

OFA continues campaign transfer education tax

Until further direction comes from membership, the campaign to remove education taxes from all property will be carried on, Ontario Federation of Agriculture manager Jack Hale told a sparse gathering of about 30 Halton County farmers in Esquew Community Hall, last Wednesday night.

Mr. Hale told the group questionnaires will be mailed out to members soon, to ask their

opinion about the provincial government's program of tax relief to farmers and needy pensioners, announced last week and whether they wish to continue supporting the campaign by withholding the education portion of the final installment of their 1970 taxes. About two thirds of those present at the meeting indicated they are willing to continue support.

Under the new government

program, a direct payment will be made to all owners of land assessed for farming equal to 25 per cent of their net 1970 property taxes. Owners of properties of less than 11 acres must have a gross income of \$2,000 from the farming of their land to be eligible, however.

Further, should the land cease to qualify as farmland, the province will require payment with interest at an appropriate

rate of all tax reductions granted on the property for 10 years preceding the date, when it ceases to qualify as farmland. This proviso was included to prevent farmers, who are farming land only while it is being held for speculative purposes, from receiving relief.

Hale's campaign

OFA has based its campaign on the principle that people, not property benefits from

education, therefore education should be paid for by tax and corporation taxes are the methods by which OFA suggests education should be paid for.

Although he emphasized the decision on continuation of the campaign would be left entirely up to the general membership, Mr. Hale expressed the opinion the province is "throwing farmers a bone to shut them up," by announcing the new tax relief program.

"In no way does the government proposal answer the problem, as we have laid it before them," he said.

HFA president speaks

Halton Federation of Agriculture president Donzil Lawrence expressed the opinion education tax is only the start of farmers' problems. He cited the province's re-assessment of land at 100 per cent market value as the main problem.

A Burlington farmer pointed out the increase in assessment in

Halton had been even greater than the rise in Chinguacousy township, where re-assessment resulted in industry paying \$4,000 less in taxes and farms and urban homes paying \$4,000 more.

Program too late

Mr. Lawrence also presented a list of county farmers he said are willing to support the OFA program in 1971, but for whom the program was introduced too late this year. Taxes in Burlington and Oakville are paid in one installment, he explained, and several Esquew farmers paid their taxes before August 1 in order to take advantage of a percentage discount the township offers.

In answer to a question from Halton County Board of Education Trustee William Lawson about what support the Federation could expect to receive from municipal councils, Mr. Hale said most he had contacted, including Esquew Council, had said they would not resort to distress selling of property if taxes are withheld. Possible penalty for tax withholding for a short term is interest charges not to exceed 1

per cent per month.

Demonstration important

Mr. Hale stressed that farmers withholding the education portion of their taxes should be sure to explain why they are doing so to their respective municipal clerks. He termed the withholding program "a means of demonstrating to the government you mean business", but added it was in no way intended to be a punishment for municipal councils or school boards. Farmers in some municipalities in Ontario have already withheld taxes he said.

As an example of what he

called "a shift from the cities to rural township" of education costs, Mr. Hale pointed out six Larchmont County farm families (with a total of \$4,613 in education taxes, an average of \$768 per family), while four urban families in the same county paid \$768 an average of only \$192 per family.

However, Mr. Hale went on to say any property owner, farm, rural or urban can support the OFA campaign by withholding taxes. He explained the Federation hopes to achieve elimination of education taxes from all property, not just farm land.

Halton Holsteins again win County herd trophy

By H. J. Stanley

The West Central Ontario District Championship Holstein Show was held at Erin Fair on Friday, Oct. 9, with the top Holsteins from the 11 counties in the district being judged by Abner B. Martin of Waterloo. For the third consecutive year Halton won the W. C. Wood Co. Trophy for the top County Herd. Halton had many other winners as follows:

Bull Calf, first, Thomas Leslie and Bertram Stewart on Surodana Marquis Model. This bull went on to be the Junior Champion Male. Third Bull Calf, Harry Moore and Bertram Stewart, fourth, John Popp; fifth, Claude Picket.

