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1998-Present: I retired from U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1997. Since then I have been a self-employed economic consultant and software developer. I developed, and currently market (on the internet) VORSIM software for mathematical modeling in the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet for Windows (see website www.vorsim.com). As a consultant, I have worked on projects involving economic modeling and analysis of a wide range of economic topics including international trade issues. Examples include a study of the rural impact of a wind farm in North Dakota, a world agricultural model for agricultural products of interest to Turkey, an agricultural model for Fiji, evaluation of the rural economic impact of a North Dakota Wind farm, a global dairy product model, the development of a world sugar market model, the evaluation of a customs union in East Africa, the estimation of the impact of an export ban on raw cashmere from Mongolia to China, the development of a model for global trade in genetically modified agricultural products, the estimation of the Canadian impact of a Canada-Central America free trade in refined sugar, the estimation of the impact of Ugandan membership in an East African Customs Union, the evaluation of Rwanda as a free trade zone, the impact of a European Union–Zambia free trade area negotiated under alternative regional negotiating partnerships, the impact of WTO accession on Uzbekistan, the impact of a U.S.-Peru free trade agreement on the Peru sugar and cotton sectors, and the impact of a U.S.-Central America free trade agreement on U.S. exports of agricultural products. Clients have included the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels, USDA’s Economic Research Service in Washington, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, the Agriculture and Economics Research Unit at Lincoln University in New Zealand, Mercy Corps in Mongolia, Nathan Associates in Peru, Uganda, and Zambia, Abt Associates in Rwanda, Agriculture Canada in Ottawa, BearingPoint in Uzbekistan, Driven Engineering in Alabama, and the World Bank. Many consulting reports can be found on the VORSIM website (www.vorsim.com) under the “Studies based on VORSIM models” section.

1996-1997: Senior Economist – Office of Energy and New Uses, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. Worked on the economic feasibility and development of new uses for agricultural resources. Examined energy issues and alternative sources of energy from agriculture such as biomass. Worked on comparison of energy costs from traditional and alternative energy sources. Participated in an inter-agency group chaired by the White House on the economics of, and U.S. potential for, energy production from biomass.

1994-1995: Senior Economist - Office of the Administrator, Economic Research Service (ERS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington, DC. Worked on agricultural policy issues in a number of areas including science and technology policy and future agricultural programs. Served on an inter-agency committee to evaluate environmental project proposals at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

1992-1993: Visiting Senior Fellow, National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy (NCFAP). Projected world agricultural production, consumption, and trade to 2020. Wrote a

book published by NCFAP in 1993, *Managing Free Trade for Agriculture*. The book summarizes trends and projections for U.S. and world agriculture and offers suggestions for the management of further agricultural trade liberalization and policy reform around the world.

1980-1992: Chief, Agricultural and Trade Policy Branch, Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division (ATAD), ERS, USDA, Washington, DC. Supervised and conducted research on agricultural trade issues, measured support to agriculture around the world as well as the economic impact of that support on major world agricultural traders. Created a world agricultural trade model (SWOPSIM) that estimated of the impact of agricultural trade barriers in major trading countries around the world for the Uruguay round of trade negotiations.

1989: LEGIS fellow in the office of Senator Kent Conrad (Democrat-North Dakota), United States Senate (The LEGIS program puts executive branch government employees in Congressional offices for a year to gain experience in the legislative branch of government). Worked on improvements to the U.S.-Canada free trade agreement, re-authorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the 1990 Farm Bill, general trade questions, and Midwestern rural economic development issues for Senator Conrad.

1977-1980: Deputy Director, Office of Economic Research, U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC), Washington DC. Led research and analysis on trade and trade policy issues as required by Commission investigations and special projects for the Congress.

1974-1976: Economic Affairs Officer, Manufactures Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva, Switzerland. Conducted, published research on tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting developing country trade. Research measured non-tariff barriers to trade and estimated their impact using a gravity model. Represented UNCTAD at GATT balance of payments committee and other international meetings.

1972-1976: Economist, USITC, Washington D.C. Contributed to study of tariff and non-tariff trade barriers for the Senate Finance Committee. Calculated effective rates of protection for U.S.

1963-1965: Volunteer with Peace Corps in Malawi, Africa. Taught high school mathematics and science and built up science department and facilities. Supervised boarding school activities.

EDUCATION: Ph.D. in Economics, Columbia University, New York City, 1972
B.A. in mathematics and physics, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., 1961.

