

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations

Terrible Weather Could Mean Serious Crop Losses

Isn't this weather terrible? That is the greeting we get wherever we go—town and country alike. We can't help but wonder occasionally when some of our urban friends comment on the weather. Just what they would say if they had a barn full of livestock—the mows and granaries pretty well empty and not a seed in the ground, as we write this column.

Those who till the soil just have to be optimists and have a great philosophy on life or they just wouldn't farm. Night and morning, 365 days in the year, those chores have to be done. It is any wonder that some of our farm operators do a bit of beefing when they see some of their friends and neighbors doing an eight hour shift in industry for a pay cheque which, at least, seems entirely out of line with the returns from agriculture.

Farming is definitely getting to be "big business" and yet it is still a way of life—otherwise there wouldn't be 15 per cent. of our people on the land. However, in the

final analysis we can't help recall a story in one of the old school readers of our school days. It concerned an old gentleman who was noted for his sound judgment—so much so that he was frequently called in to act as an unofficial magistrate or judge of local disputes.

After hearing both sides of the argument and carefully weighing the evidence, he would sum up his judgment by stating, "There's much to be said on both sides." And that, we think, applies pretty well to rural-urban arguments. Nevertheless, with farm capital requirements pyramiding, farm operators in a price squeeze, and more and more farm being operated on a part-time basis, we are inclined to agree with those economists who predict larger farm units and fewer farm operators, and along with this the disappearance of surplus wheat.

However, again "Much might be said on both sides of the question."

Halton Agr. Society Plans New Buildings

A new poultry building and also a new horse barn are in the plans of the Halton Agricultural Society for 1956, states Howard Armstrong, president of the Milton Society. We understand that the old poultry building has already been dismantled and present plans call for the new buildings being of the pole type.

There is also a strong likelihood of a new junior building being erected, which will enable the Agricultural Society to utilize the present junior building entirely for commercial concessions.

Geo. M. Clemons Is Speaker for Twilight Annual

Hays Sales Arena at Trafalgar was filled to capacity on Friday evening last. It was the occasion of the Halton Holstein Club's annual Twilight Meeting. In conjunction with this, some 70 members of Halton's two 4-H Dairy Calf Clubs were in attendance for the excellent program presided over by R. C. Alexander, president of the Halton Holstein club.

Following an excellent demonstration by George Drennan, popular Holstein fieldman for western-central Ontario, everyone participated in the judging of a class of Holstein cows. While the 4-H club members had their club meeting in a separate section of the arena, an interesting discussion was led on selective registration, by the general George.

The guest speaker of the evening, George M. Clemons, secretary-manager of the Holstein Friesian Association of Canada, was introduced by E. Ross Segsworth, national director. Mr. Clemons illustrated address on Italy, Spain, France and Great Britain, was enthusiastically received by the large audience.

G. Leslie Peer, first vice-president of the association, extended the appreciation of the gathering to Mr. Clemons, Hays Ltd., and others who contributed to the success of the evening. The group was also honored with the presence of F. C. Eligh, of Finch, president of the National Holstein Association; John Powell of Bradford, Holstein Extension secretary; and Austin Jenkins, of the British Milk Marketing Board. All spoke briefly.

Refreshments served by the directors of the Halton Holstein club brought to a conclusion one of the most successful twilight programs ever staged by the county black and white enthusiasts. The winners of the judging competitions were as follows: ladies, Miss Barbara Royle; men, Frank Pfister; 4-H club members, under 16 years, Doreen Sinclair; 4-H club members, 16 years and over, Sandy Barnes.

Third of Bees Dead in Halton this Year

A severe drop in the crop of honey in Halton county was reported last week by E. A. Anderson, well known Hornby beekeeper. Mr. Anderson estimates that one-third of the bees in Halton county have been killed and that half the bees in Ontario have died from the severe late cold weather. Mr. Anderson terms it "the worst season ever."

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Suggestions for Later Planting In View of Continued Wet Spring

Because of the difficulty experienced through continued wet weather, many farmers find themselves faced with the problem of altering their usual cropping program. In some areas that can be done much more easily than others. Furthermore, with the seed grain already purchased and in most cases treated with a chemical which makes it unsafe for livestock feeding, it is just about out of the question to switch to other earlier varieties at this date.

As we see the picture, we've got to trust to Providence that we'll not only get seeding weather soon but that we'll get favorable growing conditions once the seed is in the ground. Those who operate lighter, more loamy soils might well give consideration to planting some grain corn in place of some of the oats or barley. One important factor here is to select a hybrid early enough for the area and in any event, in our opinion, grain corn should be in the ground not later than the first week in June.

Buckwheat is an old standby in late seasons and more of it than normal may be sown this year. The Silver Hull type is the most commonly grown but the Rough Hull, if it can be secured, has given high yields in late planting. Then we come to millets, which may be seeded at almost any time during June. In addition to being suitable for emergency hay, they will yield profitable quantities of seed when allowed to ripen.

According to the field husbandry department at the Ontario Agricultural College, the common Hungarian millet has given an average yield of approximately 40 bushels per acre over a 30 year period. The Siberian or Empire millet, the Japanese Barnyard millet and the Pross millets have also given average yields of over 30 bushels per acre.

Since we wrote our last week's column, fall wheat has picked up tremendously. Pastures and hay crops have, by and large, made comparatively little growth and many livestock men may be faced with a shortage of grass. According to the field husbandry department, a mixture of oats (two bushels) and peas (one bushel) per acre on oats at three bushels per acre make the best emergency hay crops for seeding up to the first of June. Millet at 20 pounds per acre is the next choice and is valuable if the seeding must be made in mid or late June. Emergency pasture may be supplied with oats (two bushels) and Sudan grass (20 lbs.) or a straight Sudan grass at 25 or 30 pounds per acre.

