



FARM NEWS

From Halton's Farm Lands

Fred Nurse Host to 4-H Grain and Forage Club Members

On Tuesday evening July 27, the Halton 4-H Grain and 4-H Forage Club Members met at the farm of their Club leader, Fred Nurse, for a well attended meeting.

Rod row test plots of eight varieties of barley were inspected. All varieties have done very well and at present yield tests are being obtained to prove which variety is most suited to Halton. Similar tests are located in most countries in Ontario. It was interesting that most of the 4-H Members when asked to name the best variety in the plots almost without exception Beaver was first choice, with Struce and Rodney receiving favor for second choice. Montclair appeared to be one of the best in the barley plots. Mr. Nurse likes "Husky," but the yield results will tell the tale.

The group next visited an excellent farm pond which was constructed by damming up a gully with a new road. It is reported that this pond is the favourite swimming hole for the Ashgrove Community.

After viewing a good field of Reg. Laran Oats and one of the best corn fields we have seen this year the group listened with interest to Mr. Nurse's comments on the underdrainage which was laid on the trench site, which is filled for the second time with grass silage. One of the things we could not help but notice was the excellent aftermath on the fields from which this grass silage was harvested. Milk flow is about normal, whereas on many farms production has taken a sharp drop.

Committees were formed to plan educational displays to be exhibited at Milton Fair.

Dairy Calf Clubs Meet

Gordon Sinclair, President of the Halton Holstein Breeders, was host Wednesday evening, July 28, to 80 members and leaders and friends of the Halton 4-H Holstein and 4-H Guernsey-Jersey Calf Clubs.

Two excellent classes of Holsteins were judged, and members gave reasons for their placings. Local leaders who were out in almost full force at this meeting. The service provided by these local men is much appreciated, and contributes much to the success of the regular monthly meeting. Art Bennett, Associate Agricultural Representative gave the official placings for the two classes.

The next part of the program was a foot trimming demonstration, supervised by Gordon Sinclair, with daughter Doreen allowing her Club calf to be demonstrated on. This was followed with a showmanship demonstration by Doreen Sinclair.

Members were impressed with the Sinclair herd, and grand barn equipped with a mechanical gutter cleaner.

Presidents Ralph Cunningham and Mary Lou Alexander assisted by Club Leaders Add Woodley and Mac Alexander, conducted separate business meetings, and committees were appointed to look after educational displays.

Ken Scotland capably expressed thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair and family for their hospitality to the group.

Army Worms

Army worm outbreaks have been inspected this week on the 8th and Base Line of Trafalgar, and on the No. 7 Highway east of Georgetown. Slight infestations have been noted in many other fields visited but damage is not too severe except in three cases. Damage is pretty well confined to green oat fields.

Corn fields which are near oat fields should be inspected daily and if any damage is noted poison bait laid down between the two fields. We do not believe army worms hatch in great quantities in corn fields in search of a greener feeding place. Plowing a furrow and spreading poison bait is a good preventative measure. At time of writing it appears that Halton County has fared much better than our neighbouring counties of Peel and York.

World Jersey Bureau Visits Halton

Recently Jersey Breeders from several countries were in session at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. The occasion was the third meeting of the World Jersey Bureau, an organization which sponsors closer co-ordination of Jersey organizations and activities around the world. Several Halton-Jersey Breeders attended part of the sessions and a large number attended a special banquet on Monday evening July 19.

On Thursday July 22 Halton Jersey Breeders were highly honoured when 90 of the delegates including people from Jersey, Ireland, South Africa, England, Ireland, United States, France, and several countries in Ontario visited Halton. Welcomed by President Mac Alexander at the farm of Gerald Graham, the group first inspected this long established herd, in fact one of the oldest Jersey herds in Halton County.

Delegates were greatly impressed with the uniformity within the Graham herd, and also with the wonderful stable accommodation. We will not attempt to discuss individual animals, as Gerald and the other owners did so capably throughout the tour, but will stick to generalities, mentioning perhaps one or two main comments which were overheard at each farm.

After guiding this group down Esquimaux's prosperous 7th Line, from the Graham farm, we arrived

at Ken Ella's "Big-Little" Herd. Here a beautiful display of show winnings, production records, trophies, etc. caught the visitors eye even before Ken and Mrs. Ella told of the rapid development of their herd over the past 6 years. One gentleman from Jersey Island we heard to remark, "a wonderful success story," and "what marvelous records of production".

