



# Perspective

## There Is No Room for Complacency

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**A**S WE TAKE A BROAD LOOK at some of the practical accomplishments of agricultural research and education, particularly during the past two decades, we can take pride in our efforts. When we consider that practically every improved variety of crops grown in this country and the efficiency with which they are produced, harvested, stored, processed, and marketed stemmed from ideas developed in the research laboratories of our experiment stations, Department of Agriculture, or industry, one begins to get some idea of the value of research. Add to this the development in efficiency in the production, processing, and distribution of our great poultry and livestock industry, and one begins to grasp the magnitude of the value of research and education to American agriculture.

What has it cost? For every \$100 of gross farm income only about 28 cents is devoted to agricultural research by federal and state governments. On the other hand, for every \$100 of industrial income, from \$1.50 to \$13 is spent by industry for research. Although the Federal Government spends about \$1.5 billion for nonagricultural research, it appropriates only about \$50 million for agricultural research.

But let us not be lulled into complacency over past accomplishments. The problems which are temporarily solved come to light again and again in a new and more complicated form. New problems are constantly arising and will continue to arise.

The American people must be made to understand that the reservoir of research information developed during the thirties and early forties is rapidly being converted into tangible usefulness on the farms and in the processing plants. We have done much

to shorten the time from the discovery of new knowledge until its application on the nation's farms. Industry has helped tremendously by being alert to the results of research and making the new products available to the agricultural industry. However, the gap is still too great, particularly on those farms with small resources.

We must never forget that we have attained our present enviable position through the application of scientific knowledge. This scientific knowledge has gradually been built up through the years by basic fundamental research. Without a vast storehouse of basic knowledge, our great advances in the field of practical or applied research in recent years would never have been possible. Our greatest need today is for more men seeking new knowledge simply for the sake of knowledge itself. We need more men in basic research, not because we wish to make immediate application of some new principle but simply to increase the pool of scientific facts and data on which we might draw later. . . .

I would stress that if the well-being of farm people is to keep pace with those engaged in other segments of our society, it will take the combined and cooperative efforts of all research facilities. If we are to meet this challenge, the colleges and universities, the Government, and private agencies and industries must work closely together in the pooling of all knowledge and facilities.

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