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## Table of Contents

3rd Quarter 2005 — Volume 20, Number 3

A Statement from the Editors .....	175
Washington Scene .....	177
<i>By Co-editors, Joe L. Outlaw, Choices and Tamara Wagester, CFARE</i>	

### Articles

#### **Theme: Research and Environment**

#### **Valuing the Quality of the Environment and Human Health: Nonmarket Valuation for Informing Public Policy Debates (John Loomis, Guest Editor)**

Economic Values without Prices: The Importance of Nonmarket Values and Valuation for Informing Public Policy Debates.....	179
<i>By John Loomis</i>	

The Road Less Traveled: Revealed Preference and Using the Travel Cost Model to Value Environmental Changes .....	183
<i>By W. Douglass Shaw</i>	

Can Stated Preference Valuations Help Improve Environmental Decision Making? .....	189
<i>By Thomas H. Stevens</i>	

Benefit Transfer – The Quick, the Dirty, and the Ugly?.....	195
<i>By Richard Ready and Ståle Navrud</i>	

#### **Grab Bag**

Counter-Cyclical Payments Under the 2002 Farm Act: Production Effects Likely to be Limited .....	201
<i>By Paul C. Westcott</i>	

The Sweet Smell of Subsidies Revisited.....	207
<i>By Doug Young, Elwin Smith, and Anne Smith</i>	

#### **Coming Attractions .....211**

GMOs / *William Hallman, Guest Editor*

Supply Chains in the Agricultural Sector / *Mike Boehlje, Guest Editor*

Developing New Energy Sources from Agriculture / *Jim Duffield, Guest Editor*





## A Statement from the Editors

Welcome to our fifth issue of *Choices*.

- *Choices* continues to gain a wider distribution. A review of our website statistics shows that counts on page views and downloads have more than doubled from last year. The number of subscribers has nearly doubled as well. The first issue of 2005, for example, had nearly 20,000 PDF downloads, or eight times the AAEA membership.
- We went on a major initiative at the AAEA Meetings to encourage submissions of thematic proposals and expand our outreach partnerships. We have since received the first unsolicited thematic proposal from Rachel Goodhue and Gregory McKee of the University of California, Davis and a second one from Siân Mooney and Christopher T. Bastian at Wyoming. We hope for more thematic proposals as well as articles submitted for the “Grab Bag” section of *Choices*. We also would like contributions centered on the Washington Scene; that is, hot issues involving public policy. For submission requirements, see <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/submissions.htm>.
- The response from potential outreach partners has been slow in developing. We hope those with mailing lists will help us redistribute *Choices* announcements to extension, policy, agribusiness, USDA and to non-members of AAEA. Outreach partners are important, not only in helping us increase readership, but also in helping us maintain relevance. More information and forms to nominate or agree to be an outreach partner are available at <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/outreach.htm>.
- Our objective is to publish at the end of each quarter of the year. This quarter we are only going ahead with one theme as one was not going to be ready to allow timely publication. Please note that our thematic coverage in this issue focuses on nonmarket valuation for informing public policy debates. Future themes will focus on supply chains in the agricultural sector, GMOs and developing new energy sources from agriculture. Additional themes in coming issues will include focus on the Farm Bill, biofuels, checkoff programs, and emerging trends in Latin American agriculture.