

PATTERNS AND IMPACTS OF PRODUCTION INCREASING
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT THE STATE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS

by

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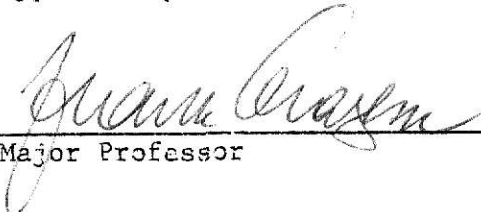
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CHAPTER I

IMPACTS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

The agricultural industry continues to be the single largest sector of income and employment in Kansas. Past analyses indicate that returns to research in support of this broad-based industry in the U.S. are stable and high, in the range of 35 to 40 percent annually. Moreover, future expansion in agricultural production will be needed to improve world-wide living standards and to feed a rapidly increasing world population. Such production expansion must rely on a base of timely and effective agricultural research. In addition, key research is needed to effectively address both important firm-level and important policy issues relating to (1) use and management of natural resources, particularly land and water, (2) rural and community development in both declining and growing areas, (3) human resource development, particularly in rural areas, and (4) problems of excess capacity and low resource earnings in the agricultural sector.

Despite the demonstrated importance of past agricultural and related research, the public and its decision making representatives (including those in the State Legislatures, the Federal Congress and elsewhere) are increasingly concerned about the increasingly high level of public expenditures and rightfully demand improved information on the payoff for expanded research expenditures. Research administrators have a continuing need for improved information on the expected payoff