

**Bio**

Brian Roe is the Van Buren Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics at Ohio State University. Roe holds a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Maryland – College Park. Dr. Roe was a 2022 AAEA Fellow and served as an AJAE editor and on the AEPP editorial board. Other AAEA service includes membership on several committees including Communications, Publications, Publication of Enduring Quality, Best Ph.D. Dissertation, Nominating, and the Galbraith Forum, among others. Roe is a member of several sections including COSBAE, CWAE, FAMPS and IBES. Roe co-directs the NSF-funded RECIPES Research Network on sustainable food systems; served as a panelist for the 2020 National Academies consensus report on reducing consumer food waste; and is a

member of the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research Advisory Council on the Health-Agriculture Nexus.

**What is the biggest concern/problem facing AAEA?**

A concern that underlies many of the strategic challenges faced by the AAEA is the size and diversity of the pipeline of talent feeding into our profession. A larger and more diverse pipeline of students with exposure to and interests in applying economics to solve agricultural, development, environmental, food and consumer, natural resource, regional, rural, and associated business problems would enrich the human resource base crucial to maintaining our organization, improve the quality of science we create and, therefore, advance our ability to address societal problems per the AAEA mission.

**What actions would you initiate to improve the situation described in your response to the previous question?**

To increase the size and diversity of the pipeline of talent feeding into our profession I would prioritize supporting and expanding upon the work of AAEA's Committee on Agricultural Economics Education, which was recently launched. In addition, I would champion and catalyze the implementation of initiatives that (1) create strategic alliances with diverse pre-collegiate organizations (e.g., 4-H, FFA, Jr. MANRRS, FBLA) and (2) expand and diversify AAEA's programming and mentoring for undergraduate students.

At the pre-collegiate level, I would promote initiatives that share AAEA's curricular and professional development expertise with youth organizations to develop dynamic partnerships and alliances that yield greater interest among their members in applied economics ideas and topics. For example, the youth organization of 4-H is an intriguing possible partner as it serves a diverse population of more than 5 million youth with substantial membership from urban areas

and underrepresented minority communities, and the organization shares multiple connections with AAEA upon which to build. Specifically, 4-H operates with funding and organizational support provided by USDA-NIFA and enjoys content and logistical support from Extension personnel in 1862, 1890 and 1994 land grant institutions.

At the collegiate level, the pipeline would be enhanced through continued support and expansion of the CWAE/COSBAE collegiate mentoring programs, the CHAIRS section's development of profession-wide marketing and recruitment programs, and Student Section offerings. While AAEA's Student Section provides programs that deeply engage students at multiple institutions, such as the Academic Bowl, Spreadsheet and Paper competitions, and student chapter awards, more students at more institutions could be reached by diversifying the program topics (e.g., food security, international economic development, environmental economics, commodity trading), offering professional development and networking opportunities, expanding participation modes and timing (e.g., virtual offerings, programs that work in classes during semesters), developing partnerships and alliances with diverse collegiate organizations (e.g., MANNRS and SACNAS), and reducing institutional barriers to student participation.

The final element is ensuring that new members emerging from this pipeline find a welcoming home within AAEA. This will involve continuing efforts to support a culture that embraces people who are new to AAEA and the ideas and programs they need to continue their professional growth.

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

At the end of three years I would envision initial benefits will materialize from a long-term effort to expand and diversify AAEA's talent pipeline. More total students and a more diverse set of students from a broader array of institutions will be attracted to agricultural and applied economics topics, courses, and majors. With more undergraduate students directed to our educational institutions, pipeline continuity would be provided via an expanded portfolio of AAEA undergraduate programming and mentoring with the capacity to attract and engage students on topics and methods that spark their interest in graduate and professional degrees, employment in our profession, and membership in our Association. This growing and increasingly diverse membership will generate a virtuous feedback loop by attracting additional support from corporate and other sponsors that can help defray association costs and make the AAEA more robust and effective.