

WI today: Women Involved!

AALP aims to improve lives of rural families

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario pledged \$5,000 in 1985 to aid a new provincial leadership development program aimed at preparing rural leaders to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

At the time the \$5,000 commitment was made to the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP), a proposal was put forth that the FWIO donate an additional \$5,000 to the program in 1986. The total amount of \$10,000 would be used to cover the cost of a four-day seminar for the 30 participants of the program.

FWIO representatives will be asked to vote on the second \$5,000 contribution when the board's annual meeting takes place in November.

The following stories were prepared by Home & Country to make FWIO members more aware of AALP and the significance of their financial support to the agricultural leadership program.

Trying to explain the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program in 20 words or less is like trying to squeeze the Sunday edition of **The New York Times** into your dainty beaded evening purse.

It just can't be done without dropping a lot of important parts, thus withholding valuable information from the reader.

So, instead of giving you just a rough sketch of AALP, you're about to get the complete picture — with lots of color and detail thrown in for good measure.

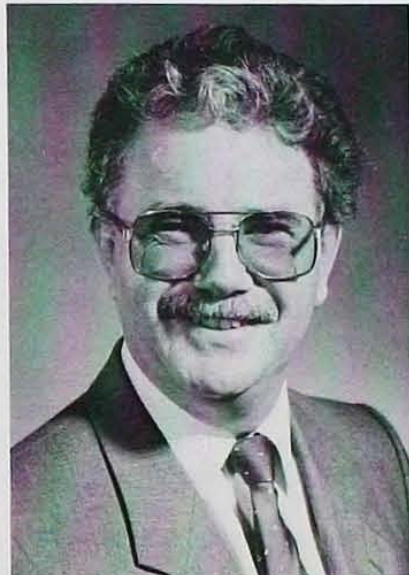
Ready? Okay, then pour yourself a cup of tea, put your feet up and read on about what AALP board members hope will become one of your pet projects in future.

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The Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program is aimed at developing well-rounded people, who are skilled in communication, educated in national and world affairs and familiar with the changing needs of our society.

The program is primarily designed for men and women in the early stages of their leadership careers — usually about 25 to 40 years old. Participants can be farmers, employees of agriculturally-related businesses, or individuals committed to Ontario agriculture. A group of 30 participants is selected following an interview process.

Modelled from the most successful components of more than 20 state agricultural and rural leadership programs in the United States, AALP



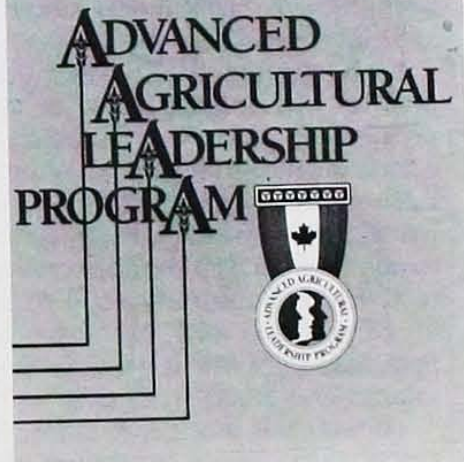
Jack Hagarty

provides continuing education opportunities for those who have already demonstrated leadership skills, ensuring a pool of knowledgeable and effective leaders in agriculture and rural Ontario.

The objectives of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program are:

- To increase the participants' awareness of Ontario's agricultural industry in relation to the national and international community.
- To expand the participants' understanding of the Canadian economic, political, cultural and social system.
- To broaden the participants' perspectives on the major issues facing society.
- To increase the participants' abilities to analyze and react to the complex problems facing people,

"Best thing that's ever happened to me!"



agricultural systems and rural communities.

The program consists of 55 days (including 10 seminars), a North American study travel and an international study travel.

The seminars actually take up 30 of the 55 days. Subject material is drawn from the areas of political science, economics, sociology, communications, philosophy, history and education. Each seminar is a mixture of classroom and field activity. Seminar topics include: policy and decision-making, effective lobbying, international trade, labor unions, business management, foreign aid, exchange in commodity markets, social welfare, media, taxation, environmental issues, money, banking and credit, and trends in agriculture and society.

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