TRAINING and AWARDS: Short training courses over the years: **forecasting** (MIT), **public speaking** (American Management Association), **agri-business** (Harvard Business School), **executive training** (Federal Executive Institute, Charlottesville, Virginia), spoken French (United Nations language program). ERS Administrator's awards for work supporting the Uruguay round of trade negotiations. Albert Schweitzer Traveling Fellowship for Columbia University dissertation research in Southern Africa and President's Fellow at Columbia.

SKILLS, INTERESTS: Clear economic writing and presentation skills, innovative computer use (created SWOPSIM, VORSIM spreadsheet modeling software), curiosity, persistence, and a

knack for problem solving. Have very limited knowledge of French, German, and Russian. Have a professional interest in trade, development, agriculture, science, technology, and global problems. Reading: Economist, New York Times, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, Scientific American, Science, New Yorker, Discovery, Successful Farming, the Nation. Proficiency: Microsoft Office applications, programming with Visual Basic for Applications in Excel. Leisure: travel, classical music, cycling, learning, grandchildren.

PERSONAL: Grew up on, and still operate a Minnesota farm. Married to Jane McCrosky, an educational diagnostician running a tutoring, testing business. Children: Jeanne-married with 4 children and Anne-married with 2 children and Nels-deceased.

REFERENCES:

Roger Conway, Director, USDA Office of Energy Policy and New Uses,
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T. Kelley White, Associate Administrator, ERS (retired). (404) 765-0268

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

DeRosa, Dean and Vernon Roningan, “Rwanda as a Free Trade Zone”, and “An Inquiry into the Economic Impacts, Addendum on Fiscal Revenue Impacts and Tax Policy Options” working papers, Potomac Associates (www.PotomacAssocs.com), 2003.

DeRosa, Dean and Vernon Roningan, “The New EAC Customs Union: Implications for Trade, Industry, Competitiveness, and Economic Welfare in East Africa”, Working paper, Potomac Associates, 2003.

DeRosa, Dean and Vernon Roningan, “Quantitative Impacts of a COMESA Customs Union in the EAC Trade Simulation Model”, Working paper, Potomac Associates, 2002

Saunders, Caroline, Andrew Moxey, and Vernon Roningan, “Trade and the Environment, Linking a Partial Equilibrium Trade Model with Production Systems and Their Environmental Consequences”, Lincoln University working paper, 1999.

- Roningen, Vernon O., VORSIM website and VORSIM User's Guide, www.vorsim.com.
- Roningen, Vernon O., "Multiproduct, Multiregion Partial Equilibrium Models," in J.F. Francois and K. Reinert, eds., *Applied Methods for Trade Policy Analysis: A Handbook*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England, October 1997.
- Roningen, Vernon O., Hosein Shapouri, Robin L. Graham, Marie E. Walsh, and Erik Lichtenberg. "The Economics of Biomass Production in the United States" and "The Economics of Biomass and Biomass-Derived Energy and Fuels" in *Proceedings of the Second Biomass Conference of the Americas*. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO.
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- Roningen, Vernon O., John Sullivan, Susan Leetmaa, and Denise Gray, 1992. *A 1989 Global Database for the Static World Policy Simulation (SWOPSIM) Modeling Framework*, Staff Report AGES 9215. Washington, DC: ERS, USDA.
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- _____. "Assessing the Implications of Freer Agricultural Trade," Food Policy, Feb. 1990.
- Roningen, Vernon O., Praveen Dixit, and Ralph Seeley, 1990. "Agricultural Outlook in the Year 2000: Some Alternatives," in *Agriculture and Governments in an Interdependent World*, England: Dartmouth Publishing Co.
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- Roningen, Vernon O. "The Effect of Exchange Rate, Payments, and Trade Restrictions on the Trade Between OECD Countries," Review of Economics and Statistics, Harvard University, Vol. LX, No. 3, August 1978.
- Roningen, Vernon., and Alexander Yeats, "Nontariff Distortions of International Trade: Some Preliminary Empirical Evidence," Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv, Journal of the Kiel Institute of World Economics, Kiel, West Germany, Bank 112, Heft 4, 1976.



VORSIM Model Building Software for the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet (Excel 97-2007)– VORSIM helps you build, operate, and manage models as Excel spreadsheets. Browse the website www.vorsim.com to learn more. VORSIM software and world trade models built with VORSIM can be purchased and downloaded from the web site.

VORSIM Consulting Services - We provide consulting services for a wide range of economic issues (including trade policy), build customized models for/with clients, and provide VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) programming services for projects.