

# Agriculture Canada-Ontario committee studies farm labour

TORONTO - A project to study the supply, demand and management of year-round labor on Ontario farms is being funded by the

Canada-Ontario agricultural employment committee. The committee is formed under a memorandum of understanding

between Employment and Immigration Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The project, entitled "Human Resource Management on the Farm: Attracting, Keeping and Motivating Labor on Ontario Farms," is being conducted by Wayne Howard of the University of Guelph's agricultural economics and business department.

"The changing structure of agricultural labor, along with the shortage of skilled labor, means that farms in Ontario are finding it increasingly difficult to find and attract the labor required for their operations," says Bev Rawn, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, rural organizations and services branch.

The objectives of this study are to identify factors affecting the supply and demand of permanent agricultural labor in Ontario and to determine optimum labor management strategies for farmers. It will focus on the dairy, swine, poultry and flower industries, all primary employers of permanent labor in the agricultural sector.

The research results will be used to help the agricultural industry prepare for anticipated changes in the economy, to identify non-traditional sources of labor and to improve labor management and profitability on the farm. The research is expected to be completed by April 1991.

## Dead animals warning issued by director

TORONTO - Farmers should be aware of their responsibilities when it comes to disposal of dead animals, said Dr. John Henry, director of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's livestock inspection branch.

"Under the Dead Animals Disposal Act, farmers have two options. They are obliged to bury a dead animal under at least two-feet of earth, within 48 hours of its death, or they can have it removed by a licensed collector," Henry explained.

Under the act, "dead animal" means the carcass, or any part, of a horse, goat, sheep, swine or head of cattle.

Henry stressed that licensed collectors are not required to pick up dead animals under the act. The responsibility for disposing of the carcass of a dead animal falls solely to the farmer.

"Collectors try to give a complete service when it comes to salvageable carcasses. They rely on the income from the salvaged product to make a living," Henry explained, "but smaller dead animals such as pigs and sheep have little salvage value."

Collectors sell dead stock to a rendering or receiving plant. It is processed for hides, meat for pet food, or rendering material. The finished rendered products - tallow, grease, protein supplements, meat meal and bone meal - are sold on the commodity market, where they must compete with comparable alternate products, some of which are, at times, less costly.

Until recently, collectors did not charge a fee for picking up dead stock. However, recently reduced income from rendered by-products have prompted some collectors to ask farmers to pay for their services, said Henry.

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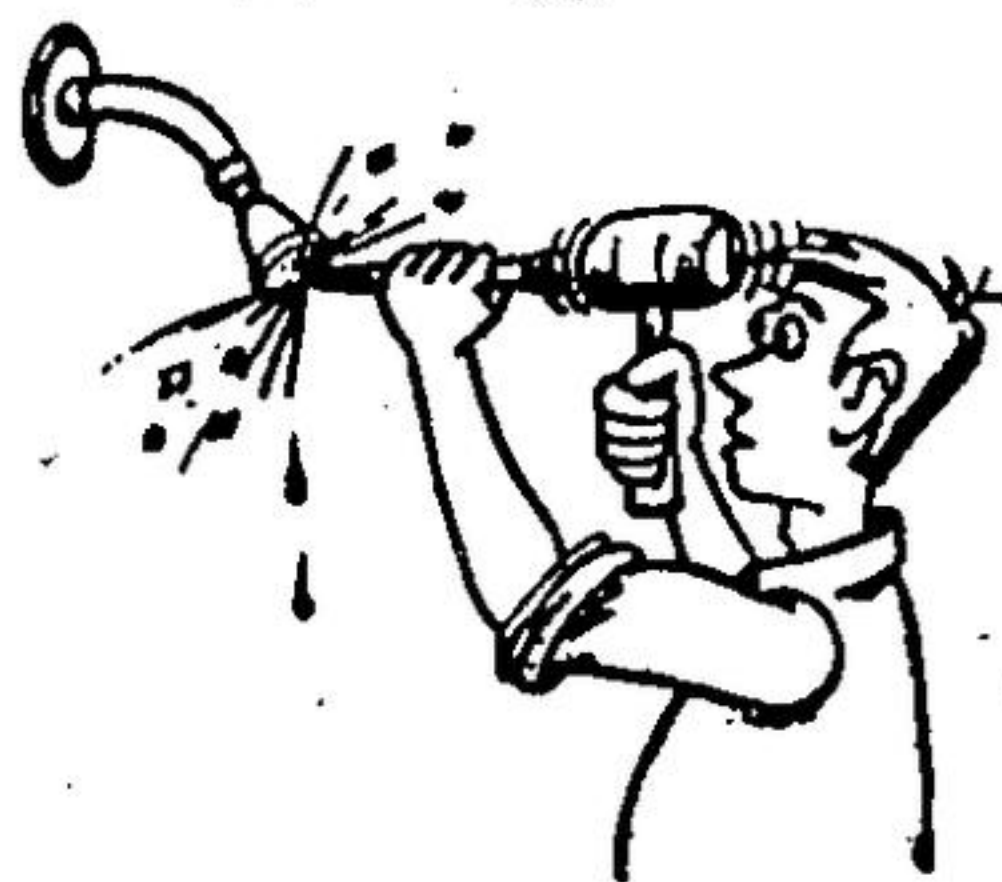
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