

AUG 21 1980

# Easy Farm Research Already Done

**T**HE EASY things have been done," said Charles B. Browning, dean and director of agriculture at Oklahoma State University. We were discussing agricultural research and education during dinner.

Dr. Browning did not imply that all achievements to date to advance farming and boost food production have been accomplished easily. Many have come about only after years of hard work by dedicated scientists, and by no means have all had low cost factors.

Scientific and engineering breakthroughs have made possible the doubling of world food production since World War II.

Identified problems which remain and challenges for the future are not likely to be simple or easy to discover, and they will not be worked out cheaply.

There is no question but what research needed for greatly expanded food production must go forward. A study just released by Rafael M. Sallas, executive director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, predicts that 2 billion persons will be added to the earth's

multitudes by the end of this century.

How much food will 2 billion people need? There are about 4.4 billion on the earth today. Many of them are underfed. At the very least, the world will need 50 percent more food in 20 years.

That 20 years already have started. There are more people today than yesterday, and there will be more for breakfast tomorrow.

Like everything else, agricultural research has been hit by inflation. In addition, there was a series of years in Oklahoma when total funds failed to keep pace with inflation, resulting in slippage in this vital area. The same thing has happened in other states.

Larger appropriations for the current year have brought Oklahoma up to where it should have been several years ago, but valuable time has been lost.

Because Americans have never known famine and because most of today's citizens have not observed food production closely, agriculture is not held in high esteem in some population centers.

Oklahomans are more conscious

of the importance of agriculture but even here there are frequent signs influential people may not be aware of the vital role state farmers have in our economy, in our tax structure, and in helping to feed the world.

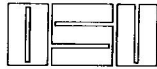
Research and its application by Oklahoma farmers and ranchers have tripled the average yield of wheat per acre and make possible the production of more beef and better quality beef in a shorter time.

Farm equipment manufacturers are building powerful, more efficient machines to apply modern farming techniques at the right time.

It is easy to put a dollar value on these and other research success stories. But can you put a value on people who may go hungry if research does not keep pace with the world's growing population?

Continued and expanded research and education related to our agricultural industry will keep this state prosperous and fulfill our nation's responsibility for helping to feed a hungry world.

As Dr. Browning said: "The easy things have been done!"



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August 27, 1980

Mr. Ferdie J. Deering  
3232 Whippoorwill Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

Dear Mr. Deering:

I read with interest your recent article captioned "Easy Farm Research Already Done". The article was certainly well done and we appreciate your using the theme relating to agricultural research. Your explanation of the difficulty and importance of research of the past was important and thoughtful.

It was a pleasure having you on the campus and congratulations again on your recognition by Alpha Zeta.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

  
C. B. Browning  
Dean and Director

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