

# FARM NEWS

## From Halton's Farm Lands

**Wide Variance in Milk Costs**

The cost analysis on the 74 Halton herds entered in Dairy Herd Improvement work for the year ending April 30, 1953, have just been released by the Farm Economics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. While the average cost of producing 100 lbs. milk in the 74 herds is \$3.52, the costs in different herds range all the way from \$2.67 per cwt. to \$5.16 per cwt. The factors causing or responsible for this wide variance can be attributed to: (1) Production per cow; (2) Feeding Efficiency; (3) Labour Efficiency; (4) Capital Use; and (5) Size of Business.

**Production per Cow**

The average production per cow is 8,342 lbs. of milk and 301 lbs. B.F. In the two herds with the low net returns this average production is 8,888 lbs. of milk and 294 lbs. B.F. in contrast to an average of 10,120 lbs. of milk and 357 lbs. of B.F. on the two herds with the high net returns.

**Feeding Efficiency**

Here the average of the 74 herds was 4 lbs. milk for each pound of concentrate fed. On the other hand, the two herds with the high net returns were fed one pound of concentrate to each 6.7 lbs. of milk, while the two herds with the low net returns got 1 lb. concentrate to each 4.1 lbs. of milk.

**Labour Efficiency**

On the average of the 74 herds it required 14 hours to produce 100 lbs. of milk. Here the low net returns herds took 2.6 hours to produce 100 lbs. of milk.

**Capital Use**

Even cows at milk were sold for each \$100 investment by the average of the 74 operations. In this case the variance between the two herds with the high net returns and the two with the low net returns was 15 cows in the first case and nine cows in the latter.

**Size of Business**

On the average the 74 herds had 22 milking cows each. In the case of the two herds with the high net returns each kept 28 milking cows and produced 258,880 lbs. of milk in the year against 109,884 lbs. of milk produced by an average of 16 cows in the case of the two herds with the low net returns.

**Night School To Hold Open Night**

The fourth year of the Night School Classes at Milton is rapidly drawing to a close. At a meeting of the Local Planning Committee under the chairmanship of A. T. Wood, it was decided to hold an Open Night at the Milton High School, on Tuesday evening, March 2nd. Four hundred and fifty-five are enrolled in the Night School classes at Milton, and for the first 10 nights the percentage attendance has been at the 81 mark.

At Acton and Georgetown where six classes are being held, another 108 are enrolled. R. Licata, Georgetown representative on the County Planning Committee, informed the meeting that an Open Night for the classes at Acton and Georgetown will be held in Georgetown later during the month of March.

**The Survey Interesting**

The third quarterly survey has just been completed by Halton Hog Producers, states A. R. Service, secretary of the Association. In the survey the same 20 producers are contacted each quarter. In contrast to the survey made in early October, when the 20 producers had 81 sows the survey just completed this month shows the number of sows at 57. In pigs 2 months and under, the recent survey reveals 329 weanling pigs in contrast to 271 of the same age four months ago. In the age group 2 to 4 months, the February survey reveals 242 in contrast to 314, four months ago. Finally in the age group 4 months and over there were 252 pigs in the February survey against 231 on the same farms last September.



## Farm Products Grading Question Raises Varying Viewpoints Among Forums

The main reason why grading is not uniform all across Canada is because grading for retail trade is a provincial affair. Grading was established in the first place to export trade. This was done to promote the sale of Canadian farm products overseas. But the Canadian government did not have, and has not now, the authority to enforce grading on the home market except in interprovincial trade.

What has happened is that the Department of Agriculture has set up grading standards for most farm products. These are enforced in interprovincial and export trade, and also in government inspected plants, such as meat packing houses and canning factories.

**Question on Grades**

February 8 Farm Forums across Canada listed to the broadcast the following question: "Should we have a uniform grade name for all farm products? Should all farm grades carry through to the consumer?"

The answer to the first question: "Are there any products in your area that are not sold by grade and which you think should be?" read thus: (a) sweet corn, pork, cheese and summer vegetables. Milk, one group stated, if not first quality is returned to the farmer. Apples in particular are not all graded to the consumer, nor potatoes, although they are supposed to be, which if they were would mean better prices to consumer.

**Would Ban Coloring**

Town Line Forum reports: "Whereas pork is sold by the producer by grade, there is no evidence that the consumer receives the benefit of this grading. Grade A hogs must weigh from 140 pounds to 170 pounds. If the hog weighs 171 pounds the farmer loses \$2 but there is no guarantee that the consumer gets a \$2 reduction on that bacon. All meat should be sold by the grade to the consumer in line with the grading given the farmer. Coloring of meat by the processor should be illegal."

The second question: "You often hear people say 'Grades should be

## Re-elect Director E. Ross Segsworth

E. Ross Segsworth, Burlington, Ontario, was re-elected as a director of the Halton-Fincham Association of Canada at the annual meeting held February 10 at Burlington.

