Rosson’s Roundup

First, let me congratulate Vicky Salin on being appointed Director of the MAB program and Chair of the Intercollegiate Faculty of Agribusiness. Her appointment takes effect April 1, but she has already started the transition into her new role. Thanks to David Leatham who has been serving as interim Director since last fall.

Last week I was in Athens, Georgia to participate in a conference on Cuba in a post-embargo world. There was much discussion about the political realities of this issue, which overrides the economic benefits. I also had the opportunity to meet with the new Chief of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, DC, Jose Cabanas. He arrived in November 2012. This week on Thursday I had the opportunity to meet with the Chief again, this time at the Port of Houston. His trip was sponsored by the Texas-Cuba Trade Alliance. Texas port authority representatives, Texas Farm Bureau, and private sector firms attended this event to discuss export opportunities to Cuba.

Marc Adams, CoBank, visited the Department and the Texas A&M Development Foundation this week to discuss joint activities we could pursue and to develop a MOU on our activities. Thanks to John Park who organized this event and to Torii Kapavik who hosted his visit.

We also had Rudy Nayga, former faculty member, in the Department this week as well. Rudy and his wife Gene were here for several days and have now headed back to Fayetteville, Arkansas, where they have lived for the past four years. Thanks to Rich Woodward who hosted a cook-out in Rudy’s honor on Wednesday night. It was a great event!!

Finally, I want to wish everyone a good weekend and a very Happy Easter!!

Steven Klose

The majority of my responsibility is focused on coordinating our Extension FARM Assistance program. For over 15 years, the FARM Assistance program has been helping farmers and ranchers across the state with financial decision information and evaluating the potential impacts of alternative strategic plans. I enjoy sitting down at the producer’s kitchen table and helping them sort out their complicated business issues. We use the database of producers’ budget plans and financial forecasts to analyze characteristics of those more successful than others, to evaluate policy options, and to illustrate farm management practices. For several years, our program has also been heavily involved in evaluating water conservation practices in the High Plains and the Rio Grande Valley. Working with the AFPC here in the department, I have many opportunities to pursue my interest in farm policy, from teaching undergraduates to collaborating on national farm policy and farm bill education efforts.
Save the Date!

U.S. Agricultural Policy in a Global Context Conference 2013

When: April 9, 2013
Where: The Texas A&M AgriLife Center in College Station, Texas

Position Announcements

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 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 online 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

Click here for more position announcements

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