

Newsletter of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society

Volume 19, Number 3, November 2007

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Allan Rae

The next AARES annual conference is to be held in Canberra between 6 and 8 February 2008. Herb Plunkett and his team, along with All Occasions Management, have been very busy putting together the total package – and very attractive it looks. Pre-conference workshops will take place on 5 February. Chris O'Donnell and the LOC have also put together an impressive array of invited speakers. I trust you will be able to attend the conference, and make it the great occasion it deserves to be. Please refer to the conference website and the registration documents.

At the 2008 AGM members will be asked to vote on a resolution that the Society changes its financial year. In the past, the annual accounts as presented to the AGM sometimes had not been audited. Although this is not a legal requirement of us, Council would prefer to present audited accounts to the membership. The problem in the past has been that the treasurer, auditor and others had only the month of January to achieve this, and it often is just not long enough. So Council has proposed that the financial year be changed to end on 30 September. This also has the advantage that cash flows associated with the conference should be more easily included in the same set of accounts, as these transactions occur both before 31 December, and following the conference in February.

Below, you will see a request for proposals for the AARES 2008 Symposium. These usually take place around September, may be of 1-2 days duration, focus on issues of wide public concern and provide a means of publicising our Society and its valuable contributions to policy debates. Please give this request your consideration – we will be delighted to receive your proposal!

The E-CReW workshop (12-13 November) will have taken place by the time you read this newsletter – the Society again supported this activity this year as we recognise the great opportunity it continues to provide for the younger members of our profession.

The new contract between AARES and Wiley-Blackwell has now been finalised to the satisfaction of both parties, and has been signed off. You will be interested to learn that the new contract

increases the journal page budget to 624 pages per year for the period 2008-2010, at no extra cost to the Society. Thanks again to Chris for his sterling efforts.

I look forward to seeing you all in Canberra!

2008 Conference update – brochure available

The society's 52nd annual conference is 5-8 Feb at Rydges Lakeside, Canberra.

There is a discount for those who enroll before New Year's eve.

The date for the submission of abstracts (17 November) had now passed but there are still some potential presenters who have provided a title who have yet to provide their abstract, or who may withdraw. So if you still want to present, send in your abstract.

In addition, the due date for submission of papers is 19 January.

The brochure is available from http://www.aares.info/files/AARES_conference_brochure.pdf.

Proposals are Invited for the AARES September 2008 Symposium.

An important objective of these symposia is to raise the profile of AARES within the general community. Topics should address a policy issue of current public relevance, in the fields of agricultural and/or resource economics.

Symposia may run for one or two days. In addition to its academic content, it is considered important that part of the program should be directed to, and include, the policymaking community and the media.

Proposals should provide topic, duration of symposium, and planned location. Any further detail that can be provided on the program and possible speakers would also be useful.

Council would normally expect to make a final decision at its February 2008 meeting

Notice of Resolution to be put to the AGM, Canberra, February 2008.

"It is moved that starting in 2008, AARES changes its financial year to close on 30 September for this year and subsequent years."

Explanation:

AARES Auditor/Accountant, Grant Pearce, indicated at the May 2007 Council Meeting, that he thought it best that audited accounts, including signatures of President; Treasurer and Auditor, be presented to an AGM.

Recent research indicates that the Victorian Incorporated Societies Act does not require AARES to present audited accounts to an AGM. Council, however, re-iterated its preference at the September 2007 Council meeting for audited accounts at the AGM. The change to the financial year is required to provide extra time from close of books to audited accounts.

Council agreed in May 2007 that a financial year ending 30 September would provide a more measured and orderly process than presently possible with coincidence of Xmas/ New year/ summer holidays, the close of books at 31 December and AGM in early February.

AARES Public Officer, Bill Malcolm, has commented that many businesses select financial years that best suit their operations, including better alignment of accrual and cash accounting. Accordingly, Bill is encouraging of the change to the AARES financial year.

In sum, the benefits of a change to the AARES Financial Year are benefits of process and are not mandatory. Given the benefits of accrual accounting in gaining a better picture of how the society is going, compared to cashbook accounting, there are benefits from selecting a financial year where there is good alignment of cash and accrual. 1/10 to 30/9 will achieve better alignment, provide more time and less stressful administration for all involved and an improved probability of achieving signed off (i.e. audited) accounts at the AGM in February.

Call for Papers - Second USDA and AIEA2 International Conference

“The Economic Implications of Public Support for Agriculture”

19-21 June 2008, Bologna

AIEA2 home page: <http://aiea2.stat.unibo.it/en/>

The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union, undertaken in 2003, extends in a significant way the decoupling process started some ten years earlier. By adopting the Single Farm Payment (SFP) scheme only limited support for agriculture is tied to production decisions. While this is also true of U.S. commodity programs, the 2002 farm bill represented a step back from the more market-oriented legislation of 1996. And prominent in the 2007 farm legislation now before Congress is a continued reliance on price-based commodity payments. The goal of this conference is to bring together economists, social scientists working in the area of agricultural policy, policy makers and representatives of farms and food industries in order to discuss and assess the economic and policy implications of the design of public support for agriculture.

