



J.B. KENDRICK, JR.  
Vice President—Agricultural Sciences  
Director, Agricultural Experiment Station  
and Cooperative Extension

## An indispensable partnership

One of the differences in the "new" *California Agriculture* is that we no longer publish the list of "donations for agricultural research" on the back page. This does not mean that we have lost all our friends and cooperative supporters or that we no longer feel the need to acknowledge their help and generosity.

On the contrary, the voluntary contributions to the Division's programs are increasing, and we have become increasingly aware that the monthly listing is a less than adequate means of reporting those contributions. For example, funds received from industry, gifts, and endowments during the last fiscal year for research totaled \$3,117,100—as compared to \$1,867,000 in funds received for the same purpose five years ago.

However, and this is a good place to emphasize the point, the Division also receives a great deal of support for its nonresearch activities; it receives a great deal of support that cannot be counted in dollars, and it receives support from many sources outside agriculture and outside the regular state and federal funding channels for agricultural research and education. And to acknowledge this support, we are developing a means for a more complete reporting of contributions on a periodic basis.

Gifts and endowments from industry, foundations, and individual donors are an indispensable aid in enriching the Division's programs. The usual and most frequent donations—for land, buildings, research, or education—enable us to develop programs earlier or more broadly. Others provide for some added dimension that would not be possible under government financing.

The recent gift of a 524-acre ranch for use in the Division's 4-H Youth program is one exam-

ple of the latter. The new facility will be maintained as a working ranch, and will provide the site for field days and special education programs designed to promote understanding of agriculture and the rural environment, and intended primarily for youth from urban areas. In connection with the 4-H programs, acknowledgment is due for the massive commitment of voluntary adult and youth leadership that is the heart of the program. The monetary contribution of the 23,000 adult leaders, for example, is probably not calculable, but it is substantial, and it is indispensable to the program.

Wider acknowledgment also is due for another source of nonmonetary support—the agricultural industry's voluntary contributions of time, labor, land, animals, crops, equipment, and facilities for research and extension programs. Some idea of the scale of this indispensable support can be gained from figures we compiled for one eight-month period a few years ago. University researchers used 11,900 acres of privately owned land, 144,000 livestock animals, and 525,000 laying hens. Combined with labor, materials, and machinery, the total contribution for research alone was valued at \$14,930,275. Estimates placed an equal value on similar contributions for observation and demonstration projects for our educational programs.

There never are enough resources available to do everything that should be done. The importance of gifts and donations has been amply demonstrated in past years, and, because of the rising cost and increasing need for agricultural research and education, the increasing competition for the tax dollar, and current governmental budget stringencies, they promise to be even more important in the future.