

Hog, Potato Standards Reviewed Hog Producers Plan Discussion

Some of Halton's top producers of Grade-A hogs will participate in a panel discussion which will feature the annual meeting of the Halton Hog Producers in the Farmers' Building, Milton, on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 26.

No less than ten Halton hog producers who participated in Halton's Grade A Marketing Competition averaged—all the way from 70 per cent Grade A's, to a top of 88 per cent. It should be interesting to learn from these men "how they do it." When one realizes that some of the other competitors in the same competition averaged between 15 and 20 per cent Grade A's—and no doubt there were others in the county with an even lower percentage—it makes one do a bit of wondering.

Marketing Lead

We note that in 1956 the Maritime provinces led the way with 83.4 per cent Grade A's. Ontario was in second position with 35.5 per cent and the balance of the

provinces had under 30 per cent Grade A's, with the average percentage of Grade A's for Canada at 28.5.

This would lead one to conclude that there are, by and large, many hog producers in Canada who are not very much interested in producing a quality product.

We can't help but wonder what price they would have received for their hogs in 1956 had we not been able to export some \$2 million pounds of pork products—most of this went to the U.S. where they have plenty of fat pork of their own. In short, the only reason Canada was able to find an export market for any of her surplus pork products was due to the demand in the U.S. for a product better than her own. And yet we talk about the "Cost Price Squeeze"—"Parity Prices"—and we can't do better than 35.5 per cent Grade A's and hogs is one farm product that is above the parity price right now.

What about Halton hogs in 1956—36.2 per cent Grade A's, which as A. H. Service, secretary of Halton Hog Producers pointed out, "Just isn't good enough." Bruce was the top county in Ontario with 40.3 per cent Grade A's.

Ontario Potatoes

Speaking of quality, brings to mind a display or exhibit of Ontario potatoes we saw in the Coliseum in Toronto at the time of the Farm Machinery Show and annual meeting of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Ten pound bags of potatoes had been purchased indiscriminately from stores across Ontario, and they were on display—bearing the name of the grower and his address. Oh yes, they were stamped "Canada No. 1"—and what a disgrace they were to Ontario potato growers! At least two-thirds of them were little better than livestock feed. Is it any wonder our stores prefer to buy potatoes from Prince Edward Island?

Will Continue Halton Policy On Farm Ponds

The continuance of Halton's Farm Pond Policy was recommended at a recent meeting of Halton's Conservation Committee. Since the inauguration of the policy in 1952, subsidies have been paid on a total of 45 approved ponds.

As in former years, such ponds must have as a primary objective one of the following: (1) To provide water supply for livestock or domestic purposes; (2) To provide water for fire protection; (3) To provide water for spraying or irrigation.

In order to qualify, applicants must have the proposed site approved and to this end an application must be filed with the Agricultural office in Milton before approval commences.

Since writing the above, we have learned that Halton County Council has approved of the recommendation of the Committee and consequently Halton's Farm Pond Policy will be in effect in 1957.

Acton, Norval Juniors Elect Officers At Annual

Last week saw Acton and Norval Junior Farmers staging their annual meetings. County president Jack Peterson was the guest speaker at the joint meeting of the Acton Juniors, which was held at the home of Jack Black of Moffat. Miss Peterson presented a most interesting illustrated address on her exchange visit of last summer to Prince Edward Island. John W. Pickett, past county president of the Halton Juniors, took charge of the election of officers which resulted as follows:

Acton Junior Institute—President, Doris Thompson; vice-president, Kathleen Stanley; secretary-treasurer, Mildred Watson; directors, Ida Matthews, Betty Anderson, district director, Ida Matthews, press reporter, Bertha Watson.

Acton Junior Farmers—President, Wm. Price; vice-president, Allen Bowen; secretary, Fred Thompson and Charles Thompson.

