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• A Contrast

(Continued from Page 1)

ation. They have several large experimental plots of "bench terracing." This is the forming of bench-like strips of soil on hilly land so that upland crops can be grown. They have found this approach quite successful, and predict that the extensive application of this method will increase crop production in the near future.

They have an "Office of Rural Development" system in Korea which was designed after our Agricultural Extension program. The program is in the developing stage, and the employees have a challenging task before them. They are faced with poor travel conditions, lack of transportation, lack of staff members, and inadequate funds and materials needed to advance the program.

The agricultural advancement continues to move slowly because there is no means of contacting all the farmers personally or with publications. Therefore, many of the farmers receive no new suggestions or ideas on how to improve their methods of farming for better production. Certainly some advancement is being made, but it is quite obvious that it will be a long, slow process.

It has become evident to me that there are several ways in which Korean farmers could increase their crop production and improve their methods of farming.

1—They need to practice more crop rotation. Many farmers raise the same crop (rice) year after year. This drains nutrients from the soil and limits crop production.

2—There is a need for more livestock on these farms to create more manure to increase the soil fertility. Their major source of fertilizer now is human waste.

3—There is much insect and plant disease in Korea. They must use more pesticides to control these damaging diseases.

4—More chemical fertilizer is needed to keep their soil in top condition for maximum production. However, it is encouraging to see farmers making compost to apply to their land.

These four practices can be significant in the improvement of Korean agriculture.

My great and challenging adventure to Korea is in the past. My horizon has certainly been widened, as my eyes and mind were opened. I learned the many hardships of these poor people and how their opportunities are limited. This makes a person sincerely appreciate the beauty, goodness and opportunity in his homeland. It is so easy to take our good living for granted. Let us be appreciative from day to day for our fortunate opportunity to live in Lancaster County.



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