

# Be Optimistic

There is a prevailing mood of pessimism throughout much of the world. Crime in the streets and in public office, unbalanced budgets, growing unemployment—all while world population increases by 250,000 each day.

Even farmers, optimistic by nature, are worried and discouraged.

Well, after all, conditions *are* bad; shouldn't we be pessimistic?

**Absolutely not!** Fundamentally, the world has every reason to be better off today than at any other time in history.

In the fields of health and medicine the advances are truly fantastic. Developments in energy and transportation are unbelievable. Opportunities abound for learning and education.

On the farm front we live in the best of times. Consider the marvels of science and technology that can make farm life challenging and rewarding—modern farm equipment and farm chemicals that feed plants and animals and protect them from weeds, diseases, and pests. Genetic engineering gives us plants that are more nutritious and higher yielding.

**Yes, there is every reason for optimism.** We have the know-how today to feed the 8 billion people expected in the world by 2030. The problems we face are largely self-created. Crime, bad government, mismanagement, and greed are all of our own making. The basics for happiness and prosperity have been given to us. They are all there. It's up to us to use them properly.

*J. Fielding Reed*

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