N. B. Martin, St. Thomas, Ont., succeeded J. W. Hosford, South Elmhurst, Alberta, as president.

Members for the Extension Service Committee for 1954 were appointed as follows: E. A. Jones, Brantford, Ont.; J. S. Dunlop, Hamilton, Ont.; R. McLaughlin, Oshawa, B. G. Clarke, Kingston, and James T. Brown, Newcastle. George R. McLaughlin was also appointed representative to the Canadian Council of 4 H Clubs.

Secretary G. M. Clemens, Brantford, Ont., reported that the Association had the best year in its history in 1953. Membership stood at the all-time high of 12,719, a list of 67,930 calves were registered, the largest number yet, and 31,102 transfers of ownership were recorded. Some 17,920 head were exported as against 2,230 in 1952. The year of the foot and mouth ban, and 14,633 in 1951.

Senator J. Walter Jones of P.E.I. acting on behalf of the Association presented nine Massey-Harris Shires. This is the highest honor that a Haltonian breeder may win and never before have so many qualified in the same year. Nine of the winners were from Halton county.

Of 14,000 medicinal chemicals tested for anti-malarial activity, only two were found satisfactory and only four antiparasitic drugs out of hundreds tested and classified.

Stone School Forum reports grading should be carried through from producer to consumer by Provincial legislation with appropriate education for consumer and compulsory marking of grades on products.

SS No. 7 Forum states: "Stamping the date with the grade marking might help in regards to perishable fruits such as raspberries and strawberries."

**More Careful Study**

Paragrove Forum suggests people should study more carefully to understand the merits and demerits of certain grades.

Blue Springs Forum states: "If it were possible to have grading from producer to consumer without too much expense, the forum members are all for it. Too many inspectors cost money and add to the price of the product."

Town Line Forum states: "What use is produce grading if the consumer does not benefit? In case of meat the problem involved would be that packers and butchers would have to be inspected more closely to assure meat reaches the consumer in proper grading. Pork farmers meet with the difficulty of getting all pigs in a litter to develop evenly, and if not within graded weight take a lower price. There is a suspicion that it all goes over the counter very much the same price."

### FINAL PROOF

A youngster whom I was tutoring in physics didn't seem to comprehend the concept of weight at all—especially when I tried to convince him that a pound of feathers was exactly as heavy as a pound of iron. I finally gave up when he said, "You stand down in the courtyard and I'll drop a pound of feathers on your head, from the second floor. Then I'll drop a pound of iron. After that, if you say they weigh the same, I'll believe you."

## Advertising Worth of Weekly Papers Lauded By Finance Company Official

More and more large Canadian companies are discovering that it pays to advertise in the Canada's weekly newspapers.

And House of Finance is no exception, states the president A. W. Bruce in announcing that his company will use regular advertising space this year in the Acton Free Press.

I grew up in the Ontario town of Waverham, Mr. Bruce explained, and I know personally the important part which the weekly paper has played and still plays in the life of the entire community.

Weekly newspapers are not only thoroughly read but the character and caliber of their editorial and news columns makes their advertising columns effective beyond what might be normally expected from a comparable circulation in a large city daily newspaper. Mr. Bruce added.

The Acton Free Press is this year one of about 200 weeklies in which we will carry a series of advertisements on behalf of Canada.

"While our company," he continued, "has not yet established offices in each of the markets served by these newspapers, the use of consumer credit has now become an integral part of the lives of most Canadians. Small sum installment loan services, regulated by the government are used today by literally hundreds of thousands of families and have made a major contribution to the continued healthy growth of our Canadian economy."

"We therefore feel that we have a responsibility as the largest of the Canadian loan companies to tell out-

two years ago," Mr. Bruce concluded. "It has been growing steadily and we hope that it will be mutually profitable. There is no substitute for weekly newspaper advertising in reaching the five million Canadians who live outside the big cities."

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Maybe you could get some help to adapt you.



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The other is far more important. It is a combination of service and management. This is vital because money is only as powerful as good management makes it.

We offer quick, friendly, dependable service. And the advice of properly trained men and women. We offer counsel on how to improve the management of your resources.

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CANADA'S LARGEST, MOST RECOMMENDED CONSUMER FINANCE COMPANY

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Optometrist  
IN ACTON  
EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON  
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"See how much more you get for your money"

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*F.I. Time Power Steering and Hy-Drive are available at moderate cost on ALL 1954 PLYMOUTH'S*

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Rolling south over scenic highways you are routed via New Orleans where you have two nights and one day to see the sights of this enchanting city. Your tour conductor who speaks both Spanish and English joins your group at San Antonio and accompanies you to Mexico and back. You'll enjoy the wonderful sights of Mexico, its quaint shops and the strange customs of its colorful citizens.

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