

JARE Editors' Report December 2005

Between April 1, 2003 and October 31, 2005, 285 manuscripts have been submitted to the editors at Utah State University. There were an additional 14 manuscripts forwarded to USU from the previous editor, Gary Thompson. This makes a total of 298 manuscripts being handled by the USU editors since April 1, 2003. The disposition of the manuscripts as of October 31, 2005, was that 65 had been accepted for publication while 153 had been rejected. One manuscript was withdrawn from consideration by the author, 39 manuscripts were currently in review including 10 that were in either second or third review. There were an additional 37 manuscripts that had received invitations to submit revisions after their first review, but for which the first revision had not yet been received as of October 31, 2005. There are two manuscripts for which we are awaiting a second revision. The geographic locations for the corresponding authors were: western U.S. and western Canada, 116 manuscripts (38.9%); rest of the U.S. and Canada, 140 manuscripts (47%); and 42 manuscripts submitted from other (besides Canada) international locations (14.1%).

Our editorial team is responsible for *JARE* volumes 29–31. The April and August 2004 issues (vol. 29/nos. 1 and 2) were included in a previous report. The December 2004 issue (vol. 29/no. 3) included 11 articles, one of which was originally submitted for review to the University of Arizona editorship. The April 2005 issue (vol. 30/no. 1) included 10 articles. The August 2005 issue (vol. 30/no. 2) included 12 articles and a comment and reply related to one of the articles in the same issue (a reviewer chose to submit a comment and the author responded). The December 2005 issue (vol. 30/no. 3) contains 11 articles and the 2005 WAEA presidential address. One of the articles in the December issue was originally submitted to the editorial team at the University of Arizona.

We have continued the policy started by Gary Thompson and his editorial team of paying \$50 for first reviews completed within six weeks. As of October 31, 2005, 482 first reviews had been returned to us since April 1, 2003. Of this number, 317 had been returned within the six-week period, yielding an “on-time” percentage of 66%. The average time between when a manuscript has been received and a letter from the editor has been sent to the author(s) indicating rejection, acceptance, or inviting the author(s) to submit a revision was 102 days, with a standard deviation of approximately 48 days. We consider this an excellent average turnaround time given that many other economics journals routinely take more than six months to receive a response on a first review.

Our technical editor, Judith Harrison, continues to do an outstanding job of editing our accepted manuscripts, communicating with authors, dealing with our publisher, Sheridan Press, and generally keeping our entire publishing process on track. We have also been generally pleased with the quality of the work completed by Sheridan and their responsiveness to the editors and technical editor.

Sue Young is our new editorial assistant and has done an excellent job these last few months in learning and performing the duties formerly performed by Amanda Cram. Ms. Young deserves much of the credit for the smooth handling of manuscripts, reviews, and responses. We extend thanks to former WAEA secretary-treasurer, Dawn Thilmany, for her support in handling the business affairs related to the *Journal* and in helping with the transition of the *Journal's* business affairs to the new WAEA secretary-treasurer, Lynn Williams, at Cal State-Fresno. We appreciate Lynn's extra efforts during this transition, which were instrumental in the timely publication of the April 2005 issue. We thank Ms. Dora Brunson, the financial officer in the Department of Economics at USU, for very competent and helpful support in handling financial matters for the editors. We also thank past WAEA president, Ted Schroeder, and current WAEA president, Dana Hoag, for their support and help.

As always, we owe the manuscript reviewers a huge debt of gratitude. The reviewers play a crucial role in most publication decisions. The time and effort spent by reviewers is evidence of their dedication to maintaining high standards for the *Journal*. Their comments and suggestions also offer the basis for most of the communication that the editors provide to manuscript authors. We also extend our thanks to the Editorial Council. We have asked members of the Editorial Council to review manuscripts when the publication decision was unusually difficult. We have found the Editorial Council members willing to complete reviews in short periods of time. This has contributed in a very significant manner to keeping the editorial process on track and to maintaining the quality of the *Journal*.

