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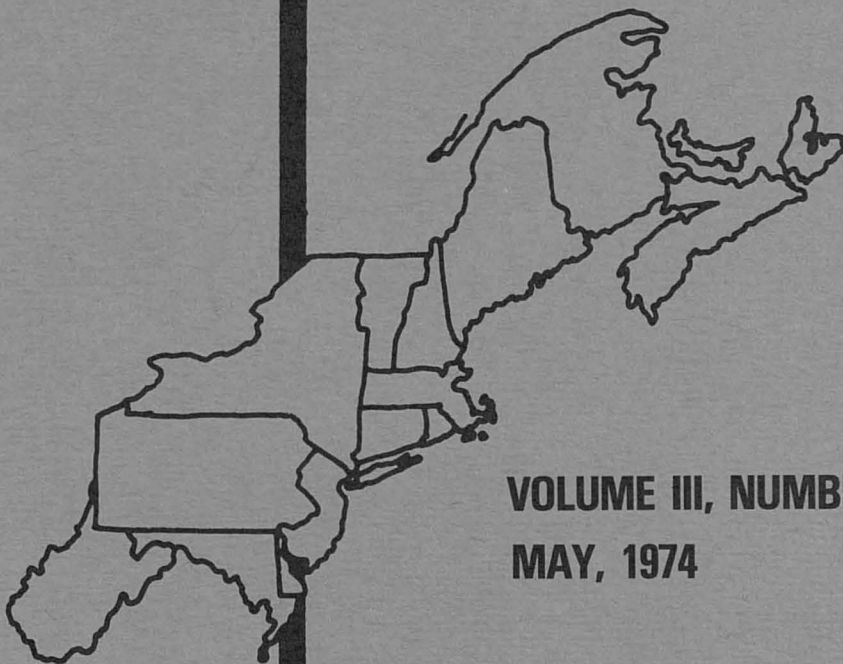
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THE EDITOR'S FAREWELL

Robert L. Christensen

This issue of the Journal is my last as the Editor. Serving in this role over the past two years has given me (and the Council) an opportunity to test some hypotheses. First, we have proven that there is sufficient interest in the Northeast to justify the publication of a journal. Over the past four issues we have published 79 papers. I do not know what the overall acceptance rate has been since the Proceedings papers were screened by those developing the sections for the annual meetings. However, for the two Spring issues we received 32 papers and accepted 14. That works out to about a 44 percent acceptance rate as compared with the 36-38 percent acceptance rate of the AJAE. It would be presumptuous of me to make any statements about quality but I can assert that I feel no uneasiness about this factor.

A second hypothesis was that we could publish a journal at a reasonable cost (cheap) and of acceptable quality. As compared with other journals in these days of rapidly rising costs, we have succeeded. By requiring authors to submit camera-ready copy we have eliminated any manuscript preparation work by the Editor's office. He then is responsible for preparing the table of contents, page numbering, and miscellaneous minor tasks. The only formidable problem is that of preparing and binding final copies. We were extremely lucky at the University of Massachusetts in being able to get this work done both reasonably and expeditiously. The final job, which takes more time than all the rest, is the mailing of the Journals. Bulk mailings of ten or more copies cost about half as much per copy as single mailings. For this reason we urge people in the various departments around the Northeast to use their office rather than home addresses.

One thing that has surprised me has been the absence of any personal complaints. I frequently had the thankless task of informing good friends that we could not accept their articles for various and sundry reasons. There is always an associated risk of alienation that goes with such actions. In not one instance did anyone offer a reproach or otherwise indicated that they felt unfairly treated. For this fact I am grateful. I am truly proud of the level of professionalism within our membership.

It has been my good fortune to have an Editorial Board of competent and fair-minded individuals. They were unusually prompt in meeting review deadlines. Another of their collective characteristics has been the detailed and incisive reviews of articles (particularly those which were refused). This made my job as Editor immeasurably less difficult. There were, of course, some instances where reviewers differed in their recommendations. In those cases I entered my judgment and made the final decision. Any errors of this type were mine and should not reflect on the Editorial Board.

In conclusion I want to thank all of those who have helped me and I particularly thank the membership who have supported the establishment of the Journal of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council. My best wishes, willing advice, and occasional assistance will go to the next Editor.