



Inside this Issue

- Rosson's Roundup
- Today's Seminar
- Undergrad Open House
- Staff Appreciation Week
- Upcoming Birthdays
- Thank You
- Position Announcements



Upcoming Events

February

26th-Seminar

29th-March 4th-Staff

Appreciation Week

March

1st-Retiree Coffee

Staff Breakfast

4th-Staff Movie *The Intern*

Rosson's Roundup

For most of this week I was in Washington, DC to attend the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum and talk to several colleagues at USDA about their projects and areas for collaboration. Howard Buffett was the keynote speaker and had a one-on-one discussion with Secretary Vilsack about conservation tillage around the world and how it might be applied to agriculture here to make it more productive and sustainable. One of the other features of the Outlook Forum was the session on Big Data. While there appears to be many benefits for producers and society associated with Big Data, there is also a downside. Security, privacy, use, control, access, and why not pay me for it? These are just a few of the questions being asked about the use and roles of Big Data from a producer's perspective. The American Farm Bureau Federation and USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) are working to resolve some of these issues. AFBF has designed a transparency evaluator that producers can use to assess alternative data management offers and decide which is best for them. The system already has about 35 private sector firms onboard, with more to follow. AMS has designed an electronic system to facilitate the collection and dissemination of market news, real time. It's well underway in development and should be available to the public in about two months. It's referred to as the MARS project and appears to have many research and extension applications, so look for its release-and it could prove very useful in some, if not, most of our courses.

There were many more concurrent sessions I could not attend, but as usual, the conference was very well organized, with ample networking opportunities and great speakers. Most of the information has now been released by USDA, so you can access it at www.usda.gov.

Let me take this opportunity to recognize our staff who will be observing Staff Appreciation Week beginning Monday. Please take the time to thank them for their great work and the significant contributions they make to our mission. We will have the staff appreciation breakfast Tuesday morning, followed by presentation of Staff Exceptional Service Award. I hope you can attend.

I hope everyone has a great weekend, and it's always good to return to Texas A&M after a trip to our nation's capital.

Dr. John Robinson

Professor and Extension Economist, Texas A&M University

Doing Applied Agricultural Economics Research and Extension (Without an Ag Background)

Dr. Robinson will discuss the scope of applied economics research and education that the extension faculty is involved with for the agricultural industry. One goal of the seminar is to provide an orientation for students who may be less familiar with the extension function of our department. He will also highlight the various ways he developed a working knowledge of agricultural systems and businesses with no previous experience or background in agriculture. Dr. Robinson is a native of Austin and a PhD graduate of our department (1993), and has held various research, extension and teaching appointments in off-campus and departmental venues.

Friday, February 26th
1:00 pm
AGLS 301



Undergraduate Office Spring Semester Open House

Donna Chester, Fred Boadu, Amy Connolly, & Donna Adcock

Staff Appreciation Week 2016

February 29th—March 4th



Blue—Department Events

Red—Campus events

For more information on campus events visit: <http://www.tamu.edu/saw2016/>

Monday 29	Tuesday 1	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3	Friday 4	Saturday 5
Refreshments 2:00 pm Room 301 Trivia Question Drawing 2:30-3:00 pm Presidents Meritorious Service Awards & Kick Off Bethancourt Ballroom Ceremony 3:30-5:00 pm Reception 5:00-6:30 pm	Breakfast 8-9:30 am 8:45 am-Staff Award & Edu. Development drawing 209E-Lab Trivia Question Drawing 2:30-3:00 pm President Young's Backyard Picnic East Quad Located on the lawn behind the Jack K Williams Administration Building 11:30-2:30 pm	Trivia Question Drawing 2:30-3:00 pm M&W Wellness walk and rally Walk begins at 11:30 am Rally at 12:00 pm Wear either maroon or white—Maroon team will meet on steps of Administration building—White team will meet in Wehner Plaza—Boxed lunch provided	Trivia Question Drawing 2:30-3:00 pm Managing stress seminar Morning session 8:30-10:30 am HPEB 30 Afternoon session 3-5 pm MSC 2404	Trivia Question Drawing 2:30-3:00 pm Movie and Popcorn 1:30-3:30 pm Room 209E-Lab Movie Title: <i>The Intern</i>	Staff Saturday on Kyle Field 10:00am-1:00pm Food and activities for the whole family

Upcoming Birthdays

Toni Merchant 3/3
Ariun Ishdorj 3/4
Jennifer Braziel 3/9
Brandi Blankenship 3/9



Thank You!!

Conflict & Development

for hosting Friday coffee



Position Announcements

Assistant Professor, Agribusiness Management/Agricultural Science, Cal Poly Pomona. College of Agriculture. Tenure track, academic year, faculty position will begin preferably in Fall Quarter 2016, to serve as Assistant Professor in the Agribusiness Management/Agricultural Science Department. The department currently includes two majors: Agribusiness Management, and Agricultural Science, as well as a minor in Agribusiness Management. Additional information on the university, college, full description of the position and application procedures are available at <http://www.cpp.edu/~faculty-affairs/open-positions/college-unit/ag/index.shtml> Review of applicants will begin April 1, 2016.

[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