

Keep cows cool



Nancy champion judge in Halton-Peel clubs

By Mark Leahy
Nancy McKinnon of R.R. 1, Milton scored 659 points out of a possible 700 to top the livestock section of the Halton-Peel 4-H Judging Competition held at Milton fairgrounds on Thursday, June 29. Nancy will receive trophies for Champion livestock judge, Champion beef judge, Champion sheep judge and Champion horse judge.

Shorthorn heifer class provided by S. G. Bennett of Georgetown; a Hereford bull class provided by Graham and Evelyn Gillies of Milton; a Percheron mare class provided by Bill and Lloyd Stokes of Campbellville; a standardbred horse class courtesy of trainers at Milton fairgrounds; a two-year-old Guernsey class provided by Ken and John McNabb of Georgetown; a four-year-old Holstein class provided by Jack Proud of Oakville; a crossbred gilt class provided by Art Lawson of Milton; a ram lamb class and ewe lamb class provided by Henry Stanley of Rockwood; a barley class and haylage class provided by John Nurse and Kaj Hansen; and a farm safety quiz courtesy of Ted

Whitworth, Farm Safety Farm Safety representative. Placings in the three sections for Halton are as follows: Junior, 1st, Rob Leriche; 2nd, Cheryl Robinson; 3rd, Danny Wickson; 4th, Keith Middlebrook; 5th tie, Ginny Carson and Doug McCann; 7th, Janet Barnes; 8th, Amanda unica; 9th, Suzanne Wingrove; and 10th, Randy Proud. Intermediate, 1st, Kim Peddie; 2nd, Eartha May; 3rd, Richard Stanley; 4th, Ellen Hurren; 5th, Murray Royce; 6th, Valerie Scott; 7th, Ruth Gillies; 8th, Heidi Stadler; 9th, Tie, Karen Stanley and Kelly Oversby. Senior, 1st, Nancy McKinnon; 2nd, Holly Hurren; 3rd, Mary-Jean Robinson; 4th tie, Marilyn McNabb, Randy Peddie and Marie Murray; 7th, Dale Wickson; 8th, Frank Robinson; 9th, Randy Fish; and 10th, Bill Robinson.

Heat reduces conception

Extremely high temperatures and humidity can reduce conception rates in dairy cattle, according to an Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food dairy cattle specialist. Blair Murray says cattle, especially lactating cows, are very susceptible to heat stress because they have a limited ability to adjust to high environmental temperatures. "Heat stress has been shown to affect a cow's performance when temperatures reach 27 degrees C or more. During periods of high relative humidity, symptoms of heat stress may appear at temperatures as low as 24 to 25 degrees C." Heat stress seems to affect cows in a number of ways. Cows usually become less active and the length of the estrus (heat) period is reduced. Mr. Murray says the shorter estrus period makes it more difficult for producers to determine the correct time for insemination of the cow. "Even if the cow is inseminated at the correct time, the probability of conception is reduced if the cow is suffering from heat stress." To reduce the effects of heat stress on cattle, Mr. Murray recommends several simple and inexpensive management procedures. Allow cattle access to a shaded, relatively cool area during the day. Observe cattle more frequently to determine the time of estrus. To maximize conception rates, Mr. Murray suggests moving cows and heifers to a cool, quiet place nine to 12 hours before insemination. This gives the cows' bodies time to normalize after being exposed to heat. Without this period of adjustment, the chance of conception at breeding is reduced. Cows should not be returned to a hot, stressful environment for several hours after breeding. Following these recommendations will help protect the herd from effects of heat stress and will result in improved reproductive performance through the summer months.

Rising cost of beef aids poultry business

By Linda Kirby
Barbecued steaks may still be the number one favorite for summer outdoor eating, but rising beef prices are convincing many consumers to consider other meats for their barbecue grill. One meat that is steadily increasing in popularity is chicken, and if beef prices are frustrating steak eaters, chicken demand is making some local chicken farmers quite happy.

"The demand goes up and down," he said, "but in my opinion, people prefer beef, and it is only the price that is driving many people to buy chicken." High beef prices or not, Mr. Martin's business has grown during the last nine years, since he took over the farm from his father. Last Christmas, he suffered a major setback, though, when fire destroyed a barn. "Things have been tough for the past two years, he stated. There are a number of chicken farmers in the area, and chicken production is constantly going up and down, he said. He is now producing more, to keep level with costs which have risen significantly. Although chicken can never be expected to be as expensive as beef, the price of birds has gone up steadily, he admitted.

