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EDITORS' REPORT FOR 1988-89

This is the first report of the Washington State University editorial team. Due to the professional efforts of past editors, reviewers, and authors, the *Western Journal of Agricultural Economics* has become a highly respected journal of applied economics which enjoys a national readership. Our objective will be to maintain and, where possible, improve the *WJAE*'s national reputation.

Under this editorship, the Associate and Technical Editor responsibilities were integrated under a single position. Diane Marsh has served capably in the Associate-Technical Editor position and has contributed to the efficient operation of the editorial office.

We would like to express our appreciation to former *WJAE* Editors David Bessler and C. Richard Shumway and Associate Editor Linda Crenwelge in paving the way for a smooth transition of the editorship from Texas A&M University to Washington State University. A September 1988 orientation visit by Associate Editor Marsh to the Texas A&M editorial office and to Allen Press, the *WJAE* printer in Lawrence, Kansas, was especially helpful.

Maurice Baker, WAEA Secretary-Treasurer, continues to do an excellent job of handling the financial management of the *Journal*. Also, we are grateful to the Department of Agricultural Economics and College of Agriculture and Home Economics at Washington State University for sharing in the financial support of the *WJAE* editorial office.

We handled 112 manuscripts between July 1, 1988, and July 1, 1989. These included nine revisions of manuscripts originally submitted before July to the former editorship, 11 carry-over invited papers and discussions from the 1988 WAEA Meetings, and 92 original submissions to our editorship. Of the 101 papers remaining after excluding the invited papers, nine have been accepted, 38 are in the revise and resubmit category, 26 have been rejected, three have been withdrawn, and 25 are in the first-round review process. The large number of papers in the revise and resubmit category at this stage makes it difficult to compute an accurate acceptance rate. Considering only the accepted and rejected manuscripts to date, the

acceptance rate is 26%. This acceptance rate, however, will increase as some papers in the revise and resubmit category are accepted.

The turnaround time from receipt of a manuscript to the initial decision by the editors has been quite variable. Factors contributing to this variation are time taken by reviewers, the occasional need to choose replacement reviewers, and the availability of the editors. For the first round of reviews, 64% of the manuscripts have turned around in two months or less, while 94% have taken three months or less. We attribute this relatively fast turnaround to consistent follow-up contacts with reviewers by the Associate Editor.

The geographic dispersion of the 92 new submissions received during the past year was nearly identical to that reported last year. Fifty-seven percent of senior authors were from western states and provinces within WAEA's regional boundaries, 41% from states and provinces outside the West, and 2% from outside the U.S. or Canada. Another classification shows 10% of the submissions from Canada.

As new editors, we have been struck by the preponderance of submitted manuscripts in the traditional fields of marketing and production-farm management. Despite the importance of natural resources and environmental issues in western North America, few submissions have been received in this or other nontraditional fields of agricultural economics. A possible explanation is that there are a number of alternative journal outlets for resource-environmental economics research but relatively few for traditional production and marketing work.

As noted in last year's Editors' Report, since January 1988, the *WJAE* has been enforcing the Association's policy requiring documentation of estimation procedures and potential disclosure of data used in *WJAE* articles. The policy, as listed in item 2 of the *Journal*'s "Guidelines for Submitting Manuscripts," is:

Data and estimation process. Authors should report, describe, and/or reference the complete estimation process undertaken to derive the results presented in the manuscript. This should include data documentation as well as model specifications estimated but not reported

in the manuscript. Authors are also expected to make data used available at cost upon request for a reasonable period of time.

The majority of authors and Association members seem to support the policy and its general intent of maintaining the integrity of the scientific process. Of the past year's 92 new submissions, only two encountered difficulty with this requirement. In both of these cases, authors had used government data sets that were subject in part to confidentiality restrictions. The first case, which involved U.S. Agricultural Census data, was resolved by a compromise approved by the WAEA Executive Committee. This compromise permits USDA-ERS employees with access to Census data to obtain the desired data or results and make them available to requesters through the *WJAE* editors. The second case, involving data from USDA's Farm Costs and Returns Survey, has not been resolved. The WAEA Executive Committee and *WJAE* Editorial Council encouraged the editors to pursue a compromise with other government agencies similar to that reached with the Census. The Editorial Council passed a formal motion defining "a reasonable period of time" as "five years from time of publication."

