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

Vol. 3, No. 2

Fall 1989

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In 1980, the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA), established "The Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics." The original charge was to survey and ascertain information on the opportunities of Blacks in the agricultural economics profession. Since that time, the committee has undertaken a number of projects including: sponsoring invited paper sessions at AAEA meetings; organized symposia; a directory of black agricultural economists which is updated biannually; newsletter; a survey of agricultural economists in conjunction with the AAEA committee on employment services; co-sponsored a pre-meeting conference entitled "The Future for Agricultural Economists - Career Opportunities and Planning;" and hosted a number of receptions during AAEA annual meetings. Over the past year, the committee sponsored: a pre-meeting conference entitled "Agricultural Economics and Rural Development Programs at the 1890's: Past, Present and Future"; continued to update the directory; began the development of a brochure of "Outstanding Black Agricultural Economists"; began the development of papers for a special issue of the "Journal of Black Political Economy"; developed and submitted a proposal for an invited paper session at SAEA annual meeting; and, continued working on long range plans.

The coming year (1989-90) marks my second term as committee chairman. I appreciate your vote of confidence. Several projects initiated during the past year: the pre-conference program proceedings; the directory; the brochure of outstanding Black Agricultural Economists; the special issue of the "Journal of Black Political Economy"; and the SAEA invited paper session, are scheduled for completion this year. A number of new initiatives are planned. The committee appreciates the valuable input provided by James Houck, AAEA Board Representative. Appreciation is also extended to a number of other individuals who have continuously provided guidance, input and support to the committee. Your continued assistance is appreciated.

Each year new members are nominated to serve on the committee and approved by the President of AAEA. We welcome the active involvement of the following new members to the committee: Magid A. Dagher (University of Arkansas), Samuel Donald (Alcorn State University), Abdulhakeem Salaam (Southern University), Winston Smart (Smart Agricultural Research Service), and Lawrence W. Libby (University of Florida) Board Representative for 1989. Our next committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the SAEA meetings in Little Rock, Arkansas. These meetings are scheduled for February 4 - 7, 1990. Specific information relative to our committee meeting will be provided in the near future. If you plan to attend the SAEA meetings, please stop in on our committee meeting if your schedule permits.

• Lionel Williamson

A LOOK AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

[Editors Note: We continue our highlight of 1890 institutions with this issue featuring the "Host" for the recent AAEA pre-conference on 1890 schools].

Southern University was established in 1880 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The College of Agriculture was organized in 1890 as a department subsequent to the passing of the Second Morrill Act. In 1914, Southern University was relocated to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The agricultural program at Southern University has had several changes and modifications in purpose since 1890. From 1890 until 1925, the program aimed to give practical agricultural instruction at the high school level. Beginning in 1925 and continuing until 1940, the program aimed to prepare teachers to teach vocational agriculture in the high schools. From 1940 to 1959, the program was designed to train teachers as well as offer undergraduate degrees in several of the technical fields of agriculture.

A two-year pre-professional curriculum in veterinary medicine and a four-year curriculum in animal science were added in 1940. In 1949, a curriculum in general horticulture was added. These programs represented the first non-teaching curricula offered in agriculture. Since 1958, the agricultural unit has been designed as a college and in 1986 it was combined with the College of Home Economics to form the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Presently, the College is composed of six academic departments. They are the Departments of Agricultural Economics, Animal Science, Plant and Soil Science, Clothing and Textiles, Family Life, and Foods and Nutrition.

The Department of Agricultural Economics was established in 1974 for the purpose of combining technical core courses or specialized training in agricultural economics and/or agribusiness (i.e., resource economics, public policy, economic development, price analysis, and marketing) along with liberal arts courses and business and economic theory. This process formed a well-rounded, quality program of study, while allowing ample opportunity for interdisciplinary study and development for work and/or further study in many areas.

Students majoring in Agricultural Economics gain valuable work experience as research assistants. During the regular semester, students may be assigned to work on research projects with school professors via the work-study program, or they may have co-op assignments at private companies or government agencies. Summer internships arranged through the University also provide students with work experiences: including research assignments with various universities; and job-related experiences with private industry and government. The program presently has 35

majors. As of 1989, one hundred forty-eight students have graduated from the program.

