

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations

Third 4-H Club Awards Night Again Proves To Be Popular

Rural Population Increase High

No doubt most of our readers are aware that the 1951 census revealed that slightly under 15 per cent of our population now live on farms. Some concern has been expressed that the trend towards larger farm units will disrupt our rural social services, recreation, etc.

We were therefore somewhat surprised to learn today that the assessors' lists show a tremendous increase in population in our rural municipalities.

Needless to add, this increase is due in the main to the influx of folk from urban centres who have purchased homes in our rural municipalities. Back in 1928, the population of Esquesing, Nassagaweya, Nelson and Trafalgar (which at that time included the village of Bronte) totalled 12,143. In 1955 we find the population in the same four municipalities, including Bronte, had jumped to 31,663.

Halton's third annual 4-H Awards Night again proved to be a popular event, taxing the capacity of the Milton High School auditorium to the full.

Add Woodley, president of the Halton 4-H Club Leaders' Association, was chairman for the evening. Guest speaker was Miss Ethel Chapman, a native of Halton county, author, lecturer and widely known for her work with agricultural organizations. She was introduced by Mrs. Mabel Borgstrom, Home Economist for Halton, Peel and York counties.

While Miss Chapman was addressing 4-H members, their parents, friends and donors of prizes, she spoke particularly to the 4-H members. It is our opinion that her advice and philosophy will long be remembered by everyone present. Lynne Coulter, a member of the Halton 4-H Calf and Swine Clubs, thanked Miss Chapman on behalf of all present.

Projects, Showmanship
The next highlight of the evening was the presentation of 4-H Pins to the 62 boys and girls who completed their first 4-H Project in 1955. The gathering was honored to

have Nassagaweya Reeve A. R. Service make this presentation.

Howard Armstrong, president of the Halton Agricultural Society, presented cheques to the winners of the inter-club showmanship classes at Milton Fair. The winners were: juniors, Bob Merry, Don Moffat, Lorna Woodley, Mary Lawrence, Evelyn McKay; seniors, Tom Hunter, Bob Cox, Eleanor Joyce, Duncan Campbell, Douglas Campbell.

John W. Pickett, club leader of the Halton 4-H Grain Club, assisted by Maurice Beatty, vice-president of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, made the awards to the 4-H Grain Club members. Merle Gundy, president of the club, was the winner.

Presentations of prizes to the Norval 4-H Tractor Club were made by leaders Earl and Herb Wilson. Bill Wilson, president of this club, was the winner.



A NEW TROPHY this year, the Katherine Merry Trophy, for Halton 4-H Beef and Dual Purpose Club competition was presented at the third annual awards night in Milton high school last Friday evening. Miss Merry is shown presenting the trophy to Don Moffat.

Calf, Forestry, Potato Clubs
Club president Lynne Coulter, assisted by Mrs. George Readhead, secretary of the Halton Agricultural Society, awarded the prizes to members of the Halton Beef and Dual Purpose 4-H Calf Club. Don Moffat was in first place in this club and is the first recipient of the Katherine Merry Trophy. Robert Cox, who won first prize with

his steer at Milton Fair, received a beautiful tray from James McKay. Grant Campbell, president of the Ontario Shorthorn Club, presented automatic pencils to all members who exhibited Shorthorn calves. Members of the Milton and Georgetown Forestry Clubs received their prize money from Bob

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Nassagaweya Farmers Bring RWF Honors To Halton In Hog Contests

John W. Wilson, from near Haltonville, Nassagaweya township, was the winner of the Brethour Challenge Trophy at the recent Royal Winter Fair. This trophy is awarded annually for the best Wiltshire side at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

The trophy was donated by the late Joseph E. Brethour, who was a noted Yorkshire breeder near Bradford. The late Mr. Brethour won this competition personally in the years 1934, 1935 and 1936.

Entries for this competition must be pure bred barrows or sows, bred and owned by the exhibitor, from a nominated litter of any breed, of suitable weight and quality to make a grade A carcass. In all, there were 26 entries in the class at this year's Royal, represent-

ing 17 different pure bred breeders. Consequently it was no small honor won by Mr. Wilson for Halton county and Nassagaweya township. To him goes our heartfelt congratulations.

Another Nassagaweya resident who brought honors to the county from the 1955 Royal, was Don Moffat of Campbellville R.R. 1. In competition with 18 other exhibitors from Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec, he entered a hog in the hog carcass competition for the S. E. Toad Challenge Trophy. Altogether there were 28 entries in this class and this was the first time for 15-year-old Don to enter such a competition. The carcass from his hog was not only in the first prize group, but was placed next to the reserve champion side.

Speaker Captures Audience On Economics of Farm Mechanization

Keen interest was shown in the fourth of the series of 12 agricultural meetings being sponsored by the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association. The topic was "The Economics of Farm Mechanization" and the discussion leader was that walking encyclopedia, Dr. H. L. Patterson, Director of the Farm Economics Branch, Toronto. We will not attempt to reproduce the valuable information Dr. Patterson contributed. In his introductory remarks, he pointed out that between 1941 and 1951 the average investment in farm machinery across Ontario (big farms—little farms) jumped from an average of \$855 to \$2970 per farm. It was further pointed out that in that same period in Halton the average investment in farm machinery jumped from \$1070 to \$3380.

He also pointed out that farm wages in that same period had gone up four fold—gasoline and oil up 88 per cent—farm machinery up 89 per cent, etc. During that same period, Dr. Patterson stated the average size of our farms in Ontario had increased from 125 acres to 139 acres.

