Choices Magazine Celebrates 30 years of AAEA Outreach

The premiere edition of Choices magazine was published in 1986. At that time, Choices was a quarterly, glossy magazine. Lyle Shertz, retired from the Economic Research Service, served as its first editor. That first issue stated that Choices was being launched because "food, farm and resource issues have become more important to everyone." From today's vantage point, it's easy to see just how prescient that observation was 30 years ago! While the Choices presentation format has evolved over time, its motivation and mission have remained steady: To serve as the principal outreach vehicle of the AAEA by providing high quality articles exploring the economic implications of current food, farm, resource and rural community issues directed toward a broad policy audience.

The continued existence of Choices is a testament to the value it provides to its readership and the support it has received from AAEA leadership, editorial staffs, and contributing authors. In 1982, AAEA President Ed Schuh raised the question in his presidential report of "whether there is some vehicle by which we can bridge the communications gap to make the results of our research available to a broader audience in a more expeditious manner" (Barkley, 2010, pp. 145-147). In addition to Ed Schuh and Lyle Schertz, senior AAEA members will also recall the names and early contributions to the establishment of Choices by others: Leo Polopolus, Neil Harl, Herb Stoevener, and Neil Shaller.

Today, Choices is online and free to readers. AAEA leaders and members have recognized the importance of extending the work of the profession by addressing important economic issues facing society through production of Choices. The importance of the social sciences, in general, in addressing public policy challenges is well recognized, e.g., see the 2015 World Development Report. The Agricultural Economics profession, in particular, has a rich tradition of producing public policy analysis. Some have even argued that social and behavioral sciences have a unique social responsibility to create an understanding of the value in using all of the sciences in the policy process (Prewitt and Hauser, 2013).

The challenge for the Choices authors and editors is to make sure those who should be aware of the knowledge generated by the profession are provided relevant information in an accessible form. The challenge bears reflection—relevant and accessible. This requires that authors and editors be informed of the current policy dialogue. Choices’ close cooperation with the Council on Food, Agriculture & Resource Economics (C-FARE) currently facilitates attaining that goal. A successful outreach program also requires that the profession, and individuals, take ownership of Choices by contributing to the
content. To do less, is shirking the responsibilities the profession has to those who provide support to our public and private workplaces.

Incoming co-editors, Kynda Curtis and Janet Perry, will begin posting content in January 2017. Their ability to produce a high quality publication, like editors before them, will depend on the AAEA members sharing in the responsibility to "connect the dots" of agricultural economic knowledge, policy agenda issues and timelines, and the form in which policy makers and others in the Choices audience can access information. It will be interesting to see where AAEA member owners take Choices in the next 30 years—and impactful for members who step up to be contributors.

References
Barkley, P. 2010. A Centennial History of the AAEA. AAEA.

Call for Nominations:
AAEA President-Elect and Directors
The AAEA Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations from AAEA membership for AAEA President-Elect and two AAEA Directors, all for three-year terms beginning July 2017.

Please submit the names and affiliations of nominees to Brian Mondragón Jones at bmjones@aaea.org. Nominations must be received by October 3, 2016.

20th Anniversary of AgEcon Search
AgEcon Search, is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2016. With over 100,000 documents in 12 languages from 250+ groups in 32 countries, it has grown from its humble beginnings as a solution for the departmental working papers from Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Thanks to all who contribute content and other means of support, and a special thank you to AAEA which has been a partner in the project since the first year.
**Grano Fellowship**

Earlier this year I was awarded the Grano Fellowship to travel to Washington D.C. and see economic and agricultural policy in action. This award provided funds to travel to Washington D.C., but more importantly, it provided the contacts I needed to see how training in agricultural and resource economics can be used in agricultural policy-making in Washington D.C. and beyond.

I spent a full week in Washington during the month of June with my calendar booked with appointments from the morning till evening. I was able to spend all of that time meeting with senior USDA economists and program leaders, Senate staffers, policy advocates, and program leaders from other agencies. The Grano Fellowship's Board of Directors were able to arrange these meetings in my areas of interest because of their long policy experience in Washington DC and resulting extensive contacts both in government and out.

This award provides the only means that I know of, short of already having a career in policy analysis, that a student interested in agricultural policy can see first-hand how it is made, evaluated, implemented, and monitored. Many of these meetings were with people who had a role I did not know existed -- and I do research in these areas. The trip also provided the opportunity to evaluate if you as a new professional fit in a particular role or agency better than another.

I have had a graduate career with some pretty unique experiences, but this experience was incredibly different and helpful. If you have any interest in agricultural policy or government, I encourage you to apply for the AAEA Grano Fellowship when the next submission period opens. You will never have a similar opportunity to meet all the people I met and evaluate all of the roles I was able to witness first hand outside of this award. I have no doubt that the members of the Grano Board of Directors will have the contacts necessary to introduce you to the relevant people in your field of interest. The fact that the Fellowship provides the funds needed to undertake a trip like this is a bonus.