Heifer Calf Class, first, T. H. McGee; seventh, Bertram Stewart; ninth, Thomas Leslie; 10th, Jeff Nurse.

Junior Yearling Heifer, seventh, Craig Reid; eighth, Jeff Nurse.

Senior Yearling Heifer, fourth, W. T. Craig Reid; 10th, H. C. Reid.

Dry Cow, first, Claude Picket on Barview Paupst Lana. Lana went on to become the Grand Champion Female of the show defeating all the cows in milk.

Two Year Old Heifer, first, James Carney on Oak Knoll Anita Empress; second, Claude Picket; fourth, Larry Bennett.

Three Year Old Heifer, fourth, Claude Picket; ninth, W. J. Proud.

Four Year Old Heifer, second, Fred Nurse on Nurseland Texal Rose Anne; ninth, Gordon Sinclair and sons.

Five Year Old, second, Claude Picket on Oak Ridges Texal Peg.

Claude Picket placed second in the Get-of-Sire Class with the Get-of-Thornlea Texal Supreme. In the Progeny of Dam Class second was W. J. Proud with the Progeny of Hawkherst Marquis Amy.

The six head shown in the

winning County Herd from Halton were exhibited by James Carney, Gordon Sinclair and sons, Larry Bennett, Fred Nurse, and Claude Picket.

We are looking forward to many of these animals being shown at the R.A.W.F.

4-Hs sheep club achievement day

By H. Cook

The Achievement Day for the Halton 4-H Sheep Club was held on Saturday, Oct. 3 at the Georgetown Agricultural Fair.

There were nine of the 10 members enrolled in the club who successfully completed their projects by attending the Achievement Day.

In the Showmanship class Keith Aitken of R.R. 3 Acton placed first, with Doug Gardhouse of R.R. 5, Milton and Janet Hunter of R.R. 1, Burlington placing second and third respectively.

The top market lamb was exhibited by Keith Aitken with Keith and Dave McKinnon, both of R.R. 3, Milton, placing a close second and third respectively.

Doug Gardhouse exhibited the top animal in the Breeding Ewe Class; Janet Hunter placed second and Norma Leslie of R.R. 3, Acton placed third.

The judge for the show was Joe

Willmott, a former sheep breeder from Milton.

Trustee defends farmers in fight with province

Halton County Board of Education trustee Ernie Bodnar brought his colleague from North Burlington to the defence of farmers at a board meeting Thursday. Bodnar suggested the province should consider giving the man who has to live on a weekly pay cheque a break instead of the farmers—who, he suggested, are able to deduct a lot from their income tax anyway.

Mr. Bodnar was commenting, "In Canada, the first forest fire law was passed by the Province of Nova Scotia in 1761.

on the report the province will give some tax concessions to farmers. When Bodnar suggested giving the man with a weekly pay cheque a break trustee George Pelletterio snapped, "He gets a 10 per cent raise every year."

Read whole story "You should read the whole story. They're not giving us anything. If we sell the land we

have to pay back the reductions with interest. That is okay for someone in the boondocks but for anyone in Burlington or Oakville where they might sell someday, it is no good," added the North Burlington trustee.

Mr. Pelletterio's rapid and enthusiastic defence for the farmer brought laughter from fellow trustees and administration.

Lois Mills 4-H president

The first meeting of the Ashgrove 4-H Homemaking Club was held on Saturday, Oct. 10, in Hillcrest Church. There were 14 out of 18 members present.

Leader for this unit on needlecraft is Mrs. A. Rentenaar and her assistant is Mrs. J. Bird.

Results of the election of officers are: president, Lois Mills; vice-president, Jean Wilson; secretary, Verna Fisher; treasurer, Grace Bird; press reporters Ann McClure and Lydia Rentenaar; lunch convener, Louise Kiteley.

The name of the club and the cover design for the record books will be chosen next week.

The discussion on "Color and color Schemes" was led by Mrs. Bird. Members analysed designs and their own clothing for their color schemes. The meeting was closed with a lunch provided by the leaders.

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