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Guidelines for *Western Journal of Agricultural Economics* Authors

Jeffrey T. LaFrance and Myles J. Watts

This article explains the current editorial procedures and policies of the *Western Journal of Agricultural Economics*. The contents should be of interest both to readers and to authors who plan to submit manuscripts to the *Journal*. The current editorial policy of the *Journal* is discussed, the review and publication process is explained, and detailed guidelines for the proper preparation of manuscripts for the *Journal* are presented.

Key words: editorial policy, journal, publication, review.

The editorial policy of the *WJAE*, as approved by the membership of the Western Agricultural Economics Association, is well defined:

The purpose of the *WJAE* is to provide a forum for creative and scholarly work in Agricultural Economics and related areas. Manuscripts should have a relationship to the economics of agriculture, natural resources, human resources, or rural and community development. Theoretical, methodological, and empirical contributions in extension, research, and teaching of agricultural economics are equally encouraged. Only refereed articles are accepted for publication. Submission of comments on previously published articles in the *WJAE* is welcomed.

Because our readership includes agricultural economists and economists with a variety of research interests, it is necessary that contributions are written so that the nonspecialist is informed of what the articles are about and why the results are important. Authors of papers concerned with abstract theoretical analysis must keep in mind that the work of some of our readers is entirely applied. Similarly, authors of purely applied papers should make their results accessible to readers who have little acquaintance with the institutions considered. For publication in the *WJAE*, manuscripts should be novel, important, correct, and

well presented. This requires a clear explanation of the results and their importance, including their relationships with other literature and applications to related areas whenever possible.

Manuscript Submission, Review, and Publication Procedures

All papers should be sent to the Editors at the address listed on the inside back cover of the most recent issue of the *Journal*. Currently, the appropriate address is:

Professors Myles J. Watts and Jeffrey T. LaFrance, Co-Editors
Western Journal of Agricultural Economics
Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717-0292

Four high quality copies of the paper must be submitted. In a cover letter accompanying the manuscript, the author must indicate the following: (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

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agrees to the following policy of the Western Agricultural Economics Association with regard to data access and estimation procedures:

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.

When they have received four copies of a manuscript and a cover letter that complies with the above guidelines, one of the Editors will reply with a card that acknowledges receipt of the manuscript and indicates which of the Co-Editors will have charge of the paper.

Normally, the review process is expected to take no more than three months. The Editors make every effort to expedite manuscript reviews. Authors who carefully follow the guidelines set forth in this article will contribute to an efficient review process. Moreover, referees are informed that it is not their responsibility to decipher poorly prepared manuscripts. A manuscript may be rejected for typographical errors and incomplete or imprecise definitions that make it hard to appraise. The Editors also reserve the prerogative to refuse to send out for review manuscripts that clearly are below *WJAE* standards.

Papers may be rejected, returned for specific revision, or accepted. When an article is accepted by the Editors, it is sent to the Associate Editor who sends to the author detailed guidelines for the final submission of manuscripts for publication in the *Journal* along with a letter indicating any missing materials that are required before the paper can be processed for publication. ***Manuscripts that do not follow these final publication guidelines precisely will be returned to the author for correction.*** When an accepted article has been received in the appropriate format and style, the Associate Editor schedules it for publication. A letter is sent to the author indicating a tentative issue assignment and approximately when proofs may be received.

Once the paper has been received by the printer, it is typeset and page proofs are sent directly to the author and to the Associate Editor. Accompanying the author's proofs are the original manuscript, instructions for correction and mailing of the proofs, and instructions for ordering reprints. The author should take spe-

cial note of any queries on the manuscript and the deadlines for mailing proofs and reprint orders. ***Corrected proofs should be sent to the Associate Editor as soon as possible.*** When the Associate Editor receives the corrected proofs, all corrections are compiled on a single set of proofs, which are returned to the printer. ***Any changes other than printer errors will be charged to the author along with normal page charges.*** As soon as the corrected proofs and a compilation of reprint orders for an issue are received by the printer, preparation and distribution of the completed issue of the *Journal* are undertaken. Reprints are produced and distributed to authors by the printer after the issue has been completed and distributed.

Guidelines for Manuscript Preparation

Typing. Manuscripts should be typed on good quality 8½-by-11-inch paper, with margins of at least one inch on all sides. Double space all material throughout the paper, including the abstract, acknowledgments, footnotes, references, and tables. Type only on one side of the paper. ***Do not submit ditto or thermofax reproductions.***

Style. Use a consistent style throughout the document. The *WJAE* currently accepts the style format in *The Chicago Manual of Style* by the University of Chicago Press as the standard for the *Journal*. Have a technical editor review the article before submission. The technical editor can improve the clarity and consistency of the paper. Refer to the *The Chicago Manual of Style* for clarification of issues not addressed completely in this article.

Title page. Provide a separate title page that includes the title of the manuscript 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 the article title at the top of the first page of the text. ***Do not place the name(s) of the author(s) on the first page of the text.***

Abstract. On a separate page, include an abstract not to exceed 100 words followed by no more than eight key words, listed in alphabetical order.

Mailing address and short title. Type the name and mailing address of the author who is responsible for all correspondence regarding the manuscript on a separate page along with

the full title of the manuscript and a short title called the running head.

Footnotes. Number footnotes consecutively through the manuscript. Type the content of the footnotes on separate pages placed immediately after the main text.

