

GFO VOTE NEXT TUESDAY

Hold information meetings big Halton rally is Friday

Halton farmers were urged to make a special effort to cast their ballot at the Ontario General Farm Organization vote next Tuesday, June 24, at two special information meetings the Halton GFO committee held last week.

Tom Foster of Burlington, chairman of the local committee promoting the GFO vote, chaired meetings at Boyne Centre in Oakville on Wednesday and Brookville Hall in Nassagaweya on Thursday, to help acquaint area farmers with the issues behind the vote.

About 40 attended the first meeting and a small crowd of only 10 showed up on Thursday, but Mr. Foster was optimistic that many more rural residents were better acquainted with the purpose of Tuesday's election.

A big rally for the whole county is being held this Friday evening, June 20 at Stewarttown Hall, with speakers expected on behalf of the provincial GFO campaign committee. The

meeting starts at 8 p.m. and is open to everyone.

Farmers, their wives, children over 20 and anyone actively engaged in farming are eligible to mark a ballot on the proposed general farm organization. They will face five separate questions, all on the one ballot.

First question is whether or not they favor a general farm organization with a compulsory checkoff. The second question deals with giving the marketing boards of Ontario a vote on the

provincial GFO council. The next three questions deal with the financing and give voters a choice between voluntary membership payments, automatic memberships covered by the checkoff, and a combination of membership and checkoff financial sponsorship.

Mr. Foster pointed out at last week's meetings that the checkoff would be a maximum of \$3 per \$1,000 of goods sold, and only goods sold through a government marketing plan would be eligible for the payment. The checkoff figure will be set by the provincial council and will probably be \$1 per \$1,000 which would give the GFO an operating budget of \$1,250,000 in the first year, he said.

The GFO would set up about

100 "locals" covering approximately 1,000 farmers each, and each local would have one director on the provincial council.

Discussions at Wednesday's meeting swung around to the consumer boycott on beef products. "Yes," said the chairman, the consumers would like to see the prices of beef now, but they didn't want to do it a few years ago." He lamented what seemed today to be a protected society for everybody else, but a free enterprise system for the farmer.

An advance poll (for those unable to vote on June 24) will be held tomorrow (Thursday) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food office, 181 Main St., Milton.

Young Scottish farm visitor sees Ontario's agriculture

A dairy farmer from Dalry, Ayrshire, Scotland, is currently about half-way through a three-and-one-half month stay in Ontario.

Robert Lamont, who is a partner with his father in Crockenzie Farm, 30 miles south-west of Glasgow, arrived in Ontario April 23. Since then he has stayed for periods of time in Dufferin, Elgin and Halton Counties and Temiskaming District, with Lennox, Addington and Kennew Counties to go.

He is one of eight delegates, including four from Scotland; two from Northern Ireland and one each from England and Wales, who are observing Canadian farm methods through a co-operative project of the Ontario Junior Farmers and the

Young Farmers organization of Britain.

The Young Farmers granted the price of the 22-year-old Scotman's plane fare over, but the trip home and expenses during 15 days "free time" will be from his own pocket.

Accommodation during the majority of his tour is supplied by Ontario Junior Farmers in their own homes.

He has noticed a number of differences between British dairy farming methods and ours.

While the majority of Canadian dairy farms are two-stories, with the cattle below and the hay above, British authorities prohibit this type of structure on sanitation grounds.

Robert also noted Ontario crops grow higher, although their Scottish counterparts have a higher yield-per-acre.

Land use is also at a slight variance to Canada. On Crockenzie, for example, 60 acres are used for grain, 45 for hay and the rest of the 200-acre estate for grass.

There are no milk quotas in Britain—a dairy farmer produces as much as he wishes, selling at prices established by the Milk Marketing Board. This varies, Mr. Lamont reports, between 30 and 45 cents per gallon. The British producer is paid on solids rather than butterfat.

