Providing rigorous, high quality publication outlets for our members to communicate their work to the broader scientific community is among the most important activities of the association.

There have been some dramatic changes in the publishing landscape for authors of journal articles in agricultural and applied economics. However, my sense is that these changes are not widely known or acknowledged. As a result, the AAEA and some of our “sister” associations have been caught a bit flat footed. Despite the fact that the publishing landscape has dramatically changed in the past decade, some core aspects of the AAEA’s journal offerings have remained static. If we want to continue to serve our members and remain a source for key research in agricultural and applied economics, some change is likely warranted.

**AJAE publishing trends 1980–present** (source: *AJAE* editorial reports)
First it is useful to start with some facts:

1) As the above graph shows, the number of new submissions to the *AJAE* has increased dramatically in recent years. Since 2010, there has been a 50% increase in new submissions from around 350 per year to now over 500.

2) The acceptance rate at the *AJAE* has precipitously fallen over the past few decades. In the 1980s, the acceptance rate was higher than 40%. In the 1990s, it was around 25%. Now it is under 10%.

3) The number of pages published by the *AJAE* has remained relatively flat for the past 30 years. The AAEA started a new journal (the *AEPP*) in 2010, but at the same time discontinued the *Review of Agricultural Economics (RAE)*. In theory, the *AEPP* is more general (given the “applied economics” focus) than was *RAE*, but in practice has often served to narrow publishing opportunities as it is focused only on “policy” and because it uses about a quarter of its pages for invited submissions.

4) These trends are not unique to the *AJAE*. Across the top five general economics journals, there has been a doubling of submissions and a halving of acceptance rates from the early 1990s to 2012 (see Card and DellaVigna in the *Journal of Economic Literature*, 2013). At the same time, average review times and average paper lengths have dramatically increased (see also Ellison in the *Journal of Political Economy*, 2002).

5) While the impact factor of the *AJAE* has increased over the past decade, it has not increased as fast as several of the other journals listed in ISI’s ranking of journals in the “Agricultural Economics & Policy” category.

6) Recent years have borne witness to an increase in the number of journals that compete with the *AJAE* and *AEPP*. Examples include the suite of four *American Economic Journals*, two new journals from the Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (the *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists* and *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*), the *Annual Review of Resource Economics* which competes with *AEPP* for review and synthesis papers, *China Agricultural Economic Review*, new journals in health economics including *American Journal of Health Economics* and *Forum for Health Economics & Policy*, new online-only journals including *Agricultural and Food Economics* (Springer), *Journal of Agricultural and Food Industrial Organization* (BePress then De Gruyter), *AgBioforum*, and more.

The result of these changes is that a smaller proportion of the academic papers being written today on food, agricultural, environment, development, and health economics are being published under the umbrella of the AAEA.

There are a variety of factors driving the increased number of submissions to the *AJAE*. There are more submissions from developing countries. Some of these papers are lower quality and are routinely desk rejected. But, it should be noted that the influx of papers also represents a potential opportunity to broaden the profession’s reach. Technology has changed. Changing technology has lowered the cost of creating new journal content while also lowering the cost of researchers performing statistical analysis and writing papers. Another possible explanation for rising submissions may be increasing interest in food and agricultural–related issues among the broader public.
The Exchange

My sense is that there has been a sizable outward shift in demand for journal article space. The result has been an increasing “price” for authors in the form of longer reviews processes and lower acceptance rates. While technology has also lowered the cost of supplying journal space, the shifts in supply seem not to have kept up with the demand shifts – particularly at “high quality” outlets like the AJAE. Even if they have, the AAEA has kept its supply of journal articles essentially fixed, meaning the AAEA journals publish an increasingly smaller share of the total number of journal articles being produced.

Pragmatically, it is also worth noting that the AJAE and AEPP have been an important source of revenue for the association in recent years. The revenue from these journals represents, on average, about 30% of AAEA income over the past three years.

