comprehensive Farm Policy Analysis. (Moderator: Daryll E. Ray, University of Tennessee).

Organizer: Daryll E. Ray, University of Tennessee.

Participants: Daniel Ugarte, University of Tennessee; Alan Gray, Purdue University; and Mark Peters, Economic Research Service.

Often the interests and impacts on nonfarm groups are not explicitly considered in analyses of farm policy alternatives. This session showed how an innovative collaboration between Purdue University, the University of Tennessee, and USDA's Economic Research and Natural Resources Conservation Services expanded the usual kinds of policy alternatives considered and the typical range of impacts estimated. The approach provided information for cells of a matrix of policy alternatives (rows) and policy impacts on each group or indicator (columns). Information was provided on impacts of four policy alternatives on several economic and environmental indicators and several affected groups, including agribusiness.

TITLE: The Economic Cost of Managing for Fish and Wildlife. (Moderator: Ronald Fleming, University of Kentucky).

Organizers: Michael Thomas, Florida A&M, and Terry Hanson, Mississippi State University.

Participants: Michael Thomas, Florida A&M; Terry Hanson, Mississippi State University;

Frank Lupi, Michigan State University; and Webb Smathers, Melissa Smith, and Garland Wilkie, Clemson University.

Much is made of the many nonmarket values contributed by fish and wildlife and their many forms of dependent recreation. Sometimes lost in the discussion of these values are the market and nonmarket costs resulting from fish and wildlife damages to human enterprises and the opportunity costs of their management. The purpose of this session was to provide a forum for the discussion of direct and indirect costs related to fish and wildlife. Furthermore, the session provided some balance to the traditional discussion of fish and wildlife values and their dependent activities.

TITLE: The Role of Value-Added Agribusiness Centers in the Southern Region. (Moderator: Steve Murray, Mississippi State University).

Organizer: Steve Murray, Mississippi State University.

Participants: Rob Holland, University of Tennessee; Kent Wolfe, University of Georgia; Virgil Culver, Mississippi State University; and Rodney Holcomb, Oklahoma State University.

Most colleges of agriculture in the Southern region have organized "value-added" units to assist agribusiness within their state. The units may focus on food processing, the manufacture of products using forest resources, or other business related to agriculture. These units typically include agricultural economists. This symposium brought together members of several value-added units to discuss methods used, share experiences, and promote collaboration.

TITLE: Agricultural Guest Worker Policy: Policy Implications for Southern U.S. Food Systems. (Moderator: Fritz Roka, University of Florida).

Organizers: Suzanne Thornsby and Fritz Roka, University of Florida.

Participants: Suzanne Thornsby and Mark Wester, University of Florida; Walter Kates, Florida Fruit & Veg. Assn.; Rob Williams, Florida Legal Services; and Robert Emerson, University of Florida.

Fruit and vegetable growers have become increasingly concerned over the availability of seasonal workers. Many current agricultural workers emigrate from foreign countries without legal documentation to be employed on U.S. farms. Efforts to secure an adequate and legal work force have led to congressional debates over reform of the current agricultural guest worker program known as H-2A. While such debates are often contentious, a growing consensus has emerged among advocates for employer and worker groups. This symposium highlighted the provisions in the current H-2A regulation, the proposed reforms, and the implications to both employers and farm workers.

TITLE: Information Technology and the Digital Divide in the South. (Moderator: Wayne Miller, University of Arkansas).

Organizer: Wayne Miller, University of Arkansas.

Participants: Bo Beaulieu, Southern Rural Development Center; Stephan Goetz, Northeast Center for Rural Development; Ed Cameron, Advanced Services Division—Rural Utility Service; and Ed Malecki, The Ohio State University.

It is critical that rural residents and small businesses utilize information technologies to avail themselves of new and innovative opportunities for improving the quality of life. People that lack telecommunication skills will be left behind, and areas that do not have access to a good telecommunications infrastructure will lose jobs and capital investment to better-prepared areas. This symposium described the digital divide in the South and dis-

cussed the causes of the digital divide and what can be done to overcome the technological and human constraints limiting use of information technologies.

TITLE: Potential U.S.–Cuban Agricultural Trade: Issues for Southern and U.S. Agriculture. (Moderator: William A. Messina, Jr., University of Florida).

Organizers: William A. Messina, Jr. and Thomas H. Spreen, University of Florida.

