



Montana's Rural Economy: The Future of Agriculture and Rural Healthcare



*Procrastinator Theatre, MSU-Bozeman
282B Strand Union Building
Thursday, November 12, 2009*

Speaker Biographies

Gary Brester Ph.D.

Gary is a Professor of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. He received his B.S. degree in Agribusiness Management and a M.S. degree in Applied Economics from Montana State University and a Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University. He has published more than 30 refereed journal articles, nearly 100 other research and outreach publications, 15 case studies and several book chapters. His research program is focused on risk management, livestock, international trade, agribusiness and farm management issues. Gary has been the recipient of numerous awards including Outstanding Alumnus Award from North Carolina State University Department of Agricultural Economics, and Outstanding Instructor Award from MSU College of Agriculture. He has also served in leadership roles with the Western Agricultural Economics Association.

Dave Buschena Ph.D.

Dave Buschena is Professor of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. His research includes analysis of decision making under risk, futures and options markets, the importance of quality measures for demand, and resource issues in the West. Dr. Buschena teaches *Advanced Agricultural Marketing*, Graduate-level *Micro-economic theory*, and an interdisciplinary course focusing on the wheat and barley industries, *Follow the Grain*.

Jon B. Christianson (M.L. Wilson Lecturer)

Jon B. Christianson is an economist with extensive research and teaching experience in the financing and delivery of medical care. He has published widely in the areas of health insurance and managed care, employer healthcare purchasing, rural health care, mental health care, public reporting, pay-for-performance, and care process improvement. He received a Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and currently is on the faculty of the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota, where he is the James A. Hamilton Chair in Health Policy and Management. Dr. Christianson serves on a number of different editorial boards and scientific advisory panels. He chaired the 2007 Academy Health research meetings.

Duane Griffith

Duane is an Extension Farm Management Specialist with Montana State University. His interests include production economics and financial analysis covering all aspects of farm and ranch business performance. His educational curriculum includes crop and livestock enterprise analysis, machinery management and complete farm and ranch financial analysis. Duane also develops on-farm decision aids for farmers and ranchers to analyze their operations. These decision aids are typically in the form of Excel spreadsheets and are available for download from at: www.montana.edu/softwaredownloads

George Haynes Ph.D.

George is an Agricultural Policy Specialist with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. Prior to his current position, George was a professor with the MSU Department of Health and Human Development. George earned a doctorate in consumer economics and housing from Cornell University in 1993. His contributions to the field of consumer finance and economics have been in the area of family business finance. These lines of research have produced over 35 refereed journal articles, five book chapters, over 50 presentations and over 45 other monographs. An important contribution of George's family business finance work has been examining the intermingling of family and business financial resources. This research has been supported by funding from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Small Business Administration, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.

Joel B. Schumacher

Joel is an Extension Economics Specialist at Montana State University. He earned a master's degree in agricultural economics from Montana State University. His research and outreach programs focuses on BioEnergy production opportunities through the adoption of small, medium and large scale oilseed crushing and biodiesel facilities. He has also worked extensively with small business owners to find solutions to financial challenges through his previous experience as a pension analyst in the private sector.

Vincent H. Smith Ph.D.

Vince is a professor of agricultural economics and co-director of the Agricultural Marketing Policy Center at Montana State University. He is an internationally recognized expert on agricultural commodity markets and agricultural and small business risk management. He is the recipient of national awards for outstanding outreach education programs and for quality of research discovery. He has published over 150 books, book chapters, professional journal articles, and educational bulletins, and many additional articles for the popular press and non-specialist magazines. In addition, over the past six years he has collaborated extensively with Fort Peck Community College and other tribal colleges and reservation communities in Montana to deliver outreach education, undergraduate education, and research programs targeted to enhancing the economic status and quality of life of American Indians and rural communities.

Myles Watts Ph.D.

Myles Watts joined the faculty at Montana State University in 1978. His research has focused on public land and finance issues and has published in all of the major agricultural and resource journals. In 1996 he received an Honorable Mention for the Outstanding Journal Article Award from the American Agricultural Economics Association, and in 2006 received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Western Agricultural Economics Association. He is a past editor of the Western Journal of Agricultural Economics (currently the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics). He has taught a variety of classes ranging from introductory economics and farm management to graduate economic theory. He is often asked to brief Congressman, state legislators, and Governors. He has been appointed by the Governor of Montana to many state committees on topics from reforming Montana's tax structure to school funding. Approximately 50 times a year, he fulfills outreach educational requests. During the 17 years of serving as Department Head, he fostered an academic environment in which research, resident instruction, and non-resident instruction were integral to the land grant university mission. He has advised the largest reinsurance corporations, USDA on various financial issues including crop insurance, World Bank Group/IFC on international insurance development, and many other private and public entities. Many of these efforts have focused on public-private partnerships including international projects (Ukraine, India, Brazil, Mexico, and Canada).