During October 2005, the *JARE* transitioned to online submission. We extend our thanks to Dr. Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes, Mr. George Chronis, and Mr. Glen Rice of Fasttrack at the University of Missouri for their help and patience in establishing the database and portal for these submissions. Online submission to the *JARE* is now available through the *Journal's* web site at www.jareonline.org.

Respectfully submitted,

DeeVon Bailey, Editor

T. F. Glover, Paul M. Jakus, and David Aadland, Co-editors

Reviewers

November 2004–October 2005

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WAEA 2004 Award Winners

Outstanding Master's Thesis

JASON POLITYLO, "Economic Analysis of Carbon Supply Contracts Under Risk of Fire: A Supplier Perspective," University of Alberta.

GRANT HAUER, Advisor

There has been considerable interest by the federal and provincial governments of Canada to understand the role of carbon trading mechanisms, such as carbon supply contracts, as part of a strategy to meet Canada's greenhouse gas reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol. Canada has successfully argued that forestry can be used to create biological carbon sinks for sequestering atmospheric carbon, and that these sinks should be counted as part of Canada's Kyoto commitments. What remains undetermined is whether or not carbon credits generated via forest management practices can provide cost-effective emissions offsets for other sectors.

Utilizing data from the Weldwood forest management area in Hinton, Alberta, a discrete stochastic sequential programming model was developed to evaluate how various contract parameters—including carbon price, contract size, and harvest regulations—affect a credit-supplier's decision to enter into carbon credit supply contracts in the presence of fire risk. A discussion of various issues pertaining to contract design, carbon ownership, baseline determination, regulatory compatibility, and risk management supplements a review of the literature on optimal forest rotation models and fire risk.

This study advances the literature on optimal forest management models by utilizing stochastic programming and introducing both carbon accounting and carbon contract equations. In doing so, the model is capable of tracking carbon stocks and flows through time, as the optimal rotation decision variables respond to the state of nature and the specification of carbon supply contracts. While there have been other studies at the forest level that incorporated carbon accounting equations, there do not appear to be any which integrate carbon stock calculations that enable an examination of the relationship between optimal forest rotation decisions at the forest level and forest carbon stocks. The results of this research suggest that, given the particular contract structure under investigation, carbon supply contracts may not generate sufficient incentives for firms to produce carbon credits at relatively low cost, and thus alternate contract structures or credit trading mechanisms should be explored.

Outstanding Extension Project

"U.S. Livestock Identification Systems: Risk Management and Market Opportunities"

Project Coordinators: WENDY J. UMBERGER (Colo. State Univ.) and DEEVON BAILEY (Utah State Univ.). **Contributing Team Members:** CHRIS BASTIAN (Univ. of Wyo.), MICHAEL COE, DVM (Global Animal Mgmt., Logan, Utah), KYNDA R. CURTIS (Univ. of Nev., Reno), HOLLIE DOYLE (Utah State Univ.), DILLON M. FEUZ and DARRELL R. MARK (Univ. of Nebr.), DOUG O'BRIEN and MICHAEL T. ROBERTS (Univ. of Ark. School of Law), JAMES G. ROBB and ERICA L. ROSA (Livestock Mkt'g. Info. Center), TANA STITH (Univ. of Wyo.), RUSSELL TRONSTAD (Univ. of Ariz.), RUBY WARD (Utah State Univ.), and JACK C. WHITTIER (Colo. State Univ.).

This project addressed the impact of implementing an animal identification (ID) system in the United States. It was spearheaded by the Western Extension Marketing Committee (WEMC). The WEMC determined a need existed for the development of materials to address the questions raised by livestock producers and agribusiness managers about the economic and market issues related to both mandatory and voluntary animal ID systems, such as those being discussed under the proposed National Animal Identification System (NAIS). These questions included economic, legal, and technical issues about animal ID programs that were being developed at both the state and federal levels.

A multidisciplinary team was formed to develop and deliver educational materials about animal ID programs. Competitive grants totaling \$50,000 were quickly obtained from the Western Center for Risk Management Education and the Livestock Marketing Information Center (LMIC). Support was also provided by various state extension services. Eleven fact sheets and PowerPoint presentations were developed by the project team and became the foundation of this educational program. These materials represented a broad-based approach to animal ID outreach education, focusing on economic (mostly market), legal, and technical issues.

