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**GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLES AND NOTES TO  
THE SOUTHERN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**  
Developed by an Ad Hoc Committee of Selected Executive Council Members

The *Southern Journal of Agricultural Economics* is a professional journal. Thus, criteria for evaluation of articles published in the *SJAE* are based on widely accepted standards of professionalism. Accepted scientific standards for research are related to "the scientific method" of inquiry. Webster defines the scientific method as the "principles and procedures for systematic pursuit of knowledge involving the recognition and formulation of a problem, the collection of data through observation or experimentation, and the formulation and testing of hypotheses." A professional journal article should reflect conscientious adherence to scientific principles and processes.

Research oriented articles should include a problem or objective statement; a statement of one or more hypotheses; a review of literature, data and experimental procedures; an analysis of information and data, including analytical procedures; and finally a statement of conclusions or results.

Any manuscript which excludes one or more parts of the scientific method asks the reader to take on faith that a scholarly method of inquiry was followed. Lacking a clear statement of the problem, the reader is asked to accept the importance of the issue addressed on faith. Lack of a clear hypothesis may leave the reader in doubt concerning the validity of conclusions in relation to the question or problem addressed. Lack of defense of the information or data base and explanation of analytical procedures may leave doubt concerning the adequacy of hypothesis tests. And lastly, lack of clear, concise conclusions shifts the burden of interpretation from author to reader.

#### **Articles Versus Notes**

An article should report results or conclusions with all the basic supporting processes of the scientific method. Methods of analysis may be based on any system of logic for drawing conclusions from data. Methodology is not restricted to mathematics or statistics. Supporting data may be any factual information used in reasoning or analysis. Data are not restricted to numbers. Hypothesis may be implicit or explicit. Problem or objectives may be broadly or narrowly defined. But, all basic processes should be included in an article.

Any manuscript which deals with one or more of those basic processes, but not all, is designated as a "note" rather than an article. A note might be used to identify and justify the importance of a problem area for future work. A note might be used to report research results related to a basic hypothesis well established by earlier published articles. A note might deal with research methodology that could be applied to a wide range of data, but without application in the published note. Or, a note might formulate conclusions from one or more previous articles that were not apparent to authors of those works. In short, notes deal with issues important to the profession that need not be reported in the context of total articles. However, as with articles, notes must contribute to or clarify segments of the base of knowledge available in the discipline. The peer review process ensures that basic processes excluded from a note are not necessary to support its contribution to the profession.

Notes are not "short articles" and thus are not restricted in length because they are notes rather than articles. Reviews of manuscripts to be published as notes are no less rigorous than reviews for articles, only the criteria are different. Thus, notes and articles in the *SJAE* should be given equal weight in evaluation of their contributions to the agricultural economics profession. A professional should have no reservations in including *SJAE* notes as refereed journal articles on lists of publications.

#### **Teaching and Extension Articles and Notes**

Criteria for evaluation of teaching and extension manuscripts are conceptually equivalent to those used for research manuscripts. Teaching and extension programs contain the same basic elements as research projects. The "scientific method" applied to teaching and extension articles requires a statement of problem or objectives, including target audience; a review of economic concepts and/or research results used to address the problem; justification of delivery system or teaching methods used to reach the target audience; and finally in evaluation of educational impacts or program results. The data analysis process in the scientific method of research is replaced with classroom teaching

and extension program delivery in “scientific methods” for teaching and extension. All other processes are conceptually identical.

Notes related to teaching and extension deal with one or more, but not all, of the basic processes included in articles. Extension notes deal with such topics as innovative economic concepts or propositions synthesized for extension program application, innovative delivery systems, extension program evaluation, and problems or challenges facing extension. Teaching notes deal with such topics as innovative teaching methods, innovative conceptual approaches to teaching specific principles, and problems or opportunities to be addressed by classroom teachers. As with research notes, teaching and extension notes deal with issues that need not be presented in the context of an article to make a quality contribution to the profession.

### **Assurance of Quality Through Peer Review**

Agricultural economics is a diverse profession. The *Southern Journal of Agricultural Economics* serves its diverse membership without compromise in standards of quality. Recognition of differences with respect to notes and articles or with respect to research, teaching, and extension implies nominal, but not ordinal, differences among different types of manuscripts. The basic criteria outlined ensure that all manuscripts are reviewed using standards of equal scientific basis, regardless of orientation. Standards of ordinal quality are applied equally to all manuscripts through a process of rigorous peer review. This review process ensures the quality of continued contributions of the *SJAE* to the agricultural economics profession.