The faculty of the Department of Agricultural Economics have terminal degrees and are friendly, helpful professionals who strive to teach practical, applied economics and business along with classroom theory and principles.

[Submitted by Abdulhakeem Y. Salaam]

FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL CALENDAR

AAEA Annual Meetings

1990 - Vancouver, B.C., August 4 - 8.

Symposium on Generic Promotion of Exports

The NEC-63 and NC-194 regional committees and USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service are sponsoring a symposium on the evaluation and management of generic promotion programs, February 22 - 23, 1990, Washington, DC. The symposium will provide a forum for reporting research results and exchanging ideas regarding identification of research issues, data sources and needs, survey and analytical methods, and management or policy implications. For registration information and program details, contact: John Nichols, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX 77843-2124, (409) 845-8491.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Resource Symposium

The Third Symposium on Social Science in Resource Management will be held in College Station, Texas, May 16 - 19, 1990. Papers, posters, and roundtable proposals are solicited on natural resource valuation, socioeconomic impacts of parks and recreation areas, tourism and resource development, socio-environmental impacts of production agriculture, water resource management, and resource conflict and regional allocation. Abstracts of papers, posters, and proposals are due December 15, with notice of acceptance by March 1, 1990. For additional information, contact: James Gramann, Department of Recreation and Parks, Texas A & M University, College Station, TX 77843-2261, (409) 845-4920.

International Conference Agricultural Economists

"Sustainable Agricultural Development: The Role of International Cooperation" is the theme of the IAAE's XXI International Conference of Agricultural Economists, Tokyo, Japan, August 22 - 29, 1991. Papers are solicited that present the results of new research on any topic in the field of Agricultural Economics. The deadline is December 1, 1990. To obtain the full call for papers, contact: Bruce Greenshields, Chair, Contributed Papers Committee, USDA/ERS, 1301 New York Avenue, N.W., Room 1212, Washington, DC 20005-4788, Phone: (202) 786-3310, FAX: (202) 786-3444.

Rural Sociological Society

"Minorities in Rural Society" is the theme of the Rural Sociological Society's annual meeting, August 8 - 11, 1990 in Norfolk, Virginia.

Abstracts are requested for thematic papers, other contributed papers, and panels. Submit abstracts by February 1, 1990 to: Jess Gilbert, Program Chairman, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Wisconsin, 340 Agriculture Hall, Madison, WI 53706.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

University of California (Riverside)
Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences

Assistant Professor - Tenure-track position in Resource and Environmental Economics (50% teaching, typically three courses per year, and 50% research in the Agricultural Experiment Station). Teaching will be in the area of natural resource and environmental economics. Appropriate research areas include: economics of environmental quality, including hazardous wastes and environmental amenities; and economics of management of soil, water, and atmospheric systems. The position requires a candidate with potential for achieving significant results in original research and for superior teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Evidence of potential in both research and teaching will be required for appointment to this position. Candidates must have Ph.D. The position is available January 1, 1990, with an appointment on an 11-month basis. Send a Vita, transcripts, statement of teaching and research interests, and have three letters of reference sent to: Dr. Henry Vaux, Chair, Resource Economics Search Committee, Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521. Applications will be accepted until December 15. The University of California is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and encourages applications from minority and women candidates.

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Economist (Niger) - The Cornell Food and Nutrition Policy Program is seeking qualified candidates for a two-year assignment in Niger to provide assistance to government ministries in assessing the quantitative effects of policies adopted by the government on the Nigerian economy. Such assistance will include: support for ongoing analysis, analysis of the macroeconomic impacts of recently undertaken economic adjustments, and consolidation and review of existing data and design and implementation of surveys for the collection of additional data. Additional activities will include appropriate dissemination of information and results. A posting in Washington, DC of 12 months will follow the initial posting in Niger. A Ph.D. in Economics, (continued on page 3)

THE NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is published by the Committee on Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics. Ralph D. Christy and Doris Newton serve as Co-Editors of the NEWSLETTER. The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University serves as host institution. If you have any information you wish to have placed in the NEWSLETTER, please forward to:

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

or

Doris Newton, Co-Editor
USDA/ERS
1301 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

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

Agricultural Economics, or related field, experience in food and nutrition policy issues, and demonstrated research ability are required. French-speaking ability, African experience, and managerial skills are strongly preferred. CFNPP offers an attractive remuneration package, including post, education, and housing allowances.

