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Edited by

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Preface

This publication contains the papers and presentation materials from the 1995 annual meeting of the North Central Regional Project NC-207 "Regulatory, Efficiency and Management Issues Affecting Rural Financial Markets" held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City on October 16 and 17, 1995. The program included an invited speaker session on the 1995 Farm Bill. The speakers participating in the session were Barry Flinchbaugh of Kansas State University and Abner Womack of the University of Missouri and FAPRI. Opening comments for the session were provided by Mark Drabenstott of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Another invited speaker was William Keeton of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City who spoke on small business lending. Also on the program was a panel session on the changing regulatory environment for agricultural and rural financial markets which was moderated by Alan Barkema of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. The panel consisted of Stephen McBride of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Harold Stokes of the Kansas Bankers Association, Neil Conklin of the Farm Credit Council, Leo Rasmussen of Metropolitan Life and William Bennett of MFA Inc. Copies of the supporting materials used in those sessions are included where possible. Three selected paper sessions were presented on agricultural lending issues and capital availability; the impact of banking structure on rural financial markets; and investment, borrower-lender choice and bank efficiency.

The program for this meeting was developed by Bruce Ahrendsen with assistance from Alan Barkema and suggestions by Bruce Sherrick and Paul Ellinger. The committee gratefully acknowledges the local arrangements provided by Alan Barkema and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Cooperating agencies in the NC-207 project are the Agricultural Experiment Stations at the University of Arkansas, North Dakota State University, University of Illinois, Purdue University, Cornell University, Iowa State University, Texas A & M University, Kansas State University, University of Kentucky, Michigan State University, Pennslyvania State University, Southern Illinois University, The Ohio State University, South Dakota State University, University of Florida and the University of Minnesota, as well as the University of Guelph, Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Reserve Banks of Chicago and Kansas City, Federal Reserve Board of Governors, and the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In addition to those providing papers and materials for this publication, the work of Alicia Minden in organizing and producing this publication is gratefully acknowledged.

Bruce L. Ahrendsen
NC-207 Chair, 1996
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