

Solutions To Small And Medium Beef Cattle Producers Challenges

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By

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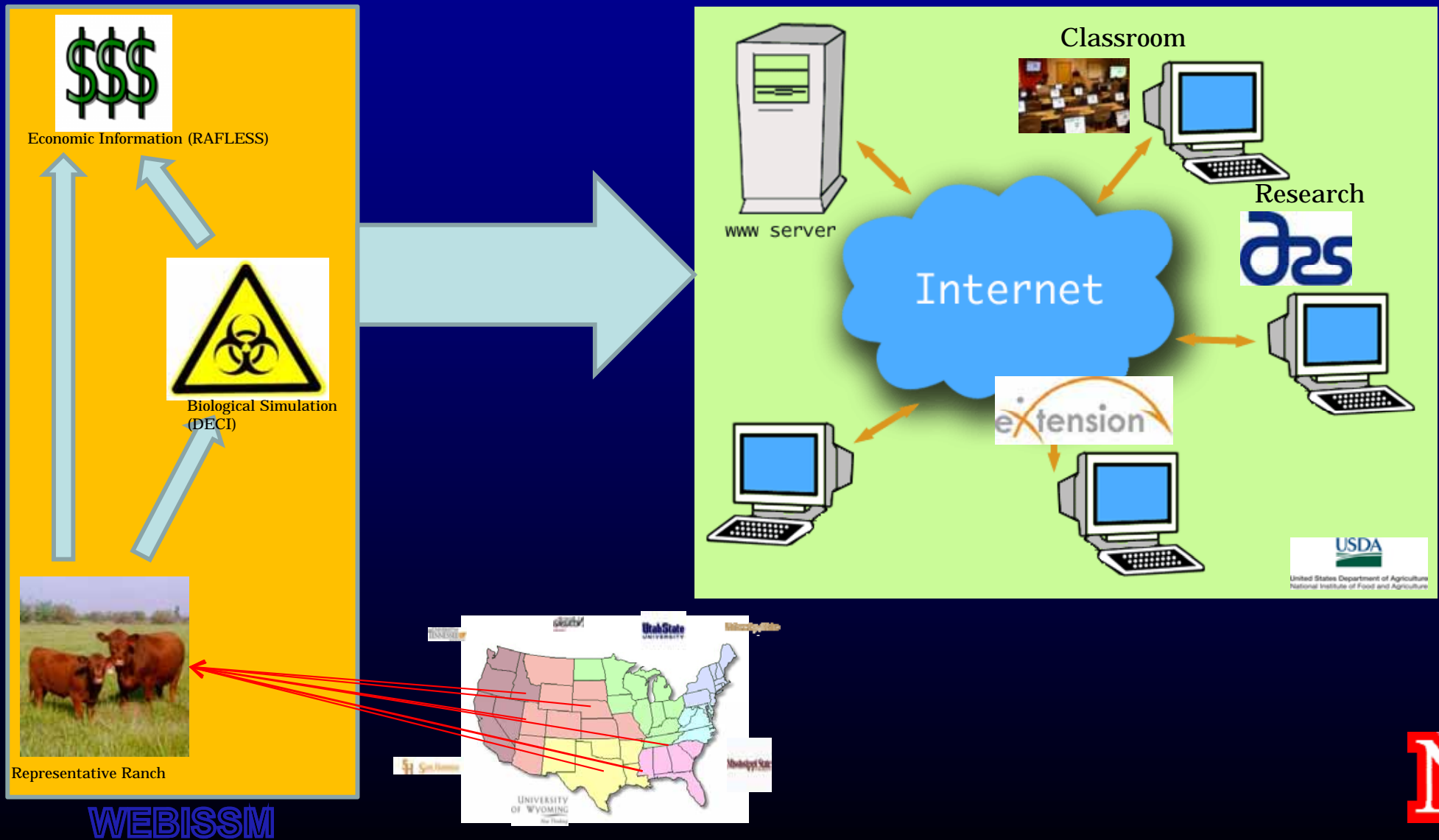


Participating Institutions

- **USDA Meat Animal Research Center**
 - Charles Williams, Tom Jenkins
- **Sam Houston State University**
 - Michael Lau
- **Mississippi State University**
 - Randy Little
- **University Tennessee Knoxville**
 - James Larson
- **Utah State University**
 - Dillon Feuz
- **University Idaho**
 - Larry Makus
- **University of Nebraska Lincoln**
 - Matt Stockton, Rick Funston, Aaron Stalker
- **Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture**
 - David P Smith



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The Components Of The Project

- **WEBBISM Website**
- **Creation of RAFLESS** (Economic Firm Level Simulation)
- **Representative Farm Data**
- **Integrating the Model**
 - Includes testing and validation
- **Incorporating Stochastic Components**
- **Use in Extension, Research, and Education programs**



What We Have Completed

- **WEBBISM Website**
- **Representative Ranches/Farms have been constructed**
- **The DECI and RAFLESS have been combined**
- **Problems exist with DECI that are being worked out. input**



Accomplishments

- **Graduate Students have been trained**
 - **Matt Hirschi, Utah State University**
 - **Tracey Adkins, Mississippi State University**
 - **Brian Williams, University of Nebraska Lincoln**
- **Representative ranch information has been collected in each state and is either entered or being enter into the model**



More Accomplishments

- **Utah has created three typical ranches representing different winter feeding conditions**
 - Severe winters (6 months feeding)
 - Moderate winters (3 months feeding)
 - Mild winters (limited feeding as needed)
- **Nebraska has five representative ranches**
 - Representing 5 different regions of the state
 - Mississippi, Texas and Tennessee have representative ranches representing small and medium producers



The final product: Teaching

- This coming spring the model will be used in several classrooms with the collaborating states, interest has been expressed by other to use the model
- Once this is done final modification will be made for teachers and a user's manual will be completed
- A bulletin will go out and an electronic campaign to schools and universities



Extension

- The functioning model will be used in collaborating states in various planned in-services and training to extension educators and prospective users
- Statewide news outlets will be used when the model is complete
- The use of the model will be promoted to both management practitioners and producers
- An extension and individual user guide will accompany the release of the model



Research

- **Several users have projects that they wish to use the model.**
- **The model will be promoted electronically to both economist and animal scientist through word of mouth and professional meetings and use.**



Expected Impacts

- **Students will learn management and financial skills and have a clear understanding of how a cow-calf business performs and responds**
- **Extension personnel will have a tool to present the outcome of different management choices and how varying choices and strategies perform with varying ranch conditions (biological and financial)**



Expected Impacts

- **Individual producers and stakeholders will be able to perform scenario analysis and make more informed choices**
- **Better choices will lead to less business failure and increased profitability and survival**
- **Researchers will be able to identify key success and failure points providing relevant research and insightful publications and information**



Questions??

Thank-you

