

Former Agricultural Economics Faculty

Larry DeBoer



Larry DeBoer was born in New York City and grew up on Long Island. He majored in economics at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Syracuse University, so he never expected to spend a career in a Department of Agricultural Economics.

Larry's extension programs and research interests were in state and local government public policy. In the 1980's he published articles and offered extension programs on topics such as the new state lottery and the local income taxes. The property tax became the focus of his work in the 1990's, when he led a study of market value assessment for the Indiana State Tax Board. When the Indiana Supreme Court ruled Indiana's existing property tax assessment system unconstitutional in 1998, his study formed the basis for analyzing the

General Assembly's property tax reforms. Larry offered programs about the consequences of the reforms at hundreds of extension meetings.

From 1988 to 2014 he worked with the Indiana Legislative Services Agency, building models of state and local taxes to analyze legislation. He directed the research work for Governor O'Bannon's Citizen's Commission on Taxation in 1997-98 and contributed research to Governor Daniels' Commission on Local Government Reform in 2007. He consulted with many local governments and state associations about public policy issues.

Larry began teaching introductory macroeconomics in 1986 and continued to teach AGEC 217 through 2021. His enthusiasm for macroeconomics helped enrollment grow from less than 20 to more than 400. He was named to Purdue's Book of Great Teachers in 2013 and was most proud to have won the Charles B. Murphy award as one of the outstanding undergraduate teachers at Purdue in 2015.

He wrote about the general economy for the department's annual outlook publication, starting in 1990. He wrote a monthly column about Indiana issues and the national economy, *Capital Comments*, from 2001 through 2021. He would often write about property taxes on farmland--he figured his job existed because "farmers hate property taxes."

Larry received the Hovde Award for service to the people of rural Indiana in 2009. The Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents gave him its distinguished service award in 2010. The plaque read, "He is recognized for his ability to bring humor to complex and often challenging issues." As Larry liked to say, "See, I'm funny. It says so on a plaque."