



FARM NEWS

From Halton's Farm Lands

Soil and Crop Meeting Requests Enforcement of Weed Control Act

Dr. D. N. Huntley, head of the Field Husbandry Department at the Ontario Agricultural College, in Guelph, was the special speaker at the annual meeting of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, held in Milton town hall on Wednesday of last week. Dr. Huntley spoke on crop production, dealing specifically with choice of crops in relation to present day needs; new varieties and strains of both cereals and legumes, etc. The auditorium was well filled for this thought provoking address, which will ensure the speaker of another invitation to Halton in the near future.

Perhaps the highlight of the outstanding day's program, which got underway at 10.30 a.m., was the short reports from some eight local co-operators. A brief summary of these will be of interest.

"Dates of Seeding"

In this test J. H. Willmott, Milton, R.R. 1, reported sowing his small seeds (red clover and alfalfa) on his winter wheat at four different dates, namely January 2, February 5, March 31 and May 1. Owing to the excellent moisture conditions which prevailed in April, May and June of 1953, all dates of seeding gave excellent results. Mr. Willmott, however, is sold on the advisability of sowing small seeds on winter wheat in the early part of the winter. President Fred Nurse, who presided over the meeting, reported that on his own initiative, he himself had tried out a similar test. In his case the earlier seeding gave much the better results even in a year when the rainfall for April, May and June totalled 10.8 inches.

"Erosion is Serious"

"Erosion is Serious" was the title of the report given by Art Bennett. This was based on results obtained from a one year's research project at the O.A.C. Hydrological Station, Guelph—a station which was established in 1952 on a co-operative basis between the Departments of Agricultural Engineering and Soils. The projects under study include (1) measurement of soil and water losses on a 7 per cent. slope; (2) collection and analysis of weather data; (3) irrigation investigations.

Some startling results have been revealed—seven tons of soil eroded from one acre in May, 1953—nine tons of soil and 1.6 inches of water lost from the same plot in the period May to August. This plot was seeded with oats, up and down the slope. Mr. Bennett contrasted this to another plot on the same seven per cent slope where the upper half of the plot was seeded to oats, seeded across the slope and the lower half of the plot was in hay—here there was only a trace of "water run-off" and no soil "run-off" detected. "Why the difference?" asked Mr. Bennett.

It would seem from the 1953 results that strip cropping and across the slope cultivation will do much to control soil erosion and water losses. For further details of this amazing and most interesting project, we would suggest that you secure a copy of Circular 186 at the Milton office of the Department of Agriculture. This circular is put up in a very attractive form complete with charts and pictures.

Conservation and Land Use Tour

Don Matthews, vice-president of the Halton Junior Farmers, reported on a highlight of the special course on Conservation and the Land Use Tour, sponsored by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, in which he participated this past summer. Mr. Matthews dealt with a visit made to the Alfred Leatherbarrow farm at Elora.

This particular operator, with limited capital, took over a badly rundown farm in 1946. This farm, stated Mr. Matthews, is rolling and the soil type, chiefly blow sand. As a result of grassland farming, etc., the operator has been able to increase the production capacity of the farm 500 per cent. "At the time we were there," reported Don, "the farm was carrying around 50 head of beef cattle, 100 hogs, a laying flock of 1200 and 1000 pullets. Grass silage is a specialty and is fed not only to the cattle but to the poultry and market hogs." Reference was also made by Don to the farm records kept at the Leatherbarrow farm—the conveyor belt which conveys grass silage from the trench silo to the feed rack or manger in the loafing barn, etc.

Stacking Grass Silage

Fred Bell of Burlington R.R. 2, reported on their experience in stacking chopped grass silage. Utilizing snow fence, he reported that after filling their upright silo, they built a stack about 22 feet in diameter and 12 feet high. Paper was used on the inside of the snow fence—cut straw and agricultural limestone on top. Mr. Bell reported little spoilage on top but stated that the air had got into it rather badly on the sides and resulted in a loss of nearly one-quarter of the silage. The stack, however, carried their 60 head of Holsteins until the latter part of December and under the conditions which existed in 1953—when due to weather conditions it had been impossible to make hay, the experiment had been worthwhile.

Additional reports by four other co-operators will be dealt with in a future article.

Request Enforcement of Weed Control Act

Following a review of the weed situation by Agricultural Representative J. E. Whitlock, the meeting unanimously passed a resolution requesting the Committee on Agricultural and Reforestation of the Halton County Council enforce the Weed Control Act in Halton County in 1954.

Panel Discussion

Chaired by J. E. Whitlock, a panel composed of Dr. D. N. Huntley, Professor N. J. Thomas, Wilfred Schneller, New Hamburg, vice-president of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, George S. Atkins and W. E. Breckon, dealt with a multiplicity of soil and crop problems. This type of program as usual was popular with the members of the large audience who took advantage of the opportunity to "fire" questions at the panel members.

Fred Nurse Re-Elected President

The newly elected directorate for the coming year is as follows: Past President—C. F. Pickett. President—Fred Nurse. Vice-President—Ross Segsworth. Secretary-Treasurer—J. E. Whitlock.

Directors: Esqueuing — T. J. Brownridge, John M. Bird and Robert Miller. Nassagaweya—J. H. McPhail, Robert Hurren and W. R. G. Johnson. Nelson — Fred Bell and W. E. Breckon. Trafalgar—George S. Atkins, M. C. Beatty, C. H. Lawrence and J. H. Willmott.

