

*this city boy wants to move the farm indoors*

There has been a lot of doomsday talk going around lately that's got me wondering. Life isn't what it use to be down on the farm. For sale signs seem to be the biggest commodity coming out of our farmlands nowadays. Turning the soil no longer turns the profit.

Being a big city boy, I am quite certain that I am not the person to talk about our agricultural needs. But I am a creative dreamer, and creative dreamers are great for looking at a problem and seeing new opportunities and possibilities instead of hopeless miseries. If the farms aren't working like they are, by God, let's not sell them...let's fix them!

It seems to me that one solution to our farming problems might be to start thinking upward instead of outward.

Why not build sky-scraper farms?' If a family grows tomatoes in 500 acres of farmland, why not build a 27-story high-rise on maybe five of those acres? The farmer could grow just as many tomatoes on those stacked acres as he could on those 500 spread out acres.

Oh I know, I'm probably way off base here, but maybe not. Our food would be grown indoors under perfect conditions... they wouldn't have to spray all those cancer-causing chemicals to keep the bugs away. Being that the food would be grown indoors, the farmer would not be at the mercy of mother nature. Not only could we grow bigger and healthier produce, but we could grow them all year long... there would no longer be such a thing as in-season!

Think about it! Corn on the cob and fresh strawberry pie at Christmas?!?! No problem!! Droughts... floods... heat waves... freezes... would no longer have any impact on our food chain!

It seems to me that the farmer wouldn't lose anything... in fact, I would think that they would save money because they wouldn't have to buy all those chemicals or some of that equipment that they would if their farm was spread out over 500 acres.

Consumers would win, because prices would stay fairly stable, and a shopper could expect to find every fruit and vegetable at their produce store every day of the year- without a consequence for buying at the wrong time of the year.

Land, which is quickly becoming more valuable to us, would no longer be a major factor. Hey, we could build a high-rise farm in the middle of Manhattan and even save a few bucks in shipping costs!

I don't know, it makes sense to me, albeit a big city boy who grew up on the beaches and knows very little about farming. I'm sure there are many negatives about this, or someone else would have thought about it a long time ago.

But we live in a time of great challenges. If we are to survive, we are going to have to start thinking more creatively for the solutions to our problems.

A high rise farm may seem a bit out in left field, but many of our great inventions came from left field. Left field certainly isn't a bad place to look for the answers to many of today's problems.

High rise farming...no chemicals needed... your favorite fruits and vegetables in season every day of the year...people no longer arguing over space...no more stories about mother nature wiping out our crops with droughts, floods, freezes or heat waves.

Sounds crazy, doesn't it? Funny what ideas might come from a creative writer like me, sitting on a brisk winter's evening dying to sink my teeth into a hot, crisp corn on the cob?

Just A Thought

*[NOTE to reader- this was a column I wrote around 1992ish - it is now 2018 and high-rising farms are becoming a thing now - books are selling like fire and many high-rises are actually creating farms on their rooftops with more plans on the way... You are all welcome!]*