

# Farm accident toll rising

Fewer farmers work faster to produce more food than ever before. Many of them are hurrying themselves to death because they sacrifice safety in the name of speed.

Farm accidents have risen on a per capital basis parallel with the intensification of mechanization. In 1951, a Canadian farm population of 2,892,000 operated 399,600 tractors. Dominion Bureau of Statistics projections show that the farm population had decreased to 1,852,000 in 1969 but tractors had increased to 627,000.

The tractor is the heart of the farm production operation. The operator is the brain. A Royal Commission on Agriculture study showed 78 per cent of farm machinery fatalities involved tractors. The failure of the operator, often fatigued and under stress because of weather, accounts for some 90 per cent of farm machinery accidents. Studies show two-thirds of tractor accidents take place in mid-afternoon or late afternoon.

**Children are victims**  
But the victims are often children. Youngsters under the age of five, most of them run over, account for 12 per cent of farm machinery deaths. Those under 10 account for 20 per cent of these fatalities.

The protection of Canada's future farmers is a worthy goal for Farm Safety Week 1970 running from July 25 to 31. In its campaign, the Canada Safety Council in co-operation with the Canadian Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute urges farmers to help reduce these tragedies by refusing to take children along for rides on tractors. They will be shrill and insistent but the answer should be a firm no.

This is a safety must on rural highways. Firstly, tractors are not designed for highway travel. In the second place, rural highways are

extremely dangerous. One-third of tractor deaths take place on public roads.

In 1969, 29 per cent of total accidents took place in rural areas inhabited by some 10 per cent of the population. But they accounted for 74.5 per cent of traffic deaths and 42.4 per cent of injuries. A third of the people involved in these accidents are rural residents, giving them a much higher per-capita death and accident rate than urban residents.

