Editors’ Introduction

This issue begins the fifth year of publication for ARE Update. The current issue also inaugurates some important changes for Update. Whereas the first four volumes of Update were published by the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at UC Davis, publication will now be under the auspices of the UC Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics. The Giannini Foundation was founded in 1930 from a grant made by the Bancitaly Corporation to the University of California in tribute to its organizer and past president, Amadeo Peter Giannini. Members and associate members of the Giannini Foundation are UC faculty and cooperative extension specialists in agricultural and resource economics on the Berkeley, Davis and Riverside campuses. The new Update will bring to readers research and information on agricultural, resource and environmental issues from scholars throughout the UC system. The members and associate members of the Foundation, their areas of interest, and contact information are listed on pages 10-11 of this issue.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that Update will now be published bi-monthly, rather than quarterly as in the past. We hope that the increased frequency of publication will enable Update to provide even more timely information to readers on research developments and emerging issues affecting California’s agriculture and natural resources.

Two new editors are also joining the Update staff. David Sunding is a cooperative extension economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Policy (DAREP) on the Berkeley campus with interests in agricultural policy, water allocation, pesticide regulation, endangered species, and technology development and adoption. See David’s faculty profile contained on page 2 of this issue. David Zilberman is a professor in the DAREP at UC Berkeley, with research interests in agricultural, water, and environmental policy design, the economics of technical change and the agricultural resource base. They join continuing editors Steve Blank and Rich Sexton from the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (DARE) at UC Davis. Julie McNamara from the DARE at UC Davis continues as managing editor.

We are gratified by the positive response that the first four volumes of Update has generated and look forward to producing an even better product under the new organization. Subscriptions to Update are free and information for subscribing is available on page 12. Articles in Update can be freely reprinted, although we request that you reprint an article in its totality (including any figures, graphs and tables) and notify us where the reprinted article will appear. As always, we welcome your comments, questions and suggestions.