

Increasing Returns

Agricultural & Applied Economics Newsletter

2005

Volume 13 Issue 1

Published by the Texas Tech Agricultural Economics Former Students Association

Eduardo Segarra Named Chairman

Dr. Eduardo Segarra was named Chairman of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics as of September 1, 2005. Dr. Segarra follows Dr. Don Ethridge who held the Chairmanship for the past 8 years.

Dr. Segarra came to Texas Tech in November 1987. For the past 18 years he has held a split appointment with Texas Tech University and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station – Lubbock, Texas A&M University System. Dr. Segarra received his master's degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia and his doctorate from Virginia Tech.

While at Texas Tech, Dr. Segarra has received numerous awards and recognition for his teaching, research and service activities. Most recently he was named the recipient of the 2005 CASNR Service/Outreach Award. He has been presented many awards – including: Texas Tech's Ex-Students Association Outstanding New Faculty Award; USDA's National Superior Service Team Award for Scientific Research; President's Academic Achievement Award; CASNR Outstanding Researcher; and Induction into the Texas Tech University Teaching Academy.

Dr. Segarra is active in regional, national, and international associations – having served as President of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association, President of the American Agricultural Economics Foundation and Chair of the U.S. Council of the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

Dr. Segarra has provided leadership to the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Ag Eco Associations. He is currently serving on the Texas Tech University Athletic Council and the President's Budget Advisory Committee.

Dr. Segarra's research has focused on improving farm level decision-making by the consideration of emerging technologies, changes in public policy and environmental and resource constraints that are likely to affect agricultural producers. He has taught graduate courses in production economics and operations research, and is currently teaching the fundamentals of agricultural economics at the undergraduate level.

Don Ethridge Takes on New Leadership Responsibilities

Dr. Don Ethridge has accepted new leadership responsibilities as the Associate Director of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Water Center. The establishment of the CASNR Water Center recognizes the long-standing commitment of the college and university to water related research and education efforts, past success in undertaking important and relevant research, and the potential the college offers for the future. The CASNR Water Center now joins the Water Resources Center, the Water Law and Policy Center and other departments and institutes to establish the reputation of Texas Tech University as the premier institution for water research and related activities.

As Associate Director of the CASNR Water Center, Dr. Ethridge will be the primary contact person for the Center. He has been charged with developing an action plan that will include a historical prospective of the college's work in the area of water use efficiency and conservation, an inventory of faculty expertise, organizing an internal faculty working group as well as an external advisory committee. He will have primary responsibility for developing a strategic plan for research, educational and outreach components of the center as well as developing the web site for the CASNR Water Center.

Dr. Ethridge brings experience and a long record of research and service to this endeavor. His leadership as Director of the Cotton Economics Research Institute has established the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics as a leading center for cotton economics research. During his term as chairman, the department initiated new research initiatives in cotton policy analysis and risk management/crop insurance, expanded research activity in water resource economics and increased research funding five fold to a new high of \$2,070,350 in 2004/2005.

Dr. Ethridge will continue to serve as the Director of the Cotton Economics Research Institute and teach courses in the department.

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Faculty Notes



Dr. Emmett Elam received the 2005 CASNR Student Advising Award.

Dr. Don Ethridge was named Associate Director of the CASNR Water Center.

Dr. Eduardo Segarra received the 2005 CASNR Service/Outreach Award. Dr. Segarra is serving as the Chair of the U.S. Council of the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

Dr. Sam Mohanty was named the Associate Director of the Cotton Economics Research Institute.

Dr. Jaime Malaga served as coach of the Texas Tech Quiz Bowl team that finished 3rd at the AAEA Meetings held in Rhode Island.

Dr. Sukant Misra was recognized by the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University as the Featured Alumni for the month of May.

Dr. Roderick Rejesus received the award for the Outstanding Journal Article Award by the Southern Agricultural Economics Association for his article entitled, "Patterns of Collusion in the U.S. Crop Insurance Program: An Empirical Analysis" published in the August 2004 issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

Dr. David Willis was promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Jeff Johnson was selected as the Professor of the Year by the Ag Eco Assn. Dr. Johnson retired from the Texas National Guard with the rank of Colonel after 30 years of service.

New Heights in Research Funding

The Department's research program again experienced significant growth this past year. The Department's research funding reached \$2,070,350 in the 2004/05 academic year, which represents an increase of 29% over the 2003/04. The continued growth in research funding is due in large part to the Department's research efforts in U.S. and global cotton policy modeling, risk management/crop insurance, water policy/economics, and cotton economics.

Mackey Hancock Named Distinguished Alumni

MACKEY HANCOCK, class of 1971 in Agricultural Economics and a 1974 graduate of the Texas Tech School of Law, was honored as a 2005 Distinguished Agriculture Alumni by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Judge Hancock was recently appointed by Governor Rick Perry to serve on the Texas 7th Court of Appeals after serving as district judge of the 99th District Court in Lubbock County since 1994.

