

# Huge farming operation for Anthony brothers and families

by Jennifer Barr  
Two thousand acres to plant, up to eight units of tractor, plow and planter working round the clock; and the Anthony brothers working from 5:30 in the morning to midnight. Sounds like western Canada and the wheat fields but it's Limehouse and the corn fields of Ontario.

Frank and Fred Anthony are two young men with a large idea of farming. The entire Anthony family is involved in the business on a scale that would make a conventional farmer blanch.

Cash Crops  
The brothers have run a cash crop operation for nine years since the year their father died and Frank borrowed money for his first few acres of cash planting.

Their wives are very active partners, Marie taking care of the parts department and payroll while Bev is the communications expert, wielding the telephone and CB radio to pull the operation together. Mrs. Anthony senior handles the herd of a hundred Holsteins - 35 milking cows - seeing to herd records, books, and generally overseeing that part of the farm.

The 150 acre home farm houses the livestock, the family homestead and the two modern bungalows for the brothers and their families - Frank, Marie and son Kevin; Fred, Bev and daughter, Heather. The remaining land is leased and spreads from Ballinacross to south of Milton. Frank, who has an

agricultural diploma, started to lease large amounts of land four or five years ago and "everyone thought I was crazy", he comments. Now land is harder to come by because available land is already rented.

Custom work, too  
With the enormous amount of machinery required for their crops, it is not surprising the Anthonys do considerable custom work in their "free" time. So much expensive equipment needs to be used. This year there are 1650 acres in corn, 140 in winter wheat, 230 in spring grain and 175 in hay. Add to this about 700 acres of custom work and it's apparent the Anthonys are super-men. A good crew helps and Frank declares his eight employees to be the best.

"We pay a half decent wage and throw in all the blatching they can take" laughs Marie Anthony.

With eight tractors and all the massive machinery necessary, it's possible to plow, fertilize, prepare and plant 100 acres a day. Compare that to the one man farm planting four acres a day - the mind boggles.

In the spring, machinery runs round the clock with shift work crews. Frank and Fred work from early morning to midnight keeping the crews moving.

Hired Gophers  
Breakdowns are inevitable and that's where Bev and Marie come in. They are the "gophers", picking up parts and transporting them to the field.

"Our children think they were born with wheels under them", Marie says. "I know every part and machine shop around."

With radio and telephone communication, the women are on hand to take care of coordinating the many emergencies.

"But some days we get lucky and they don't talk to us."

Marie is enthusiastic about the herdswomen employed for the past two years to look after the milking herd. Two U. of G. vet students have been hired, one each year, and both Frank and his wife feel they are more conscientious and efficient than most men.

"They're out to prove something," agrees Marie. "We find girls are really good with livestock and are maybe a little bit better than men."

She hastens to add the Anthony Brothers outfit doesn't discriminate, although the bulk of their staff is male.

"We're looking for qualified people and we keep an open mind."

Frank says he doesn't have trouble finding help, contrary to the common complaint of farmers. But he believes in paying his staff well and trying to keep the job interesting.

"I won't ask them to do anything I won't do."

The Anthonys are also anxious to hear ideas from their employees and encourage individual ideas.

Is it any wonder they have work applications coming in each year from January on.

Holiday from circus  
At the moment there's a lull between haying and harvest, lasting about ten days. Mind you, a lull to the Anthonys means they're just working a

normal twelve hour day instead of the "circus" it usually is. Frank and Fred are encouraging their men to take a few days holidays while they prepare machinery for the orgy of work due to start at the end of July.

Winter wheat is off first with crews working round the clock to take advantage of good weather. Employees are fed huge suppers during harvest by the Anthony women. Marie and Bev take turns week-about preparing the food.

After wheat comes spring grain, then the corn. Corn harvest may go on until Christmas. The majority of the corn crop is sold directly to processors such as St. Lawrence Starch Company.

During the winter, the brothers take turns milking and taking care of the never-ending mechanical repair on machinery.

All members of the family try to get some vacation away during the "quiet" winter months. Last year Fred won a cruise for the amount of seed corn he sold. Frank didn't travel away but Marie says "it just got ugly and went".

She and young Kevin went to Florida.

Farming Changed  
Things have changed in the farming business since the days of the one man mixed farm.

"It's not like it was 20 years ago," states Frank. "Things are more specialized now. With the price of machinery the way it is it pays for one man to do one job on a large scale."

"This is a different breed of farmer," adds Marie. "They follow commodity markets, attend seminars, but they can still go out and look at the leaves and the birds and tell you what the weather's going to do - that hasn't changed."

Frank feels the family farm won't disappear, it's just more efficient. It's a job, he says, but a farmer has to have a definite feeling for it.

Nine years ago, people thought the Anthony boys were crazy to start cash cropping on such a huge scale. Maybe they still seem crazy to work so hard for a way of life who's to say?

But all the time the Anthony families are rushing around transporting parts, planting, harvesting and working. They keep up a cheerful banter, enthusiastic smiles and exude a lively joy of living.

That's it in a nutshell. They enjoy living. Enough said.



MUFFET MAKERS. Round balers are becoming more popular for one-man operations who feed livestock out-of-doors. The Anthony Brothers, cash crop and custom farmers, complete one of the huge hay bales at the farm of Ken Murray.



FRED AND FRANK ANTHONY gas up a tractor during haying. The young Limehouse brothers farm more than two thousand acres in one of the largest cash crop operations in the area.