As of March 2005, the materials had been used as the primary educational materials on animal ID in at least 93 meetings with approximately 7,300 participants. Further evidence of the large interest in these materials is provided by statistics from the LMIC web page, links on the National Agricultural Law Center's web page, and various university extension and private industry web pages. The web statistics from the LMIC web page alone indicate that the materials had been accessed over 37,000 times between October 15, 2004 and March 1, 2005. Letters from several groups that had used the materials in educational programs indicated the materials were effective in presenting the most important issues relating to animal ID, and in helping participants to understand the potential economic challenges and opportunities presented by the implementation of animal ID programs.

Outstanding Extension Program Award for Career

STEVEN C. BLANK (University of California, Davis)

"Risk Management in Agriculture, 1990–2004"

Steven C. Blank has held faculty positions at other universities and UC Davis with responsibilities including teaching, research, administration, and extension. That diverse background enabled him to see the need for blending all of those activities to develop a successful extension program. He began his current extension program, "Risk Management in Agriculture," in 1990. His integrated extension and research work has made him a nationally recognized authority on the subject. This has been evidenced by invitations to speak to members of Congress and other groups on agricultural issues facing the country. The output of his program has been high in quantity and quality, and includes over 300 extension presentations, 60 major research presentations, three books, 62 refereed research publications, and 75 extension/industry publications over the 1990–2004 period. That output has directly benefited varied groups across American agriculture. The quality of Dr. Blank's communication efforts is evidenced by his 2003 AAEE Award for Outstanding Article in *Choices*. His innovative program has accomplished its educational objectives and, in the process, he has developed a successful model for how to transform a statewide extension program into a vehicle for addressing problems on a national scale.

The "Risk Management in Agriculture" program has been highly effective due jointly to its innovation and organization. Both were guided by an educational impact model. A key analysis innovation of the program was describing the producer/manager as a portfolio manager. The concepts of portfolio theory were used to explain how any manager can include risk analysis in his or her decision making. As a result, sophisticated research results could be communicated easily in practical terms of use to the audiences. The same portfolio concept was used to describe macro-level changes in American agriculture, thereby making policy implications easily drawn and understood.

Another innovation was using mass media outlets (television, radio, and print media) to reach national and regional audiences. For example, Dr. Blank was interviewed on ABC Television's "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings" in 2003, and has appeared on other shows broadcast across the United States and Canada. From those broad contacts (over 200 media interviews) came invitations for Dr. Blank to make presentations on specific topics.

In summary, Dr. Blank created an innovative and rigorous extension program that addressed a need expressed by several target audiences and, in so doing, influenced national policy and improved the clientele's abilities to deal with the problem. For these significant contributions, Steven Blank is most deserving of this prestigious award of recognition by the WAEA.

Outstanding Published Research Award

JEFFREY T. LAFRANCE (University of California, Berkeley). "Integrability of the Linear Approximate Almost Ideal Demand System." *Economic Letters* 84 (2004): 297–303.

Integrability of the Linear Approximate Almost Ideal Demand System is solved, including closed-form solutions for the expenditure function, and generating a new method to nest the rank and functional form of a Quadratic Price Independent Generalized Linear Incomplete Demand System.

JARE Published Research Award

F. BAILEY NORWOOD (Oklahoma State University), JAYSON L. LUSK (Purdue University), and B. WADE BRORSEN (Oklahoma State University). "Model Selection for Discrete Dependent Variables: Better Statistics for Better Steaks." *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 29,3 (December 2004): 404–419.

