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A
SURVEY OF
AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMICS
LITERATURE
VOLUME 1

*Traditional Fields
of
Agricultural Economics,
1940s to 1970s*

LEE R. MARTIN

General editor and volume editor

*Published by the University of Minnesota Press
for the
American Agricultural Economics Association*

*A Survey of
Agricultural Economics
Literature: Volume 1,
Traditional Fields of
Agricultural Economics,
1940s to 1970s*

LEE R. MARTIN

General editor and volume editor

This is the first volume of a comprehensive three-volume work providing surveys of the literature in agricultural economics which has been published since the 1940s. This first volume contains reviews of the significant literature in seven broad subject areas generally regarded as the traditional fields of agricultural economics. The surveys were prepared by ten leading agricultural economists: Harald R. Jensen, Ben C. French, George E. Brandow, D. Gale Johnson, William G. Tomek, Kenneth L. Robinson, John R. Brake, Emanuel Melichar, Willis Peterson, and Yujiro Hayami.

The subjects covered are farm management and production economics, productive efficiency in agricultural marketing, policy for commercial agriculture, postwar policies relating to trade in agricultural products,

A Survey of Agricultural Economics Literature
VOLUME 1

The three volumes in *A Survey of Agricultural Economics Literature* have been prepared by and published for the American Agricultural Economics Association. The general editor of the survey volumes is Lee R. Martin.

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Contents

Foreword. xv

PART I. Farm Management and Production Economics, 1946-70

Harald R. Jensen

The Need for Research and Education in Farm Management 3

Our Heritage – Accounts and Surveys, Economic Theory, Statistics 5

Farm Management and Production Economics since World War II 7

 Changes in the Underlying Methodology 7

 Some Results Reflecting the New Methodology 10

 Analytical Techniques 22

 The Development of Regional Activities 31

 The North Central Farm Management Research Committee 32

 The Southern Farm Management Research Committee 36

 The Northeast Farm Management Research Committee 37

 The Western Farm Management Research Committee 38

Agricultural Adjustments and Aggregative Analysis 39

 Supply Response 41

 Farm Size Adjustments 43

 Aggregate Productivity Analysis 45

 Interregional Competition 46

Participation in the International Area	47
The Changing Structure of Agriculture	48
The Development of a Dichotomy	53
Limitations of Static Economic Firm Theory and Profit Maximization	55
Outlook for the Future	65
The Farm Management Identity Crisis	66
Orientations for the Future	70
Notes	75
References	76

**PART II. The Analysis of Productive Efficiency in Agricultural
Marketing: Models, Methods, and Progress**

Ben C. French

On the Meaning of Efficiency	94
Formulation of a Theoretical Framework	97
Production Systems in Marketing Firms	98
Plant Costs and the Length of Operation	103
Multiple-Service Plant Operations	111
Spatial Components of Marketing Cost	114
The Collection or Delivery Cost Function	114
Assembly and Distribution Cost Functions	116
Total Systems Analysis	118
Design Theory	118
Competitive Behavior	120
Estimation of Plant Cost Relationships	120
Descriptive Analysis of Accounting Data	122
Statistical Analysis of Accounting Data	124
Data Problems	125
Specification and Measurement Problems	126
The Survivor Technique	131
The Economic-Engineering Approach	132
Scope of Research	133
The Economic-Engineering Technique	136

Critique of the Economic-Engineering Approach	139
The Evidence on Economies of Scale	141
Applications and Extensions of Plant Efficiency Research	151
Firm Optimizing Studies	151
Feasibility Studies	152
Efficient Organization within Market Areas	154
The Continuous Space Approach	154
The Discrete Space Approach	155
Area Efficiency in General	159
Central Market Studies	159
Evaluation of Progress and Achievement	160
Notes	166
References	170
General References	170
Descriptive Analysis of Accounting Data	174
Statistical Analysis of Accounting Data	179
Economic-Engineering Analysis	182
General Articles	182
Cattle Feeding	183
Cotton Assembly and Ginning	183
Dairy Products Processing	184
Egg Packing, Assembly, and Distribution	186
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Packing and Assembly	187
Fruit and Vegetable Processing	192
Grain Elevator and Milling Operations	193
Meat Packing and Assembly	194
Milk Collection and Delivery	195
Poultry Processing and Assembly	196
Wholesale and Retail Food Store Operations	197
Miscellaneous Studies	199
Firm Optimizing Models	199
Feasibility Studies	200
Efficient Organization within Market Areas	202
Central Market Studies	205

