CORE MONOGRAPHS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS: SURVEY REPORT

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In 1990 the Agricultural Economics Reference Organization (AERO) used a survey of Agricultural Economics faculty to try to identify core monographs in the subject field. Departments at ten universities were chosen. Selection was made on the basis of the top fifteen departments of agricultural economics cited in two issues of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics: May, 1984 (V. 66:2, p. 191) and August 1986 (V. 68:3, p. 598). From this list of 15, the ten with AERO members were chosen for the survey. Seventy-seven responses came from nine universities: University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Davis; Clemson University; Iowa State University; Michigan State University; University of Minnesota; Purdue University; Texas A & M University and University of Wisconsin. These 77 individuals cited 160 different titles.

No scientific methodology was used in preparing the survey document. It stated that the aim was to compile a list of "core monographs," but then, further along asked the respondent to note those titles that are "classic, core, basic, must-have." Also, the space for titles was preceded by the heading "My List of Classics:" The intention was to discover those titles that came to the fore without any "prompting list" or similar device.

Although the aim was to identify "core" monographs there was a tendency both in the survey form and in the comments from respondents to use the terms "classic" and "core" interchangeably. The two are not necessarily synonymous. For instance, one professor remarked that the titles he had listed were not ones he would consider essential for a small library today. They were seminal treatises (classic) upon which others have built and published monographs that should rather be first choices (core) in a limited collection. Another person noted "I could not get along without these books" (core but not always classic).

To further explore how others decide what constitutes a classic, the introductory preface of Modern Economic Classics--Evaluation Through Time edited by Bernard S. Katz and Ronald E. Robbins (Farland, 1988) was examined. The explanation there is "...each of our choices have (sic) significantly contributed in shaping our current knowledge and perspectives." (Preface, p.xiii). Again, this seems to describe titles that might not be part of a core collection.

At the time of the AERO survey the American Journal of Agricultural Economics had begun including reviews of classic books from a list created in 1987 by Dr. Dale A. Adams, book review editor of the journal. The methodology for compiling that list consisted of asking for nominations from the elected Fellows of the American Agricultural Economics Association. Titles mentioned with the greatest frequency were re-submitted to the Fellows for another vote. The final list was composed of thirteen titles with a comment that these were "closely followed by 40 additional titles." Five of these thirteen titles that had already been reviewed by AJAE when the AERO survey was distributed were cited in the document as not to be repeated by the respondents in their lists.

Of the remaining eight titles on the AJAE list, all but one was mentioned at least once in the AERO responses. Two AJAE classics--Agricultural Development: An International Perspective by Yujiro Hayami and Vernon W Ruttan and Economics of Agricultural Production and Resource Use by Earl O. Heady--were cited more frequently in the AERO survey than any other titles.

The AJAE classics listed on the survey document and therefore eliminated from inclusion in the responses were the following:

Schultz, T. W.  Agriculture in an Unstable Economy.
Schultz, T. W.  Transforming Traditional Agriculture.

The list that follows is composed of the remaining AJAE classics in order of the frequency with which they were cited in the AERO survey. The first number following the title is the times mentioned followed by percentage of total responses in parentheses.

Hayami, Yujiro and V. W. Ruttan.  Agricultural Development: An International Perspective. 18 (23%)  
Heady, Earl O.  Economics of Agricultural Production and Resource Use. 17 (22%)  
Ciriacy-Wantrup, S. V.  Resource Conservation: Economics and Policies. 10 (13%)  
Johnson, D. Gale.  Forward Prices for Agriculture. 5 (6%)  
Nicholls, W. H.  A Theoretical Analysis of Imperfect Competition with Special Applications in the Agricultural Industries. 4 (5%)  
Salter, Leonard A., Jr.  A Critical Review of Research in Land Economics. 2 (2%)  
Ezekiel, Mordecai and Karl A. Fox.  Methods of Correlation and Regression Analysis, Linear and Curvilinear. 1 (1%)  
Galbraith, John K.  The New Industrial State. 0

