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March 1983

ELECTION RESULTS

Only 19 people voted in the COWOP election, but the results were unanimous. The working rules were approved (see last newsletter), Jean Kinsey is our new vice-president, and Mary Templeton and Barbara Huddleston are new members of the steering committee. It's already time to start thinking of nominations for future steering committee members. Any suggestions?

INVITED PAPERS SESSION, AAEA ANNUAL MEETING, JULY 31 - AUGUST 3, 1983

Chairman: Walter P. Falcon, Stanford University

Presenters: James Ryan, ICRISAT
"Determinants of Farm and Off-Farm Labor Participation of Women and Men in Rural South India"

Carmen Diana Deere, University of Massachusetts

"Cooperative Development and Agrarian Transition in Nicaragua: The Difference Women's Participation Makes"

Christine Jones, Harvard University

"The Participation of Women in Irrigated Rice Production in North Camaroon"

Discussants: Christina Gladwin and Kathleen Staudt, Florida and Texas
Wallace Huffman, Iowa State

Arranged by Professor Christina Gladwin, Chair, Committee on Professional Activities, Committee on Opportunities for Women in Agricultural Economics.

COWOP ACTIVITIES AT PURDUE MEETINGS

Persons interested in opportunities for women in agricultural economics are cordially invited to come to the Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Women luncheon and open-house.

The luncheon will be held Monday, August 1 at noon in the Lafayette Room of the Purdue Student Union. You can make a reservation when you register.

An open-house will be held Tuesday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., August 2 in Room 206 of the Purdue Memorial Union.

An open-business meeting of COWOP will be held Tuesday, August 2 at 5:15 p.m. in Room 206 of the Purdue Memorial Union.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Agricultural Statisticians, USDA, GS 5, 7, 9. Send application materials to: USDA, Economics Management Staff Examining Unit, Room 1443 South Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250; (202) 447-7638. Information and application forms can also be obtained from the nearest Federal Job Information Center.

Vice-President, Resources for the Future. RFF is a nonprofit, nonadvocacy organization for research and public education. It conducts interdisciplinary programs on issues concerning natural resources, energy, and environmental quality. The vice-president will have primary responsibility for: development and administration of the research program, review and evaluation of all book-length manuscripts submitted for RFF publication, and administration and coordination of all grant, fellowship and scholarship programs. Candidates should have broad experience in applied economic and multidisciplinary research and administration, the ability to represent RFF to other institutions and to the public. Applicants should send a letter and resume

JOB OPPORTUNITIES, CONTINUED

by May 1, 1983 to:

President Emery N. Castle, Resources for the Future, 1755 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Nominations are also welcome if they are accompanied by a resume of the nominee.

Masters Program in Applied Economic Analysis, University of California, Santa Barbara. Designed to train students for careers in applied economic research such as that done by consulting firms, public agencies, and private firms. Three quarters of classwork in economic theory and statistical methods, followed by a six-month internship in private firms or public agencies in which research project is designed and conducted. Contact Graduate Admissions, Department of Economics, University of California, Santa Barbara, California 93106.

WOMEN AND FOOD INFORMATION NETWORK

The Women and Food Information Network is funded by a grant from AID's Women and Development Office to the Consortium for International Development, with the University of Arizona as the lead university. It was funded in response to congressional mandates on the integration of women into the solution of the world food problem, and particularly, to Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, which mandates the involvement of American Land Grant Universities in the "elimination of famine and freedom from hunger." The Network has two major objectives. The first is to expand the network of people with interest in women's roles in the world food system. The second is to serve as an on-going information and communication resource for people around the world with professional interest in this area (primary via newsletter). For further information or to be included in the Network, contact: Kathleen Cloud, Project Director, Women and Food Information Network, 24 Peabody Terrace, Cambridge, Massachusetts; telephone (617) 547-7529.

AMERICAN FARM WOMEN: FINDINGS FROM A NATIONAL SURVEY

In the fall of 1979, the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago entered into a Cooperative Research Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct a nationwide survey of farm women. The survey probed several dimensions of farm women's involvement in their own operations and in agriculture generally, including their participation in the work and decision-making for their enterprises, their memberships in agricultural organizations, and a variety of personal attitudes and beliefs about their roles.