Main Topics:

- New Directions in Agricultural Policy: EU and US Perspective
- Agricultural Policy and Economic Efficiency
- Commodity Programs and Risk Management
- Energy and Agricultural Policy
- International Trade and Agricultural Policy

Language

The plenary session and power point presentations will be in English. Papers presented in the panel sessions, however, can be in French and Spanish.

Call for Papers and Important Dates

The deadlines for the various submission and paper acceptance are:

15th March 2008 - Extended abstract submission (2 pages with JEL subject descriptors).

1st April 2008 - Notification of acceptance.

15th May 2008 - Submission of Final Papers.

Papers should be in English (Plenary session), French and Spanish (Panel session), 12 point type, double spaced and of 5000 words and 20 pages at maximum (title, figures, tables and references included). Computer files should be sent in PDF or MS Word format.

Abstracts and Final Papers should be sent to aiea2.assoc@gmail.com

AARES Organized Symposium at the 2008 American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) Meetings

A call for proposals for the Annual AARES Symposium at the AAEA Meetings,

July 27-29, 2008, Orlando, FL.

The aim of the symposium (duration 1.5 hours) is to raise awareness among U.S. agricultural and resource economists of AARES and issues relating to agriculture and natural resources in Australia and New Zealand.

Please send your 2-3 page double-spaced proposals including information on content, participants and format to the President of the AARES-North American Branch (NAB), Thomas L. Marsh, by February 28, 2008 (TL_MARSH@WSU.EDU).

A review panel will evaluate the submissions based on quality and interest to AAEA attendees.

Symposia are intended to facilitate discussion of a topic so at least half of the time should be devoted to discussion rather than formal presentations. The review panel shall include the NAB President and a representative of the NAB appointed by the NAB President, the AARES President and a representative of AARES appointed by the AARES President.

AARES and the NAB retain the right not to submit a proposal if a suitable submission is not received.

Second Notice - Heading North AARES-AAEA Young

Professionals Exchange Travel Award

The Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) and the Foundation of the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) will jointly offer two travel awards during 2007. These awards are intended for Agricultural and Resource Economists of all ages but in the early stages of their careers. Thus, stage of career rather than age is what defines an appropriate applicant.

The objectives of the awards are to provide the winners with an opportunity for professional and personal development and international professional and cultural exchange. Each award will have a value of US \$2,000 to be used to assist the winner to participate in the annual conference of either the AARES or the AAEA. Applicants for both awards must be members of both the AARES and the AAEA.

The "Heading North" award will be given to members normally resident in Australia or New Zealand to support their participation in the July 27 - 29, 2008 Joint Annual Meeting of AAEA and ACCI at Orlando, Florida.

Members meeting the stated criteria are now invited to apply for the "Heading North" award.

Applications should include:

- A paper for presentation at the AAEA conference, for which they are sole or first author and representing their original and unpublished work,
- A one-page biographical statement, and
- A one-page statement in support of their application, indicating what they would hope to accomplish
- Through the award, and why they would be deserving of the award.

The winner of the award will be determined by a committee, based on the submitted materials, with some emphasis on the quality of the paper. Electronic submissions (preferably in PDF form) should be e-mailed to Martin Van Beuren (mvanbueren@allenconsult.com.au). Applications must be received by December 14, 2007, with the winner being announced at the AARES 2008 conference in Canberra.

Please address any questions about the application process to Martin VanBeuren.

Connections: Farm, Food & Resource Issues

Do you have knowledge or ideas about a farm, food or resource issue that may interest others? Have you authored or co-authored any research work published about this issue in recent years? Have you had a hand in any research reports from your organisation in recent years? Are you aware that Connections is an extension outlet for AARES, complementary to AJARE and central to the society's constitutional objectives of extending information about agricultural and resource economics to a broad audience?

If your answer to any of these questions is 'yes', then the editors of Connections would be interested to hear from you to discuss your topic and how best to link your research work, or that of your organisation, with a broader audience.

Finally, are you aware that AARES will be awarding \$200 to the author of the best article(s) contributed to Connections? The award to be announced at the 2008 conference will be for the best article for 2007.

Glenn Ronan & Bill Malcolm

Co-editors

Connections: Farm, Food and Resource Issues

<http://www.agrifood.info/connections/>

Please feel welcome to contact:

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Deadline and advertising

The deadline for receipt of any items for inclusion in the next edition of AARES News & Views is 21 March 2008. Please send items to Richard Reeve reever01@student.uwa.edu.au

Advertisements in AARES News and Views are welcomed. The mailing list for News & Views exceeds 700. Advertising cost is \$55 (including GST).