

Classroom Conference



People came from far and wide to participate in the conference and to present to conference delegates. On the left above, (from left to right) are Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food Jack Riddell, Saskatchewan Minister of Education Lorne Hepworth, and Mark Linder, co-ordinator of the Agriculture in the Classroom program in California. The other gentleman above is Ross Daily of CFPL-TV in London.

What's available in AITC

By Loretta Smith

At the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, eight provinces were represented and outlined what their province is doing now and what they would like to do in the future.

The following is an overview of some of the resources now available throughout Canada and the provinces.

CANADA

* From Agriculture Canada: a large selection of student publications on agricultural topics; grain forage displays and folders; posters; guided tours of the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa; booklets on careers in the agri-food system.

* From the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency: a wide range of educational material such as the Starting Out Kit which introduces nutrition and Canada's Food Guide, the Amazing Egg which is a color activity book, and The Extraordinary Egg, which is a video telling the story of the egg from chicken to store.

ONTARIO

Throughout Ontario there have been numerous teachers' workshops conducted

by a wide range of farm organizations. Some of these groups have developed material for use across the province.

* The Simcoe Ag in the Classroom Committee has a Simcoe County Farm Tour Guide including the guidelines for a farm tour and a list of the farms willing to take tours. They also have an agricultural resource kit which contains all the resources available to date.

* The Wellington County Cattlemen's Association has the Meadows Family Beef Farm Tour Kit which is a puppet play and an audio cassette, outlining the life of a cattle beast from birth to market weight.

* The Hamilton Board of Education has developed the following programs
Soil Studies — Grades 9 and 10
Land Use and Erosion — Grade 6
The Food We Eat — primary environment studies

Big Gardens — primary environment studies

* The Ontario Farm Safety Association has developed many resources including an extensive library of agricultural safety films; agricultural literature; a rural Ontario safety kit program; safety cartoons; and programs in conjunction with Junior Farmers, 4-H, agricultural colleges and the media.

* The Middlesex County Association for Food and Agricultural Awareness have a number of resources available, including information about Dairy Day (a workshop held for Grade 3 students); the Middlesex Federation of Agriculture trivia game; a finger puppet play called Agriculture Creates Jobs; a one-hour film on a year in the life of a family farm; and the London Board of Education slide set featuring 80 slides and audio tape on a dairy farm.

NOVA SCOTIA

* The Nova Scotia Agricultural College offers a non-credit course for junior high school teachers called Agriculture: An Applied Science.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

* The PEI Department of Agriculture and Department of Education have developed many resources including a coloring book, film strips and a play. (They are boasting seven out of 10 high schools are offering agriculture courses and their teachers are trained!)

Loretta Smith is a member of Middlesex Women for the Support of Agriculture and she is a member of the Home & Country Editorial Committee.