

Among the forces driving recent changes in these state programs are the farm financial crisis of the early 1980s, the rapid growth of industrial revenue bond financing followed by its severe curtailment in 1986, and the growing number of states operating under balanced budget requirements. State programs to subsidize farm credit are increasingly those that have minimum risk exposure and impact on the state budget, piggy-back on other loan programs, and are targeted at specific state needs.

**“Differences in Pecan Quality Perception at Farm and Wholesale Markets.”** *E. Eugene Wojciech, J. Florkowski, and Joseph C. Purcell, University of Georgia.*

Quality standards applied in the pecan industry differ from the grade standards suggested by USDA

and growers' associations. Based on survey data, this paper identifies shell-out ratio, size, and color as the most frequent quality factors used by growers and shellers. Relationships between grower characteristics and quality factors were investigated using logit procedures. Results indicate the discrepancy between existing USDA written grade standards and those applied by industry. In addition, results identify grower characteristics important to understanding quality standards for pecans.

## ORGANIZED SYMPOSIA

**Annual Meeting SAEA, Little Rock, Arkansas, February, 1990.**

**EDUCATION: THE KEY TO SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT IN THE RURAL SOUTH** (Moderator: *Brady J. Deaton, University of Missouri*).

**Organizer:** *David Mulkey, University of Florida.*

**Presenters:** *David Mulkey, University of Florida; Kevin McNamara, University of Georgia; Sue Raftery, Southeastern Educational Improvement Laboratory.*

Education has become increasingly important to sustained development in the rural South. Traditional industries continue to decline in relative importance, and modernization of those industries and the shift toward knowledge-oriented service and manufacturing industries increases the education and skill requirements of the labor force. This symposium explored the issues surrounding improvement and community development and examined experience with a community-level educational improvement model developed by the Appalachian Educational Laboratory. Discussion focused on ways in which land grant/cooperative extension faculty can contribute to improving education in the rural South.

**THE DESIGN, FUNDING AND EXTENSION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY WATER QUALITY RESEARCH** (Moderator: *Larry D. Sanders, Oklahoma State University*).

**Organizers:** *Patricia E. Norris, Oklahoma State University and Damona G. Doye, Oklahoma State University.*

**Presenters:** *Charles J. Scifres, Oklahoma State University; Leonard A. Shabman, Virginia Polytechnic Institute State University; Wendell Gillium, North Carolina State University; Roy R. Carriker, University of Florida; Roy M. Gray, USDA.*

Water quality problems and their solutions cannot be treated adequately within traditional disciplinary research programs. Many agricultural scientists have begun to develop interdisciplinary water quality research efforts. Experience has shown that such efforts can provide excellent results in terms of the quality of the research and subsequent publications and extension programs. However, such efforts are not without their critics. This symposium identified the rewards and frustrations of interdisciplinary research programs and served as a guide to the successful design and completion of future efforts.

**FEE ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES BY PRIVATE LANDOWNERS** (Moderator: *Dennis K. Smith, West Virginia University*).

**Organizers:** *Dale Colyer, Anthony Ferrise, and Dennis K. Smith, West Virginia University.*

**Presenters:** *Brett A. Wright, George Mason University; Dale Colyer, West Virginia University; Michael Olexa, University of Florida; Larry Libby, University of Florida; James E. Miller, USDA.*

The charging of fees by private landowners for access to their land for hunting, fishing, and other natural-resource-based outdoor recreational activities has recently emerged as an important and timely area of research and extension work in the states east of the Mississippi River. There appear to be many opportunities for rural landowners, businesses, and communities to increase their incomes by meeting the increasing demands of consumers for quality outdoor recreational experiences while simultaneously contributing to the conservation of the nation's natural resource base. For those opportunities to be realized, research and extension work must address considerations of producer supply, consumer demand, legal issues, community impacts, and public policy incentives and linkages associated with private landowner fee access activities.

**A NEW CHALLENGE FOR AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS: PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION & ANALYSIS DURING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION** (Moderator: *Larry D. Sanders, Oklahoma State University*).