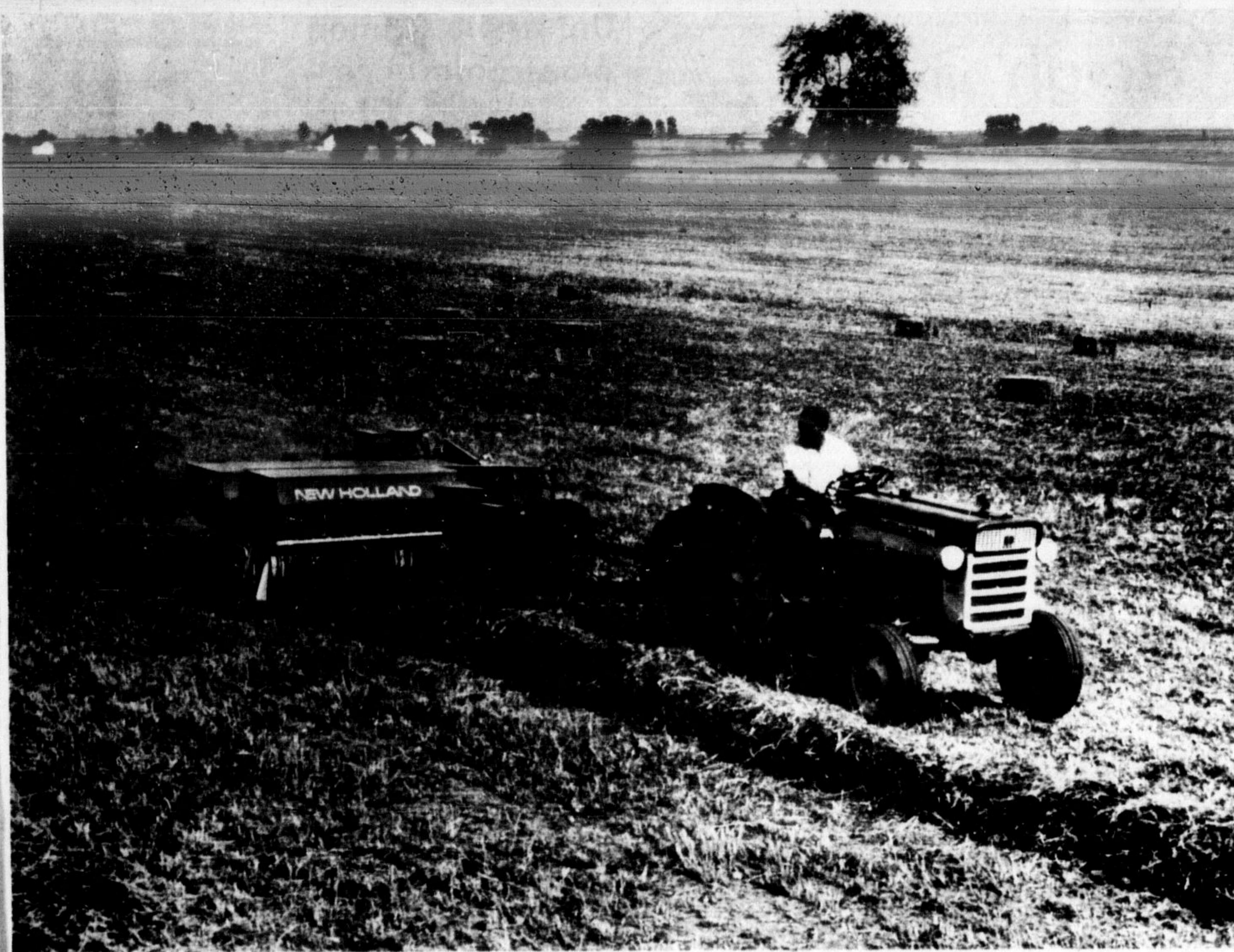
### Fires are pinpointed

Another major cause of farm deaths is fires. Of the more than 200 annual farm fire fatalities, more than half of the victims are children. Ways to reduce these deaths are identifying the main hazards and fixing faulty equipment. The main causes of farm fire deaths are defective chimneys, chimney sparks on inflammable roofs, unsafe stoves, furnace installations, inadequate lightning protection, improper use of electricity and misuse of gasoline and kerosene.

Children should be protected from exposure to chemicals by keeping them away from mixing, dusting or pesticide spraying areas.

Farm children live in a dangerous environment. The death rate of farm residents is 20 per cent higher than for the nation as a whole. More than 1,300 farm residents will die accidentally this year, too many of them children.

It's up to Canada's farmers to plan safety the way they plan crops in order to reduce the heavy toll taken by farm accidents, especially accidental child deaths and injuries.



THE FARMER'S MODERN WORKHORSE...or his deathtrap? This week, July 25 to 31, is Farm Safety Week in Canada and the Canadian Safety Council emphasizes that the tractor, the heart of the farm operation, is involved in 78 per cent of farm machinery fatalities. It's a

tranquil scene as the tractor and combine bale the hay but there are so many hazards that could turn this tranquil scene into a calamity. "Plan safety the way you plan crops" is the Safety Council's advice.

## 4-H Club travels to Science Centre

By H. Cook

The Kiwanis Club of the Kingsway again sponsored the Halton 4-H bus trip to Toronto. The trip consisted of a full day at

the Science Centre. There were 37 4-H'ers and six leaders in attendance. The trip was enjoyed by everyone, but everyone had one regret—they didn't have enough time to see it all.

## Enroll 94 herds on high performances

By H. J. Stanley

A total of 94 dairy herds in Halton County were enrolled on Record of Performance during 1969. The Holstein breed accounted for 71 of these records. Fred Nurse of R.R. 2, Georgetown had the high herd average for Holsteins with 19 records of 15,631 lbs. of milk, 592 lbs. of fat, 3.79 per cent test.

This gives a breed class average of 149 per cent for milk and 153 per cent for fat. Runner-up was the winner for the previous two years, Claude F. Pickett of R.R. 2, Georgetown. His 23 records averaged 15,264 lbs. of milk, 600 lbs. of fat, for B.C.A.'s of 140 and 150.

