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# Review of Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development

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Review of *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* (online journal: <http://www.agdevjournal.com/home.html>).

The *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development (JAF-SCD)* focuses on the practice and applied research interests of agriculture and food systems development professionals and scholars. Practitioners and academics alike will appreciate and learn from the eye-opening content in the nascent field of agriculture and food systems. International in scope and peer-reviewed, *JAFSCD* emphasizes best practices and tools related to the planning, community economic development, and ecological protection of local and regional agriculture and food systems. Articles are highly accessible as they are published online upon approval. They are then gathered into quarterly issues for indexing purposes. Subscribers may download or print any of the fully formatted PDF articles or entire issues. Choosing to publish online only means saving resources as well as the omission of printing and shipping costs. This results in the reasonable pricing of \$39–\$69, depending on the subscriber's affiliation. The lowest pricing is set for farmer/student/sole proprietor/retiree, which reflects the social justice embedded into the consciousness of *JAFSCD*'s operation. Subscribers receive 25% off a subscription to AgDevONLINE, which is a community of professional practice website supporting the work of professionals, academics, and activists who focus on agriculture and food issues. It is also possible to just subscribe to AgDevONLINE for \$26 per year.

Because the emphasis of the journal is on empirical and methodological content over the theoretical, the content is comprised of applied research-based papers, case studies, project post-mortems, effective strategies, and impact analyses. This real-life approach keeps *JAFSCD* lively and forward-thinking, especially given their encouragement for submissions about innovative projects involving problem solving and opportunity taking. The Board of Editors seems truly dedicated to supporting on-the-ground work of professionals in government, the nonprofit sector, and private practice.

Examples of recent articles include “From Turf to Table: Grass Seed to Edible Grains in the Willamette Valley” (Giombolini, Chambers, Bowersox, & Henry, 2011); “An Analysis of the Impacts of Health Insurance Rebate

Initiatives on Community Supported Agriculture in Southern Wisconsin” (Jackson, Raster, & Shattuck, 2011); and “Access to Information and Farmer’s Market Choice: The Case of Potato in Highland Bolivia” (Amaya & Alwang, 2011). Calls for papers on special topics are issued periodically throughout the year, the most recently being for “higher education and food systems” and “food system livelihoods.”

The journal’s website poses the question, “Why Publish in *JAFSCD*?” Their own answer to the question sets a refreshing tone, inviting open-mindedness and possibilities that exist between academia and the “real world.” Their answer is that “*JAFSCD* endeavors to break away from the confines of traditional academic publishing and contribute to the community of practice where ***practitioners*** who work on agriculture and food system issues . . . can collaborate with ***academics***. . . .” (“Why Publish,” n.d., para. 1). The bold letters and italics are theirs, as is the bold mission they’ve undertaken by launching a new journal (in 2010) centered on the human need for healthy food, which arises from food systems existing between people within their own communities.

Another example of *JAFSCD*’s commitment to community collaboration is the new Food System Wiki (n.d.) and companion annotated bibliography. Administered by the journal, the wiki began as a class project for Markets and Food Systems (Urban and Regional Planning 711) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. The wiki provides a guide to food system and agriculture development-related terms with the goal of creating an accurate, normative overview of some everyday and some not-so-common phrases in the growing field of food systems. Anyone who registers can contribute new terms and edit existing terms.

As issues of food systems—including food justice and food security—become increasingly prevalent in mainstream culture, there is a need to provide insights such as those that *JAFSCD* has to offer. This journal would be an excellent addition to any academic library, in particular those with agriculture collections. Food systems awareness is emerging with a solid presence in curricula from early childhood to higher education and so educators and their students will benefit from access to this publication. Readers may also be inspired to initiate projects in their own communities as they read about citizens working to strengthen the intersection where food, agriculture, and people join together.

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