

Text of Gerald Martin's Winning FFA Speech

Under the shadow of great wealth and prosperity, starvation moves across the land. The land is America. Yes, America, the country in which more people suffer from overeating than from a lack of food, is headed toward widespread famine. America is about to join the other countries of the world which cannot successfully feed their populations.

Another situation faces us. America is the only country that has the knowledge and resources to fight famine.

Food shortages, hunger, and starvation have been here since the beginning of time, but only now does it threaten the whole world. America is the only country which can thwart this threat and attain the goal of "a world without hunger."

Change must come. Agricultural production must double, triple, and even quadruple in some areas of the world. The change must take place immediately, and the main ingredient of this change is agricultural research. Granted, there is much research being done in every phase of agriculture today, but it is simply not enough. The research must be intensified and increased to meet the needs of the world.

Even though I am sure that agricultural research is the main thing that will diminish the threat of world hunger, it will take a great amount of money. Where will the money be obtained for the extensive research that is necessary?

Agricultural research must be supported largely by the United States and foreign countries. Other support must come from private investment. This includes interested businesses, cooperatives, organizations, and individuals. These groups are very important to agricultural research.

However, it is most important that the money, once obtained, is used wisely, and in areas where research is most needed.

Agricultural research must be done in the areas that will bring the most food. These include the areas of new food, food production, and land reform. Once thought to be a great menace to American farmers, synthetic foods must play an important role in feeding a hungry world.

It is necessary that we produce foods high in protein and vitamins from uneatable materials such as algae and petroleum.

We must also harvest the sea. Today, ocean foods make up only one per cent of man's food intake. We must find ways to raise and harvest sea foods, and to take full advantage of a food source so vital to the world.

Agricultural research must also take giant strides in the area of food production. Better and varied strains of crops must be developed to attain maximum production from the varied types of soils in the world. Also needed for maximum production is the use of fertilizers.

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Some members of the Northern Lebanon FFA chapter display the trophy they won for first place at the regional FFA parliamentary procedure contest last week at Millersville. Left to right are G.

Lamar Bollinger, vice president; J. Ray Bickel, adult chapter advisor, and Jim Bragg, president. The team will compete in the state contest this summer.



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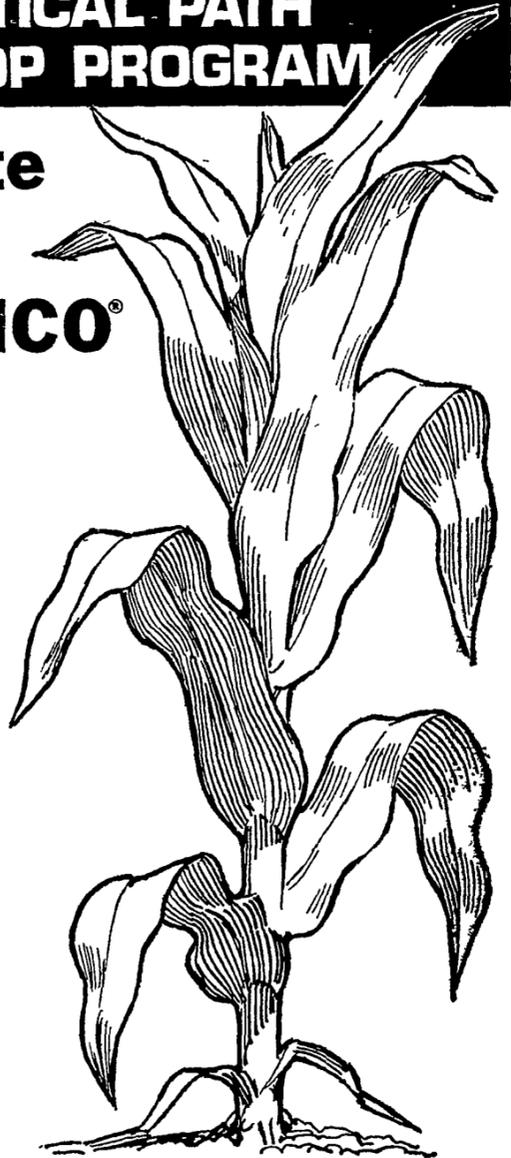


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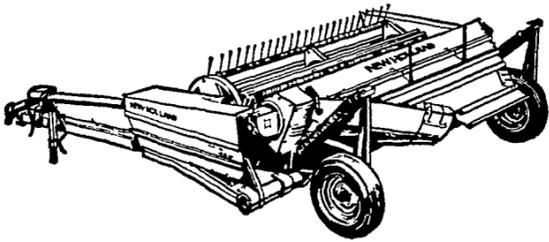
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