

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appreciated conference

To the editor:

A lot was said at the late-April National Rural Conference at Iowa State University in Ames — some good, some bad.

But everyone must admit it was good to have the president, the vice president and the secretary of agriculture all here, talking with and listening to people involved in agriculture.

One message I wanted to hear, and did, was to raise loan rates to target prices for feed grains in the 1995 farm bill.

"The Nature of Wealth," a book published by the National Organization for Raw Materials, was mentioned as a solution to the economic problems of the industrial world.

A common-sense approach is that all new wealth for a country comes from the earth (oil, mineral, timber, sea and soil) and when that new wealth (raw material) is not priced at a fair and equitable price it will not create enough money to assure its consumption.

Morris G. Smith
Creston, Iowa

Dislikes no-till opinion

After a fantastic day of trying to get a few acres of corn planted between rains, I sat down last night to relax and read IFT. However, after reading the guest opinion by Darel Hein about residue requirements and no-till (May 13, IFT), relaxation was not part of the equation.

I don't know whether I'm more upset by the article or the fact that IFT provided the forum

for such biased and misinformed thinking.

Most responsible journalism would print a disclaimer stating the author's opinion does not represent the view of the publication. Since you didn't, are we to assume you are anti no-till and opposed to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy of high-residue to maintain compliance?

Because of the bias of the author, I found it impossible to read the article with any sense of objectivity. Falsehoods, generalizations and convoluted thinking seems to be the theme.

Soil erosion is caused by individual raindrops hitting bare soil with such force that sends it into suspension making it vulnerable to runoff. Residue dissipates the force of that raindrop sending less soil in suspension and greatly reducing the amount of soil leaving with water runoff. Has Mr. Hein heard of night crawlers and their tunnels providing drainage down in the subsoil? You don't have them when you plow!

If NRCS residue mandates are dumb and dumber, then this article by Mr. Hein is dumbest.

Jerry Crew
Webb, Iowa

From the Editor:

Mr. Crew's point is well-taken. Perhaps it is time to restate for all our readers: The opinions represented by any source in Letters to the Editor, Guest Columns, Analysis, Interviews, Ag Scenes or other articles published in IFT do not necessarily reflect the views of IFT.

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