

Huron team provide PD Day

Huron County elementary school teachers spent a professional development day last fall, learning about agriculture.

The Huron County Board of Education, Huron South District WI, the Huron County Federation of Agriculture and the local staff of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food worked together to provide the teachers with lots of information on today's agriculture.

Jack Wilkinson, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, talked about the current family farm scene. He said one in three fatalities on the farm today is a result of suicide, while 3,400 farmers in Ontario are in arrears in their loan payments. While a box of corn flakes costs about \$3, he added, the farmer only gets four cents for the corn that goes into the product.

Jack Riddell, Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food, spoke during the luncheon. He is glad to see teachers taking an interest in instructing students on agriculture, noting that there is a problem communicating the story.

Ross Daily, CFPL-TV farm broadcaster, was the final speaker of the day. He said teachers can play an important role in helping students understand the history of agriculture as well as explore the future of the industry. His experience has shown children enjoy discussions on the concept of food production, chemical use in agriculture, land conservation, genetics, breeding, free trade, futures markets, marketing, distribution, and the quality of rural life.

Gwen Coward



During the day, the teachers rotated to three different sessions. One featured displays from commodity groups. A second showed curriculum resources available to teachers, and video tapes were viewed. The third displayed agriculture kits, prepared by members of the WI with the help of

the federation of agriculture and local implement dealers.

One of the highlights of the day was the lunch — "Eat the Food Your Neighbor Grows", featuring food produced in Huron. Many donations were made toward the lunch by local producers, businesses and organizations.

Many of the teachers remarked on the fantastic PD program and were enthusiastic to have agriculture in their curriculum.

Gwen Coward is the Huron South WI Public Relations Officer.



Pictured is Shirley Cooper, Huron South WI President, presenting the agriculture kits to Bob Allen, Huron County Director of Education. (Photo courtesy the Exeter Times Advocate)

FWIO Scholarship available to FACS students

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario present several \$300 awards to students from Ontario who have successfully completed their first two semesters of the Family and Consumer Studies program at the University of Guelph. A student who has previously been awarded a WI scholarship is ineligible for a Macdonald Award. Applications are to be submitted using only the Macdonald Award application form. Students

entering the second semester in January, May or September should

apply to the Assistant Registrar, Awards, by Oct. 15.

