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EDITOR'S PREFACE

A journal plays an important role in the life of a professional society. It is clear to me that the JNAEC is continuing to grow and develop. Twenty manuscripts were submitted for consideration. Of these, eight are being published in this issue of the Journal. The reviewers are setting a high standard of what is expected in a Journal article. Each article published offers something of interest for professionals in the region. The fact that we have already received several manuscripts for consideration for the Spring, 1984, issue tells me that interest in the Journal is increasing.

As was indicated in the Fall, 1983, issue, it was not possible to publish the entire proceedings in a single volume. As a result, seven papers that were presented at Vermont in June are published in this issue.

During my tenure as editor, we have prepared camera ready copy of the Journal on a word processor, using secretarial support initially from the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and now from the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station. This was done to reduce the direct cost of printing borne by the Council. As

the editorship moves from Maryland to Massachusetts the economics of the Journal will need to be evaluated once again. The dues were increased last summer from \$5.00 per year to \$10.00 per year. The page charge has remained at \$30.00 per page for several years. It may be necessary to adjust that figure beginning with the Spring, 1984, issue of the Journal.

In many ways, the 1980's and 1990's will be an exciting time for agricultural research in the United States. The role of science in our society, and especially the role of science in agriculture, is being examined with ever greater scrutiny. Important choices will be made in agricultural sciences during the next ten years. Because economists have a unique contribution to make in societal decision making, they will play an increasingly important role in the future.

I am proud to be a member of the Council. I believe that the Council is making an important contribution to the development of the discipline in the Northeast. I look forward to participating in the continued growth and development of the Council.