

IAA Board Elects President's Council for 1992

Jim Bender, IAA President, has announced the members of the President's Council for 1992. Members are: Dr. Jill S. Auburn, University of California, Davis; Dr. Charles Benbrook, Dickerson, MD; Norman A. Berg, Soil & Water Conservation Society; Bob Bergland, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; U.S. Rep. George E. Brown, Jr., of California; Ron Ellermeier, farmer from Glenvil, NE; Dr. John C. Gordon, Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies; Robert Gray, Resource Management Consultants, Inc.; Ralph Grossi, American Farmland Trust; Dr. R. Jim Hildreth, Oak Brook, IL; Mrs. Dana Jackson, Allston, MA; Dr. Dennis R. Keeney, Leopold Center, Iowa State University; Dr. Fred Kirschenmann, Kirschenmann Family Farms, Windsor, N.D.; U.S. Senator Patrick J. Leahy; Dan Martin, MacArthur Foundation; Dr. Ned S. Raun, Winrock International; Ronald L. Rosmann, farmer from Harlan, IA; R. Neil Sampson, American Forestry Association; Edward Sills, Pleasant Grove Farms, California; Dr. Karl N. Stauber, Northwest Area Foundation; Dr. David G. Topel, Iowa State University; and Dr. Stephen Viederman, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation.

The Council was formed two years ago to provide guidance and support for Institute activities in promoting a more sustainable agricultural system in the United States and abroad.

Rosmann Publishes Column in Newsweek

"The path we're following continues to dry up small- and medium-size family farms and the small towns and commu-

nity values that go along with them," wrote Ronald L. Rosmann, a member of the IAA President's Council, in the "My Turn" column of *Newsweek* on May 4.

The column, entitled, "This Land Is Your Land," calls for a sustainable agriculture system that ensures long-term food safety and availability, sustains a large number of farms and farmers, and supports strong, vibrant rural communities.

"Farm programs, initiated in the 1930s to help small farmers, have, over time, resulted in a major portion of the program going to large-scale agribusinesses. This encourages environmentally damaging practices on fragile lands," wrote Rosmann, a grain and livestock farmer in Harlan, Iowa.

Rosmann argues against three common agricultural myths: that bigger is better, that "one third of the world would starve if pesticides were eliminated," and that food prices would rise significantly if producer prices increase.

"Growing food, living in communion with the land and nature, raising livestock, guiding our children, having something to call our own -- all these things give life meaning," he wrote in conclusion. "I believe there is still a bit of farmer in all of us and that, given the choice, many would try this way of life. If we fail to see this and continue to move toward the corporate form of agriculture, the loss will be everyone's."

DeWitt Receives Practical Farmers Award

Jerald R. De Witt, director of agriculture for the Iowa Cooperative Extension Service and former IAA President, has received the Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award from the Practical Farmers of Iowa. The award, presented to someone who has advanced the development of sustainable agriculture, hon-

ored the work DeWitt has done to "bring farmers and researchers together to work for profitable, environmentally sound farming."

Hinkle Named to National Research Council Committee

Maureen Hinkle, Director of the Agriculture Program at the National Audubon Society and member of the IAA Board, has been named to the National Research Council's Pest and Pathogen Control Through Management of Biological Control Agents and Enhanced Natural Cycles and Processes Committee. The committee is charged to assess the opportunities to accelerate the use of natural/biological pest and pathogen control systems in agricultural production. This study will address biological/natural control in the context of North America, Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

IAA Requests Increase in Sustainable Ag Funding

The IAA has asked Congress for a substantial increase in federal funding for sustainable agriculture research and education in fiscal year 1993. In a letter to Rep. Jamie Whitten, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture and Related Agencies, IAA Associate Director Neill Schaller wrote that the IAA was "spurred by a genuine fear that sustainable agriculture research and education programs authorized in the 1985 and 1990 farm bills are destined to fail if funded at levels proposed by the current Administration." He requested \$25 million for the LISA program, which has been funded with just \$6.725 million --

despite a \$40 million authorization in the 1990 farm bill.

The IAA also requested \$20 million for the National Training Program for Cooperative Extensive Service agents. "It is time to recognize, without apology or finger pointing, that our highly productive agriculture has unanticipated side effects that cannot be corrected by fine-tuning conventional practices," Schaller wrote. "Farmers desperately need, and want, reliable information on sustainable practices."

Hinkle, Kirschenmann Named to NRI Advisory Committee

Maureen Hinkle, Director of the Agriculture Program at the National Audubon Society and member of the IAA Board, and Fred Kirschenmann, of Kirschenmann Family Farms and member of the IAA President's Council, have been named to the Science and Education National Research Initiative (NRI) Advisory Committee. The committee, formerly called the Science and Education Competitive Research Grants Office Advisory Committee, will advise the

Secretary of Agriculture about areas of research to be supported and priorities to be adopted and emphasized under the National Research Initiative; program progress and resource allocations; and ways to improve guidelines, evaluation and accomplishment reporting procedures. The committee will meet twice a year for two years.

Weiskel Most Recent IAA Visiting Scholar

Timothy C. Weiskel was the IAA's Visiting Scholar during March and April, doing research on the public policy implications of the relationship between the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the environment, and the sustainability of agriculture in this country and abroad. Weiskel is from Harvard University, where he is a Research Fellow at the Pacific Basin Research Center of the Kennedy School of Government's Center for Science and International Affairs. He is also the director of the newly created Harvard Seminar on Environmental Values, based at the Harvard Divinity School. While at the IAA, he met in the Washington, D.C., area with agricultural and environ-

mental activists, administration officials, and Congressional leaders to learn more about the current Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations, and their implications for agriculture and the environment.

The True Cost of Food: Proceedings of IAA Symposium Available

The proceedings of the IAA's Eighth Annual Scientific Symposium, "Understanding the True Cost of Food: Considerations for a Sustainable Food System," are now available. Copies of the 88-page soft-cover booklet are available for \$6 each from the IAA, 9200 Edmonston Road, #117, Greenbelt, MD 20770; (301) 441-8777.



Farm profiles invited

For its new department on alternative agriculture profiles, the AJAA welcomes short articles describing farmers who have adopted interesting alternative practices. The articles should include five elements: a brief description of the farm; the problems that made the farmer look for an alternative approach and the reasons why the alternative seemed plausible; a summary of the basic principles behind the alternative (possibly in a sidebar if it interrupts the flow of text); a discussion of how well the alternative has worked; and a discussion of the applicability of the alternative for other farms. The length should be 1500 to 2000 words.

Submissions must be accompanied by a release, signed by the farmer, giving permission for this material to be published in the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture*. Vol. 3, No. 4, of the AJAA has a further description of the department (page 188); or query the editor for further information. Send submissions to the Editor, AJAA, 9200 Edmonston Road, Suite 117, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

GAO Report Substantiates Concerns About Pesticide Standards

A U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO) report substantiates concerns about the potential impact on food safety of negotiations to eliminate agricultural trade barriers through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It describes the differences between U.S. standards for food safety and health, and international standards, especially those known as Codex. "As long as differences persist, the potential for restrictions on exports and imports and greater consumer exposure to pesticide residues will remain," according to the report. The report, "International Food Safety," #GAO/PMED-91-22, is available for free from GAO, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877; (202) 275-6241.