What can or should be done? One option that I've discussed in the past is to raise the profile of our existing content through our new media relations strategy. In addition, the AJAE editors are admirably undertaking efforts to raise the impact of the journal. Be on the lookout in the coming year for some new content in the AJAE. In particular, the editors aim to select a “lead article” in every issue and invite short discussions from prominent scholars on the lead paper (the article’s authors will also be given an opportunity to briefly respond). Not only does this strategy have the potential to increase the rigor of the journal but it can highlight important work being done in the profession and expose it to a broader audience. In addition to these efforts (and as if they weren’t busy enough with the increasing volume of submissions), the AJAE editors also aim to begin including an occasional “Note from the Editors” in the AAEA Exchange to increase transparency, discuss journal developments, and highlight journal content.

More broadly, the aforementioned changes have prompted the board to consider whether and how the AAEA might increase the supply of journal articles published under the Association’s banner either through existing outlets or perhaps through a new one entirely. We are in the beginning stages of thinking about how to respond to these structural changes in the publishing landscape. I'd appreciate hearing your thoughts and suggestions.

Jayson Lusk
AAEA President

AAEA News

2017 AAEA Annual Meeting:
Award Nominations

Award Nominations are open for submission now through February 9, 2017. Award winners will be recognized at the 2017 AAEA Annual Meeting in Chicago during the AAEA Awards and Fellows Ceremony. Learn more about each annual award and how to submit a nomination at http://www.aaea.org/about-aaea/awards-and-honors/aaea-annual--awards.
2017 AAEA Annual Meeting in Chicago:
Hotel Information

AAEA invites you to take part in our 2017 AAEA Annual Meeting in Chicago, July 30–August 1, 2017. Our meeting will be taking place at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, located in the heart of the Windy City. Surrounded by the best theatres, shopping, dining and entertainment around, this is an ideal location. This is an event you are not going to want to miss. Make sure to register for the event early as rates will be increasing.

AAEA Room Rates:
- Single: $195.00
- Double: $195.00

Guest Rooms Include:
- Guest Room Internet at $1.00 per day
- Access to 9,000 sq. ft. fitness center
- Trendy Chicago hotel rooms feature clean lines with chic, comfortable bedding and furnishings
- Spacious yet stylish hotel rooms & suites feature HD flat screen TVs and ergonomic furnishings
- Experience spectacular downtown city and lake views from your Magnificent Mile accommodation

AAEA encourages attendees to make hotel room reservations early to avoid sold out rooms. Book your room at the Chicago Marriott Magnificent Mile [Online Reservations](#).

Magnificent Mile Hotel blending style and substance
Not your average Michigan Avenue hotel. Magnificent shopping. Renowned dining. Chicago’s top attractions – Navy Pier, American Girl Place, Millennium Park, theaters and museums – all just a walk away from one of the leading hotels in downtown Chicago. Relax in renovated luxury Chicago hotel rooms when you’re done exploring. Explore our hotel’s fitness center unlike any other in Chicago boasting over 9,000 sq. ft. of redesigned space ideal for every active lifestyle. Grab a bite at Rush Street Pantry featuring chef-crafted food focusing on fresh, gourmet options. Or, have it delivered directly to your room. At Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel, you will be traveling brilliantly. View more [Chicago Attractions](#).
Call for Applications:  
*Editorship of the Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy*

The AAEA Executive Board invites applications for one editor for *Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy (AEPP)* to serve from 2018 through 2020. This call for applications is for an editor to manage Submitted Articles which contain original research results addressing real-world problems with sound research approaches and/or have strong policy relevance within the subject matter of the journal. The degree to which candidate’s expertise complements that of the continuing editors, will be considered in the selection process. The AAEA is particularly interested in candidates who will bring ideas and innovations for helping *AEPP* to further its mission.

Submitted articles will meet the normal standards for scholarly publication, but should also be accessible to the broader audience of agricultural and applied economists working outside academia. Submitted articles should emphasize one or more of the following: a) practical implications for public policy; b) clarification of research implications so as to maximize accessibility and cross-fertilization across specific areas of research; c) empirical comparison of competing theories, explanations, and approaches that can refine future research; and d) development of fruitful directions for future research. Additional information about the *AEPP*, its policies and mission is available at [www.aaea.org/publications/aepp](http://www.aaea.org/publications/aepp).

