

LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS

Leadership is a state of mind, a presence. It sets the few apart from the multitudes. It helps to define character and, in many cases, brackets people according to their talents or ambitions or initiatives. While it is true that some folks are born to lead, I'm convinced that most leaders are self-made, whether they follow careers in the public or private sector. In a like manner, most followers are self-made as well.

Leaders aren't necessarily super intelligent, and followers aren't necessarily lacking in gray matter. One of my heroes was Winston Churchill, a great world leader at a critical time in history. Nobody ever accused him of being a genius, but he possessed great courage and willpower. He seemed to sense his role as a leader of the free world and pursued it with great vigor. He took risks and found success.

At the same time, our society is full of intelligent under achievers. For whatever reason(s), they will never reach the level of leadership they might have attained, even approaching that of Churchill. Many folks depart this world without having challenged their minds and bodies. They were contributors to society, but could have done so much more.

We need both leaders and followers. That's what makes the global system work. There are agricultural leaders—scientists, corporate presidents, farmers, educators—that are willing to step out and take a risk. It might involve the testing of a new product, piece of equipment, or even a new method of soil sampling. Leaders are willing to experiment and explore. They are not afraid to fail, because they have confidence that their successes will outnumber the failures and will always tip the balance in the favor of progress. When success does come, the followers are quick to use it to best advantage.

During the past decade or so we have seen startling inroads made in agriculture—brought on by the fusion of space age technology with other scientific facts and skillfully managed crop production systems. Yields have improved, and environmental protection has been enhanced. Most have benefited—suppliers, producers, and consumers. The contributions of leaders and followers to the betterment of mankind must be gratifying. And maybe they will encourage some of those followers to step up to the challenge of leading agriculture to even greater accomplishments.



**BETTER
CROPS**
WITH PLANT FOOD

Potash & Phosphate Institute
Suite 110, 655 Engineering Drive
Norcross, Georgia 30092-2837

Periodicals
Postage