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(Shida Henneberry, Guest Editor)

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A Statement from the Editors

Welcome to the 2nd Quarter, 2009 issue of *Choices*. Our two timely themes contain interesting individual articles which analyze topics important to agricultural, food, consumer, rural and environmental issues and policies.

The first theme addresses Emerging Issues in Food Safety. Problems with food safety were once primarily local but are now increasingly national or international and much more visible. Guest editors Sandra Hoffman and Neal H. Hooker have assembled a set of articles which address the complexity and challenges of keeping the food supply safe. Government and industry are responding to urgent needs, including through large scale institutional reforms to better manage food safety. The theme articles examine the challenges, responses and new information technologies which can assist decision makers as they strive to maintain the safest possible food supply.

Shida Henneberry guest edits the second theme, Emerging Countries: Converging or Diverging Economies? The five largest emerging markets are China, India, Indonesia, Brazil and Russia. They have restructured their economies to be more market-oriented and offer many opportunities in trade and foreign direct investment. These countries are also becoming more competitive in supplying international markets in some cases. But their future role in global trade and growth potential remains uncertain.

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Choices is the principal outreach vehicle of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA). Published quarterly, it is designed to provide current coverage regarding economic implications of food, farm, resource, or rural community issues directed toward a broad audience. *Choices* publishes thematic groupings of papers and individual papers. The broad themes we will repeatedly visit in *Choices* are agriculture and trade, resources and the environment, consumers and markets, agribusiness and finance, and rural and community issues. Submitted manuscripts are subject to peer review for publication consideration.

AAEA will also publish monthly *Policy Issues* articles addressing particularly timely topics with peer-reviewed, brief economic analysis of potential interest to those involved in the policy dialogue.

Editorial Communications

Proposed manuscripts, thematic proposals, and comments may be emailed to the editors: Theme and policy issues suggestions or submissions, send to walt@farmfoundation.org; Submitted articles, send to clement.ward@okstate.edu. Editorial communications may be sent to keoughwilson_239@msn.com.

The authors address forces driving these economies, their current food demand and supply situations, and needed economic and political reforms that will shape their future roles.

We encourage submissions of proposals for future themed sets of papers, individual articles and timely policy issues analyses. Submit theme proposals and policy issues proposals to Walter J. Armbruster at walt@farmfoundation.org, and individual

papers for the quarterly Choices to Clement Ward at clement.ward@ok-state.edu. We look forward to working with you to address important economic and policy issues affecting consumers, food, farms, resources and rural communities.