Feed prices are one reason for the increase. Mr. Martin estimates his feed costs have risen approximately 15 per cent in the last year, "and it is nice to be able to sell more." Expanding to keep level with rising costs is not always simple, he explained, owing to marketing board restrictions. Depending upon the size of a farmer's barn and the present market for chicken, limits are set on what a farmer may produce. But Mr. Martin is not complaining. The present situation is favorable for him and he is now allowed to have 32,000 chickens. Mr. Martin produces what is termed "broiler chickens," a bird of approximately five pounds. He buys the chicks when they are one day old and feeds them for the next six months, until they are large enough for meat cuts. The birds are then sold to Maple Lodge, a poultry processor in Norval, and the whole operation begins all over again. Mr. Martin is unable to predict what chicken market there will be in the next few months or year, but states chicken prices are only up right now because of a beef shortage. He is not worried though, and hopes to expand his business even further within the next few years. He is looking ahead to five years from now when he will have 60,000 chickens under his roofs.

Type demonstration given on Jersey cow

The July meeting for the Halton 4-H Senior Dairy Calf Club was held at Rock Ella Farm. The meeting opened promptly at 8 p.m. with the 4-H pledge led by Bill Robinson, president of the club. The roll was called by Kim Wingrove, the secretary. Each member was required to state the birth date of their 4-H calf. The minutes of the last meeting were given by Kim Wingrove and adopted as read by Mary-Jean Robinson and seconded by Holly Hurren.

We discussed several upcoming events. There will be a fun day for us to get to know all the other members, also a ball game and a barbecue. On Wednesday, July 12 there is a judging competition for anyone in the county who is not a prominent judge. Anyone who is interested should contact the agricultural office in Milton. The meeting was handed over to Jim Livock who gave a type demonstration on an excellent scored Jersey cow owned by Lorne Ella. A class of four-year-old Jersey cows was judged by all the members, with each giving reasons to follow. The official placing was given by Jim Livock, followed by many questions on the placing. Isn't it true we learn through our mistakes? Mark Leahy gave a lesson, followed by a short quiz. Kim Wingrove called for the marks which were recorded. The next meeting was discussed by Jim Livock. We may each bring a calf to the fair grounds where we will practice showing and clipping. There will be a lesson on how to make a rope halter. The meeting was closed by Marilyn McNabb, seconded by Ellen Hurren. Donna Stewart thanked Mr. and Mrs. Ella for having us to their farm. The meeting finished with a delicious lunch.

Correction on obituary

There was an error in the obituary story on Robert T. Crozier of Milton, published in last week's Champion. Mr. Crozier's brother Harry of Milton was listed as deceased, but this was an error. The Champion regrets any embarrassment the error may have caused.

Farm safety

Shut off machine to clean, inspect

The Canada Safety Council receives many reports of accidents resulting in loss of a hand, a finger, a leg, an eye or even life, despite the fact that most farm machinery is now equipped with protective safety shields and warning decals.

Many farm machinery accidents occur as a result of the operator inspecting or unclogging the machine before shutting it off completely, or from operating the machine without the proper shielding in place.

The Canada Safety Council believes that properly installed protective guards can effectively reduce farm machinery accidents. Operators should always replace guards when these are

damaged or removed for maintenance work. Before servicing, adjusting or repairing equipment, the operator should disengage all power, shut off the engine or other power source and wait until all moving parts have stopped, unless the operator's manual gives specific instructions to perform certain operations while the machine is running. Safe operating procedures require the operator not to start the machine before checking that all guards and shields are in place, and everyone is standing clear. The operator should also get sufficient rest, as operation of complex machinery requires alertness and concentration. July 25 to 31 is National Farm Safety Week.

Name Gordon Bennett to study family farm

R. Gordon Bennett will conduct a study into the future of the family farm, according to an announcement from Minister of Agriculture and Food Bill Newman. Mr. Bennett, who retired last May as Ontario's deputy minister of agriculture and food, will inquire especially into the opinions held by farmers and their families about their future.

In announcing Mr. Bennett's appointment, Mr. Newman said: "The family farm has been fundamental to our way of life for nearly 200 years. It is our oldest and most efficient economic and social institution. In our constant efforts to improve our programs for agriculture in Ont-

ario, it is essential that we understand the farmers' point of view and understand what changing social and economic conditions mean to them as individuals and as businessmen. It is one thing to know what the facts are, it is another to know how the people affected by those facts perceive them."

The minister also said he was pleased that a man of Gordon Bennett's calibre was available to conduct this study. "With his 35 years experience in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Bennett has an unparalleled knowledge of agriculture in Ontario," Mr. Newman said. The study will begin this summer.

4-H judges Shorthorns

The third meeting of the Halton 4-H Livestock Judging Club was held at the Wallace Lasby farm on June 26. We began our outside activities immediately without officially opening the meeting, in case it was going to rain.