The editor will work with an editorial team comprised of another Submitted Articles Editor, and a Managing Editor to manage the manuscript review process. The Submitted Articles Editors are responsible for day-to-day issues relating to submitted articles, assisting with development of the Special Issues, and revising editorial policy. The *AEPP* editorial process employs electronic submission of manuscripts and interchange between editors and reviewers. An electronic system that tracks manuscripts through submission, review, and editorial decision is used by the editors for managing work flow. Authors can also query this system for e-mail reports on the status in the editorial process of a submitted manuscript. The editors also oversee the work of Oxford University Press in preparing copy for printing and reviewing proofs.

The new editor should be prepared to begin on January 1, 2018. There may be some training and coordination work starting around November 1. Applications should include a statement of editorial philosophy and ideas for furthering the journal’s goals, an indication of the candidate’s principal areas of expertise to support the *AEPP*’s mission, a curriculum vitae, and a statement of administrative and financial support to be provided by the host institution. AAEA will provide financial assistance to defray some portion of the editor’s time and most expenses. Applications should be sent electronically via PDF to Kristen McGuire, Executive Director, at [kmcguire@aaea.org](mailto:kmcguire@aaea.org) by February 27, 2017. Decisions will be made by mid-March. Third-party nominations of potentially interested candidates who can then be solicited for their materials are also welcome.
7th THEMATIC WORKSHOP OF FAERE  
**French Association of Environmental and Resources Economists**  
*May 11–12th, 2017, BREST*

The 7th thematic workshop of FAERE (http://faere.fr/fr/) will be hosted by the AMURE research unit (http://www.umr-amure.fr/) at the Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer (https://www.iuem.univbrest.fr/en), Plouzané, France, on May 11–12, 2017.

The workshop will focus on the practical aspects of using market-based instruments in the implementation of environmental and resource management policies. Presentations are welcome that draw from a range of policy domains, including but not limited to: greenhouse gas emissions, the protection of air quality, management of groundwater extraction, protection of water quality, regulation of access to fisheries resources, regulation of marine aquaculture, biodiversity conservation, as well as the management of recreational activities. The aim of the workshop is to confront experience from different fields, favoring lessons learned from past and current developments in the implementation of market-based management regimes. Research from multiple perspectives will be accepted, including micro- and macro-economic dimensions, political economy as well as legal, political and ecological dimensions.

The program will consist of oral presentations, which will undergo a selection procedure, and invited talks (keynote speakers to be announced later).

**Important dates**
- Submissions: no later than **January 31, 2017**
- Acceptance: **February 28, 2017**
- Registration Deadline: **April 15, 2017**

**Submissions**
Papers or extended abstract to be submitted to: severine.julien@univ-brest.fr

Unless otherwise stated, presentations will be in English.

**Scientific Steering Committee**
Jean Boncoeur (UBO, AMURE), Charles Figuières (AMU, GREQAM–AMSE), Olivier Guyader (Ifremer, AMURE), Julien Hay (UBO, AMURE), Linwood Pendleton (UBO AMURE & Duke University), Betty Queffelec (UBO, AMURE), François Salanié (INRA, TSE–R), Olivier Thébaud (Ifremer, AMURE), Séverine Julien (severine.julien@univ-brest.fr)

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6th Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics (AIEAA)  
*June 15–16, 2017; Piacenza, Italy*

**Economics and Politics of Migration: Implications for Agriculture and Food**

**Call for Papers**

Two key factors have recently contributed to place migration issues at the center of the economic and political agenda. Firstly, the weaker economic prospects and the cuts in public spending due to the recession have increasingly contributed to make immigrants be perceived as *competitors* in the labor market and in the welfare state, rather than as a *resource*. Secondly, the refugee crisis, with the number of migrants seeking asylum in Europe reaching a level not experienced since the mid-1990s, creates alarming tensions and un-coordinated reactions by the EU countries, revealing the fragility of EU institutions.

Specific issues to be addressed include:
- The effect of migrations on the agricultural labor market;
- The contribution of foreign workers to agriculture productivity growth;
- The effect of migration in rural areas;
• Farms’ adjustment to local labor supply shocks;
• Migration and poverty condition in the countries of origin;
• Migration and the changing patterns of food consumption;
• Migration, climate change and natural disasters;

• The trade effect of international migrations;
• The political economy of migration policy;
• The political outcomes of international migrations;
• Migration and crime in rural areas;
• Migration, education and health

AIEAA welcomes the submission of contributions on the topics above. However, the submission of contributions on other agricultural and applied economics topics is encouraged as well.

