



Alternative Ag Policy Choices to be Explored at IAA Symposium

Alternative Agriculture Policy: A New Time to Choose is the title of the IAA's 10th annual symposium scheduled for March 1, 1993, in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the one-day forum, to be held in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association building, is to better explore tomorrow's policy opportunities and means of encouraging a sustainable agriculture by learning from the past.

To set the stage, Lynn Daft, vice president of the consulting firm Abel, Daft & Earley, and Richard R. Harwood, sustainable agriculture leader at Michigan State University, will "revisit"—and relate to current interest in agriculture's sustainability—two landmark studies requested by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland during the late 1970s and published in the waning days of the Carter Administration. Daft is to revisit "A Time to Choose," a major report on the changing structure of American agriculture and its trouble spots. Harwood will examine another highly significant study entitled, "Report and Recommendations on Organic Farming."

Kathleen Merrigan, a principal member of the staff of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition in recent years, will further relate the past to the future by drawing on the 1990 Farm Bill experience to identify sustainable agriculture policy options and strategies for the 1995 Farm Bill. The program will culminate with a roundtable discussion on specific interests and plans with leaders of the new Administration, the farming community, food and agricultural organizations, environmental groups, science and

education leaders, and other interested persons. Summing up will be Dr. John Gordon, national leader in forestry and a new IAA Board member. For more information, contact the IAA at (301)441-8777.

IAA Survey Responses Reflect Diverse Membership

The responses of the IAA members who answered a survey mailed last fall reflect a diverse membership of people involved in sustainable agriculture. Of respondents, 12% live in the Washington, D.C., area; 13% in the Northeast; 12% in the South; 5% in the North; 31% in the Midwest; and 20% in the West.

Of those responding, 43% work at a university; 24% are self-employed; 15% work for non-profit organizations; 10% work for the federal government; 4% work for a state government; and 2% work at a trade association.

Respondents listed 285 other agricultural organizations they belong to. Some 66% found *Alternative Agriculture News* to be useful or highly useful, and 61% found the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture* to be very useful or highly useful.

Keeney Is New President of American Society of Agronomy

Dr. Dennis Keeney, director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Ames, Iowa, was recently installed as president of the 12,500-member American Society of Agronomy.

Dr. Keeney, a member of the IAA President's Council, is professor of agron-

omy at Iowa State University and has headed the Leopold Center since 1988. He also directs the Iowa State Water Resources Institute. His research specialties include the chemistry of soils, the cycling and efficient use of nitrogen, land application of wastes, and soil as a source of nitrous oxide.

Gordon Receives Conservationist of the Year Award

Dr. John Gordon, Dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, recently received the Conservationist of the Year Award from the Pacific Rivers Council in Eugene, Oregon.

Dr. Gordon, IAA Board member-elect, received the award as a member of the Scientific Panel on Late-Successional Forest Ecosystems, which was commissioned by two committees of the House of Representatives to make a scientific analysis of management options for west side old growth forests. The Panel incorporated salmon and watershed management options into the analysis of management alternatives.

"For the first time, science provided a national framework for the management of Northwest forests along with associated risk assessments for each management option," said Bob Doppelt, Executive Director of the Pacific Rivers Council, who expressed the organization's "deep admiration for the Panel's work and its inestimable value to conservation work in the Northwest."