Plan for Seed Fair

At a meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors, Saturday, March 13th was selected as the date for the annual County Seed Fair. Owing to the fact that the auditorium of the Milton town hall is being used as a classroom to accommodate the overflow from the Milton public school, present plans call for exhibits being received the previous evening.

Farm Machinery Should Be Checked

Farm machines are now idle after being used during the past year, and troubles encountered during last season's operations are still fresh in mind. Now is the time to check each machine thoroughly, order needed parts, and see that it is properly stored for the winter.

The following points are suggested by Professor C. G. E. Downing, Head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering, O.A.C., Guelph, as a guide in carrying out this check-up:

(1) Check main frame for loose or missing bolts and bent or broken braces. A broken bolt next spring may mean not only the loss of time but the loss of a crop. Many broken parts, such as frame braces, should be repaired by acetylene or electric welding. If repairs are not practical order new parts.

(2) Clean the machine thoroughly. Caked mud and grease may cover worn or broken parts, and also help to retain moisture which will rust the part which is covered. Fertilizer distributors should be given particular attention and in some cases may have to be disassembled for thorough cleaning.

(3) Lubricate thoroughly. Clean out all oil holes and grease fittings and give the machine a thorough lubrication. Thus, all delicate bearing surfaces are given a protective coating which will stop rust and corrosion. Chains should be removed and dipped in oil, then put back on, but not tightened.

(4) Protect all polished metal parts, such as plow moldboards, binder knoter parts and knives, with a coating of oil or grease. Even in the best implement sheds the air

is laden with moisture, which will cause unprotected parts to rust and deteriorate.

(5) Remove all belts and canvases and store them in a cool, dry, dark place. Rubber-tired wheels should

New Procedure To Convert Washer

Ontario Hydro in its search for more convenient and economical standardization methods has evolved a new procedure in connection with certain models of direct drive washing machines.

Announcing this today, Hydro Chairman Robert H. Saunders stated that while it has always been hydro practice to change over belt-driven washing machines on customers' premises, all direct drive washing machines were, until recently, taken to hydro workshops for conversion to 60 cycle operation.

The direct drive type of appliance has to be almost completely dismantled for changeover, the gear case removed and the oil drained and it was originally considered that this operation could be more efficiently carried out in a workshop. But following a series of tests, Hydro engineers are now satisfied that many types of direct drive washers can be changed over right in customers' homes.

Any machining work which may be necessary to the washer will be done in a mobile workshop located in the customer's area.

Chairman Saunders said the great advantage of this new arrangement is that many direct drive washers will be available for use on the actual cutover day, in some cases within two or three hours of the switch to the higher

frequency. Under the former system customers were without the use of their washers for several days while changeover was being effected in hydro workshops, but now this inconvenience to customers will be eliminated to a large extent. The commission will also be saved the cost of transporting the appliance from the home to the workshop and back again.

During the remaining period of the program, it is estimated that it will be practicable to change over in customers' homes some 150,000 direct drive washing machines of various types.

Mr. Saunders said conversion procedures are under constant review by hydro engineers and technicians and this new method is a successful example of an innovation which will give better service to hydro customers and at the same time reduce the cost of standardizing these appliances.

Patient—But doc, how long have I got to lie here?
Doctor (cheerfully)—Only a day at a time.

Poet's Corner

A LITTLE WALK AROUND YOURSELF

When you're criticizing others
And are finding here and there
A fault or two to speak of,
Or a weakness you can tear;
When you're blaming someone's
weakness,
Or accusing some of pelt—
It's time that you went out
To take a walk around yourself.
There are lots of human failures
In the average of us all;
And lots of grave shortcomings
In the short ones and the tall;
But when we think of evils
Men should lay upon the shelves—
It's time we all went out
To take a walk around ourselves.
We need so often in this life
This balancing of scales;
This seeing how much in us wins
And how much in us fails;
But before you judge another
Just to lay him on the shelf—
It would be a splendid plan
To take a walk around yourself.

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Lushus Jelly	Powders 3 PKGS.	29c
PUDDING POWDERS	Shirriff's 3 PKGS.	29c
Marmalade	Chirriff's Good Morning	27c, 47c
HEINZ SPAGHETTI	2 15-OZ. TINS	31c
With Cheese and Tomato		
PIE FILLINGS	WARE'S PACKAGE	15c
Mil-ko	Powdered Skimmed Milk 1-LB. PKG.	35c
Macaroni	Ready Cut or Shell 2 LBS.	23c
NEW CHEESE	LB.	44c
MARGARINE	SOLO EXTRA SPECIAL 2 LBS.	47c
Nugget Shoe Polish	Tin	15c
Palmolive Soap	Sm. Bar 9c, 2 Bath Size	27c
FAB or VEL	LG. PKG. 40c, Giant PKG.	77c
MODESS,	PKG.	40c, 98c
Brock's Bird Seed	PKG.	25c
BIRD GRAVEL	BROCK'S Package	18c
PIONEER SLICED WHITE Bread	24-OZ. LOAF	15c
TOMATOES	Florida U.S. No. 1 Cello Pkg.	19c
GRAPEFRUIT	Marsh Seedless U.S. No. 1, Size 96	6 for 29c
GRAPES	U.S. No. 1 Emperors	2 lbs. 33c
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TEXAS CARROTS	2 Bunches	21c

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