viii CONTENTS

PART III. Policy for Commercial Agriculture, 1945-71

G. E. Bradow

Farm Problems and Their Economic and Social Setting	209
The Agricultural Experience	209
The Macroeconomics of Agriculture	213
Schultz's 1945 Analysis	214
Other Contemporary Views	217
Aggregate Supply and Demand	218
Generation and Adoption of Technology	219
Heterogeneity within Agriculture	220
Asset Fixity	221
Effects of Risk and Uncertainty	222
Economists' Views in 1957	222
Crops-Livestock Distinction	223
General Economic Conditions and Agriculture	223
Market Structures of Agriculture and Industry	224
Industrialization of Agriculture	225
The General Model in the Early 1970s	226
Empirical Knowledge about Key Economic Relations	227
Production Capacity, Current and Prospective	229
Parity and Income Comparisons	231
Values, Beliefs, and Goals	233
The Politics of Farm Policy	235
Policy Issues and Proposals	236
Histories of Commercial Farm Policy	236
Evaluations and Proposals, 1945-50	237
The General Position	237
Payments during Depression	238
Agricultural Adjustments	238
Uncertainty and Misallocation of Resources	239
Instability from Weather, Cycles	240
Food Consumption Subsidies	240
Increasing Labor Mobility	240
Additional Comments	241
Widening Differences during the 1950s	242
Declining Confidence in the Sufficiency of Proposals of the 1940s	242

The Free Market Position	243
Direct Payments for Income Support	244
Price Support and Supply Control	244
Marketing Orders	246
An Approximate Policy Equilibrium Emerging in the 1960s	246
The Early 1960s	246
Farmer Bargaining Power	247
Subsiding Interest in Farm Policy	248
Farm Policy Analysis	248
The Free Market	249
Price Support	250
Domestic Consumption Subsidies	251
Export Disposal	253
Two-Price Plans	253
Supply Control	255
Control of Producers' Sales	255
Taxing Output	256
Acreage Controls, General	256
Whole-Farm versus Part-Farm Retirement	258
Interfarm and Geographic Distribution of Retired Land	260
Compulsory versus Voluntary Land Restriction	261
From Row Crops to Grass	262
Piecemeal versus Comprehensive Supply Control	262
Control of Other Inputs	263
Direct Payments	263
Base-Limited Payments	263
Adjusting Payments to Affect Distribution of Farm Income	264
Farm Bargaining Power and Marketing Orders	265
Storage and Market Stabilization	267
Other Programs and Combinations of Programs	269
Capitalization of Income Benefits	269
Program Costs	270
Efficiency	271
Progressiveness	273
Income Distribution and Equity	275

x CONTENTS

Concluding Topics	276
Farm Policy, Rural Poverty, and Development	276
Approaches and Methods	277
Comments on the Future	278
Notes	282
References	282

**PART IV. Postwar Policies Relating
to Trade in Agricultural Products**

D. Gale Johnson

Domestic and International Policy Conflicts	295
Policy Conflicts at the End of World War II	295
United States Trade in Farm Products	298
Farm Programs and Trade Interferences	299
Farm and Trade Policies of Other Countries	302
Measurement of Trade Policy Effects	304
P.L. 480 and the Recipient Countries	304
The Enlargement of the Common Market	306
Industrial Country Policies and Agricultural Trade	308
Benefits and Costs of Trade Policies	308
New Directions for Research	312
Estimates of Trade Restriction Effects	312
Adjustment Problems of Farm People	313
Trade Interferences and Price Instability	313
Trade with the Centrally Planned Economies	314
Notes	315
References	316
General References	316
USDA Supply and Demand Studies for Foreign Nations and Related Summary Reports	320
Demand Studies for the Agency for International Development	324
Selected USDA Foreign Agriculture Studies	324

PART V. Agricultural Price Analysis and Outlook

William G. Tomek and Kenneth L. Robinson

Recursive and Simultaneous Equations Systems	329
Demand Analysis	336
Analyses Based on Aggregate Time-Series Data	337
Parameters of Demand Functions	342
Analyses Based on Individual Consumer Behavior	346
Supply Analysis	351
Time-Series Analysis	352
Budgeting and Linear Programming Techniques in Supply Analysis	355
Micro-Theory and Aggregate Supply	358
Demand and Supply of Farm Inputs	362
Analysis of Price Relationships	365
Marketing Margins	365
Spatial Relationships	366
Intertemporal Relationships	367
Price Discrimination	368
Farm-Nonfarm Price Relationships	370
Topics in Quantitative Price Analysis	372
Models of Time-Series Behavior	372
Analyses Involving Qualitative Variables	374
Supply-Demand and Price Outlook	375
Price-Making Institutions	378
Alternative Pricing Methods and Price Behavior	378
Future Markets	382
Conclusions	387
Notes	389
References	392

