Institutional Affiliation of Authors in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1988–1992

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Opaluch and Just reported the top 20 departments in pages per faculty of articles in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* for the five year period 1968–1972. To determine how much has changed and how much has not during the intervening two decades, the analysis was repeated for the five year period 1988–1992. Some things seem not to change. University of California, Berkeley, remains at the pinnacle twenty years later. And 13 of the top 20 departments two decades ago, remain there during the 1988–1992 period. But seven did change, and the most notable aspect is that the number of Northeast departments in the top 20 rose from two to five.

Opaluch and Just (1977) reported on the institutional affiliation of authors of *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (AJAE) articles during the five-year period 1968–1972. Their comparisons properly deflated for department size, and the resulting rankings of departments by output in *AJAE* were in some cases significantly different from those reported in earlier studies by Findley (1975) and Holland and Redman (1974).

The purpose of this study is to report on changes in relative department productivity twenty years later using the same measure, pages of articles in *AJAE* during the half decade divided by department size, adopted by Opaluch and Just. We have selected the five year period precisely two decades after the Opaluch and Just half decade for this comparison. Not surprisingly, perhaps, greater changes are observed over time than were observed by Opaluch and Just from changing the definition of productivity measure. Rather dramatic shifts are noted among departments and regions. Most notably, the Northeast region placed 5 departments in the top 20 during 1988–1992, compared with only 2 in 1968–1972.

While the comparisons made here are of interest, they are but a single measure of department productivity. Tauer and Tauer (1984) measured doctoral program productivity, Beilock, Polopolus and Correal (1986) used citations as a measure of influence of scholarship, and Opaluch and Just argued for examining publication in journals other than *AJAE*. Some excellent departments may be ranked low because they work primarily in areas not readily suitable for journal publication *per se*, or in subjects less suitable to *AJAE* publication in particular. These exceptions noted, publication in the journal of the American Agricultural Economics Association is considered a reasonable proxy for scholarly productivity in the Agricultural and Resource Economics profession.

Data and Methods

Articles appearing in the 25 issues of AJAE during 1988–1992 were catalogued as refereed or invited. Following precedent set by Opaluch and Just and others, comments and replies were excluded. Output was measured as number of pages (or articles) per faculty of a department. For jointly authored articles the number of pages was divided by number of authors, with no distinction given to lead authorship. The measure of department size was taken from the 1991–1992 USDA Directory (1992).[1] No distinction was made among faculty with teaching, research or extension appointments.

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[1] With the exception of Missouri, which no longer lists Agricultural Economics separately from Social Sciences. For Missouri, a pre-reorganization listing (1984) was used instead.

Table 1. Opaluch and Just Rankings for 1968–1972

University	Pages per Faculty
California—Berkeley	8.44
Wisconsin	6.61
California—Davis	6.00
Oregon State	5.84
Iowa State	4.94
Illinois	4.80
Purdue	4.74
Pennsylvania State	4.34
Minnesota	4.15
Oklahoma State	3.93
North Carolina State	3.88
Arizona	3.88
Missouri	3.85
Michigan State	3.83
Cornell	3.71
Kansas State	2.73
Texas A&M	2.44
Washington State	2.26
Florida	1.92
Ohio State	1.75

Results

Table 1 is constructed from Opaluch and Just. On the basis of pages per faculty including extension, the top 20 departments were led by California-Berkeley, Wisconsin, California-Davis, Oregon State and Iowa State. Illinois, Purdue, Pennsylvania State, Minnesota, and Oklahoma State rounded out the top ten.

The results for 1988–1992 are shown in Table 2. The top 30 departments are shown ordered by pages per faculty of refereed articles in *AJAE* during the 1988–1992 period. The second half of Table 2 shows that the rankings vary little when invited as well as refereed articles per faculty are used as the productivity measure. Several observations are rather immediate. First, some things seem never to change—California-Berkeley has not slipped even a notch in two decades. In addition, California-Davis remains among the cream of the crop. Also, Wisconsin, North Carolina State, Purdue, Iowa State, Illinois, Arizona, Michigan