**Jason Holderieath**

---

**Call for Applications:**

**AAEA/AARES Heading South Award**

The Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES), and the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) through the AAEA Trust, will jointly offer this travel award to attend the 2017 AARES Conference in Brisbane, Queensland. It is available to members of AARES or AAEA who normally reside in North America. Applicants for the award can be a member of either AARES or AAEA, but must be a member of AARES to participate in the conference.

The objective of the award is to provide the winner with an opportunity for professional and personal development and international professional and cultural exchange. The award will have a value of
$3,000 USD to be used to assist the winner’s participation in the **2017 AARES Annual Conference in Brisbane, Queensland, from February 7–10, 2017**.

**Selection Process**
The 2017 Heading South Selection Committee will be chaired by the AAEA President, Jayson Lusk. Other members include the President-Elect of AARES, Professor Quentin Grafton, Dr. Joanna MacEwan, President of the AARES North America Branch, and another member of AAEA.

Applications should include:
- a paper for presentation at the AARES Annual Conference in Brisbane, for which the applicant is the sole or first author and which represents their original and unpublished work
- a one-page biographical statement
- a one-page statement in support of their application, indicating what they would hope to accomplish through the award, why they would be deserving of the award, and confirming that they would be unable to attend the conference without this financial support

**Submission Deadlines and Details**
Electronic submissions (in PDF form) for this award must be emailed to Brian Mondragón Jones (bmjones@aaea.org) by **Friday, September 16, 2016** (for travel in February 2017).

---

**Call for Nominations**

**2017 Fellows Award Nominations**
The AAEA Fellows Selection Committee is inviting nominations for the 2017 AAEA Fellows Awards. The deadline for submission of nominations and supporting biographical documentation is **Wednesday, October 5, 2016**.

Selection is based mainly on a continuous contribution to the advancement of agricultural or applied economics as defined by the Vision Statement of AAEA. Achievements may be in research, teaching, extension, administration, or business. The nominee must be a living current member of AAEA and a member for at least five years.

Please follow these guidelines to submit Fellows nominations (non-complying materials will be returned). The nomination package should focus on documentation of the case for the nominee’s contributions rising to a level that warrants recognition as a Fellow. "Continuous contribution" means exceptional service over a period of years. Such exceptional service may be demonstrated by: research discoveries published in major professional journals, leadership in the development of extension programs extensively utilized by other professionals; the development of undergraduate or graduate programs of learning that have become nationally recognized professionally and by students who have, in turn, demonstrated success as a result of these teaching programs; or outstanding performance in government, business, or NGOs. As a general principle, continuous service means more than a single act that might be rewarded by an outstanding journal article, extension award, or outstanding teaching awards. The documentation for the nominee
The Exchange

provided should make clear the impact of the individual nominated in the areas of achievement to which the nominee has contributed. This evidence could include, but is not limited to, reference to publications, awards, honors, reports, or testimonials to notable tasks undertaken and outcomes achieved, or other contributions to the profession.

Members of the Fellows Selection Committee and AAEA Executive Committee (President–Elect, President, or Past President) may not nominate or provide support statements for nominees. Nomination packages that include support statements from a member of the Fellows Selection Committee and/or the AAEA Executive Committee will be sent back to the nominator for revisions.

The total nomination package should be limited to a maximum of eight typed pages using 12-point font and with margins of at least one inch on all four sides. All material must be double-spaced. Please include the name, institution, and contact information of all of the nominators within the eight page package. Nominations should be submitted as a single PDF file to Brian Mondragón Jones at bmjones@aaea.org. Please contact Brian if you have any questions.

The 2017 Fellows Recognition Ceremony will be held as part of the 2017 AAEA Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. Information on previous AAEA Fellows and the procedures used to select Fellows is available on the AAEA Fellows page.

Call for Proposals:
2017 AAEA Organized Symposium at the AARES Annual Conference

The AAEA is accepting submissions for the AAEA Organized Symposium at the Annual Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) in Brisbane, Queensland, from February 7–10, 2017.

The Organized Symposium will be allocated a session 1.5 hours in length during the AARES general program. Organizers should submit a proposal for a complete session that will take up the full time period allotted. The format of the session may involve panel discussions of prepared questions, debates, roundtable meetings, paper presentations, or other formats. Whichever format is proposed, the organizer should ensure that the presentations fit into a tightly coherent theme and that there is plenty of time for discussion.

Submission Deadline
Submissions for the organized symposium should be sent to Brian Mondragón Jones (bmjones@aaea.org) by September, 16, 2016.