Research Associate/Economist - The Cornell Food and Nutrition Policy Program is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Research Associate/Economist to assist in planning and implementing research and data analysis on the effects of macroeconomic policies on household living standards and food security in Africa. The individual appointed will be responsible for the daily management and operations of research pertaining to one or two countries, including but not necessarily limited to literature reviews, oversight of data collection and processing activities, and econometric analyses. Additional activities will include in-country program representative and dissemination of research results. A Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics, or a related field, experience in food and nutrition policy issues, and demonstrated research ability are required. African experience and managerial skills are strongly preferred. The position will be located in Washington, DC.

To apply for either of the above two positions, send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and references to: David E. Sahn, Deputy Director, Cornell Food and Nutrition Policy Program, 1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 420, Washington, DC 20036.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, (USDA, Washington, DC)

Agricultural Economists - Applications are invited for Agricultural Economist positions in USDA's Economic Research Service. Responsibilities range from long-term research projects to quick turnaround analyses on issues related to national commodity, trade, resource, and rural development policies and programs. Excellent analytical and communication skills are required as well as an M.S. in Agricultural Economics (or equivalent education and/or experience) for grades 9 and 11 and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics (or equivalent education and/or experience) for grades 12 and 13. Salary range is \$24,705 - \$55,381 (effective January 1, 1990), plus an attractive benefits package and reimbursement of the costs of moving to Washington, DC (if appointed at grade 12 or 13). U.S. citizenship is required. To apply, obtain a copy of announcement WA-AG-9-50 (grades 9 and 11) or WA-AG-7-01 (grades 12 and 13) from department heads, federal job information centers, state employment services, or the Examining Unit, USDA/EMS, Room 1443-So., Washington, DC 20250-3500 (202) 447-3660. USDA/ERS is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Department of Food and Resource Economics

Assistant Professor - A 12-month, tenure-accruing (40% teaching and 60% extension) position in small business management. The individual would teach undergraduate and/or graduate courses in marketing, business management, and finance. The individual would develop an extension program responding to the information needs of business managers, particularly those serving agriculture and other rural enterprises in Florida. A Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics, Economics, or Business Management is required. A minor in Business Management or an MBA and/or business experience is desired. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are essential. Interested applicants should apply by January 15, 1990 to: Dr. Lawrence W. Libby, Chair, Department of Food and Resource Economics, 1157 McCarty Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. The University of Florida is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT Merchandising, Consumer Studies and Design Department

Assistant Professor, Merchandising - Nine-month, tenure track appointment, 80% teaching, 20% research. Potential for summer instruction and research. Appointment date - August 20, 1990. Qualifications: earned doctorate; demonstrated research competence; applied economics or business emphasis in one degree preferred; teaching and/or business experience desired. Responsibilities: develop and teach undergraduate retail management and marketing courses; apply economic principles to international apparel and textile industries; supervise student field experiences; conduct applied research with potential for external funding; advise student majors; and participate in department, college and university activities and professional organizations. Salary will commensurate with research and teaching experience within the Assistant Professor rank. Excellent package including hospital, dental and medical insurance; life and disability insurance; TIAA/CREF or alternative retirement programs. Send letter of application, vita, academic transcripts and three letters of reference to: Dr. Roberta W. Walsh, Chair, Search and Selection Committee, 208 Terrill Hall, The University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05404-0148. Application deadline is February 1, 1990.

