

FARM NEWS

From Halton's Farm Lands

Halton Soils Need Lime
Reports on soil samples tested by the Soils Dept. at the Ontario Agricultural College reveal that in 1933, of the 912 Halton soil samples tested 66% were acid in reaction. While we have not summarized the 1934, we note in a goodly percentage of cases that applications of agricultural lime are recommended. Certainly any soil that shows a pH of below 5.5 definitely requires lime if that soil is to produce a satisfactory crop of alfalfa.

Lime Not A Fertilizer
Agricultural limestone should not be confused with commercial fertilizer. The first step in our opinion is to submit a soil sample to the Soils Dept. at the Ontario Agricultural College. Soil sample boxes and instructions to the taking of the soil samples can be had for the asking, at the Agricultural Office in Milton. The testing service at Guelph is performed free of charge, so all that it costs to get a report on your soil, is a few cents postage on the soil sample.

Now Is the Time
This is the time of year to get your samples gathered. Furthermore, if submitted now there will be no delay in four or five months time when you may wish to place an order for your fertilizer requirements. This is the time of year when, personally, we would want to get the lime spread on the fields. While some folks order and apply lime without bothering with a soil test we would want a soil test before purchasing something we are not sure we need that will be due to some remote Scottish ancestor but in any event, money is scarce enough article on most farms without buying an article which may not be needed.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture pays a subsidy on transportation of lime. Agricultural lime can be purchased at a very nominal price. Furthermore, there are folk who provide a service of trucking and spreading the lime where required. For further details may we suggest that if interested, you contact the Agricultural Office in Milton, but don't wait until winter sets in.

Hog Marketings Below Those of 1933 at End of September
The Livestock and Meat Trade Report issued weekly by the Canadian Department of Agriculture contains a fund of interesting and valuable information. At the end of September these reports reveal that hog marketings in 1934 for Canada were down 3.6% below the same time a year ago. It was not until around June 1st that the weekly marketings caught up and passed the number being marketed a year ago. It is still anticipated that in the final quarter of the year, our hog marketings for Canada will catch up and surpass those of a year ago.

The final report we have is for the week of Sept. 23th, when hog marketings for Canada hit 99,752, which means Canada is now marketing hogs in excess of domestic requirements. We can't help but wonder however, if Canada's

hog production for 1934 will reach the point originally anticipated. With lower prices for hogs now prevailing, and with poorer crops in many parts of Western Canada, and bad harvesting conditions not only in the West but also in some parts of Eastern Canada, it may well be that the next month or two might be a good time to pick up some weaning pigs providing one can be sure they are free of rhinitis.

Alberta Price vs. Ontario Price
In 1933 Alberta was, from the standpoint of hog marketings, surpassed only by Ontario. At the end of September this year Alberta had marketed 979,195 hogs in comparison with 1,008,000 hogs at the same time a year ago. The comparative figures for Ontario were 1,284,053 in 1933, and 1,308,083 in 1934. In short, all four Western Provinces at the end of September were below their marketings of a year ago at the same date. Here in Eastern Canada, Quebec and the Maritimes are above their 1933 output, with only Ontario showing decreased marketings of approximately 8.5%.

We were somewhat surprised when we compared hog prices in Toronto with the Alberta markets of Edmonton and Calgary in Toronto. Hog prices ranged from around \$25.50 at the end of September to \$28.50 during the first week in August, or for the 9 week period the average price in Toronto is around \$27.44. At the Edmonton market the price range for the same period is given as \$24.50 at the end of September, and \$26.75 on August 1st, or an average price of \$26.40 for the period.

At Calgary, the average price for the nine week period works out at \$25.91 per cwt. According to our information the freight rate on hogs from Edmonton and Calgary to Toronto is around \$2.20 per cwt. This would appear to indicate that Alberta hogs when laid down in Toronto, were costing on the average for the period in question around \$23.50 per cwt. live weight, against \$26.58 per cwt. live weight for Ontario hogs purchased at the Toronto market. Incidentally, we have been using Grade A prices in all cases.

British Still Interested In Canadian Bacon
It is encouraging to learn from

Edwin Harrop, well known Esquimaux farmer, that the British people are still interested in Canadian Bacon. Mr. Harrop spent several weeks in the British Isles this past summer. While there he revisited the bacon plant formerly owned by his late father, and now being operated by a cousin also went through a packing plant which processes 120 hogs per hour and in addition contacted others engaged in the bacon business.

All spoke of the quality of bacon Canada shipped overseas during the war years, and expressed the desire for more of it when trade difficulties now existing are eliminated. "Your best Canadian bacon is equal to top Danish", they stated. On the other hand the English bacon hogs too fat. As we interpreted Mr. Harrop's comments the only good hogs they get in England aside from Danish, are from Southern Ireland.

