Mailing List Update

Enclosed with this newsletter is a form requesting your current postal and electronic addresses, telephone and fax numbers. For your convenience, a postage paid return envelope is included. Please mail the form promptly if you wish to continue receiving AERO mailings.

The form also asks if you would prefer to receive newsletters via electronic mail. Please give us your suggestions as to the best way to keep you informed.

Electronic Mailing List

Sandy Sears at Oregon State is maintaining an electronic mailing list for AERO members. There isn’t a lot of action on this list, so you can subscribe without worrying about overloading your in-basket. But when AERO members do have information to share or questions to ask, this is a wonderful way to do it. To subscribe to the AERO mailing list send a message with the line:

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subscribe aero Your-Email-Address
to majordomo@mail.orst.edu
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or contact Sandy at Sandy.Sears@orst.edu.

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AERO Home Page

Members voted at the Fall 1997 meeting to support a web page for member use. Ellen Reneke at Clemson is maintaining this “members only” home page. The URL is: http://cherokee.agecon.clemson.edu/aero.htm.

At this site you will find the most recent newsletter, the AERO membership list and links to other useful web sites. Members are encouraged to use the page, but are asked not to link to it from any publicly used pages.

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Next AERO Meeting

The Eleventh AERO Meeting will be hosted by Anita Battiste, at the University of Florida in Gainesville. We will meet Saturday, February 27 - Tuesday, March 2, 1999.

Put these dates on your calendar now!

We all know Anita will host the best AERO meeting yet.

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Recapping AERO meetings

AERO has held its Ninth and Tenth meetings since publication of the last newsletter. Both meetings were judged to be very successful by attendees. Much information was shared and many useful presentations given. Reports from both meetings are included in this mailing. Included with the report of last fall’s meeting is the full text of Jim Horsfield’s report on happenings at ERS.

Follow-up from the Tenth Meeting

In addition to the changes in President and President-Elect which take place at each meeting, this year saw changes in the offices of Secretary/Treasurer and AAEA Liaison. Also, the positions of Webmaster and Historian were added to the board. See the minutes of the Business Meeting for details. Officers for the 1997-1999 term are listed on page 2.

A decision on a possible logo for AERO was under consideration at the close of the Ninth Meeting. Members attending the Tenth Meeting voted to adopt the logo which appears as the mast head of this newsletter.

Follow-up from the Ninth Meeting

There are two "old business" items left from the 1996 meeting. A message from Pauline Sondag is on page 2 and information about how to order tee-shirts commemorating the Ninth Meeting is on page 3.
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Follow-up from the Ninth Meeting:
Message from former AERO member
Pauline Sondag

"A very tardy note to tell all of you who made it to East Lansing for the AERO meeting how much fun it was being able to have you come to my home for the Sunday evening reception. It was especially nice to renew friendships with those persons I had known when I was at Michigan State University. However, it was also exciting to meet all the "younger" members and realize what a vital organization AERO has continued to be. The beautiful wind chime you brought creates delightful music for us as we enjoy our porch during the summer months. It was nice for my husband, Ted, to put faces with the names he has heard through the years. As a retired newspaper person he, I suspect, always kept a secret stereotype of librarians. I think I managed to eliminate most of it but I'm sure you destroyed any remaining pieces. Hope we can meet again!"
AgEcon Search Update

AgEcon Search: Research in Agricultural and Applied Economics
An Update

from Patricia Rodkewich

We have just completed a report to the Farm Foundation, one of the sponsors of the project, outlining the progress AgEcon Search has made this past year. When you are in the middle of a long term project, sometimes things seem to move very slowly and it helps to look back to where we were just one year ago and compare it to where we are today.

In March of 1997 we had 160 full-text papers on the database. Today we have a total of 464 papers. The statistics we have gathered outlining the use of AgEcon Search are impressive. These statistics cover the January, February and the first 8 days of March 1998 (70 days). During these 70 days the full text copy of a paper (not just the abstract, the paper itself) was pulled up 14,605 times. We can't tell if the paper was scanned, read or printed, but we know it was viewed by someone. This averages out to 31.5 retrievals per paper during those 70 days, and this would extrapolate to an average of 150 uses each year for each paper in the database. These statistics verify that the site is meeting one of our major objectives - providing an economical distribution outlet for the papers which will allow agricultural economics department to use their funding for further research, not printing and mailing.

During the past year 4 more university departments have begun to add papers to the database: The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Nevada at Reno, Ohio State University, and Utah State University.

