

CHECK OUT THE FACTS

Somebody recently sent me some ‘facts’ about how things were in the U.S. back in 1902, taken directly from the Internet. Among the ‘facts’ were statistics such as: average life expectancy was 47 years; there were 8,000 cars in the entire country; the population of Las Vegas was 30. Now, I don’t know how accurate these numbers are. They could be right on target or totally false. I didn’t take the time to check them out.

Earlier this year on a local TV station, the evening news anchor was doing a story on organically produced foods and touting their benefits over those produced with chemicals. It was pretty obvious the news person, just as I, hadn’t bothered to check out the facts before reporting the story. The difference, though, is that I filed a disclaimer with my ‘facts.’ The newscaster didn’t.

It’s amazing how easily people are taken in when it comes to believing what they are told. I suppose it’s because most folks are basically honest and expect others to be as well. Also, admit it or not, all of us have a little gossip in our systems, along with the urgency to be the first to report a breaking story. Maybe that’s why we buy into the pitch of a good sales person or a smooth talking politician.

Thankfully, most of the time the product or service we buy is a good value, and we can rationalize that politicians have always been – well – politicians. However, when it comes to the food we eat, we are obligated to know the facts or seek them out. Our very health is at stake.

The Institute has just released a new publication, *Plant Nutrient Use in North American Agriculture*, which talks about the use of organic and inorganic plant nutrients in food production. The bulletin is a literature-cited review of the current status of nutrient use and impacts. Written primarily by PPI staff, it is balanced in its approach and is well documented with scientific facts. It should be a must-read for all those involved in the nutritional aspects of food production, particularly if they develop nutrient management plans.

Check out the facts about *Plant Nutrient Use in North American Agriculture* in this issue of *Better Crops*. Then you will know the truth.



**BETTER
CROPS**
WITH PLANT FOOD

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