**Outstanding type**  
Both the above herds have outstanding type as well as production as indicated by their show-ring winnings in past years. In third position was the herd of Howard Tarzwell, R.R. 2, Georgetown, with B.C.A.'s of 144 and 145. Fourth was J. C. Reid, R.R. 2, Georgetown, B.C.A.'s of 139 and 145. Fifth W. F. Laidlaw, R.R. 2, Norval 138 and 141.

For the Jersey breed, with 15

herds, Fred Nurse also had the top average with six records averaging 146 B.C.A. for milk and 139 for butter fat. Ken Ella and Sons, Hornby, had 27 records averaging 140 and 138 B.C.A.'s. Next was Mrs. S. L. E. Harper, Georgetown, with 24 records 136 and 131 B.C.A.'s.

### 22 records

The winner in the seven Guernsey herds was Alton Gunby, Burlington—22 records with B.C.A.'s of 158 and 142. Runners-up were J. Y. McNabb, R.R. 2, Georgetown with 16 records—B.C.A.'s of 134 and 135 and Mel McCullough, R.R. 2, Acton with 17 records—B.C.A.'s of 134 and 133.

Allan Patterson Milton was top in the Dual Purpose Shorthorn section with 14 records averaging 154 and 144 B.C.A.'s.

## Champion Farm Page

### Sheep management must be improved

By H. J. Stanley

The future of the sheep industry was discussed in detail at the Ontario Sheep Breeders' and Producers' Annual Field Day held on Wednesday, July 22 at the Shur-Gain Research Farm, Maple, Ontario.

Members of the Halton 4-H Sheep Club, and several sheep breeders from the county, were part of the 400 persons attending the event.

### More gain

Dr. Beck of Michigan stated

that all sheep breeders should have a goal to produce the maximum number of pounds of lamb per ewe on a year-round profitable basis. He stated that management must be improved if sheep are to become profitable. Less emphasis should be placed on breed characteristics—shape of the ear, etc., and there must be more emphasis on how the lambs are going to gain, amount of lean meat in the carcass, etc. Lambs should be sent to market by the time they reach

four months of age rather than keeping them around for eight or more months. Dr. Beck stated that 70 million dollars is lost by sheep raisers in the U.S. each year through lamb mortality. This is the number one problem in the sheep industry—not parasites or dogs as some may suggest.

The successful sheep raiser must cut down losses at lambing time.

—Halton MP Rud Whiting has been spending part of his summer holiday time visiting constituents in Milton and the riding.

## 150 attend beef meet

By H. Cook

The Peel-Halton Beef Producers held their Twilight Meeting on Thursday, July 23 at the farm of Allan Cook in Burlington.

Mr. Cook gave a tour of his feedlot and then the group guessed the weights of a pen of steers and a pen of heifers. The main part of the program consisted of a lively panel discussion on new marketing trends. The panel was made up of a representative from the independent grocery stores, a representative from the chain stores, a representative from the meat packers' council and a representative from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. Henry Stanley, Agricultural Representative, acted as moderator.

Following the discussion there was entertainment and a lunch of beef-on-a-bun.

There were about 150 people in attendance.

# Your most useful servant can cripple or kill you.

Tractors, combines, balers, corn pickers and other machines have made farmers much more efficient.

But the increasing use of machinery has been paralleled by a frightening increase in farm accidents.

- More Canadians are killed in farming than in any other single industry.
- The accident rate on farms is 20% above the national average.
- Accidental deaths involving farm machines have doubled over the last 10 years.
- 20% of all persons killed in farm accidents are under the age of 10.

### But machines do not cause accidents. Farmers do.

- Less than 5% of farm accidents are caused by mechanical failure.
- More than 93% are caused by carelessness.

A thoughtless act, refusal to use safety features like tractor roll bars and power take-off shields, and allowing children to operate, ride on or play near machinery are among the principal causes of farm accidents.

July 25th to 31st is Farm Safety Week and your Workmen's Compensation Board urges you to farm safely this week and every week.

### Farmers Covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act

All farm employees have been compulsorily covered by Workmen's Compensation since 1966 and more than \$7,000,000 has been paid in compensation and medical aid benefits.

Farmers desiring information about the Act should mail this coupon.

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