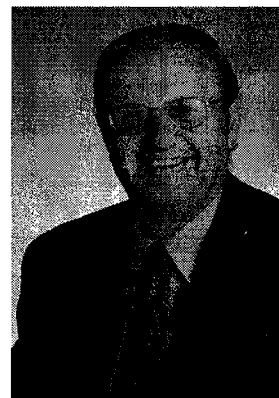
Little research has been conducted on evaluating out-of-sample forecasts of discrete dependent variables. This study describes the large and small sample properties of two forecast evaluation techniques for discrete dependent variables: receiver-operator curves and out-of-sample log-likelihood functions. The methods are shown to provide identical model rankings in large samples and similar rankings in small samples. The likelihood function method is better at detecting forecast accuracy in small samples. By improving forecasts of fed cattle quality grades, the forecast evaluation methods are shown to increase cattle marketing revenues by \$2.59/head.

Distinguished Scholar of the WAEA

This award is the highest recognition for individuals making an enduring contribution in their career to agricultural, resource, and/or environmental economics in the Western states and provinces and the WAEA.

RONALD D. LACEWELL, Distinguished Scholar

Ron Lacewell is an Assistant Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Associate Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, and continues with an appointment in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, where he advises students and maintains an active research and extension program. His research program has been a blend of resources and production ranging from energy, water, air, integrated pest management, weather modification, and new crop alternatives. Early in his career Ron became involved in team research and served as the economist on grants, contracts, and Station projects. It was through his work on teams and with other economists related to alternative energy sources and boll weevil eradication that he discovered not all stakeholders embrace the work of economists—in this case, legislators and the cotton industry. Tenure is a good thing.



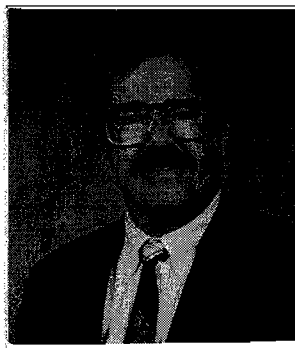
Ron has been a member of the Editorial Council of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and the *Southern Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vice President of the WAEA, member of Alpha Zeta and Sigma Xi honor societies, Texas delegate and Board Member of the University Council on Water and Resources. He received the Distinguished Performance Award for the TAMU Agricultural, Forestry, and Veterinary Complex (individual research in 1980, and team research in 1989 and again in 1998), was honored as Distinguished Alumni at Texas Tech University, received the TAMU Department of Agricultural Economics Research Award, the WAEA Quality of Communication Award, the SAEA Distinguished Professional Contribution Award in Research for 1992, and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000. Ron has served on several university, state, and national committees and task forces such as the Water Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on the Future of Irrigation in the United States.

F. LARRY LEISTRITZ, Distinguished Scholar

Larry Leistritz is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at North Dakota State University. Raised on a cattle ranch in western Nebraska, Larry completed his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska before joining the NDSU faculty in 1970. During his 35-year career, his research and outreach efforts have been focused on natural resource management and economic development issues in the Great Plains and Western states.

Leistritz' research has been reported in more than 100 refereed journal articles, 12 books, and more than 40 book chapters, as well as over 300 research reports, edited articles, and similar media. His research has been characterized by the integration of the tools and methods of regional and resource economics with those from other social science disciplines, as needed to address various problems/issues. As a result, the list of his collaborators is extensive and includes sociologists, demographers, home economists, and political scientists, as well as agricultural and resource economists.

Dr. Leistritz's commitment and service to the profession, and WAEA in particular, have been extensive. He has served as a member of the Editorial Council of the *Western Journal of Agricultural Economics*, as a member of the WAEA Board of Directors, and as President (1985–86). He also served as President of the International Association for Impact Assessment.

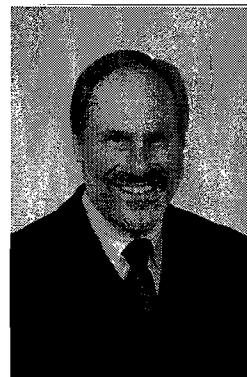


BRUCE A. WEBER, Distinguished Scholar

Bruce Weber is professor of agricultural and resource economics at Oregon State University, Director of the OSU Rural Studies Program, and Co-Director of the RUPRI Rural Poverty Research Center. At OSU since 1974, he has worked to support the Land Grant mission by developing an integrated outreach, research, and teaching program on poverty and hunger, state and local government finance, and regional/rural economics.

