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Organized Symposia

Annual Meetings, SAEA, Birmingham, Alabama, February 1997

TITLE: Strengthening the Applied Research Base for Rural Development Action Programs (Moderator: David Freshwater, Univ. of Ky.).

Organizer: John E. Lee, Jr., Miss. State Univ.

Participants: Greg Taylor, Tex. A&M Univ.; Colien Hefferan, USDA-CSREES; and John E. Lee, Jr., Miss. State Univ.

Rural development action programs have overextended the research base as a result of the emergence of a plethora of new rural development initiatives, extension programs, strategic plans, and grass-roots development efforts. Action program “doers” are urging that the research base for their programs be strengthened. USDA officials have called for more research to guide the development of state rural development strategic plans called for in the 1996 Farm Bill. There is a need to identify researchers interested in responding to the needs and to provide them with information on priority research needs, sources of funding, and mechanisms for communication. This symposium will review current rural development research needs and opportunities, identify potential funding sources, and identify researchers in southern institutions who have an interest in responding to rural development research opportunities. Symposium attendees will also have an opportunity to respond to a proposal for a southern rural development research partnership.

TITLE: Relevance of SAEA to Extension: Is the SAEA Any Longer Relevant to the South? (Moderator: Ronald D. Knutson, Tex. A&M Univ.).

Organizer: Ronald D. Knutson, Tex. A&M Univ.

Participants: Harold M. Harris, Clemson Univ.; Gary F. Fairchild, Univ. of Fla.; Tom Johnson, Va. Tech; Eduardo Segarra, Tex. Tech; and Josef M. Broder, Univ. of Ga.

The roots of the SAEA are in applied agricultural, resource, and rural/community economics. Moreover, the SAEA was specifically designed to address issues in these areas that are relevant to the southern region. Increasingly, questions are being raised as to whether the SAEA has lost sight of its roots. While it might be argued that the analysis of regional issues has become overwhelmed by the forces of globalization and national policy, the South remains unique in terms of the commodities it produces, regional politics, demographics, resources, and its rural problems. Without this type of regional emphasis, the SAEA becomes less relevant to extension economists who work within the region. In fact, if the concentration of the SAEA is on the same type of national consensus as the AAEEA, then the SAEA is effectively irrelevant because its marginal contribution is minimal. The proposed session is designed to address issues of the relevance of the SAEA to extension and the south.

TITLE: Analyzing Supply Response Under the 1996 Farm Act (Moderator: William Lin, USDA-ERS).

Organizer: William Lin, USDA-ERS

Participants: Gary Adams, Univ. of Mo.; Andrew Washington, Univ. of Fla.; William Lin, USDA-ERS; Mike Dicks, Okla. State Univ.; Mack Leath, USDA-ERS; and Linwood Hoffman, USDA-ERS.

Changes in farm programs under the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act of 1996 could have an important impact on agricultural production, regional production adjustment, price and income variabilities. The 1996 act could result in different production patterns and more volatile market prices for many field crops. One of the key factors in this type of analysis is an accurate measure of supply response. Yet, the profession of agricultural economics does not seem to have a clear consensus on the approach to analyze the supply response under the new farm act. This symposium will highlight thoughts that were expressed in a recently completed ERS seminar series and will present a forum for conference participants to discuss alternative avenues of analyzing supply response under the FAIR Act.

TITLE: Sustaining Rural Communities (Moderator: Donald R. McDowell, N.C. A&T State Univ.).

Organizers: Donald R. McDowell, N.C. A&T State Univ., and Joyce E. Allen-Smith, Univ. of Ill.

Participants: William Amponsah, N.C. A&T State Univ.; William Edmondson, USDA-ERS; John Ikerd, Univ. of Mo.; and Surendra Singh, Tenn. State Univ.

Despite their diversity, rural communities have a common problem—how to promote and sustain development. This symposium examines the impact and implications of trade and alternative agriculture on sustaining rural communities.

TITLE: Using IMPLAN to Measure the Impact of Agriculture on a State's Economy (Moderator: Barry Barnett, Miss. State Univ.).

Organizer: Barry Barnett, Miss. State Univ.