Canada's Grade A's Now Less Than 26%

We can't help wonder, as we look over Canada's hog marketing picture for 1934, what our British cousins would think if they knew that of the 3,457,888 hogs marketed in Canada for the first nine months of the year, that less than 26% were Grade A's. One would almost be justified in concluding that a lot of our hog producers aren't very much concerned as to whether or not they have a market for their product.

We should all realize that when all is said and done, Canada is our best market. We were consuming even in 1933 in Canada, over 90,000 hogs per week - that isn't true beef prices, but in part the swing to increased consumption is also due to lower quality pork products. Surely we haven't got to go back to \$10.00 per cwt for hogs before we waken up to the importance of a quality produce whether for the domestic or export market.

As we have stated on more than one occasion, Halton producers could have 60% A's at least, if they would do nothing more than market their hogs at the proper weights. What was Halton's percentage A's in 1933? 34.4% and our guess is it will be still lower at the end of 1934!

Chronicles of Ginger Farm
Written Specially for the Acton Free Press by Gwendoline P. Clarke

Last week I managed to get away to our W1 Area Convention at Guelph. It was wonderful. As always I came away with renewed enthusiasm for the W1 and all that it represents. And do you know what? It is one organization where women do not smoke, either during the business sessions or at the banquet table. In fact there wasn't an ash tray on any of the tables. Now this does not mean that none of the women was in the habit of smoking but it does mean that there was a general recognition of the fact that smoking in public was not acceptable to the majority. And that in itself is a tribute to the W1 women as a whole.

And the business sessions well-conducted, and a receptive and orderly audience. Most delegates in their places before the opening exercises, few disturbing the meeting by coming and going unnecessarily. To catch a bus or train yes - that was inevitable. Actually, orderliness seems to be the pattern for any W1 meeting from branch to provincial level. Mrs. J. W. Adams, national president, said it always annoys her to be told she doesn't "look like a farm woman". "But," said she, "I have not yet found out what a farm woman is supposed to look like." I don't know either, but I do know farm women are considerate and well-mannered. There is however one characteristic that most farm women have in common - a good breakfast appetite! Food fads and fancies are not a part of their daily diet. They are accustomed to good food, enjoy a good meal away from home and they don't care who knows it. So naturally they did justice to the banquet Thursday night, at which Kate Aitken was guest speaker.

W1 branches have little trouble finding members to act as delegates to the various conventions. It is often the only chance they have to meet provincial and national officials.

This year delegates were fortunate in meeting not only our new provincial president, Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter, but also Mrs. J. W. Adams, president of the F. W. C.

Even before the convention every W1 member was familiar with these names as belonging to our two presidents. But to many they were names and nothing more. It is now, to all those present at the convention, those names will be linked hereafter with live wire personalities. Both officers came up the hard way from ordinary member to branch president, right through the various district and provincial channels to their present position of honor and trust. At what personal sacrifice to themselves only they can judge.

Mrs. Adams said if it were not for her faith in the women of the W1 she would not be thousands of miles from home (Saskatchewan) from her husband and two young daughters. She reminded her audience of the power and responsibility in their possession that crosses Canada there were now 90,000 members, of whom 45,000 were in Ontario. Mrs. Adams, with her enthusiasm and ready wit, carried everyone in the audience along with her. I do hope it will be possible for the delegates in their reports to transmit some of that enthusiasm to their branches. The trouble is words cannot pass along the spark that is a part of Mrs. Adams' personality.

Mrs. MacPhatter was equally enthusiastic about the work of the W1; of the various committees working together; of what had been accomplished in the past and what could be done in the future. Mrs. MacPhatter's down-to-earth business talk was interspersed with fun - provoking anecdotes which helped the delegates to forget the hard seats and the inevitable business. Mrs. MacPhatter is such a happy, easy-to-know sort of person that I am sure all the delegates felt that here was a president who if she were approached, would be willing and able to help out with personal advice at any time.

Mrs. Anna P. Lewis had only recently recovered from an illness, yet she was on deck as usual with her up-to-date information regarding the work of her department.

