

Free Press Farm Page

Complete crop cost study shows potential for profit

By H. Cook
The 1969 Crop Cost Study has been completed. This study, conducted by the Soil and Crop Improvement Association, consists of four categories: A. Halton Hay Cost Study; B. Halton Corn Silage Cost Study; C. Halton Grain Corn Cost Study; D. Halton Spring Grain Cost Study.

The 1969 hay crop has the potential for profit. The yield was not that good with a range from a high of 3.0 to a low of 1.14 tons per acre. However, the per cent protein in the hay was well above average. Normally we assume about 12 per cent

protein in hay. In 1969 it ranged as high as 18 per cent. The variability in quality and yield of hay determines its profitability.

Corn silage has a higher per cent protein than usual also. This arises from a higher per cent dry matter in the silage. We usually assume corn silage to be about 30 per cent dry matter. The per cent dry matter in the study ranged as high as 43.4 per cent.

The potential for profit was greater in grain corn than spring grain as shown by the cost study. The net returns in grain corn ranged from a high of

\$60.27 per acre to a low of \$16.83 per acre. The net returns in spring grain ranged from a profit of \$16.86 per acre to a loss of \$8.82 per acre.

On a closer analysis of these latter two cost studies the largest single cost affecting profit or loss was land costs. The range in land costs was from a high of \$23 per acre to a low of \$4 per acre. The first figure used here (\$23. per acre) is the cost of owning land. The latter figure (\$4.) is the cost of renting the same amount of land. This example speaks for itself, i.e. rented land vs ownership costs.

Another aspect of farming was accentuated in the studies; this was the value of custom work. On limited acreage farms this may be a more profitable undertaking than to buy an expensive piece of machinery for only a few hours' work each year. However, there are pitfalls which we must be aware of. One of these is the availability of the custom machinery when it is needed. Custom work has advantages and disadvantages which each farmer must weigh as they relate to his particular situation. A little consideration and a few minutes of pencil work may increase your profits.

Two thirds, fourth prizes for Junior Farmer singers

By Hugh Cook
Halton County Junior Farmers did very well in the competitions held at the Provincial conference Saturday.

In the provincial ladies' trio competition, Halton County's entry of Janet Hunter, Nancy Mahon and Karen Campbell placed third. The Halidmand County entry of Eleanor, Marilyn and Valerie Bradford won the competition.

Barry Mahon represented Halton in the provincial vocal solo competition and came third. Cheryl Sanders from Perth County won.

The Halton County Junior Farmer Choir directed by Mrs. George Newell placed fourth in the provincial choir festival. The Oxford County Choir directed by Mrs. Marion Avey took first place.

Three Junior Farmer boys and one girl, Helen Shaw from Peel County, were selected as the winners of the travelling scholarships to the United Kingdom.

Jersey annual here next week

For the first time in its history, the Ontario Jersey Club will hold its annual meeting in Halton County.

The event is scheduled for next Tuesday, Jan. 20 at the Holiday Inn, Oakville. President Ken Ella of Hornby will preside over the business sessions, which are open to the public and anyone interested in Jerseys. Business meeting will start at 1:30 and a banquet is scheduled for 7 p.m. to be followed by entertainment and a dance.

Sees soybeans major crop

Soybeans may become a major crop in this area.

The prediction was made by W. S. Young, co-ordinator of agricultural extension at the University of Guelph.

He says soybeans would be a logical crop to be grown along with the vast amount of corn production currently taking place.

The regularly scheduled program of Farm Week '70 in progress last week at the university, drew to a close with discussion centred around soybeans for feeding, tillage and corn production.

Approximately 200 area farmers and agricultural representatives attended the lecture - discussion in the crop science building.

ACTON I D 18 - top cards

Euchre winners at L.O.L. 467 Saturday night were ladies' high Mary Britton; low Mrs. Ann Livingstone, men's high Dave Swackhamer, low Muriel Holmes; lone hands Mary Britton, door prize Florence Teh Eycke.

You're in control

Computers are amazing. They can digest an enormous amount of facts and figures and come up with solutions to very complex problems. But computers must be programmed by humans.

So it is with driving a car. No matter how well it is designed it still requires a driver at the controls. So don't depend too much on the machine—it's you that's in control.

ESQUESING Township Council BRIEFS

At their regular meeting Monday, Jan. 12, Esquensing Council:

- Passed a resolution that the clerk be instructed to prepare a by-law increasing the interest rates from 1/2 of 1 per cent to 1 per cent per month on tax arrears starting Feb. 28, 1970 and a penalty of 4 per cent will be added to 1970 taxes after Jan. 1, 1971.
- Passed a resolution to pay J. Devereaux \$31.50 for three large geese killed, under the terms of the Livestock Protection Act.
- Received letters of objection to the proposed drag strip on the old Matthews property on the Fifth Line north of Highway 7 from township residents W. Hamenetzky, Charles Hildebrandt, Mrs. F. Hannah and Mrs. Blanche Sheppard.

