

### **Scientific symposium speakers announced**

The Intitute for Alternative Agriculture's third annual scientific symposium, a one-day event scheduled March 4, will explore the implications of biotechnology for sustainable farming systems. It will examine these emerging technologies in relation to their likely impacts on farming systems, environmental quality, overall farm structure, and the economics of farming.

The symposium, which will be held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Washington, will feature two major presentations in the morning and three panel sessions in the afternoon.

Presenters at the morning session are William Brown of Pioneer Hi-Bred International and Fred Buttel of Cornell

University. Brown is the honorary chairman of Pioneer and chairman of the Board on Agriculture of the National Academy of Science. Buttel, a rural sociologist, is an authority on the impacts of biotechnology on agriculture.

Holly Hauptli, a plant geneticist with Calgene, and Richard Lower of the University of Wisconsin will discuss "The Biotechnology Research Agenda: Public Sector vs. Private Sector Research Priorities" in the first panel session. Calgene is a private biotechnology company at Davis, Calif. Lower, a horticulturist, is associate dean of UW's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Sue Tolin of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Jack Doyle of the Washington-based Environmental Policy Institute will discuss "Biotechnology: Regulating the Risks,

Data Gaps, and Needed Research." Tolin is a professor in the Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science. Doyle is the director of EPI's Agricultural Resources Project.

David Bezdicek of Washington State University and Randolph Barker of Cornell will discuss "Biotechnology and Farming Systems: On-Farm Applications and Consequences" in the final session. Bezdicek, a soil scientist, is on leave this year at the Pacific Northwest Laboratories of Batelle. Barker is an economics professor.

A published proceedings will be available. Copies of *Biotechnology in Agriculture: Implications for Sustainability* will be available at \$6 each post-paid. The Institute also is recording its annual symposium for the first time and will offer edited tapes for sale later.

#### **Quick Bibliography Series**

Several new and updated bibliographies on topics related to alternative agriculture have been published by the National Agricultural Library. The bibliographies in the Quick Bibliography Series are derived from computerized on-line searches of the AGRICOLA data base.

The library emphasizes that they are intended primarily for current awareness and are neither in-depth nor exhaustive bibliographies. The citations are a substantial resource for recent investigations on a single topic, it notes, and serve the purpose of bringing the literature of agriculture to many interested users who could not access it any other way.

Recent new and updated bibliographies in the library's QB Series include: "Allelopathy: The Harmful Effects of Chemicals Produced by One Plant Upon Another. 1979-85." QB 86-05 includes 335 citations from an October, 1985, search by Henry Gilbert.

"Herbicides: Ecological Effects. 1983-84." QB 85-17 includes 95 citations from a June, 1985, search by Jayne T. Maclean.

"Integrated Pest Management. 1983-85." QB 86-19 includes 192 citations from a November, 1985, search by Jayne T. Maclean.

"Legumes in Crop Rotations. 1979-85." QB 86-21 includes 127 citations from a December, 1985, search by Jayne T. Maclean.

Copies can be obtained by sending the title, series number, and a self-addressed gummed label to U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library, Public Services Division, Room 111, Beltsville, MD 20705.

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