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CHOICES



The Magazine of Food, Farm, and Resource Issues

Second Quarter 1987

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Willard W. Cochrane was farm adviser to John F. Kennedy during his Presidential campaign and then served as USDA's Director of Agricultural Economics until 1964. Throughout his professional life he has been a keen observer of farm policy and a prolific writer. In this article he tells why modest-sized farms should receive special assistance and explains how they ought to be assisted.



Robert L. Thompson

In March, Robert L. Thompson became Dean of the School of Agriculture at one of the leading land grant institutions—Purdue University. Before becoming Dean he was Assistant Secretary of Economics in the USDA. In that position he was USDA's point person with the Senate in the development of the 1985 farm legislation. Previous to coming to the Department he was on the staff of the Council of Economic Advisors. He shares his perspectives about economics in farm policy making. He is interviewed by CHOICES' Editor Lyle Schertz.



Rosanna Mentzer Morrison and Tanya Roberts

Rosanna Mentzer Morrison and Tanya Roberts are agricultural economists with USDA's Economic Research Service working in areas of food policy, new technologies, and food safety. They are co-authors of a report on food irradiation commissioned by the U.S. Congress' Office of Technology Assessment. Morrison is a former assistant editor of the National Food Review and has worked with the Community Nutrition Institute in Washington, D.C. Roberts, a regulatory economist, was a consultant to the Study of Regulatory Reform of the Senate Committee on Government Operations giving particular attention to regulations affecting the dairy industry.



Clair J. Nixon and James W. Richardson

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Thomas F. Stinson and Michael D. Boehlje

Tom Stinson, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Minnesota, is the author of "Governing the Heartland: Can Rural Communities Survive the Farm Crisis?" published as a Print by the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations. His current work concentrates on the impact of the farm crisis on rural communities. Michael Boehlje is Head of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota. Before going to Minnesota, he was a Professor in the Department of Economics at Iowa State University. He has concentrated on and written extensively about how taxes affect farmers and the farm sector.



Kenneth L. Robinson

Kenneth L. Robinson, CHOICES' columnist for this issue, is well qualified to make observations about agricultural policy. He is Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Agricultural Economics at Cornell University. In his 36-year career at Cornell, Robinson has concentrated on understanding farm prices and agricultural policy. He has written extensively on these topics. In the early 1970's, he served on the New York Council of Economic Advisers. He is a Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association.