xii CONTENTS

PART VI. Agricultural Finance and Capital Markets

John R. Brake and Emanuel Melichar

Overview of the Postwar Literature	416
Capital Formation and Accumulation	421
Theory	421
Sources of Capital	422
Demand for Capital by the Firm	425
Life Cycle of the Firm	426
Management of Financial Resources	427
Capital Rationing	427
Growth Models	430
Farm and Family Financial Planning	432
Assets and Debts in the Farm Sector	433
Trends in Capital and Resource Organization	435
Capital Formation and Land Prices	435
Farm Input Prices	438
Farm Consolidation	440
Analysis of Land Prices	441
Land Price Trends	441
Implications for Finance	444
Real Wealth Effects of Price Changes	445
Capital Flows and Their Financing	447
Flow-of-Funds Accounts	447
Flow-of-Funds Models	449
Demand for Non-Real Estate Assets	451
Demand for Credit	452
Credit Institutions and Policies	455
Sources and Operating Procedures	455
Interest Rates	457
Legal Aspects	459
Knowledge and Attitudes of Farmers	460
Evaluation of Institutions and Policies	460
Capital Markets and Financial Intermediaries	464
Rural Credit Markets	464

Rural Financial Intermediation	466
Effects of National Monetary Policies	470
Suggestions for Future Research	472
The Question of Research Priorities	472
Less Duplication of Descriptive Research	472
Importance of Basic Data	472
Use of Theory and Modeling	474
Evaluation of Potential Innovations	474
Evaluation of Institutions and Arrangements	475
Credit Policy Analysis	476
Disinvestment from Farming	477
Rural Financial Markets	477
Analysis of Fund Flows	478
Problem-Oriented Research	478
Effects of Credit on Income Distribution	480
Concluding Comments	480
References	481

PART VII. Technical Change in Agriculture

Willis Peterson and Yujiro Hayami

The Concept of Technical Change	497
The Definition of Technical Change	498
Embodied versus Disembodied Technical Change	500
Factor-Saving Bias	502
Induced Innovation	503
Economies of Scale and Scale Bias	505
Supply Function Shifts and Technical Change	505
Measurement of Technical Change	506
Index Approach	506
Regression Analysis with a Time Variable	508
Use of Partial Production Functions	509
Farrell's Index of Technical Efficiency	509
Sources of Productivity Growth	510
Quality Changes and Productivity Growth	510

xiv CONTENTS

Accounting for Productivity Growth	514
The Production of New Technology	517
Costs and Returns of Agricultural Research	517
Value of Inputs Saved	518
Consumer Surplus	519
Marginal Product of Research	520
Rates of Return	521
The Allocation of Research	522
The Diffusion of Technology	524
Interfarm and Interregional Diffusion	524
International Diffusion	526
Technical Change and Welfare	528
Output Effects	528
Distribution Effects	529
Externalities and Adjustment Costs	532
Notes	533
References	533

Foreword

In March 1968 C. E. Bishop, president of the American Agricultural Economics Association, appointed a committee to investigate the need for a major survey of the agricultural economics literature published from the 1940s to the 1970s. The committee found that an extensive assessment of this body of literature would indeed be of value to research workers, teachers, and extension workers and graduate students in agricultural economics; teachers, research workers, and graduate students in economics and economic statistics, sociology, geography, political science, and anthropology; and teachers, research workers, and graduate students in technical agriculture. In the end the committee was assigned the responsibility for planning the project and commissioning authors to prepare the papers.

The members of the committee were Glenn L. Johnson (Michigan State University), M. M. Kelso (University of Arizona), James E. Martin (Virginia Polytechnic Institute), M. L. Upchurch (Economic Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture), and Lee R. Martin, chairman (University of Minnesota). Early in 1969 James E. Martin resigned from the committee, and several new members — John P. Doll (University of Missouri), Peter G. Helmberger (University of Wisconsin), J. Patrick Madden (Pennsylvania State University), and Edward W. Tyrczniewicz (University of Manitoba) — were appointed.

As its first step, the committee tentatively identified the fields to be covered and commissioned highly regarded members of the profession to draw

xvi FOREWORD

up outlines of the coverage to be undertaken in the different fields. These outlines were used in the selection of economists to prepare the surveys and in negotiating agreements with prospective authors. Once the surveys were prepared, the committee again obtained assistance from highly competent members of the profession to make critical, constructive evaluations of each survey draft. In the case of the preparation of outlines and the review of papers, the committee sought to strike a representative balance among differing viewpoints in each field. For the preparation of the papers themselves, the committee obtained the services of outstanding agricultural economists with special competence in the respective fields.

In connection with the papers published in this volume, substantial assistance was provided by the following individuals:

PART I. Farm Management and Production Economics, 1946-70. *Preparation of outlines:* John P. Doll, Albert R. Hagan, Charles E. Harshbarger, and Joseph C. Headley. *Review of paper:* John P. Doll, Earl O. Heady, Glenn L. Johnson, and Max R. Langham.

