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ABOUT AGECON SEARCH

AgEcon Search is a free, open access repository of full-text scholarly literature in agricultural and applied economics, including:

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ABOUT AGECON SEARCH

OVERVIEW

AgEcon Search: Research in Agricultural and Applied Economics collects, indexes, and electronically distributes full text copies of scholarly research in the broadly defined field of agricultural economics including sub disciplines such as agribusiness, food supply, natural resource economics, environmental economics, policy issues, agricultural trade, and economic development.

The majority of items in *AgEcon Search* are working papers, conference papers, and journal articles, although other types such as books chapters and government documents are included. *AgEcon Search* will serve as the permanent archive for this literature and encourages authors and organizations to use this electronic library as the storehouse for additional appropriate scholarly electronic works.

AgEcon Search is co-sponsored by the [Department of Applied Economics](#) and the [University Libraries](#) at University of Minnesota and the [Agricultural and Applied Economics Association](#).

The site has received encouragement and financial support from:

[Agricultural Economics Reference Organization](#)
[Agricultural and Applied Economics Association](#)
[European Association of Agricultural Economists](#)
[Farm Foundation](#)
[International Association of Agricultural Economists](#)
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AgEcon Search is part of the University of Minnesota's [Digital Conservancy](#), which provides stewardship, reliable long-term access, and broad dissemination of the digital scholarly and administrative works of the University of Minnesota faculty, departments, centers and offices.

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AgEcon Search does not hold the copyright to articles, working papers, conference papers, or other materials available in the database. Copyrights may be held by any of the following: individual authors, multiple authors, organizations, institutions, or publishers.

HISTORY

AgEcon Search began in 1995 as an experiment to see if it were possible to use the internet to archive, index and deliver on demand, full text working papers produced by university agricultural economics departments. The first papers were from agricultural economics departments at Minnesota and Wisconsin. These early papers predated the World Wide Web and were mounted on a GOPHER server in WordPerfect format. The project was (and still is) a cooperative project of the University of Minnesota Libraries, the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). The Farm Foundation and the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided financial support in the beginning of the project. Patricia Rodkewich and Louise Letnes managed AgEcon Search until Patricia's retirement in 2001, when Julie Kelly joined the AgEcon Search team. Erik Biever also served on the original AgEcon Search team, providing valued technical services and guidance. The members of the Agricultural Economics Reference Organization endorsed the efforts of AgEcon Search early on and have been instrumental in expanding the use of AgEcon Search in their respective institutions.

Since its inception AgEcon Search has operated as a distributed network, with each institution designating a member of their organization to submit papers on their behalf. With this model, costs for maintaining the system were kept low and institutions do not have to pay membership fees for participation. In the cases where an institution had no central person to act as the network member, a fee has been charged for AgEcon Search staff to submit papers. The first organization to choose this option was the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, which since 1997 has been contracting with AgEcon Search to post its annual conference papers.

ADVISORY GROUP

The *AgEcon Search* Advisory Board was initiated in 2006, to provide guidance to the project on priorities and future directions. Members include:

Rob King, chair
Professor and Department Head
University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics

Phil Pardey

AgECON SEARCH

About AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/about.jsp>

Professor
University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics

Krijn Poppe
Professor
Agricultural Economics Research Institute (LEI),
Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands

Linda Eells and Julie Kelly
Co-coordinators, AgEcon Search
Ex officio members

PERSONNEL

AgEcon Search is maintained at the University of Minnesota, with responsibility shared between the University Libraries and the Department of Applied Economics. Day to day operations are carried out by the co-coordinators:

Linda Eells
Librarian, Waite Library, Department of Applied Economics

Julie Kelly
Librarian, Magrath Library, University Libraries

ADDING YOUR PAPERS TO *AgECON SEARCH*

We welcome working papers, conference papers, journals, and other materials from academic departments, professional societies, government agencies, and non-government organizations. Please write the coordinators at aesearch@umn.edu. We will set up a section for your group, and give you instructions about how to begin submitting papers.

There are no costs for posting papers for groups who designate one person to fill out the submission forms and upload papers. There are small charges per paper for groups that have each author submit their own papers, or have staff at the University of Minnesota do the input. For more information contact the coordinators at aesearch@umn.edu.

If your group has papers that need to be digitized, the coordinators can help you with that process, or arrange to have it done for a fee.

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What is AgEcon Search?

AgEcon Search is a free-to-user Web site that contains the full text of working papers, conference papers and journal articles in applied economics, including the subtopics of agricultural, consumer, energy, environmental, and resource economics. Contributors include academic institutions, government agencies, professional associations, and non-government organizations.

AgEcon Search is maintained at the University of Minnesota by the Dept. of Applied Economics and University Libraries, and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association is also a main sponsor.

What types of materials are included in AgEcon Search?

