

Letters . . .

National Plant Food Institute

DEAR SIR:

Some time ago (Nov. 10, 1954) you published some historical facts relative to the consolidation of the National Fertilizer Association and the American Plant Food Council. As this admirable goal now has been approved by the organizations concerned, I believe some comment is in order.

Thirty years ago two trade associations were brought together by the fertilizer industry. For about 15 years the single group effort served with apparent effectiveness. Even during the economic depression of the 1930's, with decreased volume of fertilizers, a majority of the manufacturers supported the one trade association. During the late thirties and early forties some industry units terminated their membership. There were differences of opinion on both objectives and methods. As is often true, particularly in times of economic stress, shifts of attitude are impelled by the unfolding process of a business evolution and symptoms stand out temporarily at least more prominently than the fundamental problems being faced.

Some members of the industry believed that a new trade association should be organized. That movement resulted in the formation of the American Plant Food Council. Other industry units thought that a preferable procedure was to continue to support the National Fertilizer Association and to shape it to serve better than it may have done earlier. Now for almost 10 years those two trade organizations have shared the important responsibilities of representing the chemical plant food industry in at least two important fields: (1) informational and (2) legislative.

Recently leaders of both groups have succeeded in bringing about a favorable attitude among members of the two groups, looking toward one trade association. This has resulted in the current program scheduled to culminate next summer in one organization to be known as the National Plant Food Institute.

This is a desirable and welcome development, and one which most of us approve. Among its advantages will be that of a single "spokesman" organization relating the industry to national and state governmental agencies, as well as with educational channels. Some duplication of effort and programs which was inevitable with two trade groups representing one industry may be avoided. This should lead to increased productivity for each unit of expenditure.

Such a change will not take place without problems. These will likely in-

clude such important challenges as: (1) How to weave the two programs together, (2) How to fold two staffs together and assure their working smoothly, (3) How to keep many members with varying interests happy with a program which represents their common good, and (4) How to find a meeting place which will accommodate the probably enlarged convention attendance.

The potential benefits of one trade association for the chemical plant food industry are so great that I believe there should be no reason to forecast any outcome other than success for the movement.

In our enthusiasm for a united front, I particularly trust that we will recognize appropriate limitations of the projects we should expect, and permit, a trade association to perform for us.

MAURICE H. LOCKWOOD
Vice President
International Minerals
& Chemical Corp.

Wide Circulation

DEAR SIR:

I am amazed at the world wide circulation which your fine magazine has developed in such a short period of time! In response to the notice which was printed some time ago concerning the availability on a complimentary basis of our little eight-page pamphlet "A Balanced Diet for Plants," we have received a large number of requests which we have been glad to fill. Most recent of these requests came from New Zealand, Formosa, Thailand, and Italy, as well as from various parts of the continental United States. AG AND FOOD certainly gets around!

SIDNEY H. BIERLY
Executive Secretary and Manager
California Fertilizer Association

Ag and Food a Must

DEAR SIR:

It is time I should congratulate the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY for the creation of AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY. This journal is rendering a service that, to my mind, is of wonderful help to agricultural scientists.

To me, this journal is absolute "must" reading. I am somewhat distressed that apparently many of our agricultural scientists are not reading this journal. The reason may be that they consider it largely for chemists. I would say that it has indispensable information for all types of workers in the field of agriculture.

I was tremendously pleased with your

staff article—"Pesticides in Tropical Agriculture"—in the Dec. 22 issue. I have had some 28 years of personal experience closely allied with the banana industries in our Central American countries, and, you can imagine, I found this article really interesting.

GEORGE D. SCARSETH
Director of Research
American Farm
Research Association

Photograph Credits

DEAR SIR:

This is to call attention to what appears to be an error in attribution of source of photographs on the cover and on page 1266 of the Dec. 8, 1954, issue of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY. Both the photograph on the cover and the illustration on page 1266 are attributed to Stanford Research Institute. We have checked our records and our public relations department and find that neither illustration originated from or was in any way issued by Stanford Research Institute.

The error in attribution of the cover photograph may have resulted from the similarity of this photograph to one on page 61 of our report on "The Industrial Uses of Radioactive Fission Products" of September 1951.

In the case of the illustration on page 1266 which is attributed to "Radiation Engineering Laboratory and Stanford Research Institute" the joint reference may be due to the fact that schematic design and process studies for sterilization of pharmaceuticals and meat are discussed in our previously mentioned report. The specific design pictured, however, should properly be attributed to some other source.

EDWIN L. ZEBROSKI
Physical Sciences Division
Stanford Research Institute

Ed. Note—AG AND FOOD finds that both the cover photograph and the design on page 1266 are from the University of Michigan.

Pesticides in the Tropics

DEAR SIR:

Your article in the Dec. 22 issue of Agricultural and Food Chemistry on pesticides in tropical agriculture is an excellent summation and deserves the commendation which I know you will receive from many persons.

THEODORE MARVIN
President
Michigan Chemical Corp.