Dr. Weber's collaborations with faculty at other universities and state policy analysts have produced, among other things, a model that is still used by the Oregon legislature to analyze the impact of major tax proposals on distribution of Oregon's tax burden. His understanding of Oregon's tax system has put him in advisory roles to both the governor and Oregon legislature on tax policy. His multi-disciplinary explorations of rural labor markets and welfare policy have informed Congressional deliberations about federal welfare legislation. The applied research that undergirds these outreach efforts has appeared in such journals as the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Land Economics*, and *International Regional Science Review*. Weber is co-editor of *Rural Dimensions of Welfare Reform* (2002, W. E. Upjohn Institute Press), the only comprehensive assessment of the impact of the 1996 welfare law in rural areas. His rural development courses at OSU have involved students in delivering student-generated applied regional economic analysis to local community leaders.

As President of the WAEA, he encouraged the development of the first WAEA Young Professionals Conference that brought together young faculty and distinguished agricultural economists for mentoring on career development. He has also served as a WAEA Director and on the Editorial Council of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*. His outreach efforts have been recognized by both WAEA and AAEEA with Distinguished Extension Program awards. He was a member of the National Rural Studies Committee; has served on numerous government, foundation, research, and extension advisory committees; and is a Senior Fellow of the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan.



Outstanding Undergraduate Instructor

Less than 10 years:

WILLIAM E. NGANJE, North Dakota State University

Outstanding Undergraduate Instructor

More than 10 years:

JOHN C. FOLTZ, University of Idaho

AAEA Chester O. McCorkle Student Scholarship Award

CAROLINE GUNNING-TRANT, University of California-Davis

Presented by: Yvonne Bennett, Executive Director, AAEA

Outstanding Seniors

- MARTIN ARRITOLA, Oregon State University Agriculture Program
at Eastern Oregon University
- DANA K. DUDLEY, University of Wyoming
- STEVE KAUFMAN, University of Idaho
- KIRK MAAG, Oregon State University
- LINDSEY PARDEE, Texas A&M University

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H. R. Tolley	1931–32	B. Delworth Gardner	1971–72
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Cruz Venstron	1938–39	Norman K. Whittlesey	1977–78
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Phil S. Eckert	1946–47	F. Larry Leistritz	1985–86
D. Barton DeLoach	1947–48	Glenn A. Helmers	1986–87
H. R. Wellman	1948–49	Oscar R. Burt	1987–88
E. J. Bell	1949–50	Kenneth Casavant	1988–89
R. T. Burdick	1950–51	C. Richard Shumway	1989–90
Sidney M. Hoos	1951–52	Marc A. Johnson	1990–91
M. M. Kelso	1952–53	A. Gene Nelson	1991–92
Howard G. Mason	1953–54	Rulon D. Pope	1992–93
Raymond G. Bressler, Jr.	1954–55	Douglas L. Young	1993–94
Wendell Calhoun	1955–56	Dale J. Menkhaus	1994–95
G. B. Wood	1956–57	Harry W. Ayer	1995–96
H. R. Stucky	1957–58	Vicki A. McCracken	1996–97
Roy E. Huffman	1958–59	Bruce A. Weber	1997–98
E. J. Working	1959–60	Cole R. Gustafson	1998–99
R. E. Seltzer	1960–61	Paul N. Wilson	1999–00
William E. Folz	1961–62	Andrew P. Barkley	2000–01
Emery N. Castle	1962–63	Steven C. Blank	2001–02
Andrew Vanvig	1963–64	Ray G. Huffaker	2002–03
Roger W. Gray	1964–65	E. Bruce Godfrey	2003–04
C. O. McCorkle, Jr.	1965–66	Ted C. Schroeder	2004–05
Jimmye S. Hillman	1966–67		

Past Editors

Western Journal of Agricultural Economics, 1977–91
Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 1992–2003

