

From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



Editor's Note: This is the first of many articles in a special column written by various agriculture teachers in our service area.

These articles will deal with the many problems and challenges facing farmers, as seen by the teachers themselves, based both on their study and their experience in working with local farm youths and farmers.

The articles are designed to be of interest to and have educational value for all farm people. At the same time, they offer an opportunity for the farm community to become better acquainted with the teachers and for the teachers to express their own interest in the local agricultural community.

By Jesse Erway, Teacher Of Vocational Agriculture At Manheim Central H.S.

Do you like the work you are doing?

This question is the key to your self development, for if he is just making a living, one finds no time to improve himself, let alone to improve methods.

All through history, we always found people who seemed to stand out. We recognize their accomplishments. Each of these men had something to give and much of what they gave was of themselves, their time and talents.

We have to be very careful that we take the time to demelop and give our special talent. What I



Jesse Erway

mean to say is, let us be proud of being a farmer or related to the soil in such a way that those around us do not get the impression we are not important.

Let us develop a leadership attitude. To do this, we must look closely to see what the word

means. I have heard men say we need followers, too, but followers may also be good leaders in time — maybe not the president, but many times more important than the president.

Since our Young Farmer Chapter has had, and continues to have, many men who have excelled in leadership positions, I felt it might be well to try to deal with some of their attributes which helped in their development.

First, without exception all would answer the question "Do you like the work you are doing?" with a strong "Yes!" and might even be slightly insulted to think such a question should be asked. For they have set goals to follow way into the future.

In talking with them, they lead you to believe there is only one occupation. They would find it very hard to believe that anyone on the land could think differently.

They believe there is no place better to raise their families. They have done a most excellent job of instilling this enthusiasm in their children.

Second, the willingness to help others in the agricultural community by belonging to the organization or organizations that interest them or is related to their enterprises. But belonging

is not enough for the leader. He must give time.

Time sometimes is a very precious commodity, but if budgeted well, it can be given so that others might benefit by it. I have seen many a would-be leader go down in defeat just because he felt the time he gave could only be given when it suited him, not when it was needed

Third, he must be willing to follow the proper steps of leadership development. We don't put the hay in the barn until after we have planted, cut, raked and baled it. So we do not become president until we have followed the steps to get there.

The steps might go something like this:

— Support the agricultural organizations by your interest and attendance.

— When the opportunity affords itself, serve on committees. Now I don't mean by name only. I mean with your time and best effort.

— Your first step at real leadership comes when you have become chairman of a committee. This is the time to listen. To your committee members, after you have come together, and take the best ideas back to be reported. If you have not involved the others in the work, you have failed the first important rule of being a leader. It is said a good leader will recognize his faults and correct them the next time.

— When you feel ready and the opportunity arises, accept the office others have entrusted to you and fulfill it to the best of your abilities.

There are many more individual skills one will need to master along the way such as speaking in public, conducting a good meeting, and so forth.

I believe good leaders are not born but a good leader is self made—with the help of a higher power who has entrusted all the stewardship of life and living and serving others to us.

Let us do ourselves and our children a favor. Believe in our occupation so that our children will have something to believe in while they are growing up

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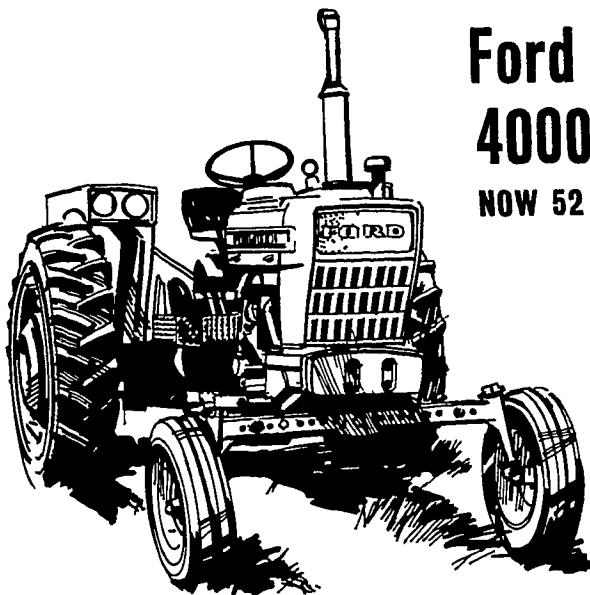


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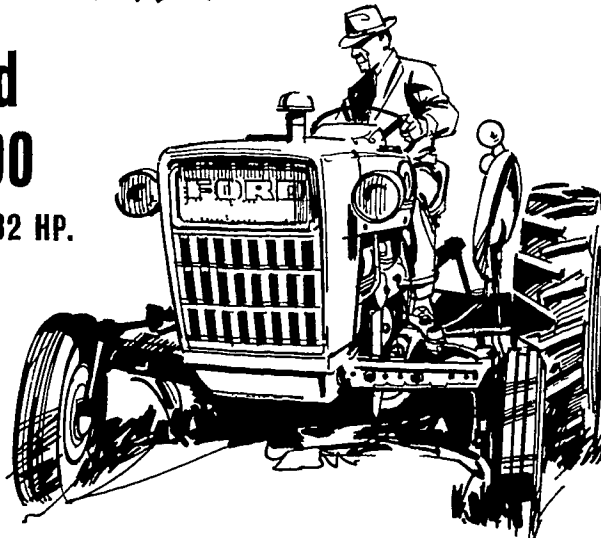
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In the Kitchen

- Instead of flour, dust your rolling board with powdered sugar. It will keep cookies from being thickened by the extra flour.

- Add peanut butter to your white cake icing for a delicious taste change.

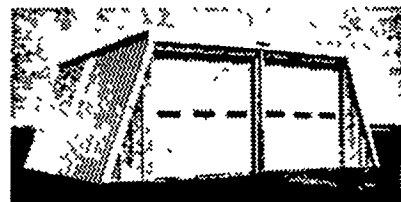
- Sprinkle buttered asparagus or broccoli with sesame seeds; buttered brussels sprouts with grated Parmesan and poppy seeds.

- For a new bacon treat, dip slices in beaten egg, then crushed cracker crumbs and broil.

- To take the place of chopping, place nuts on wax paper and roll with a rolling pin.

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