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FoodReview

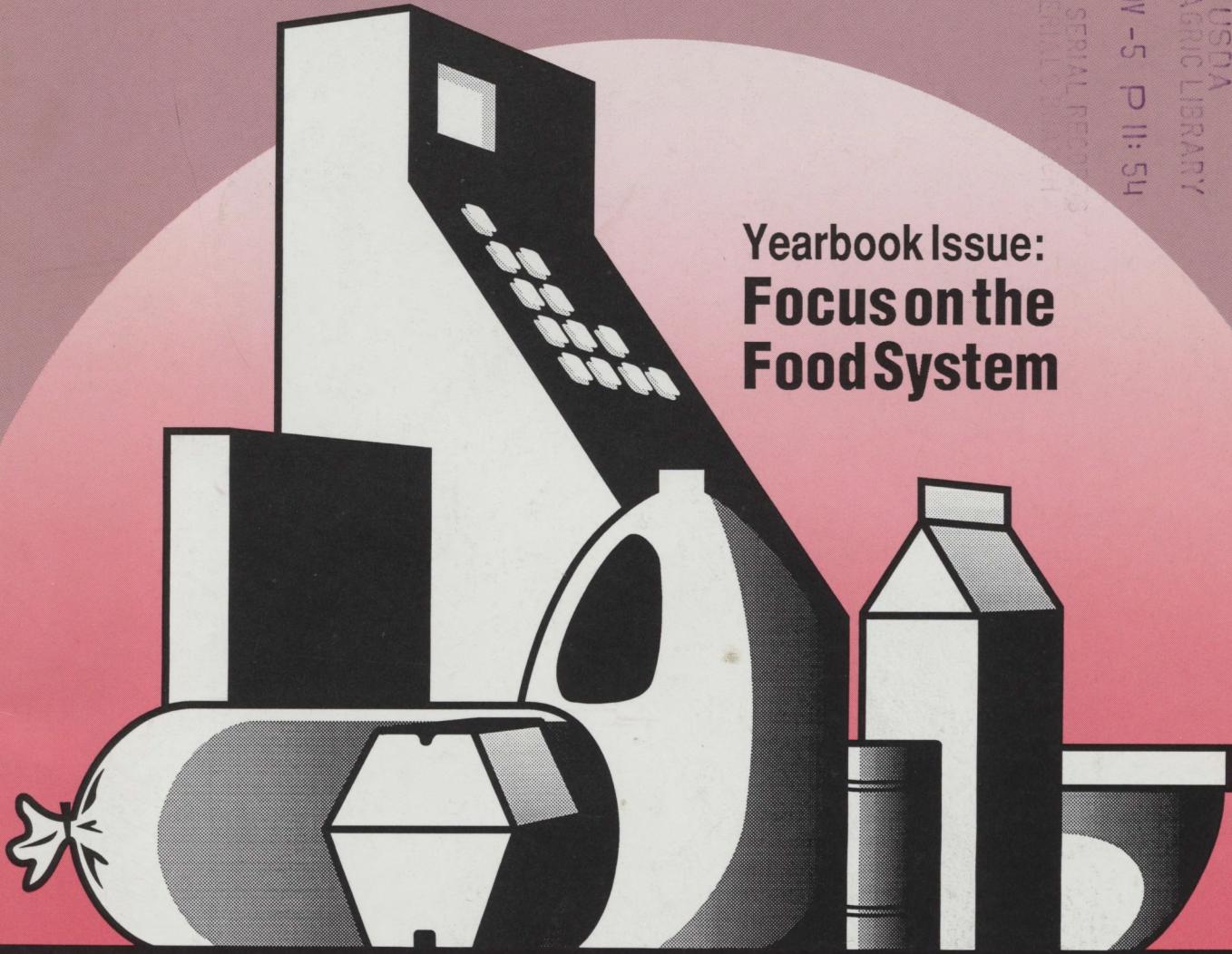
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Yearbook Issue:
**Focus on the
Food System**



Editor's Notes

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Once again, we present our annual yearbook issue, which looks at what we had available to eat, who supplied it, who prepared or processed it, where we purchased it, who paid for it, and how nutritious it was. The yearbook issue discusses trends in food consumption and food price changes. Some highlights include that Americans are not necessarily successful in changing their diet to lower fat intake; instead, they seem to be merely substituting one fat source for another. Also included is information on the growing spread between farm and retail prices, that Americans are eating out more than ever, and how food assistance programs are helping to feed the less fortunate.

This year's yearbook reports on new topics as well. Information about food consumption has been expanded into available food nutrients. Two articles discuss the revolution in the food marketing industry and report the trends affecting food processors and retailers.

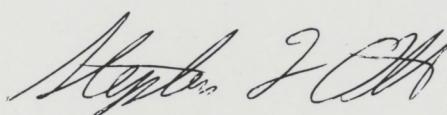
FoodReview analysis doesn't stop at just the trends. This past year, *FoodReview* discussed many food-environmental issues, including food safety. In the last three issues, seven articles discussed food safety and pesticides. Topics ranged from the role pesticides play in our food production system to consumer interest in buying organic, fresh produce.

Waste disposal, especially with diminishing space in the Nation's landfills, poses another environmental concern. The April-June issue reported how innovations in food packaging are reducing wastes. That issue also showed how food manufacturers are recycling byproducts into useful items.

FoodReview also covers foreign trade. Since our economy has become more integrated with the rest of the world, international trade has become important to every aspect of the food system.

Other issues dealt with our wallets. For example, ERS research found no evidence of large supermarket chains using market power to charge excessive food prices. Instead, opportunity for comparison shopping remains.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *FoodReview*. Let us know what you think, so we can continue to provide useful, timely information about the food industry.



Stephen L. Ott
Economics Editor

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Dialing the Experts

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