

IAA will publish extension newsletter

The Institute for Alternative Agriculture will begin publishing a special edition of *Alternative Agriculture News*, its monthly newsletter, for distribution to the nation's 3,000 county extension directors and area specialists. A grant from the Ruth Mott Fund is underwriting publishing and mailing costs for one year.

Garth Youngberg, IAA's Executive Director, said a growing number of extension personnel have become newsletter subscribers and at least one state extension office is sending the newsletter to all its county offices. Extension workers are getting a lot more questions from farmers about alternative production methods, he said, and often don't know where to go to obtain reliable information.

"The special edition will carry less policy-related material and more information on research reports and other published resources, on field days and other alternative agriculture events, and on educational initiatives taken by land grant universities and other institutions," he explained. "The emphasis will be on providing specific information, including addresses and phone numbers, that will enable extension personnel to follow up directly on things that interest them."

Youngberg said an editorial advisory group will provide a continuing review of the special edition. The members are Frank Brewer, Assistant Director of Extension Agricultural Marketing Programs at Michigan State; Martin Culick, Crops and Soils Agent with the Wisconsin Extension Service; Jerry DeWitt, Associate Director of the Iowa Extension Service; Charles Francis, Extension Crops Specialist at the

University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and Dave MacNiel, Integrated Pest Management Program Leader of USDA's Extension Service.

Also Paxton Marshall, Virginia Extension Service Economist; James F. Parr, National Program Leader in Dryland Agriculture and Soil Fertility at USDA's Agricultural Research Service; Neill Schaller, Assistant Director of the Natural Resource Economics Division at USDA's Economic Research Service; Richard Weismiller, Soil and Water Resource Specialist with the Maryland Extension Service, and Ronald E. Voss, Program Director and Extension Vegetable Specialist at the University of California at Davis.

Edens and Parr are book review co-editors

Thomas C. Edens, a Michigan State University economist, has accepted an invitation to serve as a book review editor for the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture*. He will serve as co-editor with James F. Parr, an Agriculture Research Service soil scientist.

Editor Garth Youngberg said Edens will cover books related to alternative agriculture in the social science field and Parr will cover books of this kind in the physical sciences and in international development. Parr has been book review editor since the journal began publication.

"The interdisciplinary character of the journal requires that books from a broad cross section of the agricultural sciences be considered for possible review," Youngberg said. "The rapidly growing number of books from diverse

disciplines germane to alternative agriculture has made it necessary to have co-editors to share the workload."

Edens and Parr also are members of the journal's editorial board.

1986 IAA Symposium Proceedings Available

The proceedings of the Institute for Alternative Agriculture's third annual scientific symposium, a 60-page collection of edited papers dealing with biotechnology, are available.

Authors of the published papers are William Brown of Pioneer Hi-Bred International; Frederick H. Buttel and Randolph Barker of Cornell; Holly Hauptli and Robert M. Goodman of Calgene, Inc.; Richard Lower of the University of Wisconsin; Sue Tolin of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Jack Doyle of the Environmental Policy Institute, and David Bezdicek of Washington State.

Copies of *Biotechnology in Agriculture: Implications for Sustainability* are available for \$6 postpaid from IAA at 9200 Edmonston Rd., Suite 117, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Edited tapes of the 1986 symposium also are available from IAA. The set of two cassettes is \$7.50 postpaid.

IAA Board holds biannual meeting, elects new member

The third biannual board meeting of the Institute for Alternative Agriculture was held at Wolfe's Neck Farm near Freeport, Maine, on September 9

and 10. The board reviewed the Institute's staffing and funding needs and priorities in relation to both short- and long-term program development. Maureen Hinkle, Director of Agricultural Policy at the National Audubon Society, was elected to a 3-year term on the Board. Garth Youngberg, Executive Director, reported that reactions to the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture* are very positive and that subscriptions are running ahead of projections.

Wolfe's Neck Farm, the site of the meeting, is a 600-acre organic beef operation which IAA board member Mrs. Lawrence M.C. Smith donated in 1984 to the University of Southern Maine to ensure that the goals of resource conservation, land preservation, and organic agriculture will be enhanced in the future. The farm continues under the management of Charles DeGrandpre, but allows students and scientists from the University of Maine at Orono to study alternative production methods on its land. The University of Southern Maine uses the property for a variety of programs, including institutes and seminars.

On the evening of September 9, some 40 guests, including representatives and officials from the University of Southern Maine, the University of Maine at Orono, the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, and a number of resource conservation and land preservation groups, had an opportunity to meet informally with IAA board members at a reception hosted by Mrs. Smith.

1987 IAA Symposium will focus on water quality

The connection between agricultural production practices and groundwater contamination will be explored at the fourth annual scientific symposium presented by the *Institute for Alternative Agriculture*. The one-day event will be held next March 3 in Washington.

Garth Youngberg, IAA's Executive Director, said the symposium will document the nature and extent of the nation's growing groundwater pollution problem. "It is now widely agreed that chemical pollution of this water resource has been accelerated by modern chemical- and energy-intensive farming practices," he said. "The massive shift in recent years away from soil-conserving crop rotations to chemical-intensive monocultural cash grain systems has contributed significantly to this problem."

The symposium, Youngberg emphasized, will present a full range of constructive and workable management alternatives for solving the problem within the context of modern production agriculture. "Although the regulation of harmful agricultural chemicals will be considered, this symposium will go beyond the usual call for more and better regulation," he said. "It also will discuss the possible contribution of economically-viable low-input production systems that avoid entirely, or largely exclude, the use of agricultural chemicals."

Symposium participants will address three central questions: (1) How bad is the problem of agriculture-related groundwater contamination?; (2) From a technical perspective, how far can this nation's agriculture go in avoiding the use of agricultural chemicals?; and (3) What research, education, and other public policies are needed to achieve these objectives?

Youngberg reported that participation by several speakers has been confirmed. George Hallberg, Chief, Geological Studies, Iowa Geological Survey, will present the keynote address. Robert Papendick, chairman of the 1980 USDA organic farming report, will present a paper on soil and water management strategies and cropping systems that can help avoid the use of agricultural chemicals. Papendick is research leader of the USDA-ARS Land Management and Water Conservation Research Laboratory at Pullman, Washington.

Other confirmed speakers include Charles A. Francis, Professor of Agronomy and Extension Crops Specialist, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and Professor Lawrence Libby, an agricultural economist at Michigan State University. Francis will outline the education and technology transfer requirements for the widescale adoption of alternative farming methods. Libby will explore the behavioral and social science dimensions of groundwater contamination. In addition to the keynote address, four major panels are being planned. One panel will feature presentations by both organic and conventional farmers.

1987 Fellowship program announced

The National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy at Resources for the Future has announced that applications are available for its 1987 Leadership Development Program. Now in its second year, the program offers up to 25 fellowships to qualified young professionals from business, government, education, farming, and agricultural organizations. The four-week program, held in Washington early in the year, features specially designed seminars and workshops with experts on food and agricultural policy, plus meetings with key decision-makers. Each fellow also carries out a self-directed study of a policy topic. For more information and application materials contact: John J. Kornacki, National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy, Resources for the Future, 1616 P Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Phone (202) 328-5056.