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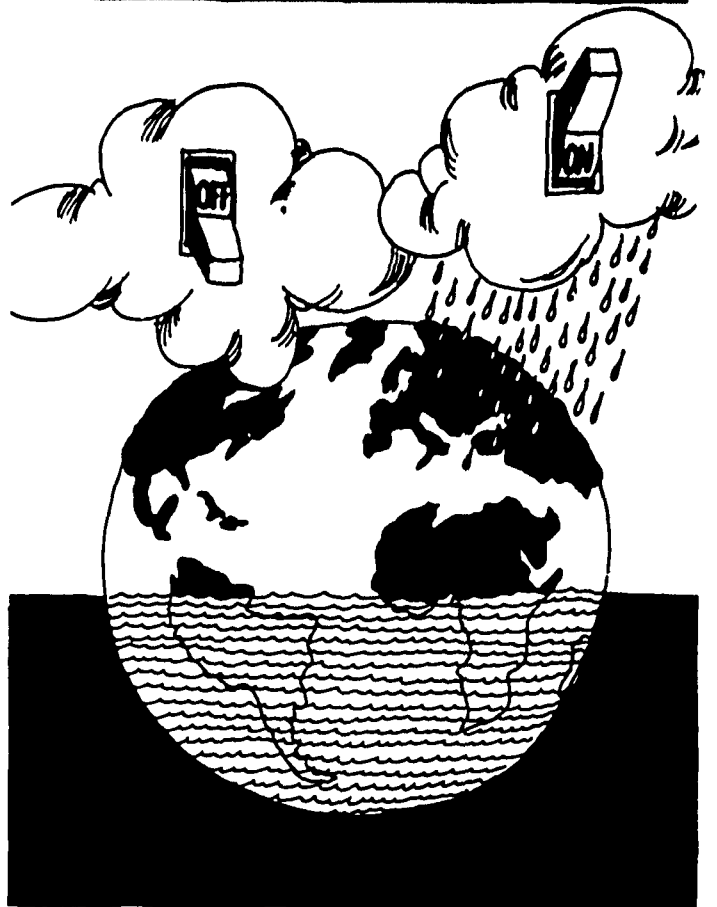
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**ORGANIC LIVING**

By

**Robert Rodale**

**Weather Modification — Is It Worth The Risk?**  
Weather modification is becoming big business. Although not widely publicized, 68 different weather modification projects occurred during 1973. These projects involved hundreds of technicians who used every modern technique available to change existing weather patterns for one reason or another.  
On the surface, many of these projects appear innocuous. Project Skywater in the Colorado River Basin, for example, was (and still is) designed to increase



**Lititz-Manheim  
4-H Club  
Meets**

Nearly thirty members attended the May meeting of the Lititz-Manheim Community 4-H Club which was held on May 8 at the Fairland Elementary School.

Following a baseball game, the meeting was opened by Tim Swarr leading the club pledge.

After a short business meeting, Alan Mays gave a demonstration on insects and Tim Swarr gave one on photography.

The next meeting will be held on June 12.

Nancy Mays  
News Reporter

**Bank Notes**

Robert L. Fryer, Jr., 865 Olde Hickory Road, has been named assistant vice president and assistant manager of the municipal bond department for National Central Bank, according to an announcement made today by Wildon D. McElhinny, bank president and chief executive officer.

Fryer, who joined the bank in 1973, came to National Central after serving as municipal bond officer for Philadelphia National Bank.

He is a graduate of Abington Senior High School in Abington, and earned his bachelors degree in business management at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida.

He is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national business honorary.

He is married to the former Suzanne Farmer, of Lancaster.

Michael D. Lutz has been named general auditor for National Central Bank, according to Wilson D. McElhinny, bank president and chief executive officer.

Lutz joined the bank in 1972 as trust tax officer after working as a tax specialist with the accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst.

A graduate of Conrad Weiser High School, he earned his bachelors degree in commerce from Rider College and has completed several professional banking courses.

Active in civic and professional organizations, Lutz is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Reading Chapter of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and is currently vice president of the Berks County Mental Health Association.

He is married to the former Brenda Borkey of Shillington. They are living at 837 West Main Street, Ephrata.

snowfall and thus produce more water for agricultural and coal processing in a part of the country where water is a scarce commodity.

Another area where water is extremely valuable, South Dakota, has one of the most vigorous weather modification programs in existence. In 1974, the state spent \$1 million to change the existing weather.

The results have been interesting. The Institute of Atmospheric Sciences, located in Rapid City, reports a 23 per cent increase in additional rain each summer. Estimates show that each additional inch of rain can be translated into two to five more bushels of grain per acre for the state's farms.

Unfortunately, the silver lining in weather modification programs may become a tarnished one. Why? No one really knows what the end result of these programs will be. There are guesses, but no hard data.

Dr. Stephen H. Schneider, deputy head of the Climate Project at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, recently pointed out that virtually everything in our climate system is coupled to everything else.

Any large-scale push in one place causes a bulge somewhere else. Unfortunately, scientists have yet to determine just how significant these changes might be, he says.

For instance, 1972 was a bad weather year around the world. The Indian monsoons were late. The Soviet Union suffered a severe drought. The drought in sub-Sahara Africa continued unabated. Water temperatures off the coast of Peru changed, causing fishing patterns to alter dramatically. Pakistan was hit by devastating floods. Are all of these incidents somehow related? Could something done in one part of the world have been the cause of these seemingly unrelated incidents? Nobody really knows.

Besides these scattered anomalies, over the past several years there has been a basic shift southward in the jet stream, the current of warm air that sweeps across huge portions of the world.

At one time the jet stream surged through the Mediterranean area to Asia. But now geographers say the high-altitude west winds have shifted so they now cross parts of sub-Sahara Africa and continue across the southern half of India.

The warm jet stream sweeping through the sparsely settled and already parched Sahel has limited social consequences for that area. But the drying effect on the heavily populated south of India, with its 250 million people depending upon regular rain, is a potential disaster to say the least.

Of course, the big question has to be what effect man has had on the jet stream shift, if any.

Dr. Schneider says that much more study is needed on the effects of weather modification before man is allowed to continue tampering. Then, and only then, should the scientists and technicians be allowed to proceed with these programs. But even if no inherent dangers are foreseen, some believe there should be an "off" button that can be pressed if a project suddenly gets out of hand.

For years, scientists have considered damming the Bering Strait as an experiment to control the climate in that part of the world.

Oceanologist, engineer and leading inventor Dr. Athelstan Spilhaus thinks the idea has some merit. But he adds a note of caution: "Like all innovative projects, we should design it so that we can undo it (open the dam) if it doesn't work."

An "off switch" sounds like the answer to many of the problems that man brings on himself with his sophisticated technology. But Dr. Schneider isn't too sure that this is an answer, especially as regards weather modification.

As he says: "The unhappy dilemma is that despite the gaps in our understanding of the causes of climatic change, we do know enough to realize that mistakes made now could cause long-term climatic changes that would be both global and irreversible."

(Editor's Note: The opinions appearing in "Organic Living" are those of its author, Robert Rodale, an independent columnist. Rodale's comments do not necessarily reflect the thinking of the Lancaster Farming editor or anyone else on the Lancaster Farming staff.)

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