

# Junior Agriculturalist program: an experience

By Henry J. Stanley  
The Junior Agriculturalist Program is designed to provide a practical learning experience for young people from non-farm homes who have a serious interest in agriculture, and who have had no experience working on a farm. The program is to offer 280 positions. As a Junior Agriculturalist, a person will be placed on a selected com-

mercial farm, where they will perform regular activities relative to the farm operation. In addition, a Junior Agriculturalist will have an opportunity to develop an appreciation of rural life through living with a farm family, and through participation in the local 4-H and Junior Farm programs and in other rural activities. Applicants must be 16 or 17 years of age, in good

physical and mental health, and in sound emotional condition. They will be expected to remain on the assigned farm for the full period of the program, i.e. June 18th to August 18th and will be selected in part on the basis of their reasons for being interested in agriculture and their plans for future education and a career. The host farmers are to be engaged in farming

full time and the farm is to be a commercial operation. They must be interested in helping inexperienced young people develop the skills required on a farm and are expected to have the ability to work well with and supervise young people. They must have suitable accommodation and be prepared to sign a contract. The conditions of participation are as follows:

a) On-Farm assignments will be for a nine week period commencing June 18 and terminating August 18, 1979; b) All Junior Agriculturalists will be required to participate in an orientation program to help prepare them for their farm stay. This program will be held in mid-June; c) Applicants must understand that the hours can be irregular

depending on the current activity and the weather. Twelve to 13 hours from the start of activity in the morning until it is completed at night are normal; on occasion the hours can go to 16 or 18 in a single day; d) A Junior Agriculturalist will be expected to participate in farm activities for 12 days consecutively, then have two days off. The normal days off periods will be from after chores

on Friday evening to before Chores on Monday morning; e) A Junior Agriculturalist will be assigned wherever possible, to a farm with the type of enterprise in which he/she is most interested. The duties involved will vary considerably depending on the individual farm operation, the demonstrated ability of the Junior Agriculturalist

and the kind of enterprise found on the farm; f) Where the orientation program interferes with timetabled examinations, school examinations will take priority; g) Only one Junior Agriculturalist will be assigned to a Host Farmer; and h) No matches (i.e. host farmer selecting a particular Junior Agriculturalist or vice-versa) will be accepted.

Each Junior Agriculturalist will receive a training allowance of \$18 per day. Six dollars will be provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food; the Host Farmer will provide \$6 per day, as well as supplying room and board worth \$6 per day. Application forms for either a Junior Agriculturalist or a Host Farmer are available at the agricultural office.

Milton. Deadlines are for Junior Agriculturalist, April 15, Host Farmer, May 1. —Open house is being held today (Wednesday) at Milton Community Nursery School in St. Paul's United Church. Registrations for the fall term are being accepted this week as well. —The grass is starting to green up.

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