Submission Format
Submissions (in PDF format) should include the following:

- Symposium title
- Abstract of 250 words or less
Organizer name and contact information
Participant names/affiliations

Membership and Registration Requirements
All presenters/speakers/discussants must be members of AAEA. A membership waiver request can be included in the proposal in the case of extenuating circumstances. In addition, participants need to register for the 2017 AARES Annual Meeting. AAEA cannot grant registration waivers for the meeting. It is the responsibility of the organizer to ensure all participants are willing to participate and meet the presentation requirements.

Submissions will be reviewed by the President of AAEA and the organizer of the selected symposium will be notified by the AAEA Business Office by the end of September.

2017 EAAE in Parma, Italy: Call for Contributions

Agri–food systems in Europe and elsewhere often face conflicting incentives and signals arising from markets and society, and need to make trade-offs. Sustainability advocacy groups are putting societal concerns like animal welfare, food safety, cultural heritage, food sovereignty, and carbon footprint on the agenda of policy makers and stakeholders in the food value chain. However, there are many challenges to overcome, especially when more sustainable food systems face conflicting goals, and households’ purchasing decisions are mainly price-driven.

Policy makers, therefore, face increasing challenges in balancing these concerns. The nature of challenges has changed over time with new technologies becoming available, with the ongoing innovation and transition to the bio–based economy, with an increasing share of the population living in urban areas, and with many markets becoming global. Some of these changes are subtle as borders between rural and urban areas are gradually disappearing, and cities are integrating agricultural activities within their boundaries.

The European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) scientific community is key to providing insights into the economic challenges and opportunities arising from the changing expectations and requirements from markets and society on agriculture. The XV EAAE Congress aims to foster discussion and interaction among scholars with representatives from business, society and policy agencies.

The EAAE board has appointed the Program Committee to organize the scientific program of the Congress. The Local Organizing Committee and the Program Committee are striving to arrange a very stimulating and innovative Congress program consisting of organized sessions, organized panels, invited plenary presentations, contributed papers, posters, as well as field trips.

In particular, policy makers, societal stakeholders, and agribusiness representatives shall contribute to the program through organized panels which have an open format and do not require a scientific
paper. Organized panels could be thought as sort of a “round table” discussion, moderated by an “external” figure to the presenting/debating panelists, which may also feature one or two presentations by academics. A formal scientific paper is not required to encourage the participation by NGOs, producer/industry groups representatives, or any other stakeholder who may not be accustomed to submitting a formal paper. A four-person panel, in which academia, industry, NGO/stakeholder/societal groups and policy representatives are present and deliver their presentation/speech for 15 minutes each, may be the best format. The remaining 30 minutes could be employed for discussion – solicited by the moderator – or for answering questions from the audience. In order to facilitate stakeholder participation to the organized panels daily participation fees will be foreseen, in case a one day presence is anticipated. Hopefully, the XV EAAE Congress in Parma will provide an interactive platform for researchers and representatives from non–academic institutions.

Call for papers, organized sessions, and posters
Contributed papers and posters as well as organized sessions are welcomed from all fields of agricultural, food, environmental and rural economics, and related disciplines.

The deadlines for submission are:
- Contributed papers: January 31, 2017
- Organized sessions: March 15, 2017
- Organized panels: March 15, 2017
- Posters: April 1, 2017

Notification of acceptance:
- Contributed papers: April 14, 2017

Organized sessions: April 21, 2017
Organized panels: April 21, 2017
Posters: April 21, 2017

Final versions of contributed papers and posters due: June 5, 2017.

Meanwhile, you can also Stay in Touch with the organization on the Social Media referenced throughout the website or via the Newsletter
Any help in spreading the word about the Call for Contribution and the Congress Social Media presence will be greatly appreciated!

Contribution Submission and Registration
Contribution submission and registration will be managed through ConfTool Pro, via the Congress website, or – directly – at https://www.conftool.com/eaae2017/

Conference registration (at a later date) will be possible only by participants with a valid EAAE membership. Please note that this condition will be strictly enforced! To learn more about the benefits of and conditions for becoming an EAAE Member, please visit the Association page.

The early opening of a ConfTool Pro account, besides the Congress Social Media and Newsletter, will guarantee you are up to date with any further detail on deadlines and the Congress itself.

The flyer containing the Call for Contributions, Deadlines for Submission, and other pieces of information related to the XV EAAE Congress is available for you to download and share here: XV EAAE Congress Flyer
Job Opportunities

- **Assistant Professor – Economics of International Development**
  University of Florida/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Department
  09/12/2016
- **Associate Director, Renk Agribusiness Institute PVL#87694**
  University of Wisconsin Madison, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
  09/07/2016
- **Temporary Non-Faculty Research and Teaching Positions**
  University of Minnesota– Department of Applied Economics
  09/06/2016
- **Associate/Senior Editor, Nature Climate Change**
  Nature Research
  09/01/2016

These current positions and more can be found on the [AAEA Job Board](http://www.aaea.org)