



**AgEcon** SEARCH  
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

*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

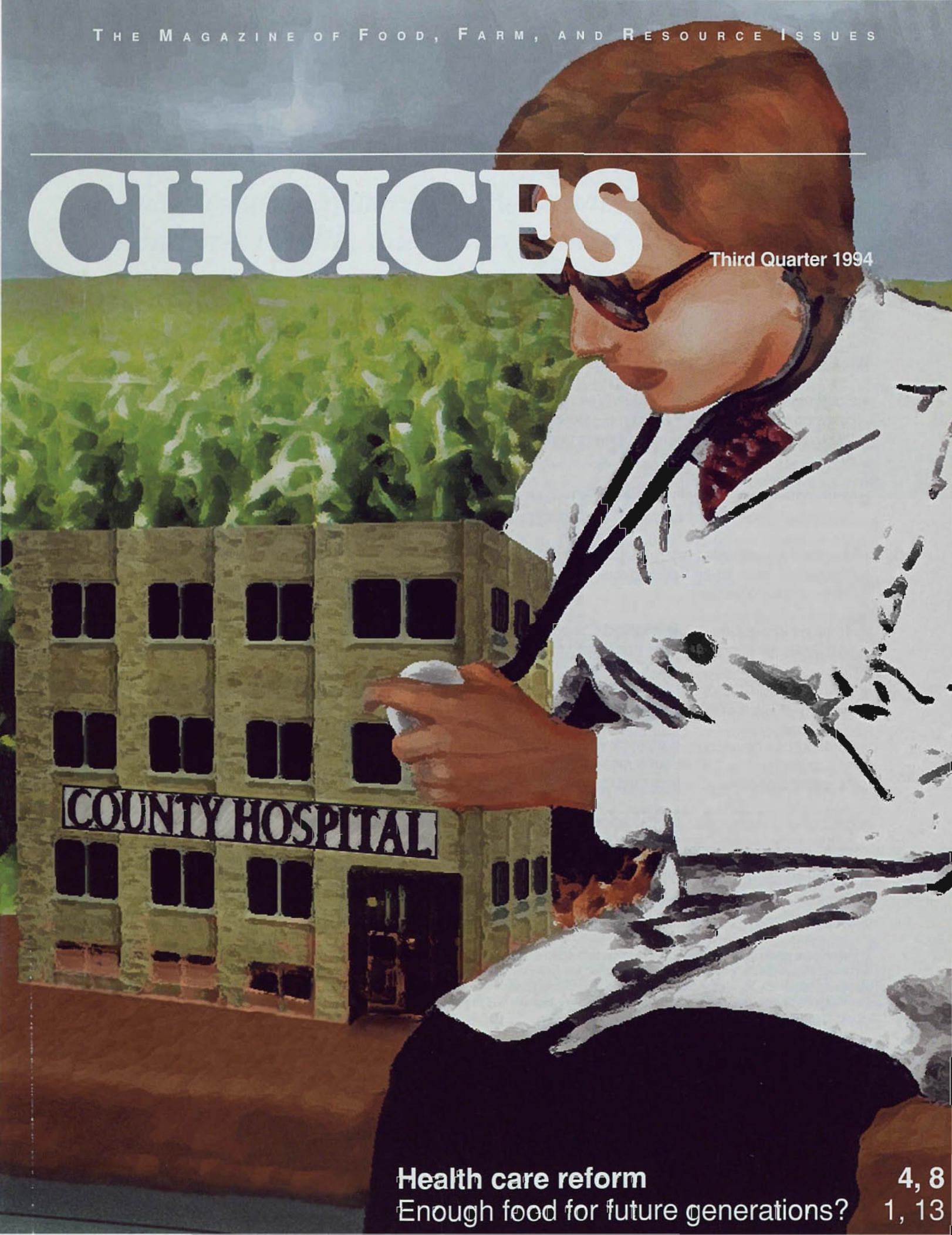
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

*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.*

# CHOICES

Third Quarter 1994



**Health care reform**

**4, 8**

**Enough food for future generations?**

**1, 13**





## Findings

What agricultural and resource economists are finding about food, farm and resource issues.\*

- Government insurance which stabilizes farmland values offers two important advantages over the more common insurance to stabilize crop production revenues alone: it better mitigates farm-caused environmental problems and it encourages farmers to produce at complete insurance output levels—say Innes and Ardila.
- Government price support policies may remove incentives for farmers to consider the effect of their current production decisions on future soil productivity—say Orazem and Miranowski.
- Maryland households prefer pesticide regulations over an alternative risk-reducing proposal (auto exhaust regulation), even when both regulations are hypothesized to cost the same and save the same number of lives—says Horowitz.
- Reduced insecticide use in irrigated rice production in the Philippines, and probably in other parts of Southeast Asia, will improve farmer health and their productivity—say Antle and Pingali.
- A government program to establish new forests on marginal crop and pasture land would be a cost-effective way to offset U.S. carbon emissions—say Parks and Hardie.
- For land-use development projects which may harm endangered species, an early process of conflict resolution, in contrast to decide-announce-defend strategies, increases the probability of producing an acceptable, negotiated settlement at less cost to taxpayers—say Rhodes and Wilson.
- Pricing landfill disposal services appears to reduce the volume of waste more than previously thought, and significantly effects the needed size of community landfills—say Strathman, Rufolo, and Mildner.
- Typical single family residential households are likely better off if charged per bag of waste set out for collection than if they pay a fixed monthly fee or property taxes for waste disposal—say Morris and Holthausen.

