



This issue of *Rootdrinker* is a departure from our normal mixture of content. We've decided to devote most of the Late Summer 1979 issue to exploring issues of food policy as they affect New York State. As an active member of the Natural Farmers' Association of the St. Lawrence Valley and the New York State Coalition for Local Self-Reliance, I've had the chance to become involved in the grassroots efforts of a good number of people interested in this area. As a number of articles in this issue point out, and as you the reader may be well aware, there is a good deal of concern, based on analyses of our present methods of agriculture and food distribution, that the Northeast may face serious food shortages in the near future.

For the most efficient use of the material printed here, we suggest that you pass this copy on to a friend, donate it to your library or school system, or send it to an elected official. We'd also be interested in your comments on this "policy-oriented issue, as well as any expression of interest concerning future issues of our magazine.



In September 1975 the first *Rootdrinker* rolled off a press in Ogdensburg, New York and here, 12 issues and four printshops later, we're still holding together. The union of mutual help that goes into each issue of a magazine such as ours is a joyous matter. The people involved complement and aid one another. You get tied together by common experience.

Special thanks goes to the Racquette River Printshop for providing space to grow and printer power for the last two years. When readers comment on how "improved" the magazine is, they should remember the "rats" in the basement on Market Street in Potsdam, who deserve a good share of the credit.

Alan Casline, Publisher