

John Core, Farmer from Wyoming, speaking on Ontario Farmers' Opportunities, said farmers themselves must do more to conserve the land, to stand up for producers' rights and demand prices that are just and fair.

Mr. Core was a strong advocate for stiffer severance controls and worried that farmers face a time when they no longer can buy farm land and would become share-croppers or tenants.

Chas. Munroe, President of the Canadian Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute said, because the trend is toward larger farms, the equipment is sure to follow this "larger" trend.

Soil Conservation, proper tillage and erosion reduction will be concerns for the implement industry. The farm machinery industry are exploring the possibilities of electronics and hydraulics, so tractors and combines will work at peak efficiency.

Computers will play an important part in the machinery business in the next decade.

Murray Stewart, Canada Packers Ltd, told the audience, because housewives are away from their kitchens more than ever before, convenience foods appeal to them. With more money and less time, meal size packages and individual servings will find the greatest changes in the food processing industry.

Robert Cuddy, London spoke on his experiences in the family-owned business, Cuddy Food Products, the largest turkey hatching operation in the world. This real success story of a family farm, growing and processing turkey, was started by his father in 1950. Robert and his four brothers are all deeply involved in the business which has increased sales volume by 35% a year since 1975. The hotel and restaurant trade are their main sales areas, but recently they have moved into the retail trade.

A recent development in the Spring of '81 will be to supply products to MacDonaldis, this will greatly expand their business.

Gerry Long, Farmer, from London asked, will we go with specific commodities? We, as farmers need to be counted, we are really not in a world of free enterprise, but this group sitting here to-day, now that we are together, need to make some decisions.

Farmers should get their money from the marketplace. Why as primary producers do we have so little to say?

Creditability is important, we can't ask for things unreal, we should not always ask government to do our research. It is time farmers learned to pay their own way, "he who pays has something to say." As farmers, we have a responsibility to speak out and show more concern for the research end of farming.

Dr. G. I. Trant, Agriculture Canada, looked back from 1950-1970, relating that a large proportion of the benefits of increased agricultural productivity were captured by consumers in the form of low food prices. For more than a generation farmers were producing more and more efficiently and enjoying it less and less.

What will the future bring in the way of challenges, prospects and policies?

World population growth will rapidly increase, especially in developing countries. The developing countries that are net petroleum importers will be less likely to result in increased effective demand for Canadian products, but will put pressure on the demand for food aid.

It does not seem on a world-wide basis that we will be able to continue to increase food production as rapidly as in the last 30 years. "The brutal facts are that there will be more starving people in the world by the year 2000." It also means the price of food will rise 150-200% of present levels in less than 20 years.

Canadian Agriculture and food systems face challenges that are larger than anything that has been faced before.

While increased opportunities are present, there will be strong competition for the commercial agri-food markets of the world. If we are not to lose out to competitors we will need to have at our disposal the mechanism to remain competitive. CANAGREX (Canadian Agricultural Export Corporation) will be a policy instrument to achieve that objective. CANAGREX will be the catalyst that can make the difference between failure and success in export markets. It is essential that we produce Agricultural products that meet export demands i.e. white beans for the Canadian market, black beans for Mexico. But, to do this the producers and processors need financial incentives.

John Curtis, Principal of Kemptville Agricultural College, predicted larger farms are inevitable, and livestock will be restricted to lower class land and more rough pasture land will become available.

Drainage, another important segment in the farming business, will take another 15 years to drain all the land presently requiring drainage for maximum economical and energy efficient crop production. Life expectancy of tile drains is 40 years, so tile drainage plans should be a priority with farmers.

Dr. W. D. Morrison, University of Guelph said technical knowledge already available is not being implemented to its fullest potential.

"It is clear that energy is the over-riding pressure and this may become the measuring tape for animal production in the '80's." Considering other aspects of Agricultural production it may well be in the 1980's that a halt or a reduction in the trend to specialization may occur.

Dr. Morrison said that animal welfare lobbyists are bound to begin pressuring farmers here, as they already have in Europe, and warned "that failure to respond and be constructive will almost certainly result in inappropriate standards and unrealistic regulations."