

INTRODUCTION

While at conferences such as the Southern Agricultural Economic Association (SAEA) and the Agricultural and Applied Economic Association (AAEA), Agribusiness students and faculty participate at various learning and professional development activities including participation in Academic Bowls, Research Poster Presentations, and Research Paper Presentations.

The primary objective of these conferences is to network and disseminate the latest scientific information related to the economics and agribusiness aspects of the production, distribution, and marketing of food or fiber.

Selected students, faculty, and researchers participate in an undergraduate Quiz Bowl, research poster presentations, and research paper presentations.

In the SAEA Quiz Bowl, undergraduate students are placed in teams of four composed by students from all participating universities; while in the AAEA Academic Bowl, undergraduate students compete in teams typically consisting of three members from the same school. Students learn from their peers about themselves and their universities, and compete in a jeopardy-like game where they answer questions related to their discipline (Micro-economics, Macro-economics, Agribusiness & Finance, Resource & Policy, Quantitative, Marketing, Management, and Potpourri). While at the conference, students also attend research poster and paper presentations.

HOW THE QUIZ BOWL WORKS

Teams are randomly assigned to compete in Round 1 at different time slots and rooms (such as Balcony A, B, etc. in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3).

In 2018, there were 37 teams which started playing Round 1 at 8:00 am, 8:20 am, ..., 10:00 am (Fig. 2). Teams that win remain in the winner bracket (Fig. 2) while teams that lose move to the loser bracket (Fig. 3). Any team that loses two times is eliminated.

There are usually around 14 or 15 rounds. Each round lasts 15 minutes. The flip of a coin decides which team picks first. The team to last answer a question correctly gets to pick a question. When a team answers incorrectly, the other teams takes the board.

In each round, there are two teams competing, one moderator who reads the question aloud, one computer operator who is also the time keeper, and usually two judges who decide whether the teams answered right or wrong.

While the moderator reads the question, players have the option to buzz in. If so, a team has 10 seconds to answer the question. If a team answers wrong, the other team has a chance to answer as long as the 10 seconds are not up.

QUIZ BOWL STRATEGIES

While these academic bowls, to some participants, mostly consist of answering questions fast; there are actually strategies for quiz bowlers that can lead to increasing the odds of winning a game.

Prior to the Quiz Bowl

- Schedule training sessions or create a course.
- Only practice as if competing.
- Focus on reading the question fast, ignore and isolate.
- Subject experts, each player studies a subject.

At the Quiz Bowl

- Selecting questions from the board in a particular order, such as all 20 or 25 point questions.
- Targeting a particular category such as all Quantitative questions.
- Abstaining from answering questions.
- Team work, answer questions only if consensus.
- Individualism, one player answers all.

FIGURES

Round 1								14:50
Micro-economics	Macro-economics	Agribusiness & Finance	Resource & Policy	Quantitative	Marketing	Management	Potpourri	
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	
25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	

Figure 1. Question Subjects and Points per Round.



Figure 2. Sample Winner Bracket, AAEA 2018.

Figure 3. Sample Loser Bracket, AAEA 2018.

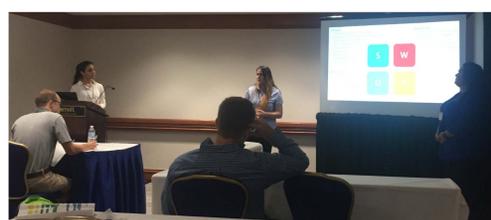


Figure 4. A&M-Commerce Quiz Bowlers

2018 SAEA Selected Paper Presentation



2018 AAEA GS Case Study Competition



2018 AAEA Organized Symposium



Figure 5. Professional Development

QUOTES FROM STUDENTS

- "I thought the experience was well worth my time." – Zach Thrift
- "This trip has been a great experience. This quiz bowl was a great way to network with other universities, as well as help grasp my knowledge of economics in comparison with other universities. I feel that this trip has better prepared me as I continue in my degree as well as prepare me for competing for jobs with other degrees as me." – Tad Kissling
- "Not only did I have a great time competing in the quiz bowl, I met and networked with many young agricultural professionals from all over the country who were also participating." – Troy McDonald
- "[It] was a great experience as well as an amazing networking opportunity. I also enjoyed attending the research presentations. Watching these presentations has made me interested in completing my thesis and presenting my research at a conference." – Tyler Raine
- "National conferences like these are what helps us to remember that agriculture is wider than just our University, or even just our state." – Audra Griseta
- "I was able to speak with several graduate recruiters from other colleges and universities. In doing so, I feel more confident in my opportunities to attend graduate school." – Lauren Joie
- "I was in FFA all throughout my high school career and traveled all over the state, but I had never experienced being able to leave the state with a group of kids and a teacher outside of the state. Not only did we have fun, but we also got to network with other kids from across the nation. I am so happy and appreciative that I got invited to attend this conference and represent TAMUC. This trip was/will definitely be the highlight of my senior year of college at TAMUC." – Tyler LaFavers.

POST-CONFERENCE POLL

Table 1. Answers to Post-Conference Poll.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Rating Average
This conference increased your interest in graduate studies at A&M-Commerce.	0	0	0	4	3	4.43
This conference increased your interest in graduate studies at other universities.	0	0	3	2	2	3.86
Overall, you liked the conference.	0	0	0	2	5	4.71

Note: Poll was conducted in 2017 only. Sample size equals 7, which includes 6 undergraduate students and 1 graduate student. Response rate = 77.78%.

Overall, the post-conference poll indicates A&M-Commerce students who participated at the 2017 SAEA Annual Meeting in Mobile, Alabama, February 4-7, 2017 liked the conference and that the experience increased their interest in graduate studies.

BENEFITS

Professional conference participation provides experiential learning activities for agribusiness and agricultural economics students while it also leads to the continuous development of the teacher.

Quiz Bowl reinforces the student learning in several subjects, including Micro- and Macro-economics, Agribusiness and Finance, Resource and Policy Economics, Quantitative Methods, Marketing, Management (Fig. 1).

Students also get to appreciate and see what their discipline is all about outside their classroom.

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