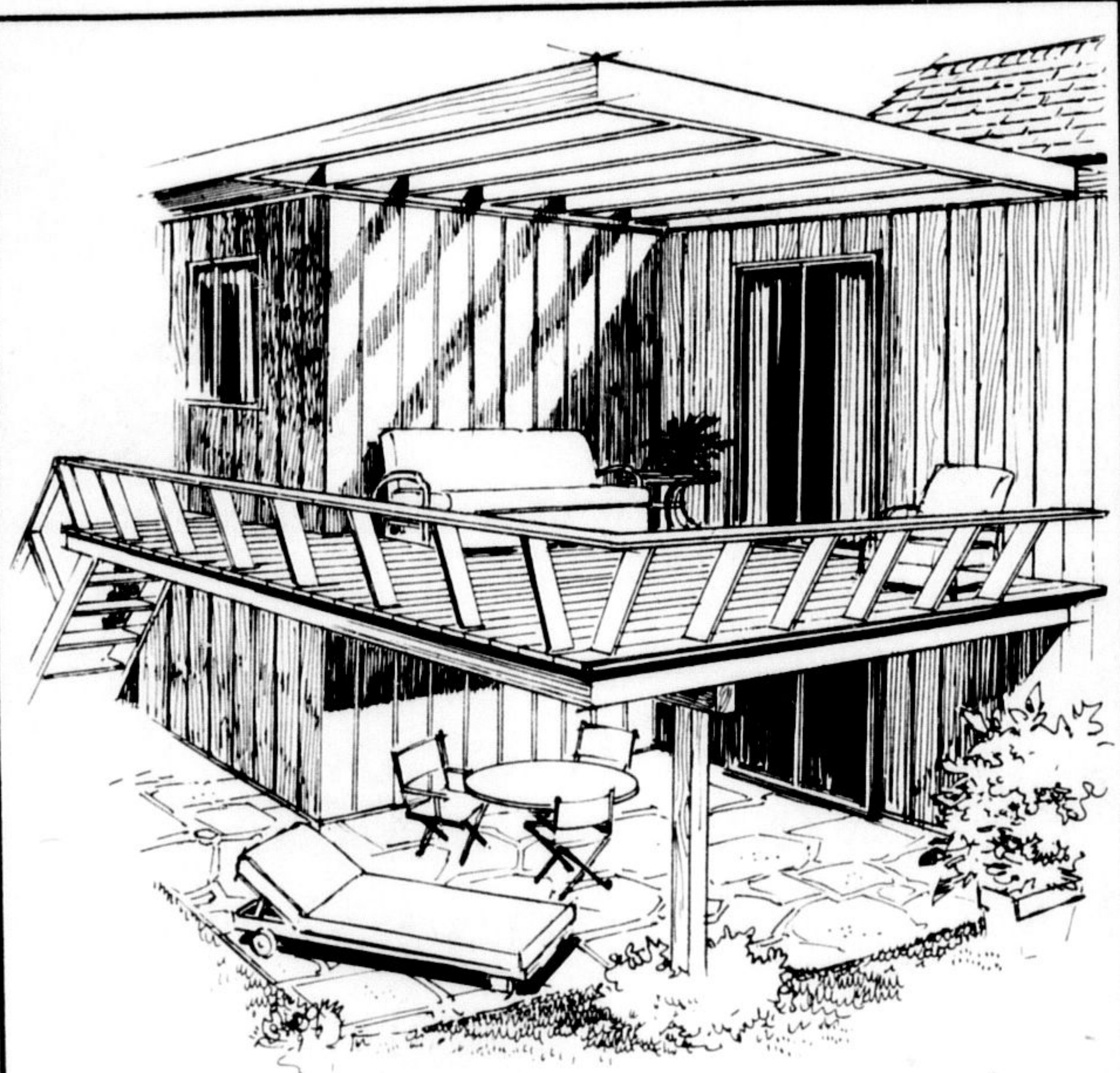
Cathy Lasby gave a demonstration on what to look for in beef cattle. We then judged a class of mature Shorthorn cows and a class of two-year-old Shorthorn heifers. We all gave our reasons on the class of mature Shorthorns out loud. Bob Lasby then gave the official.

We were all given the chance to guess the weight of a steer. Ruth Ann Wilson was the closest and for her great talent, received a hat advertising the Shorthorn breed. Inside the Lasby

home, our reasons on the other class were recorded. The reasons were played back for the whole group to hear. After each person's set of reasons, the marks were given and club leaders Ken McNabb and Jeff Nurse gave tips for improvement. Again Bob Lasby gave the official reasons and placings.

Following this the meeting was officially opened with the 4-H pledge, attendance was taken, and the minutes from the last meeting read. We thanked our hosts and the meeting was closed. Our hosts then offered us a lunch of pop and donuts.

-Rain promised for the weekend failed to materialize and the lawns and crops are still dry.



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