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## **INSTITUTE NEWS**

## Wallace Institute Board Elects New Officers, Installs New Members

The Wallace Institute Board of Directors has elected new officers for the coming year, and installed five new members. The new President is Michael Heller, Director of The Clagett Farm in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, a 285-acre research and demonstration farm operated by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to educate farmers and the public on environmentally sound farming methods. The new Vice President is Dr. David F. Bezdicek, Professor of Soils at Washington State University; Secretary is Dr. William C. Liebhardt, who directs the Sustainable Agriculture Program at the University of California-Davis; and Treasurer is Dr. Anne K. Vidaver, Chairperson of the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The new members of the Board are: Dr. Cornelia Butler Flora, Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, Virginia Polytechnic and State University; Dr. James William Gibbons, owner of a family-run small fruit and vegetable farm in Ozark, Arkansas, and former Senior Rice Scientist, Centro International de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), Colombia, South America; Dr. Esther Nickel of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, Jackson, MN, Ph.D. in agronomy, and manager of a student learning center for practical farm experience; Kenneth J. Taylor, Executive Director of Minnesota Food Association, and former Chair, North Central Region Administrative Council, USDA SARE Program; and Gregory C. Watson, Eastern Regional Director, The Nature Conservancy, Boston, Massachusetts, and former Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture.

## Tracy Irwin Hewitt Joins Wallace Institute as Policy Analyst

Tracy Irwin Hewitt, a former analyst with the Sustainable Production Systems Section of the USDA's Economic Research Service, has joined the Wallace Institute as a policy analyst. During her first year at the Institute, she will spend half her time serving as the Washington, D.C.-area representative of the Council for Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE), a non-profit professional organization. For both C-FARE and the Wallace Institute, she will follow and report on legislative and administrative policy affecting agricultural research and education.

Among Ms. Hewitt's initial projects with the Institute's Policy Studies Program will be the synthesis of information advancing the case for sustainable agriculture as an approach to feeding the world's growing population. She received her B.A. in economics and an M.S. in agricultural and resource economics from Michigan State University. While a graduate student at MSU, she was a research assistant with the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences and was part of a farmer-led, interdisciplinary team researching sustainable farming in Michigan.

## Organic Farmers, in First Survey, Name Top Three Research Priorities

The first national survey of certified organic farmers ever conducted has found that the top three research priorities identified by the growers are to increase consumer demand for organic products, study the relationship of growing practices to crop quality and nutrition, and study the relationship between plant nutrition and pest resistance.

The survey, conducted by the Organic Farming Research Foundation was mailed to 2,700 certified organic farmers; 550 farmers responded. Nearly one-third of the farmers surveyed have participated in on-farm organic farming research projects; more than 80% said they would be interested in participating in on-farm organic research projects if the resources were available.

More than 60% of the farmers surveyed grow vegetables; livestock are most frequently used as a fertilizer source for use on the farm, according to the survey. More than 80% of those responding are sole proprietors of their farms or coowners of their farms in a family partnership. For more information, contact OFRF, P.O. Box 440, Santa Cruz, CA 95061; (408)426-6606.