

Blames poor farm management

Farm water pollution major problem

Water pollution from farms is a major problem now coming under closer scrutiny by the Ontario Water Resources Commission, according to William A. Stegiles, supervisor of the OWRC's Water Quality Surveys Branch.

"The farm animal population in Ontario produces an amount of waste equivalent to that from 45 million people," he told delegates to the Ontario Pollution Control Conference, held recently in Toronto.

Further illustrating this problem, Mr. Stegiles said a farm producing 50,000 laying hens, or 5,000 market hogs, or 1,000 beef cattle, or 500 dairy cattle annually, generates a waste disposal problem comparable to a city of 10,000 persons.

In addition to animal wastes, soil erosion, unwise use of pesticides and wasteful fertilization practices all contribute to water pollution, he said.

Mr. Stegiles admitted much research is still needed to pinpoint the effects of this pollution, but he added that a large part of the problem relates directly to poor farm management, and can be corrected now.

To minimize pollution from animal wastes in the field, he recommended wastes be spread thinly so as not to exceed the rates for optimum nitrogen use; water-borne plant nutrients be balanced with chemical fertilizers for optimum plant growth; solid wastes be incorporated with the soil during or soon after spreading, taking account of the best time for fertilization in crop production; and wastes not to be spread on frozen or water-saturated soils in areas where surface runoff will transport wastes into surface water.

In the feed lot, which should

be located where runoff into streams and soil infiltration-borne nitrogen will have little effect on the future use of ground and surface waters, he recommended runoff from areas of higher elevation, including roofs of buildings, should be separated from precipitation falling directly into the lot; solid waste storage areas should be built within or adjacent to feed lots to control leaching of stored wastes by precipitation and runoff; and that necessary settling basins be constructed to intercept all lot runoff and retain all settleable solids, for seasonal field spreading of both solids and liquids.

In the roofed livestock production unit, Mr. Stegiles said a proper waste handling system should be installed, taking into account the location of the unit and facilities for crop utilization or waste disposal, to avoid pollution of ground and surface waters.

The OWRC official pointed out that Ontario's conservation authorities have worked with the Department of Agriculture in a number of projects aimed at erosion control, which, in addition to pollution, presents the problems of loss of land and flooding. Much erosion is the result of livestock grazing too close to stream banks, and he said land managers are encouraged to fence these banks, with watering or cross-over points located at points least subject to erosion. Also, additional bank protection, if necessary, and buffer strips of unplowed land should be maintained.

In the case of pesticides, careful selection, handling, storage, application and equipment cleaning mean less pollution danger, Mr. Stegiles said. He added granular materials should be used in preference to sprays

whenever possible, as they present less chance of accidental water contamination during equipment cleaning, and fewer storage problems. Discussing fertilizers, he said

they should be applied in increments as needed, rather than by applying a full season's requirements in one application. The application of the major nitrogen needs should be delayed until the

crop is able to actively absorb it, and he encouraged agriculturalists to take advantage of the services of the University of Guelph in determining optimum rates of fertilization for particular soils.



HON. WM. A. STEWART, Minister of Agriculture and Food, congratulates Bill Lasby, R.R. 1, Rockwood, on showing the champion steer at the recent 4-H Queen's Guineas Competition at the Royal Winter Fair. The steer was

judged to be tops among 209 animals entered by 4-H Club members. Looking on during the presentation is one of the Shorthorn Lassies obviously pleased that a Shorthorn carried off the honors. (Ont. Dept. Ag. and Food Photo)

"Farm management" is topic for department short course

Henry J. Stanley

Farm Management is to be featured this year in the educational short course organized by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food. This ten-week course will commence on Monday, January 15, with all farmers invited to enrol. The course will be conducted jointly by the personnel from the Halton and Peel Extension Branch offices.

Meetings are planned for the Junior Farmer Building in Brampton, from 1:15 to 3:15, and for the Agricultural Office in Milton, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m., both on Mondays. Other times and locations will be provided if sufficient applications are received.

Some of the topics which will be discussed will be wise use of records; budgeting; farm credit; machinery and crop management;

and farm labor, insurance and liability.

