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CHOICES

The Magazine of Food, Farm, and Resource Issues

Fourth Quarter 1992

**USDA "To Do" Lists
for the Clinton Administration**

Daft...Gardner...Leshner...Pera
pages 34-38

Agricultural economics is issue-oriented. From the beginning of the profession some 75 years ago, agricultural economists have focused on issues and related private and public choices in dealing with those issues.

As a publication of the American Agricultural Economics Association, *CHOICES* continues that tradition. It focuses on the issues—food, farm, and resource—important to rural America. And to those who live there. Those who supply farm inputs. Those who handle, process, distribute...and consume... food and fiber. All of us, urban and rural.

CHOICES does not take sides in bringing you information about the issues important to you. Instead, we air opposing sides of controversial issues, so that you can come to your own conclusions, not ours.

We invite you to join *CHOICES*—as writers, as well as readers—in our search for awareness and understanding of the issues and policies that affect producers, suppliers, and consumers alike.



CHOICES

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Advisory Council:

Joyce Allen	B. Delworth Gardner
Paul Barkley	Richard Herder
Rodney Clouser	Stephen Reiling
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Allen Featherstone	Jeffrey Zinn

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GALLERY

...About the authors



Donald N. Duvick



James V. Parker



Merritt Chesley



Gary W. Williams

Donald N. Duvick, Affiliate Professor of Plant Breeding at Iowa State University, is retired from Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., where he was Senior Vice President for Research. He joined Pioneer in 1951 starting as a geneticist. Over the years he undertook increasing responsibilities for research activities of the company and became Senior Vice President in 1986. As Senior Vice President he had oversight responsibilities for research involving 250 scientists working in 85 locations. He is active in many professional organizations and is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy.

James V. Parker is a career Foreign Service Officer with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). He received undergraduate and graduate degrees in International Relations and International Economics from the School of International Service at American University, Washington, DC. Parker joined FAS in 1973. While in Washington he became Deputy Director of FAS' Grain and Feed Division. He has served as U.S. Agricultural attache in London, Agricultural Counselor in Argentina, and Agricultural Counselor in Australia. Since October 1989, he has been USDA's Minister-Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

Merritt Chesley joined USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service after receiving her M.S. degree in agricultural economics from Cornell University in 1985. Before going to Tokyo in 1988, she worked in the Dairy and Poultry Division of FAS in Washington, DC. Chesley worked as Agricultural Attache in Tokyo for four years. While there, in addition to her commodity responsibilities which included rice and dairy, she covered Japanese agricultural policy. She is now located in Washington working on European Community trade policy.

Gary W. Williams is Professor of Agricultural Economics and Coordinator of the Texas Agricultural Market Research Center in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University. Prior to joining the staff at Texas A&M University he was Assistant Coordinator of the Meat Export Research Center at Iowa State University, Senior Economist at Chase Econometrics, agricultural economist for USDA and Special Assistant to the U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for International Affairs and Commodity Programs. Williams speaks fluent Spanish and has lived and worked in Latin America throughout his career.

Parr Rosson is an Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics and Extension Economist-International Trade at Texas A&M University. His major responsibilities include extension education and research in international marketing, trade, and trade policy. Rosson was reared in rural Texas where he worked in the family agribusiness until graduation from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Agronomy in 1971. His M.S. and Ph.D. in agricultural economics are also from Texas A&M. After receiving his Ph.D. he spent seven years at Clemson University conducting extension, research and teaching programs in international agricultural trade and marketing.

Frederic A. Vogel was raised on an irrigated farm and cattle feedlot operation in Western Nebraska. Vogel has published several papers on sampling and statistical methodology and has held a wide variety of positions in the headquarters offices of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) including leading the Statistical Methodology Unit, directing the agency's Statistical Research & Remote Sensing Programs, and managing the agency's Crop, Livestock, and Prices Estimating Program. Vogel is presently Director of NASS' Estimates Division.

William G. Murray had a distinguished professional career, was author of books on finance and land appraisal, which were studied world wide, and was also Head of the Department of Economics at Iowa State University from 1944 to 1955. Murray was a contemporary and a friend of Henry A. Wallace. In the early 1920s both foresaw trouble ahead for agriculture. Living History Farms, a museum dedicated to explaining agriculture, its history, its problems, and its challenges was Murray's idea and continued to be one of his major interests until he passed away late in 1991.

Raymond R. Beneke was an Iowa farm boy during the years when Henry A. Wallace frequently authored editorials in *Wallace's Farmer*. Wallace's conviction that small crops returned greater income to farmers than large crops made a profound impression on this farm boy who helped harvest corn that would sell for 10 cents per bushel. After receiving his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, Beneke became professor of agricultural economics at Iowa State University in 1949. He served as Chair of the Department of Economics from 1973 to 1984 and has been Secretary-Treasurer of the American Agricultural Economics Association since 1984.

Parr Rosson



Frederic A. Vogel



William G. Murray



Raymond R. Beneke

