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***JARE* at 50: Foreword to the Special Issue**

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The agricultural sector stands at a crossroads, facing unprecedented challenges and opportunities driven by climate change, evolving global trade patterns, and innovations in the food industry, among other factors. In this context, we editors conceived the idea of this special issue to mark the 50th anniversary of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, the official journal of the Western Agricultural Economics Association. In this fully online commemorative edition, we are proud to present a carefully curated selection of articles, each addressing a unique and relevant topic within the broad and ever-changing field of agricultural and applied economics. The themes explored include the economics of the livestock sector, the complex industrial organization of food markets, the dynamics of international food trade, the role of behavioral and experimental economics in policymaking, and the economics of entrepreneurship, among other vital areas. These discussions are essential for shaping the future of our field and tackling its many challenges.

The goals of these articles are twofold. First, they aim to offer a comprehensive and reflective analysis of the major challenges that have influenced our understanding and responses over the past 50 years, emphasizing both empirical and theoretical research. The authors examine a range of strategies and methodologies used to address complex issues while providing a historical perspective. Second, by drawing on their own and others' impactful work, they look ahead to emerging trends and potential challenges, offering insightful lessons from the existing literature.

This special issue serves as a tribute to the valuable contributions in the field of agricultural and applied economics and functions as a thoughtful resource for navigating future complexities. Through a diverse collection of research and analysis, this edition highlights both our past achievements and the innovative opportunities present in agricultural and resource economics.

We thank all our contributors at various stages of their careers who accepted our invitation and collaborated in different ways to create this special issue, which is enriched by a variety of voices and perspectives. We also appreciate Amy Bekkerman for providing valuable editorial support. We recognize that we have only touched upon the many perspectives and issues that need attention in the agricultural and applied economics domain. Nonetheless, we hope our efforts have sparked curiosity and excitement across all levels of our discipline.

Come have a look!