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Fall 2014: Volume 13, Number 2



Farm & Ranch Management

Marketing & Agribusiness

Natural Resources & the Environment

Policy & Institutions

Regional & Community Development

Western Economics Forum

Volume XIII, Number 2

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Table of Contents

Jacob N. Brimlow and Stephen P. Doyle	
What do buyers value when making herd sire purchases? An analysis of the premiums paid for genetic and phenotypic differences at a bull consignment auction	1
Aaron Anderson and William Haden Chomphosy	
The impact of chronic wasting disease on the geographic distribution of the US captive cervid industry	11
Cheryl J. Wachenheim and William C. Lesch	
Understanding Landowner Decision Drivers Regarding Conservation through Research	21

The Western Economics Forum

A 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
- To facilitate open debate on western issues

Structure and Distribution

The *Western Economics Forum* is a peer reviewed publication. It usually contains three to five articles per issue, with approximately 2,500 words each (maximum 3,000), 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 are two issues of the *Western Economics Forum* per year (Spring and Fall).

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Note from the editor

Readers I am pleased to introduce the following three articles:

What do buyers value when making herd sire purchases? An analysis of the premiums paid for genetic and phenotypic differences at a bull consignment auction by Jacob N. Brimlow and Stephen P. Doyle. The authors use a sample of western livestock data to demonstrate the genetic attributes that determine sire qualities and performance.

The impact of chronic wasting disease on the geographic distribution of the US captive cervid industry by Aaron Anderson and William Haden Chomphosy. This article presents the effects that CWD has on the commercial deer and elk industry.

Understanding Landowner Decision Drivers Regarding Conservation through Research by Cheryl J. Wachenheim and William C. Lesch. These researchers provide a framework for pursuing and understanding landowners' land use decisions as pertinent to conservation.

Regards
Don McLeod, editor
Western Economics Forum