

keep the book from fully achieving its admirable goal. Some of the chapters seem at too low a level even for the non-specialist. In particular, the discussion of consumers' demands consists largely of obvious generalities, presented with little insight. Second, although the editor and authors have substantially achieved their goal of creating an integrated volume, inconsistencies remain in both style and content. Some chapters take a long-range perspective and present considerable background material, while others emphasize very current developments, as would be more appropriate for a magazine rather than a book.

Finally, many corners have been cut. There is no index, and there are several inconsistencies between the source as cited in the text versus how it appears in the reference list. Also, page numbers are sometimes omitted for journal articles. Most seriously, there are numerous factual errors. For example, on p. 15 it is stated that mechanization had replaced horses by 1900. In fact, mechanization before 1900 almost exclusively involved implements, not the power source; serious replacement of horses began only after World War I and took several decades. On p. 53, economic conditions during the 1980s are described as "deflation" when what actually happened was a reduction in the rate of inflation, which is not at all the same. The chapter on rural demographics consistently treats the distinction "metro/nonmetro" as interchangeable with "rural/urban," thereby missing an important point. Three figures for total farm income for various years in the 1930s are all given in millions of dollars, when they should have been in billions (p. 20).

These and several other errors like them distress me because they occur in a potentially valuable book that comes close to fulfilling its worthy purpose. Unfortunately, they cast a shadow over the entire work; I would not use any facts from this book without first checking the primary source, a task that the reader should not be required to undertake. Were it not for this important flaw, I would be able to recommend the book as providing a good

treatment of a wide range of significant policy issues. -- *William Lockeretz, Research Associate Professor, School of Nutrition, Tufts University, Medford, MA.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 2-5. Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference**, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A day-long session will address "Changing Farm Practices: Sustainable Benefits for Fish and Wildlife?" Papers and poster sessions are invited. For information on the special session, contact Ann Robinson, Izaak Walton League, 801 Commerce Drive, Decorah, IA 52101, (319) 382-2947. For information on the general conference, contact Blair Joselyn, Wildlife Research, Box 7, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4007, (612) 296-3344.

**December 4-5. Farming for the Future** is a training session at Atlantic City, New Jersey, on organic and sustainable agriculture for Cooperative Extension and other agriculture professionals. Contact Jean Hornyak, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County, 930 Spruce Street, Trenton, NJ 08648.

**February 15-16, 1991. National Conference on Organic/Sustainable Agriculture Policies** in Washington, DC. Contact Center for Science in the Public Interest, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009-5728, (202) 265-4954.

**March 2-3, 1991. Annual Conference of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association** at the Agricultural Technical Institute of The Ohio State University, Wooster. Contact OEFFA at 65 Plymouth Street, Plymouth, OH 44865.

**March 5, 1991. Understanding the True Cost of Food: Considerations for a Sustainable Food System** is the theme of a one-day symposium in Washington, DC, sponsored by the In-

stitute for Alternative Agriculture. Contact the Institute at 9200 Edmonston Road, Suite 117, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

**March 5-6, 1991. Sustainable Agriculture Conference**, sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture's Sustainable Agriculture Program and several co-sponsors. Workshops, informational sessions, and institutional updates. Contact Joanne Eveland, Sustainable Agriculture Program, P.O. Box 7883, Madison, WI 53707, (608) 267-3318.

**March 11-14, 1991. International Conference on Agriculture and the Environment**, sponsored by Ohio State University, in Columbus, Ohio. Paper and poster proposals are requested. For information, contact Dr. Clive A. Edwards, Department of Entomology, Ohio State University, 1735 Neil Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210.

### **Nebraska proposes "Sustainable Future" book series**

The University of Nebraska Press is accepting book proposals for a series of books on "Our Sustainable Future," designed to explore resource efficiency and sustainability of agriculture and other industries. The series is designed to bring together ideas and topics from biology, history, literature, political science, ecology, and the arts. For more information, contact Charles Francis, Department of Agronomy, 279 Plant Sciences Building, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0910.