

Youngberg named for MacArthur Fellowship Award

Dr. Garth Youngberg, Executive Director of the Institute for Alternative Agriculture, was named on July 18 for a five-year, "no strings attached" MacArthur Fellowship Award by the national MacArthur Foundation. "This is an affirmation of the importance of low-input directions in the development of sustainable farming systems," Youngberg says. "And it is doubly significant since this is the first time that the Foundation has chosen to recognize the field of agriculture. Society needs to be more aware of the critical role that agriculture plays in all of our lives." Youngberg joins 30 other individuals ranging from jazz musicians to paleontologists who were named for Fellowships by the Foundation. Awardees are selected by an anonymous 15-member committee from proposals submitted by 100 anonymous nominators; over a five-year period, each receives an amount upwards of \$150,000, varying according to the age of the recipient. Youngberg has been the Institute's Executive Director since its foundation in 1981. "Garth brings unique analytical and communication skills to the double task of framing issues in alternative agriculture and taking those issues to the front of the national debate about policy and research priorities," says Jim Lukens, President of the Institute's Board of Directors. "We're glad those skills are being recognized."

IAA board member, editor receive conservation awards

Maureen Hinkle, Director of Agricultural Policy at the National Audubon Society and a member of the Institute for Alternative Agriculture's

Board of Directors, and Sara Ebenreck, Consulting Editor at the Institute, both received 1988 Honor Awards from the Soil and Water Conservation Society at its meeting in Columbus, Ohio, in early August. Hinkle was named for her contributions to the enactment of the 1985 Food Security Act. Ebenreck was recognized for her writing and editing of multiple articles and publications related to soil and water conservation. SWCS President Donald Van Meter presented the awards.

'88 low-input grant projects are underway

Project selection for 1988 funding by the USDA low-input grant program, a program which the Institute has strongly supported, was completed in July, 1988. A sampling shows the diversity and "whole systems" approach of the projects:

- Demonstration of year-round dairy farm forage systems including intensive grazing and low-chemical approaches, aimed especially at farms on sloping land with low pH soils (Cornell Cooperative Extension and others).
- Solarization and living mulch used to optimize low-input production systems, for blueberries and strawberries (cooperatively, research stations in Texas, Mississippi, and Georgia).
- Development of a farmer/extension/research network and database for low-input agriculture (cooperatively, Winrock International, ATTRA, Meadowcreek Project, Arkansas Cooperative Extension and others).
- Collection, evaluation, and distribution of information on low-input production of legumes, grains, and vegetables by Hispanic farmers and Indian Pueblos in Northern New Mexico (Tallavaya Native Crops Research Project).
- Development of an on-farm re-

search network in Kansas (Kansas Rural Center).

- Videotape on sustainable, low-input agriculture (University of Nebraska).

Although some of these projects can be effectively completed in one year, "in many cases, it will take multiple years to fully achieve objectives," comments USDA program coordinator Patrick Madden. The Institute has supported multi-year funding of the program. As of early September, 1988, the Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended \$5 million in FY1989 funding, while the House Committee has recommended that funding stay at the 1988 level of \$3.9 million.

A copy of the list of "Low-input/Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Projects for 1988" is available from the USDA Low-input Program Office, Suite 342, Aerospace Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20251-2200.

New agriculture "fast approaching full flower," Kiplinger Letter says

A new kind of agriculture which "many considered an embryonic movement that would die aborning" is "fast approaching full flower," comments a front-page article in a recent issue of the national *Kiplinger Agriculture Letter*. Farm price support, animal health, land use, and food safety regulations will all see the effect of new consumer and environmentalist concern, Kiplinger says. Farmers are "showing a lot more interest in biological pest controls, crop rotations...the use of fewer chemicals." It's "important the farm/food industry be aware of what's going on," Kiplinger sums up.