

Lowry Flake Outlines FFA Ideals In Contest Speech Delivered in Baker

(Ed. Note: The following speech was delivered last night by Lowry Flake at the regional FFA meeting held in Baker.)

Never before in the history of man has there been a time of such great plenty, and of so many things to make life pleasant and enjoyable for the human race. We should be very thankful that we are blessed with a land that provides the necessities of life for its peoples, from food to freedom, and from shelter to education.

For all of these things we are indebted to our forefathers who cut and carried, plowed and seeded, planned and built, until our country took the form that it has today. The many things we have to enjoy today did not come by chance, but were bought with the sweat and blood of yesterday's men and women.

If our descendants are going to enjoy even greater benefits economically, socially, physically and spiritually, than we do now, we must have higher education and united cooperation.

Farming Reviewed

Allow me to take you back to 1857 on a farm in New England. A farmer is stretched under a shade tree with his old battered hat slouched over his eyes. He has on a pair of patched homespun pants, a tattered shirt, boots that are well worn and a week's growth of face stubble. In the background is an old mule in plow harness, resting at the end of the plow furrow. By looking around we find that the farmer owns a crude log cabin, and that his doorway is the property of several types of livestock. His total holdings and belongings would be worth in the neighborhood of one hundred dollars.

Assuming that it is possible, let me take this farmer from his farm of 1857 and place him on an average farm of today. The first thing he would notice would be the absence of livestock and the presence of grass in the door yard. He would probably think that a king owned the home from the appearance of the outside, and that people from Mars planned and used the inside.

In the yard he would probably stop short in amazement at the sight of a tractor in full work dress, and beyond it a machine shed with all kinds of strange looking contraptions. His gaze would find a network of electric lines going to the various buildings to aid the farmer.

The land would appear very different to him, because of the larger size of the fields, the improvements, and because of the crops grown on the fields. The worth of an average farm such as this is almost fifty thousand dollars.

Now that our pioneer is beginning to believe his eyes, let's put him on the tractor and see if he can handle the work of today's farmer. Oh, so you don't think he can handle the tractor or the implements. You probably feel that he won't even be able to make a poor try and you are probably right, just as right as I am in telling you that we won't be able to handle the farms of 1987, or even 1947, unless we do something now to prepare ourselves.

Just as surely as there is a difference between the farmer of 1857 and his hundred dollar investment and the farmer of 1957 and his fifty thousand dollar investment, there will be an even greater difference between the farmer of today and the farmer of tomorrow, or 1967.

New Trend Seen

We must prepare now for the new trend, or we may only qualify as the hired hand for those who do prepare. Those who want to farm must either get in or get out, for there is no longer a place for the person who likes farm life but isn't willing to equip himself for what that life is fast becoming. We must have the will to look beyond the problems of today and prepare a way to farm tomorrow.

The problem of surplus, which is a blessing compared to famine, the problem of not enough land to profitably use the costly machinery so vital to our modern farming operations; and even the problem of a relatively high rural birth rate, which causes farmers to rear and educate many children who must go to the city for work, are very real and very important, but if we allow these and other problems to become so large that they blind us to the problems of the future, then when the future arrives, we will find ourselves confronted with a real mess.

Cooperation Urged

What will save us from such a calamity as this, as well as help us iron out our present problems? If anything will do it fellow farmers, it will be education and cooperation, especially on the part of the youth of the United States of America. We have the opportunity and the responsibility of holding the reins of tomorrow. To be able to do this we must prepare today. The man who was considered educated yesterday is uneducated tomorrow, unless he has learned something today.

This will be especially true of the farmer because of the many rapid changes with which he must be able to keep up. We can never stand still, we move, either forward or backward.

Hickman Attends Parma Meeting

Larry Hickman represented the local FFA chapter at the Wool Growers association meeting held in Parma Jan. 24. Three speeches were given on wool and lamb production and the proper care of wool.

Also discussed was the wool pool, an association composed of small farmers who desire protection concerning prices as set by the big ranchers.

The local FFA chapter expects to have about 40 fleeces in the wool pool.

When growing stops, dying starts, so the measure of our success, indeed our very ability to stay alive, depends on how long we can keep growing. One of the best ways to keep growing is to keep learning, for learning is one of man's greatest needs. Farming is becoming more and more like big business because of the demand for capable management. Farming is no longer a matter of trying to produce food, fiber and other materials for home and farm use, because it is more efficient to purchase these supplies elsewhere. Production will still be important—but you can buy it in the form of breeding stock, feeds, seeds, and equipment.

The American farmer today must meet some of the most exacting standards that exist in any career or profession in the world. It's no longer enough for a farmer to have a strong back, skillful hands, a knack with horses or mules, and a natural instinct for knowing weather, soil, crops, and livestock. A farm is one of the best places to put a good education to work. The scarcest farm resource today is capable farm management. Education is the only thing which can conserve and develop this resource. The key to success is under the alarm clock, if that key is the key to knowledge.

Farming Takes Money

Because of the cost involved in farming, most young people aren't able to start farming until they have spent considerable time obtaining the needed money. Through co-operation, young people can start farming much sooner, under much better conditions, with more desire, and with a greater knowledge than in any other way.

