

Other specialized courses are offered and include agricultural laboratory technology where graduates find employment in laboratory work relating to the agriculture and food industry. An agricultural business and commerce program provides training in clerical and stenographic services as they apply to the farm business and related agricultural industries.

Other programs are available at the Colleges in Home Economics, Food and Fashion, Equine Management and Agricultural Engineering.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Practical experience is usually an important component of a person's qualifications before they go out in the world of work. Many of the College programs have field work placement opportunities where the students gain experience in their chosen field of study before they graduate.

Although the curricula in agriculture at the Colleges emphasizes the "whys" of production and management, in practically all cases it is possible for the students who wish to improve their competence in the skills required in farming to obtain this necessary practice. Such training is formalized in the "Farming Technology" program available at New Liskeard.

POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA

As the agricultural industry becomes more specialized, educational programs must change to meet this requirement of specialization. There are different approaches that could be taken in this connection, including increased specialization within current diploma programs or a highly specialized post graduate diploma program. We are working with the Ontario Feed and Grain Dealers' Association with the intention of launching such a post-graduate program for elevator operators in the very near future. This program will be a combination of theory and practice with extensive industry involvement. It will be the "Co-Op Type" of educational program. We in the Ministry feel this type of program has tremendous potential and will likely spread to other specialized areas within the industry.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

For many years the Ministry has offered a number of courses through correspondence or as it is often called "Independent Study". This approach to continuing education is becoming increasingly attractive to many people and as a result we are giving this program a new look.

At the present time nearly 40 courses are available in horticulture and 20 in agriculture. The program in horticulture is more extensive because we have offered the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture for some time through our contract arrangement with the University of Guelph.

It is our thinking that this program should be expanded so students both young and old who wish to up-date their knowledge in specific fields or who wish to work toward a Diploma in Agriculture can do so while continuing with their present employment. Some 20 additional courses in agriculture are being developed or will be in the very near future.

The new look to this program is also in the kinds of materials being supplied to the student. In the past correspondence courses were primarily of the written word type only. Our new offerings have a combination of written word, audio with cassettes, visual with colour film strips and in some cases even self-marking. We feel extremely excited about this new approach and it is indeed encouraging to see how well it is being received. For example, we have enrolled in the horticultural program approximately 800 students. With this new approach in agriculture we see no reason why a similar level of participation will not be reached.

Opportunities in education are available to service the specific needs of anyone interested in updating their knowledge in agriculture. These include short courses of one day up to several weeks in length, independent or correspondence study in agriculture and horticulture and two year programs leading to a diploma. It is our hope that people of all ages throughout Ontario will avail themselves of these opportunities.



A luncheon honouring the founding of the first Women's Institute in 1897 was celebrated by the Kimberley W.I., Grey East District. During the meeting Life Memberships were presented to Mrs. James Kirkpatrick and Mrs. Laverne Morwood. Assembled for the occasion L-r. front row Mrs. Gordon McMullen; Mrs. Russell Ellis; Mrs. Dalton Neil; Mrs. James Kirkpatrick, Life Member; Mrs. Ralph Stafford; Mrs. Joseph Rudney; Mrs. Russell Brocklebank, Mrs. Laverne Morwood, Life Member. Back row Mrs. Matthew Cummins; Mrs. Mildred Hutchinson; Mrs. Harold Brown; Mrs. Elvie Brooks.