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# COWOP NEWS

May 1982

Editor - Barbara Redman

## Notes From The Chair

I wish to take this opportunity to report on the activities of the Committee for the past few months. Though many of the sub-committees have a full report elsewhere in this issue, I would like to briefly mention some of their activities here. The Graduate Student Subcommittee has been conducting a survey of graduate students at Cornell and should have a report by this summer. We appreciate all of their work and especially welcome the involvement of students. It is difficult for students to devote much time to outside activities. Student years are very busy years--we have all been through them at one time--but the younger members of our profession stand to benefit most from the activities of COWOP.

The By-Laws Subcommittee is working on by-laws for our Committee. They should be ready for our business meeting at Logan. There will be several items of business in addition to by-laws conducted at that meeting. Last year we agreed to try our present format of affiliation with the AAEA under their Executive Board for one year. We must decide if we wish to continue as we have or if we wish to change our structure. A new vice-chairperson and new steering committee members must be elected. Our current vice-chairperson, Sylvia Lane, will become chairperson. Sources of funding are needed. We were fortunate to secure grants for our study of women in agricultural economics and for organizational expenses but we cannot rely on grants for continuing expenses.

The Professional Activities Subcommittee has arranged for our participation in the meetings at Logan. While the Invited Papers session was not ap-

proved, a symposium covering essentially the same material was accepted. Papers have been submitted by several of our members for consideration in the Selected Papers sessions.

Margo Rich Ogus has made arrangements for our business meeting and a luncheon at the meetings in Logan. Everyone is invited and urged to attend both events--there was some confusion last year about who was eligible to attend.

The choice of Utah, a state which has not ratified the ERA, for the AAEA annual meeting has caused considerable concern for some members. At our organizational meeting, we voted to send a letter to the Executive Board of the AAEA conveying our disapproval. This letter was sent in August, 1981. Recently I sent a letter to our board representative, Dr. Harl, restating our position and urging consideration of our views in selection of future meeting sites. He has agreed to bring this to the attention of the full Board. There does not seem to be much more we can do at the present time. With the limitations on travel under which most of us work, our only opportunity for meeting as a group is at the AAEA annual meetings. While I respect the views of those who wish to boycott the meetings as a sign of protest, I do not feel it is in our best interests as a Committee to officially adopt that position nor to cancel our meetings for this summer.

I am looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and hope that I will be seeing many new faces this summer. Remember if you are in Logan, be sure to attend our business meeting and luncheon.

## COWOP Activities in Logan, Utah

The annual meeting of the Committee on Women's Opportunities in Agricultural Economics will be held at 5:15 p.m. Monday, August 2. There will also be a luncheon at noon on Tuesday, August 3. Everyone is invited to the meeting and luncheon, and women are especially encouraged to participate. Reservations and payment arrangements for the luncheon will be included in the registration materials.

### Organized Symposium: Opportunities for Women in Agricultural Economics.

Moderator: Sylvia Lane, University of California, Davis

Presenters: 1. Susan Offutt, Cornell University. Career Aspirations of and Opportunities for Women Graduate Students in Agricultural Economics

2. Annette Clauson, South Dakota State University. Analysis of Women's Participation in the Job Market for Agricultural Economics

3. Barbara Redman, University of Georgia. Current Opportunities for Women in Agricultural Economics.

4. Christina Gladwin, University of Florida. Professional Advancement of Women in Agricultural Economics

### Brief report on the survey of graduate students at Cornell

As part of an effort to assess the motivation and career goals of women in agricultural economics, a pilot survey of graduate students, both male and female, at Cornell has recently been completed. In broad terms, the survey sought to identify relevant socio-economic characteristics (age, marital status, family background),

motivation for and expectations about graduate education in the field, and areas of specialization and prior academic training. The COWOP questionnaire distributed last year served as the basis for the Cornell survey, although modifications were necessary to make it relevant for graduate students.

In terms of relative numbers of men and women, the composition of the graduate body at Cornell was quite representative of that found nationally. This breakdown was based on data obtained from some 40 other graduate schools of agricultural economics, which enrolled a total of about 1900 students. Overall, women comprise 24 percent of this graduate population. Of the total, 19 percent are female M.S. candidates and 45 percent are male M.S. candidates. Another five percent are women at the Ph.D. level, and the remaining 31 percent are males pursuing Ph.D.'s. Viewed another way, 30 percent of all M.S. candidates and 14 percent of all Ph.D. candidates are women.

A brief profile of the typical female graduate student would describe a 26 year old who is single with little work experience. She comes from an affluent, well-educated urban or suburban family and probably did not attend a land grant university as an undergraduate. In college, the female student is equally likely to have majored outside the economics discipline as within it; she was in the top ten percent of her graduating class. In short, she does not have a traditional background by the standards of the profession.

As regards career motivation, women chose agricultural economics most often because they were appreciative of its applied aspect, although they had little job-related experience on which to base this assessment. Their attraction appears more intellectually than pragmatically oriented, a finding suggested in the earlier survey as reported by Barbara Redman.

A complete review of the survey's results and implications will appear in a paper which will be available by the

August meetings in Utah.

I would like to thank the members of the graduate student sub-committee of COWOP who gathered the enrollment data on other schools and provided me with many useful suggestions about the Cornell survey.

by Susan Offutt

### Job Opportunities

The Department of Agricultural Economics, University of California, Davis, invites applications for an Affirmative Action Postdoctoral Fellowship in areas represented in the department's teaching and research emphases. The fellowship program is designed to provide an opportunity for an individual from a group under-represented in the academic workforce to receive training and research support which might enhance that individual's potential for future faculty appointments.

The Fellowship will provide a \$16,800 stipend and research support funding for the 1982-83 academic year, October 1, 1982-June 30, 1983. Depending on the circumstances, the Fellowship may be renewable for a second year. Fellowship candidates must hold a Ph.D. and be a member of an under-represented group in the discipline. Candidates must submit the following documentation with their letter of application: Curriculum vitae, Proposed program of research (either a joint or independent postdoctoral project); Names, addresses & phone number of three references; copies of publications. Early submission is encouraged...application materials should be received by June 1, 1982 to ensure review. Send application materials to: Professor John Antle, Search Committee Chair, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of California, Davis, California 95616.

Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics (University of Maine at Orono). Tenure track position October 1, 1982 or as soon as possible. Requirements: Ph.D. in agri-

cultural economics or economics. Strong preparation in ag policy, marketing, production economics, and quantitative methods necessary. Training in rural development highly desirable. Initially position is 80% research and 20% teaching. Teaching at undergraduate and graduate level--will depend upon applicant's interests and/or qualifications. Closing date for applications is June 15, 1982 or until a qualified applicant accepts. Send application to:

Dr. Wallace Dunham  
Department of Agricultural and  
Resource Economics  
216 Winslow Hall  
University of Maine at Orono  
Orono, ME 04473  
Tel: 207-581-7427

### Roster Released

The first roster of women in agricultural economics has been prepared and sent to all women listed therein. Copies have also been sent to the heads or chairmen of approximately 65 university agricultural economics departments. The roster will provide the departments with a partial listing of female agricultural economists as well as signal our existence as a group.

The roster includes only the women who responded to our first Newsletter. Thus there are many women in agricultural economics who are not included. If you know of any women who should be added to the roster, please send their names to the following address and registration forms will be sent to them:

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