Beginning with the July 1989 issue, all *WJAE* authors were asked to sign a copyright release agreement modeled after the *AJAE* form. This replaces the implicit release of copyright formerly assumed.

The July 1989 issue carried a new editorial statement formally encouraging submission of comments on *WJAE* articles and initiated a new western mountain motif on the front cover.

In response to WAEA executive action, invited papers from the 1989 Meetings were not sent out automatically for Editorial Council review for publication in the *WJAE* as in the past. Instead, both contributed and invited papers were reproduced in the "Proceedings" distributed at the 1989 Meetings. Authors of both invited and contributed papers are encouraged to submit potentially revised copies of their papers through the regular *WJAE* submission process.

The editorial team has been pleased with the professional service and cooperation from our printer, Allen Press.

During the past year, we have called for assistance and ideas from our capable Editorial Council members who are listed on the inside front cover of this issue.

REVIEWERS, July 1988-June 1989

ADAMS, Rich
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GUM, Russell

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LIU, Don

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MUSSER, Wesley N.

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PARK, David

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POPE, Rulon

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TODD, Richard M.
TRAPP, James

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VASAVADA, Utpal

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WATTS, Myles J.
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WILLIAMS, Joseph
WILLIS, David
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WOMACK, Abner
WOODS, Michael
WRIGHT, Brian

YANAGIDA, John F.

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ZILBERMAN, David

WAEA 1988 AWARD WINNERS

OUTSTANDING M.S. THESIS OR GRADUATE PAPER

CHARLES LYON, "*Impacts of a Prorate Suspension on Marketing Margins for California-Arizona Navel Oranges*," University of Arizona

GARY THOMPSON, Advisor

Honorable Mention

ANNABELLE C. BOYDA, "*Risks and Returns on Alberta Grain Farms*," University of Alberta-Edmonton

GLEN MUMEY, Advisor

EXCELLENCE IN EXTENSION

VERNE HOUSE, DOUGLAS YOUNG, and BRUCE BEATTIE, "*Taxing, Spending and the Montana Economy*," Montana State University

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLISHED RESEARCH

DAVID W. PRICE, "*Estimating Food Use by Age, Sex, and Household Size*," Research Bulletin XB 1002, College of Agriculture and Home Economics Research Center, Washington State University

Honorable Mention

JIMMYE S. HILLMAN and ROBERT A. ROTHENBERG, "*Agricultural Trade and Protection in Japan*," Thames Essay No. 52 of the Trade Policy Research Centre, Gower Publishing Company, United Kingdom

OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

THOMAS HARRIS, University of Nevada-Reno

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W. P. Thomas	1930-31	William E. Folz	1961-62
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Paul A. Eke	1932-33	Andrew Vanvig	1963-64
Paul A. Eke	1933-34	Roger W. Gray	1964-65
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Sidney M. Hoos	1951-52	LeRoy F. Rogers	1982-83
M. M. Kelso	1952-53	Thomas S. Clevenger	1983-84
Howard G. Mason	1953-54	Harry P. Mapp, Jr.	1984-85
Raymond G. Bressler, Jr.	1954-55	F. Larry Leistritz	1985-86
Wendell Calhoun	1955-56	Glenn A. Helmers	1986-87
G. B. Wood	1956-57	Oscar R. Burt	1987-88
H. R. Stucky	1957-58	Kenneth Casavant	1988-89

