

independently operated farms fared better than communities surrounded by fewer, larger, corporate-linked operations. In this section, Goldschmidt offers a wide-ranging critique of industrial agriculture, arguing forcefully that socially constructed rules and institutions arising from political and economic agendas, rather than

impersonal market forces and technology development, drive industrialization.

The book is well-written and presented in an understandable manner. For these reasons it could be used in undergraduate courses in sociology, economics, anthropology, political science and public policy. In addition, the book is a timely contribution. Anyone who wishes to understand

the motivations of groups and individuals working to pass legislation hobbling the expansion of industrialized hog production should read this book.

Rick Welsh, Policy Analyst, Henry A. Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture, Greenbelt, MD 20770.



INSTITUTE NEWS

New Reports Examine Soil Quality, Industrialization

Two new reports recently published by the Wallace Institute examine soil quality's contribution to environmental health, and industrialization in U.S. rural communities. *From the Ground Up: Exploring Soil Quality's Contribution to Environmental Health*, by Edward Jaenicke of the University of Tennessee, investigates the current state of scientific knowledge on soil quality and points out research gaps that must be filled before soil policy can target potential social benefits.

The report describes several timely soil-quality issues, including the potential for healthy soils to sequester vast amounts of atmospheric carbon, which contributes to global warming; the need to incorporate an understanding of healthy soil quality when increasing the efficiency of farm inputs and profits through precision farming; and the benefits of a healthy soil ecology for food safety.

Agricultural Industrialization in the American Countryside, by Emery Castle of Oregon State University, offers an approach for rural communities as they face conflicts resulting from the spread of industrialization, particularly large confined animal feeding facilities. These conflicts include farmer against farmer, rural neighbor against farmer, rural townspeople against immigrant farm laborers, environmental advocates against agri-business, and local versus state governments. The report explains the concept of "rural capital stock," in which natural, human, and social capital elements are used to measure

and evaluate the effects of industrialized farms.

Both reports are available on the Wallace Institute's Web site at <http://www.hawiaa.org>; each is \$10 from the Wallace Institute, 9200 Edmonston Road, #117, Greenbelt, MD 20770; (301) 441-8777.

Wallace Board Meets in Iowa, Names President's Council

The Wallace Institute's Board of Directors held its mid-year meeting in Ames, Iowa, last September, when members attended the Dick and Sharon Thompson Annual Field Day and Farm Tour in Boone, Iowa. They also toured a Murphy Family Farms hog facility, and the Optimum Quality Grains operation in Des Moines, which is a joint venture of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., and the DuPont Co.; that evening, the board attended a reception sponsored by the College of Agriculture at Iowa State University and the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development. Most of the board meeting was devoted to reviewing a proposed long-range plan to guide the Institute for the next 5 to 10 years. Following the meeting, the board attended a dinner at the Wallace House in Des Moines.

Institute President Dr. Cornelia Flora has announced the members of the 1998-1999 President's Council, formed eight years ago to provide guidance and support for Wallace Institute activities in promoting a more sustainable agricultural system

in the United States and abroad. Members are: Dr. Charles Benbrook, Benbrook Consulting Services; Norman A. Berg, Washington Representative, Soil and Water Conservation Society; Robert Gray, Resource Management Consultants; Ralph Grossi, President, American Farmland Trust; Dr. R. Jim Hildreth, Elmhurst, IL; Ms. Dana Jackson, Land Stewardship Project; Dr. Dennis R. Keeney, Director, Leopold Center; Hon. Patrick J. Leahy, U.S. Senate; Dr. Ned S. Raun, Stillwater, OK; Ronald L. Rosmann, farmer, Harlan, IA; R. Neil Sampson, President, The Sampson Group, Inc.; Edward Sills, Pleasant Grove Farms, Pleasant Grove, CA; Dr. David G. Topel, Dean, College of Agriculture and Director of Experiment Station, Iowa State University; and Dr. Stephen Viederman, President, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation.

Annual Thompson Farm Report Details Research

"Alternatives in Agriculture," the 1998 annual report published by Thompson On-Farm Research, details the research conducted by Dick and Sharon Thompson on their farm in Boone, Iowa. The new report updates all previous reports, and includes major changes in fertility, economics, and livestock research. The publication of the report and the 1998 research work is made possible by the financial support of Mrs. Jean Wallace Douglas through the Wallace Institute. The report is available for \$10 from Thompson On-Farm Research, 2035 190th St., Boone, IA 50036-7423; (515) 432-1560.