Western Germany, as now constituted is a deficit food and feed producing area and will continue in that category throughout the foreseeable future. However, production is nowhere near the potential maximum. If all German farmers followed the practices used by the best farmers, total production would be increased tremendously.

According to a German census of agriculture, of 190,978 acres of pasture only 23,016 acres are classed as good, 89,324 acres medium and 78,638 acres are rated as poor. Similar wide variations are found with most commodities.

In 1948, spot checks of potatoes on 250 farms in Hesse showed a variation in yield from a low of 2,744 pounds per acre to a high of 33,795 pounds per acre. One hundred thirty of the 250 farms produced less than half of the average yield of 17,080 pounds per acre. In the case of milk, the records show that the best producers get approximately 10 times as much per cow as do the poorer producers.

Yields secured by the best German farmers are not maximum by any means. Scientists are continually discovering new facts which, when translated into actual practice, result in increased yields and a lowering of the cost of production per unit of commodity.

Two distinct but closely correlated fields of activity are necessary to the advancement of agriculture. The first is research, and the second is machinery to translate the results of research into practice and to induce the farmer to use this knowledge in his farm operations. Germany has both of these services, but under administrative and other handicaps the efficiency of both are materially lowered and the agricultural economy suffers.

Until about 15 years ago, German agricultural scientists received world-wide recognition. Prior to and during World War II many scientists were diverted into other fields. During the war, most laboratories were severely damaged, some destroyed, and since the start of the occupation scores of their workers have not returned to their former positions. There is a mass of useful and practical information, however, resting in the libraries and files, needing only translation into farmers' language and demonstration of its value the conservative and often skeptical producers.

For many years Germany has had a farmers' advisory (extension) service. It has not been closely associated with the research agencies and consequently has been trying to disseminate useful and practical information without, to a large degree, the benefit of the facts of research on which to base recommendations.

One of the main causes of the lack of coordination of research and extension is the apparently illogical administrative arrangement in government. This is particularly true in Hesse. There is divided and overlapping authority between the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and various farmers' organizations serving semi-public functions. The universities conducting research, teaching and some extension, are in the Ministry of Education. The institutions (experiment stations) conducting research, extension and some teaching are under the Ministry of Agriculture.

In Hesse there are two strong farmers' organizations, Chambers of Agriculture, doing various kinds of testing of seeds, fertilizers, etc. They also have supervision of the agricultural winter schools and the advisory service to farmers. The chambers get nearly 40 percent of their budget from the Ministry of Agriculture. Such arrangements result in confusion, overlapping of activities, increased financial costs and in Germany, at this time, rivalry between agencies.

There is a wide gap between the research agencies and the advisers and farmers on the local level. Extension specialists, such as are functioning so well in the United States are practically nonexistent. There is a real need for a group of technically trained people to translate the results and language of research into the terminology of the farmer, and then supplement this information by demonstrating the value of recommended new practices as compared to those used by the farmers.

Production per agricultural worker in Germany is woefully small. The division of farms into strips located in all directions from the farmer's home precludes the efficient use of modern machinery and implements.

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