

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

## This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<a href="http://ageconsearch.umn.edu">http://ageconsearch.umn.edu</a>
<a href="mailto:aesearch@umn.edu">aesearch@umn.edu</a>

Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.

The Magazine of Food, Farm, and Resource Issues

First Quarter 1990



Inside: Secretary Yeutter on Farm Policy in the 1990s --SPECIAL INTERVIEW



# CHOCES

The Magazine of Food, Farm, and Resource Issues

First Quarter 1990

#### SPECIAL FEATURE -

3 An Interview with Clayton Yeutter, U.S. Secretaryof Agriculture, on Farm Policy for the 1990s

#### ARTICLES -

- 8 Soviet Agriculture: Elusive Supply Response Keeps Pressure on Reforms by Karen Brooks
- 12 A Farm Policy Proposal: Full Participation Markets in Contracts For Future Delivery by James Duncan Shaffer
- 16 Fields of Fear by Luther McKinney
- 20 Regulating Chemicals: A Public Policy Challenge by Sandra O. Archibald

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

- 2 Gallery About the Authors
- 22 Centerfold

  Judith Z. Kalbacher and Nora L. Brooks with a graphic look at Farmers as Part of America's Mainstream
- 26 Commentary:
  Lyle Schertz's and Vernon Ruttan's Viewpoint on
  Poland and The Need to Manage Food Supplies

#### 38 Letters From You:

Hal Hamilton, Thomas E. Elam, Milton C. Hallberg, Carole Frank Nuckton, Dick Levins, Wojciech J. Florkowski, Harold F. Breimyer, Don Reeves, Carole Frank Nuckton, Chuck Lambert, Olan D. Forker, G. L. Carriker, Bruce B. Johnson

#### **DISEQUILIBRIA**

- 28 USDA Crop Forecasts: A Good Track Record by James P. Houck and Carroll Rock
- 31 Misperceptions Cloud Students' Opinions of Agricultural Careers by Teddee Grace
- 32 A Familiar Policy Agenda for the 1990s With A Difference by R.G.F. Spitze

- 34 Japanese Beef Trade Liberalization
  - Our Beef With Government Beef Trade Experts by Julian M. Alston, Colin A. Carter, and Lovell S. Jarvis
  - Our Beef With University Beef Trade Experts by William T. Coyle and John Dyck
- 36 FCS and S&Ls
  - Observations From The Front Line by Marvin Duncan
  - A Rejoinder by Gregory R. Gajewski

- A Rejoinder by Paul T. Prentice

Publisher:

The American Agricultural Economics Association

Editor: Lyle Schertz

Typography, Electronic Layout: F.E.A. Laser Service, Timonium, Md.

Printer:

United Lithographics Services, Inc.

**Publication Office:** 

12708 Oak Farms Road Herndon, VA 22071 (202) 786-1899

Cover drawing by
David Whitmore
Inside Front Cover,
Courtesy of the National Honey Board
Graphs and Illustrations
by Sarah Schmitt

Advisory Council:

Paul W. Barkley
Richard J. Herder
Patrick J. Luby
Jane E. Luzar
John Otte
Neil H. Pelsue, Jr.
Stephen Reiling
Wayne Schutjer
Shannon Stokes
Michele Veeman
Mike Woods
Jeffrey Zinn

CHOICES (ISSN 0886-5558) is published quarterly by the American Agricultural Economics Association for people who want to be informed about food, farm, and resource issues—and the policies that affect them. Postage paid at Merrifield, VA, and additional mailing offices. All rights reserved. Quotation with credit is permitted. © 1990 Vol. 5, No. 1, American Agricultural Economics Association. Subscription rates for U.S.: Individuals—\$19.95 a year. Institutions—\$32.50 a year [four editions]. In Canada add \$10 per year. Outside U.S. and Canada add \$20. Send Subscription correspondence to CHOICES, AAEA Business Office, Iowa State University, 80 Heady Hall, Ames, IA 50011-1070. Telephone (515) 294-8700. Send manuscripts to the Editor, Lyle Schertz, 12708 Oak Farms Road, Herndon, VA 22071. Telephone: (202) 786-1899.

### GALLERY -

#### ... About the authors



Karen Brooks is Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota. Her undergraduate education was at Stanford University and her Ph.D. in economics was granted by the University of Chicago in 1982. Travels in the Soviet Union over the past fifteen years, and frequent and continual contact with Soviet colleagues have made it possible for Brooks to understand the historical setting for recent Soviet policy changes. She spent August 1989 in Vilnius, Lithuania working on agricultural pricing under an agreement between the Lithuanian Research Institute for Agricultural Economics and The Center for Agricultural and Rural Development of Iowa State University.



James Duncan Shaffer is Professor of Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University where he started teaching economics in 1947. His proposal for a significant change in the organization of agricultural commodity markets and related farm policy follows years of research, extension, consulting and participation in public affairs focused on agricultural markets organization and performance and related public policy in the United States and many other countries.



Luther C. McKinney is Senior Vice President of The Quaker Oats Company. He is also chairman of the Public Affairs Council of the National Food Processors Association. In that capacity, he has been actively involved in food safety and labeling issues. McKinney has a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Iowa State University and received his law degree in 1959 from the University of Illinois. In addition to his corporate and industry responsibilities, McKinney farms approximately 1,500 acres in McHenry County, Illinois, producing primarily corn, as well as soybeans, wheat, and oats. He also has a sizeable cattle feeding operation.



Sandra Archibald is a production and resource economist with a Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis. Her research focuses on the interaction of agricultural technology, natural resource use, and regulatory policy. Consulting on pesticide policies with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Research Council, and numerous California Department of Food and Agriculture agencies on issues of pesticide policy has provided Archibald with unique opportunities to understand the dynamics of the perceptions that influence food safety policy in the United States. She joined the Food Research Institute in 1983.