

FARM NEWS

From Halton's Farm Lands

Mac Alexander Heads Halton Jersey Club
 "Beating the Cost Price Squeeze" was the subject of Prof. Ralph Campbell's address at the annual meeting of the Halton Jersey Club held at the Trafalgar Memorial Hall on Tuesday of last week. There are two ways to meet the present situation, stated Professor Campbell who is head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the Ontario Agricultural College, namely by better marketing and prices, and secondly by Farm Management. In presenting the "Outlook" with the aid of graphs, he pointed out that practically all commodities have a cycle.

Beef Cattle
 In the case of beef cattle the cycle ranges from 11 to 14 years. In U.S. cattle numbers are at an all time high, namely 94 million head.

Hogs
 Hogs, on the other hand, normally have about a four year cycle. Hog marketings hit the high point in 1952. In order to preserve the 26 cent floor, it was necessary to cut some 86 million pounds of pork in 1952, most of which has been disposed of in export markets. Breeding in December were about eight per cent higher than a year ago, stated the speaker, who predicted that hog prices should be very good for the first nine months of 1954.

Dairy Cattle
 On June 1st last, stated Prof. Campbell, we had six per cent more dairy cattle in milk than 12 months previously, and prospects point to a further increase of four per cent in 1954. While our population increase is around 2 1/2% per year, the fluid milk consumption on a per capita basis has declined. Butter stocks, he stated, were up 25% on December 1st; cheese on the other hand presents a much better picture. Reference was made by the speaker to the sale of 10 million pounds of cheese to Great Britain and also that cheese stocks were 20% below a year ago. The picture in U.S., he stated is very similar to that in Canada—there they have the highest ratio in history of young animals to milk cows.

A second way to beat the Cost Price Squeeze is by taking advantage of the seasonal indexes. In the case of beef cattle there are 35% more than normal on the market in October and November—the high prices come in June, when marketings are at their lowest ebb, stated the speaker. "Prof. Campbell's Farm Management—Cutting Costs"
 The farm family living cost is about double what it was in 1933, he stated. On the other hand tax and interest rates around 150 per cent of the 1935 level. In contrast to this, "equipment and materials" are around 212 or 213% of their 1935 level, and farm wage rates 476%.

Farm Labour
 Brief reference was also made by Prof. Campbell to a time study made by his department on 42 dairy farms with particular reference to how long it takes to do chores (milking routine). These revealed a wide variance—for example, on two farms both with the same number of cows and with similar barn lay-outs, the one operator walked 4070 feet during his chores per day, while the second operator walked 7200 feet. From a yearly standpoint the first operator walked 251 miles performing his chores and the second operator 497 miles, or in performing his chores during the year, he walked 215 miles further than the first operator.

Milker on Too Long
 A check was also made relative to the length of time the milking machine was left on the various cows. This in the case of the first operator varied from 2 1/2 to 7 1/2 minutes or an average of 4 1/2 minutes. In the case of the second operator it

varied from 5 1/2 to 20 1/2 minutes, or an average of 8 1/2 minutes. When computed on a hourly basis it means that the one operator was spending 219 hours more time in milking than his fellow operator handling a similar sized herd under similar conditions.

President Ken Ella, in extending a vote of appreciation moved by Victor Hall, related a personal experience relative to time saving. "We keep around 800 hens and it used to take 3 1/2 to 4 hours per day to do the candling—since purchasing a special candling machine, the length of time has been reduced to 15 minutes.

Others who spoke briefly included Mr. C. Beatty, vice-president of the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club; Geo. Sileo, president of the Ontario Jersey Club; and Herb Armstrong, secretary of the latter organization. The election of officers for 1954 resulted as follows: President, Mac Alexander; 1st vice president, Wm. Featherstone; 2nd vice president, Stanley Matthews, secretary-treasurer J. E. Whitlock. Directors—Esquessing, Gerald Graham, Ken Ella, Fred Nurse, Nassagaweya, Duncan Moffat, Gen. Howey, Nelson, Ernest Davies, W. E. Breckon; Trafalgar, H. L. Beatty, W. H. Devlin; Erin and Eramosa, Fred Moore. Director to the Ontario Jersey Club—Jack Featherstone.

Dr. J. C. Rennie Addresses Holstein Breeders
 One hundred and forty Halton Holstein breeders were in attendance at the annual meeting of Halton Holstein Club held at Trafalgar on Wednesday of last week. Dr. J. C. Rennie of the Animal Husbandry Department at the Ontario Agricultural College was the special speaker for the occasion. Dr. Rennie described a new research project which was initiated in April 1953 at the O.A.C., pertaining to dairy cattle breeding. With the aid of I.B.M. machines, they can now measure the ability of herd sires to transmit type and production, as well as determine more accurately the characters which have heritability. In the opinion of Dr. S. Dunton, national director and others who spoke, this new work is the most promising and forward step with relation to dairy cattle breeding, taken in many years.

Gen. Drennan, Holstein fieldman, presented lifetime production certificates as follows:
 Harold Bingham and Son—a gold seal certificate for that great cow, Katharine Mercedes Dutchland, that produced over 203,000 lbs. of milk

and over 8,000 lbs. B.F., making her the second highest lifetime producer of the breed at the time she made her last record. The same breeder received a blue seal certificate for Mono R. A. Piebe, which cow to date has produced 130,917 lbs. milk and 5287 lbs. B.F.

