

PREFACE

These Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Nutrient Bank Conference are presented in their entirety rather than in abstract or summary form because we feel it important to have on the record the issues that have continued to be present since they were defined at the first conference in 1976. While the second conference also addressed the issues, the third conference was primarily a progress report on the USDA nutrient data base development and an overview of applications of computerized nutrient data bases. The program of the fifth conference to be held at Michigan State University in April, 1980 suggests that applications will again be the major thrust.

In these Proceedings, the question and answer sections after the formal presentations and the panel discussions point out user concerns with the present state of the art of nutrient data bases and the four task force reports define with clarity the issues that need to be approached and resolved in an orderly organized fashion. Until this occurs, the sixth conference will very likely be defining the same set of issues.

Cleveland, Ohio
March 1, 1980

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