Nothing can be a success alone, but in unity there is strength. The best example of this is what happened to thirteen colonies that stuck together and proved they could be successful. I sincerely advocate partnerships as a way to develop confidence, judgment, mature thinking, and success among all farm people. I don't mean just between neighbors either. The time is coming when the nations of the earth will



4-H CLUB ACTIVITIES

By County Extension Agents

Community Leader Workshop Attracts 35 County Members

Approximately 35 people from over the county are taking part in the community leader workshop which started in Ontario last week. Regular meetings will be held at the Ontario high school each Thursday night at 8 p.m. for the next four weeks.

Purpose of the workshop is to go over some of the problems of leadership, both from the theoretical angle and from a practical standpoint. In addition to discussing the philosophy of leadership, each member is given an opportunity to take part in the actual conduct of a meeting.

The workshop is under the direction of the Malheur county extension service, with Turner Bond in the leading role. Mrs. Maud Walker, group development specialist from Oregon State college, is serving as resource person.

Practically all of those enrolled are leaders of some organization: Farm Bureau, Grange, PTA, civic clubs, church, school, etc. Several 4-H leaders are in the group, including about five junior leaders. Additional 4-H leaders may attend the remaining sessions.

EO Leaders Conference Set

The annual get-together for 4-H leaders in eastern Oregon will be held at Heppner this year. Dates are Feb. 7 and 8.

This meeting for eastern Oregon

either be co-operated or exterminated. We must all learn to live together.

I've been told that there are three kinds of people; those who have no idea of what is happening, those who watch things happen, and those who make things happen. We all have the opportunity of belonging to the last group.

Nation Farm Dependent

Our nation is depending on us to do our part to produce the kind and the amount of food that will keep us great by keeping us growing. Our agriculture is planted so deeply in man that the only way to destroy it is to destroy man himself, and this can only be caused by our neglect. Our Challenge is to make and keep America strong; strong economically, socially, and above all, morally and spiritually sound. Only in this course is there safety for the greatest nation under heaven. God grant we may not fail.

Farm and Barn News and Views

By LeRoy Pulliam

This snow and weather have slowed me down some. . . lots of kids have been enjoying it. I was out to Brent Folkman's and while there, we had to try out a bobbed that needed a trial run. It works fine.

The Northrup King Co. fed

leaders differs from the state leaders conference in that it is primarily a workshop devoted to subject matter. The state meeting is largely inspirational and policy making, but does not go into the actual mechanics of leadership. The Heppner meeting consists mostly of discussions on the various projects, club meetings and club activities.

Our delegation will leave Thursday morning, Feb. 7, to arrive in Heppner for the opening workshop at noon. The group will return Saturday, Feb. 9.

The Ontario branch of the First National bank, and the Ontario Kiwanis club are furnishing scholarships to help defray the expenses of the local 4-H leaders attending from the county.

Any Malheur county 4-H leaders who would like to attend should get in touch with the county agent's office right away. In the past this has been a very helpful meeting for leaders and we would like to have as large a delegation as possible.

Junior Leader Meetings Changed

After February the junior 4-H leader club will change regular meetings to the first Monday in each month. The February meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 7.

Earl Jones, farm program director for KSRV, will meet with the group at the February meeting to help the club line up a series of radio programs to be presented over KSRV the third Monday in each month.

Here and There

Mrs. Muriel Wilcox of Willowcreek is arranging for a demonstration team from her club. This team will work up a model demonstration that may be presented in other communities.

Kris Pobanz got his calf on feed last week. It is a mighty fine animal and if it comes along OK should be a real threat at the county fair. George Bain helped pick this for Kris. If any of the rest of you need calves, let us know. There are still some good ones in the feed lots, but they should be on feed right away.

some of the people connected with the state corn show a T-bone steak. While we were enjoying this steak, Wayne Garner passed the comment that his wife enjoyed riding on a sled—or was it getting off hurriedly? Anyhow, these youngsters enjoying the snow are not all teenagers.

I had the opportunity to meet Carl Seburn. He and his wife have returned from a trip into the southwestern part of the U.S. and the Denver stock show. While at Phoenix they purchased a few head of Charollaise cattle. Carl was thrilled to see calves over 500 pounds at weaning time and a 11-month-old calf that weighed 1120 pounds. Very few of these cattle are in the U.S. and I am anxious to see them. They will be here this spring. Carl is going to cross the Charollaise with his Angus cows.

These cattle originated in France. They are a large cattle—bulls up to 2800 pounds and mature cows 1800 pounds. They can stand adverse weather conditions, have a rapid rate of gain and are white or cream in color. Could be these cattle will fill a need in raising the weaning weight of calves.

The cold weather might cut down the production of the livestock here. A little extra precau-

tion might be in line.

Feed and water intake are closely related—if consumption of one is curtailed, the other is limited. It has been known for many years that water intake per unit of dry matter is the same whether cattle are on full feed or on near starvation rations. In a pinch, a livestockman can cut water consumption of his herd in half by simply halving the feed allowance. The same will work if the water is restricted. A word of caution—use heaters in stock tanks to keep animals on full feed. It has been stated that the first 50 percent of a ration is used for body maintenance. (This is referring to a production ration, not a maintenance ration). After this body requirement has been met, the rest will be used for milk, meat, calf growth, eggs, wool, etc.

I had a nice visit with Henry Reuter former Adrian Ag. teacher) who is farming in Indian Valley. He is progressing nicely with about 14 sows farrowing. He has finished constructing an 18-unit central farrowing house. Henry was saving a large percentage of pigs with his operation in spite of the cold weather. I guess Hank taught farming a long he convinced himself. Doing all right, too.

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