Participants: Jose Alvarez, University of Florida; Eric J. Wailes, University of Arkansas; Thomas H. Spreen, University of Florida; and C. Parr Rosson, III and Flynn Adcock, Texas A&M University.

On October 28, 2000, former President Clinton signed legislation allowing U.S. companies to sell agricultural and food products (and medicines) to Cuba. This was perhaps the most significant change in U.S. policy toward Cuba in 40 years. In light of the heightened interest in the issue of U.S.–Cuban agricultural trade, this session provided an overview of Cuban agricultural policy and trade, reviewed the current situation in some of Cuba's most important agricultural commodity subsectors, and assessed the prospects for and impact of U.S. agricultural exports to Cuba.

TITLE: Data Warehousing/Data Mining: A Crop Insurance Application. (Moderator: Ashley Lovell, Tarleton State University).

Organizer: Ashley Lovell, Tarleton State University.

Participants: Garland Westmoreland, USDA-RMA; Steve Steed and Walter Johnston, Tarleton State University; Lisa Gardner, Bradley University; Mike Cross, Texas Operations Planning Systems Inc.; and Christos Nikolopoulos, Bradley University.

Recognizing the potential of data mining technology, the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires USDA's Risk Manage-

ment Agency (RMA) to utilize data mining to improve the soundness of the crop insurance program. This session was a case study of the world's largest crop insurance data warehouse and data mart to illustrate the application of data mining techniques in addressing crop insurance issues. The purpose of the data mining is to improve the crop insurance program for which USDA-RMA has oversight and reinsurance responsibilities.

TITLE: The Contemporary Agricultural Economy and its Impact on the Lives of Rural People. (Moderator: David L. Debertin, University of Kentucky).

Organizer: David L. Debertin, University of Kentucky.

Participants: Patricia A. Duffy and Conner Bailey, Auburn University; Eric Scorsone and David Debertin, University of Kentucky.

The first presentation analyzed the role that the agricultural economy plays in improving the well-being of people living in rural areas as part of a modern society. The second presentation addressed the program changes Colleges of Agriculture must make if the broad goal is to improve the lives of rural people. Two discussants presented their reactions to each paper. An e-publication is available at <http://www.uky.edu/~deberti/conag.pdf>.

TITLE: Acceptability of Biotechnology. (Moderator: Eric Wailes, University of Arkansas).

Organizer: Eric Wailes, University of Arkansas.

Participants: Enefiok Ekanem, Tennessee State University; Lisa House, University of Florida; David Schmidt, International Food Information Council (IFIC); Duncan Chembezi, Alabama A&M University; and Mamane Anou, University of Arkansas.

Acceptance of biotechnology by society at large, and by consumers more specifically, is

critical if the biotechnology revolution is to achieve its potential. The objective of this symposium was to present current research issues and approaches to investigation of consumer and social acceptability of biotechnology. Three research consortia and the International Food Information Council presented current research findings and research approaches to assessing the acceptability of biotechnology.

TITLE: Southern Policy Issues for the 2002 Farm Bill. (Moderator: Larry D. Sanders, Oklahoma State University).

Organizers: James L. Novak, Auburn University and Larry D. Sanders, Oklahoma State University.

Participants: Daryll E. Ray, University of Tennessee; James L. Novak, Auburn University; and Joe Outlaw, Texas A&M University.

Disagreement exists over support for U.S. farm programs in 2002 and beyond. Commodity organizations and others have expressed their opinions about what the farm bill should be. Although some of the issues have been articulated, goals for and the consequences of alternative policies have not. The primary justification for this symposium was to help attendees understand the issues and consequences of policy alternatives that characterize the farm bill debate as it relates to the South. This forum helped participants identify goals that characterize the debate and to identify plausible alternatives to meet those goals.

TITLE: Economic Issues of Water Quality Protection Affecting Confined Hog and Poultry Production in the Mid-Atlantic States. (Moderator: James Pease, Virginia Tech).

Organizers: James Pease, Virginia Tech and Charles Abdalla, Penn State University.

