

## INTELLIGENCE



Intelligence is the mental capability that, among other things, involves the ability to reason, plan, think abstractly, comprehend complex ideas, learn quickly, and learn from experience. It is not just book learning or test-taking smarts.

The world of education is showing a great interest in “intelligence,” how to measure it, what it means, what effect it has on social policy.

There is a great conflict as to the meaning and measure of intelligence. Do human beings differ? Can this be measured? Is it a matter of genetics or environment, or both? Most experts agree that it can be measured and that intelligence tests measure it well. They don't measure creativity, character or personality, but they are not intended to.

Why is all of this of any interest to those concerned with agriculture? Because the agricultural sciences are moving into a new era. And this applies to the entire field of farming.

To farm successfully today requires intelligence, training and experience. Knowledge of market outlook, crop genetic changes, pest management, electronics and computers are a part of farm life. Add to this the innovations of precision farming and machinery developments...there is little room for one who is not intelligent.

We are all affected by the debate going on as to whether intelligence matters in the first place and if so, can we measure it? Students are not admitted to colleges unless they meet certain measures of intelligence. Are farm-raised youth less likely to meet requirements?

Finally, when it comes to measuring success and happiness in life, where does intelligence stand when we line it up with creativity, character and personality?

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