

# American Journal of Agricultural Economics

Volumes 91-92, years 2009-2010

Editors: Jeffrey Dorfman, Erik Lichtenberg, Paul Preckel, and Walter Thurman

## REFEREE GUIDELINES

The American Journal of Agricultural Economics relies on the critical judgment of expert referees to select and improve the manuscripts that it publishes. Your report on the attached paper is an essential part of this refereeing process, which is very important to maintain and enhance the quality of the Journal. The Journal supports a double blind review process; we are not disclosing to you the identity of the author(s), and we will protect your anonymity.

Please take the time now to decide if you will be able to submit a report on the attached paper. If you are able to review the manuscript, it would be most helpful if you would prepare a report that could be shared with the authors and a separate cover letter addressed to the editor. In order to provide a timely response to authors, please send me these items within **6 weeks**. If you are unable to referee this paper, please let me know as soon as possible via the web link below so that it may be reassigned without unnecessary delay.

In the **cover letter to me**, please indicate your advice regarding the suitability of the attached manuscript for publication. In reaching your recommendation, please consider the manuscript's originality, completeness, depth, clarity and contribution to knowledge. Your editorial advice typically should take the form of one of the following options: (a) Accept; (b) Accept, possibly with minor revisions; (c) Revise and Resubmit; (d) Reject. Any suggestions for revision, even with papers of publishable quality, are encouraged.

The **comments for the author(s)** should be detailed enough to allow the author(s) to understand your critique, concerns and suggestions. Try to be as constructive as possible in these comments, even when your overall evaluation of the manuscript is a negative one. Make suggestions, as appropriate, about length, organization, tables, figures and references. Unnecessarily long manuscript submissions are a chronic problem. Any suggestion you can provide as a referee towards consolidating a paper is highly appreciated. Do not include your recommendations regarding publishability in the comments for the author.

You can upload your report and cover letter via our secure online form at: [http://gemini.econ.umd.edu/ajae\\_ref](http://gemini.econ.umd.edu/ajae_ref) This is a secure form. Your report will be transmitted anonymously and is more secure than sending a copy via surface mail or by email. Please be sure to supply the MS number to ensure that your report is properly filed.

**To confirm** your willingness to advise me on the attached manuscript click on the URL provided in the email request you received from me. This form will also allow you to choose an alternative due date, or suggest alternative referees if you are unable to review this manuscript.

Thank you very much for your valuable service to the American Journal of Agricultural Economics.