

Appendix A

Case-Study Research Topics in Agribusiness Economics and Management

The decision criteria used in this manuscript was to look at research case studies published in peer reviewed academic journals using a standard methodology such as that outlined by Yin (2018). More specifically, a methodology based on the *cumulative type*, which is designed to collect information for events and aggregate them to analyze in greater generalization. This type of case is useful for a graduate student dissertation. However, there are other types of peer reviewed outlets in addition to journal articles. These include certain publications in AgEcon Search, the global online repository for research done in agricultural economics and housed at the University of Minnesota. These include *Choices*, conference proceedings papers (some of which are peer reviewed and some not), and other papers. Finally, there are the publications of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. This brief appendix contains a summary of those publications

AgEcon Search

A broad search of AgEcon Search on the words "case studies" finds 6,763 publications in September 2019. These include 2,804 journal articles; 2,353 conference papers; 1,117 working papers; 350 reports; 100 theses or dissertations; and 38 book chapters. An examination of the journal articles was done for this manuscript. The remaining 3,959 publications were classified into Yin's (2018) four categories of illustrative, exploratory, cumulative, and critical instance. As was the case with the journal articles, the vast majority are characterized as illustrative (99.3 percent). However, this is a bit misleading since virtually all of the case studies did not start with some theoretical model or construct to begin with. Furthermore, there was little or no discussion

about the population the author(s) were studying. The authors began with the assumption that their research was a case study without defining any theoretical construct or underlying model. The remaining 28 publications are classified as exploratory with the same limitations as for the illustrative types of case studies.

The USDA Economic Research Service

The USDA Economic Research Service publications list was examined using a search process for the words “case studies.” Nineteen unique publications were found with 17 being considered illustrative or exploratory. Two publications were found that would be classified as a cumulative type. Astill et al. (2019) identified five commodities in six different geographic regions in the United States to analyze grower responses to questions about their ability to meet food safety standards and requirements set by buyers. King et al. (2010) reported a very comprehensive study with many different publications outputs to compare the structure, size, and performance of local food supply chains with those of mainstream supply chains. Both studies clearly defined a population and sample and employed a theoretical construct in which to study their issues.

References

Astill, G., T. Minor, S. Thornsberry, and L. Calvin. 2019. *U.S. Produce Growers' Decisionmaking Under Evolving Food Safety Standards*, EIB-210, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, June.

King, Robert P., Michael S. Hand, Gigi DiGiacomo, Kate Clancy, Miguel I. Gomez, Shermain D. Hardesty, Larry Lev, and Edward W. McLaughlin. Comparing the Structure, Size, and

Performance of Local and Mainstream Food Supply Chains, ERR-99, U.S. Dept. of Agr., Econ. Res. Serv. June 2010.

Yin, R.K. 2018. *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods*, 6th ed. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.