

Anglican Bishop is speaker annual Holstein ladies night

By H. J. Stanley

On Friday evening, 285 Halton Holstein breeders and friends met in St. Paul's United Church Hall, Milton, for the annual Ladies Night. Entertainment was provided by Earl Burt and the Haltonettes, three Junior Farmer singers - Joy Hayward, Ruth Mason, and Wilma Ella, accompanied by Mrs. George Newell. Fred Bell, the 1967 President of the Halton Holstein Breeders' Club, was presented with his past president's pin by the current President Don Feer.

Guest speaker was the Rt. Rev. W. E. Bagnall, Anglican Bishop for the Diocese of Niagara. Bishop Bagnall spoke on automation, exploration, and liberation. He stated -

"We have moved from an age of agriculture to an age of industry and machinery. However, it is still a world of souls, hearts, opportunities, joys, and sorrows. Automation must not trifle us or overcome us. We must say 'it is humanity that matters, not the machines'."

"Horizons have been pushed back through exploration, and a

new exploration age has been launched beyond our known world. Men are beginning to explore divinity and come up with a new image and a new understanding of God. The questioning nature of man will enable him some day to say 'here are the absolute principles and values, here are the new sign posts.'"

"The greatest sin is the sin of enslavement. When a country is liberated, character is liberated. We must understand what freedom means - it means freedom from inner enslavement."

Bishop Bagnall was thanked by John Kitching, first vice-president of the Halton Holstein Breeders' Club.



SYMBOLIC of the new life the season of Spring breathes into a world tired of long, cold winter days is this downy fellow. He's waiting for companions to break out of their shells and start acting natural. (Staff Photo)

Slow on the go

Many of our farmers now operate a second farm down the road. This means that tractors and equipment must use the highways. This in itself is dangerous, because you're mixing high speed car traffic with low speed farm equipment. But don't try to travel too fast with tractors. Steering and brakes are not designed for high speed, and when handled carelessly can result in an upset.

"Belts run out of holes"

Equalized assessment to bring higher tax

By H. J. Stanley
Halton Agricultural Representative

Land assessment has been a topic of great concern to Halton farmers during the past few months. Proposed changes could mean the difference between farming in familiar surroundings, or pulling up stakes for an unknown future in some other location. On March 6, the Smith Report was discussed in detail. It proposes that land be assessed at the going market value of similar land in that area, not on the use of the land. Thus, because of inflated land prices, not tied in with the economics of farming, bona fide farmers could be assessed at very high rates. A working farm would be assessed at 50 per cent of market value, with the farm home assessed at 70 per cent of market value. This great increase in taxation would be a heavy burden on all farmers, as they could not pass this cost on to the consumer as do other businesses.

More recently, Halton County Assessor Bob Beach has been informing farmers that equalized assessment will be a reality by this September 30. Halton is one of only seven counties that does not have a County Commissioner. As an alternate, equalized assessment has been established to assure that everyone pays his share of

taxes. This gains more and more importance as Halton moves to a more regional government, a County Board of Education, etc.

Farms have been assessed for about one-sixth of market value. If the farm is sold from one farmer to another. However, urban residences have been assessed at approximately 30 per cent of market value. Under equalized assessment, all will be brought up to one-third of actual value. This will mean that farm land in the lower half of Halton may be valued at \$300, or more per acre, with the assessment going up to \$100, or more. In Essex county this may mean farm land valued at up to \$250, per acre, and in Nassagaweya, up to \$200, per acre, with assessment going up to \$83, and \$67, respectively. Taxes could be double their present rate.

Agricultural assessment no longer is significant in south Halton, making up only 2.76 per cent in Burlington and 4.05 per cent in Oakville. In Essex County agricultural assessment is 35.69 per cent, and in Nassagaweya it is 40.92 per cent of the total. Despite the small percentage of total assessment, agriculture still occupies the great majority of acres in the south of our County. Farmers who have been continually tightening their belts with increased costs of production, may find that when taxes are increased, their belt has run out of holes.

Blame dairies, not farmers for two cent hike in milk

By H. J. Stanley

Directors of Halton County Milk Committee met in the Agricultural office, Milton, on March 25, to plan their 1968 program. A committee of Mac Alexander, Jim Reid, Gordon Sinclair, Russell Hurren, and John Kitching was chosen to look after the Dairy Princess Competition, and to advertise milk at local fairs. Financial contributions are to be provided to three members from Halton on the Royal Winter Fair Livestock Judging Team and for milk for the 4-H Awards Night.

There was concern over the two cent per quart increase in milk prices, with the complete amount of increase going to the dairies and the farmer receiving none of it. It was difficult to understand the need for a two cent increase when profits per

quart for the dairies is normally in the one cent range. Many felt that the increase in labor costs etc., had been more than adequately looked after for the dairies, with no consideration given to the farmer. It was hoped consumers will not blame the dairy farmer for this increase to their food bill.

All directors were opposed to a new quality milk program suggested by the Ontario Milk Marketing Board. As this dealt only with deductions for falling to meet high standards, rather than incentive payments for quality, the proposal was unanimously defeated.

Plans were made to attend the Regional Milk Committee meeting at Bondhead Community Hall on April 4, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

Fertilize now

by Charles Warner

All tree fruit crops should be fertilized regularly to obtain maximum yields of high quality fruit. Fertilizer in the correct proportion should be applied once per year early in the spring. Variations from such a schedule will, in most cases, only serve to interfere with the proper growing cycle of the tree.

