

Agriculture Future not looking bright for agricultural industry

By BENDUMMETT
the Herald

Although there will always be an agricultural industry in Halton, the industry will face greater difficulties in the future, said Phyllis McMaster, the outgoing Halton Agricultural representative for the province's Ministry and Food.

As the ministry's representative in Halton Ms. McMaster said she was responsible for passing along new ministry information regarding farming news. She has served in her position for the past six years, but starting Oct. 1 she will be the ministry's representative for Dundas County in Eastern Ontario.

Land use will be the number one issue for Halton's agricultural in-

dustry, said Ms. McMaster in an interview Monday. Halton Region, in setting its long term goals, must establish the necessary controls to protect good farm land if the Region's agriculture industry is to survive, she explained. Ms. McMaster also predicted area farmers need to better educate the general public about the necessity of farming in Halton.

As the urban area is fast encroaching upon the rural area, non-farming people are putting more pressure on farmers to relocate, said Ms. McMaster. The closer the general public lives to the agricultural community, explained Ms. McMaster, the less tolerant they are of the noise and smell associated with farms, she



Phyllis
McMaster

Another problem Halton farmers, along with the rest of the farming community in Ontario, face is that the children of farmers are not taking over the farm operations from their parents. This situation will only change, said Ms. McMaster, when farmers start earning more on their investment.

Ms. McMaster said she has enjoyed the cooperation shown by the area farmers in her job as the ministry's representative in Halton. "The farmers here are very progressive. And accept new technology to improve their farm business," she explained.

Editing a bi-weekly farm information newsletter for area farmers has been another highlight of her job. "It's the communication link between farmers," said Ms. McMaster. A lot of farmers call it their bible in terms of finding out about upcoming events."

Although she "really enjoyed" working in Halton, Ms. McMaster said she wants to work in more of an agricultural area.

Dundas has 368 Dairy farmers, while Halton is home to only 48 Dairy farmers, she said. "Halton is much more urbanized," she added.

Agri-Food week traditional event

TORONTO - People don't often stop to think about where their food comes from, how it's grown and exactly how it gets from the farm gate to the dinner plate. That's why many of the people in this province who are part of the complex agri-food system are busy organizing the eighth annual Agri-Food Week, traditionally held the week before Thanksgiving.

"From Sept. 30 to Oct. 6, we're asking the people of Ontario to give pause before they give thanks," said Carolyn Fuerth, a farmer and Agri-Food Week co-ordinator.

"Take a few moments to think about the remarkable network which makes it possible to enjoy Ontario turkey and all the trimmings."

"Food is big business in Ontario. Every year the agri-food system - and that includes everyone from seed companies, machinery manufacturers and farmers to food processors, waiters and check-out clerks - pumps about \$16 billion into Ontario's economy," said Fuerth.

"A business this size keeps people working. Directly and indirectly, one in five people working in Ontario is employed in the agri-food and related industries," she said.

The food produced in Ontario is world-class. We export more than \$2 billion worth of food and agricultural products around the globe each year. They are recognized for their consistently high quality, and, of course, their great taste. Ontario pork, for ex-

ample, is in great demand in Japan. When it comes to specialty items, maple syrup and wild rice are high on the list of exported delicacies.

The types and quantities of food we produce in Ontario are impressive. On 14 million acres of farmland, at least 200 different products are grown and raised. Besides the well-known crops, such as corn and cows, Ontario grows Chinese vegetables, ginseng, nuts, sunflower seeds. Ontario raises deer, pheasant, trout and even buffalo.

"Each part of the province has its own Agri-Food Week celebrations and we encourage everyone to get out and enjoy them, and to buy the Food Ontario grows," Fuerth said.

For information contact your local Federation of Agriculture, or your Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food office.

Public speakers wanted

Come and display your public speaking skills at the 1990 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair public speaking contest. Your vision of an environmentally sustainable agriculture, the farmer of the '90s or the marketing of Ontario's agricultural products are three topics you can speak about.

Sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Farm Credit Corporation, contestants aged 17 to 24 are invited to participate. Speakers must present a speech five to seven minutes long, in English or French, on one of the topics mentioned above.

Speakers will go through preliminary rounds on Sat., Nov. 17, 1990 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Trophy Room, upper level, east annex, Coliseum, at Exhibition Place in Toronto. The finals are at 7:00 p.m. the same day on the Ministry of Agriculture and Food stage, in the lower level of the east Annex in the Coliseum.

The first prize is \$300 plus an event-filled day at the ministry; second prize is \$150; and third prize is \$50. Cash prizes are awarded by the Farm Credit Corporation.

To register, contact: Ted Young, Farm Credit Corporation, Suite 201, 450 Speedvale Ave. W., Guelph, Ont. N1H 7G7, (519) 821-1330.

Registration must be postmarked by Oct. 12, 1990.

Guelph University gets equine grant

The Equine Research Centre (ERC) at the University of Guelph will receive \$150,000 from the Max Bell Foundation for research aimed at reducing lameness in horses. The grant will provide funds over two years and is conditional on the ERC advisory council raising matching funds. A total of \$300,000 will be available.

Many factors are associated with lameness in horses - one of the most common problems in the animal. The objective of the research is to examine the various training, nutrition, growth and developmental factors that appear to combine and produce changes in bones, tendons, joints and muscles, which lead to lameness of varying degrees of severity and duration.

The Max Bell Foundation's support will enable the ERC to hire a researcher and assistants to work with faculty and graduate students on the lameness project, says ERC director Russ Willoughby. "We are pleased that the foundation has taken this leading role in developing this badly needed research," he says.

The foundation was established in 1972 by George Maxwell Bell, a Canadian businessman, entrepreneur and philanthropist. He was also an internationally recognized sportsman, with a passionate interest in thoroughbreds. He bred and owned more than one classic horse and helped establish a substantial Calgary racing operation.



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