Mrs. Lewis made one suggestion regarding a matter which she said had occurred to her only that morning, so she had not had a chance to discuss it with the Board members. Miss Lewis wondered if we could have our own

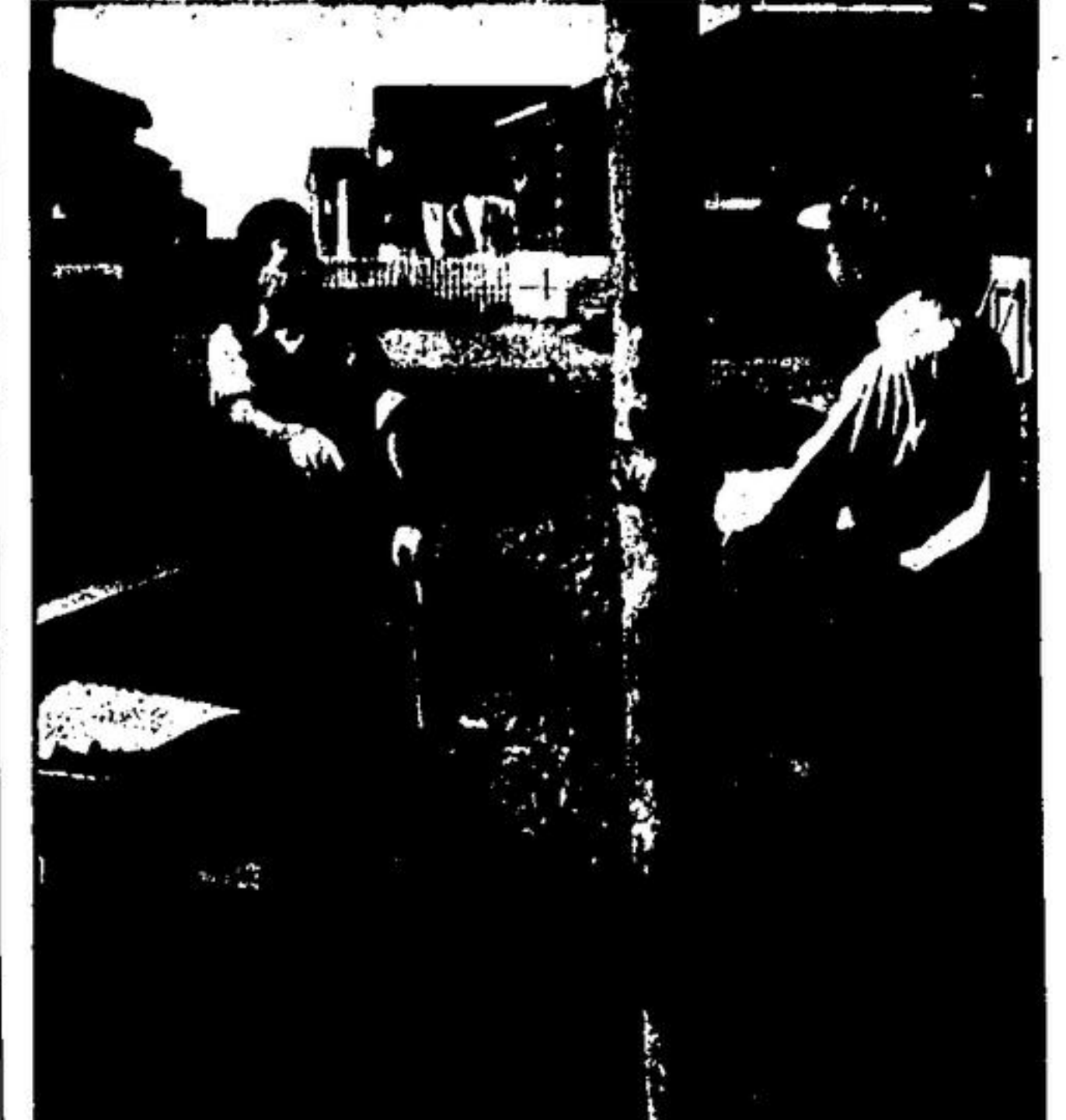
building at the O.A.C. Well, why not? With 45,000 members in Ontario it should be possible. Accommodation at the O.A.C. is already taxed to capacity. At the convention delegates were given a packet lunch instead of the usual sit-down meal. Supporting every W1 member donated one dollar and no doubt many would give more. Add the sum total to a government grant and who knows what might happen. It might even be a revenue-producing project, as the building could be rented to other organizations or the College when not required by the

W1. Incidentally, that is my idea. Miss Lewis did not mention that possibility.

Well, it is something for the branches to think about anyway, especially since the Middle Pioneer Village is lost to Guelph. Wouldn't it be nice to visit the O.A.C. and see one building designated as "The Women's Institute Hall"?

BLOOMING CACTUS
Lethbridge, Ala. (CP) - Mrs. J. H. Hines planted a Yucca cactus in her garden 22 years ago. This year, with help of beautiful rains it bloomed to a height of 30 inches.

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