

ARE Faculty Profile

Leslie J. (Bees) Butler is a Cooperative Extension specialist and lecturer in the Agricultural and Resource Economics department at UC Davis. He was raised in New Zealand on a sheep farm and earned his B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Economics at Lincoln College at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. Bees then went on to England to receive his M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics at the University of Reading in Berkshire. He traveled to Australia to work as a senior research economist for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Canberra from 1970-1975.

Dr. Butler came to the US in 1976 to continue his studies in agricultural economics at Michigan State University. He wrote his dissertation on price instability in agriculture and received his Ph.D. in 1979. While in graduate school, Bees also earned his pilot's license, which began his lifelong enjoyment of flying.

After graduate school, Bees worked as a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Wisconsin, focusing on intellectual property rights in the seed industry and biotechnology. He joined the UC Davis ARE department in 1987 as an extension economist.

Dr. Butler's areas of interest include dairy and lamb production and marketing, biotechnology, technology transfer, intellectual property rights and public policy issues. The focus of his research is in dairy marketing and policy issues. He was involved in policy issues affecting the dairy industry in both the 1990 and 1995 Farm Bills. For the past fifteen years, Dr. Butler has intensively tracked the research and implementation of rBST in dairy production.

Dr. Butler travels extensively throughout the state giving seminars on issues affecting dairy producers and processors. He has served on several dairy industry committees, including the Producer Relations Committee of the Dairy Industry of California and the Federal Milk Marketing Order Committee of the Western United Dairymen.

In addition to his extension duties and research activities, Bees teaches a popular upper-division course in agricultural markets at UC Davis and is an active participant in many professional associations.

Dr. Butler is a world-traveler, having recently returned from trips to South America, Europe and Russia. He has consulted with the Italian Cheese Industry and was selected by the U.S. Information



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Agency to advise on the agricultural transition in both Kazakhstan and Russia. He also was supported by Winrock International to help establish dairy marketing systems in various regions of Russia.

Bees' fondest interest is in wine tasting. He is also a wine expert, possessing a great knowledge of wines produced throughout the world. In his spare time, Bees enjoys golf and skiing.

L. J. (Bees) Butler is a UC Cooperative Extension economist with interests in dairy and lamb marketing, food and agricultural policy, market structure and technological change, and intellectual property rights. For additional information on these issues, you can contact Dr. Butler at (530) 752-3681. Or visit his Web page at <http://www.agecon.ucdavis.edu/Faculty/Bees.B/Butler.html>.