**Organizers:** *Larry D. Sanders and Mike Woods, Oklahoma State University.*

**Presenters:** *Mike Woods, Oklahoma State University; Craig Infanger, University of Kentucky; Michael Dicks, Oklahoma State University; Fred Woods, USDA.*

A major area of responsibility for economists has been to monitor legislative options at the Federal and state levels that may impact the farm and rural sectors. Most education programs and analyses currently emphasize legislative options. However, key legislation of recent years indicates that the selection of implementation strategy may be more important in determining specific impacts. It is this aspect of rule making or regulatory promulgation that is often

overlooked or seen as beyond the purview of policy educators and analysts. This symposium focused on the role of the agricultural economist, both as educator and analyst, during the development of implementation strategies.

**SOFTWARE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE DIRECT SUPPORT OF EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND EXTENSION FIELD STAFF** (Moderator: *G.A. Barnaby, Jr., Kansas State University*).

**Organizers:** *G.A. Barnaby, Jr., Kansas State University; Roy Black, Michigan State University; Larry Langemeier, Kansas State University.*

**Presenters:** *John Schmidt, University of Wisconsin; Charles Curtis, Clemson University; G.A. Barnaby and Larry Langemeier, Kansas State University.*

State extension services continue to receive requests by field staff for software support. How best to meet that need is a policy question faced by many state extension specialists. The alternatives include: (1) leave all software to the private sector, (2) obtain software from other extension services, (3) develop spreadsheet applications, (4) develop compiled programs, and (5) use artificial intelligence for solving farm management problems. The symposium form would allow for debate and discussion among extension specialists as to the best alternative for providing software support for field staff.

**INTERNATIONAL MARKET RESEARCH: ARE WE DEVELOPING RELEVANT INSTRUCTIONAL AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS AND AGRIBUSINESSES IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET?** (Moderator: *Glenn C.W. Ames, University of Georgia*).

**Organizer:** *Glenn C.W. Ames, University of Georgia.*

**Presenters:** *Suzanne Hale, USDA; James Willis, Rice Council; Lee Bouldin, Florida Department of Citrus; Michael Reed, University of Kentucky; Clarke Burbee, CSRS, USDA.*

**Rapporteur:** *David M. Hennebury, Oklahoma State University.*

Since 1986, Congress has provided funding for about ten International Trade Development Centers.

The purpose of these centers is to enhance the exportation of agricultural and related products. The centers will collect international marketing data and address the problems faced by exporters of high-valued products. The success of these centers will depend on whether land grant universities are equipped and oriented toward conducting relevant international agricultural marketing, teaching, and research activities.

**THE ECONOMICS OF SELECTIVE CROP AND ANIMAL SPECIALTY ENTERPRISES AS ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT FOR SMALL SCALE FARM FAMILIES** (Moderator: *Tesfa G. Gebremedhin, West Virginia University*).

**Organizer:** *Tesfa G. Gebremedhin, West Virginia University.*

**Presenters:** *Lynn E. Dellenbarger, Louisiana State University; Enrique Ospina, Winrock International; Steve D. Lukefahr, Alabama A&M University; Patricia McLean-Meynsse, Southern University.*

Continued economic pressures on farming have induced many farm families to shift partially or entirely to off-farm work or to look for other alternative sources of supplementary income and employment. For many farmers, opportunities for off-farm employment are frequently scarce. Many farmers have difficulties competing for non-farm

jobs because they have limited education, marketable skills, and work experience compared with other job seekers. Specialty crop and animal enterprises may provide an economic incentive for farm families and alternative sources of high quality food supplies for consumers. Thus, specialty enterprises can be profitably integrated into a conventional small scale farm operation and improve the plight of low-income farm families.

**APPLICATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE THEORY TO AGRICULTURE** (Moderator: *Gail L. Cramer, University of Arkansas*).

**Organizers:** *James L. Seale, Jr., Gary F. Fairchild, and Jong-Ying Lee University of Florida.*

**Presenters:** *C. Parr Rosson, III, and Charles Curtis, Texas A&M University; Greg Pompelli, University of Tennessee; Wesley Peterson and Fred J. Ruppel, Texas A&M University.*

U.S. free trade agreements with Canada and Israel, trade barriers, Europe 1992 negotiations, and current GATT negotiations illustrate how international issues increasingly impact U.S. agricultural production, marketing, and policy. Selected symposium examples suggested how integration of international trade theory enhances the explanatory power of traditional supply-demand analyses for U.S. agricultural commodities.