

# Farm accident rate too high

"Concern for farm safety has lagged behind industrial safety concerns in most of the countries of the world," says Hal Wright, Farm Safety Specialist with the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

Speaking at the 47th annual meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, North Atlantic Region, held recently at the University of Guelph, Mr. Wright pointed out that in 1960, the death rate due to farm accidents was 27 per 100,000 farm population. This figure was arrived at as a result of a comprehensive survey carried out by the department to see where farm accidents occur. The motor vehicle death rate was 26 per 100,000. "Since we all agree our

highway fatalities are too high, we must concede that our farm accident rate is also too high," said Mr. Wright.

**Laws not enough**  
One way to reduce farm fatalities is to introduce safety legislation, suggested Mr. Wright. "However, it appears that the restrictive measures alone do not reduce the accident rate. The importance of safety legislation is to provide a more uniform educational program which can reduce the number and severity of farm accidents."

As an example of such legislation, Mr. Wright used the "slow moving vehicle" sign, mandatory in a number of provinces. In Ontario, its use has not reduced car-tractor accidents. It has, however, reduced the severity of these accidents. Each year, there are approximately 275 car-tractor accidents, causing \$200,000 in property damage. But fatalities have declined. There were 10 in 1967, 5 in 1968, and 1 in 1969.

This indicates, said Mr. Wright, that the slow moving vehicle sign identifies a farm vehicle from a greater distance, enabling the motorist to reduce his speed.

—Support the Pakistan Relief Fund in Milton. Personal donations are being accepted at Canada Trust offices.

## Barbecue caution

This is still the season of the barbecue and many of us will be enjoying all the outdoor cooking we can before the cool weather sets in. If you're using an electric spit, be sure it has a three wire cord and outlet. The grass or patio may be damp these days and an ordinary two-wire cord provides no shock protection. Electrical outdoor appliances particularly need that third wire grounding.



THE CORN IS TALL across Halton and crops are reported to be excellent by most growers. This self-propelled forage harvester chops the entire corn stalk into fine-cut silage, ready for silo storage.

# Champion Farm Page

## Cattle feeder is farmer OBIA tells government

There have been recent renewed attempts on the part of tax assessors of the Department of National Revenue and Taxation to establish that a cattle feeder or feedlot operator is not a farmer, reports G. W. Hedley, Secretary-Manager of the Ontario Beef Improvement Association. "This is a most serious situation," continues Mr. Hedley, "for if this interpretation is upheld farmers who feed cattle will lose the five year averaging provisions that are so essential in farming. We believe this interpretation is completely unjustified and are appealing to the proper authorities for clarification that a cattle feeder is a farmer."

The assessors have interpreted that the phrase "livestock

raising" in the Income Tax Act definition of farming refers only to the breeding operation insofar as livestock production is concerned. This narrow definition excludes such established farming operations as the feeding of cattle and hogs. There is no valid basis for this restrictive and arbitrary definition since the cattle and hog feeders are exposed to at least the same degree, to the vagaries of climate, markets and the agricultural economy as are other types of livestock operations.

**Force bond**  
At this time at least one farmer in the Ottawa Valley has received an assessment for further tax from the federal department on the basis that he has used the averaging provision. This farmer has been forced to post a bond in the amount of the assessment before he will even be granted an appeal hearing to establish his case.

The Ontario Beef Improvement Association will attempt to clarify once and for all that a cattle feeder is a farmer.

—Champion classifieds will make your telephone ring. Try them and see.

—Invite your friends to Milton Fair, Sept. 24-25.

## Pickering tops match

By Hugh Cook

The Halton Junior Plowing Match was held on Saturday, Sept. 11, on the farm of Lloyd Pickering on the corner of Trafalgar Rd. and Burnhamthorpe Rd. in Oakville.

There were three competitors this year, all plowing in the senior section. The placings were the same in both the regular and utility classes. Harley Pickering of Oakville placed first, coached by his father, Lloyd Pickering; Murray Breckon, Burlington, placed second, coached by his father, John Breckon; Jeanie Wilson, Norval, placed third, coached by her father, Spencer Wilson.

The Judge for the 1971 match was J. R. Hargraves.

Harley Pickering and Murray Breckon will be the team representing Halton at the International Plowing Match to be held Oct. 12-16 in Haldimand County.

