

— JOURNAL OF —

Agricultural and Resource Economics

Volume 34 • **Number 3** • **December 2009**

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Michael A. Boland

WAEA President, 2009–2010



Michael Boland (Mike) is a professor of agricultural economics and associate director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center at Kansas State University where he has teaching, research, and extension responsibilities in agribusiness management. He has received numerous national, university, and college teaching awards. Mike has also received several national and college extension team awards and was a member of the Hard White Wheat Commercialization Team that received the USDA Secretary's Honor Award.

He teaches educational modules on finance, governance, and strategy in boards of manager and director leadership development programs for cooperatives, which are taught in more than a dozen states. Mike works with many students on research projects and has co-authored publications with 51 different graduate students.

The majority of his work involves food and agribusiness firms where he and his graduate

students have co-authored over 75 case studies including a recent book of cases published in English and Spanish in honor of Professor Ray Goldberg of the Harvard Business School.

Mike served as co-chair of the USDA National Food and Agribusiness Management Commission in 2003 to 2006, and is currently serving as chair of the USDA International Agribusiness Task Force.

He has led seven international study tours of agriculture for students in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, New Zealand, Nicaragua, South Africa, and Uruguay. He has lectured or worked in more than 60 countries, primarily in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East, and he received the Kansas State International Educator award in 2009.

In 2005 to 2008, he served as co-chair of the Teaching, Learning, and Communications section of the American Agricultural Economics Association, where he helped create The Teaching Academy. He has served the WAEA as vice-president (2006–2007) and on numerous committees.

Mike took his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Purdue University. He also has a master's degree in agricultural economics from Purdue and a master's in agricultural education from the University of Minnesota. His BA degree is from the University of St. Thomas.

Mike was the recipient of a USDA National Needs Ph.D. Fellowship in Agribusiness, which fostered his work with continuing education programs in the Purdue University Center for Food and Agricultural Business.

Mike's previous work experience includes a local farm supply cooperative, a regional cooperative, and a co-op state council. He is the oldest of 12 children and was reared in Minnesota.