

# Agricultural Economics at the University of Kentucky

January 2008 Newsletter

## Inside This Issue

- 1 Charlotte Moss Retires
- 1 Publications
- 2 Calendar
- 2 20 Students on Dean's List
- 2 Staff Profile: Chuck Corby
- 2 New Grants
- 3 Presentations
- 3 Flexible Cash Leases
- 3 New Faculty
- 4 Advanced Master Cattleman
- 4 Web Surveys
- 5 Welcome Melanie Blackwell
- 5 Grad Profile: Patrick McNutt
- 5 Holiday Luncheon



Charlotte Moss

## Charlotte Moss Retires!

Charlotte Moss is retiring this month after 46.5 years of service with Agricultural Economics. Charlotte started with the department in September 1961 and with her dedication and attention to detail, she quickly proved herself to be invaluable. She trained five department chairs (Brown, Rudd, Shuffett, Jones, and Robbins) in the ways and means of managing a department budget while making sure everyone in the department receive his or her paycheck and that all bills were paid.

Charlotte will truly be missed in the department. We wish her well as she enters this new phase of life!

## Publications

Hu, Wuyang. (2007) "A Choice Model with Systematic Structures in Decision Weights" *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*. 32(3): 462-475.

Maynard, L., S. Saghaian, and M. Nickoloff. (2008). "Buyer and Seller Responses to an Adverse Food Safety Event: The Case of Frozen Salmon in Alberta." *The International Food and Agribusiness Management Review*. Vol. 11, Issue No. 2, forthcoming.

Saghaian, S. and M. Reed. (2008). "Food Quality and Safety Standards: Impacts on World Food Trade." *Trade Policy Research*. Nova Science Publishers, Inc., Hauppauge, NY, forthcoming.

Saghaian, S. and L. Maynard. (2008). "The Importance of Context in Determining Consumer response to Food Safety Events: The Case of Mad Cow Disease Discovery in Japan, the United States, and Canada." *Business Management Research*. Nova Science Publishers, Inc., Hauppauge, NY, forthcoming.

Maynard, L.J., S.H. Saghaian, and M. Nickoloff. "Consumer Reaction to Health Messages About Fish Consumption." Consumer and Market Demand – Agricultural Research Policy Network working paper CMD 07-05, Edmonton, Alberta, November 2007.

## Calendar

January 9	Faculty Meeting	11:00 – noon	CEB 341
January 9	Classes Start		
January 23	Faculty Meeting with Dean	2:30 – 3:30	CEB 341
February 6	Faculty Meeting	11:00 - noon	CEB 341

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*January 9 -- First day of Classes for Spring 2008 Semester.*

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## 20 Students Make Dean's List!

Twenty undergraduate students in Agricultural Economics made the Dean's List for the Fall 2007 Semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List in the College of Agriculture, a student must have a GPA of 3.5 or better for the semester while completing at least 12 semester hours. The Agricultural Economics majors on the Dean's List are Frances Beirne, Neil Fannin, Sean Feld, Jenna Gover, Nathaniel Haggard, Caroline Hall, Ethan Jones, Kayla Kindlesparker, David Koester, II, Ryan Lakarosky, Laura Leavell, Tannis Marley, Douglas Murphey, Marie Pelton, Caroline Peterson, William Stahl, William Sullivan, II, Elydia Thomas, Benjamin Wagener, and Sarah Wixson. We are proud of each one!

## Staff Profile: Chuck Corby



Chuck Corby

Chuck Corby was recently promoted to Administrative Coordinator II (the position formerly held by Charlotte Moss). He joined Agricultural Economics in July, 2007 working with the APES program (American Private Enterprise System). We were fortunate to woo him from his position as Staff Support Associate II in the Program and Staff Development and Center for Leadership Development Departments. Chuck has been working at UK since January 2005.