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## Farmers gaining allies in education tax battle

Ontario farmers have gained some allies in their fight against education tax on property. Last week at a Toronto news conference spokesmen for six major organizations, including Ontario Federation of Agriculture, declared their agreement that the present system of education financing must be replaced by a more equitable one, with taxes based on an ability-to-pay basis.

The other organizations were the Ontario Federation of Cottagers' Associations, Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto, Metro Tax Reform Council, Metro Toronto Residents and Ratepayers Associations and the United Senior Citizens of Ontario.

**Open conference**  
The six organizations—going under the name, the Education Tax Reform Announced a conference to be held at the Town Hall, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, Toronto, on Thursday, Sept. 23, beginning at 8 p.m. The conference will study the problem of education taxes based on property assessment.

"This is a public meeting," Ontario Federation of Agriculture President Gordon Hill explained to the reporters. "No one, whether he's a farmer, cottage owner, senior citizen, union member or homeowner, who is concerned about education financing is invited to attend."

This conference is part of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's continuing campaign to have education taxes removed from property. Last year, after many Ontario farmers withheld the education portion of their property taxes,

the Ontario government yielded by granting farmers a 25 per cent rebate on their property taxes.

**Need basic reform**  
But according to OFA's Hill, this wasn't enough. "We're sick and tired of rebates and refunds. What we need is a basic reform of the system of financing education. Instead of a taxation system based on property assessment we need a system based on a person's ability to pay."

In April the Ontario Federation of Agriculture presented its proposal for education tax reform to the Ontario government. This proposal suggested a special education

levy on income, amounting to 3.27 per cent on personal taxable income and 11.61 per cent on corporate taxable income. This special tax would be a deductible expense for farmers.

"Our proposal is only one of several being discussed by organizations and political parties," Hill said. "We're not certain ours is the right alternative. But we are sure that the education tax on property is the wrong one. That's why we must act now—before the provincial general election—in order to change the system."

The province presently contributes about 55 per cent to the cost of education. Local municipalities must raise the balance—\$738 million last year—by means of education taxes on property.

## List top judges in 4-H contests

By Hugh Cook

The Halton County Judging Competition was held on Aug. 5, 1971. There was a different approach taken this year in that the seed judging and livestock judging were both held on the same day. It proved a very successful day, ending with a corn and wiener roast at Hornby Park.

The results of the livestock judging were as follows: Les McDonald of Georgetown was the highest scoring competitor in the intermediate group and also the champion livestock judge; Cathy Lasby, Rockwood, was the champion dairy judge; Janet Henderson, Georgetown, was the

champion swine judge; Keith McKinnon, Milton was the champion sheep judge; Bob Lasby, Rockwood, was the champion horse judge; Rob Murray, Acton, was the high novice judge, thus winning the C.N.E. Shield.

Ken McNabb of Georgetown had an exceptionally good day in both Livestock and Seed Judging.

He won the following trophies: champion beef judge, cash crop trophy, coarse grains trophy, Royal Bank trophy for high score in seed judging, and the Norval Junior Farmer's trophy for high livestock and seed judging scores combined.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

(Continued from Page B1)

### MEDICAL AUTHORITIES SPEAK AGAINST FLUORIDE

Dear Sir:

It is my contention that before we put fluoride in our drinking water, we should first weigh the facts of competent medical authority. I am sure you will agree that an expressed opinion must be based on complete information.

The following information taken from the July 1969 issue of the medical journal, Canadian Doctor, is written by Dr. K. A. Baird, contributing editor of Canadian Doctor.

"Many thought thalidomide was safe. It wasn't. Before you let your M.D. be used to support fluoridation of drinking water as safe for everybody, should you not be able to answer the following questions affirmatively. Have I read one scientific article about medical aspects of fluoridation? Do proponents of this mass medication have all the known facts? Have they done any real research on possible harmful effects?"

"According to many prominent scientists, biochemists, enzymologists, medical doctors and dentists, the answer is NO.

"They have evidence that fluoridation of public water supplies is wrong. In 1966 about 200 such persons in London signed a letter, one paragraph of which stated: "It is our opinion that published research has shown clearly that the toxic effects of fluorides, even in trace quantities, are such that fluoridated drinking water may be harmful, or even dangerous, to many people, particularly in its long term effects, which have not been sufficiently investigated, and that it is therefore quite wrong to force everyone to consume artificially fluoridated water."