## SOUTHERN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

### Guidelines for Submission of Manuscripts

Articles (general and microcomputer software), notes, comments, and replies are reviewed on a continuous basis. Only manuscripts that closely adhere to the following established guidelines will receive prompt and favorable attention by the Editorial Council.

#### ARTICLES

An abstract not to exceed 100 words and 8 or fewer key words describing the content of the article or note should be submitted with manuscripts. No page limit is imposed on general articles or notes. All manuscripts should be written in a clear and concise manner. The manuscript, abstract, and key words combined for microcomputer software articles may not exceed 6 journal pages in length (approximately 12 double spaced typed pages).

Software articles should communicate to the general readership: 1) the purpose of the software, 2) the theoretical foundation and procedure employed, 3) input data requirements, 4) description of results, 5) review of field tests, 6) hardware and software requirements to run the program, and 7) availability of the program. Submit 4 copies of the completed microcomputer software submission form, 4 sets of documentation and 3 copies of the diskette(s) to operate the program. Documentation and the program provided on diskettes will be reviewed for ease and accuracy of implementation by members of the Microcomputer Software Committee (MSC). Articles accepted by the MSC will be subject to final approval by the Editorial Council.

#### OTHER MANUSCRIPTS

Comments and replies should contribute significantly to a broader channel of professional communication. These manuscripts should not exceed 2 journal pages in length (approximately 4 double spaced typed pages).

#### GUIDELINES FOR ALL MANUSCRIPTS

1. **COVER LETTER.** Indicate why you believe the material would interest *Southern Journal* readers and whether the material has been presented, offered for publication, published in a similar form elsewhere or, so far as the author(s) knows, does not infringe upon other published material protected by copyright. A complete mail address and telephone number of the senior author must be given in the cover letter.
2. **COVER PAGE.** The *Journal* uses a system of blind reviews. Thus, all papers should have a cover page attached with the name of the authors, acknowledgments and institutional information. Materials subject to review should not show the identity of the author.
3. **TYPING.** All material should be double-spaced, including footnotes, quotations, references, and tables. Type on 8½ by 11 inch standard weight paper with at least 1¼ inch margins on all sides.
4. **STYLE.** Consult an issue of this *Journal*. Be consistent.
5. **MATHEMATICAL NOTATIONS.** Use standard type to maximum extent. Overuse of mathematical symbols often limits readership and is costly to typeset. Where such notation is essential, use separate characters for superscripts and subscripts, avoid capital letters in superscripts and subscripts, and use asterisks, primes, and small English letter subscripts as substitutes for overbars, tildes, carets and the like.
6. **FOOTNOTES.** Number consecutively throughout paper. On a separate page following the article, list and number footnotes. Footnotes should be only explanatory, never for citations or directives to other literature. Reference citations must be incorporated into the text.
7. **REFERENCES.** Place all references, alphabetized by author, in a list at the end of the paper entitled "Reference". Only cited works should be included. All citations should appear in the text and contain the author's name and page numbers, where necessary. Citations can be inserted parenthetically, e.g., (Doe) or (Doe, p. 5). Specify the date of publication if the same author appears more than once in the reference list, e.g., (Doe 1971, p. 5). If the author's name appears as part of the sentence, a parenthetical reference is unnecessary unless you need to cite page numbers or a date.

8. *TABLES*. Avoid large blank spaces between columns and between rows of data in typing. Omit vertical rules. Use small English letters if explanatory footnotes are necessary. One set of original typed, unreduced, clear copy of tables must be sent to the editor, one table per page.
9. *CHARTS AND FIGURES*. These are also photographed, requiring the same precautions as item No. 8. Prepare Charts and Figures on separate white pages, with a dark ink. Clean pasteups are permissible.
10. *COPIES*. Send 4 clean copies of all written material subject to review (all may be good Xerox). Critical reviews by colleagues, prior to submission, are encouraged.
11. *MAILING*. Send manuscripts to the Editor via first class mail.

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After September 1, 1986, send manuscripts to:

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All microcomputer software articles should be sent to:

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