Comparison of the dates of publication between the AJAE list and the AERO survey are interesting. The period with the greatest number of titles for AERO was 1970-1979 (31%). Not one of the 13 AJAE titles was published originally in the 70's. Both groups reacted similarly to the 60's with AERO at 20% and AJAE at 23%. Only 13% of AERO's titles came from the 50's whereas 38% of the AJAE titles were from that period. A significant variable that may account for the preponderance of 1950 and 1960 publication dates in the
AJAE list is that the majority of Fellows are probably at least 50 years old. AERO surveys were distributed to all current agricultural economics faculty members at the ten institutions providing a sample with a broader age range. Of course, the AERO percentages are based on the substantially larger total of 160 titles rather than 13. None of the AJAE classics were originally published in the 1980's but 24% from the AERO survey had that imprint.

Of the 160 titles cited in the Aero survey, only 17 received 4 or more mentions. Another 18 appeared two or three times. The remainder (125) were mentioned only once. This wide variety undoubtedly reflects the broad range of subject interests of members of departments of agricultural economics.

**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS “CLASSICS” SURVEY**
(Titles Cited More than Once in Order of Frequency of Citation)


Heady, Earl O. *Economics of Agricultural Production and Resource Use*. Prentice-Hall, 1952. (17)


Nicholls, William H.  *A Theoretical Analysis of Imperfect Competition with Special Application to the Agricultural Industries*.  Iowa State University Press, 1941.  (4)


*Barnes, John W.*  *Economics of Agricultural Development*.  Cornell University Press, 1966.  (3)


Bunce, Arthur Cyril. *The Economics of Soil Conservation*. Iowa State University Press, 1942. (2)


Schultz, Theordore W. *The Economic Organization of Agriculture*. McGraw-Hill, 1933. (2)


**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS "CLASSICS' SURVEY\**
*(In Alphabetical Order by Author)*


Bunce, Arthur Cyril. The Economics of Soil Conservation. Iowa State College Press, 1942. (2)


Heady, Earl O.  *Economics of Agricultural Production and Resource Use*. Prentice-Hall, 1952. (17)


Nicholls, William H. A Theoretical Analysis of Imperfect Competition with Special Application to the Agricultural Industries. Iowa State College Press, 1941. (4)


Schultz, Theordore W. *The Economic Organization of Agriculture*. McGraw-Hill, 1933. (2)


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West, Patrick C.  *Natural Resource Bureaucracy and Rural Poverty: A Study in the Political Sociology of Natural Resources*.  School of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Sociology Research Lab, University of Michigan, 1982.


Executive summary.

The economy is in recession after markets reacted to existing vulnerabilities. The economy is in recession. A strategy of reducing the large fiscal deficit only gradually, the reliance on its foreign


Handbook of Agricultural Economics: Agricultural Development: Farm Policies and Regional Development Principles of Agricultural Economics. 334 Pages 2011 3.41 MB 12,246 Downloads. Principles of agricultural economics: markets and prices in less developed countries. David Colman Agricultural economics is aimed at achieving objectives related to economic growth, environmental impact, and national security. In recent years, due to exponential population growth, increased food consumption, and greater impact on the environment, agricultural economics is facing major challenges. The Special Issue Sustainability and Agriculture Cite. Fertiliser use is an ambiguous issue in agricultural economics with different arguments commonly given for and against it. The aim of this paper is to find the most important factors affecting fertiliser use in Lithuania, serving as a basis for our fertiliser tax modelling of Lithuanian family farms. Raw data from Lithuanian farms was collected from Agricultural economics is an applied field of economics concerned with the application of economic theory in optimizing the production and distribution of food and fiber. Agricultural economics began as a branch of economics that specifically dealt with land usage, it focused on maximizing the crop yield while maintaining a good soil ecosystem. Throughout the 20th century the discipline expanded and the current scope of the discipline is much broader. Agricultural economics today includes a variety of