Submissions
Contribution proposals should be submitted in English through the conference website at www.aieaa.org. There are three types of contributions: contributed papers, organized sessions, and posters.

Contributed papers
Participants intending to present a paper are requested to submit an extended abstract (minimum 1000 words; maximum 1500 words) before February 15, 2017. Abstracts should include:

a) Introduction to the topic
b) Description of data and research methodology
c) Discussion of theoretical and/or empirical results
d) Emphasis on the paper’s potential for generating discussion during the conference
e) A list of few essential references.

Upon Authors’ authorization, the abstracts of accepted papers will be made available on the conference website, and the full text will be posted on AgEcon Search.

Organized sessions
Participants are invited to propose organized sessions primarily, but not exclusively, on topics relevant to the conference themes. Proposals (max 2,000 words) should include the name of the organizer, the session title, the name of contributors, and the title and abstract of each paper. It is suggested that proposed sessions include no more than four papers. Proposals should be submitted by February 15, 2017. Organized session proposals will be subject to a peer review process. Authors will be notified of acceptance by March 17, 2017.

Posters
AIEAA welcomes the submission of posters. Accepted posters will be presented and discussed in dedicated sessions. Participants should submit an abstract (max 500 words) by February 15, 2017. Poster proposals will be subject to a blind peer review process. Authors will be notified of poster acceptance by March 17, 2017.
Information and contacts
For more updated information and contacts, please refer to the conference website at www.aieaa.org or email aieaa2017@unicatt.it

Call for Papers and Symposia
NAREA 2017 Annual Meeting

Washington, D.C.
June 11 – 13, 2017
Submission Deadline: February 10, 2017

Annual Meeting: Selected paper sessions, organized sessions, and a poster session allow scholars to share their current research. We are also experimenting this year with discussion symposia. We welcome submissions in all areas of environmental, natural resource, and agricultural economics.


Selected Paper Proposals: Selected paper submissions should include: the title of paper; names and institutional affiliations of the author and co–authors; name and e–mail address of paper presenter; an abstract of no more than 500 words; and 2–4 keywords. The Selected Papers Committee will review abstracts in terms of significance to the field, strength of methodology/design, clarity of writing, and fit within conference topics. Some abstracts may be invited to present as a poster in a poster session instead of in a paper session. If an author submits more than one abstract, he or she may be limited to one presentation. Selected paper proposals should be submitted through NAREA’s submission system at http://www.narea.org/2017/.

If you would like to submit an organized session, please have each author submit his or her abstract as above. The organizer must also (by the submission deadline) submit through the “organized session” form: a list of all titles that belong in the session, a title for the session, and a brief (a sentence or two) explanation of the topical relationship among the papers in the session and why the session topic would be of interest to meeting attendees. The organized session may be accepted in whole, in part (and the accepted papers assigned to other sessions), or rejected.

Discussion Symposium Proposals: New this year! A discussion symposium allows a more fluid and multilateral format for engagement with works in progress or “hot topics” in the field. A symposium may include prepared questions for two or more panelists, a debate, a roundtable, or another format. Regardless, half of the time (out of a session of 85 or 90 minutes) should be allocated for discussion with or questions from the audience. To propose a discussion symposium, submit through the “discussion symposium” form: names of the participants, the title of the symposium, and a paragraph describing what you would do in the symposium and why it would be of interest to meeting attendees.

Submission Deadline: February 10, 2017. Electronic acknowledgement will be sent to all submitters. We expect to notify the authors by March 31, 2017, for all types of submissions. If accepted, all
The Exchange

presenters must be NAREA members and registered for the Annual Meeting by May 1, 2017. Submission questions can be directed to the Program Chair, President-Elect Sarah Jacobson (Sarah.A.Jacobson@williams.edu). Local arrangements questions can be directed to local arrangements chair Allison Borchers (nareaconference2017@gmail.com).

