

Free Press Farm Page

Fewer farmers, more accidents

Farm safety is national concern

Farmers pleased with plastic drainage pipe

"Over a million feet of corrugated plastic drainage pipe have been installed in Ontario, and the product has only been available outside Europe for the last two years," says Professor R. W. Irwin of the University of Guelph's School of Agricultural Engineering.

Although farmers have done this without any research results on the product in this country, Professor Irwin believes the corrugated plastic pipe will prove a very effective material for land drainage. "There shouldn't be any problems with the lasting qualities," he says. "The same type of plastic has been used by public utilities for underground telephone and hydro cables for years and there have not been many problems."

"We've done some work to

determine possible damage by certain rodents," notes this engineer. "We tried feeding some plastic to muskrats, but they weren't interested. However, a muskrat enlarging a burrow and finding the plastic pipe in his way will, no doubt, eat through it. Or, if trapped inside he will eat his way out. If the pipes are properly installed with an 8 foot steel pipe running back some 5 feet into the bank, there should be no problems."

Professor Irwin believes that farmers have been so willing to accept the plastic pipe, despite its extra cost of one or two cents in most areas, because of the ease of handling. A fraction of the weight of clay tile, plastic pipe relieves the farmer of a time-consuming and laborious chore during installation.

New Brunswicker in Halton for 4-H summer exchange

During the summer, 4-H clubs from all over Canada arrange exchange visits for their best members, and Halton County has sent one young representative away and is in turn hosting another from the province of New Brunswick.

Halton's visitor is 17-year-old Frederic Anderson and he comes from Middle Sackville where his father runs a 240 acre beef farm. Last week, he was staying with Fred Nurse and family on their farm at R. R. 2, Georgetown.

The main purpose of Frederic's visit was to see how others in Canada carry on farming. He says most beef farms he has seen so far are larger than the operation run by his father. Frederic also says he has learned corn is becoming a better feed to use in raising beef cattle.

Club reporter for the Silver Lake 4-H club "back home," Frederic is also raising a heifer and a steer as part of his own club project. He has been in the club for nine years and is just going into grade 12 in New Brunswick.

Unlike many young people coming off farms today, Frederic plans to work with his father in running the farm after he graduates from high school. At present, he says his strongest

subjects at school are history and science.

Frederic got the chance to come west as a result of competitions held, first in his own club and then province-wide. He was required to answer questions on 4-H club history and was also scored on the many activities he had taken part in with the Silver Lake Club. The Royal Bank of Canada is financing the entire trip for Frederic.

Frederic has also been seeing a lot of this part of the country with the Nurse family and has already been to Niagara Falls, Toronto, and Guelph where he visited the School of Veterinary Medicine. Asked what he thought of southwestern Ontario, Frederic said, "the country up here is great."

The visitor from New Brunswick will be spending this week at the farm of Wallace Lasby near Acton.

The number of accidental deaths and disabling injuries suffered by Canada's farm population has reached epidemic proportions, the Canada Safety Council says in its National Farm Safety Week campaign.

"The rural accident problem is a matter of national concern," Norman H. Bell, president of the Council, comments. "While the number of Canadians engaged in farming is declining, there is an alarming increase in the rate of farm accidents."

The accidental death rate on the farm is 20 per cent higher than the national average. The absolute number of these fatalities is higher for farming than for any other industry and it follows only mining and construction's accidental death rates per number of workers.

The Council predicts there will be 1,400 farm and rural deaths this year, 75,000 accidents, 25,000 injuries and 1,500 permanent injuries. These figures are based on trends indicated in previous studies and statistics.

Half of the fatalities will take place because of traffic. The home accident figure is also higher than the national average. But the farm machinery accidental death toll is increasing at twice the rate of these traffic and home fatalities. Whereas the

accidental death rate in almost all other industries is being checked, a Royal Commission on Farm Machinery study discloses that farm machinery fatalities per 100,000 farmers doubled between 1956 and 1966.

In the same period, the farm population dropped to 1,951,000 from 2,734,000 while the number of tractors increased to 597,000 from 499,500.

Even more disturbing is the inordinately high number of children killed in these accidents.

The Royal Commission study reports that children under the age of five comprised 12 per cent of farm machinery fatalities recorded from 1962-66 inclusive. Two-thirds of these young children were run over. Twenty per cent of the deaths occurred in the under-10 age group.

