I was in Chicago early this week to attend the Institute of Food Technologists Annual Meeting and Food Expo. This event is hailed as the largest food ingredient expo in the world, with more than 23,000 people in attendance. Flynn Adcock, Justin Benavidez and I attended to report on our NIFA project related to cost-benefit analysis and economic impacts of beef processing technologies. This meeting marked the mid-point of the multi-institutional project involving the University of Georgia, USDA, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, along with the University of Delaware, Washington State and Ohio State. Among the many sponsors you might recognize are Bunge, BASF, Cargill, Dairy Farmers of America and Morton Salt. I also came across a few Texas companies there, including Sweet Bee Farm, and Houston based honey supplier. A few land grant universities had booths there as well, among them Auburn and Iowa State.

Carl Anderson is out of the hospital after surgery and rehabilitation, and is convalescing at home. I know he’s glad to be home and settled into a routine again. My latest report indicated that he’s preparing to make a presentation to the annual Cotton Round Table via telephone with industry representatives. I’m sure he’d like to receive updates from us. Cards can be sent to 4717 Williamsburg Drive, Bryan, TX 77802.

Last Saturday morning I had a very pleasant surprise while running. Dick (retired from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension) and Mary Edwards were walking in my neighborhood, so I stopped to see if they were visiting here, back permanently or simply lost. I was happy to learn that they have returned to College Station and live about four blocks from my wife and me. So, if you see them around town or in the department, please welcome them back to Aggieland!

If you are attending the AAEA meetings in Washington, DC, note that our Departmental Reunion will be Monday evening, August 5 (location later in this newsletter). Please let your former students know about it and invite them to attend. Thanks.

I also want to take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Nathan Harness who is visiting with us for a month this summer to assist with the Financial Planning program. He is located in 210 B, so please welcome him to the department.

Welcome Jennifer Newsom:
Jennifer Newsom joined the Agribusiness team at Texas A&M on July 15, 2013 as the Program Manager. She comes to us from the main campus, where she has served as the development relations coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts. She has strengths in donor stewardship, event coordination, professional development workshops, and management of philanthropic and professional associations. Jennifer has her B.S. degree in Animal Science from Texas A&M University and a designation as a Certified Conference and Events Professional through the Association of Collegiate and Conference Event Professionals International. Jennifer volunteers as a Girl Scout leader and for the American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life of Brazos County. She co-chaired the event in 2007, 2008, 2011 and 2012. For relaxation, she plays in her church’s hand bell choir, reads, practices yoga, runs or walks her two Rat Terriers, Max and Molly. Jennifer’s office will be in room 210-E of the AGLS Building.
**Did you miss the 2013 Employee Benefits & Annual Enrollment Presentation**

During the month of July, the Texas A&M AgriLife Benefits department will schedule several small, informal meetings. We will only address the changes for the new plan year and then leave the remainder of the time for answering your specific questions. The meetings will be held at the Agriculture and Life Sciences Complex. Seating will be limited to 20 employees per meeting and will require registration beforehand.

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<tr>
<td>Tuesday - July 23</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:30</td>
<td>Room 501</td>
<td>AGLS Bldg.</td>
<td>Vicki Welch (v <a href="mailto:rwelch@ag.tamu.edu">rwelch@ag.tamu.edu</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday - July 30</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:30</td>
<td>Room 501</td>
<td>AGLS Bldg.</td>
<td>to register for a meeting.</td>
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**August 2013 Commencement Ceremony for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has been scheduled for Friday, August 16, 2013 at 2 p.m. in Reed Arena.**

**Thank You!! Dr. Litz for hosting Friday Coffee**

**Our Department will be co-sponsoring a reunion and reception with LSU, Univ. Kentucky, Univ. Florida, Univ. Georgia, Univ. Arkansas, Auburn Univ. and Mississippi Univ. at the AAEA Annual Conference in August. The reception will take place on Monday, August 5 from 9-11pm in room Salon 3 which is located on the lobby level of the Marriott Wardman Park.**

**Position Announcements**

**Extension Agricultural Economist**, K-State Research and Extension and Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas Farm Management Association, Southeast. This is a joint appointment between KFMA SE and K-State Research and Extension. Plan and develop an Extension educational farm business management program for commercial farms cooperating with the Farm Management Association in Southeast Kansas. Provide technical expertise to the area Extension educational program in farm management. Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Economics, Accounting, Finance or related field and at least three years of acceptable performance in a position in one of the following areas: agricultural economics, agricultural finance, agribusiness, or accounting. Demonstrated ability and interests in effectively communicating with individuals and groups through informal educational experiences as demonstrated by college, professional and community activities. Demonstrated expertise in understanding and communicating sound farm accounting principles and economic relationships in agriculture. Proven ability to deal with the demands of heavy seasonal workloads along with both self-discipline to work independently and flexibility to work as part of a team. Send cover letter, resume, and official transcripts; and, arrange for three letters of reference to be sent. Application material may be sent electronically to Mary Huninghake (mhuningh@ksu.edu) or may be mailed to: Kevin L. Herbel, KFMA Program Administrator, K-State Research and Extension, Department of Agricultural Economics, 308 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-4026 (785) 532-8706 FAX: (785) 532-6925, kherbel@ksu.edu. Electronic applications are encouraged.

**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