

Prospects poor for '65 hay crop

Due to the very dry condition of the soil and the slow growth it has, to date, been impossible to make an accurate estimate of the loss through winter killing on hay and pasture fields.

Fields examined by Frank Dench during the past 10 days, however, indicate that the loss is much greater than usual. Winter killing plus the poor catch of new seeding in 1964 would indicate, however, that unless excellent growing conditions prevail during the summer that forage crops will again be in very short supply in Renfrew County.

Farmers are advised that wherever possible acreage of Ensilage Corn planted should be increased. Ensilage corn will, under normal conditions, produce more roughage feed per acre than any other crop.

Medium Early Hybrids planted about May 20 to 24th are recommended for maximum feed value per acre. Hybrids such as Pride 5, Funks G43, Coop-C105 and Warwick 263 are the Hybrids most commonly recommended for this County. Other Hybrids in about the same maturity range may also be used as seed supplies become short.

Hay was in very short supply during the 1964-65 feeding period. Over 1200 applications for Federal-Provincial subsidy on transportation of hay have been made by Renfrew County farmers.

Even though many cattle have been fed on a bare maintenance ration close to 20,000 tons of hay will have been brought into the County this past season.

This was the first year on record that any large quantity of hay has had to be brought into the County.

To date, this year prospects for a good hay crop appear even poorer than in 1964.

Winter killing is also reported in Western Ontario.

likely to succeed — 2 bushels of oats and one bushel of peas are seeded.

Oats may also be used as a supplementary pasture crop. For pasture they should be seeded at three bushels per acre. Oats seeded about May 20th should be ready for pasturing July 20th. Oats seeded later will provide Fall pasture. One further advantage of seeding the oats is that should they not be needed for hay or pasture they can be harvested as a grain crop.

A good many farmers are interested this year in Sudan Sorghum Hybrid as a supplementary pasture crop.

Hybrid Sudan Sorghum is fertilized at about the same rate as corn. Quite a number of farmers are sowing 5 to 7 acres of this new crop. Seeding is done about June 1 for best results.

County crops unscathed

Renfrew county has been lucky this year said Agricultural Representative Frank Dench last week, in avoiding the crop losses that struck other parts of Ontario.

The county's rainfall in July was only a shade over three inches, said Mr Dench, whereas other regions had up to seven inches.

Farmers in the devastated regions around Ottawa are claiming compensation from the government for their losses.

The corn crop in the county is in good shape, said Mr Dench, with a week of hot dry weather and an unusual amount of moisture providing ideal conditions. Vegetable crops and garden produce have also benefitted from the weather.

The rain has, however, adversely affected oat and hay crops. The hay harvest has been delayed, and hay harvested late is of poorer quality than that which is brought in early.

In the Ottawa area, rainfall in July has been higher than that of any year since 1890. '66