

editor's page

During this year when our nation is engaged in the bicentennial celebration of our democracy, it's appropriate that a special effort be made to assess the place of the Cooperative Extension Service in the growth of our country. Extension has, for more than 60 years, conducted programs that have had a social and economic impact on the people and institutions of the United States. It has earned the esteem of adult educators and their agencies, as well as institutions of government throughout the world. As an informal, out-of-school educational agency, it has enjoyed unusual public support.

The *Journal of Extension* will publish during this year a special bicentennial issue commemorating the growth and development of the Cooperative Extension Service. This issue will consider the past and present contributions of the Extension Service, which has become the largest adult education agency in the world. From this historical perspective, future opportunities for educational service will be projected.

North Carolina State University has agreed to serve as the host institution for this endeavor and has received a special funds grant from Extension Service, USDA. NCSU and the *Journal* Board of Directors will work together in the development of the issue.

We're pleased to report that former Directors Austin Vines, Arkansas, and Marvin Anderson, Iowa, have agreed to serve as co-editors of the issue. Their experience and expertise provide a unique capability that will assure publishing a useful document for in-service education programs, as well as undergraduate and graduate programs. They've been working on the project since last November when they met with the Board of Directors at the Houston meeting. They plan to use the resources of a large number of present and former staff members whose experience and expertise will enable them to see the full potential of the Cooperative Extension Service.

We're looking forward to this special issue because it gives the *Journal* an opportunity to make a further contribution to the professional growth of Extension staff members.

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