Another 17 per cent comprised young people aged 10-19, half of whom were killed in overturns or crushed, meaning that too many were riding

machinery not built for passengers or else were operating them without the needed strength and skills.

Many of these accidents can be prevented by farmers forbidding their children to ride tractors or drive them before they are qualified. But vehicle design is very important, too.

The installation of protective frames—roll bars—and crush-resistant cabs cut overturn fatalities in Sweden by 50 per cent when this was made compulsory.

The Canada Safety Council says overturn fatalities making up 40 per cent of all farm machinery deaths can be reduced by three-quarters through installing these protective devices and safety belts in order to prevent farmers from being ejected.

Once again, the Council stresses there is no place for children on and around these powerful machines used in a complex, highly-skilled profession.

New economist in Halton - Peel

Halton County's home economist for the past two years, Mrs. Cathy Williams, has announced her retirement which will become effective this Friday.

Her position will be filled by Miss Doreen Hamill, a graduate

of the University of Guelph's Macdonald Institute and an experienced home economist. Miss Hamill, soon to become Mrs. Douglas Bannister, is a native of Grey County near Owen Sound.

Miss Hamill has already spent the past two years in Victoria, Peterborough and Durham Counties as home economist for those regions.



DOREEN HAMILL, Halton and Peel County's new home economist.—(Staff Photo)



FREDERIC ANDERSON of Middle Sackville, New Brunswick, has been visiting farms in Ontario, during July, on a 4-H exchange. Here he poses with his host last week, Wallace Lasby, R. R. 2, Rockwood, and one of Mr. Lasby's best female shorthorns.—(Staff Photo)

This is farm safety week

National Farm Safety Week is July 20 to 26. According to the Canada Safety Council, accidents among Canadian farmers are considerably higher than the national average.

The Royal Commission on Farm Machinery states that the farm machinery fatalities per 100,000 farmers doubled between 1956 and 1966. During this same period the farm population was reduced by about 20 per cent. Mechanization since then has increased by 20 to 50 per cent, depending on the kind of machines.

Train skilled mechanics at University of Guelph

The three-year-old Farm Machinery Mechanics Course at the University of Guelph is at present the only program in Ontario filling this demand for skilled mechanics.

The 20 month course is conducted by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, and is open to young men of 16 or older who have completed Grade 10. The course covers the whole range of farm equipment mechanics, from welding and shopwork to hydraulics and electrical systems.

A special feature of this program which consists of two four-month sessions and 12 months of direct in-job training between sessions, is that practical work takes the form of an apprenticeship. These apprenticeships are carried out through sponsor members of the

Ontario Retail Farm Equipment Dealers Association, or member companies of the Wholesale Farmers Equipment Association.

The experience gained from such training provides a more thorough understanding of the mechanical and managerial complexities of modern farm equipment.

There are approximately 800 farm equipment dealers willing to sponsor a student through the program. The number of students applying for the course can be increased as thus far only a small percentage of dealers have an applicant to sponsor.

The course is co-ordinated by Professor J. R. Scott, and queries about application or sponsorship for this program should be addressed to him at the School of Agricultural Engineering, University of Guelph.

Edward Bird overall champ at livestock judging day

The results of the Livestock Judging Competition have now been completed. The competition was held at the University of Guelph on Wednesday, July 16.

Two dairy, two beef, one sheep, and one swine class were judged.

The winners in each group are as follows:

Junior, 1st David McKinnon with a total score of 458 out of a possible 500 points; 2nd Ken McNabb, 439; 3rd John Alderson, 436; 4th Tie, Keith McKinnon and David Reid, 434.

Intermediate, 1st Edward Bird, 465; 2nd Lois McNabb, 443; 3rd Janet Hunter, 441; 4th Mary Fuchs, 427; 5th John Brown, 420.

Senior, 1st Rosemary Booth, 462; 2nd Bill Lasby, 458; 3rd Murray Brownridge, 457; 4th Doug Gardhouse, 452; 5th Stuart Nurse, 446.

The individual trophy winners were High Novice, Janet Hunter (wins C.N.E. Shield), Champion Dairy Trophy, Stuart Nurse; Champion Beef Trophy, Bill Lasby; Champion Sheep Judge, Keith Austin; Over-all Champion Judge, (with a score of 465 out of a possible 500 points) Edward Bird.

The prize money for winners in this competition is to be awarded to the members at the annual 4-H Awards Night program.

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