



AJAA calls for manuscripts on "consequences beyond the farm gate"

Manuscripts dealing with the consequences of alternative farming systems beyond the farm gate are welcomed for a special issue of the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture*. Examples include:

- the demographic, economic, and social consequences for rural communities;
- the consequences for manufacturers and suppliers of farm inputs;
- the effects on agricultural structure (e.g. farm size, specialization, and land tenure) and the relative roles of capital, labor, and management;
- interactions with federal and state programs;
- appropriate strategies for research, teaching, and extension; and
- implications for U.S. agricultural trade.

Papers may report original research or present a carefully developed, well-supported analysis of a policy issue.

Deadline for manuscripts is December 1, 1989. Papers accepted after external review will be published in the AJAA in Volume 5 (1990). Submissions should follow the regular guidelines for AJAA manuscripts found on the inside back cover of every issue. We welcome informal inquiries about the suitability of particular topics.

For further information, contact Dr. Garth Youngberg, Editor, at the Institute for Alternative Agriculture, 9200 Edmonston Road, Suite 117, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

Funding received for 1989 Symposium issue

Funding from Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., will support publication of the papers from the 1989 IAA Symposium on "Sustainable Farming

Systems." The symposium included an address by Dennis Keeney of the Iowa State Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture on components of sustainable systems and multiple papers on low-input systems. A separate section of papers addresses policy needs to support a more sustainable agriculture.

"Publication of these papers is particularly important in light of the forthcoming 1990 farm bill discussions," comments AJAA Editor Garth Youngberg.

Pioneer Hi-Bred was one of the original supporters of the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture* with a substantial grant that helped launch the publication.

"Learning From Each Other" is theme of 1990 IAA Symposium

"Learning from Each Other: New Models for Sustainable Agricultural Research and Information" will be the theme of the March 6, 1990, Symposium sponsored by the Institute for Alternative Agriculture. Speakers will address the challenge of achieving a new level of cooperation between farmers, extension agents, researchers, and educators in American agriculture. The promise of on-farm research and the cooperative models being used in some LISA projects will be part of the agenda.

Dr. Richard J. Sauer, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National 4-H Council, will co-chair the symposium program committee with Dr. Youngberg. Dr. Sauer was previously the interim President of the University of Minnesota and had been Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at that university.

"It is important for the sustainable agriculture movement to develop participative models for research, education, and information exchange in

place of the 'top-down' process of the past," says Youngberg. "Farmers who have depth of experience in low-input methods can share important insights and practical experience which are likely to be trusted by other farmers. At the same time, active involvement with researchers and extension agents can give growers a better understanding of the scientific aspects of what is happening on their farm. All members of the farming team have much to learn from each other."

Further information on the symposium will be available from the Institute in early 1990.

IAA testifies on LISA funding

IAA Executive Director Garth Youngberg has given testimony to the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee in support of the USDA Low-Input/Sustainable Agriculture (LISA) program, asking for a FY1990 budget allocation of \$15 million. He emphasized the importance of the participative process involved in LISA projects, where public and private sector cooperation is strong, and farmers, researchers, and educators join forces.

Based on the call for more intensive research in biologically based pest control at the 1988 IAA Symposium, Youngberg also asked the Senate Subcommittee for \$8 million funding in this area.

Despite the broad support for the LISA program, the Administration budget proposal did not include an allocation for the new program, so the Congress will need to act to include it in the FY1990 budget. The 1989 LISA allocation was \$4.45 million, and the original 1988 allocation was \$3.9 million. Supporters argue that it would have taken about \$16 million to fund the excellent project proposals submitted in 1988 alone.

