

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Agriculture in Turbulent Times**

**MILWAUKEE, WI**– Economists address the instability of the current economy and its affect on agricultural industries, in vol. 24 (1) of *Choices*, a policy-based magazine published by the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association ([www.aaea.org](http://www.aaea.org)). On April 21, 2009 a web conference will also be held on this topic, featuring authors from this *Choices* issue.

Economists from all sectors of the agricultural system examine the economy and its relationship to agricultural markets. In eight separate articles, *Choices* analyzes issues including market instability for commodities, the emergence of an agro-energy sector, the impact of the world economy on U.S. agriculture, and how the credit crunch is affecting agriculture.

“As a collection, these papers underscore the complexity of understanding future economic conditions in the agricultural sector,” said David Schweikhardt, the theme editor for this issue, and Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University. “It remains unclear whether the brief period of extreme turbulence for agriculture is an outlier of long-term trends or a portent of things to come.”

In addition, a free Web conference will be held to supplement the research of this issue. It will feature three authors from the issue discussing their research and answering questions for participants. The Web conference will take place on April 21, 2:00-3:30 pm EDT, and is sponsored by AAEA and The Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE) and supported by eXtension. More information about the Web conference is available at [http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/choices/event/event\\_info.html](http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/choices/event/event_info.html).

*Choices* is an online peer-reviewed magazine published by AAEA for readers interested in the policy and management of agriculture, the food industry, natural resources, rural communities, and the environment. *Choices* is published quarterly and is available free online at [www.ChoicesMagazine.org](http://www.ChoicesMagazine.org).

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