Chuck is currently enrolled at UK in the Agricultural Communications program. He and his family live in Winchester, Kentucky, where they have just finished building their own home. He enjoys gardening and cooking, as well as playing with their hounds (two beagles, Bailey and Baxter, and two basset hounds, Buckner and Bella)

## New Grants

Maynard, L.J. "Food Safety vs. Allegiance to Ranchers: Canadian Consumer Response to Three BSE Events." Canadian Embassy, International Council for Canadian Studies, Faculty Research Program, January 2008 – March 2009, \$9,500.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr. Lucia Ona and Dr. Rutherford Johnson on completion of their doctoral degrees.

Congratulations to Dr. Jean-Marc Gandoneau on his new job as an Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University.

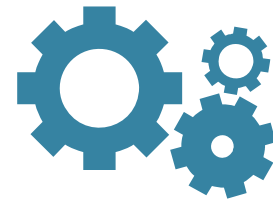
## Presentations

Saghaian, S. (presenter), G. Özertan, and A. Spaulding. (2008). "The Impact of Atlantic Bonito Rush and the Avian Influenza on Meat Products in Turkey." The Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists Annual Meetings, Dallas, Texas, February 2-5.

Shepherd, J. (presenter) and S. Saghaian. (2008). "Consumer Response to Food Safety Events: An Interaction between Risk Perception and Trust of Information in the Chicken and Beef Markets." The Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists Annual Meetings, Dallas, Texas, February 2-5.

Ozertan G. (presenter), S. Saghaian, and A. Spaulding. (2008). "Consumer Responses to Food Scores: The Case of the 2005-2006 Avian Influenza in Turkey" Annual Meeting of Allied Social Science Associations, New Orleans, LA, January 4-6.

Balazs, S. E. and L. Maynard. "The Linear Aproximation Of The Almost Ideal Demand System (LA/AIDS) Model: Application To Aggregated Data." presented at the 6th International Symposium, Prospects for the Third Millenium Agriculture, University of Agriculture Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj, Romania, October 4-6, 2007.



## Flexible Cash Leases

Flexible cash leases are a potentially valuable tool for grain farmers in the next few years. High grain prices combined with high volatility are substantially increasing risk for farmers using traditional cash leases. This relatively unused and specialized lease provides a way to reduce the risk to the producer, and ultimately increase the average rental rates (over a period of years) for the landowner.

For flexible cash leases, part of the final rental payment can be tied to the price of the crop at harvest time. There are many ways in which this can be done but setting a base rental rate with a premium for prices above a certain threshold is the most common method.

Greg Halich will be exploring ways in which flexible cash leases can be constructed that are best suited for Kentucky grain farmers. This will likely include detailing 3-4 flexible lease options with examples of how they would actually work, as well as possible spreadsheet applications. He will be presenting this information at county meetings over the winter.



Greg Halich

## New Faculty

Ani Katchova has accepted our offer to join our faculty in the Industrial Organization teaching/research position. She plans to begin work here this summer. Welcome, Ani!

## Welcome to Melanie Blackwell

Welcome, or welcome back, to Melanie Blackwell. Melanie received her Ph.D. and M.S. from our department and has since had a distinguished academic career, most recently serving as Associate Professor of Economics in the Department of Business Studies at the American University of Rome in Rome, Italy. She will be working with Angelos Pagoulatos on research and grant programs until August.



Melanie Blackwell

## Advanced Master Cattleman Program

The Advanced Master Cattleman program was designed to be a follow-up the Kentucky's Master Cattleman program. Master Cattleman educates producers in ten general areas of beef production though a total of 40 hours of classroom instruction. Advanced Master Cattleman allows producers to explore areas that they are most interested in through more in-depth and hands-on training. Specific potential areas of study include price risk management, record keeping, backgrounding, genetics, reproduction, forages, and processing.

The program is funded by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund. Land Dale, an extension associate who works out of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Office, was hired to coordinate the program schedule and logistics. The program is offered to multi-county groups throughout the state of Kentucky and is in its second year of existence.

During the first year that Advanced Master Cattleman was offered, 233 producers participated from 39 different counties. While producer enrollment continues in year two, there are participants from 69 different counties involved.