Participants: David Hughes, La. State Univ.; Mark Henry, Clemson Univ.; and Gerald Schluter, USDA-ERS.

This symposium has three primary objectives. The first is to present methods for improving the IMPLAN model by replacing IMPLAN data with superior data from alternative sources. The second is to generate a discussion of technical and ethical issues that arise when communicating the results of analyses that measure the impact of agriculture on a state's economy to policy makers and other constituents. The final objective is to initiate a discussion of the potential need for regional coordination in adopting a common set of methods for measuring the impact of agriculture on states' economies.

TITLE: USDA National Research Initiative (NRI) Competitive Grants Workshop on Markets, Trade, and Rural Development (Moderator: William A. Amponsah, N.C. A&T State Univ.).

Sponsor: S-256 International Trade Regional Research Project.

Organizer: William A. Amponsah, S-256 Chair, N.C. A&T State Univ.

Session I: General Information on NRI Markets, Trade, and Rural Development Grant Programs.

Participants: Mark Bailey and David Holder, USDA-CSREES.

Session II: Panel Discussion of NRI Grant Experiences.

Participants: James Seale, Jr., Univ. of Fla.; Patricia Duffy, Auburn Univ.; Mary Marchant, Univ. of Ky.; Gail Cramer, Univ. of Ark.; Won Koo, N. Dak. State Univ.; Kim Jensen, Univ. of Tenn.; and Dale Colyer, W. Va. Univ.

As the U.S. economy becomes increasingly dependent upon export market growth and the retention of domestic markets, and since U.S. agricultural products are subjected to forces of global competition, this workshop will focus on the need to enhance successful grantsmanship in the areas of markets, trade, and rural development. The workshop consists of two components. In the first session, USDA-CSREES program directors will provide information on NRI programs and the Fund for Rural America. In the second session, workshop participants (made up of individuals who have served as NRI panel managers and panelists, reviewers, and/or who have been successful in securing NRI grants) will share their experiences.

TITLE: Implications of Federal Milk Marketing Order Reform for the South (Moderator: Bill Thomas, Univ. of Ga.).

Organizer: Ronald D. Knutson, Tex. A&M Univ.

Participants: Ronald D. Knutson, Tex. A&M Univ.; Albert Ortego, La. State Univ.; Harold M. Harris, Clemson Univ.; and Frank Johns, Mid-America Dairymen.

The 1996 Farm Bill mandated reform of the Federal Milk Marketing Order Program in 1999. Federal orders have provided unique benefits for the South in that milk prices have been maintained at a higher level than in other parts of the United States. Order reform could significantly change the regional structure of orders and its basing point pricing system. The symposium is designed to address the issues of the impact of order reform on the South from two key perspectives that are the focal point of the reform process. First, we examine the basic formula price (BFP) which sets the

price of milk used for manufacturing. While manufactured product production is not very large in the South, the BFP is the price on which all other milk prices are set. The BFP has been the Minnesota-Wisconsin price for Grade B milk. However, because Grade B production has declined sufficiently that the market has become exceedingly thin, a new BFP is required. Second, order consolidation is mandated with reconsideration of the Class I basing point pricing structure.

TITLE: Measuring Consumers' Judgment: A Pragmatic Approach Involving Ecotourism Analysis (Moderator: Hezekiah Jones, Ala. A&M Univ.).

Organizer: Donald R. McDowell, N.C. A&T State Univ.

Participants: Evan Mercer, USDA Forest Service; Alton Thompson, N.C. A&T State Univ.; Donald McDowell, N.C. A&T State Univ.; George Flemming, N.C. A&T State Univ.; Adesoji Adelaja, Rutgers Univ.; Anthony Yeboah, N.C. A&T State Univ.; and Edmund Tavernier, Rutgers Univ.

Methods of assessing consumer judgment are receiving increased attention, especially by those in federal government and private industry. It is very important to conduct an assessment of a project—for example, ecotourism—to determine the management strategies that encourage its environmental and social acceptability. The purpose of this organized symposium is to discuss current methods employed to assess consumer judgment by examining two ongoing projects. One project is based in Jamaica and the other in New Jersey. Detailed explanations will be presented on how the projects were developed, the surveys conducted, and interpretation of results.