Snowmobiles

One of the fastest growing winter sports in Ontario is snowmobiling. Many farmers are providing trails and making a profitable sideline from admission fees and machine rentals. Like all activities, snowmobiling requires the use of a little common sense and courtesy. So handle your snowmobile with the same care and courtesy you expect car drivers to give you.

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THE POSSIBILITY of the establishment of a drag strip and a \$2 million dollar Indianapolis-type speedway at opposite ends of the township faced Esquensing township council, as they began meeting for the new year, Monday January 5. Left to right are: councillor Russell Miller, deputy-reeve Tom Hill, reeve George Currie, councillor Wilfred Leslie, councillor Ken Marshall and clerk-treasurer Delmar French.—(Staff Photo)

Breeder loses 32 rabbits suspects attack by dogs

A plea for closer controls on stray dogs wandering in rural areas was made to Esquensing council Monday night by Lloyd McNeil who operates a rabbitry on Lot 16 Concession 7, near Stewarttown.

Mr. McNeil told council he had 39 prize rabbits properly locked in cages when he went to bed Sunday, but woke up Monday morning to find the remains of 32 of them strewn across his backyard and part of the road in front of his property. The cages, he reported, were demolished and only seven rabbits were still alive. One of the rabbits lost was a red Australian rabbit, a rare variety. The University of Toronto had offered to take the litter of another.

Suspecting the damage had been done by stray dogs, Mr. McNeil told council he called Georgetown police as soon as he discovered it at 7:15 Monday morning. Georgetown police, Mr. McNeil explained, referred him to the North Halton O.P.P., who in turn referred him to the Humane Society in Oakville. The Humane Society suggested he contact Georgetown dog-catcher George Harrington.

Since he feared the dogs might be rabid, Mr. McNeil contacted the Georgetown dog-catcher, but

was informed Mr. Harrington could not come out to look for the dogs, without the consent of Esquensing council.

On the advice of his lawyer, Mr. McNeil then called the township offices and clerk-treasurer Delmar French agreed to go out and have a look at the damage.

"There are dogs running up and down past my place all the time", Mr. McNeil went on. He added that children board a school bus right in front of his place.

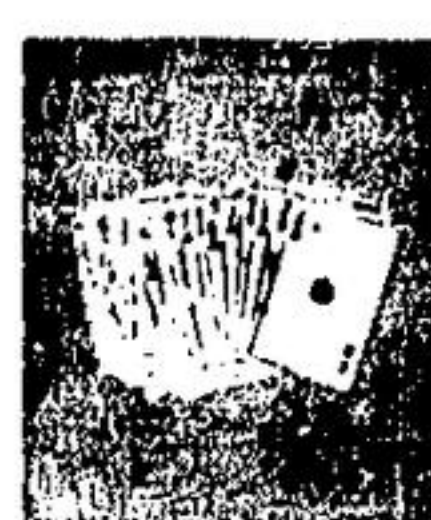
Deputy-reeve Tom Hill wondered if the damage had been done by the pack of wild dogs that were reported to be in the county last year.

Reeve George Currie sympathized with Mr. McNeil, but informed him the Livestock Protection Act provides for the protection of cattle, sheep and poultry only.

"I think it's a funny thing that the township can pay for rabbits that are caged up", Mr. McNeil commented.

"If it was in the Act, you would be compensated for it", deputy-reeve Hill answered.

"What will happen sir, if I shoot one of these dogs?" Mr. McNeil asked the reeve.



Let's Play Bridge

by bill coats

Some weeks I don't get the opportunity to play at the Acton Bridge Club. On those occasions I look over the results of the game, particularly the travelling scores. These are the slips of paper on which the results of each pair is recorded. I look for unusual results such as one pair making game and another getting set at the same contract.

Board number one was just such a hand last week. Everyone got to four hearts but one pair was set. How come? So I looked at the cards and this what I found.

North dealt with no one vulnerable.

NORTH
S-A 7 8 4 2
H-A 8 7
D-A J
C-6 5 2

EAST
S-9 6
H-4 3
D-7 6 5 2
C-A K 10 9 3

WEST
S-10 7 5 3
H-10 9 2
D-K Q 10 8
C-7 4

SOUTH
S-K Q
H-K Q J 6 5
D-9 4 2
C-Q J 8

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1S 2C 2H PASS
3H PASS 4H ALL PASS

which is to indicate to partner his trump support. South has enough strength to go on to game.

Declarer can not do much with the first three tricks. East wins the opening lead, takes a second club trick and gives his partner a ruff. It's up to declarer to take the balance.

Let's suppose that West now led the diamond king. Declarer must win. He plans to draw trump and run his spades but he must proceed carefully. He must take just two rounds of trump in his hand.

The trump ace in dummy must not be used yet. Now he cashes the spade king, and queen. Only after he clears the spades from his hand can he enter dummy with the trump ace. Dummy spades provide parking space for declarer's losing diamonds.

Last week's winners at the Acton Bridge Club were: Ivan Harris and Tom Warne; second Art Norris and Duke Wilson; tied for third, Kate Coats and Cam Sinclair with Gloria Coats and Jack Coats.

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