They suggested that children can be given measured individual doses, on medical prescription only. Other groups report similarly. For example: the International Society for Research on Nutrition and Vital Substances and Diseases of Civilization which has members from 76 countries, including six Nobel Prize winners, and a scientific council of 400 distinguished members, and is totally independent of government, industry, or special interest groups. In 1967 and again in 1968 this group's resolution 39 recommends that all governments "should refrain from fluoridating drinking water, which measure is actually a medication, as long as the scientific aspects of this problem are not satisfactorily clarified."

Hundreds of scientific reports show fluoride as a selective and cumulative poison. Notes on only a few follow.

Eight drug companies warn that their tablets containing one mg. of fluoride can cause skin, stomach, bowel and nervous disorders, headache, vomiting, exzema atopic dermatitis, urticaria, and delayed eruption of teeth. The F.D.A. in the United States allows these to be dispensed only by prescription. Fourteen years of controlled study showed one per cent of cases had one or more of the above disorders. (Feltman and Kosel).

Increased incidence of mongoloid births in fluoridated communities (Rapaport), has been corroborated by French workers.

Acceleration of transplanted tumor growth in mice by minute quantities of fluoride has been noted. (Taylor, 1966).

A time lapse film is available showing damage to animal cells caused by one part fluoride in 20 million.

Use of fluoridated, Ottawa city water in artificial kidney machines was ac-

companied by certain bone diseases, spontaneous fractures, weak muscles, nerve irritation and vague tetabolic disorder (Posen, January 1969). Improvement was prompt when fluoride-free water was used. Similar observations by Taves (Rochester, 1965). These illustrate the cumulative tendency of fluoride.

Mouth ulcers from fluoridated water, and toothpastes were found (Douglas, Shea, and others, using controlled tests).

Blood in stool, gastric hemorrhage, gastritis and spastic bowel due to fluoride ingestion (Shea, Gillespie, Waldbott, Fradam Montesana, and others).

Investigators have also shown: urine may show only relatively small amounts of fluoride in persons very ill from fluorosis. It accumulates in bones and soft tissues. Less than 40 pp billion of fluoride in the air can cause illness within a few months in persons exposed to emanation from factories. Fluoride gas enters green leaves of all growing plants and may build up to 1,000 ppm. Medical life near aluminum and phosphate factories is usually adversely affected.

Superintendents of waterworks have reported increased corrosion of water mains, hot water tanks, etc. from fluoride, and have stated that fluoride fluctuates greatly in the lines. The average person in a fluoridated city takes in two to five mg. of fluoride per day, not just one. (Rose and Marier, Ottawa). Persons with polydypsia and manual laborers get much more. But even many fluoridationists recognize that two mg. is toxic. Excessive thirst from fluoridated water causes some to drink even more.

Medical dental associations have done no scientific research whatever into the effects of fluorides on the human body such as toxicology or allergenicity. An official of the American Medical Association has so stated.

Professor H. A. Schweigart, president of the International Society for Research on Civilization Diseases and Vital Substances, seems to have summed the matter up in an article in April 1969. "Apart from progressive fluorosis, an exact diagnosis of damage introduced by fluoride is very difficult to make because the effects of the damage are mostly uncharacteristic, for example: recurrent headache, stiffness and pain in the lower vertebral column, severe fatigue, stomach and intestinal disturbances, dryness of the throat with excessive thirst, minor injuries in the mucous tissue, various manifestations of the skin, irritation of the bladder, loss of memory and mental acuity, visual disturbances caused by changes of the retina, damage of the kidneys, variety of allergic reactions, and irreversible damage of the dental enamel. "Uncharacteristic indispositions and diseases are especially dangerous because they involve a permanent injury to the power of resistance of the organism which depends on undisturbed enzymatic processes. In spite of clear evidence of this lasting injury to the vital system of the organism by fluoride in trace concentration, quite apart from ignorance of long-term damage, wide circles of doctors and dentists - even organizations for nutritional science - unwisely demand, now as before, the fluoridation of drinking water."

It is most significant that a qualified medical man such as Dr. Baird should present such a devastating analysis of some of the medical objections to fluoridation of public water supplies. Our own opposition to the measure has been based on our opposition to compulsory mass medication and our belief that the individual should have freedom of choice - freedom to choose what he takes into his own body.

The present concern over the progressive pollution of our natural resources, the ill effects of which are just beginning to be comprehended, makes Dr. Baird's words extremely timely.

Yours truly,  
Bruce Dingman,  
Box 12, Milton.

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