Participants: Tim Maupin, Rocco Enterprises; Charles Abdalla, Penn State University;

Kelly Zering, North Carolina State University; and Jeff Corbin, Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Confined hog and poultry production constitutes large proportion of agricultural sales throughout the Mid-Atlantic states, yet the manure byproducts of livestock production have created a growing environmental issue. These states are experiencing rapid population growth, increased water quality concerns, and increased government regulatory scrutiny, all of which affect growth and viability of livestock industries. Economic impacts of water quality protection policy on hog and poultry production in the Mid-Atlantic were discussed by participants representing environmental, national policy, and economic education viewpoints.

TITLE: Current Status and Future Prospects for Precision Farming in Cotton Production. (Moderator: Burton C. English, The University of Tennessee).

Organizers: James A. Larson, The University of Tennessee and Jeanne Reeves, Cotton Incorporated.

Participants: Roland Roberts, The University of Tennessee; Michele Marra, North Carolina State University; Sherry Larkin, University of Florida; Steven Martin, Mississippi State University; and Don Shurley, University of Georgia.

Little information currently exists on the use of precision farming practices in cotton production. The objective of the symposium was to stimulate discussion about the current and future status of precision farming use in the southern United States through presentation of results from a six-state survey of cotton farmers. The following topics were addressed using data obtained from the 2001 cotton precision farming survey: (1) factors influencing precision farming technology adoption by cotton farmers, (2) demand for a more accurate cotton yield monitoring technology by cotton farmers, and (3) determinants of perceived environmental benefits from precision farming.

TITLE: Freer Trade and Southern Agriculture: Interregional Adjustment Issues in Peanuts and Pecans. (Moderator: Darren Hudson, Mississippi State University).

Organizers: C. Parr Rosson, III and Flynn J. Adcock, Texas A&M University.

Participants: C. Parr Rosson, III, Texas A&M University; Stanley Fletcher, University of Georgia; Jose G. Peña, Texas Cooperative Extension; Ralph Yoder, Georgia Peanut Producers Association; and Bob Parker, Golden Peanut.

The purpose of this symposium was to examine crucial issues resulting from increased trade in peanuts and pecans as a result of freer trade under NAFTA, the WTO, and Free Trade of the Americas. Competitive forces, such as imports and exchange rates, policy changes, and infrastructure, were identified as the most important factors influencing production shifts across the South. Peanut production is expected to shift from central Texas and parts of Oklahoma to Georgia, Virginia, and the Texas plains. Buying points and shelling facilities will likely follow these changing production patterns. It was also emphasized that it will be important to determine the proper level of peanut loan rate to avoid accumulation of government stocks.

TITLE: What Role for Land Trusts in Protection of Agricultural and Open Space Land in the Southern Region? (Moderator: William M. Park, University of Tennessee).

Organizer: William M. Park, University of Tennessee.

Participants: Sean Mulholland, Clemson University; John Bergstrom, University of Georgia; Leon Geyer, Virginia Tech; and Steve Smutko, North Carolina State University.

Support in the U.S. for protection of agricultural and open space land from development grew tremendously through the last two decades. However, dissatisfaction with the

pace of progress within public sector initiatives has stimulated rapid growth in the activity of private land trusts, especially through acquisition of conservation easements. Tax subsidies for donations of conservation easements have expanded since being initiated in 1976, and more recently state and federal funds have been made available to facilitate such transactions. There is a need to identify priority research and extension needs in connection with the process of institutional change.

TITLE: The Budget Summit: Enterprise Budget Development and Software Review Workshop. (Moderators: Larry Falconer, Texas Cooperative Extension; Damona Doye, Oklahoma State University; and Gordon Groover, Virginia Tech University).

Organizer: Larry Falconer, Texas Cooperative Extension.

Participants: Damona Doye, Oklahoma State

University; Clark Garland, University of Tennessee; Kevin Boyle, USDA; Wilder Ferreira, Clemson University; David Laughlin, Mississippi State University; Kelly Tiller, University of Tennessee; and Dan Smith, Clemson University.

Farm management specialists, research/teaching faculty, and others develop enterprise budgets for every state in the Southern region. The possibility of sharing data, software, and methods across the region could lead to great savings of time and expense. Findings from a SEFMC survey were presented covering current budget formats, methods being used, and current multistate enterprise budgeting efforts. After software demonstrations designed to demonstrate the range of possibilities for multistate cooperative efforts, discussion centered on how to follow up this workshop. Topics included establishing a protocol to share input data, budget output and budget generating software, and necessary administrative support.