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EDITORS' REPORT FOR 1989-90

This is the second report of the Washington State University editorship. During this year the *Journal* experienced a continuing increase in number of submissions. We also believe the *Journal* has sustained its national reputation for professional excellence.

The integration of the Associate and Technical Editor positions initiated under this editorship has worked superbly, thanks largely to the professional and dedicated service of Associate Editor Diane Marsh, WAEA Secretary-Treasurer Maurice Baker has continued to efficiently handle the Journal subscription records and related financial responsibilities. We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Department of Agricultural Economics and the College of Agriculture and Home Economics at Washington State University in sharing with WAEA the funding of the WJAE editorial office. Our printer, Allen Press of Lawrence, Kansas, continues to provide excellent service and a fine finished product.

We handled 211 manuscripts from 1 July 1989 through 30 June 1990, including 98 new submissions and 113 manuscripts at varying stages of revision. The new submissions represent an increase of 7% over 1988-89 and 21% over the average of 1985-86 through 1987–88. The WJAE continues to be a popular publication outlet for agricultural economists outside the western U.S. and western Canada. Of new submissions received during 1989–90, 46% came from senior authors outside the 19 western states and four western provinces. During the preceding four years, the proportion of submissions with senior authors from outside the West ranged from 41% to 44%. By comparison, 39% of WAEA members in 1990 are from outside the western region. During the past year, Canada accounted for 9% of WJAE submissions and 7% of the Association's membership.

Computing acceptance rates for journal article submissions is inherently difficult given the large number of manuscripts in the revise and resubmit category at any time. It is informative initially to summarize the status of 101 regular manuscripts handled during July 1988–June 1989. This set included 92 new submis-

sions and nine papers inherited from the former editors at varying stages of the review process. As of 30 June 1990, 43 had been accepted, 38 had been rejected, 16 had been returned to the authors with revise and resubmit recommendations, three were under review at some stage of revision, and one had been withdrawn by the author. In comparison, of the 98 new submissions received during 1989–90, five had been accepted, 24 had been rejected, 30 had been returned to the authors with revise and resubmit recommendations, 37 were under review, and two had been withdrawn as of the end of June 1990.

In our experience manuscripts rarely are accepted outright on first submission. Most of the 43 successful 1988–89 submissions actually were accepted in 1989–90. Similarly, many of the 67 1989–90 submissions under review or with revise and resubmit recommendations eventually will be published.

Most rejections tend to occur on the first review. Acceptances take longer. Also, some "revise and resubmit" manuscripts die of author neglect. Finally, the acceptance rate of 1988–89 submissions may have been biased upward by the nine manuscripts from the previous year which already had survived various stages of the review process.

We have continued to aim for a maximum turnaround time of three months on all reviews. We have achieved this goal 82% of the time, thanks to the timely and conscientious service of the 284 reviewers who are listed following this report. Many of these individuals completed more than one review during the year. Less than 12% of reviewers contacted during 1989–90 declined or failed to submit a review. The selfless commitment of busy professionals to review the manuscripts of their peers is critical to producing a quality professional journal.

During the past year, the vast majority of authors submitting articles have complied routinely with the *Journal*'s data and estimation access policy. Only two of 199 manuscripts over the past two years have been withdrawn due to the authors' inability to assure readers access to their data and estimation procedures. Both of these withdrawals involved submis-

sions by authors employed by USDA who had used quasi-confidential government data sets. In another case the *Journal* and the involved government agencies reached a compromise which satisfied both the Journal's policy and the government's confidentiality requirements. The Journal attempted to work out a similar compromise with the involved government agency for the two manuscripts which were eventually withdrawn. Unfortunately, the agency's proposed procedures for permitting WJAE readers or reviewers access to the utilized data were considerably more restrictive and burdensome than those accepted in the first case, and the proposal was rejected by the Journal. The WJAE's experience with the access policy was discussed at an organized symposium on access to scientific data and methodology at the 1990 AAEA Meetings.

Over the past year, the Journal has consid-

ered for publication only those WAEA annual meeting invited papers which were submitted by the authors through regular channels. This policy treats invited papers the same as selected papers and is consistent with the Journal's policy of publishing only reviewed articles. Both invited and selected papers from the 1989 WAEA Meetings were included in the 1989 Proceedings, which was separate from the Journal. Discontinuing the pre-1989 practice of automatically submitting all invited papers to a modified Journal review process seems likely to reduce the number of invited papers published in the Journal. To date, most 1989 invited papers have not been submitted.

We are grateful to the WJAE Editorial Council for continuing policy advice and assistance on manuscript reviews. The 15 members are listed on the inside front cover of this issue.

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DEBORAH BRIDGES, "Economic Analysis of U.S. Policy Impacts on the World Sugar Market," University of Wyoming

GLEN D. WHIPPLE, Advisor

EXCELLENCE IN EXTENSION

MICHAEL S. TURNER, LARRY B. SWAIN, STEVEN SCHULZ, AND GWEN MEISTER, "Managing Main Street," University of Nebraska

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHED RESEARCH

JEFFREY T. LAFRANCE, Montana State University, and W. MICHAEL HANEMANN, University of California, Berkeley, "The Dual Structure of Incomplete Demand Systems." Amer. J. Agr. Econ. 71(1989):262–74.

OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

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Addenda

The following corrections should be noted on "Physician Participation in Medicaid" by John E. Kushman appearing in the December, 1977WJAE. The article is designated as Giannini Foundation Research Paper No. 486. The last sentence in the first full paragraph on page

22 should read "For instance, it is plausible that in areas of greater private demand for physicians' services medical reimbursement rates *must be* higher to maintain participation" (emphasis added).

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To aid in reviewing manuscripts and for efficient publication of the journal, contributors are requested to use the following guidelines in preparing manuscripts for submission to WIAE.

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Peter J. Barry, Editor, WJAE
Department of Agricultural Economics
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843

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