

# *Proceedings of the 2007 AAAE Research Conference*

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*Edited by:*

*Gary E. Briers and T. Grady Roberts  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas*

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33	2006	Kirk Swortzel Jacquelyn Deeds	Mississippi State University	Charlotte, NC
34	2007	Gary E. Briers T. Grady Roberts	Texas A&M University	Minneapolis, MN

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Co-chairs' Comments  
Gary E. Briers and T. Grady Roberts  
Texas A&M University

Welcome to the *Proceedings of the 2007 American Association for Agricultural Education Research Conference* held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 16-18, 2007. The 48 manuscripts were “blindly” peer-reviewed by three reviewers and were subsequently selected from the 72 papers submitted. Thus, the acceptance rate was 67%. After papers were reviewed and selected for presentation, reviewers’ comments were returned to the authors for their use in improving the papers submitted ultimately for publication. Authors submitted the 48 final papers on time and in good form for compiling these proceedings.

On initial submission, we asked the author(s) of each paper to identify the special interest group (SIG) in AAAE with which that paper most closely aligned. Then, when the 48 papers had been identified, we grouped the papers into SIGs for presentation. Thus, there were two sessions at the conference identified as “extension education,” two as “leadership education,” two as “teacher education,” two as “teacher professional development,” two as “university teaching,” one as “academic integration,” and one as “agricultural communications / distance education”—a total of 12 sessions of 4 papers each.

Historically, as a profession, we have asked one person to review four “final papers” and provide written remarks for publication with each paper. Then, at the conference, that reviewer/critic also served as a discussant of the four papers in a session. Based on requests from several AAAE members, we chose to modify these procedures for 2007. Instead of a single critique of each paper and, too often, a discussion that centered around the one discussants’ remarks, we “published” the paper proceedings to our AAAE website two weeks prior to the conference itself, informed our members, and invited ALL AAAE members to serve as reviewers, critics, and discussants. Then, two members in each concurrent session of four papers served as a chair and a facilitator—with duties to assist with technology, introduce the speakers and the papers, keep speakers on time, and moderate participant discussion of the four related papers/presentations.

If you attended this year’s AAAE research sessions, we invite your comments concerning these “new” procedures; please email your thoughts, suggestions, comments, criticisms, accolades, etc. to [g-briers@tamu.edu](mailto:g-briers@tamu.edu) or [groberts@tamu.edu](mailto:groberts@tamu.edu). In fact, if you did NOT attend the conference, we invite your suggestions and comments.

As chairs, we thank VERY MUCH the 72 reviewers, each of whom reviewed three papers, rated them, and provided feedback for the authors. Too, we thank the session chairs and facilitators of the 12 research sessions at the 2007 AAAE Conference. Most important, we thank the 139 authors who shared their scholarship with the profession and moved forward the base of knowledge in our field of study. And, finally, we thank the profession and AAAE for allowing us to serve the profession in co-chairing this endeavor.

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