In addition to the working paper series we have meeting reports from two of the Regional Research Committees, NE-165 and S-216. The Western Agricultural Economics Association has posted its Selected Papers from their 1997 annual meeting and the AAEA will suggest posting to the authors of the 1998 Selected Papers.

A really significant new event is that the International Food Policy Research Institute is beginning to post some of their papers on AgEcon Search. This moves us into a whole new area - a place we are eager to go in our desire to make AgEcon Search the electronic library of Agricultural and Applied Economics Literature.

A second really major development is that the St. Paul Campus Library and AgEcon Search have joined the NAL AgNIC project to become the Agricultural and Applied Economics AgNIC site. This will make AgEcon Search the gateway to the Internet for everyone needing this kind of information. And, just as we do with the working papers, we will be relying on AERO to assist us in making this a really outstanding site. None of this could have happened without the support and assistance we have had from all of you.

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Tee-shirt available

Ninth AERO meeting commemorative tee-shirts may be ordered from the conference host, Judi Dow. The shirts are white with green printing and are 50/50 poly/cotton. Small, medium, large and extra large sizes are available. The price will depend on the number of orders I receive. If I receive orders for at least 13 shirts the price per shirt will be $6.91 ($4.74 plus $2.16 postage). If a dozen or fewer shirts are ordered the price will be $11.12 ($8.96 plus postage). E-mail me at dowj@pilot.msu.edu if you are interested. When I know the price per shirt, I will confirm orders directly with those who have expressed an interest. DO NOT SEND PAYMENT NOW! This is your one and only chance to have a copy of the logo created for the Ninth meeting, since the original computer file containing the logo was lost in a misguided attempt to upgrade to Windows95. (I wasn’t responsible! -jd)
News and Notes

International Food and Agribusiness Management Association announced a new journal in their September 1997 newsletter. The International Food and Agribusiness Management Review (IFAMR) will be published by JAI Press and will replace Agribusiness: An International Journal as the official journal of IAMA. Libraries interested in purchasing the journal should contact JAI, Journal Customer Service Department, 55 Old Post Road, No. 2, P.O. Box 1678, Greenwich, CT, 06836-1678, USA; Telephone 1-203-661-7602; Fax 1-203-661-0792. Subscriptions are $175.00/year.

[SOURCE: IAMA web site: http://iama.tamu.edu/iama/]

Mann Library, Cornell University, is planning to scan and digitize the entire contents of five years (1993-1996) of 125 selected agriculture journals and store them on a set of 60 CD-ROMs. The result, to be called The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library, or TEEAL, will be offered for sale to libraries in 111 of the lowest income food-deficit countries (as listed in the 1996 World Development Report). The initial funding for the project comes from the Rockefeller Foundation, but the project expects to become self supporting. For more information see the news release at http://www.new.cornell.edu/releases/Feb98/TEEAL.bs.html.

The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) will host the Fourth International Conference on Grey Literature in October 1999 in Chicago. Tentative program topics are: Global Assessment of Grey Literature, Archiving Electronic Grey Literature, and Copyright and Grey Literature. The program is being organized by the Grey Literature Network Service, Koninginneweg 201, 1075 CR Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel/Fax: 31-20-671.1818; E-mail: GreyNet@inter.nl.net; URL: http://www.konbib.nl/infolev/greynet/home.html


Watch for a change in the publication of the proceedings from the IAAE Conference held in Sacramento, California in August 1997. In addition to the familiar blue hard-bound volume that we are familiar with, 20 contributed papers from the conference will appear a special issue of the association's journal, Agricultural Economics. See the IAAE Newsletter, February 1998 for more information.

Speaking of journals (especially those published by Elsevier) Rob Kirby, a mathematician at Berkeley, has done some very interesting research on the cost of publishing journals. See his web site (http://math.berkeley.edu/~kirby/journals.html) for data on the prices of journals per page and per 10,000 characters.

Colorado State University Library is still working very hard to rebuild their collections after the devastating 1997 flood. There is a very long list of "needs" on their web page: http://www.coalliance.org/csuflood/indices.html. Remember them if you have retiring faculty or anyone who is cleaning out an office. It doesn't take that much time and it makes you feel really good.

Some recent "publications" of interest:

"Animal Waste Pollution in America: An Emerging National Problem," December 1997. (A report compiled by the Minority Staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry for Senator Tom Harkin.) Available on the web at: http://www.senate.gov/~agriculture/animalw.htm. If you, like me, have limited printer capabilities and can't print the graphics in this file you can get a paper copy by calling the Committee Office at 202-224-2035.


Remember - the Spring 1999 meeting will be held at the University of Florida February 27 - March 2.