Next stop was Hawthorne Lodge where afternoon tea was served to the group. "Just like 'ome", according to our English friends.

Now back to the 7th Line, and down into Trafalgar Township, for a visit to Featherstone Brothers. Here an excellent herd which was established 20 years ago was pasturing on exceptionally good aftermath, considering the lack of rain which has predominated in Halton for over a month. Highlights for the visitors were, their famous "Excellent Cow"; 10 calves sired by a son of this cow, which is in service at the Maple unit; some of the mother and daughter combinations in the herd; and the fact that 60 head of cattle are being carried on a 100 acre farm.

Final stop before this group returned to Guelph to conclude their conference, was at one of Halton's largest Jersey herds—that of Maurice Bealy. On learning of how his farm this spring, Next a visit to the trench site, which is filled for the second time with grass silage. One of the things we could not help but notice was the excellent aftermath on the fields from which this grass silage was harvested. Milk flow is about normal, whereas on many farms production has taken a sharp drop.

To conclude a pleasant afternoon, Halton hospitality was extended generously and graciously on the Bealy lawn by the Halton Jersey Club, when the entire visiting group sampled the ladies' cooking. The ladies were out in full force, and with the able assistance of the men folk, catered to every visitor's appetite.

Everyone connected with Halton Jersey fraternity deserves special credit, as we feel certain the visit to Halton will long be remembered by members of the World Jersey Bureau.

Price of Wheat Disappointing Many wheat growers are discouraged over the low price offered for wheat at the mills. Wheat, incidentally which is of good weight per bushel, and has low moisture content direct from the combine this year.

We seem to recall writing last year at harvest time of the value of winter wheat as a livestock feed if it is mixed in the proper proportions with other grains and balanced with a higher protein feed. Now with an even lower price being offered for wheat, and with commercial feed prices still relatively high, we wonder if any farmer who will have to buy feed of any kind can afford to sell wheat at present prices.

It is reported that one Halton farmer took a ton of last year's wheat to the mill recently and purchased a ton of bran to take home with him. When settlement was made the farmer owed the mill \$6.

Figure it out on paper—wheat is selling at \$1.25 per bushel or in

other terms \$2.08 per 100 lbs. Bran is now selling at \$2.50 per 100 lbs. Can you afford to sell wheat if you need livestock feed? Roll it for the cattle, poultry, and grind it moderately fine for the pigs. We agree with the Federation of Agriculture it is poor business to sell it.

Army Worms Serious in Many Counties

While no serious outbreak of army worms has been reported to date (July 24) in Halton county—Simcoe, Grey Bruce, Huron, Lambton, Oxford, Perth, Waterloo, Lincoln, York, and Peel counties have all reported considerable damage from this pest. An Halton farmer noting these greenish brown caterpillars, which have longitudinal stripes on their backs, should phone the Agricultural Representative's office.

Oat and barley fields seem hardest hit, and earlier this week we viewed a 12 acre field of oats in Peel County, where all leaves and several kernels were stripped from the stalks. In one area alone in Peel County poison bait at the rate of 25 lbs. of bran, 1 lb. of Paris Green, 1-2 qts of Molasses and 2 1/2 gals of water per acre, was spread by hand over 300 acres of oat crop on July 21, 22, and 23. We do not quote this to alarm you, but merely in the hope that all farmers will be on the lookout for this pest. Army worms can be serious but can be controlled if poisoned before they begin to march.

Farm Radio Forums Start Organization

The county executives of Farm Radio Forum in Zone Three met at Brampton for their organization meeting and also to meet the newly elected Secretary-Manager, W. J. McPherson, or Jack McPherson as he is known by radio fans.

It was gratifying to note that out of seven counties only one was not represented, which depicted the interest and responsibility to duty of these county officers. Problems of Forum organization were freely discussed as each chairman gave the report of the Forum work in his county.

At noon the Peel Federation of Agriculture acted as hosts and entertained the group at dinner in the Queens Hotel. The cool, quiet of the dining-hall as well as the delicious dinner was appreciated by those present.

At the afternoon session, Mr. McPherson presented a report of the National Farm Forum topics which Forum members will be discussing this fall and winter.

Two objections were set for the Provincial organizations to carry out in separate counties: (1) to retain all present Forums now organized and keep them active; (2) Each County to endeavor to organize at least two new Forums.