Table 2. Publications in AJAE, 1988–1992

	Refereed Articles					Refereed Plus Invited Articles				
University	Articles	Pages	Articles/ Faculty	Pages/ Faculty	Rank	Articles	Pages	Articles/ Faculty	Pages/ Faculty	Rank
California—Berkeley	18.50	199.17	.93	9.96	1	28.50	260.83	1.43	13.04	1
California—Davis	28.42	294.75	.84	8.67	2	34.08	337.75	1.00	9.93	2
Maryland	18.00	164.67	.72	6.59	3	29.33	236.50	1.17	9.46	3
Rutgers	4.00	48.00	.44	5.33	4	4.50	50.50	.50	5.61	5
Iowa State	24.83	235.33	.55	5.23	5	32.83	272.33	.73	6.05	4
North Carolina State	23.67	220.00	.45	4.15	6	33.17	273.50	.63	5.16	7
Massachusetts	5.50	52.50	.37	3.50	7	7.83	62.83	.52	4.19	9
Texas A&M	21.53	216.28	.32	3.18	8	28.53	246.28	.42	3.62	12
Purdue	14.57	133.19	.35	3.17	9	20.15	158.11	.48	3.76	11
VPI	8.67	94.00	.28	3.03	10	18.00	162.50	.58	5.24	6
Illinois	13.53	130.25	.31	3.03	11	19.37	164.08	.45	3.82	10
Cornell	11.17	122.33	.23	2.55	12	16.83	150.00	.35	3.13	13
Wisconsin	12.83	126.00	.26	2.52	13	14.83	133.00	.30	2.66	15
Georgia	9.33	84.17	.27	2.40	14	11.33	91.17	.32	2.60	16
Arizona	5.17	57.00	.21	2.28	15	11.42	116.25	.46	4.65	8
Delaware	3.00	29.00	.20	1.93	16	3.00	29.00	.20	1.93	22
Montana State	4.67	46.33	.19	1.93	17	7.00	59.33	.29	2.47	17
Michigan State	9.31	86.05	.21	1.91	18	18.48	131.21	.41	2.92	14
Kansas State	8.08	80.00	.19	1.86	19	10.92	89.00	.25	2.07	20
Washington State	5.33	55.33	.17	1.78	20	8.83	67.33	.28	2.17	19
Ohio State	11.08	105.67	.16	1.51	21	17.92	139.83	.26	2.00	21
Pennsylvania State	5.87	54.38	.14	1.26	22	7.87	67.38	.18	1.57	25
Nebraska	3.67	35.83	.13	1.24	23	3.67	35.83	.13	1.24	27
Auburn	5.33	53.33	.12	1.21	24	5.33	53.33	.12	1.21	28
Florida	7.25	57.00	.14	1.12	25	16.25	101.50	.32	1.99	23
Minnesota	6.67	60.33	.12	1.12	26	18.83	120.83	.35	2.24	18
Arkansas	4.75	44.75	.12	1.09	27	5.08	46.42	.12	1.13	29
Idaho	1.67	17.17	.09	.90	28	1.67	17.17	.09	.90	30
Oregon State	3.92	37.83	.09	.90	29	6.42	52.33	.15	1.25	26
Connecticut	1.25	10.50	.10	.88	30	3.75	22.00	.31	1.83	24

State, Cornell, Kansas State, Washington State and Texas A&M remain in the top 20.

But there were seven changes. Oregon State, Pennsylvania State, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma State, Florida and Ohio State fell out of the top 20. In some cases, not so far. Ohio State and Penn State were 21 and 22, respectively, and Florida, Minnesota, and Oregon State also remained in the top 30. The top 27 departments had ratios of pages per faculty exceeding 1.0, and the top 39 had ratios exceeding a half page per faculty. Another 10 departments had lower, but positive, productivity.

The seven spots left vacant were taken by Maryland, Rutgers, Massachusetts, VPI, Georgia, Delaware and Montana State. This elevation of four Northeast departments to top 20 status means that over two decades departments from this region have come to comprise a full one-quarter of top 20 departments, starting from a 10 percent figure in 1968–72. With Penn State and Connecticut in the top 30, the Northeast region has seven of the top thirty positions.

While Opaluch and Just used a five year period for their calculations to even out normal fluctuations in publishing, it is a period long enough to experience productivity changes within the interval. It may be of some interest, therefore, to examine productivity during the most recent year alone. Table 3 reports these measures for the five issues of 1992. Northeast departments continued to comprise one-quarter of the top 20 departments in 1992, with Massachusetts, Maryland, Rutgers and Delaware among the top seven.

Discussion

Some things do seem to be constants. Berkeley and Davis atop the measures of productivity among departments of agricultural economics is a case in point. Furthermore, the fact that about two-thirds of the departments that were among the top 20 in per capita publication of pages in *AJAE* two decades ago remain in this group further supports this tendency.