Nova Scotia, largely from mines on Cape Breton, produces about one-third of Canada's coal output.

Reduced Bruising Of Peaches Expected

To reduce bruising of Ontario peaches before they reach the consumer removal of the third layer of peaches and the cellophane covering from the traditional six-quart basket appears fairly likely for this year's Ontario peach crop.

Announcement of the probable removal of the third layer from the six-quart basket was made today by R. C. Pope chairman of the Ontario Fresh Peach Growers' Marketing Board. Mr. Pope said that earlier this week a delegation from the Marketing Board had discussions regarding this anticipated change with the Hon. Mr. Goodfellow Acting Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Minister of Agriculture C. D. Graham.

"As a result of our discussions," Mr. Pope said, "it appears almost certain that the Farm Products, Grades and Sales Act will be amended to make it mandatory that peaches packed in six-quart baskets cannot be packaged in three layers. It is expected that this change will be in time for this year's crop."

Finds Old People Willing to Learn

TORONTO — Speaking at the 40th annual meeting of the Toronto to Aged Men's and Women's Homes, psychiatrist Dr. W. E. Boothroyd disputed the truth of the saying, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."

"Too much stress is put on this theory," he said, "and many people think oldsters cannot be taught new ideas and ways of doing things."

Just because they take longer to learn things doesn't mean they can't learn and be receptive, he said.

He also criticized what he thought is an increasing lack of respect shown old people. He said it indicated the poor adjustment society has made to the growing number of older citizens.

Other speakers said "happiness" and "security" are precious words to older people. Miss Elizabeth Mearns, president of the group, said: "Old people must feel a sense of security if they are to be happy. And we think they are happier in familiar surroundings like these than perhaps in a rural setting away from families and relatives."

4-H Club Week November 10-15

November 10 to 15, 1956, have been selected as the dates of the 25th National 4-H Club Week. This national 4-H occasion is provided each year by the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs and is scheduled to coincide with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto.

A number of important program changes will be introduced this year. One is that the recommendation of the Annual Meeting to delete 4-H judging contests from the program of National 4-H Club Week was accepted at a meeting of the Executive Committee on May 4, and will become effective in 1956. Secondly, for the first time the program will commence on a Saturday, which will assure seeing a professional hockey game at Maple Leaf Gardens and will result in the bus trip to Niagara Falls on Sunday afternoon to observe the Falls both in daylight and under illumination.

In developing the program for this year's National 4-H Week, the theme, "4-H and Our National Heritage" was chosen. The entire program will centre around this theme. For example, one of the important features will be meetings to discuss subjects affecting Canadians as citizens, with topics such as expanding economy and population, Canada's role in world affairs, United Nations and other international programs. To accomplish this, highest ranking and best qualified men and women from government and industry will be invited to participate in the program.

National 4-H Club Week is recognized to-day as one of Canada's outstanding annual youth events. Bringing together as it does 4-H proficiency winners from each of the 10 provinces, National 4-H Week is providing a rewarding experience to all who attend and is helping to build vision, understanding and closer relationships among the young people of rural Canada.

Can Still Make Profit from Hogs

Halton 4-H Swine Club held its second meeting of the year recently above the Agricultural Office, Milton. Art Bennett, the associate Agricultural Representative for Halton and Peel, led in a discussion on the feeding and management of pigs. The members were very surprised to learn that by proper feeding methods, you can still make a "profit" out of pigs.

The business meeting followed the discussion. During this part of the meeting, the members decided to hold their next meeting in July, probably at the farm of one of the club-leaders, Fraser McNabb. At the conclusion of the business meeting, Art Bennett again took the floor and showed some slides on the judging and selection of swine.

CAMPRELLVILLE Discusses Political Situation in World

Mrs. W. Webb was hostess to the Blair Evening Auxiliary recently. Mrs. Hinchey opened the meeting with a poem, "The Gift of Love." D. Martin led in the scripture reading. Mrs. J. Wallace followed with prayer.

Mrs. L. Andrews had charge of the study period, assisted by Mrs. J. McPhail, Mrs. Baulch, Mrs. Austin, Mrs. T. Mitchell and Mrs. H. Mahon. This study brought out facts of the political situation in British Guiana, Formosa, India, Africa, also the economic situation. The information was interesting. Two questions were asked: Are there any similar conditions in Canada and what can the church do to help?

The president read an interesting article written by Dr. McCrackin, missionary from China. The secretary and treasurer gave their respective reports. Cheer secretary reported on card suit. The supply secretary, Mrs. Martin, brought up suggestions for the sale. It was requested that the Christmas gifts be brought to the July meeting.

Mrs. Baulch gave some of the highlights of the Rally held in Kitchener on card suit. At which Miss Laura Pelton told of the work in Nigeria. The roll call word was Salvation and was answered by 18 members. Mrs. S. Cramp gave the Good Thought, Women in the church. After singing a hymn, the meeting was closed with prayer by Mrs. Austin. A social half hour was enjoyed by all present.

YOUTHFUL STAR

WOODSTOCK, Ont. (CP)—Five-year-old piano soloist Jayne Clifford of Ingersoll scored 90 points at the Oxford county music festival. The adjudicator commented that she looked as sweet as she played.



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Child's Name Christian Name Surname
Date of Birth Day Month Year
(School records in Ontario now require proof of age)
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Here's the face they're looking at—Mrs. Katharine Beers, Assistant Accountant at our Bracebridge, Ontario, branch. Kay, widowed during the war, has a son and a daughter aged 14 and 16. But she still finds time to captain her Girl Guide Sea Rangers, serve as Chairman of the Education Committee of the Board of Education and as a member of the Local Community Night School Management Committee.

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