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Agriculture

Farmers demand federal study

By ROB SAVAGE **Thomson News Service**

MISSISSAUGA - Ontario's top farm lobby group is pushing for the creation of a federal Royal Commission to study "ex-. cessive" price hikes by retailers.

Delegates at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's annual convention endorsed the Lambton County federation's call for a study of food prices, arguing recent increases in retail prices are much greater than the increases - or decreases - to farmers.

"The farmers are being ripped off. The consumers are being ripped off," said delegate Robert Johnston, of Lambton.

During a discussion of the issue, Lambton County delegates provided copies of a recent study by Liberal MP Ralph Ferguson (Lambton-Middlesex) that showed some dramatic differences in money earned by retailers and farmers.

For example, Ferguson's study

said the retail price of crackers increased 235 per cent from 1980 to 1990, while the farmgate value of the wheat in the crackers dropped 43 per cent.

The OFA, which represents 20,000 farm families in Ontario, made the call for a Royal Commission as part of a nine-point plan for improvements endorsed at the convention in Mississauga. The resolution also calls on the federal government to:

-support and enhance producer marketing boards, agencies and commissions.

-promote environmentally sustainable agriculture.

-stop the import of food grown through pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals that cannot be used in Canada.

The call for a Royal Commission was the most tropical issue during the debate.

Some delegates worried it would create friction at a time when people in the agri-food business are trying to work together to save the industry.



No beef here

nothing to beef about at this year's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. His entry, Monteith Miss Kansas, strolled away with top honors in the 5-yearold Holstein Dairy Cow category. Pictured above in the winner's enclosure (left to right) Ontario Dairy

Jeff Nurse, a Georgetown-area farmer, had Princess Heather Macintosh of Lanark County, Monteith Miss Kansas, Jeff Nurse, David Crack from Richmond Quebec, who donated the winning trophy-a folk art milk can-and Phyllis MacMaster, co-owner of the winning entry, of Winchester, Ont., formerly a Halton resident. (Photo submitted)

OFA investigating

By ROB SAVAGE

MISSISSAUGA - The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is looking in-

Delegates at the federation's annual convention in Mississauga debated a resolution calling for opposition to Environment Minister Ruth Grier's ban on future incineration in Ontario.

But as delegates discussed the motion from Hastings County, they

tion is outdated.

He said there have been concerns in Oxford County that incineration

issue. Delegates agreed and referred the matter to the OFA's environment

take a strong stand, even if information suggests incineration is a safe method for reducing waste.

Darrell Randell, of Lambton County, said opposition to Grier's plans may appear to be an endorsement of incineration over other waste reduction methods.

Since there are concerns about incineration, the OFA might not

"There's a cloud over energy from waste."

waste incineration

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to the pros and cons of waste incineration.

questioned how much they actually know about incineration. Bill Semeniuk, of Oxford County, said some information on incinera-

could be harmful to crops and animals. The OFA shouldn't be too quick to oppose Grier's move, he said, until they know more about the

committee. However, some delegates warned that the OFA might not want to

want to risk sending that message, he said.



THE HALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION **MEETING:**

For The Election of Six Representatives To The French Language Advisory Committee

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 1991 — 8:00 P.M. —

Burlington Room - J.W. Singleton Centre 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario



Bill Harrison Chair of the Board

"Pursuing Excellence in Education Through Commitment and Service"

Bob Williams Director of Education

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