



Partners in marriage and partners in farming. Linda and Lawrence McLaughlin have recognized each other's contributions in a legal agreement. Mrs. McLaughlin has also been a member of the board of the Consumers' Association of Canada.

Husband-Wife Partnership Is Unique Nestleton Operation Operated by the McLaughlins

By Paul Harvey

On today's modern farm, the woman in the husband and wife team has come to be regarded as a full partner in the business. And why not? She usually does the book-keeping, housekeeping, baby-sitting, and, in the case of Mrs. Linda McLaughlin of Nestleton, she is also a board member of the Consumers' Association of Canada.

For Linda and husband Lawrence this partnership is reflected in a legally drawn-up agreement. Mrs. McLaughlin contributed some equity to the operation and as such is registered as a 35 per cent owner of the farm.

The legal partnership recognizes a woman's contribution to the farm. "For a lot of years," Mrs. McLaughlin said, "women have been putting out a lot of effort but not getting credit for it."

Nine years ago the McLaughlins took over from Mr. McLaughlin's father the operation of this beef and feeder hog farm.

children, Lynn, 14, and Brent, 12. "It's a family operation," Mrs. McLaughlin said.

Ruth Jackson, President of the Consumers' Association of Canada, asked Mrs. McLaughlin three years ago to join their board in forming a liaison committee with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. The two organizations are not usually on good terms but Mrs. McLaughlin was encouraged by the attempt at cooperation.

"Things are looking up when both sides are trying to cooperate," Mrs. McLaughlin said. "At least then, we're talking to each other."

Mrs. McLaughlin, however, has decided recently to step down from her post as member at large. She explained that it was difficult to be a member of the board and not a member of a local committee for the C.A.C.

At home, Mrs. McLaughlin does all the books, something she enjoys. "I sometimes search for two or three hours for a couple of cents," she

The McLaughlins met while completing studies at the University of Guelph. Linda is from the Woodstock area and Lawrence's family is fifth generation Nestleton.

It's a policy at the McLaughlin farm to work hard for six days and then just do the chores on Sunday. The day of rest gives Brent and Lynn a welcome break, too. "The kids are turned right off," Mrs. McLaughlin said, "if they're slugging away all the time."

Active in their community, the McLaughlins are members of the Library Board, Blackstock Fair Board, and Lawrence is a member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.