

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations

Halton Seed Drill Survey Reveals Improvements

The seed survey made by County Weed Inspector Tom Bradley last spring reveals continued improvement in the quality of seed being sown by Halton farmers.

Mr. Bradley collected a total of 75 samples direct from the seed drills. Two-thirds of these were cereal grains and one-third was in the form of small seeds. The analysis of the samples was made by the Plant Products Division of the Canada Department of Agriculture. Here is the picture revealed for 1955 and also comparative figures for the years 1952 and 1947.

Year	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	Rejected
1955	63	12	4	21
1952	55	10	10	25
1947	38	11	20	31

88 % No. 1 Where Plant Cleaned
It is interesting to note that of the cereal grain samples cleaned at home, 88 per cent were No. 1, in contrast to 88 per cent where the grain had been cleaned at central cleaning plant.

In the case of small seeds, those which had been purchased from a Seed Dealer certainly were of higher quality than those grown on the home farm. 86 per cent of those purchased from Seed Dealers made No. 1 grade and the other 14 per cent were No. 2, with none going No. 3 or rejected. In the farm grown group only 33 per cent made No. 1, 21 per cent No. 2, 12 per cent No. 3 and 33 per cent graded rejected.

It is also gratifying to note an increase in the percentage who are treating their grain for control of smut. The 1955 survey reveals that 76 per cent had been treated, in contrast to 68 per cent in 1952. While there is still plenty of room for improvement, it is nevertheless gratifying to note the improvement over a similar survey made in 1947.

Local Farmers to Report
A more complete report on Halton's Seed Drill Survey of 1955 will be made by County Weed Inspector Tom Bradley, at the annual meeting of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association on December 28 in the Milton Town Hall.

Local farm operators who will also present brief reports at the morning session of this live organization, will include Clibert Mc Dowell, Hornby, who will relate his experience in seeding Alfalfa and Bromo or Winter Wheat in the fall; Harvey Nurse, Asagrove, on his experience with "Lesse Hasing and a Milking Parlor"; John W. Pickett, Hornby, on "The 1955 Soils and Land Use Tour"; Fyfe Somerville, Acton, and Ken Ella of Hornby, on their respective "Long Term Pasture Demonstration Plots," etc.

The ladies of the Scotch Black Women's Institute have again agreed to serve one of those appetizing lunches for which they have gained an enviable reputation. We also understand from president Ross Segsworth that there will be lucky door prizes first, for those on deck at 10:30 when the meeting commences; second, for those on time who have never previously attended one of Halton's former Soil and Crop annuals; and finally, to the farm operator bringing the largest car load of "first timers". Numerous inquiries are being received at the Milton office of the Ontario Department of Agriculture as to "Who won the gold watch donated by the Milton Milling Co. for the top yield in the Halton Grain Corn Competition?" That too, will be revealed at this pop-

Oats and Barley Suggested Prices

The Seed Marketing Committee of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association recently recommended the following minimum prices for the 1956 seeding:

Oats, Commercial No. 1 grade, \$1.40 per bush; Registered No. 1 grade, \$1.65 per bush.
Barley, Commercial No. 1 grade, \$1.90 per bush; Registered No. 1 grade, \$2.40 per bush.

R. L. Davidson Is Re-Elected President of Halton Federation

Those in attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Halton Federation of Agriculture at Stewart town on Thursday of last week heard one of the most informative addresses it has been your scriber's privilege to listen to in some time (and we hear a few good ones each year).
M. M. (Bobby) Robinson of Burlington has lost none of his ability to present his facts both clearly and convincingly. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Robinson stated, "I am just as convinced as I was 15 years ago and even more so, of the need for the Federation." At the time of the greatest growth and prosperity in the history of Ontario, we find agricultural in some shipping. The cause is very apparent," he added. "Farm operators are very prone to respond to price incentive."

Reference was made by the speaker to the Food and Agricultural Organization which, three years ago predicted a world shortage of food in a recent release that same organization stated "There is a surplus of farm products the world over."

In referring to a recent report of the Tariff Board pertaining to potatoes, Mr. Robinson quoted from their report, "Sooner or later, the higher cost area must compete or collapse." It is the duty of farm organization, added the speaker, to point out "That we are in a level boat."

Half of Ontario Forums Agreed Farmer Should Remain on Farm

A farmer planning to retire is better to remain living on the farm. This was the opinion of nearly half the 408 Ontario Forums which reported their discussions on the December 6 topic, "A Retirement Plan for Farmers." Nearly a quarter of the groups disagreed and felt they would be far better off the farm, while the remainder felt it depended on the temperament, health and circumstances of the farmer involved.

Asked for reasons for their answers, the forums came up with some interesting ones. Halton's Forum in Wellington county spoke for a large number of those advocating retirement on the farm when they said, "The farmer would be happier and healthier in familiar surroundings where they could putter around in the fresh air and hill in Perth and Townline in Kent agree, but add that it will be easier to retire on the farm as the costs of living will be lower."

Greenwood in Ontario think it is almost impossible for a true farmer to leave the soil and suggest he may change his farming method, in order to handle the work more easily. This will cut his income, but as they put it, "fit him into the retired status."

Virtually the opposite opinion comes from Woodhill in Wentworth who, in advocating retirement off the farm, say, "If father retires on the farm, he sees the ways and id-

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