

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

But what is the truth? We hear one side and are convinced until we hear the other. Are farm price supports and conservation reserve good—or bad? Should we spend billions on foreign aid or not?

On one issue, most everyone seems to agree...population control. The activists at the Cairo Conference ask for more billions to control “over population.” Surely everyone agrees that we are headed for a population increase that we cannot feed.

Not everyone! A well known expert disagrees with the threat of a starving world of 20 billion people in the mid-2000s.

He goes back to Malthus and points out that no correlation has ever been shown between population and poverty. In fact, rising population and rising living standards can go together.

If the population reaches the levels predicted, he says lack of ability to produce enough food will not be the top problem. Agricultural scientists already know how to produce enough food to feed many times today's population if it becomes such a top priority that cost of production is not the issue.

With diet modifications, water conservation, hydroponics, genetic engineering, and proper use of fertilizers and crop protection practices, food production could be stepped up beyond our imagination.

Can this writer be right? Is his faith in ag scientists misplaced? What is the truth?

J. Fielding Reed

**BETTER
CROPS
WITH PLANT FOOD**

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