

**Conservation Tour for York County Farmers**

Some 150 York County farmers had an opportunity this week to see how the other fellow does it. When the York County Soil and Crop Improvement Association staged a "Sunrise Farm Tour" which demonstrated, in practical form, those farming procedures necessary for the conservation of both soil and water.

Under the direction of W. M. Cockburn, Agricultural Representative for York County and Carl Boynton, president of the York County Soil and Crop Improvement Association, 32 cars in convoy visited several farms where a real contribution to agriculture is being made. No "hobby" farms were included in the tour which was designed to show what could be done to increase productivity in a practical way.

During the morning, and part of the afternoon, the group inspected varieties and types of forage plants; saw a demonstration of simple contour strip cropping and had a look at the latest in farm machinery in action.

Particular interest was evinced in farm ponds and their construction, several ponds of various types being inspected during the day. On the farm of Charles Ratcliffe, near Stouffville, they saw ponds that not only supply needed water to farm and farm buildings but also act as a check on erosion as a result of flooding.

A demonstration of farming without using a plow intrigued the visitors. At the farm of Eugene Lemon, Bloomington, the group saw a field that has been transformed from pasture to a wheat field almost in the space of hours. Today a healthy, better than waist high crop indicates that the method adopted was successful on that particular piece of land.

According to Mr. Cockburn, Mr. Lemon had gone into the field one afternoon with a heavy duty cultivator and followed up with a double disc. The half-day saw the pasture worked into the soil with enough trash being left near the surface to lighten and enrich the land and allow for increased penetration of moisture. The visitors also saw oats that had been cultivated in the same manner.

Dotted with springs, the control of moisture on the Lemon farm constituted something of a problem. To prevent erosion which once threatened to deplete the fertility of the soil, Mr. Lemon strip crops his dampest fields using alternative strips of clover and grain. Splendid test plots of newer oats and barley varieties were also shown the visitors.

The tour opened with a visit to the Leitchcroft farm where forage plants and hay drying equipment was inspected. Following this visit the group saw an example of contour strip cropping at the farm of K. Wizey. Later they visited the Massey Harris farms at Milliken.

The tour closed with a visit to the York County's 3,500 acre forest where the value of reforestation as an important fact in conservation was stressed by the district forester.

**SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

June Eason of Campbellford won a \$25 scholarship at the Northumberland Mueic Festival for further study of music.

This talented young lady is a former Georgetown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Eason.

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**FARM NEWS**

**4H BUS TRIP ONE DAY TOUR**

Sixty Halton County 4H Club members, accompanied by club leader Fred Nurse and assistant agricultural representative Art Bennett, joined a group of seventy five Peel County 4H Club Members, their leaders and agric. representative J. W. McCullough, for a one day bus tour on Thursday, July 16th.

Temperatures which had thermometers hovering in the nineties all day dampened a good many brows, but failed to curtail the enthusiasm of the large group which required three buses and two cars for transportation.

**Massey-Harris Farm**

At Massey-Harris Farm, Milliken, the group was met by farm manager Bill Sutherland, who conducted them on a tour of the 700 acre farm.

After viewing some of the very latest in farm machinery, which included deep tillage equipment, disc harrow tillers with seed box attachments, combines, forage wagons, etc. they passed through the dairy barn, which was being painted a pastel blue, to the mows where a hay drier was in operation. Good quality baled hay was in evidence in spite of all the previous adverse weather. From the gang-way they saw huge fields of registered grain — mostly Ajax oats and Cornell 595 wheat.

Fences have been removed from this part of the farm and permanent gravel roads established, which are easily reached from every field. Below the hay barn is a large area laid out in contour strips. While the slope of this field did not appear extreme compared to some of the hills in North Halton and Peel the lower corner was 70 feet below the ground level at the barn. Special grass waterways were spaced at intervals along the slope.

**Machinery Test Track**

A course, consisting of smooth asphalt roads, especially designed

rough roads, steep hills, sharp curves, etc., serves as a probing ground for every model of every machine produced. Only two machines, a pony tractor and a large combine, were on test but one would wonder how any machine could remain workable after a few trips around this course. However, the Pony tractor had been pulling a large tractor continuously day and night since March, 1952. A new set of tires is needed every 3 weeks.

Arriving at Cedar Beach Park on Musselman's Lake for a two hour stop, the group enjoyed swimming, softball, and a picnic lunch. The management at this good summer resort generously granted free use of all facilities to the entire group. In a closely played ball game Peel defeated Halton 8 to 5. Highlight of the game was the smashing of one bat by the only girl player.

**Elmercroft Farm, Oshawa**

Elmercroft owned and operated by George McLaughlin comprises 400 acres. A new barn, equipped with comfort stalls, 5 feet wide and 7 feet long, a gutter cleaner, special calf pens, loose housing for young cattle, two hay drying units, special grain storage and feed mixing facilities has been completed recently. Emphasis has been placed on convenience and labor savers. Formerly 12 to 14 full time men were hired, now 5 men do all the work, in less time. One man cleans the barn in one-half hour, while it took 2 hours before. One man mixes enough feed for two weeks on one-half day and before it took 2 men one day to mix enough for one week. Cut costs, increase volume, and make more money, is the slogan used at Elmercroft.

**Excellent Pasture**

Forty-five acres pastures 35 to 50 mature milking Holsteins from May until September. Less than one acre per cow, as some plots have yet to be used as pasture this year. The field is divided by electric fences, into ten 4 acre plots, with a 5 acre lane across one side. Cows are rotated every few days. After each grazing, plots are harrowed and slipped. The stand, a thick

luxuriant mixture of Bromo, Orchard, Ladino, and Alfalfa, is free of weeds and producing more per acre each year. Most of the field has been out of the regular rotation and in pasture for four years. Every September the entire 45 acres is manured and fertilized with 675 lbs. of fertilizer at a cost of three weeks milk cheques.

**Two Questions**

1. What is your opinion on grass silage? "We use one to three silos of it each year. However, since installing a hay drier we find that the cows prefer hay. Consequently we have cancelled an order for two new silos with unloading devices which we had intended to purchase."  
2. What do you think about bringing the grass to the cows, instead of sending the cows to the grass? "We have too many other things to do this time of year to bother feeding cows."

—Next public holiday is Civic Holiday, August 3rd.

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Illustrated — Chevrolet "One Fifty" 2-Door Sedan



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