

talking about *Better Farming*

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations

Sire Testing Program Explodes A Few Myths About Selection

When artificial insemination became more or less general a few years ago, some of us had high hopes for a rapid improvement in our cattle population. We still think that artificial insemination offers tremendous possibilities in the field of livestock improvement—however, the experience and research of the past few years indicates that more attention must be paid to the scientific aspects of animal breeding.

Before A. I. became established, the influence of a poor bull was limited to the herd in which he was used. Today the situation is different—nearly 55,000 farmers availed themselves of the services offered by A. I. units last year. The total number of cows bred was over 215,000 or approximately 25 per cent of the cows in the province.

By using liquid semen, it is possible for one bull to leave two to three thousand calves in a year but by freezing the semen, those numbers can be multiplied many times. Now, if all the bulls in our A. I. units were of the calibre of Lancelin Texal Antony, everything would be "hunky-dory" but unfortunately, they aren't—not by a long shot.

As one looks over the results of the "sire testing" program, one is impressed with the fact that many breed and sale catalogues do not make a very reliable basis on which to select a herd sire. Furthermore, the offspring of some of our all-Canadian selections have not as yet shown any great ability to transmit production to their daughters.

On the basis of experience gained to date, the answer is obvious: our cattle industry is not going to be built by artificial insemination, but it will not be improved if management of A. I. units yields to the suggestions of the "practical" men who insist upon selecting bulls of popular blood lines.

Farm Drainage An Investment

During the last week of May we had an opportunity of seeing something of eastern Ontario agriculture. There, seeding operations were even more backward than in this area of the province—in fact, rain fell practically every day that we were away.

On Monday, May 28, we were on the farm of Garnet Ralph in Carleton county. Ralph is a graduate of the Kemptville Agricultural School and some seven years ago he started farming on his own. He calls his land a clay—personally I would call it a nice loam, very level. He has tilled some 200 acres of his farm at a cost of \$80 per acre.

When we were there the spring grain-on the tilled land was a picture. Which brings me to this conclusion, that the greatest hazard in crop production is either too much or too little water. Show me the farmer who has mastered moisture control on his farm by adequate drainage—and the use of moisture conserving practices and I'll show you a successful farmer. Certainly we have plenty of evidence in Halton that drainage will pay, but I'm beginning to wonder if we are wrong in assuming that it won't pay to underdrain Trafalgar clay loams.

CAMPBELLVILLE

Day-Long Celebration On 25 Anniversary

(intended for last week)
Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Schouten of R.R. 1, Campbellville, were 25 years married on Saturday, June 9. To begin the day a special mass was held for the family and friends at Holy Rosary Church, Milton, at 10 a.m. Dinner and supper were enjoyed by 45 guests. Dancing was enjoyed in the evening when 75 guests were present. The family presented Mr. and Mrs. Schouten with a bedroom suite and many other cards and gifts were received from friends and relatives.

Lesson on Music
Mrs. Campbell Agnew was hostess to the June meeting of the Campbellville W.I. when Mrs. James Wallace presided and opened with the meaning of the Mary Stewart collect and its origin. This was followed by the Institute ode and 23 ladies answered the roll call by "sing, say or pay".

The secretary's report was given by Mrs. Jack Wheelihan and the treasurer's report by Mrs. Reg. Austin. Mrs. Hardie Kirby gave the cheer report. It was hoped several could attend the farm and home week at O.A.C. June 12-15. Mrs. Wheelihan gave a report of the district annual convention held at Bethel United church recently. All branch reports must contain the name, date, branch and convener. Plans were made for the garden party later this month. Mrs. J. K. Mahon was named district director alternate.

Mrs. McPhail, music convener, took the chair and called on Mrs. Lloyd Crawford to introduce the guest speaker, Miss Evelyn Goodwin, the music supervisor in the schools, who taught the members a lesson on music which proved very educational.

Mr. and Mrs. Ormer VanSickle are the proud parents of a baby girl. Friends of Miss Joan Wingrove are sorry to hear she underwent an operation in Milton Private Hospital, and wish her a speedy recovery.

