

A Letter To The Editor

(Ed. Note: Some time ago, we published a letter to the editor from Amos Hively who formerly lived at Quarryville and has since moved to Australia. At that time, we invited him to write again.)

20 Glendower St.
Toowoomba 4350
Queensland, Australia

Since my last letter we have moved (shifted, as they call it here) from Brisbane to Toowoomba. It is a city of 56,000 people, located on a plateau of 2000 feet elevation which keeps it fairly cool during the summer. Of course, the winters will be slightly cooler than lower elevations, but since it rarely ever gets to freezing, I do not think we will mind too much.

My work is quite interesting and affords me a good opportunity to travel to many good farm-

ing areas here in Queensland. Two weeks ago, I went 300 miles north to Biloela (a town of 3800 people) which was one of the most fertile areas I have ever heard of. They raise lots of lucerne (alfalfa) and get at least nine cuttings a year. The cuttings average a ton to the acre and they never apply fertilizer. One man told me they tried using fertilizer and saw absolutely no response. The protein content of the lucerne runs about 20 percent. The Valley is 40 miles long and several miles wide and they irrigate from wells not over 60 feet deep. It is black level soil and runs about 15 feet deep, I was told. The non-irrigated land in this area still sells for \$100 per acre. Made me wish I was a younger man. They have only been farming in this area about 30 to 40 years. Before that it was a huge

cattle station. They also raise 50 bu. per acre wheat without fertilizer. They are just starting to get ready for harvest.

In talking with a fuel distributor the other day, he told me of one man that has 9000 acres of wheat. He has fuel tanks all over his property to service the machinery and some of his fuel tanks are as much as 14 miles apart. Another of his customers has 7000 head of cattle.

For the next month my work will be largely calling on growers to raise soybeans for our company. The new crop will be planted in November and December and should be harvested in April and May. It is quite a new crop here but there is much interest in raising them and I feel sure in a few years Australia will no longer be importing soybeans as it is now.

There does not seem to be a big acreage of corn raised here, but I am told it is on the increase. Wheat is the biggest grain crop, followed by barley

and then oats. They do raise did receive a letter from some milo (sorghum) and some flax. In certain areas cotton is a big hope this letter might accomplish also. One man that came here from California about two years ago will have 900 acres of cotton this year. Cotton is also a new crop here in Australia but production has already reached the point of supplying domestic needs. There are some citrus orchards, but not to any extent which you would find in Florida or California.

After my last letter was published in Lancaster Farming, I and divorce.

Kindest regards,
Amos Hively

The future dictionary will define platonic friendship as the interval between the separation and divorce.

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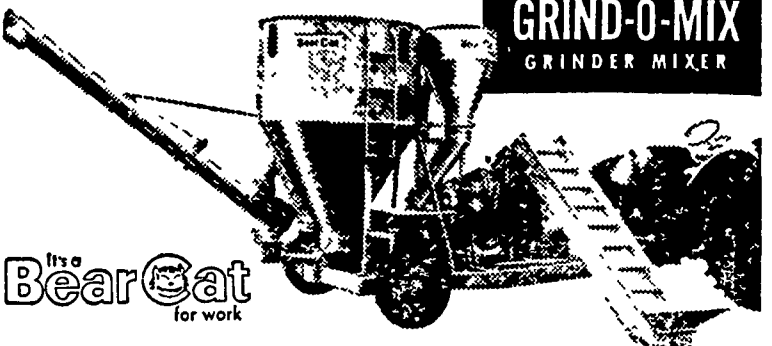
1. Appoint a Secretary of Agriculture who will explain the farmers' problems to the President, instead of the Secretary explaining the President's policies to the farmer, as is now the case.
2. Increase exports of American agricultural products, which are a principal factor in our trade surplus.
3. Establish a special task force to develop and implement a program to increase dairy products.
4. Increase the research effort by the Department of Agriculture to find better and more diverse ways to utilize our enormous volume of farm produce.



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