

Free Press Farm Page

Susan Nixon, Norval Halton Dairy Princess

Halton's Dairy Princess 1970 is a pretty 19-year-old farmer's daughter from Esquesing township.

Georgetown District High School and has been working since last June, but still finds time to help with the family's dairy herd of 140 Jerseys.

Susan lists reading, horseback riding and swimming as her hobbies. She said "I am very proud to be a farmer's daughter—if I had my choice that's what I'd want to be." She also appreciates living on a farm and doesn't plan to trade farm life for city dwelling—ever.



SUSAN NIXON
Halton Dairy Princess

Susan Nixon, a secretary at a Brampton air conditioning firm, was Friday night chosen Halton's 1970 entrant in the Ontario Dairy Princess competition to be held at the Canadian national Exhibition in late August. She won the contest against two challengers, Mary Anderson of Milton and Pat Murray of Acton. This isn't the first time Miss Nixon has been a princess. In 1968 she was named a Junior Jersey Princess at a rally at Galt, and the honor gave her a chance to do some travelling promoting the Jersey breed and playing host to an Australian farm delegation visiting Ontario farms.

Although she holds a non-farm job, Susan Nixon has a good background in farming and she won the judges' approval when she milked a cow Friday night at the competition held at Dr. R. D. Kunic's barn north of Hornby. She was born and brought up on the 200-acre dairy farm of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Nixon on 10 Sideroad north-east of Hornby.

Susan was a member of the 4-H agricultural clubs for five years and completed six projects—five Jersey clubs and one in conservation. She attended



FUN IN THE SUN, and it tastes good too. Joanne Herron of Guelph was one of many who picked strawberries recently at Mohawk Fruit Market on the Guelph Line. Many picked just enough for the tables but the berries will show up on many a table during the winter, either fresh frozen or in the form of jam.—(Staff Photo)



BERRY PICKERS FLOCKED to pick berries at Mohawk Fruit Market on the Guelph line north of 25 Sideroad last week, taking advantage of the chance for an outing on a farm. People headed into the patches as early as 7 a.m. to get their fill of the tasty berries.—(Staff Photo)

Pick-your-own system

Their berry business is booming

The do-it-yourself philosophy is spreading its roots in the farming business and according to some farmers, the results are rather satisfying. In recent years Brobar Farms near Soevside opened their strawberry patches for the do-it-yourself pickers and Chudleigh Bros. Nurseries on Highway 25 north of Milton have for some time welcomed hordes of people to their farm to pick their own apples.

This year for the first time Mohawk Fruit Market on the Guelph Line north of 25 sideroad in Nassagaweya has resorted to the pick-your-own philosophy and according to Dave Hobson who works the farm for his mother, it works just fine.

A lot of the worry and headaches about getting the crop to the stores and then to the consumer is done away with. While the farmer sells his berries to pickers for about half what the stores would pay, he still gets as good or better return on the deal. If a farmer chooses to market his crop in the stores he has to

hire pickers at about six cents a box, truck them into the market and then hope the pickers hadn't resorted to filling the bottom of the box with straw or berries that weren't ready to be picked but which helped fill the box.

By selling direct to the consumer the farmer knocks six cents in pickers' fees off the top, another two and a half cents on the cost of the quart boxes, (pickers bring their own or buy them there) and the 20 per cent markup on the retail level.

A better profit is realized by the farmers because the price fluctuates in the stores and in canning factories or any other market and his average take per quart drops below the 25 cent level.

Warm weather and rain are crucial to a crop of strawberries. The timing is most important. Warm weather and rain just before picking brings delight to the berry farmer's heart but the same rain a day or two later during the harvest could cause a crop to rot on the ground.

Mr. Hobson said the plants, which can be used two years in a row before being left to be fallow, are mowed down after the first year, cutting off all the foliage and directing the water to the root. In the fall of the year after the berries have been picked they are covered in straw to protect the plants from the frost.

Hobson recalled several nights years ago going to the patch in the middle of the night with his father and brothers and sisters, to put straw on after hearing a spring forecast predicting frost.