\*Findings are taken from recently or soon-to-be published research in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, *Review of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Agricultural Economics Research*, *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*, *Land Economics*, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Agribusiness*—an international journal, and other journals which publish the research findings of agricultural and resource economists. Abbreviated citations are found on page 40.

ON OUR COVER—How healthy are rural Americans and the rural health care system? Feature articles give us some clues and go further to discuss ethical issues of health care reform.



## *Global Research Systems for Sustainable Development: Agriculture, Health, and Environment*



*Vernon W. Ruttan is regents' professor of economics and agricultural economics, and adjunct professor in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. He has served on the President's Council of Economic Advisors and as the president of the Agricultural Development Council. He edited Agriculture, Environment and Health: Sustainable Development in the 21st Century, published in 1994.*

Thirty years ago, the world was experiencing the first of several food crises that would last into the 1970s. At that time, it was not too difficult to visualize the sources of growth that would relieve the crisis—fertilizer, irrigation, and higher-yielding crop varieties. It is not as easy today to anticipate the new sources of productivity needed to meet the tripling of the demands that the global economy will place on agriculture as we move toward the middle of the next century.

It is clear, however, that the battle to achieve sustainable growth in agricultural production must be fought out along a broad multidisciplinary front. Poverty undermines health and degrades the environment. Environmental problems, which link the agricul-

tural agenda with health and environmental changes underway at the global level, will require changes in food production and health practices.

The vision that emerged in the early 1960s as a guide to the sources of growth in agricultural production included a more positive view of the role of peasant producers in the process of agricultural development. In an iconoclastic work published in 1964, Theodore A. Schultz identified three “high payoff” investments needed to enhance the productivity of peasant producers: (a) the capacity of the agricultural research system to generate locally relevant knowledge and technology; (b) the capacity of the industrial sector to develop, produce, and market new inputs which embody the knowledge and the technology generated by research; and (c) the education of rural people to enable them to make effective use of new knowledge and technology.

These insights shaped the response to the food crises of the 1960s and 1970s. The response was the mobilization of resources to develop a system of international research institutes and to strengthen national agricultural research systems. By the early 1990s, however, a false sense of complacency about future food supplies was undermining these commitments.

A vision of a global health system that could replace the traditional sickness recovery system has emerged more slowly than the vision of a global agricultural system. Health research has been thought of principally as developed-country laboratory-based biomedical research seeking “silver bullets”

against specific infections or diseases.

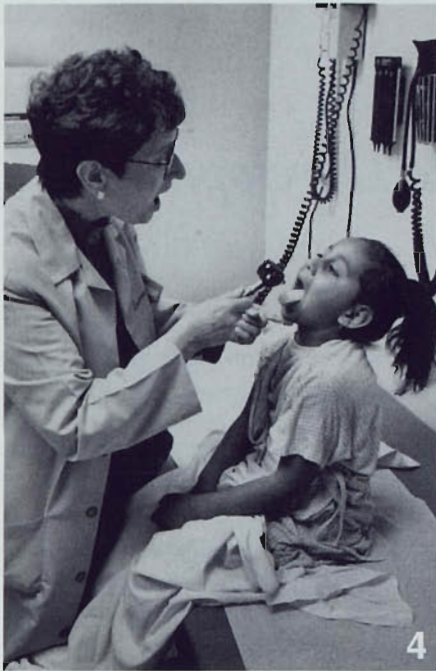
It is clear, however, that the “high payoff” health investments are similar to those that have enabled peasant producers to become effective suppliers of agricultural commodities: (a) the capacity of the health research community to produce the new knowledge and materials that are appropriate to resource and cultural endowments; (b) the capacity to make the knowledge and materials available to communities and families; and (c) the education needed by families, particularly mothers, to make effective use of the knowledge and materials.

A vision of a global environmental research system with effective articulation at the national and international levels, and between the suppliers and users of knowledge, has only begun to emerge. As in the case of agriculture and health, a system that enables community, firm, and household decision makers to understand the environmental consequences of actions by the economic and political organizations in which they participate will be required.

Achievement of sustainable development will require that effective bridges be built between the “island empires” of agriculture, environment, and health research and policy. The central role of communities, firms, and families in achieving growth of agricultural production, improvement in health, and enhancement of the resource base will require more effective working relationships among suppliers of knowledge and between suppliers and users.



