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Organized Symposia

SAEA 2010 Annual Meetings

TITLE: Open Source for Academics: An Introduction to LaTeX and R (Moderator: C. Gustav Helmers, Purdue University)

Organizer: David Ubilava, Purdue University

Presenters: David Ubilava, C. Gustav Helmers, and Benoit Delbecq, Purdue University

We demonstrated efficient use of open source packages LaTeX and R. LaTeX is a powerful typesetting tool for writing academic manuscripts. R is a free statistical environment combining both integrated routines and matrix language. LaTeX and R can be seamlessly integrated to foster reproducible research.

TITLE: The Local Food Movement: Is It Here to Stay? (Moderator: Deacue Fields, Auburn University)

Organizers: Deacue Fields, Auburn University; and Ron Rainey, University of Arkansas

Presenters: Ron McCormick, Walmart Stores, Inc.; Tim Woods, University of Kentucky; Magid Dagher, Mississippi Small Farm Development Center; and Rich Knipe, University of Illinois

The objective of this symposium was to synthesize previous research and experiences, and highlight the challenges that must be overcome to sustain the current local food movement. A dialog was facilitated between key industry representatives and the academic community to determine methods of addressing local food marketing challenges.

TITLE: Contingent Valuation: Issues on the Frontier and in Application (Moderator: Darren Hudson, Mississippi State University)

Organizers: Daniel R. Petrolia and Matthew G. Interis, Mississippi State University

Presenters: Jayson L. Lusk, Oklahoma State University; and Matthew G. Interis and Daniel R. Petrolia, Mississippi State University

This symposium addressed three issues of concern in contingent valuation: respondent rationality and consistency of preferences, altruism as a nonuse value, and willingness-to-pay versus willingness-to-accept compensation and implied rights. Both theoretical and practical concerns were addressed. Discussion between presenters, audience members, and discussant stimulated healthy debate over these issues.

TITLE: Addressing Emerging Issues for Beginning Farmers (Moderator: A. Lee Meyer, University of Kentucky)

Organizer: Ani Katchova, University of Kentucky

Presenters: Ani L. Katchova and Steve Isaacs, University of Kentucky; Mary Ahearn, United States Department of Agriculture-Economics Research Service; and Erica Frenay, Cornell University

We discussed best approaches in developing beginning farmer programs to help farmers successfully transition into agriculture. The symposium highlighted what we know about beginning farmers, outlined applied research

that needs to be done to address their needs, and discussed best approaches of setting up extension beginning farmer programs across the nation.

TITLE: Determining the Right Graduate Degree for Me and Creating a Competitive Advantage when Entering the Job Market (Moderator: Shannon Sand, Oklahoma State University)

Organizers: Tyler B. Mark, Louisiana State University; and Shannon Sand, Oklahoma State University

Presenters: Tyler B. Mark, Louisiana State University; Wuyang Hu, University of Kentucky; and Kim Jensen, University of Tennessee

The purpose of this symposium was twofold. First was to differentiate the expectations for Masters students from Ph.D. students. Second was to provide Ph.D. students with a road map of how to differentiate themselves through

grant writing, publications, and networking. These are paramount for students considering a Ph.D. and entering the job market today.

TITLE: Complex Surveys, a Blessing or a Curse? (Moderator: Justin G. Gardner, Middle Tennessee State University)

Organizer: Justin G. Gardner, Middle Tennessee State University

Presenters: Justin G. Gardner, Middle Tennessee State University; Jose A. Lopez, Texas Tech University; and Kirk White, United States Department of Agriculture-Economic Research Services

Due to their ready availability, complex surveys can be a great blessing. However, this blessing comes with its own set of difficulties. We presented two applied studies highlighting these difficulties and held an open dialog to discuss these difficulties.