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Note from the Editor

Dear Reader,

The Executive Committee of the International Association of Agricultural Economists has asked me to succeed Stan Johnson as Editor-in-Chief of *Agricultural Economics* as of January 1, 2001. This decision was announced several months ago, and I have been receiving manuscripts since September 1. It is a great honour to be asked to serve the IAAE and the readers of *Agricultural Economics*, and I will do my best to live up to expectations.

As the official journal of the IAAE, *Agricultural Economics* has an important role to play in uniting and serving as a forum for communication between agricultural economists world-wide. As agricultural markets and policies around the world become increasingly interrelated, the importance of an International Association of Agricultural Economists can only grow. Producing a journal that serves IAAE and its growing role is the challenge that I will be facing during my tenure as Editor-in-Chief.

I am confident that I will be able to live up to this challenge because I am inheriting *Agricultural Economics* from a predecessor who has provided six years of excellent service and who has handed over to me a journal that is in great health. To highlight just one of many accomplishments, Stan Johnson's tenure has seen the creation of a website for *Agricultural Economics* and a manuscript tracking service that provides authors with a current status report on their submitted articles. Both can be found at www.iaae-agecon.org.

I also face the challenge ahead with confidence because I have the support of many very capable colleagues. George Norton has agreed to succeed Chris Delgado as Book Review Editor and I have been over-

whelmed by the positive response that I have received from those whom I asked to join or to stay on as Associate Editor or member of the Editorial Advisory Board. The support of these qualified individuals will not make my job easy, but it will enable me to attain vastly more than I otherwise could.

The IAAE itself has provided tangible support in the form of a new membership fee structure that will be implemented for the next three-year period beginning January 1, 2002. The new fee structure gives members the option to combine IAAE membership with a subscription to *Agricultural Economics* at very attractive conditions. This should have the effect of significantly increasing subscriptions and, thus, the reach of our journal.

An editor is a facilitator. He or she does not write the articles or prepare the reviews. My job is to ensure that *Agricultural Economics* is run professionally and smoothly as a forum for the best work that our profession has to offer. I would like to invite all members of our profession to contribute to *Agricultural Economics* as subscribers, as authors, and as reviewers. Or simply by sending me the odd note with a suggestion, for example concerning an important topic that deserves a special issue, or a colleague who would be particularly qualified to prepare a synthesis article apprising our readers of important developments in a particular area of agricultural economics.

In closing I would like to thank Stan Johnson, Chris Delgado and the members of the editorial team who have served us so capably over the last six years. I would also like to thank the IAAE for entrusting *Agricultural Economics* to me. I look forward to serving, and to working with and getting to know as many colleagues as possible during my tenure.