**Table of Contents**



**Features**

- 4** **Confronting the ethics behind health care reform**  
*Mark H. Waymack*
  
- 8** **Health and health care in rural America**  
*Lorraine Garkovich and Rosalind P. Harris*
  
- 13** **Enough food for future generations?**  
*Per Pinstруп-Anderson and Rajul Pandya-Lorch*
  
- 17** **Economic pathology, six cases**  
*Don Paarlberg*

- 24** **Opening china's market to U.S. agriculture**  
*Lorraine A. West*

**Profile**

- 28** **Richard T. Ely: economic reformer and champion of academic freedom**  
*Gerald F. Vaughn*

**In Short**

- 31** **The language of loss: or how to paralyze policy to protect the status quo**  
*Daniel W. Bromley*

**Gallery**



**Waymack Garkovich Harris**



**Paarlberg West**



**Pinstруп-Anderson Pandya-Lorch**

**Mark H. Waymack** is associate professor of philosophy and co-director of graduate programs in health care ethics, Loyola University Chicago. He is also adjunct assistant professor of medicine at Northwestern University Medical School. He serves on numerous professional committees, and has been a member of the Ethics Advisory Board of Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago for several years.

**Lorraine Garkovich** is a professor of sociology in the College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, with research, extension, and teaching responsibilities. She is co-chair of the Extension Task Force on Health and Safety and has co-authored several publications on health care reform. She also publishes in the area of rural community change.

**Rosalind P. Harris** is an assistant professor of sociology in the College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky. In addition to her PhD in rural sociology, she also holds a master's degree in public health. She is currently conducting research, funded by the American Association of University Women, on "Women, Poverty, and Health in Rural America."

**Don Paarlberg** is professor emeritus in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University. Don has held several high administrative posts, including director of agricultural economics at USDA, assistant secretary of agriculture, and special assistant to President Eisenhower. He is the author of numerous books and a highly treasured teacher.



**33 A wetland/floodway reserve from the great flood of 1993: what effects?**

*C. Robert Taylor, John B. Penson, Jr., and Klaus Alt*

**35 Solving the education puzzle**

*Michael L. Walden*

**37 A private farmer in a land of collective agriculture**

*Glenn C.W. Ames and Kathryn S. Ames*

**Departments**

**1 Guest editorial**

*Vernon W. Ruttan*

**2 Gallery**  
About the authors

**3 Graphically speaking**  
Farmland taxation: is it equitable?

*Gene Wunderlich and John Blackledge*

**39 In review**

William E. Martin reviews *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit* by Al Gore and *Environmental Gore: A Constructive Response to Earth in the Balance* by John A. Baden

**41 Letters**

**Publisher**

The American Agricultural Economics Association  
1110 Buckeye Avenue  
Ames, IA 50010-8063

**Editor**

Harry Ayer, PhD  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721

**Managing editor**

Sandra Clarke  
1110 Buckeye Avenue  
Ames, IA 50010-8063

**Art director**

Valerie Dittmer King  
King Graphics  
Grand Junction, Iowa

**Printer**

Garner Printing, Des Moines, IA

**Cover and center spread design**

Ken Patton  
Fine Print  
Ames, Iowa

**Advisory board**

Kristen Allen	Richard Gady
Paul W. Barkley	B. Delworth Gardner
Sandra Baie	George McDowell
Adell Brown, Jr.	Willis Peterson
Harold Carter	Bob Robinson
Neilson Conklin	Jerry Sharples
William Dobson	Gene Swackhamer
Robert Emerson	Laurian Unnevehr
Dave Freshwater	Jeffrey Zinn

**Loraine A. West** is an economist in the Center for International Research, Bureau of the Census. At present, her research focuses on reform of China's foreign trade system and causes of discrepancies in U.S.-China trade statistics.

**Per Pinstrup-Andersen** is director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute. He was recently director of the Cornell Food and Nutrition Policy Program and professor of food economics at Cornell University. His research and teaching relate mostly to food and agricultural policy.

**Rajul Pandya-Lorch** is special assistant to the director general at the International Food Policy Research Institute. Her publications focus on food security and related issues.

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 Ames, IA, and additional mailing offices. All rights reserved. Quotation with credit is permitted. © 1994 Vol. 9, No. 3, American Agricultural Economics Association. Subscription rates for U.S.: individuals—\$19.95 per year, institutions—\$32.50 per year (four editions). In Canada add \$10 per year. Outside U.S. and Canada add \$20. Send subscription correspondence to CHOICES, AAEA Business Office, 1110 Buckeye Avenue, Ames, IA 50010-8063. Telephone (515)233-3234, FAX (515)233-3101. Send four copies of each manuscript to the editor, Harry W. Ayer, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, telephone (602)621-6257 and FAX (602)621-6250.