"Farming is a little more intensive in Scotland than here," the visitor reported. "We use 50 long tons (2,240 pounds) of fertilizer on the 200 acres."

Although Ontario experiences higher temperatures than the Ayrshire area of Scotland, their growing season is longer.

Farmer gets 8¢ pound more

Who's to blame for sharp increases in beef prices?

Concern over current beef prices in Ontario have raised a welter of conflicting reports over the parties to blame for the sudden sharp increase.

The president of one large firm has urged housewives to boycott beef. According to another report, the president of the Ontario Beef Improvement Association said that Ontario beef producers are embarrassed by the current high prices for beef.

Even the disc jockeys are in the act with stories like: "I went to the bank today to get a loan."

"What for?"

"For a down payment on a steak."

The Minister of Agriculture and Food, the Hon. Wm. A. Stewart, has now come out publicly in the Legislature to say that he is not in the least embarrassed by the current high prices for beef. He says that the statement by the president of the beef producers did not fairly represent his views. The Association does not feel beef prices are too high; their chief concern has been the suddenness with which this price increase occurred.

Root, meanwhile, in a letter to this newspaper says, "It will be very interesting to discover what caused the very sharp rise in the cost of beef when the return to the farmer advanced by approximately 8 cents a pound live-weight and 15 cent dressed. Many people are dropping out of the production of agricultural products because of the small margin of profit and, in many cases, a loss."

OUR READERS WRITE:

URGES "YES" VOTE ON FARM ORGANIZATION

Dear Sir:

We are now in the last week of the campaign to build the best farm organization in Canada today. We know that farmers from coast to coast are watching Ontario and are planning to follow our lead. Tuesday, June 24, will be one of the most important days in both Ontario and Canadian agriculture. It is the starting point for farmers to build a really effective provincial and national farm organization.

After 30 years of the O.F.A. and 17 years of the O.P.U., farm incomes are much too low. Another 17 years of either of these two organizations will not solve the problem. It is time for a change and it's time for the farmers to make the decisions. That is what will happen on June 24. No farm leader is going to tell the farmers what sort of organization he is going to have. The farmers will decide this by the way each one casts his ballot. Each of us has an equal say.

There have been a number of wild and irresponsible accusations and claims which have come and gone like this week's specials at the supermarket. However, the last of these, while it is typically wild and irresponsible, should be dealt with before vote day so that we reach June 24 with the air cleared of this red herring.

Let's be clear about this. The O.P.U. wanted legislation, the O.F.A. wanted legislation and now we have the legislation with less government interference than with any other legislation used by any other group in our society. But what is much more important, the government cannot dissolve this organization or remove its check off powers without going back to the legislature to amend or remove the Act. Can you imagine the uproar in the House if the government were to try that?

I hope that the farmers are not confused and scared to the point that they fail to take this opportunity. Let's take this legislation and use it to our advantage. If it is as bad as some would have us believe, we can drop it. Remember that we can vote this GFO out every two years if we don't like it. As they say, "if you haven't tried it, don't knock it!"

I would like to make one final point about my own position. I shall not stand for election as a delegate to the founding convention and will, therefore, not be eligible for election to the provincial council or the executive. This is not because I am trying to avoid some future responsibility, but merely because I hope that this will dispel any idea that I am trying

to create an empire for myself. Thank you for the space I hope that every farmer and his wife and all others eligible to vote will get out on June 24 and vote for a much better general farm organization and a brighter future.

Yours sincerely,
Malcolm Davidson,
Chairman
GFO Campaign
Committee.
Brucefield, Ont.

The Minister has said that the record will show that despite rising production cost, producer prices for beef have remained relatively unchanged since February of 1952 when Canadian beef was temporarily barred from the U.S. and this caused prices to drop some 8 cents per pound in a few weeks. "It is important to point out that there is nothing mysterious about this price rise," the minister told the Legislature. "It was not brought about because more cattle are being exported to the United States," he continued, because in fact exports to the U.S. are approximately half the volume of a year ago.

