

Hot times, hot tempers...

By Bev Rawn

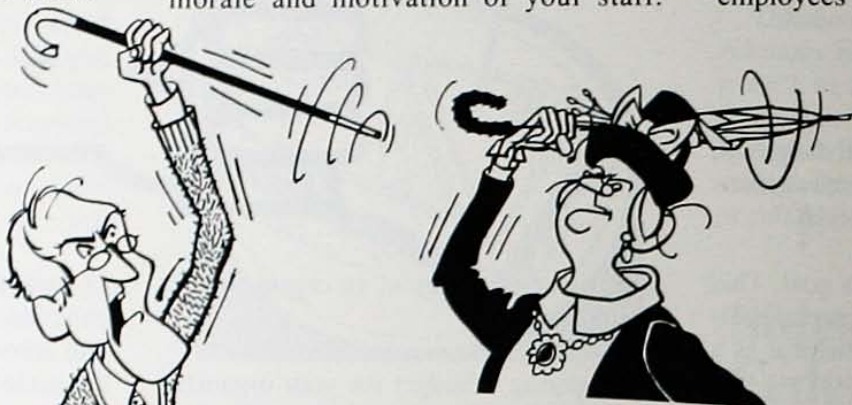
As temperatures rise this summer and workloads intensify, people, like farm machinery, can get overheated and blow off steam at the most inopportune times.

Fatigue and the urgency of harvest time can shorten the fuse of most tempers. This can affect the performance of both employer and staff. Maintaining your temper's "cooling system" can be an important part of managing farm employees during those hot, hazy, humid days of summer.

The first step is some preventive maintenance by discussing daily work plans with workers and family members. Keeping informed of harvest progress, field and weather conditions can take some of the surprises out of the day. Expecting difficulties and listening to staff members

will let everyone feel they're informed. This will allow you to deal with the truly unexpected problems or breakdowns.

Make a conscious effort to keep your temper under control when difficulties arise. This can make an impact on the morale and motivation of your staff.



Heated comments after the news of a breakdown for example, can intimidate some people. Others are on the defensive and lack of clear communication is the real problem.

It is more important to fix the breakdown than to blame someone for it. After the crisis is over, you can sit down with the employee and discuss the circumstances of the breakdown.

Take time to have a break with your employees to ease tension and improve communications. This can be a good cool down time to keep tempers under control on a busy day. Impending weather may pre-empt your usual break time. Under normal conditions, a few minutes to rest and recharge can help everyone to continue in an alert and productive frame of mind.

Bev Rawn is agricultural employment resource coordinator with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Needlework supports nursing home



The Winger-Wainfleet Women's Institute members knitted and crocheted blocks of various designs and colors for lap covers for residents of a nursing home in nearby St. Catharines. Pictured above are Andrea McCallum, social worker at the home, and her grandmother Mary Aulph, who is a member of Winger-Wainfleet WI.

FWIO nominee inducted

Annie Gertrude Haggerty, the nominee of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario to the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame, was inducted in June at the annual ceremony at the Ontario Agricultural Museum, Milton.

Mrs. Haggerty was active in Women's Institute work for 36 years in the Napanee area. She rose to become president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada from 1961 to 1963.

In 1967, she was presented to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip and was a recipient of the Canadian Centennial Medal.

Mrs. Haggerty was a native of Richmond Township. She was born in 1899 and died in 1972.