

FEAST OR FAMINE?

When It Rains, Look for the Rainbow

Progress is all around us. Everything is changing. Vast improvements are happening in production agriculture. However, throughout the past 50 years, and even earlier in history, *experts* predicted world famine. *Famine 1975* and *The Hungry Planet* did not materialize. Now some say starvation—in the next century—for sure. World grain production is currently short of consumption and world reserves are enough for just 48 days. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations considers 64 days supply the minimum to safeguard world food security.

Do they underrate the scientists and statesmen of the world? What is there to encourage us? Here are some points to consider:

New Technology It defies our imagination...precision application, computer capabilities, improved cultural practices, new machinery, genetic miracles.

Changing Curriculum at Agricultural Schools Students seek a strong background in science, genetics and computer technology.

Soil Testing Grid soil sampling and more attention to soil type are helping to build maps and data bases for site-specific nutrient management. Improved methods will further enhance yields, profits and efficiency.

Environmentalists Some are recognizing the role of modern high-tech farming in protecting and improving the environment.

Farm Legislation A nearly complete rewriting could result in a whole new farming concept. This could be the most far-reaching factor of all.

Will all this forestall famine? Despite the doomsayers, there *is* promise. We *can* feed the 2.5 billion more people predicted by the year 2025.

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