My primary role is measuring economic benefits and impacts of AgriLife Extension programs for the purpose of demonstrating economic accountability to our funders at the local, state, and federal levels. The target audience for this program is elected officials. Since moving into this position in 2004, I have worked on a wide variety of projects with every Extension unit, some more so than others. With water and health being big issues in Texas, I have focused significant efforts recently on identifying programs, and estimating economic benefits for water and health-related programs. Water-related programs have mostly been those with a focus on water conservation, and watershed improvement. Health education programs that I have worked on include diabetes education and prevention, food safety, and nutrition. There are also a wide range of production agriculture-related efforts that I get involved with. Results of each of these impact studies are summarized in a one-page economic impact brief.

Rosson’s Roundup

I want to thank Lynn and Creed Ford, ’75, for creating the Lynn and Creed Ford ’75 Endowed Scholarship. The confirmation of this endowment was received this week and we are very grateful for their generous support of the students and programs in the department.

Congratulations to Greg and Shelley Clary upon Greg’s retirement from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the state. I want to thank Greg for all of his efforts and support to our efforts to build a strong program and certainly wish them both all of the best during retirement. Thanks to Tracy Davis, Christy Knight, Candice Foster, Connie Moore, Bridgette Ofczarak and Emmy Williams for planning and organizing this event.

Congratulations to David Bessler on being selected by Commodityhq.com as one of the top 15 Commodity-Friendly Professors worldwide. These professors were cited for their pioneering work in commodity and price analysis. Others you may know are Colin Carter, Roger Dahlgran, Scott Irwin, Alan Winters, Phil Garcia and Terry Roe.

Thanks to Dr. Nessler who attended the faculty meeting Wednesday afternoon. He provided an excellent overview of research priorities and prospects for the future. We had an excellent and productive exchange. I hope we can get him to visit with us again.

Finally, I’m headed to Athens, GA late this week to participate in a conference on Cuba at the Dean Rusk Center. I’m supposed to talk about market potential in Cuba and stay away from the politics of the situation. We’ll see if that happens or not.

Dean McCorkle
Assistant/Associate Professor, Natural Resource and Policy Economics, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at El Paso. 100% research, 12-month, non-tenure track, academic appointment is with Texas A&M AgriLife Research in the Department of Agricultural Economics, The Texas A&M University System. Responsibilities include the development and leadership of state-wide and internationally recognized research in natural resource and policy economics with emphasis on water resources. Ph.D. in natural resource economics, economics or agricultural economics. Preference will be given to candidates with economic expertise and technical experience in conducting and implementing research in one or more of the following areas: economic analyses of water management institutions and alternatives, natural resources valuation, and economic impact analysis of water and natural resource policy alternatives. Review of applications will begin April 1, 2013 until suitable candidate is identified. Applications are to be made on-line at http://GreatJobs.tamu.edu and include a letter of application relating the position description to personal career goals, curriculum vitae, copies of all college transcripts and names of three references. Address the letter to: Dr. Ari M. Michelsen, Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at El Paso, Texas A&M University, 1380 A&M Circle, El Paso, TX 79927-5020. For additional information on El Paso Research Center programs and The Texas A&M University System go to http://elpaso.tamu.edu/research.

Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky, Agricultural Economics, Tenure Track (12 month). Distribution of Effort: Research (60%), Teaching (40%). The successful applicant will develop a nationally recognized research and teaching program in the general area of agricultural management and production economics. Engagement with undergraduate and graduate students is a high priority, including interest in teaching courses in agricultural management and production economics. Qualifications: Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics or Economics. Application can be made by applying on line at: http://www.uky.edu/UKjobs/. The application deadline is June 15, 2013 for a start date when mutually convenient after July 1, 2013. Contact: Lynn W Robbins, Search Committee Chair, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, 400 Charles E. Barnhart Bldg., Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0276, Phone: (859) 257-7286, Fax: (859) 323-1913, Email: lrobbins@uky.edu

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Faculty, staff, and graduate students are encouraged to submit articles and photos on current events. Deadline for all submissions is noon, Thursday. Please send your information to valnoyes@tamu.edu