The Department of Merchandising, Consumer Studies and Design serves approximately 150 undergraduate majors with 10 faculty members. It is one of eight departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in which many active research programs are supported by the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station and external funding sources. The University of Vermont is the state's land-grant institution, located in Burlington, a city of 50,000 and situated between the Adirondack and Green Mountains on the shores of Lake Champlain. The University enrolls approximately 8,100 undergraduate, 1125 graduate, and 335 medical students. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

EMPLOYMENT AND FELLOWSHIPS

Ph.D. Fellowships

Information on fellowships to study Agricultural Economics (Ph.D.) can be obtained by contacting:

Steve Sonka
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Illinois
1301 W. Gregory Drive, 305 Mumford Hall
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-1817

Stan Thompson
Department of Agricultural Economics
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1039
(517) 355-1813

Jay Akridge
Center for Agricultural Business
Department of Agricultural Economics
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907
(317) 494-4247

Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
University of Minnesota
1994 Buford Avenue
231 Classroom-Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55108

Africare (Washington, DC)

Agricultural Economist - A 10-month position to supervise a rural development project in Chad. Qualifications include: B.S. in Agronomy, Agricultural Economics, or related field; at least two years of experience in Sahelian (arid) zone farming methods; and prior experience in agricultural extension, data collection, and credit programs. Knowledge of vegetable gardening activities and recessional agriculture resulting from diversion structure in wadis is desirable. Candidates should be familiar with Lotus 1-2-3 and dBase III and have a working knowledge of French. Possession of good communication skills, organizational ability, a sense of humor, and an understanding of the African environment under the influence of Islam are essential.

Tropical Agriculture Education Specialist - A three-month position in Guinea-Bissau. Qualifications include: experience in agricultural education activities in Africa; M.S. or equivalent experience in agricultural education, agricultural extension and training, tropical agronomy and agriculture, agricultural project planning and management, or similar discipline; demonstrated ability to collaborate with government institutions in the development of agricultural training institutions and programs; and fluency in Portuguese or French, with preference for Portuguese.

For more information on the above two positions, contact: Jeffery Gray, Assistant Director of Management Services, Africare, 440 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, Phone: (202) 462-3614, FAX: (202) 387-1034

NOTABLES

Doris Newton has been appointed a member of the AAEA Awards Committee: Outstanding Master's Thesis for 1989-90.

Ralph D. Christy is on sabbatical leave from Louisiana State University this year serving as visiting Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (607) 255-3169.

Cheryl Danley accepted an Assistant Program Officer position in the Rural Poverty and Resource Program, Ford Foundation, New York, NY.

Lionel Williamson was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure at the University of Kentucky. Also, Lionel was appointed to the American Institute of Cooperation Board of Trustees (1989-90).

Handy Williamson was promoted with tenure to the rank of Professor at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. As you may know, Handy is also Department Chairman.

Tesfa Ghebremedhin is on sabbatical leave from Southern University this year and is a visiting Professor at the University of West Virginia, Morgan Town, WV (304) 293-6253. Tesfa also was this year's winner of the Morris-Evans "Outstanding Research Scientist Award at the 8th Biennial Research Directors Symposium, October 8 - 11, 1989, Washington, DC.

Curtis Jolly, Associate Professor, Auburn University, is on leave until May 1990 doing research at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Patricia McLean-Meynsse, Department of Agricultural Economics, Southern University, was presented the First Place Award in the "Competitive Scientific Paper in Rural Development" category at the recent Agricultural Research Director Biennial Meeting held in Washington, DC. Max McCraney, Professor McLean-Meynsse's advisee, also took first place in the "Competitive Student paper in Rural Development" category.

Chris Morfaw assumed the Small Farm Specialist position at Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, FL (904) 599-3546.

Abiodun Ojemakinde completed his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University and is now Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Albany State College, Albany, GA (912) 430-4772/4784.

Anderson Reynolds completed his Ph.D. at the University of Florida and is now a Research Associate, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

Prosper Reynolds (Andy's brother) completed his Ph.D. in Economics at Louisiana State University and has assumed the position of Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056 (513) 529-4348.

Everett B. Torrence completed his Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky and is now employed at Virginia State University.

Albert Yeboah, formerly Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, North Carolina A & T University, is now with USAID (AFR-DP TAR), Room 3909, Washington, DC 20005.