Tables. Prepare tables in the form desired and place each table on a separate page at the end of the text, immediately following the last footnote page. Begin each table's title at the left margin above the table's body using the following format:

Table 1. Regression Results

Table title and headings should have the first letter of all words capitalized except conjunctions, prepositions, and articles. Review of tables for accuracy is the author's responsibility. Within the text, when first mention of a table or figure is made, indicate in the left margin that the item should be inserted near that point in the article.

References. Use parentheses instead of brackets within the text to identify references. Identify citations in the text by reference to the author's last name. Do not specify the year of the reference unless there is more than one reference with the same (set of) author(s). List all references cited in the text in alphabetical order of the author's last name on separate pages after the main text, immediately following the last table page. Do not number references. Use the initials and last names of authors and spell out the titles of journals. Check all references listed to be sure that all those mentioned in the text appear in the reference list and that all those in the reference list are cited in the text. List references with the same author(s) alphabetically by title. The following example illustrates the proper format for a reference list. For examples of references not included in this list, please refer to previous issues of the *WJAE*.

Amemiya, T. *Advanced Econometrics*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1985. (BOOK)

———. "Nonlinear Regression Models." In *Handbook of Econometrics: Vol. I*, eds., Z. Griliches and M. Intriligator, pp. 333-97. New York: North-Holland, 1983. (BOOK CHAPTER)

———. "The Nonlinear Limited-Information Maximum-Likelihood Estimator and the Modified Nonlinear Two-Stage Least Squares Estimator." *Journal of Econo-*

metrics 3(1975):375-86. (JOURNAL ARTICLE)

———. "The Nonlinear Two-Stage Least Squares Estimator." *Journal of Econometrics* 2(1974):105-10. (JOURNAL ARTICLE)

Federal Register. "Acreage Limitations: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior, Rules and Regulations." Government Printing Office, Washington DC, 48 (3 May 1983):900-19. (GOVERNMENT BULLETIN)

Krutilla, J. V., M. D. Bowes, and P. Sherman. "Water Management for Joint Production of Water and Timber. A Provisional Assessment." Discussion Paper D-103, Resources for the Future, 1983. (MISCELLANEOUS PAPER)

Lee, J. Y. "Demand Interrelationships among Fruit Beverages." *Southern Journal of Agricultural Economics* 16(December 1984): 135-43. (JOURNAL ARTICLE)

U.S. Department of the Interior, Water and Power Resource Service. *Environmental Impact Statement, Wetlands Case Study*. Washington DC, Vols. 1 and 2, 1980. (GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT)

Wagenblast, D. E. "An Econometric Analysis of Wheat Import Demand in South Korea with Emphasis on the Demand for White Wheat from the U.S." Unpublished M.S. Thesis, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Oregon State University, 1982. (THESIS)

Note that titles of publications authored by agencies in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government are italicized rather than placed in quotes. Titles of theses and dissertations are placed in quotation marks rather than italicized. Journal article references must include the month of issue if the page numbers for each issue start at one.

Figures. For the final version of the article, submit camera-ready copies of figures, charts, and graphs drawn in a professional manner. Immediately following the last reference page, place each figure on a separate sheet of heavy white paper or acetate sheet using black india ink for photographic reproduction, or submit a black-and-white glossy photograph. Glossy prints are best. Typescript is not suitable. Keep in mind that this drawing will be reduced in size, perhaps by one-half or more. Do not type figure titles on the figures. For each figure, type

the journal name, the article title, the corresponding author's name, and the figure number and title on a separate sheet of paper and attach this to the figure. Also type the figure titles in order on a separate single sheet of paper using the following format:

Figure 1. A Supply Curve

Figure 2. A Demand Curve

Review of figures for accuracy is the author's responsibility.

Mathematical formulation. A mathematical formula should be presented in the line of text rather than displayed unless it (*a*) is numbered for later reference, (*b*) is over half a line long, or (*c*) involves matrices or other expressions which require extra vertical spacing when printed. Avoid ambiguity in the presentation of fractions. The fraction $(a/b + c)$ can be misread. Present such an expression as $(a/(b + c))$ or $((a/b) + c)$ to resolve the ambiguity. Parentheses within parentheses are appropriate. Use Arabic numbers enclosed in parentheses and placed flush left on the first line of the equation for displayed equations. Number equations consecutively throughout the article. Use the lower case alphabet in parentheses for other enumerations in the text to avoid confusion between references to equation numbers and other enumerations in the article. If an equation is displayed on a separate line, indent the equation proper after the equation number. Punctuate all mathematical material. To eliminate confusion between symbols, use proper and distinctive fonts in the manuscript and make notes in the left-hand margin spelling out the Greek names of symbols that may be difficult to interpret. Include a list of symbols used in the manuscript on a separate sheet of paper.

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 \$70 per printed page. Additional information on page charge policies can be obtained from the Editors.

Conclusion

This article explains the publication process of the *Western Journal of Agricultural Economics* to prospective authors. We have discussed the editorial policy of the *Journal*, described the procedures for the consideration of submitted manuscripts and publication of accepted manuscripts, and presented in detail the style and form in which papers should be submitted. The article is intended to serve both authors and readers of the *Journal*. Authors who follow the guidelines contained in this article should find the submission of manuscripts easier and the length of time between initial submission and publication shorter. Readers should benefit from increased consistency and readability of articles published in the *Journal* and more rapid publication of new results in our profession. We also hope this article will help us to attain our personal goal as Editors to maintain and improve the reputation of the *Journal* as an important and high quality scholarly publication.