On average, women reported involvement in just over half of the different types of tasks relevant to their operations. The great majority of women were involved in such tasks as bookkeeping, running farm errands, and producing food for family consumption. On operations producing livestock or animal products, about two-thirds of the women contributed to animal care. Between one-third and one-half reported involvement in such tasks as field work and harvesting, making major farm purchases, supervising farm laborers or other family members, and marketing activities.

Although very few farm women make final decisions entirely on their own, about half of the women shared at least some of the final decisions with their husbands. Substantial proportions of women (55 percent) considered themselves to be one of the main operators for their enterprises. Among those who were married (96 percent of the total), three women in five felt that they could continue to run their operations alone if something should happen to their husbands. Yet very few women listed themselves as having agricultural occupations on their income tax forms. While about one-third listed off-farm occupations, most identified themselves as housewives.

Farm women were substantially less involved than men with USDA programs and agencies. However, the statistical models used in analysis suggest that the male-female differences in program and agency involvement levels are due primarily to differences in their enterprise involvement levels.

Most women appear to identify primarily with their status as producers or members of agricultural enterprises, and only secondarily with their status as women in this field. They are mainly concerned about the problems facing their operations or their industry as a whole. When they do ask for help as women, it is usually aimed at keeping the farm in the family, for information to enable them to farm, or for recognition of the part they already play.

A major deficiency of past agricultural policy has been the tendency to identify a single individual (traditionally the male head of household) who can be labelled "the operator" and vested with sole authority to speak and act for the enterprise. In fact, farm operatorship is often a family function, shared to varying degrees by husbands and wives, and sometimes others as well. American farm women occupy virtually every point on the farm involvement continuum, from total non-involvement, through equal sharing with a spouse or partner, up to single-handed management. Yet, up to now, only those at the very highest involvement levels have been afforded recognition as operators or producers. Women consigned to non-operator status have been largely ignored, sometimes (due to inheritance and tax laws and lower information levels) with tragic results when husbands die or leave the farm. This study recommends greater attention to the role of farm women in farm operation and that special efforts be made to improve the transmission of information to farm women.

Condensed from Calvin Jones and Rachel Rosenfeld, American Farm Women: Findings from a National Survey, NORC Report No. 130. Chicago, Illinois: National Opinion Research Center, 1981

COURT CASES INVOLVING WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT

TIAA-CREF and other retirement programs; Spirit v. Long Island University and other cases, on appeal to the Supreme Court.

TIAA-CREF pays lower benefits to women than to men retirees, on the grounds that since women as a class live longer than men as a class, the total amounts paid over the lifetime are equivalent. Problem: the individual female retiree who doesn't live as long as the average woman will have received at the time of her death less from her contributions than a similarly situated man who dies at the same age.

The U.S. Court of Appeals (Second Circuit) found that TIAA-CREF's practice is illegal under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (which prohibits discrimination in employment based on sex). The Reagan government recently filed a brief supporting this decision.

A major related question is who is liable for a Title VII violation, TIAA-CREF or the universities, or both? TIAA-CREF argues that they are not the "employers" covered under Title VII, or even if they are, that since they are in the insurance business and the McCarran-Ferguson Act limits federal regulation of insurance companies, they are exempt. If the Supreme Court agrees with both this argument and the illegality of the practice, colleges and universities could be forced to make up the difference in benefits.

At present TIAA and CREF have been enjoined by the lower court in the Spirit case from using sex-distinct mortality tables to calculate retirement benefits of plan participants who retire after May 1, 1980. Long Island University was also enjoined from making contributions to sex-segregated plans after June 1, 1980. The issue of people who have already retired and currently draw benefits has not been resolved; current retirees were not represented in the Spirit case. They were included in the case of Peters v. Wayne State, in which the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit found that the use of sex-segregated tables is legal. Currently,

the Supreme Court is deciding whether to hear the Spirt and Wayne State cases. It will hear this spring a similar case involving Arizona state employees, Arizona Governing Committee v. Norris. So far, the Sixth Circuit says that use of sex-segregated tables is legal, while the Second and Ninth Circuits and the U.S. government say it is illegal.

abstracted from R. Claire Guthrie, "The Conflict over Women's Retirement Benefits," The Chronicle of Higher Education, January 26, 1983.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Many sex-discrimination cases have been decided, and many more have been filed. Some are class action, some individual; some get appealed all the way up, others are settled out of court. We'll try to report on the ones of greatest significance to us as women agricultural economists. Please help by sending in news of those you hear about which you find relevant. Many thanks to those of you who sent in the news items for this issue. Keep them coming!