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### Festival

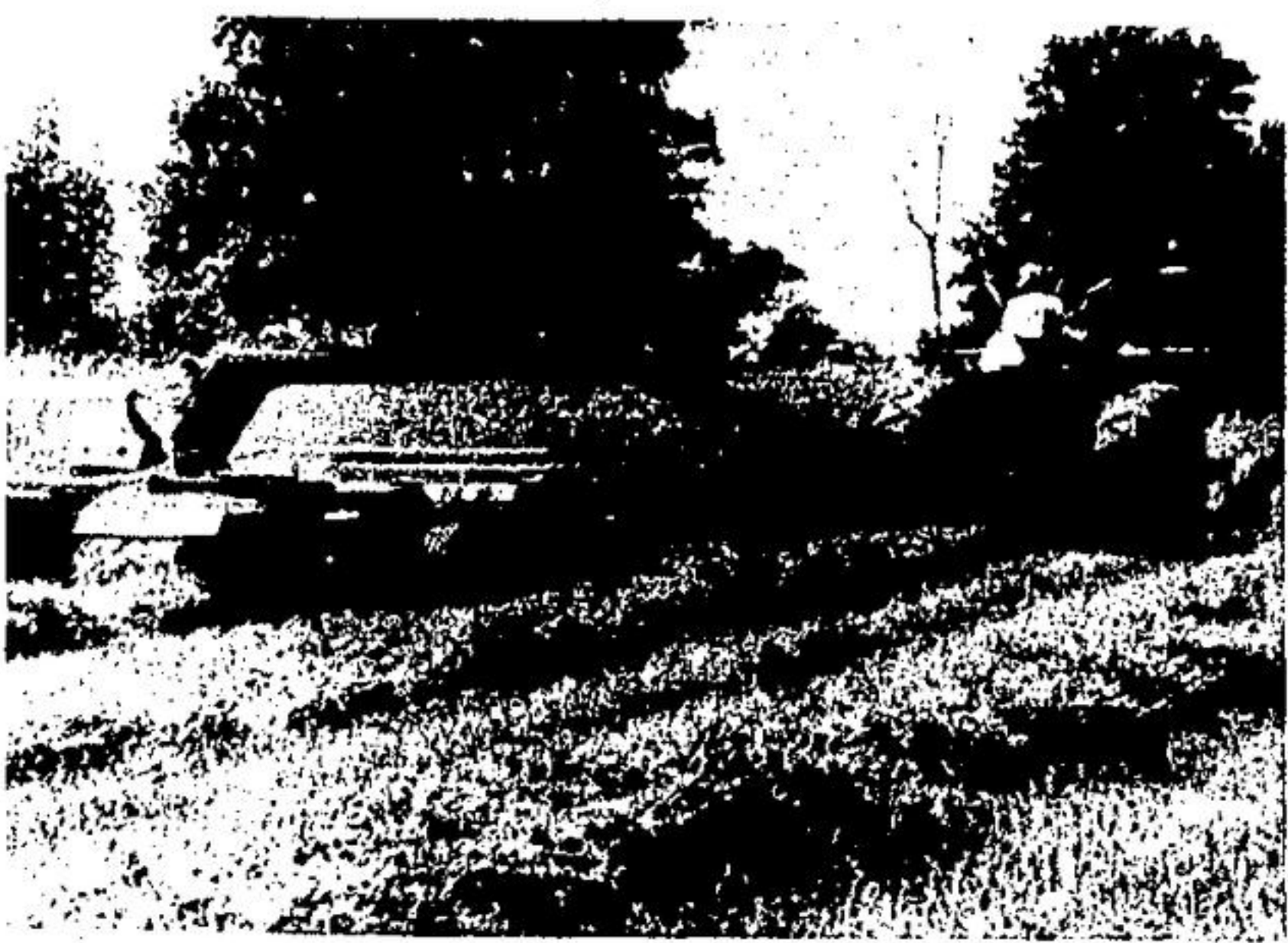
Some 1,500 Invaded Hillsburgh July 8 for the third annual Hillsburgh Bluegrass Festival.

Twelve hours of music were enjoyed by the throngs of people. Professional musicians and amateurs all vied for the microphone.

A parade in the morning kicked off the day. The lack of spectators was mainly attributed to the fact that everyone in the village was in the parade, some one and a half miles long.

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NEW HYDRA-SWING SWATHER makes cutting, raking and conditioning hay one operation. Here Archie Voss of Acton makes short work of a field. Archie is employed by Anthony Brothers of Limehouse, custom farmers.

## Region to fund child services

Future funding of children's services will be at the regional level, Eric Reid, Chief administrative officer of Halton Region told members of the community and social services committee last week.

Members authorized him to discuss the future plans of the province with representatives and report back to the committee.

"Does that mean Children's Aid Society will come under the region?" Councillor Jim Kerr wondered. "It's an assumption I'm going to make", he declared when he didn't get an answer.

Councillor Roy Booth offered a motion that the future organization not be modelled after the District Health Councils.

This drew the ire of Councillor Kerr, who wondered how many meetings of the District Health Council Booth had attended to allow him to make that suggestion.

"None. All I've seen is the resulting delays", Booth shot back.

Councillor Pat McKenzie also expressed his resentment to Booth's comments, noting members of the Health

Council serve without fee.

"I'm not belittling the expertise of the individuals. I just don't like the fantastic duplication of services and delays." Booth cited an example where the Georgetown Hospital Board did extensive studies on the need for a nursing home and the project was proposed. Next it went to the Health Council to see if it was needed. They spent two years and agreed it was needed.

Booth's motion was withdrawn.

CAO Reid told members he had been assured by the province that nothing would take place on the children's services area without the approval of regional council.

Members  
The Chamber of Commerce will be having a membership drive in the fall.

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