From the editor

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The year 2010 completed the 27th year that *Agriculture and Human Values* has been in existence. It was a stellar year for the journal. The journal received nearly 190 new manuscript submissions, representing an increase of five percent over the number of submissions in 2009. Currently the journal is published in four issues each year. With between eight and ten articles per issue, it does not take a sophisticated analysis to deduce that the journal's acceptance rate is less than 20%.

As editor I have had several discussions with Springer, the publisher of the journal, about increasing the number of issues published each year. As with all important decisions, there are tradeoffs. Publishing five or six issues a year can accommodate the growth in submissions, but the drawback is that the individual and institutional subscription rates would have to rise. Given the economic uncertainties that currently exist around the world, I am not inclined to support an increase in the cost of reading the journal at this time. I want to make the journal as accessible as possible. Consequently, authors fortunate enough to receive an acceptance letter from the editor should recognize that there are many good papers that have not been accepted. While exclusivity is not the objective I am striving for as editor (making a positive impact is a better objective), I am pleased that there are many outstanding papers that are submitted to and published in *Agriculture and Human Values*.

Last year, nearly 200 scholars completed reviews of papers (several more than once). Even more reviewers were invited and are still working on their reviews, too. Some journals publish the names of reviewers annually. In

order to preserve anonymity, I will decline to do so. But I want to express my appreciation to all reviewers of this journal. They provide an invaluable service. It goes without saying that the better the reviews, the better are the papers that are published. I know that most authors genuinely appreciate the feedback reviewers provide—if perhaps after the shock of criticism has subsided.

This issue of *Agriculture and Human Values* continues the tradition of publishing outstanding articles, including six research articles, three papers in a special symposium on rethinking farmer participation in agricultural development, and four book reviews. In the lead research article, Chappell and LaValle review literatures on food insecurity and biodiversity loss, arguing that carefully crafted agricultural practices and policies could simultaneously address both concerns. Misiko, Tittonell, Giller and Richards present a study of smallholder farmers in Kenya to show how proper fertilizer use is affected by interactions between farmer knowledge and local soil, climate and social contexts. Kortright and Wakefield explore the relationship between home gardening and food security in Toronto, Canada. Fairweather and Hunt show how the ability of farmers to draw maps of their farm systems can inform on important questions relating to sustainability. Campbell, Murcott and MacKenzie link narratives of religious food auditing to an improved understanding and critique of neoliberal responses to problems of societal trust of food and food production. Finan draws on the ethics of care to explain how a small group of female livestock producers are able to exploit entrepreneurial opportunities. The symposium on farmer participation was organized by Nicole Peterson, an anthropologist at Barnard College. She co-authored the introduction with Kent Glenzer and Carla Roncoli. The papers by Peterson, Taddei and Roncoli et al. are discussed in the introductory essay.

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