Until recently Judge Hancock was also known as Colonel Hancock where he commanded the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force in Afghanistan during 2004. Mackey recently retired from 30 years of Army Service, mostly in the Reserve. He served in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990-1991 and Bosnia in 1996 and 1997 in support of operation Joint Guard.

Mackey grew up on a cotton farm in Gains County, Texas. While at Texas Tech he began his commitment to service through Alpha Phi Omega. His commitment to service has manifested its self throughout his career as a judge and his military service in Civil Affairs.

Ag Eco Association Spring Trip

Fourteen students and the faculty advisor, Dr. Jeff Johnson, traveled to Chicago over Spring Break. The purpose of the trip was for professional development of the students, with tours to agribusinesses and financial institutions in the Chicago area. Some of the highlights included: ADM headquarters, ethanol generation plant, hydroponics and tilapia production units, Chicago Board of Trade, Agricultural Commodity Trading Floor, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and Sears Tower.

The Ag Eco Association sold over 2,200 bags of fertilizer during the spring. Funds from the fertilizer sale go to help pay for the spring trip as well as provide scholarships.

Upcoming Special Events

Bankers Agricultural Credit Conference will be held November 4, 2005 at the International Cultural Center, Texas Tech University, in Lubbock. Contact Dr. Phillip Johnson for further details at (806) 742-2821.

AAEC Research Advisory Committee meeting, Lubbock, October 3, 2005.

Departmental Web Page

Please visit the Agricultural and Applied Economics Department at:
www.aaec.ttu.edu

Ag Eco Association Does Well at AAEA Annual Meeting

The Undergraduate Ag Eco Association was recognized as the runner-up (second place) in the Outstanding Chapter competition at the American Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting held this summer in Rhode Island. The Agricultural and Applied Economics Quiz Bowl team made a strong showing in the quiz bowl competition at the annual meeting, finishing third out of 35 teams. The members of the quiz bowl team included Chris Cogburn, Chris Dannemiller, and Jessica Neitsch. The team was coached by Dr. Jaime Malaga.

New Faculty Members Join the Department

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics welcomed Dr. Michael Farmer as an Associate Professor specializing in the areas of water resource and environmental economics. Dr. Farmer came to Texas Tech from the Georgia Institute of Technology where he was an environmental economist working primarily on the issue of water allocation and its consequences on land use. Dr. Farmer served as day to day research manager for the US Dept. of Justice damage assessment of the Exxon Valdez wreck and has many years of experience working with local water authorities. He currently serves as an advisor on the largest inter-state water use dispute in the nation and has just completed work in China on water allocation planning. Dr. Farmer is a native of Ohio and earned his Ph.D in Economics from Ohio State University in 1993. His appointment is split between the Departments of Agricultural and Applied Economics and Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Management.

Dr. Jeff Johnson has joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Johnson has been Director of Farm Operations in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources since 1994. He earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics at Texas Tech in 2003 and has been serving as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department. Dr. Johnson will hold a joint appointment with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station – Lubbock in addition to continuing to serve as Director of Farm Operations. Dr. Johnson’s primary research interest is in water resource economics and farm management.

Agricultural Economics Former Students Scholarship Recipients

A portion of annual Association dues, in addition to donations, go toward funding endowed scholarships for undergraduate students in the Department. The recipient of the scholarship provided by the Former Student Association for 2005/06 is C. J. Kinsolving. C. J. is a Sophomore Agricultural and Applied Economics/General Business major from Tatum, NM.

STUDENT
AWARDS

Undergraduate

Student Awards for 2004-2005:

Jenny Rogers was recognized as the Outstanding Student in the Department and the Outstanding Student in the Discipline of Agribusiness.

Michael Lair was recognized as the Outstanding Student in the Discipline of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

Alyssa Irlbeck was recognized as the Aggie of the Month for September 2004 by the Ag Council.

Congressional Interns for 2004-2005:

Scott Graves interned for the House Agricultural Committee.

Graduate

The Graduate Student Assn. again sponsored the Annual Pig Roast. Outstanding Faculty of 2004 was awarded to **Dr. Roderick Rejesus**. The Outstanding Ph.D. Student of the Year was awarded to **Margarita Valendia-Parra** and the Outstanding M.S. Student of the Year was awarded to **Erin Wheeler**.

Margarita Valendia-Parra was selected as the Outstanding Graduate Student in the Department by Gamma Sigma Delta.

Editor: Phillip Johnson

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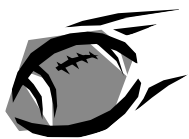
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Faculty Advisors Dr. Jeff Johnson
..... Dr. Vernon Lansford

Homecoming Highlights

**See you
At
Homecoming!
October 15, 2005**



Event	Time	Location
College Breakfast	8:00 a.m.	Livestock Arena
Departmental Open House	Following Breakfast	Agricultural Sciences Room 319
Texas Tech vs. Kansas State	TBA October 15, 2005	Jones-SBC Stadium

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Address Correction Requested

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