

ARE Faculty Profile

Daniel A. Sumner is the Frank H. Buck Jr. Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and the Director of the University of California Agricultural Issues Center. He also currently chairs the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium.

Professor Sumner participates in research, teaching and outreach programs related to public issues facing agriculture. He has published broadly in academic journals, books and industry outlets. Sumner's research includes all aspects of agricultural policy, including commodity programs and trade policy. His areas of emphasis include agricultural trade in the Pacific Rim (especially Korea), dairy industry issues and rice policy.

Professor Sumner has recently taught courses in agricultural policy economics to undergraduate and graduate students, including a course for Chinese Ph.D. students in Beijing. Public outreach is a major component of his work, especially through the Agricultural Issues Center. Sumner gives dozens of public presentations each year and has prepared several AIC Issues Briefs, most recently on "Agricultural Impacts of the Asian Economic Turmoil: A California Focus."

Sumner was raised on a fruit farm in Suisun Valley, California, where he was active in 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) activities as a youth. He was the Star State Farmer for California in his final year in FFA.

After a bachelor's degree in agricultural management from California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo, Sumner went on to a master's degree from Michigan State in 1973 and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago in 1978.

From 1978 to 1992, Sumner was a professor in the Division of Economics and Business at North Carolina State University. He spent much of the period after 1986 on leave for government service in Washington, D.C., at the President's Council of Economic Advisers and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Before beginning his current position at UC Davis in January 1993, Sumner was the Assistant Secretary for Economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he was involved in policy formulation and analysis on the whole range of topics facing agriculture and rural America. In his role as supervisor of



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Agriculture's economics and statistics agencies, Sumner was also responsible for data collection, outlook and economic research, and he supervised about 2,000 employees.

Sumner's professional work has been honored with awards for quality of research discovery, quality of communication, and distinguished policy contribution. In August 1999, the American Agricultural Economics Association will name Dr. Sumner as a distinguished Fellow in recognition of his career achievements.

Professor Sumner lives two blocks from campus with his wife Hyunok Lee and three-year-old daughter Han-ah Lee Sumner.

Dan Sumner can be reached by telephone at (530)752-5002 or by e-mail at dan@primal.ucdavis.edu. For more information about Professor Sumner's research or the Agricultural Issues Center, visit his Web page at www.agecon.ucdavis.edu/Faculty/Dan.S/Sumner.html