



**Matt Holt** is a Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech. He has held posts at the University of Alabama, where he helped establish a value investing program, Purdue, NC State, the University of Arizona, and the University of Wisconsin. He has worked with USDA, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and OECD, among others. Matt's recent research has focused on nonlinear dynamics and structural change in food, energy, and natural resource markets. He has served on the AAEA Board, the AAEA Foundation, and other AAEA committees. He also served as an Associate Editor of the AJAE and other journals including the Journal of Business and Economic Statistics. He was a founding member and the first Chair of the Econometrics Section. He has received several AAEA awards for his research, but he is most proud to have been named an AAEA Fellow.

**What are the biggest challenges and opportunities for AAEA?**

First and foremost, how we can continue to provide AAEA members with valued services, and how can we effectively convey this value to potential new members? Second, the scope of our professional activities continues to expand. In addition to traditional areas including agricultural production, distribution, and marketing, we now work on topics related to energy, climate change, water, health and nutrition, and supply chain logistics, among others. How, then, can we continue to expand AAEA's "big tent" to better appeal to new and emerging groups with overlapping interests including, for example, data scientists? Third, how can AAEA continue to facilitate and promote career growth and development for all of its members ranging from young professionals to retirees? Finally, in an environment defined by greater resource uncertainties but, conversely, with greater needs and demands for our services, how can AAEA more effectively promote "our story" to the world?

**What actions would you initiate to address the challenges and opportunities described in your response to the previous question?**

First, I would work with the Board to inventory the services we offer with an eye toward identifying new opportunities. For example, is there scope for a new (perhaps online) journal along the lines of, say, Agricultural and Applied Economics Letters, wherein a larger number of shorter papers are published following an expedited review process? Second, I would seek to effectively market to and partner with groups that may have interests that intersect with ours, including, for example, applied data scientists. Third, I would explore opportunities for new sections. For example, might a section with an exclusive focus on career development for young professionals have merit? Fourth, I would work to enhance our resource base, including corporate support and private philanthropy, with a focus on obtaining resources to support ongoing professional development. Fifth, I would explore opportunities to expand our global reach and impact by periodically holding AAEA meetings at international locations.

**At the end of your three-year term, what changes/new initiatives would you have helped create?**

As a consequence of my leadership, I would like to see the overall visibility of the Association enhanced. By the end of my term, I would like to see substantive membership growth along with expanded member services including, perhaps, new journal outlets. I would like to see an Association with greater global reach and influence, including the possibility of meetings at international locations. I would hope to see increased support for our members and, specifically, our younger and newer members, including enhanced opportunities for meeting travel and research support. Finally, I would hope that the Association would have expanded its reach and impact through continuous refinement and promotion of its core message, which comes down to simply promoting our unique ability to provide superb applied economic analysis in support of better public and private decision making.