

## Continuing Development of the CARD Website

The CARD staff has recently been expanding information available via the web. In addition to information about CARD divisions, activities, staff, and listings of publications, the site now includes the full texts of briefing papers and working papers published since November 1998, and recent staff reports. We will continue to provide full texts of papers online as they are published.

In addition to expanding the number of full texts available online, we are adding text and audio of a number of presentations given at conferences

that CARD sponsors. Presentations currently online include the full texts and audio of presentations delivered by CARD staff and keynote speakers at the 1999 National Forum for Agriculture: "Climate Change and the Implications for Agriculture and Energy." Full texts of all presentations from the 1998 Fall Policy Conference, which focused on contracts and alliances in agriculture, are also online.

As they become available, the PowerPoint slides of conference and seminar presentations by CARD Director Bruce Babcock can be

accessed online. Two PowerPoint presentations are currently available: "How Government Programs Affect Crop Insurance" and "Making the Best Crop Insurance Decisions for Your Farm."

Look for more new features as we update the look and content of the website over the next few months. You can log-on to CARD at <http://www.card.iastate.edu>. ♦

## Meet the Staff

John Beghin, associate professor of Economics, is the Trade and Agricultural Policy (TAP) Division head at the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD). He began working at CARD in January 1999.

"I enjoy the ability to define and shape the research program of the Division. The work has to be relevant and forward looking to be ready to address policy questions that will arise in the future. And, the work has to be good enough to be of academic value," John said.

His own area of research looks at the linkages between the environment and international trade. For example, how government regulations affect the competitiveness of the U.S. hog industry in the world marketplace, and how labeling and phytosanitary regulations may impede the trade of agricultural products.

Along with his responsibilities as TAP Division head, John is also the director of the Food and Agricultural

Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at Iowa State.

"I want FAPRI to be a central voice and a focal source of information in the upcoming World Trade Organization's (WTO) agricultural trade negotiations and in the debate on U.S. farm policy," he said. For example, FAPRI is initiating an international dairy symposium this fall, with the expectation that dairy production will be a central issue in the next WTO round of trade negotiations.

At home, John and his wife, Yalem, like to cook spicy food and "search for that great red wine bottle under \$10—a challenge in Ames," he says. He also enjoys running and playing Legos with their three-year-old daughter, Carla.

"We find Ames and ISU to be very welcoming and a great environment to raise a child," he said.

Originally from Belgium, John studied economics at both Université



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de l'Etat de Mons and Université Libre de Bruxelles. He has a master's degree in agricultural economics from North Carolina State University and a doctorate in agricultural and resource economics from the University of California at Berkeley. ♦