Kenny Burdine is the principal investigator for the grant and instructor for three individual sessions.



Kenny Burdine

## Web Surveys

Two AEC graduate students are using web surveys to collect data for their research.

Katharine Auchter with faculty advisor Angelos Pagoulatos are combining the web survey with physical surveys to measure what physical characteristics are desired by trail riders in order to determine the economic value of equine trail riding. The survey is about what people like and don't like about the horse trails in eastern Kentucky around the Daniel Boone National Forest. The information collected will be used to study management of horse trails in Kentucky. Their survey is online at

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AgEcon/surveys/equine1.html>

Emine Bayar and faculty advisor Mehdi Saghaian are conducting a web survey on the "Role of nutritional label use for the purpose of decreasing obesity rate in the U.S.," which is available at

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AgEcon/surveys/food.html>.

The objective of Ermine's and Mehdi's research is to draw the attention of consumers to 'serving size' information shown on the food labels since this could be helpful for the purpose of decreasing the rate of obesity and other health problems due to excess consumption of ingredients in food products such as sugar, fat, and/or salt. This is a multidisciplinary research with food nutritionists, and we have received interesting comments from some of the participants to help us with this process. We have already learned a valuable lesson that interdisciplinary research is best accomplished by working with an interdisciplinary team!

All of the researchers appreciate anybody that could participate and help with the surveys.

## Grad Profile: Patrick McNutt

Patrick McNutt joined our graduate program in Fall 2007. He grew up on a 90 acre farm in beautiful West Virginia. His parents own and operate McNutt's Single-Arm Farm and Greenhouses with enterprises that include: growing bedding plants, hanging baskets, vegetables, perennials, and Fall garden mums for wholesale distribution in a 150 mile radius; growing Burley tobacco since 1989; field pepper, broccoli, and cauliflower production; fire wood bundling, cow-calf operation; market hogs.

Patrick was an active member in the National FFA Organization in high school and has received his American FFA Degree. His first vehicle was an old farm truck -- a rusted-out, non-running 1978 Ford F-150.

He received his B.S. in Agribusiness Management and Rural Development from West Virginia University in 2007. Topics of interest are agricultural production, agribusiness, greenhouse and farm management, as well as metal fabrication, construction, demolition, hunting, mechanic work, and wood working. As part of his M.S. degree, his thesis will focus on the economics involved with high tunnel production. His advisor is Dr. Tim Woods.



Patrick McNutt

## Holiday Luncheon

The AEC 2007 Annual Holiday Luncheon was held December 13 at the Campbell House with our traditional gift exchange led by Karen Pulliam and the mind-bending trivia game led by David Debertin. The food was wonderful and everyone had a great time.