PART II. The Analysis of Productive Efficiency in Agricultural Marketing: Models, Methods, and Progress. *Preparation of outlines:* Peter G. Helmberger and Frank J. Smith. *Review of paper:* Emerson M. Babb, Peter G. Helmberger, Harold M. Riley, and James D. Shaffer.

PART III. Policy for Commercial Agriculture, 1945-71. *Preparation of outlines:* James T. Bonnen, John A. Schnittker, Vernon L. Sorenson, and Arley D. Waldo. *Review of paper:* Willard W. Cochrane, David MacFarlane, Lauren K. Soth, and Luther G. Tweeten.

PART IV. Postwar Policies Relating to Trade in Agricultural Products. *Preparation of outlines:* Martin E. Abel and James P. Houck. *Review of paper:* T. K. Warley, Larry J. Wipf, and Lawrence W. Witt.

PART V. Agricultural Price Analysis and Outlook. *Preparation of outlines:* James P. Houck, Lester V. Manderscheid, and Edward W. Tyrchniewicz. *Review of paper:* James P. Houck, Richard A. King, and Edward W. Tyrchniewicz.

PART VI. Agricultural Finance and Capital Markets. *Preparation of outlines:* Chester B. Baker, William H. Heneberry, John A. Hopkin, and George D. Irwin. *Review of paper:* Peter J. Barry, Fred Garlock, George D. Irwin, Lawrence A. Jones, Warren F. Lee, and John B. Penson.

PART VII. Technical Change in Agriculture. *Preparation of outlines:* Vernon W. Ruttan. *Review of paper:* Zvi Griliches and Vernon W. Ruttan.

This list includes only the official reviewers who acted on behalf of the association and the committee. Many other individuals who assisted the authors of the papers in various ways are cited in the notes preceding each paper. The authors were urged to incorporate into their papers the comments and suggestions provided by the respective reviewers, but final decisions about the content of the papers were left to the discretion of the authors.

The Committee on Publication of Postwar Literature Review arranged for publication of the three-volume set of literature reviews. The members of this committee are Emerson M. Babb (chairman), J. P. Madden, and John C. Redman. Neil Harl provided valuable assistance in the publication phase to both committees.

On behalf of the members of the association and the Literature Review Committee I wish to express sincere gratitude to the authors of the papers in this volume and to the advisors, reviewers, and others who participated in the planning and implementation of the project as a whole.

Finally, I would like to direct readers' attention to current literature reviews of some closely related fields of agricultural economics—reviews that both complement and supplement the reviews in this volume and the two companion volumes. The following reviews have been published in an Australian journal, *Review of Marketing and Agricultural Economics*:

- G. Weinschenck, W. Henrichsmeyer, and F. Aldinger (1969). "The Theory of Spatial Equilibrium and Optimal Location in Agriculture: A Survey." 37:3-70.
- Ulf Renborg (1970). "Growth of the Agricultural Firm: Problems and Theories." 38:51-101.
- John L. Dillon (1971). "An Expository Review of Bernoullian Decision Theory in Agriculture: Is Utility Futility?" 39:3-80.
- Roger W. Gray and David J. S. Rutledge (1971). "The Economics of Commodity Futures Markets: A Survey." 39:57-113.
- Harold F. Breimyer (1973). "The Economics of Agricultural Marketing: A Survey." 41:115-165.
- Jock R. Anderson (1974). "Simulation: Methodology and Application in Agricultural Economics." 42:3-55.

An additional article commissioned by the *Review of Marketing and Agricultural Economics* but not yet published is "Public Utility Pricing" by David Gallagher.

Another important set of literature reviews in agricultural economics is being published in the British *Journal of Agricultural Economics*. To date the following review articles have been published:

xviii FOREWORD

- G. H. Peters (1973). "Land Use Studies in Britain: A Review of the Literature with Special Reference to Applications of Cost-Benefit Analysis." 21:171-214.
- T. E. Josling (1974). "Agricultural Policies in Developed Countries: A Review." 25:229-264.
- C. S. Barnard (1975). "Data in Agriculture. A Review with Special Reference to Farm Management Research, Policy and Advice in Britain." 26:289-333.
- D. I. Bateman (1976). "Agricultural Marketing: A Review of the Literature of Marketing Theory and Selected Applications." 27:171-225.

Also worthy of note is Marguerite C. Burk's "Survey of Interpretations of Consumer Behavior by Social Scientists in the Postwar Period," *Journal of Farm Economics* 49:1-31.

Lee R. Martin
Survey Editor

October 1976