**Past Editors, *Western Journal of Agricultural Economics*
1977-88**

Peter J. Barry	1977-79	Richard S. Johnston	1983-85
Harry P. Mapp, Jr.	1980-82	David A. Bessler	1986-88
James N. Trapp (Associate)	1981-82	C. Richard Shumway	1986-88
Darrell L. Hueth	1983-84		

Guidelines for Submitting Manuscripts

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 the *WJAE*:

1. *Cover letter.* The author must indicate in a cover letter (a) why the manuscript would interest *WJAE* readers; (b) whether the material in the manuscript (or modification thereof) has been published, is being published, or has been submitted for publication elsewhere; (c) that the material in the manuscript, to the best of the author's knowledge, does not infringe upon other published material protected by copyright; and (d) that the author has read and agrees to the policy outlined in the next paragraph.
2. *Data and estimation process.* Authors should report, describe, and/or reference the complete estimation process undertaken to derive the results presented in the manuscript. This should include data documentation as well as model specifications estimated but not reported in the manuscript. Authors are expected to make data used available at cost upon request for five years.
3. *Cover page.* Provide a cover page with the article title and author name(s), and title(s), placing institutional affiliation(s) and acknowledgments of colleague reviews and institutional support as an unnumbered footnote at the bottom of the page. Place only the article title on the *first* page of the text.
4. *Typing.* Use double-spaced typing on 8½ by 11 inch paper with 1¼ inch margins throughout the manuscript, including footnotes and references. Number all pages. Type on one side of the paper.
5. *Style.* Use a consistent style as indicated by a professional manual of style. An example is *A Manual of Style*, University of Chicago Press.
6. *Footnotes.* Number footnotes consecutively through the manuscript. Type the content of the footnotes on separate pages placed after the main text.
7. *References.* List all references cited in the text in alphabetical order of the author's last name on separate pages after the main text. Do not number references. Identify citations in the text by reference to the author's last name. Citations may appear parenthetically or as part of the text. Use the author's name plus publication date for citations to different references by the same author.
8. *Tables.* Prepare tables in desired form and place each table on a separate page at the *end* of the text, following the footnote page. Double space throughout. Begin the table's title at the left margin above the table's body using the following format:
Table 3. Regression Results
Review of tables for accuracy is the author's responsibility.
9. *Figures.* Submit final drafts of camera-ready copy of figures, charts, and graphs drawn in a professional manner. Place each figure on a separate page of heavy white paper or acetate sheet using black india ink for photographic reproduction at the *end* of the text. Begin the figure's title at the left margin below the figure using the following format:
Figure 2. A Demand Curve
Review of figures for accuracy is the author's responsibility.
10. *Mathematical formulation.* Avoid excessive mathematical expression and notation. When mathematical expressions are needed, check carefully for clarity in formulation. Use standard mathematical symbols to the extent possible.
11. *Abstract.* Enclose an abstract of 100 words or less on a separate page.
12. *Manuscript length.* It is expected that typed manuscripts will not exceed 25 pages including text, footnotes, references, tables, and figures.
13. *Publication costs.* Publication costs for the *WJAE* are largely financed by page charges levied on authors of manuscripts accepted for publication. Hence, authors submitting manuscripts are expected to assume obligation for payment of page charges at the time their articles are published. Page charges currently are \$60 per printed page. Additional information on page charge policies can be obtained from the editors.
14. *Four copies.* Send *four* legible copies to the editors. Receipt of manuscripts will be acknowledged by return mail.

Douglas L. Young and David W. Price, Co-Editors
Western Journal of Agricultural Economics
Department of Agricultural Economics
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164-6210

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WAEA dues, payable at the beginning of each calendar year, are as follows: regular members—\$20, senior members—\$10, and junior members—\$10. Senior membership is open to persons who have retired. Junior membership is open to students, and the application should be signed by the head of the department in which the student is studying. All members receive this *Journal*.

Applications for membership, payments of dues, reprint and subscription charges, changes in address, and other general inquiries should be addressed to Maurice Baker, Secretary-Treasurer, WAEA, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0922.