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## Peer Reviewed Papers – Abstracts

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Die Peer Reviewed Papers sind im Journal of Socio-Economics in Agriculture ([www.jsagr.org](http://www.jsagr.org)) aufgeschaltet.

### **Deconstructing agricultural labour: a reflection on negative farm income**

Stefan Mann

*This paper proceeds from the premise that five per cent of Swiss farms currently generate a financial loss. On average, this group of farms realizes a fairly high off-farm income. Challenging the notion of a 'fair' or 'adequate' agricultural income, we tackle the question of whether aiming to achieve the combination of negative farm income plus adequate off-farm income can be a rational strategy. An application of the Activity Choice Model answers this question in the affirmative. One of four interviews conducted with farmers having a negative agricultural income is analysed using objective hermeneutics. Whilst this approach shows that non-monetary utility has many dimensions, it primarily confirms the premise that negative farm income can be a rational strategy if combined with profitable off-farm work.*

**Keywords:** Activity choice, Negative incomes, Swiss agriculture

**JEL classification:** J22



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