

The Competitive Position of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*
May 2004

Since its introduction in 1919 as the *Journal of Farm Economics*, the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (AJAE) has a longstanding reputation as the world's leading journal in agricultural and resource economics, as a premier journal in development, environmental and international economics. Given its breadth and depth of coverage, the AJAE ranks on a par with many of the most respected general economics journals worldwide.

This reputation is reflected in many different imperfect measures. For example, the AJAE has more than seven times as many gross citations as any other agricultural and resource economics journal and more than half again as many as any other environmental and resource economics journal, and more citations than any other journal in development or international economics (Table 1).¹ Moreover, it receives almost five times as many adjusted citations by agricultural and resource economics journals, as any other journal, dominating its subfield in a way unmatched by any other economics journal in any field.² The AJAE also ranks highly using other citations-based measures, such as cited half-life in the field³, which indicates the durability of published findings, and impact factor⁴, which reflects recent citations per recent article.

Indeed, the AJAE is one of the elite journals in economics more broadly. Whether by total or adjusted citations, the AJAE places comfortably within the top twenty or so journals in economics.⁵ Its citations statistics are demonstrably comparable to those of respected general economics journals such as the *Canadian Journal of Economics*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Economica*, *European Economic Review*, *International Economic Review*, *Oxford Economic Papers* and the *Southern Economic Journal*.

The AJAE is also one of the best values in economics. Because it is owned by a non-profit professional association, the American Agricultural Economics Association, the AJAE is able to keep subscription costs low. A recent study finds that only the three American Economic Association journals⁶ and the *Journal of Finance* have lower cost per page than the AJAE and that the AJAE has the ninth lower price per recent citation of any journal in economics.⁷

For 85 years, the AJAE has been at the forefront of scholarly advances in agricultural, development, environmental and resource economics. Thanks to the dedication and professionalism of our contributing authors, anonymous reviewers and associate editors, we expect the journal to maintain or advance its standing further in the years to come.

¹ All citations-based statistics are drawn from Thomson ISI, *Journal Citation Reports* (2002).

² C.B. Barrett, A. Olia and D. Bailey, "Subdiscipline-specific journal rankings: whither applied economics?" *Applied Economics* 32 (February 2000), 239-252. The adjusted citations method is explained in detail there.

³ Number of publication years from 2002 which account for 50% of 2002 citations received.

⁴ Number of citations to articles published in 2001-2 divided by the number of articles published 2001-2.

⁵ Barrett et al. (2000), Bergstrom, T.C., "Free Labor for Costly Journals?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 15 (Fall 2001), 183-198.

⁶ *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.

⁷ Bergstrom (2001).

**Table 1: The AJAE In Comparison To Peer Journals
(2002 Data)**

Journal	Citations	Impact Factor	Cited Half-Life
American J. Agricultural Economics	1919	0.607	9.3
Agricultural and Resource Economics Journals			
Agricultural Economics	273	0.552	4.6
Journal of Agricultural Economics	258	0.577	8.5
European Rev. Agricultural Economics	159	0.404	5.9
Food Policy	157	0.458	5.3
Canadian J. of Agricultural Economics	146	0.106	8.2
J. Agricultural & Resource Economics	138	0.342	6.4
Australian J. Agricultural & Res. Econ.	52	0.346	NA
Environmental and Resource Economics Journals			
J. Environmental Economics & Mgmt.	1254	1.114	8.3
Ecological Economics	966	1.093	4.2
Land Economics	838	0.907	9.2
Environment & Resource Economics	345	0.390	5.1
Society & Natural Resources	340	0.553	5.7
Energy Economics	244	0.567	6.7
Development and International Economics Journals			
World Development	1918	1.056	6.7
J. of International Economics	1369	1.607	7.9
J. of Development Economics	1029	0.632	8.4
Economic Dev't & Cultural Change	617	0.763	>10.0
World Bank Economic Review	449	1.310	6.7
IMF Staff Papers	441	0.393	9.8
World Economy	310	0.744	4.2
Journal of Economic Growth	304	2.000	5.7
Journal of World Trade	235	0.759	4.6
Journal of African Economics	113	0.275	5.5
General Economics Journals			
Review of Economics & Statistics	2961	1.085	>10.0
European Economic Review	1795	0.726	7.2
International Economic Review	1402	0.563	>10.0
Economics Letters	1286	0.240	8.6
J. Business & Economic Statistics	1211	0.800	9.3
Economica	828	0.464	>10.0
Economic Inquiry	792	0.392	>10.0
Applied Economics	790	0.213	7.7
Oxford Economic Papers	667	0.653	8.8
Southern Economic Journal	629	0.391	>10.0
Canadian J of Economics	615	0.590	8.3
Oxford Bulletin Economics & Statistics	609	0.500	>10.0
Economic Record	201	0.200	>10.0

Based on all peer journals covered by Thomson ISI *Journal Citations Reports*.