## Job Listings

<i>Location</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Closing Date / Available Date</i>	<i>Contact / Info</i>
<b>University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Economics</b>	Assistant or Associate Professor, International Economics	July 1, 2008	<a href="http://www2.ucsc.edu/ahr/academic_employment/bulletin_flyers_originaldocs_pdfs/07-08/572-08.pdf">http://www2.ucsc.edu/ahr/academic_employment/bulletin_flyers_originaldocs_pdfs/07-08/572-08.pdf</a>
<b>University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Institute for Economic Advancement</b>	Senior Research Professor of Economics / State Economic Forecaster		<a href="http://www.iea.uarl.edu/ieastaff/pdf/State-Forecaster.pdf">http://www.iea.uarl.edu/ieastaff/pdf/State-Forecaster.pdf</a>
	Demographic Researcher/Census State Data Center Manager		<a href="http://www.iea.uarl.edu/ieastaff/pdf/Demographic-Researcher.pdf">http://www.iea.uarl.edu/ieastaff/pdf/Demographic-Researcher.pdf</a>
	Economic Development Research Specialist		<a href="http://www.iea.uarl.edu/ieastaff/pdf/ED-TA.pdf">http://www.iea.uarl.edu/ieastaff/pdf/ED-TA.pdf</a>
	Regional Economic Researcher		<a href="http://www.iea.uarl.edu/ieastaff/pdf/RegionalEconomist.pdf">http://www.iea.uarl.edu/ieastaff/pdf/RegionalEconomist.pdf</a>
<b>Clemson University Department of Applied Economics and Statistics</b>	Post Doctoral Research Fellows in Social Sciences	January 15, 2008	Madhu Khanna at <a href="mailto:khanna1@uiuc.edu">khanna1@uiuc.edu</a>
	Market Department Director	March 2008	Ross Wilson at (806) 358-3681 ext.101
<b>Texas Cattle Feeders Association</b>	Assistant or Associate Professor in Economics of Energy	August 16, 2008	<a href="http://www.aec.msu.edu/openpositions/bioenergyprof.pdf">http://www.aec.msu.edu/openpositions/bioenergyprof.pdf</a>
<b>Michigan State University Departments of Economics (50%) and Agricultural Economics (50%)</b>	Professor and Chair	January 31, 2008	<a href="http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/StatePositionDescriptions/0001-5054FREDChair112107.pdf">http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/StatePositionDescriptions/0001-5054FREDChair112107.pdf</a>
<b>University of Florida Food and Resource Economics Department</b>	Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences		
	Assistant Professor Agricultural Policy	February 15, 2008	<a href="http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/jobs/AgPolicy_Position5new.pdf">http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/jobs/AgPolicy_Position5new.pdf</a>
	Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor	March 21, 2008	<a href="http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/jobs/Position%20Announcement%20ED%20re-ad.pdf">http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/jobs/Position%20Announcement%20ED%20re-ad.pdf</a>
<b>Oklahoma State University Department of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources</b>	Community Economic Development		
	Assistant / Associate Professor	February 15, 2008	<a href="http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/jobs/Production_Econ_Position_Announcement.pdf">http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/jobs/Production_Econ_Position_Announcement.pdf</a>
<b>University of Wyoming Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics</b>	Assistant Professor Production Economics / Systems Analysis	January 7, 2008	<a href="http://agecon.uwyo.edu/agecon/SARECPositionADFINALRevbr9272007.pdf">http://agecon.uwyo.edu/agecon/SARECPositionADFINALRevbr9272007.pdf</a>
	Assistant or Associate Professor (2 positions) (#101483)	February 11, 2008	<a href="https://www.calpolyjobs.org/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1199480360703">https://www.calpolyjobs.org/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1199480360703</a>
	Full-Time Lecturer (#101482)	February 11, 2008	<a href="https://www.calpolyjobs.org/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1199480360703">https://www.calpolyjobs.org/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1199480360703</a>
	Full-Time Lecturer (#101481)	February 11, 2008	<a href="https://www.calpolyjobs.org/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1199480360703">https://www.calpolyjobs.org/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1199480360703</a>
<b>California Polytechnic State University, Agribusiness Department</b>	Assistant / Associate Professor Agricultural and Environmental Economics	March 3, 2008	<a href="http://news.aers.psu.edu/PSUAERSResourceEconomicsPosition.doc">http://news.aers.psu.edu/PSUAERSResourceEconomicsPosition.doc</a>
<b>The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology</b>	Assistant / Associate Professor / Associate Professor / Professor Nursery/Greenhouse & Fruit/Vegetable Marketing and Management	February 1, 2008	<a href="http://economics.ag.utk.edu/staff/positions/positionannouncementutlthrd.pdf">http://economics.ag.utk.edu/staff/positions/positionannouncementutlthrd.pdf</a>
<b>University of Tennessee Department of Agricultural Economics</b>	Assistant Professor / Associate Professor / Professor Nursery/Greenhouse & Fruit/Vegetable Marketing and Management	February 1, 2008	<a href="http://economics.ag.utk.edu/staff/positions/positionannouncementutlthrd.pdf">http://economics.ag.utk.edu/staff/positions/positionannouncementutlthrd.pdf</a>