Ashville Farms Ltd.—a silver seal certificate on Ashville Marina Dekol that has produced in 10 lactations 150,352 lbs. milk and 5719 lbs. B.F.

M. Dearing a silver seal certificate on Kneeland Ormsby Ideal that in 12 lactations has produced 150,403 lbs. milk and 5415 B.F.

E. J. Meagher Estate—a real seal certificate on Ottawa Past Duchess which cow in 6 lactations produced 113,096 lbs. milk and 4440 lbs. B.F.

G. Leslie Peer and Son—two red seals on Hillandale Shirley Keyes, whose life time production to date in nine lactations is 109,776 lbs. milk and 3867 lbs. B.F.

J. C. Bell and Son a blue seal certificate on Hartog Gemma Sadie whose lifetime production to date is 130,373 lbs. milk and 4475 lbs. B.F.

Others who spoke briefly at the dinner following the introduction of head table guests by Agricultural Representative J. E. Whitlock were F. G. Stark, representing the Maple Cattle Breeders; Art Bennett, Associate Agricultural Representative; and Lloyd Pickard of Hays Ltd.; and Ross Segsworth, Halton director of officers and directors for 1954 resulted as follows:

President, W. W. Thompson; 1st vice president, Gordon Sinclair; 2nd vice president, George Pelletier; 2nd secretary-treasurer, V. J. Lawrence. Directors—Esquessing—F. O. Hunter, T. H. McGee, and H. C. Reid; Nassagaweya, Wm. Mahon and Percy Kitching; Nelson, Fred Bell, G. L. Peer, Ross Segsworth, Trafalgar, J. C. Marshall, W. R. Tovell, Lloyd Pickard and W. R. Royle.

CFJB to Feature "Reps"
 The new radio station at Brampton (CFJB) which comes over the 1090 wave length has offered to provide a few minutes each noon hour when the Agricultural Representatives of Dufferin, Halton, Peel, and York will have an opportunity to send a message over the air to the farm folk of their respective counties. It is anticipated that this new venture will get under way around February 1st.

When plans have been finally formulated further details will be announced in this column.

Farm Forums Review Prices, Marketing, Purchasing Co-Operatives Questions

The farmer and industrial worker depend on each other for prosperity. At the present time, farm prices are going down faster than industrial prices and this threatens the stability of the Canadian economy.

"What are some of the ways in which the farmers in your area might adjust to a period of favorable prices?" The answers to this question were as follows:

Keep your expenditures in line with your income. Do not jump from one type of farming to another. Plan farm operations and make the best use of available labor. Build up some reserves for emergencies. Reduce cost of production by making machinery on hand do until farm prices improve; Refrain as far as possible in using high priced feeds and fertilizer; Co-operation of pooled machinery and labor (it was agreed this could be made to work only if the group did not become too large, not more than five); Increase efficiency of production of quality products. Patch the overalls and shirts and encourage the wife to do without a new Easter hat.

Need Marketing Co-op

The second question: "Is there any need in your area for the following: (a) a marketing co-operative to handle the sales of one or more farm products?" Yes, milk, poultry products, and beef marketing co-operatives were needed in some areas. Pinegrove Forum states a need for co-operative disposal of surplus milk. This is under organization now.

And, (b) "a producers' marketing board set up under provincial legislation to regulate the sales of a certain farm product?" Ligny forum reported: In our area we have a Hog Producers' marketing board. We should have a poultry and egg producers' marketing board, also beef. The sales of grass seeds, such as clover, alfalfa and Timothy require a marketing board set up under provincial legislation to regulate the sale of these farm products. Lastly (c) "a purchasing co-operative to serve as a retail store for farm supplies and other goods?" Practically all groups felt a purchas-

ing co-operative was not needed, as we are well served by the Halton Co-operative at Milton, and they carry farm supplies and other goods. Check Line Forum, Esquessing, felt a co-operative retail store for farm supplies and other goods in the town of Georgetown would serve the surrounding districts well.

North Trafalgar Forum evidently regret the lack of publicity and note that on Review night they are to be favored with a Square Dance demonstration by Halton Junior Farmers.

Last week the Limestone Forum heard an address by District Agricultural Representative, Mr. J. E. Whitlock. He presented many worthwhile facts on the Agricultural problems of today. The Lawville Male Quartet sang some well rendered selections.

Gordon Strain
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Farmers Buy Time At the B. of M.

Many farmers need time—time for income to catch up with expenditure. Such farm necessities as feed, fertilizer and seed have to be paid for as they are used, in many cases. But it may take the farmer many months to convert them into income for himself. This is a familiar problem, but it is often a serious one for the farmer without too much ready cash, especially when he is faced with mounting costs.

The answer for many a farmer is a low-cost Bank of Montreal Farm

Loan. It enables him to pull through low-income periods without having to cut down the scale of operations. And the savings he makes by paying cash for goods more than cover the low interest charges on the loan. He knows, too, that he can arrange repayment by instalments, timed to match his peak income periods. If you need money for feed, fertilizer or seed, or for any other essential farm expenditure, call in and discuss the matter with Gordon Oeder, manager of the Acton B. of M. You'll find Mr. Oeder is familiar with farm financing, and he'll do everything possible to help you. And remember, when you ask for a B. of M. Farm Loan, you are not asking for a favour—it's the bank's business.

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