Farmers are not withholding cattle, either, Mr. Stewart claimed. During January and February farmers were actually marketing almost 5,000 more head of cattle per week than they did a year ago. Now supplies have run out. During the week ending May 31, almost 7,000 fewer cattle were marketed than a year ago.

The Minister went on to say that farmers as a group have not been able to benefit from the efficiency they have applied to their industry. "There have been no increases of up to 30 per cent in farm product prices recently, and farm incomes have not made the substantial gains acquired by some tradesmen in recent months." The tradesmen's gains in farm products are subject to cycles and in many cases only temporary.

"In fact," said the Minister, "this inability to obtain a fair price for their product has created the very situation that causes so much concern to consumers of beef."

Beef producers have not been receiving fair prices, production has declined and now we are reaping the harvest—producing fewer beef feeder cattle at a time when the population is growing and per capita consumption of beef at an all time high, the minister asserted.

Comparisons reveal that beef is a better buy than it was five, 10 or 15 years ago. Boycotts may be effective in driving prices down temporarily but will inevitably lead to greater shortages and still higher prices.

"I am told that when one makes a full consideration for cutting, dressing, trimming and shrinkage that an 8 cent per pound increase for live beef should reflect a 15 cent per pound increase at the processing plant," the minister said.

Wellington-Dufferin M.P. John



SCOTTISH YOUNG FARMER Robert Lamont, right, spent some time at the home of Gordon Sinclair and Sons, Burlington during his extended visit to Ontario farms. Bill Sinclair shows his visitor one of the Sinclair Holsteins. — (Staff Photo)

Name Rosemary Booth 4-H meeting delegate

By Ted Peluk

Miss Rosemary Booth of R. R. 1, Milton, has been chosen Halton county's delegate to the annual provincial 4-H conference at the University of Guelph.

Rosemary has completed 17 projects and has held the office of President in the Halton 4-H Strawberry Club. Rosemary has

participated in 4-H for seven years and has served as press reporter for the Halton 4-H Forage Club.

About 75 outstanding 4-H agricultural members from across the province will attend. The program of the five-day conference which begins on June 23, will include group discussion on leadership, effective program planning, the future of 4-H, and related problems of today's youth. Individual involvement in the activities of the conference will be emphasized.

Conference delegates have been chosen by local leaders and agricultural representatives from each of the 54 counties and districts of Ontario. In previous years selection was limited to one delegate per county, but this year each county having more than 150 members will send two representatives.

Extra riders

Every year you read of children who have been killed or injured while riding on a tractor. Their deaths and injuries are completely unnecessary.

There is only one seat on a tractor and this is for the operator. He has no time to watch children when he's operating equipment. So don't take a chance on your child's life. Make a "No riders" rule on your farm.

Pesticide tips

By E. Estabrooks

Be selective of the time when you apply pesticides for insects, disease and weed control. Pesticides are only used when there is a pest problem or potential problem. Diseases can be expected to be a problem on most plants during wet weather, while insects commonly show up during hot, dry weather. Weeds, it seems, show up any time and all the time.

Once you have established the need to apply a pesticide try to apply the spray in the morning or evening when there is generally no wind. Your spray coverage should improve. If spraying is carried out during the heat of the day many of the spray droplets will evaporate before reaching the plant. The possibility of causing injury to your plant is also increased, particularly when temperatures are very high.



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The Family Farm Depends on You

ON JUNE 24 VOTE

GFO YES X

AN EXPRESSION OF OPINION POLL
RESPECTING THE PROPOSED

General Farm Organization In Ontario

Will be held on
Tuesday, June 24th, 1969

Between the hours of
8 a. m. and 8 p. m.

At the following locations in
Halton County

BOYNE COMMUNITY CENTRE
STEWARTTOWN HALL
BROOKVILLE HALL
LOWVILLE UNITED CHURCH