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AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY 1155-16TH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON 6, D. C.



Science vs. Acreage Controls

DEAR SIR:

The application of science to farming with the objective of preventing eventual starvation of our constantly increasing population is an admirable objective. But we should not let our optimism for the future blind us to the need to be practical today.

In your recent editorial on the "Farm Price-Squeeze" you presented arguments for application of technology to farming. It seems to me that you have overlooked a rather important aspect of the position of farming in this country. The producing farmer is one of the few members of our economic system who is penalized for efficiency of production. Scientific farming already has brought us greater production efficiency; the resultant surpluses have led to our present dilemma of acreage controls. In your editorial you now passively accept the production control theory: "application to smaller acreages of the techniques by which unit costs can be lowered. . ." You seem to feel that the farmer needs greater production to make up for his lower prices, yet you tacitly accept acreage controls (i.e., reduction) which means holding down the farmer's income. You seem to be a bit confused; either we accept acreage controls for their intended purpose to decrease production, or we should discard the control concept.

THOMAS F. YOUNG

Haines, Ore.

EDITORS NOTE—AG AND FOOD has taken no stand on acreage controls. By increasing his profit per acre—in addition to the lowered cost of farming less land the farmer should be able to keep his net income up despite controls.

Good Balance

DEAR SIR:

Another issue of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY has arrived and I wish to express my interest in it, as in the previous issues. We have read various trade magazines, but we have found few of them that gave material which was beneficial to us, in the business of manufacturing a liquid plant food. We found most articles devoted to insecticides for an entire year in one to which we subscribed. We note a good balance in the subject matter of your material, so that all branches of our industry can find something of special interest. We wish you much success.

Mrs. Mary K. Heller

Heller Greenhouse Laboratories Colorado Springs, Colo.

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