

Southern Region Ag Econ Department Heads

Sheraton Birmingham

Forum F

February 3, 2019

2:00 – 4:00 pm

The SAC-7 Southern Region Agricultural Economics Department Heads met Sunday, February 3, 2019, 2:00 pm in Forum F of the Sheraton Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama. Representatives from the following institutions were in attendance.

Dr. Barry Barnett representing the University of Kentucky

Dr. Kelly Bryant representing the University of Arkansas

Dr. Keith Coble representing Mississippi State University

Dr. Joshua Duke representing Auburn University

Dr. Lisa House representing the University of Florida

Dr. Reuben Moore was also in attendance representing the Southern Directors.

Dr. Moore reflected on the role of multistate projects in the Southern Region, highlighting SCC-76 and SCC-35 as examples of strong projects. The discussion then turned to efforts initiated at the SAC-7 meeting last year to establish a multistate project around the topic of Economic Damage Assessment and Impact of Extreme Weather Events in Agriculture. Dr. Moore provided an update on ongoing efforts to establish this project.

A discussion was held regarding updating the SAC-7 membership list to reflect changes in Department Heads/Chairs at various institutions.

Dr. Coble, who is the president-elect of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) led a discussion about AAEA's efforts to increase its government relations activities. The discussion focused on the types of government relations activities in which AAEA would (and would not) become involved. Questions were raised about how AAEA's increased efforts would coordinate with those of the Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE). Various points of discussion included staffing for both the AAEA government relations efforts and C-FARE, the leadership structure of C-FARE, the funding of C-FARE, and ensuring that Southern institutions are represented in both AAEA and C-FARE leadership. A further discussion focused on the USDA's ongoing efforts to relocate the Economic Research Service (ERS) outside of the Washington DC area and the difficulty that both ERS and agricultural economics

departments were having in finding PhDs with knowledge of, and interest in, economic issues related to production agriculture.

Dr. Coble volunteered to coordinate the southern regional reunion at the AAEA.

Administrative reports from the institutions represented were presented orally. Copies of these reports are attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.