NEW BOOKS

Margaret Rossiter, Women Scientists in America: Struggles and Strategies to 1940. Johns Hopkins University Press, 439 pages, \$27.50. History of science; women's history. Women in the 19th century had been gradually admitted to the study of science, with the justification that it would make them better mothers, prepared to train intelligent, patriotic sons. Slowly, in the 20th century, they were granted Ph.D.'s and given jobs at women's colleges, but, for the most part, not hired at the major research institutions or for any other prestigious jobs in science. American society, and especially its university faculties, became far more willing to educate women in science than to employ them, and were almost adamantly opposed to advancing or promoting any but the most extraordinary. The growing

"professionalization" of science worked against women, invoking higher standards to exclude them.

from The Chronicle of Higher Education, February 2, 1983.

MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Research Scientist (non-tenured Assistant Professor), for federally funded project on international energy policy, demand and forecasting. One-year term, possibly renewable depending on funding. Starting salary in the 20's. Contact: Dr. Wen S. Chern, Department of Textiles and Consumer Economics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, phone (301) 454-2141.

Assistant or Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness. Tenure track. Research and teaching in farm management-production. Application deadline July 1, 1983. Contact: Dr. Leo J. Guedry, Professor and Head Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (Refer to position 05-83-1).

IF

1. you are not on the current roster of Women in Agricultural Economics and wish to be included in future issues;

or

2. the data on you in the current issue needs up-dating; i.e., address changed, employment changed, degree received, etc.,

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM AND RETURN TO:

Ardelle Lundeen
Economics Dept., Box 504A
Scobey Hall, Rm. 150
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name: _____ Position: _____
(Last) (First)

Name of office, firm, or school: _____

Office address: _____

Office telephone: _____ (zip)

Mailing address, if different from above: _____

Areas of interest: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Last school attended: _____ Highest degree and year _____

_____ Please check if the above information may be used in a future directory of Women in Agricultural Economics.

I wish to become a member of the subcommittee(s): _____, _____

Do you wish to continue to receive mailings from the Committee? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you a graduate student? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, _____ PhD or _____ Masters

Are you interested in learning of job opportunities? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you interested in overseas assignments? _____ Yes _____ No

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

The time has come to request nominations for the Steering Committee of COWOP. The COWOP Working Rules state the following:

1. "The Steering Committee shall consist of six persons: the current chairperson, the past chairperson, the vice-chairperson, and three others representative of various facets of the membership, including geographical location and industry, government, or academic employment, if not otherwise represented. The three representatives shall serve two year terms....."
2. "The Steering Committee shall request by mail from COWOP members nominations for Steering Committee positions..... and shall present the names of at least two candidates for each position to the membership....."

The current Steering Committee consists of the following members:

Sylvia Lane -- chairperson	-- Univ. of California, Berkley
Jean Kinsey -- vice-chairperson	-- Univ. of Minnesota
Margo Ogus Rich -- treasurer	-- Bank of America
Ardelle Lundeen -- past chairperson	-- South Dakota State Univ.
Mary Templeton	-- West Virginia Univ.
Barbara Huddleston	-- Int. Food Policy Res.

The terms of Ogus and Lundeen expire this year. Therefore, there will be election for the two vacancies which will occur.

Your nominations are urgently requested.

1. You may submit more than two names.
2. You may designate nominations specifically for vice-chairperson and committee members or may submit nominations generally for either position on the Committee.

NOMINATIONS FOR STEERING COMMITTEE OF COWOP

Vice-Chairperson

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Committee Members

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please return by May 20th to:

Linda Lee
Department of Agricultural Economics
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078