REMINDER: Lyubov Kurkalova from North Carolina A&T State University will be here October 7 and 8 interviewing for the position in the Economics of Energy, Water and Food Systems. Her seminar is Monday morning at 9:45 in Room 301 AGLS building. She will speak on Modeling Field-Level Conservation Tillage Adoption with Aggregate Choice Data. Please plan to attend the seminar and other activities we have planned.

I spent most of this week on the road, travelling to Uvalde, San Antonio and Galveston. Monday afternoon I visited with Rob Hogan, who transferred to Uvalde this month, and Daniel Leskovar, Research and Extension Director. Rob is off to a great start in his new area, and planning meetings with some of the key producers, agribusiness leaders and community representatives. We discussed ways to multiply his program impacts throughout the region and state, along with some key programming opportunities related to water and its relationship to agriculture and urban settings. Thanks, Rob, for making this transition and we all look forward to working with you.

Tuesday morning I met with former student and Ty Timm Honoree Brian Weiner of PMG International. We discussed some of the international components of the department’s programs such as study abroad, faculty/student exchange and graduate programs. Brian is a strong supporter of our programs and is interested in helping us move forward in these key areas. I expect to follow up with him in the near future. Tuesday evening I visited with Melanie Lesko, Department Head of Marine Sciences at Texas A&M – Galveston and Meri Davalashieridze, Environment and Resource Economist there. We had an excellent discussion of ways for our two departments to pursue some mutual interests, including collaboration between Meri and our Corpus Christi based Extension Economists and other faculty on and off campus. I believe we have some excellent opportunities to work much more closely with TAMU – Galveston and plan to pursue those opportunities in the future.

Wednesday, Flynn Adcock and I met at the Port of Galveston, the ADM grain terminal and Del Monte Fresh refrigerated cargo facilities. (see photo) The purpose of this trip was to host a group of Cochran Fellows from the five African countries of Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia. They had a great visit and received a close-up view of cargo handling at its most efficient as well as an excellent discussion of the process and importance of phytosanitary compliance and food safety. They return home Saturday with many good memories and great experiences from their visit to Washington, DC last week and Texas A&M this week. The timing was most fortunate for all concerned. Many thanks to Fred Boadu, John Park, Ed Price, John Robinson, Leslie Ruyle and Mark Welch who provided parts of their educational experience.

No Aggie football this weekend, so enjoy the much cooler weather (lows in the high 40s!!!???). Have a great weekend!
Position Announcements

Four Assistant Professor Openings, University of Connecticut, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Starting Fall 2014:

Two Assistant Professors in Industrial Organization and Applied Econometrics Search #2014146. Two nine-month, tenure-track positions. We seek well-qualified candidates at the Assistant Professor level whose areas of specialization include industrial organization, applied econometrics, and/or public policy, with a focus on at least one of following: food markets, resource industries including energy, and/or food-related health issues.

Assistant Professor in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics Search #2014143. A nine-month, tenure-track position in research (50%) and teaching (50%). Responsibilities: develop internationally recognized research program in environmental and natural resource economics (ENRE), particularly related to water and land resource use or development within one or more areas such as climate change/adaptation, coastal/marine resource use, watershed management, water-related ecosystem services, and associated economic/policy issues.

Assistant Professor in Agricultural and Resource Economics (Food Security) Search #2014147. A nine-month, tenure-track position in agricultural and resource economics with an interest in food security and related economic and policy issues. We seek well-qualified candidates at the Assistant Professor level whose areas of expertise include development economics, household economics, production economics, marketing, and/or international trade, with research emphasis food security, sustainable food systems, agriculture, and/or fisheries.

To apply: Submit the following materials through Husky Hire at http://www.jobs.uconn.edu/ (with the appropriate search #), no later than November 8, 2013: (1) a cover letter that indicates your vision and programmatic objectives for the position; (2) curriculum vitae; (3) graduate transcripts (unofficial okay); (4) publication sample or dissertation abstract, and (5) contact information for three references. If available, include copies of teaching evaluations or other evidence of teaching effectiveness. We will be interviewing at the ASSA meetings in Philadelphia, January 2-5, 2014.

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.