A similar course on Soils and Fertilizer was conducted last winter, with some 80 men from Halton and Peel Counties taking part.

With the great changes taking place in agriculture and the continually rising costs, farmers must sit down and assess their

own business. It is hoped that these sessions will be an opportunity for discussion and learning.

Make interim payment dairy subsidy quotas

Agriculture Minister J. J. Greene announced today that the Canadian Dairy Commission will make an interim adjustment payment on dairy subsidy quotas to manufacturing milk and cream shippers.

The adjustment payment will cover deliveries by quota holders reported by plants to the Commission for the months of April to November inclusive.

The Commission said that the payment will include amounts owing under regular quotas for the first eight months of the current dairy year, starting April 1, 1967, and back payments to those whose quotas have been adjusted by supplementaries or reallocations for the period before the adjusted quotas were approved.

Under the subsidy program annual quotas are divided into monthly quotas. In each month a shipper receives subsidy for his deliveries in the month up to his quota for that month.

If during the year a shipper under the monthly quotas had not been paid for his full deliveries up to his annual quota, there would have been an adjustment payment for the balance after the end of the dairy year. This payment could not have been made before next June at the earliest.

The interim payment will permit the Commission to adjust any amounts owing for the months of April to November, which constitute 82 percent of the annual total.

Wellington winners at "Royal"

Wellington County competitors in the turnip classes at the Royal Winter Fair were S.R. Griffin and S.E. Griffin and Son of Acton. The former took three sixth, two seventh and one eighth place prizes, while the latter pair had a fifth, a seventh and three eighth places.

Two men from Georgetown did well in the vegetable competition. J.C. Cunningham had firsts in citron and pumpkin and a second in squash, second in pumpkin and squash and a third in pumpkin.

Wellington's only ranking competitor in the swine classes was Harold J. Meek of Erin with his herd of Lacombe. He received a first, second and ninth in boar; a first, third, fourth and sixth in sow and a second in the group of four animals class.

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That spirit

One nice thing about Christmas is that most of us act more as we should toward other people. Why not try it out on the highways, too? Give the other drivers a little more courtesy during the Christmas season. Who knows, it might become a habit that you continue all through 1968.

Record cow

During the month of November the highest record of a mature cow reported to the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club by the Record of Performance in Ottawa was that made by Brampton Lady Almy Carom, a daughter of Brampton Carom Boacon, owned by D.H. McCall & Son of Norval. At six years of age, in 305 days, she produced 13,928 lbs. milk, 771 lbs. fat, 5.54 percent, a Gold Medal and Medal of Merit record.

The second high in the junior three-year-old class was that of Glenholme H. C. Lorraine, a daughter of Campbell H. C. Valour, owned by Mrs. S. L. Eva Harper, Georgetown. This cow at three years, 163 days, produced in 305 days, 11,166 lbs. milk, 599 lbs. fat, 5.3 percent, a Silver Medal record.

Memorial gifts in Nassagaweya

At a service at Nassagaweya Presbyterian church recently, memorial gifts were dedicated in memory of J. Lamont McMillan. The gifts included a pulpit lamp and fan, a communion chair and table runner, a communion chalice and a changeable letter illuminated church sign.

Appreciation of the congregation was expressed for the gifts which will be of practical use in the church for many years.

Mr. McMillan appointed in A.T. Brown's drug store in Acton years ago. Mrs. McMillan lives in Toronto.

Halton farms get assistance with woodlot improvements

Henry J. Stanley

Halton County farmers may now receive assistance from the Woodlands Improvement Act. This Act permits the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests to enter into agreements with the woodlot owners for tree planting and woodlot improvement work. This Act came into force in 1966 with counties gradually incorporated under it as personnel and time permitted. Halton farmers may now take part and to date eight have done so. The farmer contacts the District Forester, Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, Hazelton, A.

forester will inspect the forest property with the landowner to discuss the management required.

The owner must pay the cost of any trees planted and protect the area against livestock, fire and insects for the 15-year period. The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests plants the trees, prunes culls, and thins the woodlot. Copies of this Act are available at the Agricultural Representative's office in Milton.

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