

Free Press Farm Page

An editorial

Agriculture at the cross-roads

By Henry J. Stanley
Agricultural Representative

Agriculture in Halton County is at the cross-roads. It must change course and move up the hill of progress or slide down and out of competition.

Nobody, least of all a farmer, can stand still. His costs have continued to rise at an accelerating rate, while his receipts per unit of produce have remained fairly constant. To meet this challenge, the Ontario farmer has become more and more efficient. He produces more and more produce per man on his farm.

Such is not the case on many Halton County farms. Additional road blocks have been thrown up along the way - greatly increased assessment and spiralling taxation, regional school boards, nobody on council to represent the rural area (a complete reversal of the past), etc. Many farmers have become discouraged when no one seemed to lend an ear or care. When the knight in shining armor appeared, the land speculator, many welcomed the opportunity to get out of farming, at least in this county. (Sometimes the armor turned out to be tin instead of hardened steel).

Others are progressing at one-eighth throttle. They are undecided as to whether or not they should sell or wait another year. Many are not changing at the rapid pace necessary to keep up with our competition in the rest of Ontario. Very few are remodelling their barns or building

new ones. The thousands of acres of heavy clay soil which should be drained is not being drained because of the uncertainty of agriculture.

The farmers in the rest of Ontario are changing and updating their farming at a rapid rate. While taking part in the Land Use Tour of Eastern Ontario last month, I was most impressed with the great strides made in this so-called "backward" section of our province. Their corn yields for the past two years are superior to our county. They are definitely our competitors in this field, not just western Ontario as we might have thought. A similar situation exists in most farming fields.

Do we continue at our present pace and slowly slide further and further behind? Or do we run ahead, having faith in this county and in the future of agriculture? Do we ignore the persistent real estate salesman who has found clients with more money than can be imagined, and keep in this business of farming?

Many will say "No". But many, I am sure, will decide to keep in the race. They will change their attitudes considering performance of livestock over looks or breed, volume of production over number of cows, yields per acre over number of acres, etc. This is the thinking of the farmer of the future.

Are you at the cross-road? Which way will you go?

(Reprinted from Halton Farm News, issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture & Food, Milton.)

Strong show at Erin

Halton takes county herd title

For the second year in a row, Halton County won the county herd trophy at the West Central Ontario District Championship Holstein Show held at Erin Fair on Friday. There were nine entries in the class and Halton topped Waterloo and Peel to claim the W. C. Wood trophy.

Halton's Holsteins made a fine showing, bringing home a number of prize ribbons and some trophies. There were 14 exhibitors from this county, and a total of 78 exhibitors altogether.

Halton entries included Ashville Farms, Milton; T. H. McGee, Norval; A. H. McKane, Georgetown; Harry Moore, Terry Cotta; Fred Nurse and Sons, Georgetown; Jeff Nurse, Georgetown; Claude F. Picket, Georgetown (who had 15 entries); John Popp, Rockwood; W. J. Proud, Palermo; H. C. Reid, Milton; Gordon R. Sinclair and Sons, Burlington; Bert Stewart, Hornby; Howard Tarzwell, Georgetown; and M. D. Wingrove, Campbellville. Claude Picket was runner-up

to Bolton's R. J. Stewart for the honor of being named premier exhibitor. Mr. Stewart was also premier breeder. Mr. Picket showed the senior, grand and reserve senior and grand champion female, and his entry won the best udder competition. Bert Stewart showed the grand champion male and Craig Reid had the reserve junior champion female of the show.

Other Halton winners: Bull calf, Tarzwell first, Reid sixth, Wingrove ninth, Fred Nurse 11th, McGee 18th, 27 entries. Bull two years and over, Stewart first, 10 entries. Grand champion male, Stewart.

More winners at Erin...

Halton exhibitors made another fine showing at Erin Fair over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Several 4-H club members won prizes and Halton exhibitors did well in the Jersey show, field crops and vegetable competitions.

In field crops, John Nurse won first for chopped hay and grain corn ears, plus a second prize on stalks of silage corn. T. J. Brownridge took first for his red mangolds, white mangolds, yellow mangolds, fodder beets, sweet corn, Spanish onions, cabbages, squash and a collection of vegetables.

Rock-Ella Jerseys owned by Ken Ella and Sons, Hornby, showed the grand champion bull in a large Jersey competition. They also took first in the yearling class and their entry went on to win the junior female championship; and a first prize four-year-old went on to be senior and grand champion female. Ella's also had the first aged cow, first breeder's herd and first in the inter-breed best udder class.

Halton goes to international plowing match in a big way

Halton County will be going to the International Plowing Match in a big way this year. The match, held near Paris, is expected to attract up to 200,000 and Halton will have an exposition depicting various areas of the county.

Halton's Jim Day is a member of the Canadian team. A musical ride will feature horses from Almar Stables in Palermo. Home Scots Pipe Band will be on hand to take part in the band.

Film on meat shown Nymphs

By Susan Kidd
The Nassagaweya Nymphs held their first meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 23, at the home of Mrs. H. Stanley, who is our new leader. She is assisted by Mrs. H. Heist.

The election of officers took place as follows: president, Audrey Allison; vice-president, Irene Kidd; treasurer, Benita Pries; and secretary and press reporter, Susan Kidd. Other members include Jane Norwood, Lila Dennis and Susan Powadiuk. We then took notes on choosing food for health and meat and its value as food.

Meeting two was held at the home of Mrs. Stanley on Monday, Sept. 29. The roll call was "my family's favorite meat dish". We took notes on the selection of meats, characteristics of quality meats, identification of meat cuts and cuts of beef with suggestions for cooking. The demonstration was on cuts of meat and their location on the chart.

To end the evening we had an interesting film on "The Story of Meat in Canada" followed by questions and a discussion headed by our leader's husband, Mr. Stanley.

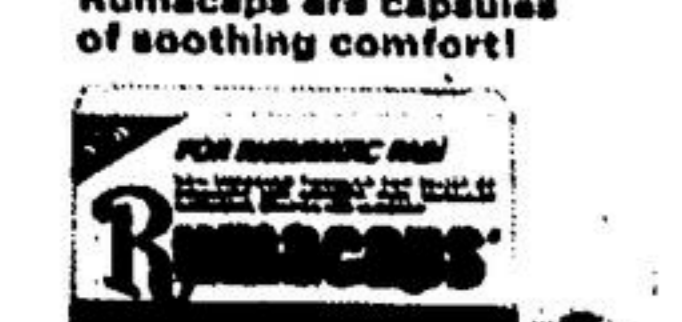
18 fields in contest

The results of the field crop competition for corn sponsored by the Acton Agricultural Society are as follows: A. McPhedran & Son 91, Norman Harris 88½, Calvin Aitken 85½, W. Swackhamer 84, R. Harding 83, S. Griffin 82, Ken Murray 81½, D. Matthews 81, Alex McNabb 80½, Robert Kerr 80.

This year there were 18 fields scored by R. C. Alexander of Georgetown.

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