Halton Students Lead at O.A.C.

When we looked over the results of the third year examinations at the Ontario Agricultural College, we were glad but not surprised to note that Gordon Graham, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Graham of Norval, had once again led his year with a 90 per cent average.

Another well known Haltonite in the person of Dave Pelletierio also had first class honors, placing fifth in his year and led in the annual husbandry option in which he is majoring. Dave was recently awarded the Ralston Purina \$500 bursary.

Interest Shown In Hog Contest

The grade A hog marketing competition sponsored by Halton Hog Producers Association attracted entries from a total of 106 Halton producers, states Ed Davenport, president of the Halton Association. The carcass grading certificates have for several weeks been rolling into the agricultural office at Milton for tabulation.

As the competition enters the sixth month, some of the tabulations are commencing to look rather interesting. For example, we note one Esqueping producer had marketed 74 hogs between January 1 and May 15, of this number 78 per cent are grade A. Here is a Nassagaweya producer who is also setting a hot pace—while he had marketed only 19 hogs prior to May 9, 16 of these made the A grade. However, before December 31 rolls around, there can be a lot of changes and the final awards may look quite different.

It is, however, encouraging to note that despite the real estate boom, that Halton still has a goodly number of hog producers who are interested in marketing a quality product.

Start Ensiling Grass Silage

Here and there over the county the end of last week saw the old forage harvester in action and grass legume silage in the make. However, in general, this year's meadows are far below normal and many of those who have for several years been dependent on grass for silage are going back to corn.

In general, present prospects do not point to a more than 60 per cent hay crop. The late frosts left their mark on the grasses—then on the more level fields, excess moisture both last fall and this spring has thinned out the legumes. There are, however, exceptions to the rule and some of the higher, better-drained fields are looking exceptionally well.

We saw one such field on the farm of Ken Ella at Hornby. This was seeded in 1956 to a long term mixture and what a wad of stuff there is on that field.

PAKIE RIGHT THE ACTON FREE PRESS, ACTON, ONTARIO THURSDAY, JUNE 21st, 1956

CLEARING AUCTION SALE

Farm Implements, Dairy and Orchard Equipment, Etc.
The undersigned has received instructions from
H. LINDGREN
To sell by public auction at his farm, on the south side of No. 5 highway, 2 miles east of Palermo, 1 1/2 miles west of Trafalgar, on

NATURDAY, JUNE 30
Commencing at 1:30 o'clock, the following:

FAIRM IMPLEMENTS, ETC.
M. H. tractor, No. 101, super twin power with Plymouth motor; hydraulic manure loader; 3-furrow tractor plow; M.D. Ace bottom; lat fertilizer and grain drill, 15-run; M. H. fertilizer spreader, on rubber; cultivator, 8 ft.; double disc; M.H. No. 11 manure spreader; set of stiff tooth harrows, 3-section; grain binder, 6 ft.; M.H. mower, 6 ft.; combination side rake and tedder; New Idea Woods oak roller; rubber tired wagons with flat racks; walking plow; hand cultivator; Eureka seeder; cyclone seeder; feed truck; 12 ft. portable silo, 30 ft. high; 1949 Ford truck, half ton; electric fences; bench emery and motor; 16" exhaust fan for barn; 300 gal. tank with Eucly compressor pump; odd wheels and axles; colony house, 8' by 12'; on skids; 32" circular saw and frame; electric calf dehydrator; 3 tar paulins, 5' by 8'; tarpaulin with canopy top, 8' by 12'; tarpaulin, 13' by 18'; orchard sprayer, 300 gal. tank with Bean Royal 20 pump; dual wheels, automatic spray boom, 1-man control, complete with army jeep, if not previously sold; an assortment of doors, windows, bath-room fixtures and 10" wood siding; hot air furnace large size; forks, chains, shovels, and numerous other small articles; large glass pine cupboard, glass top; full double bed; dresser; quantity new dry lumber, oak, basswood, quantity of carpenter's tools.

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