Frost in the spring could represent a 50 per cent crop loss to the farmer and result in small steady berries that are hardly edible.

The pick-your-own philosophy is a big attraction in the Hobson strawberry patch. Over 100 people have taken to the patch at 7 a.m. to get their feed of fresh berries and store some away for the winter for frozen berries or for jam.

The consumer wins in the pick-your-own deal, not only because of the price. He becomes the man in charge of quality control and knows just what is going into his container.

Some pickers are under the idea that strawberries like tomatoes, can be picked before they are ripe and left on the counter to ripen. It won't work. Strawberries when picked will rot before they ripen and should be picked at the ripe stage.

The same rows are picked several times. Usually the first picking means a lot of walking and not much picking and pickers complain. But even with sparse picking the farmer stands to lose 25 cents for every quart left on the bush and he wants them picked.

During a good year (and Hobson expects this will be a good year) a four acre patch should yield 20,000 quarts. At the Hobson farm there are 15 acres with three parcels used on a rotating basis.

Rabies warning

Dr. J. H. Chamberlain, Medical Officer of Health for Halton County recently issued a warning concerning rabies and how to avoid any possible contact.

In a written release the doctor recommended that all family pets be immunized against rabies and warned people not to touch or approach wild animals of any kind, and to stay away from pets which are behaving strangely. In particular you should avoid contact with saliva from animals that appear ill.

All bites and scratches should have immediate attention by a family physician. If an animal is ill contact your veterinarian, and if there is a question of human involvement contact your family doctor.

Supersweet manager scholarship winner

Ross K. Armstrong of Stratford has won an \$1800 scholarship to pursue a master's degree in business administration at the University of Western Ontario in London.

An employee of Robin Hood Multifoods Ltd., Mr. Armstrong has been a territory manager for the company's Supersweet feeds division in Milton and Stratford.

The scholarship was established by the late Gordon H. Clark, a former company vice-president and director. The Clark trust fund allows company employees between the ages of 18 and 30 to continue their studies at the university level on a leave of absence from the company.

Proper pruning is important

Pruning of spruce, pine and fir trees must be completed shortly after new growth has begun in the spring. The plants do not regenerate as deciduous trees do, so only parts of branches should be pruned off.

With spruce and fir, pruning should be confined to the new growth just after the growing points have begun to elongate. This will allow new shoot buds to form normally. Pruning later than this may remove buds that have already started to develop and result in thinning the growth.

Pine trees should be pruned by pinching back the new "candles" on growing tips while they are still soft and the needles have not yet expanded. The amount of subsequent growth can be controlled by the amount removed at this time.

When pruning is confined to new growth the result can be a noticeable increase in the density of the tree. The usual number of buds are produced later on, but over a reduced area, hence the density of the growth increases.

This type of pruning may also be used where small, dense specimens are desired.

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Extended Health-Care benefits for Ontario's growing population

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OHSIP COVERAGE EXTENDED

to include the services of

Chiropractors, Osteopaths and Chiropodists (Podiatrists).

Starting July 1st, the widespread coverage and health benefits provided by the Ontario Health Services Insurance Plan will be further extended. Subscribers will be covered for the services of three more health-care groups of practitioners—Chiropractors, Osteopaths and Chiropodists (Podiatrists).

Benefit rates for Chiropractic treatment:

Initial Treatment in the practitioner's office or in an institution	OHSIP will pay \$ 7.00
Subsequent Treatment in office or institution	OHSIP will pay \$ 5.00
Treatment in the patient's home	OHSIP will pay \$ 7.00
Radiographic Examination—maximum for each service total allowed per person in a twelve-month period	OHSIP will pay 10.00
MAXIMUM OHSIP PAYMENT per person in a twelve-month period (excluding radiographic examinations)	25.00

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Initial Treatment in the practitioner's office or in an institution	OHSIP will pay \$ 7.00
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—for second procedure	OHSIP will pay 2.25
—for third procedure	OHSIP will pay 2.25
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Last week's Draw Winners: M. Shelden — \$5. Voucher; Mrs. Jean McMullen — \$2. Voucher.