This was an informal meeting where all felt free to voice opinions. The semi-annual Board meeting will be held in London in October when members of Zone Three will meet for a short session to plan the Fall Rallies with regards to speakers.

During 1951 Canada's fish-processing industry produced 272,745 sealskins or seven times as many as in 1950.

Shelburne Revives Old-Time Fiddling On a Grand Scale

Old-time fiddling was just about dead a few years ago. The average Canadian hadn't heard any of it for ages, and the number of top fiddlers was diminishing every year.

That unique art form was losing popularity; new generations were springing up who didn't have to rely on the local barn dance and its fiddlers. Local musicians were considered corny, and the old-time fiddler was on the way out.

How it Happened In the summer of 1951, however, a casual conversation took place on a Saturday afternoon in a small Ontario town, as a result of which, old-time fiddling was rescued from the clutches of obscurity. A group of citizens of Shelburne were chatting about the good old days and good old old-time fiddling.

"There just aren't any of these youngsters today who can play the fiddle like the old boys," said one. A second disagreed.

Among those who heard the argument were members of the local Rotary Club. A peace-loving community-minded bunch, they decided to settle the argument without bloodshed by holding a fiddling contest. The result would prove, once and for all, who was right, and the proceeds would be donated to a worthwhile charity.

Before long the whole town was talking about the upcoming contest, and the CBC's Neighbourly News commentator, Don Fairbairn heard about it. In short order the CBC came through with an offer to put the finals on the national radio hook up.

This first contest went over well, and the following year the Rotarians pulled it off again, with even greater success, making it a national contest rather than one confined to Ontario.

Contests Two Days The contest this year is the fourth. The Shelburne competition is affiliated with the United States Fiddle Contest at Louisville, Kentucky, and more entries are expected this year than ever before.

The contest will last two days this week and the town's population will likely swell as it did last year, from 1,200 to nearly 5,000 with the arrival of competitors, accompanists, spectators, reporters, and radio-TV technicians from all across Canada.

The people of Shelburne are happy about all this; they have brought old-time fiddling back into popularity, put their town in the national limelight, and helped several good causes.

There's only one flaw; they haven't settled the argument. It's still a toss-up whether the old timers are better fiddlers than the new ones.

Canada is the best customer the United States has; traditionally buys more from the United States than the United States buys from Canada.

Mike Cox

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Leader, Sea Scouts Drown at Oakville

Two Sea Scouts and an assistant leader of the Oakville troop were drowned at the week-end after their 16-foot cutter apparently capsized about 15 miles out in Lake Ontario when struck by a sudden squall.

The three, Arthur Thursby, 33; Donald McCausland, 12, and Donald Balderston, 15, were among 18 in a six boat flotilla cruising to Niagara-on-the-Lake. The other five cutters, each with a leader and two cadets were scattered during the storm but reached safely.

Arrival of the five boats was first indication that the three scouts were missing, and nine motor launches started the search. Other boats and aircraft later joined the search for bodies without success.

The tragedy recalled a similar happening June 2 when four young sea cadets and their instructor were drowned after their Navy whaler upset during a squall off the East Toronto waterfront.

Mr. Thursby is survived by his wife and three young children. He attended meetings of the Halton Scouters Association in various parts of the county and at Blue Springs Scout Reserve near Acton.

The tragic death of the locally-known assistant scoutmaster and three Sea Scouts has led to the strong public demand for a bureau to co-ordinate official and volunteer efforts in future lake accidents.

Oakville has no method for posting storm warnings at the entrance to the port.

Gordon Strain
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Competition Won By George Wallace

Winners of the field crop competition sponsored by the Acton Agricultural Society have been announced. The entries were judged by Elgin Laughlin of Caledon the past week.

Results are George Wallace 95 points, Jim Leitch 94, Albert Gray 93, S. E. Griffin & Son 92, Charles McNabb 89, Harold McIntyre 84, Lloyd McEnery 83, R. Kerr and Son 82 1/2, Clayton Davis 82, Elwood Johnston 81.

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ROUGH CAST, with three extra lots, good garden soil, lots of room and fresh air for the children to run around. Near to school, on good county road close to highway. Still in the low price field.

SOLID BRICK, right in the heart of residential district. Seven rooms, including four bedrooms, large hall. Could be used for an office. All rooms are spacious. Upstairs outside sleeping balcony. We had something to do with the building of this late Georgian residence, and we know the best materials and craftsmanship went into it. Built for a former real estate and community planner. Has all conveniences, six car garage.

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