

Plant Institute Head Says Agriculture Not Tinkering With Nature

Americans could well be spending 40 to 50 cents more for every dollar's worth of groceries they now buy if it weren't for the rapid technological advances in crop fertilization and other essential farm practices over the past two decades

This estimate was made this week by Edwin M. Wheeler, President, National Plant Food Institute, and based, he said, on what the grocery shopper would be paying if food prices had risen as much as many other consumer items over the past 20 years

Wheeler, head of the nation's fertilizer industry association, spoke at a luncheon meeting of the Eastern Chapter National Agricultural Advertising and Marketing Association at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel

He lashed out at critics of agriculture who insist that farm technological progress is in the area of "tinkering with nature's order"

Man has constantly struggled to improve his advantage over nature, he said, and added that his success has never been more evident than in America's highly productive agriculture

It's absurd, he said, to talk about abandoning our technological advances in agriculture, which some would have us do, in favor of returning to the "natural" way of farming

Those who criticize agricul-

tural technology and production practices must realize, he said, that if man had to rely on nature alone, his world would soon face wholesale starvation and chaos. "Make no mistake" he warned, "nature alone could not sustain today's world or even the U.S. for one day—not in food, not in clothing, not in shelter."

Lately, he noted, certain agricultural practices have come under attack for allegedly adding to water pollution. These charges, he said, have little factual support, but critics continue to gain wide-spread attention with scare tactics and emotional appeals for bans on various farming practices

Wheeler acknowledged the need for concern regarding "sane programs to improve man's control over his environment," but added that such programs must evolve from "factual information not emotion, half truth, or innuendo"

It's easy to point accusing fingers at agriculture, or at urban development, or industrialization, or automobiles as causes of environmental problems, he said. But the real need, he emphasized, is for factual research—not to establish blame, but to prevent possible pollution of soil, water or air from any source.

Clothing Saving Tip
Learn to look for deep hems in girls' dresses and you can save money, suggests Mrs. Ruth Ann Wilson, Penn State extension clothing specialist. Also look for interfacing behind buttons and buttonhole areas. It will help prevent the fabric from tearing. Deep cut armholes, dresses without waistlines, and shirts with long tails will allow for growth and longer wear.

Food Costs
On a percentage basis, we spend less of our income on food than ever before. Percentage of income average Americans spent for food declined from 20.7 percent in 1957 to 17.4 percent in 1967, and down to 17.2 percent in 1968, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics.



And God said, "Let there be light" and there was light. —(Gen. 1:3).

Before we prepare to study or even open a book, we should affirm that we have God within us. Then we will feel God's presence and power in us and all around us. With assurance say "Let there be light." Know this. Then through conscientious meditation thank God for light. Pick up the book and through this light there will be understanding and wisdom. The marvel of God's wonderful light dispels all shadows.

Two 4-H
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test the local team had placed first

Two of this year's team members did place high in individual classes, however. Averil Royer, 2025 Oregon Pike, Lancaster, was first in the Ayrshire breed with 138 points out of a possible 150 and Wayne Yost, New Holland R1, had 98 points out of a possible 100 points in the Holstein division. These youths are scheduled to go to the Pine Grove Mills Elementary School located just West of State College for the awards banquet tonight. Other team members were Joyce Stoltzfus, Ronks R1 and Carol Groff, Quarryville R3.

The Exposition is sponsored each year by the Penn State Dairy Science Club

Kids Fish Day
Kids Fish Day will be held by the Lititz Sportsmen Association on May 18 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Lititz Springs Park. More than 300 trout will be placed in the stream running through the park from the Head End to the Recreation Center.

No fishing will be allowed after the closing time 4 p.m. Dams and cover for the trout will be put in the stream on May 12 &

Farm Calendar
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Colerain Elementary School,
Wednesday, May 14
7:30 p.m.—Hempfield Community Club meets, Farmdale Elementary School

7:30 p.m.—Garden Spot 4-H Community Club meet, Robert Bare's Home, Millport Road, Lancaster
8:00 p.m.—4-H Adult and Teen Leaders meet, Farm and Home Center

Thursday, May 15
1:00 p.m.—Area FFA Dairy Products Judging, Penn Dairies Inc., Hempstead Rd., Lancaster.
8:00 p.m.—County 4-H Council meets, Farm and Home Center. (Reorganization)
Regional Conservation FFA Speaking Contest, Municipal Bldg., Lebanon

Friday, May 16
Pennsylvania FFA Electrification Contest, York and Lancaster Counties

13 starting at 6 p.m.
All sportsmen and fathers are asked to help. Kids ages 0 to 16 are allowed to fish on Sunday and cash prizes will be awarded for special fin tagged fish

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