The great majority of items in AgEcon Search are of working papers, conference papers and journal articles, although it does include book chapters, books, theses, dissertations, reports, government documents, Plan B Masters papers, and appendices to journal articles. Other types of documents will also be considered. All are in PDF format.

How can I contact AgEcon Search?

Our e-mail address is aesearch@umn.edu. Our mailing address is AgEcon Search, Waite Library, Dept. of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, 1994 Buford Ave, St. Paul MN 55108-6040, USA. The phone number of Waite Library is 612-625-1705.

Are there any costs involved in searching AgEcon Search? In submitting papers?

There are no costs involved in searching, viewing, or downloading material from AgEcon Search.

There are no costs for posting papers for groups who designate one person to fill out the submission forms and upload papers. There are small charges per paper for groups that have each author submit their own papers, or have staff at the University of Minnesota do the input. For more information contact the coordinators at aesearch@umn.edu.

If your group has papers that need to be digitized, the coordinators can help you with that process, or arrange to have it done for a fee.

How do I sign up to receive weekly e-mail updates listing selected new papers?

E-mail updates are sent out about once a week. Anyone can [sign up](#) for this free service.

Are papers in AgEcon Search peer-reviewed?

All papers in AgEcon Search are part of a series or conference or journal sponsored by one of the participating organizations, and each group has a review mechanism. The procedures vary, and details can be obtained by contacting the sponsoring organization.

Do you accept only English language working papers?

We happily take papers in languages other than English. We do ask that you include an English title and abstract.

If my working paper or conference paper later evolves into a journal article, will the publisher be OK with having an earlier version on AgEcon Search?

With rare exception, publishers of journals in the fields covered in

AgEcon Search are fine with having earlier reports of a project in the form of a working paper or conference paper available on the Web. To prevent confusion, you might consider changing the title of the paper before submitting it to a journal.

What should I do to get my department or organization started submitting papers to AgEcon Search?

Just write the coordinators at aesearch@umn.edu. We will set up a section for your group, and give you instructions about how to begin submitting papers. If you would like us to do any of the submitting for you, we can discuss the options and costs.

How do I suggest other working paper series, conferences, or journals that might be included in AgEcon Search?

Drop us a note at aesearch@umn.edu.

What formats do you accept?

Currently, all papers in AgEcon Search are in PDF format.

What institutions have their papers on AgEcon Search?

Check the [list of institutions](#).

What software does AgEcon Search use?

AgEcon Search runs on DSpace software, which is open source, and was jointly developed by MIT Libraries and Hewlett-Packard Labs

What journals are included in AgEcon Search -- and how can I link directly to them?

Check the [list of journals](#) , which includes URLs for directly linking to each journal.

What is AgNIC?

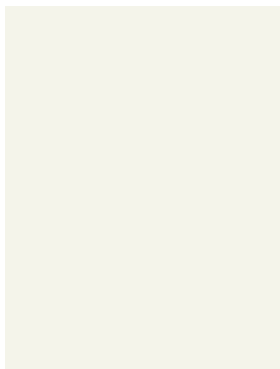
AgNIC, <http://www.agnic.org/>, is the Agriculture Network Information Center -- a voluntary alliance working to offer reliable access to quality agricultural information and sources. The University of Minnesota is responsible for the agricultural economics portion of AgNIC. To suggest resources to be included in AgNIC, send a note to aesearch@umn.edu.

How can I read the papers in AgEcon Search?

All papers in AgEcon Search are in Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF). You can download the free Adobe Reader software at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. If you have trouble opening a particular PDF file, try switching to a different Web browser (i.e. Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox).

I've downloaded Adobe Reader software, but I still can't open the PDF files. Help?

Check another PDF file from another source to see if you are able



to open it. If not, then you may need to check that your browser is set to recognize PDF files.

Advice from one Internet Explorer user: "...the Acrobat Helper Object got removed from the list of Internet Explorer Add-Ons, so it was not recognising .pdf files. As it happened, I was trying to download such a file from your site, but actually it affected all .pdf files. The solution was simply to re-install Acrobat Reader and that re-installed the missing Helper Object."

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All papers are in Acrobat (.pdf) format. [Get Adobe Reader](#)

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<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/>

Report to the AAEA Board
December 17, 2012

Executive Summary

AgEcon Search has nearly 60,000 papers (up from about 48,000 a year ago) from over 250 organizations in 30 countries, including 65 journals.

This year we have had the opportunity to add a number of older publications, including Choices, that were not available in digital format, and to further explore the idea of hosting research data. We have also focused on recruiting material from a broader range of countries, and were lucky to have some support for all of those activities.

A highlight of the year was receiving the AAEA President's Award.