Peter J. Barry	1977–79	Jeffrey T. LaFrance	1992–94
Harry P. Mapp, Jr.	1980–82	Myles J. Watts	1992–94
James N. Trapp (associate) . .	1981–82	Daniel J. Bernardo	1995
Darrell L. Hueth	1983–84	B. Wade Brorsen	1995–97
Richard S. Johnston	1983–85	J. Scott Shonkwiler	1998–00
David A. Bessler	1986–88	Gary D. Thompson	2001–03
C. Richard Shumway	1986–88	Satheesh Aradhyula (co-ed.) . .	2001–03
Douglas L. Young	1989–91	George B. Frisvold (co-ed.) . . .	2001–03
David W. Price	1989–91	Russell E. Tronstad (co-ed.) . .	2001–03

**Minutes of 2005
WAEA Executive Committee Meeting
San Francisco Marriott Hotel, San Francisco, California
July 7, 2005**

Call to Order and Announcements:

The meeting was called to order by President Ted Schroeder at 2:30 p.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, and the agenda was approved. There was a discussion about the merits (mostly positive) of jointly held meetings. Special recognition was given to Joyce Rosenthal, Western Economics Association International (WEAI) Coordinator.

Reports:

The following reports were presented:

- **Membership Report.** Numbers are consistent with historical levels.
- **Finance Committee Report.** The Finance Committee is to investigate and make a recommendation concerning consolidation of the Association's accounts.
- ***Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (JARE)*.** The *JARE* editors' report was presented by DeeVon Bailey [refer to pp. 628–629 of this *Journal* issue for full report].
- ***Western Economic Forum*.** The *WEF* moved to New Mexico State University in January 2005. The Spring 2005 edition included five articles from five states with fourteen authors. Past issues are available through the WAEA website.
- **Teller's Report.** Voting numbers were down significantly from previous years. A potential explanation was the attempt to send out only an electronic version of the newsletter (it appears that spam filters are filtering out the newsletter). Future newsletters/ballots will be sent via both regular mail and electronically. California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo will be added to the WAEA Council. New WAEA officers and directors are as follows:

President Elect: Gary W. Brester, Montana State University
Vice President: Penny L. Diebel, Oregon State University at LaGrande
Directors (2005–2007): F. Bailey Norwood, Oklahoma State University
Jeffery M. Peterson, Kansas State University

- **Awards Committee Report.** Announcements need to go out as soon as possible.
- **Grad Student Travel Awards.** There were 15 submissions, with 12 funded (all presenting papers). The average award was \$300. Suggestions: Inform students when they are notified about acceptance of their papers that travel money is available, and wait until students are notified about their papers before announcing the deadline for travel applications.
- **Outstanding Scholars.** There were four nominations, with three individuals selected. Suggestions: There should be a broader coverage of backgrounds—not just based on teaching, research, or extension. There is difficulty in verifying 20 years of Association involvement; the Bylaws are to be evaluated and a proposal in writing will be presented at the 2006 meetings.
- **Selected Papers.** There were 149 submissions. Two withdrew early, three withdrew late. Acceptance rate = 75%.

Business Items:

- (1) AAEA Business Services. AAEA proposed (and has subsequently followed through with) increasing the per member processing fee from \$1 to \$2. The fixed setup fee and accounting fee are to remain the same.
- (2) C-FARE Proposal. C-FARE would like WAEA to join. The cost is \$5,000 per year for three years.
 - C-FARE organizes mini-symposia for policy makers in Washington, DC (for example, environment and trade, U.S. agricultural policy and development, Farm Bill).
 - Funding Opportunities Symposium is directed toward department heads, with a reception on Capitol Hill.
 - Briefings are held for summer interns in Washington, DC.

WAEA involvement would expand the range of C-FARE and give WAEA access to the federal funding process. No decision to participate was made at this time.

(3) *JARE* Proposal:

- It was moved and seconded to move to the Fasttrack proposal concerning access to archived *JARE* editions on the web. There will be a one-year lag between publication and posting.
- It was moved and seconded to allow password-protected access to members.
- New editors are needed for the next three-year editorial term (2007–2009).

No further items of business were raised. Ted Schroeder adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Williams
Secretary-Treasurer