2017 EAAE in Parma, Italy: Call for Contributions

Agri-food systems in Europe and elsewhere often face conflicting incentives and signals arising from markets and society, and need to make trade-offs. Sustainability advocacy groups are putting societal concerns like animal welfare, food safety, cultural heritage, food sovereignty, and carbon footprint on the agenda of policy makers and stakeholders in the food value chain. However, there are many challenges to overcome, especially when more sustainable food systems face conflicting goals, and households’ purchasing decisions are mainly price-driven.

Policy makers, therefore, face increasing challenges in balancing these concerns. The nature of challenges has changed over time with new technologies becoming available, with the ongoing innovation and transition to the bio-based economy, with an increasing share of the population living in urban areas, and with many markets becoming global. Some of these changes are subtle as borders between rural and urban areas are gradually disappearing, and cities are integrating agricultural activities within their boundaries.

The European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) scientific community is key to providing insights into the economic challenges and opportunities arising from the changing expectations and requirements from markets and society on agriculture. The XV EAAE Congress aims to foster discussion and interaction among scholars with representatives from business, society and policy agencies.

The EAAE board has appointed the Program Committee to organize the scientific program of the Congress. The Local Organizing Committee and the Program Committee are striving to arrange a very stimulating and innovative Congress program consisting of organized sessions, organized panels, invited plenary presentations, contributed papers, posters, as well as field trips.

In particular, policy makers, societal stakeholders, and agribusiness representatives shall contribute to the program through organized panels which have an open format and do not require a scientific paper. Organized panels could be thought as sort of a “round table” discussion, moderated by an “external” figure to the presenting/debating panelists, which may also feature one or two presentations by academics. A formal scientific paper is not required to encourage the participation by NGOs, producer/industry groups representatives, or any other stakeholder who may not be accustomed to submitting a formal paper. A four-person panel, in which academia, industry, NGO/stakeholder/societal groups and policy representatives are present and deliver their presentation/speech for 15 minutes each, may be the best format. The remaining 30 minutes could be employed for discussion – solicited by the moderator – or for answering questions from the audience. In order to facilitate stakeholder participation to the organized panels daily participation fees will be foreseen, in case a one day presence is anticipated. Hopefully, the XV EAAE Congress in Parma will provide an interactive platform for researchers and representatives from non-academic institutions.
Call for papers, organized sessions, and posters
Contributed papers and posters as well as organized sessions are welcomed from all fields of agricultural, food, environmental and rural economics, and related disciplines.

The deadlines for submission are:
- Contributed papers: January 31, 2017
- Organized sessions: March 15, 2017
- Organized panels: March 15, 2017
- Posters: April 1, 2017

Notification of acceptance:
- Contributed papers: April 14, 2017
- Organized sessions: April 21, 2017
- Organized panels: April 21, 2017
- Posters: April 21, 2017

Final versions of contributed papers and posters due: June 5, 2017.

Meanwhile, you can also Stay in Touch with the organization on the social media referenced throughout the website or via the Newsletter. Any help in spreading the word about the Call for Contribution and the Congress Social Media presence will be greatly appreciated!

Contribution Submission and Registration
Contribution submission and registration will be managed through ConfTool Pro, via the Congress website, or directly at https://www.conftool.com/eaae2017/.

Conference registration (at a later date) will be possible only by participants with a valid EAAE membership. Please note that this condition will be strictly enforced! To learn more about the benefits of and conditions for becoming an EAAE Member, please visit the Association page.

The early opening of a ConfTool Pro account, besides the Congress Social Media and Newsletter, will guarantee you are up to date with any further detail on deadlines and the Congress itself.

The flyer containing the Call for Contributions, Deadlines for Submission, and other pieces of information related to the XV EAAE Congress is available for you to download and share here: XV EAAE Congress Flyer.

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Job Opportunities
- **CGIAR Big Data Leader in Agriculture Coordination Platform**
  International Center for Tropical Agriculture
  Posted: 01/13/2017
- **Full-Time Lecturer in Communication and Information Technology**
  University of Vermont
  Posted: 01/11/2017
- **Assistant, Associate, and Full Professors in Food Sustainability**
  University of Missouri
  Posted: 01/11/2017
- **Assistant Professor – Agricultural Business Management**
  SUNY Cobleskill
  Posted: 01/09/2017

These current positions and more can be found on the AAEA Job Board. Sign up for listserv emails regarding new positions HERE.