



INSTITUTE NEWS

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IAA Board Approves New Policy Program at Mid-Year Meeting

At its mid-year meeting on September 12 in Burlington, Vermont, IAA's Board of Directors approved an expanded program of policy analysis, original research, and outreach to be undertaken by the Institute over the next several years. The new program responds to the view of the Board, and the alternative agriculture community, that a substantial increase in economic, technical, and political analysis is needed to effectively inform the public debate expected to accompany the development of the 1995 farm bill.

In a related matter, the Board chose to focus IAA's 10th annual conference on "Alternative Agriculture Policy: A New Time to Choose." The conference will revisit two USDA landmark studies--**A Time to Choose**, published in 1981, and **Report and Recommendations on Organic Farming**, published in 1980. The one-day conference, scheduled for March 1, 1993, in Washington, DC, will examine developments in the structure of agriculture, agricultural research and education, and federal policies of the past decade to better understand alternative agriculture policy issues and options in the 1995 farm bill debate and beyond.

The Board also elected Dr. John C. Gordon, Pinchot Professor of Forestry at Yale University, to a three-year term on the board of directors. Dr. Gordon was Dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale for the past ten years. He will replace Maureen Hinkle of the National Audubon Society, whose term expires in March of 1993. Dr. Gordon brings to the Board an extraordinary breadth of knowledge and experience in natural resource management, university administration, research and education, and organizational management and develop-

ment. The Board also extended its deepest gratitude to Maureen Hinkle for her dedicated service as a board member during the past six years, and for her faithful commitment to alternative agriculture.

In other business, the Board heard a report by a Washington, DC-based management consulting group which had been engaged by IAA to help it develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the years ahead.

Anderson, Hornick, and Weil Named to AJAA Editorial Board

Dr. Molly D. Anderson, Dr. Sharon Hornick, and Dr. Raymond R. Weil have accepted the Institute's invitation to join the Editorial Board of the AJAA.

Dr. Anderson is presently a research assistant professor in the School of Nutrition at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. Her research has dealt mainly with agricultural research policy and with on-farm research as a means of furthering agricultural sustainability. Before joining Tufts, Dr. Anderson coordinated a demonstration farm project and studied low-input farmers in North Carolina. She holds a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and is co-author of a forthcoming book, **Alternative Approaches to Agricultural Research**.

Dr. Sharon B. Hornick is a soil scientist with the Soil-Microbial Systems Laboratory in the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at Beltsville, Maryland. Since joining the USDA in 1977, she has had a number of special assignments, including serving as an associate professor of human nutrition at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, and as a soil scientist with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. A consultant and advisor to

numerous environmental research and technology projects, Dr. Hornick has authored or co-authored fifty articles and reports on sustainable agriculture issues such as the use of organic wastes and crop residues. She holds a Ph.D. degree in agronomy from the Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Raymond Weil is a professor in the Agronomy Department at the University of Maryland where he teaches and does research in soil and environmental science. Listed in *Who's Who in Science and Engineering* (1992), he has done extensive research and writing on soil management for sustainable agriculture, water quality impacts of low-input farming systems, and production practices such as relay cropping. Dr. Weil has a Ph.D. in soil fertility and ecology from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia. He has served as a lecturer in soil science at the University of Malawi, a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia, and a farm manager with the National Sharecropper's Fund in North Carolina.

Bezdicek Named Director of WSU's Sustainable Ag Center

David F. Bezdicek, a member of the IAA's Board of Directors and the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture's* Editorial Board, has been named Director of the Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Bezdicek, a WSU soil microbiologist, is a nationally recognized authority on research in sustainable agriculture and natural resources. Under his direction, the center will concentrate on the viability of Washington agriculture while protecting soil, air, and water.

The center will also develop an ecological agricultural model that favors diverse cropping systems, biological pest control, and community and farm-based decision-making.

Sampson Receives Award

R. Neil Sampson, a member of the IAA's President's Council, has been honored by the Soil and Water Conservation Society with its highest honor, the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award. The award is given to no more than one individual annually in recognition of distinguished service and international accomplishments in land and water conservation.

Sampson received the award for his many contributions to the soil and water conservation movement as an employee of the Soil Conservation Service, as executive vice president of the National Association of Conservation Districts, and as executive vice president of American Forests (formerly American Forestry Association).

The award, presented to Sampson at the SWCS's 47th annual meeting in Baltimore, is named after the "father of soil conservation" in the United States and a founder of SWCS.

Fellowships in Honor of Berg Launched

Fellowships for the first annual Norman A. and Ruth A. Berg forum on public conservation policy were announced by the Soil and Water Conservation Society in July, 1992.

The inaugural forum was a special feature of the Society's 47th Annual Meeting in Baltimore in August, 1992.

The Fellowship Program was established with the support of Kenneth and Frances Robinson Novak in honor of Berg, a member of the IAA's President's Council, and his wife, Ruth.

Berg, who serves as the Washington, D.C., representative of SWCS and as Senior Advisor to the American Farmland Trust, has a distinguished 51-year career in soil and water conservation. He spent 39 years with the USDA's Soil Conservation Service, including three years as the agency's chief.

USDA Behind Schedule on Minor Crop Pesticide Work, Says GAO

The USDA "has been slow to respond" to concerns about the availability of pesticides for use on minor crops, and will not complete the research and analysis necessary to support the registration and reregistration of high-priority pesticides for use on minor crops by the 1997 deadline, according to a report by the U.S. General Accounting Office.

The report, prepared for U.S. Rep. E. (Kika) de la Garza, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, also examines if the funds allocated for the Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4) have been used effectively. Copies of "Pesticides: USDA's Research to Support Registration of Pesticides for Minor Crops" (GAO/RCED-92-190BR), are available from U.S. GAO, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20877; (202) 275-6241.

Farmers, New York City Agree on Plan to Save Reservoirs

New York City officials and farmers in the Catskill Mountains and lower Hudson Valley recently reached an agreement to reduce agricultural pollution of the city's reservoirs through voluntary measures far less strict than the mandatory controls the city proposed two years ago.

The pact, one of few in the country attempting to rely on voluntary measures to curb water pollution, will be tailored to each individual farm and put into effect over the next eight years. It also calls for the city to spend \$3.4 million providing farmers with technical advice and capital improvements to reduce agricultural contaminants and improve their agricultural methods. As a result, the city will be able to avoid not only enacting tougher mandatory restrictions that would have placed financial burdens on farmers, but also building a \$4 billion filtration system.