Full Report

Outreach, Collaboration, Initiatives

In service to AAEA, we continue to write material for the Exchange, host the Selected Papers and Posters from the Annual Conference, work with the Outreach Committee, staff an exhibit at the Annual Conference, and promote the organization through our regular activities.

In August 2012, AgEcon Search had a booth at the International Association of Agricultural Economists meeting in Brazil. This gave us an opportunity to promote AgEcon Search, including AAEA's role, as well as make contacts with many potential contributors.

In 2011 we began a pilot project with AARES to host data from published research projects of their members. We are utilizing Dataverse, the free, hosted software designed for social sciences data. The site may be found at <http://dvn.iq.harvard.edu/dvn/dv/AARES>. In 2012 WAEA also expressed an interest in having a similar site, and we are in the process of setting that up.

AARES was also interested in having the papers from earlier conferences scanned from microfiche and added to AgEcon Search. We are in the process of that project and expect to finish in early 2013.

After approaching ERS about possibly digitizing their ceased publication, Journal of Agricultural Economics Research, we learned that they had quite a few series of research reports that were scanned but not yet uploaded. We have obtained copies and are in the process of adding them to AgEcon Search.

New Resources

New groups/journals submitting their papers to AgEcon Search in 2012 include:

- Acta Oeconomica et Informatica
- AFBM Journal
- AgLetter
- Amber Waves
- Crawford Fund

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Report to the AAEA Board

- Food Research Institute Studies
- Henry A. Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture
- Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)
- Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria (INIA)
- Journal of Agricultural Economics Research
- Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy
- Land and Water Forum
- Serbian Association of Agricultural Economists
- Sociedad Uruguaya de Economistas Agrícolas (SUEA)
- St. Olaf College
- Structure and Performance of Agriculture and Agri-products Industry (SPAA)
- University of California-Davis, Center for Cooperatives
- University of Stirling
- University of Vermont
- University of Weihenstephan-Triesdorf
- Wheat Studies

Growth and use

As of December 1, 2012:

Number of papers: 59,360
Papers added in the last 12 months: 10,816

Use of the AAEA papers continues to be very high.

	Number of Papers/Posters	Downloads in the last 24 months
1997 AAEA Meeting	9	1,023
1998 AAEA Meeting	246	29,723
1999 AAEA Meeting	239	36,620
2000 AAEA Meeting	171	22,005
2001 AAEA Meeting	342	57,129
2002 AAEA Meeting	327	42,948
2003 AAEA Meeting	370	56,688
2004 AAEA Meeting	516	86,428
2005 AAEA Meeting	468	71,902
2006 AAEA Meeting	452	83,857
2007 AAEA Meeting	346	63,077
2008 AAEA Meeting	290	72,511
2009 AAEA Meeting	290	58,434
2010 AAEA Meeting	612	96,890
2011 AAEA Meeting	574	115,742
2012 AAEA Meeting	575	41,763 (8 months)
Policy Issues	12	883
Choices (1986-2012)	1381	32,378

A major milestone this year was scanning and uploading the older issues of Choices that were previously only available in print, 1986-2002.

Support

AAEA generously provides funds to AgEcon Search, covering the exhibit at the annual meeting, some travel expenses and the personnel to add conference papers to the database. Other groups also contributed to the project during the last year:

- The CME Foundation gave us a grant for \$12,000 to digitize and upload two ceased journals from Stanford's Food Research Institute (Food Research Institute Studies and Wheat Studies). The project is nearly complete.
- The National Agricultural Library extended the small grant we received in 2011, allowing us to continue digitizing older working papers we obtained from UC-Berkeley.
- The University of Minnesota Libraries awarded us a \$3,000 grant to cover student expenses for uploading copies of papers that were already in digital format but were not held in a repository.
- AAEA covered the scanning and uploading costs for making the print-only volumes of Choices (1986-2002) available.
- IAAE provided travel funds and waived our expenses to have an exhibit at their meeting in Brazil.
- AARES provided travel funds and provided booth space for us at their 2012 meeting in Fremantle, and this allowed us to make progress on our data archiving project.
- University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics and the University Libraries provided travel funding as well as in kind support for librarian and computer professional salaries, student salaries, supplies, hardware, and software.
- A University of Minnesota Libraries team provides technical support for AgEcon Search as needed, and the group includes a Web application developer, a Web designer, and the manager of the Libraries' Digital Library Services group.

In 2012, the AgEcon Search Special Purpose Fund was chartered at the AAEA meeting so we will be able to begin utilizing proceeds from the fund next year.

On the Horizon

A move to a new software platform will be finalized in 2013.

In order to make the journal articles even more easily accessible, we hope to arrange for DOIs (digital object identifiers) for each article.

We will offer the possibility of hosting data in Dataverse to additional groups in the upcoming year.

In an effort to include more research produced in the developing world, we are negotiating with journals from Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Pakistan and hope to be adding them soon.