

# Free Press Farm Page



**PROVINCIAL AND COUNTY HONORS** certificates, representing completion of 12 and six 4-H Homemaking club projects, were presented at the Halton achievement day held Saturday at Hillcrest Church near Hornby. Mrs. Sheila Foster, front, was awarded a provincial honors certificate. Behind her are seven girls who received county honors—second row, Lesley Cooper of Ashgrove, Nancy Swindlehurst of Ballinad, Linda Kirkwood of Limehouse, and Beth Laidlaw of Norval; third row, Heather Buchanan of Ballinad, Debbie May of Norval and Karen Shortill of Ballinad. —(Staff Photo)

## Federation offers \$100. scholarships in field of agriculture knowledge

The Halton County Federation of Agriculture is offering two annual scholarships of \$100 each to go to county students.

The money is to go towards the cost of the first year, or semester, at any Ontario Agricultural university or college of agricultural technology. The awards will be based upon the applicants' academic standing, 4-H club, Junior Farmer or community activities.

The Federation's education committee and the agricultural representative will for the selection committee for scholarship candidates.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Halton Federation of Agriculture, it was announced Bruce McClure had approached the clerk of the Township of Esquesing to see why the H.F.A.'s 1968 grant had not been sent, and also to enquire about the grant for 1969. He was assured it would be forthcoming.

The Federation learned its Rural Learning Representative, Mrs. Tom Alderson, would be attending the annual meeting of the Federation to be held at Geneva Park, June 6 to 8.

Halton Federation of Agriculture members were reminded of the vote coming up in June for all farmers on the important one farm organization. If accepted, this organization would represent farmers and marketing boards regarding marketing and its policies, trade policies, taxation input costs and expropriations.

North America has over one billion acres of productive forest land.

### Tips on haylage

## Plan bus trip to demonstration

By H. J. Stanley

Every year some farmers have problems with their haylage machinery gumming up, and these problems can be very serious. It can happen during harvesting in the field, the filling operation at the silo, or even when the haylage is being taken out of the silo, and it means irritating stops to unclog pipes and machinery. The problem increases with the percentage of alfalfa in the forage mix.

This gumming problem occurs mostly with forage in the moisture range between 45 and 55 per cent. To solve gumming problems where moisture levels have dropped into the danger

zone, run a stream of water with a hose into the blower. If haylage harvesting is going to involve large quantities of material and if the silo is going to be filled rapidly and there is going to be adequate packing, then haylage can be made a moisture levels below the gumming range. In all cases it is wise to cut the material finely.

Good packing is also facilitated by cutting at the right stage, that is the late bud or early flower stage for alfalfa and the head-emerging stage for grasses. It is safer to operate at moisture levels above the 55 per cent range, especially for novice haylage makers or those using conventional silos. The 60 to 65

per cent range is probably the best to work in, and nearer 65 per cent during the first attempts. Don't go over 70 per cent though, or the silage may be less palatable and usefully. Above 75 per cent you start to get seepage losses from the silo. A moisture tester is available at the Agricultural office in Milton for use by Halton farmers. A plastic bag of the haylage should be brought in for moisture determination.

Field demonstrations and discussion on haylage making will be held at the Flora Research Station on June 4, at 10 a.m.; and on the Dick Schiedel farm, at R. R. 2, Preston, on June 10. A bus trip is being organized by the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association to Flora on June 4. All Halton farmers are invited to attend.

## Alfalfa Weevil spreading watch out for them here

By H. J. Stanley

The Alfalfa Weevil has been spreading to the north and east across this province. It may be present in Halton County. Farmers should check their alfalfa fields twice a week to determine whether or not the weevil is present.

The worms are tiny and yellowish at hatch, become green with a white stripe over the back and growing to nearly one-half inch in length. They feed between the veins on the alfalfa plant, thus shredding and skeletonizing the plants. If the weevil is present in large numbers the field should be cut immediately for hay, or sprayed with an insecticide such as Sevin.

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### Treated seed

Most of our seed grain and corn seed is treated for protection against insect damage these days. This treated seed should be handled with the respect it deserves, since chemicals that can kill insects may also kill you. Follow the directions on the package and you should have no problem. These instructions are probably the most expensive literature ever printed - and they are for your protection.

It's bad enough to be a quitter. But it's worse to finish something you never should have started.

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