



**AgEcon** SEARCH  
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

*The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library*

**This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.**

**Help ensure our sustainability.**

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search  
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>  
[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

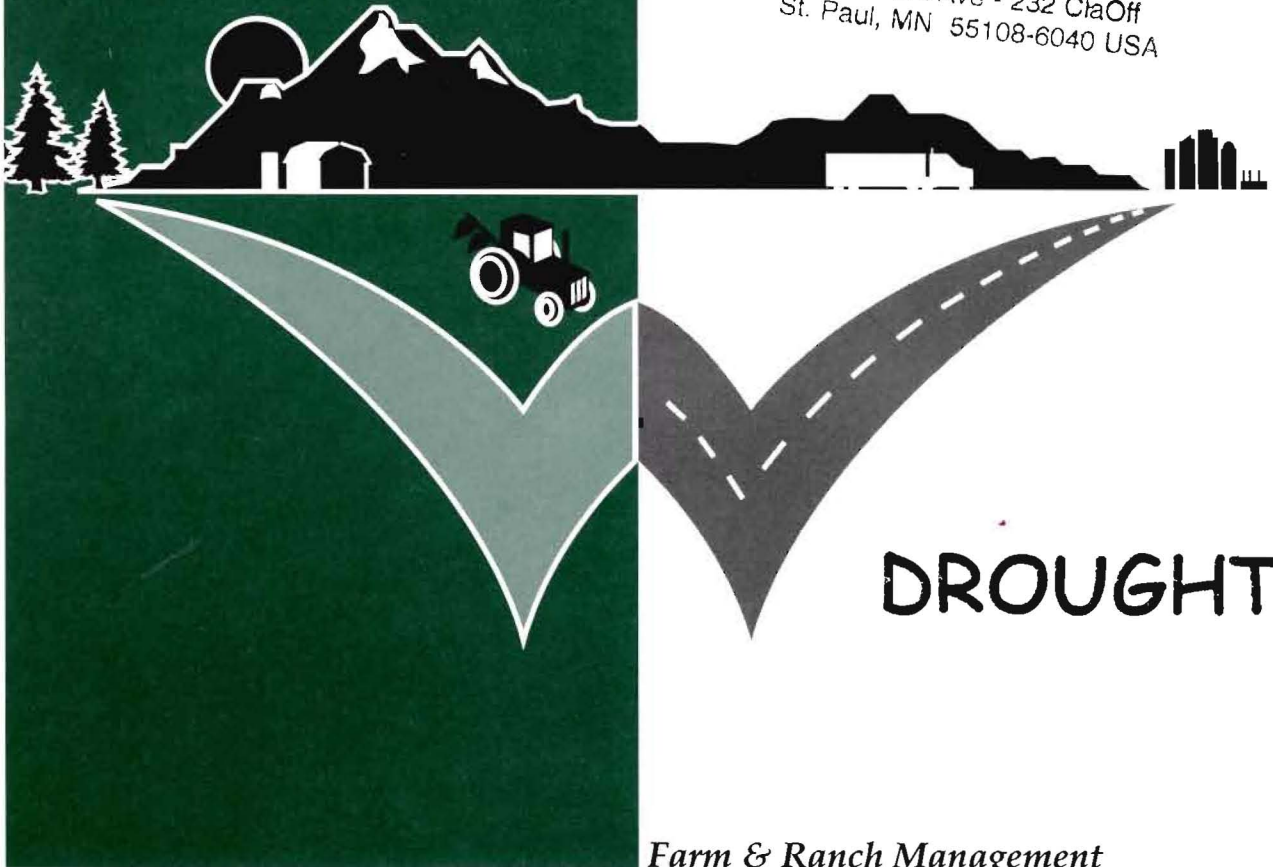
*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

Fall 2002: Volume 1, Number 2

A Journal of the  
Western Agricultural Economics  
Association

# Western Economics Forum

Walte Library  
Dept. of Applied Economics  
University of Minnesota  
1994 Buford Ave - 232 ClaOff  
St. Paul, MN 55108-6040 USA



## DROUGHT

*Farm & Ranch Management*

*Marketing & Agribusiness*

*Natural Resources & the Environment*

*Policy & Institutions*

*Regional & Community Development*

# Western Economics Forum

Volume 1, Number 2

December, 2002

One of our goals is to provide a forum for economists to discuss timely events. Therefore, we asked research and extension professionals to write about the economic consequences of the drought that has besieged the west this past year. Inside this issue, you will find five articles ranging from the impacts of rangeland fires, institutional implications for water management, how drought relates to climate change, managing cattle on private and public lands, and how crop insurance and price support programs might be changed to account for systemic price and yield risk.

This issue marks the end of our inaugural year. We already have authors invited for our next issue, which will be delivered in April. We invite you to submit your own ideas for articles so we can begin planning our issue next fall. As you write your meetings papers for this summer, please consider whether they would be suitable. You will find publication guidelines on the next page.

## Table of Contents

Harris, Thomas, Chang Seung, Tim Darden and Willie Riggs. Rangeland Fires In Northern Nevada: An Application Of Computable General Equilibrium Modeling.....	3
Howitt, Richard. Drought, Strife, and Institutional Change.....	11
Adams, Richard and Dannele Peck. Drought and Climate Change: Implications For The West .....	14
Tronstad, Russell and Dillon Feuz Impacts of the 2002 Drought On Western Ranches And Public Land Policies ....	19
Zulauf, Carl. Droughts and Farm Policy .....	24

# The Western Economics Forum

A new peer-reviewed publication from the Western Agricultural Economics Association

## Purpose

One of the consequences of regional associations nationalizing their journals is that professional agricultural economists in each region have lost one of their best forums for exchanging ideas unique to their area of the country. The purpose of this publication is to provide a forum for western issues.

## Audience

The target audience is professional agricultural economists with a Masters degree, Ph.D. or equivalent understanding of the field that are working on agricultural and resource economic, business or policy issues in the West.

## Subject

This publication is specifically targeted at informing professionals in the West about issues, methods, data, or other content addressing the following objectives:

- Summarize knowledge about issues of interest to Western professionals
- To convey ideas and analysis techniques to non-academic, professional economists working on agricultural or resource issues
- To demonstrate methods and applications that can be adapted across fields in economics (e.g. adapting conjoint analysis from marketing to environmental economics)
- To facilitate open debate on Western issues

## Structure and Distribution

This will be a peer reviewed publication. It will contain approximately 3 or 4 articles per issue, with approximately 2,000 words each (maximum 2,500), and as much diversity as possible across the following areas:

- Farm/ranch management and production
- Marketing and agribusiness
- Natural resources and the environment
- Institutions and policy
- Regional and community development

There will be two issues per year, which will be mailed out with the WAEA newsletter in the spring and fall.

## Editors

Dr. Dana Hoag (Editor)  
Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1172  
Phone (970)-491-5549  
Fax (970)-491-2067  
Email [dhoag@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:dhoag@lamar.colostate.edu)

Dr. Dawn Thilmany (Co-editor)  
  
970-491-7220  
  
[Thilmany@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:Thilmany@lamar.colostate.edu)