On the same evening, Norval Juniors met at the home of Marilyn and Sandy Barnes. Here Mrs. Mabel Bergstrom presided over the election of officers for the Junior Institute and Agricultural Representative. J. E. Whitlock performed a similar service for the Junior Farmers. George E. Elliott, Q.C. of Milton, was the guest speaker at the joint meeting. Mr. Elliott took as his subject, "Education and Citizenship" and as usual with this popular speaker, his address was thought provoking and contained a message of interest to young and old alike. The newly elected officers are as follows:

Norval Junior Institute—President, Marilyn Wigglesworth; vice-president, Barbara Cunningham; secretary-treasurer, Evelyn Bird; district director, Joan Wigglesworth; press reporter, Ute Ostermann; director, Marilyn Barnes.

Norval Junior Farmers—President, Bill Wilson; vice-president, Tom Hunter; secretary, David Leith; treasurer, Geoff Bird; directors, Cliff McDonald, Ed. Bailey, Jamie Cunningham and Ken Hearns.

Planter Available For Private Lands

Another matter which received the attention of the Conservation Committee, was that of the County Tree Planter. This piece of equipment which was purchased nearly three years ago, will in future be stored in Milton.

As formerly, it is available to any land owner in Halton without charge. However, arrangements have been made to have a man go with the machine and the cost of his services and mileage must be paid by the land owner or land owners making use of the machine. Here again interested land owners who contemplate doing any planting this coming spring, should in the near future contact the Agricultural office and make their application.

Such procedure has definite advantages, one of which is that it would enable the land owner to get advice, free of charge, from the Zone Forester regarding the varieties to plant, a planting plan, etc.

Cattle to Ontario At All-Time High

The number of cattle taken back to Ontario farms during the year 1956 was an all time high of 238,848 head, of which 52,204 were rated as calves, weighing mostly 400 to 550 lbs. The movement was even greater than during the drought year of 1937, when the movement of cattle from Western Canada to Eastern pastures was subsidized.

Of the total number of replacements during 1956, some 87 per cent were cattle from Western Canada. Half the number were purchased on the Ontario Stock Yards and the balance billed through from the West. The average weight of the cattle classed as stockers and sold on the Toronto yards was close to 700 lbs. Short keep feeders were not in preference with stockyard buyers, but were more in evidence in the through billed stock.

OBITUARY

Ill for Many Years Mrs. A. Dobbie Dies

A funeral service was conducted at the Harold C. McClure funeral home, Georgetown, on Friday, February 8 for Mrs. Ellen Scott Dobbie, who died in the Hamilton General hospital on Wednesday, February 6. Mrs. Scott was 82 years old and had been in ill health for many years, never having fully recovered from an attack of scarlet fever which she suffered shortly after her marriage.

Born the daughter of Rachel and William Scott in Limehouse, she attended schools in the district and lived at home until her marriage to Alexander Dobbie 64 years ago. She was a member of the Pres.byterian church.

A few years after her marriage, she and Mr. Dobbie moved to Acton and then to Hamilton where they have lived for many years. Owing to her ill health, she was unable to take a very active part in community affairs.

Mrs. Scott is survived by her husband, Alexander, and one son, William J. of Lakewood, Ohio. She is also survived by a brother and sisters, Mrs. Robert Lane, Limehouse; Mrs. Angus McDonald, Acton; Mrs. William Hall, Acton; Mrs. Edward Hill, Georgetown; and Joseph Scott, Limehouse. She is predeceased by a sister, Margaret, and a brother, John, and two brothers who died in infancy.

Rev. Alex Calder conducted the service. Pallbearers were Percy Hill, Clifford McDonald, James Dobbie, Gordon Dobbie, Conrad Dobbie and Robert Lane. Interment was in Greenwood cemetery, Georgetown.

Production of creamery butter in Canada in 1955 reached a new annual high of 318,000,000 pounds.

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NOTICE
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Vouchers for 1956 interest on member loans are being mailed out to you Feb. 15th.

Should you not receive yours promptly it may be due to an incorrect address in our records, and we would appreciate you contacting the Milton office at once.

TR 8-2391



Buffalo Bison
Entry in Minor A.H.L.

The Buffalo Bison entry in the Acton Legion Minor Sports A.H.L. series is pictured here. Front row, left to right, Fred Dawkins, Raymond Toth, Joe Massey, John Boardman. Back row, Brian Sprston, Bob McCurdy, Bill Henry, Ricky Currie. In back is the manager Bob Martingell.

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