Fertilizer should be applied as early in the spring as possible - after the frost has left the soil. This usually means early April. Early application of fertilizer will allow the spring rains to carry the fertilizer deep down into the soil so that it can be used by the tree roots.

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Calfhood vaccination best for brucellosis

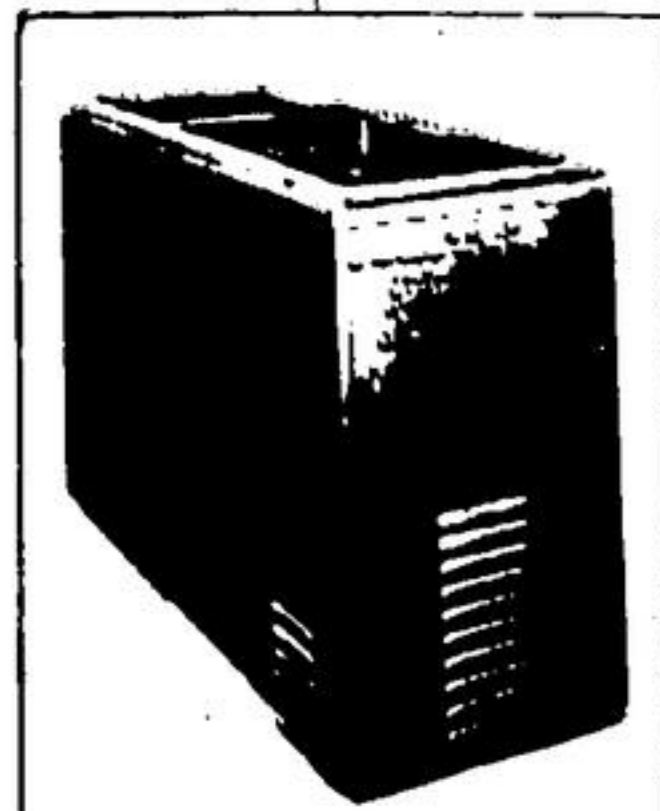
By H. J. Stanley

The Ontario Government will no longer pay for the vaccination of calves against Brucellosis. If a farmer wishes to continue, he must pay the veterinarian for his labor. The vaccine, tags, and certificates will continue to be provided.

Brucellosis has been almost eradicated in Ontario with a test and slaughter program. In cases of milk or cream being shipped from a farm, tests are conducted at least three times a year to determine the presence of Brucellosis in the herd. All female cattle, in excess of three and one-half years are also tested at slaughter plants. If there is any indication of the disease, the complete herd is blood tested.

The common market countries of Europe have discontinued vaccinations and are requesting non-vaccinated animals. Some states

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Drama

Palermo play second best

Palermo Junior Farmers' play "The Income Tax" which beat Acton Juniors' entry at the Halton Junior Farmer drama festival that calves be vaccinated as early as possible - at four to six months of age. The older an animal is when vaccinated, the greater the likelihood of a suspicious or positive test when 18 months of age.

The cattle owner himself must decide whether or not he will continue to vaccinate his calves. If he does continue, he should vaccinate all heifers at four months of age.

"They are proud in humility; proud in that they are not proud," - Robert Burton.



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Sportsmanship?

Senseless waste

By H. J. Stanley

During the past winter, damage has been reported to farm livestock, buildings, and equipment, by careless hunters.

In one case, a ewe was shot through the heart at very close range and dropped in her tracks. Another ewe was somewhat luckier and did not die immediately. However, she had to be destroyed, with a portion used for food.

On another farm two shotgun blasts from 10 feet ended the usefulness of an electric fence.

Are these the acts of persons qualified to carry guns? Is this sportsmanship? This is cruelty to animals and senseless waste of good public relations with farmers.

If this does not cease, hunting in Halton County could become obsolete.

Three breeding associations vote to merge bulls, business

Members of three of Ontario's seven artificial breeding associations have voted over-whelmingly in favour of merging their bulls and businesses. The three units are Central Ontario Cattle Breeding Association, now at Maple, serving nine Central Ontario Counties and much of the cattle areas of northern Ontario; Waterloo Cattle Breeding Association, serving four and a half Western Ontario Counties from headquarters at Waterloo; Lambton Cattle Breeding Association, operating in Lambton County from quarters at Reece's Corners.

The associations, which in-sensitate a combined total of more than 200,000 cattle annually will be known as United Breeders Inc. when the merger takes place. Officials predict this will happen on or about September 1 of this year.

H. Craig Reid of Milton was one of 14 appointees named to an interim board of directors which will be in charge of operations for the last quarter of 1968. He represents Halton County.

Georgetown district farmer, Arthur McKane was named to represent Peel County on the interim board.

In the just-completed series of

meetings where voting was held, member-users of the units' services were told that all of their directors had agreed that a merger was needed. Directors addressing the meetings said that testing more bulls for ability to sire superior cattle was "a must." Other frequently mentioned benefits of merging were operating stability and the efficiency of working from one headquarters.

The site announced for the proposed headquarters of United Breeders is a farm already jointly owned by two of the units, (Central and Waterloo). It is centrally located, just north of Guelph on highway 6. Though plans are not yet definite, several meetings were told that the first buildings on the new site would be offices and laboratories with bull barns to follow later. The units have a combined total of 110 bulls of dairy and beef breeds. A sire sharing agreement is already in effect among them. Cash assets total \$400,000.

"A vain man can never be utterly ruthless; he wants to win applause and therefore he accommodates himself to others," - Goethe.

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