



Georgetown Little Theatre's latest production Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde gets underway soon. Seated are Robert McCarroll (Dr. Jekyll) and Rosanne Patterson (Celestine). Standing left to right are Ashley

Windsor as Poole the Butler, Mary-Jane Waltzak as Hilda and Joann Smith as Charlotte. The play opens April 21 and continues April 22 and April 28-29 at the John Elliott Theatre. (Herald photo)



Ah, the taste of success... Georgetown Vintners held their annual wine competition Saturday, bringing in unblasted provincial tasters Steve Cunningham and Ellen Kraeckas. The grand champion of the wine and beer competition is John Christensen who won in four of 12 categories. Other winners included Ray Shier, who took five categories, Myles Gilson, who took two categories and local vintners president Peter Philpott, who won for the best after-dinner wine. (Herald photo)

Questions and answers on drought assistance

The Canadian Crop Drought Assistance Program (CCDAP) is delivering assistance to farmers who suffered significant crop losses as a result of the 1988 drought.

About 120,000 farmers in drought-affected areas have received personalized CCDAP applications. Farmers are filling out and returning these applications.

Processing of cheques for interim payments has begun. Interim payments began being mailed the week of March 20.

The following are responses to the most frequently asked questions by farmers:

Q. Some farmers did not receive their application until the first week of March. Others still have not received theirs. Why?

A. There are three reasons. First, applications to farmers in Ontario and Saskatchewan were sent out two weeks after Manitoba and Ontario due to a problem in the printing and mailing process.

Second, farmers whose names and addresses were not in the program data bank did not automatically receive an application and were asked to call the toll-free line to obtain one.

Finally, some farmers outside designated drought areas who did not receive an application and wanted to apply for assistance were also asked to call the toll-free number for an application. It is possible that some additional areas may be designated as drought zones when final provincial crop insurance data is available.

Application forms will automatically be distributed to producers in those areas. Completion of an application form does not necessarily mean that a producer is eligible for drought assistance.

Q. Are all farmers expected to meet the March 15 deadline for returning applications?

A. No. The March 15 date is intended for those farmers who automatically received applications and are eligible for an interim payment. However, the program administration will accommodate late applications. Nobody will be left out of the program because they didn't receive applications on time.

Q. On March 3, drought areas were defined. Some farmers with significant crop losses aren't included in these drought areas. Does this mean they won't get drought assistance?

A. No. The drought areas defined on March 3 are preliminary and are being used for the interim payment. They were defined on the basis of preliminary data supplied by provincial crop insurance agencies. There may be adjustments made to the drought zone areas once complete data is available

from the provincial crop insurance agencies.

Q. Once drought areas are finalized, what happens to farmers who think they should be eligible for assistance but find they are not in a designated drought area?

A. Producer Review Committees are being established in each province. They will consider these situations. Once final drought areas have been defined, producers who feel they should be eligible for drought assistance but are not, should approach their regional municipality (RM) or county. The RM or county can ask a Producer Review Committee to consider their situation.

Q. How have interim payment rates been established?

A. Interim payment rates are flat acreage payments to farmers in severe and moderate drought areas in the prairies and in severe areas in Ontario and certain crops. These areas were designated using preliminary provincial crop insurance data. Interim payment rates were set as high as possible without a risk of overpayment.

Q. How will final payments be calculated?

A. Final payments in July will be crop specific acreage payments based on a formula which takes into account crop losses from drought, 1988-89 farmgate prices, and the value that crop insurance payments would have provided. Farmers who received interim payments will have these payments deducted from their final payment.

Q. The CCDAP application says that a farmer must consent to release of farm records for 1989 and the previous six years and, up to two years after the deadline date. Why is this necessary?

A. This is included in the application so that random audits can be done. It does not mean the records of all CCDAP applicants will be checked. Random audits are standard procedure in special assistance programs administered by the federal government. This information will be kept in the strictest confidence.

When producers opt to have their five year average seeded acreage compared to their 1988 seeded acreage, the administration may need to review their records for that period in order to verify unseeded acreage claims. The administration may have to review farm records as far back as six years.

Agreement to release farm records two years after the deadline provides the CCDAP administration with time to do random audits. This means releasing information on 1989 and the six previous years only. This does not apply to 1990 and 1991.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Halton Hills Herald is distributed to over

14,000

homes in Georgetown, Acton and surrounding areas. When it comes to Halton Hills, we've got it covered! Our weekly service checks ensure that your newspaper is delivered properly and on time.

THE HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills
Established 1866

HOURS: Monday to Friday 8:30-5:00 p.m.

DEADLINES Monday at 3:00 p.m. for Wed. Publication
Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. for Sat. Publication

Business Office
877-2201

Classified
877-8822