But some things do change. Some departments

Table 3. Publications in AJAE, 1992

	Refereed Articles					Refereed Plus Invited Articles				
University	Articles	Pages	Articles/ Faculty	Pages/ Faculty	Rank	Articles	Pages	Articles/ Faculty	Pages/ Faculty	Rank
California—Berkeley	3.67	43.00	.18	2.15	1	5.17	53.50	.26	2.68	2
Massachusetts	3.50	32.00	.23	2.13	2	4.50	38.00	.30	2.53	3
Maryland	4.83	43.83	.19	1.75	3	8.50	72.67	.34	2.91	1
California—Davis	5.67	55.83	.17	1.64	4	7.50	67.83	.22	2.00	4
Iowa State	4.83	45.33	.11	1.01	5	7.83	62.33	.17	1.39	5
Rutgers	1.00	9.00	.11	1.00	6	1.00	9.00	.11	1.00	8
Delaware	1.00	13.00	.07	.87	7	1.00	13.00	.07	.87	9
Wisconsin	4.00	40.00	.08	.80	8	4.00	40.00	.08	.80	10
Illinois	3.17	32.83	.07	.76	9	5.17	46.83	.12	1.09	6
VPI	2.17	22.33	.07	.72	10	3.50	31.33	.11	1.01	7
Texas A&M	3.83	42.67	.06	.63	11	5.83	49.67	.09	.73	11
Georgia	2.17	17.67	.06	.50	12	2.17	17.67	.06	.50	14
Nevada	.50	5.00	.04	.38	13	.50	5.00	.04	.38	17
North Dakota State	1.50	13.00	.04	.34	14	1.50	13.00	.04	.34	19
North Carolina State	1.83	17.17	.03	.32	15	3.83	38.17	.07	.72	12
Purdue	1.50	13.50	.04	.32	16	1.50	13.50	.04	.32	21
Ohio State	2.08	22.17	.03	.32	17	3.08	28.17	.04	.40	16
Colorado State	.50	7.00	.02	.29	18	.50	7.00	.02	.29	25
Cornell	1.33	13.67	.03	.28	19	1.83	17.67	.04	.37	18
Oklahoma State	1.50	11.00	.04	.27	20	1.50	11.00	.04	.27	26
Kansas State	1.50	11.50	.03	.27	21	2.00	14.50	.05	.34	19
Missouri	1.33	14.17	.02	.26	22	2.33	17.17	.04	.31	23
Kentucky	1.00	9.00	.03	.23	23	2.00	17.00	.05	.44	15
Arizona	.50	5.50	.02	.22	24	1.50	8.50	.06	.34	19
Michigan State	1.00	9.00	.02	.20	25	3.00	14.00	.07	.31	23
Washington State	.67	6.00	.02	.19	26	.67	6.00	.02	.19	28
Montana State	.50	4.50	.02	.19	27	.50	4.50	.02	.19	28
Minnesota	1.00	10.00	.02	.19	28	4.33	28.00	.08	.52	13
Clemson	.50	6.00	.01	.16	29	1.50	9.00	.04	.24	27
Arkansas	.50	5.50	.01	.13	30	.50	5.50	.01	.13	30

are no longer keeping pace, and others have replaced them in *AJAE* publication rates. The greatest source of new "entrants" has been the Northeast departments. Once a relatively negligible portion of the authorship of *AJAE* articles, departments in this region now represent a full one-quarter of the top 20 departments in this category.

Finally, the results presented are rankings of departments by publications in *AJAE* per faculty only. They are not necessarily rankings of the best or most productive departments. Some excellent departments may not be on the list because they specialize at the very applied end of the spectrum and other outlets are more appropriate for their work. Others specialize in fields, such as marine economics for example, where *AJAE* may not be the scholarly outlet of choice. Faculty in these departments may publish more in other journals, books, federal, regional and state publications, as well as in international publications.

One can also quibble with the measure used in the denominator. One can argue that a distinction should be made considering the allocation of faculty time to teaching, research and extension activities. We did not do so for several reasons. First, the reporting of assignments is not done uniformly across departments. Also, a fair number of *AJAE* authors have partial to significant extension assignments. Finally, Opaluch and Just compared rankings per all faculty with rankings where faculty with primary extension involvement were not counted, and found little difference in rankings. Thus we report the former results in Table 1 as a proper comparison.

Likewise, most department rosters include individuals who are not professional economists—rural sociologists, for example. No attempt has been made to remove these numbers from the denominator because they do author *AJAE* articles, perhaps jointly with economists, and because in many cases it is not clear whether an individual should be considered primarily an economist or not. A department that contains an extraordinary number of members who are not economists is at the same disadvantage for this measure as a department that specializes in, say, marine economics, or studies more of interest to international or regional journals, or trade publications.

Nonetheless, *AJAE* remains the scholarly journal of the American Agricultural Economics Association, and that alone makes these tables of interest to many.

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