

A Farmer's Creed

- I believe a man's greatest possession is his dignity and that no calling bestows this more abundantly than farming.
- I believe hard work and honest sweat are the building blocks of a person's character.
- I believe that farming, despite its hardships and disappointments, is the most honest and honorable way a man can spend his days on this earth.
- I believe farming nurtures the close family ties that make life rich in ways money can't buy.
- I believe my children are learning values that will last a lifetime and can be learned in no other way.
- I believe farming provides education for life and that no other occupation teaches so much about birth, growth and maturity in such a variety of ways.
- I believe many of the best things in life are indeed free: the splendor of a sunrise, the rapture of wide open spaces, the exhilarating sight of your land greening each spring.
- I believe true happiness comes from watching your crops ripen in the field, your children grow tall in the sun, your whole family feel the pride that springs from their shared experience.
- I believe that by my toil I am giving more to the world than I am taking from it, an honor that does not come to all men.
- I believe my life will be measured ultimately by what I have done for my fellowman, and by this standard I fear no judgment.
- I believe when a man grows old and sums up his days, he should be able to stand tall and feel pride in the life he's lived.
- I believe in farming because it makes all this possible.

A Farmer's Prayer

V2-2

As farmers and rancher, dear God, give us the patience and wisdom to understand why a pound of steak at \$2.90 is high, but a three-ounce cocktail at \$3.00 is acceptable.

And, Lord, help me to understand why \$4.50 for a ticket to a movie is not bad, but \$3.50 for a bushel of wheat that makes 50 loaves of bread is considered unreasonable.

And a 60-cent soft drink at the ball game is okay, but a 20-cent glass of milk for breakfast is inflationary.

Cotton is too high at 65 cents a pound, but a \$20 skirt is viewed as a bargain.

And corn is too steep at 3 cents worth in a box of flakes, but the flakes are sold for 50 cents a serving.

And also, Lord, help me understand why I have to give an easement to the gas company so they can cross my property with their lines, and before they get it installed the price of gas has doubled.

And while you're at it, dear God, please help me understand the consumer who drives by my field and raises his eyebrows when he sees me driving a \$30,000 tractor that he helped put together so he could make money and drive down that right-of-way they took from me to build a road on so he could go hunting and skiing.

Thank you, God, for your past guidance. I hope you can help me make some sense out of all this.

And please, God, send some rain.