



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>
aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

A.E.A. (nd.)

GIANNINI FOUNDATION OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
LIBRARY

SEP 8 1969

NEW ENGLAND
AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMICS
COUNCIL

PROCEEDINGS
1968



UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEW ENGLAND
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
COUNCIL

GIANNINI FOUNDATION
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
LIBRARY

SEP 8 1968

PROCEEDINGS
1968 ANNUAL MEETING

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

JUNE 17, 18, 19, 1968

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO APPRAISE GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN
THE AFFAIRS OF THE NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS COUNCIL

June 19, 1968 - Durham, New Hampshire

The Executive Committee of the New England Agricultural Economics Council appointed this committee and charged it with the responsibility of appraising the matter of graduate student participation in the affairs and activities of the council. It was further charged with the responsibility of making recommendations for remedial action if that seemed appropriate and feasible.

The committee after appropriate thought designed and administered an attitude survey among graduate students to assess the probably reasons for nonparticipation. Questionnaires were sent to the agricultural economics graduate students in all Land Grant institutions in New England. Eighteen questionnaires were returned.

Data from the questionnaire indicate that there is a serious lack of knowledge and therefore a lack of interest in the affairs and activities of the council. Only about 16% of the graduate students belong to the organization. Only one-third have ever attended one of our meetings. Half of those students who had attended one or more meetings thought the meetings were not particularly worthwhile. (Table 1)

The most obvious factor evident from the survey was the lack of information and encouragement students received from staff members. For instance, of the fifteen persons who were not members, only one admitted having been encouraged to join. Of the remaining fourteen, seven indicated an interest in joining. (Table 1)

When asked where the meetings were to be held this year, less than half knew. If the New Hampshire students were taken out only about one-third knew! When asked to give reasons why they had not or were not planning to attend the annual meeting, thirteen were not aware of the event and twelve indicated they had not been invited!! Only ten students indicated that costs were a major factor in their decisions not to attend.

This would indicate that we as professionals do not really think that it is important that our students come to these meetings! We have not encouraged them either to come or to join the organization. We have not taken time or thought to point out the importance of our annual meetings in the professional development of agricultural economists. Probably until we determine that it is important to them no special programs or gimmicks will change the current state of affairs.

This committee, therefore, recommends that each department head take the responsibility of launching a determined campaign in his department to interest and attract graduate students into the organization and to see that they plan to attend subsequent meetings. This might best be accomplished if one staff member be charged with the responsibility of coordinating this effort. Arrangements can be made at little or no extra cost for graduate students to travel in cars driven by staff members at experiment station expense. If necessary the \$75.00 appropriated by the Executive Committee might be given annually to departments other than the hosting department to help defray graduate student expense.

We suggest that the Executive Committee continue the current program of recognizing the outstanding graduate student thesis with a cash award. This program should not be considered in the context of enhancing live participation in these meetings.

Respectfully presented,

C. Lynn Fife, Chairman
Albert L. Owens

Table 1. Graduate Student Interest in the Affairs of
The New England Agricultural Economics Council, June 1968

	Yes	No
Do you belong to the American Agricultural Economics Association?	3	15
Are you a member of the New England Agricultural Economics Council?	3	15
If no, have you been encouraged to join?	1	14
If no, would you be interested in joining?	7	7
Do you know where the annual meeting of the NEAEC is to be held this year?	8	10
Have you ever attended a meeting of the NEAEC?	6	12
If yes, were the meetings generally worthwhile?	3	3
What are the most important reasons students such as yourselves do not generally participate in the annual meetings? (Rank three)		

Reason	Times Checked	Weighted Rank
Not aware where and when meetings are to be held.	13	30
Cost considerations.	10	19
Time considerations.	10	19
Meetings are of no particular interest to me.	4	6
Have not been invited or encouraged to attend.	12	28
Other.	1	1