Value of Tractors
We were also impressed when we heard that according to census figures, we had 35,000 tractors in 1911 and that by 1951 there were 105,000 tractors. Just how many we have in Ontario today is difficult to state, but we understand that since 1951, dealers have been selling 13,000 to 18,000 per year. The trend, stated Dr. Patterson, is to larger tractors.

He referred to three men he knew personally in Alberta. When Dr. Patterson visited their farm some years ago, he found the three of them jointly without other help were operating 4800 acres. Here three 85 h.p. Caterpillar tractors were available. In addition, he pointed out, they had self-propelled combines. In his opinion, they were doing a pretty good job—with their weeds under control.

In short, stated Dr. Patterson, keeping in mind the scarcity and high cost of labor "land which doesn't lend itself to larger equipment is at a serious disadvantage."

Daily Steps — Yearly Miles
To illustrate his point, we learned that the cost of operating a \$1500 forage harvester varies from \$5.45 per hour when operated only 50 hours per year, to \$2.23 per hour when operated 90 hours annually. The speaker also went into the field of barn mechanization, illustrating his statements by information gained through the medium of Dairy Herd Improvement Associations in Ontario. "I could tell you of two farms in Halton, each with 18 cows,"

stated Dr. Patterson, "where the one operator is taking three times as long to do his chores as the other." "Don't forget," he added, "the saving of five steps per day means the saving of a mile in a year."

All in all, it was a great evening—a number of those present were heard to comment, "I wish I could remember half of what he told us."

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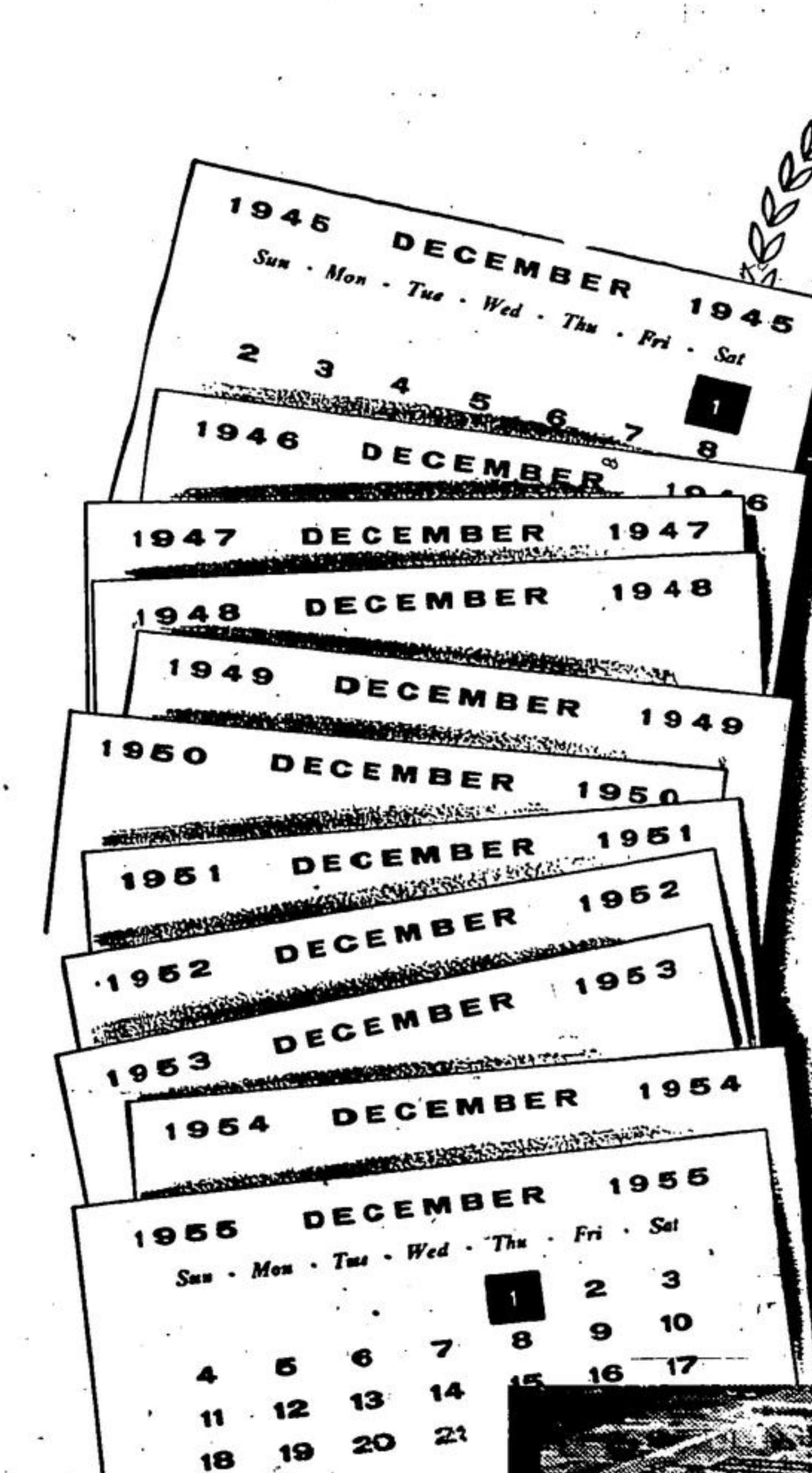
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