

Farmers could lose if adverse weather continues

North Simcoe's representative on the board of directors of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture says it is too early yet to determine the amount of damage recent wet weather has had on area crops.

"The corn crop growers in the county are probably the most concerned," Jones said, "but in our own immediate

area we haven't been as hard hit."

Heavy rains in the past month have kept many county farmers worried. While the southern part of Simcoe County has been particularly hard hit with the heaviest rains for a fall season in over 30 years, Jones said rain in the northern section of the county is about twice as much as last year.

"Both silage and grain corn crops are doubtful," the OFA representative said. "Many are lucky that we haven't yet had a frost. It could be a real problem."

Jones said that if silage corn had experienced a freezing period, crops and investment would be wasted—the proper fermentation could not

take place. The Agricultural representative stressed however, that there is still time for a good quality silage crop provided dry weather dawns on Simcoe County to allow the farmers to get into their fields. When fields are soaked with rain, heavy farm machinery can become easily mired in mud and little work can

be done.

"Many farmers have crop insurance," Jones added, suggesting that the insurance could ease some of the pressure. He couldn't really estimate precisely how many would be covered, but mainly specialists, he said.

Grain crops are also in an "iffy" situation, Jones suggested. Mold which

forms on grain in the particularly wet weather we have been having has been aggravated by swarms of blackbirds, and the end result is that the corn can become toxic.

"Farmers are an optimistic kind of people," Jones added however, "It can be a 'wait till next year' industry when it must be. But I wouldn't

say that the weather will have a devastating effect in terms of ownership and equity."

Province wide problems But a recent release from a chartered accountants firm in Toronto, G.H. Ward and Partners, says that Government subsidies will not compensate corn growers for the high cost of raising their crops this

year as some farmers may be thinking. Losses could be suffered through much of the province.

One large buyer estimated that corn sold at \$1.40 a bushel in mid-harvest, compared a cost of at least \$2 a bushel to produce corn.

The federal government attempts to compensate farmers in such circumstances by paying

them the difference between the average price that all farmers received for their crop and the floor price.

This year the floor price will be about \$2.35 a bushel. If the average price for which the entire crop is sold is about \$2 a bushel, the subsidy will be about 35 cents a bushel.

The farmer who sells at \$1.40 will receive no more

of a subsidy than one who sells at a higher price. He will receive the same 35 cents a bushel which, while reducing some of the pain, means operating at a loss.

The farmer who is fortunate enough or patient enough to sell for more than the average price of \$2 a bushel will still receive the full subsidy.

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Vasey news

by Eleanor Edwards—Mrs. Harold Graham

Mrs. George McLay held a family gathering on Saturday in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Robinson on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary. Those attending were from North Bay, Sudbury, Orillia, Toronto, Newmarket, Elmvalle and Midland.

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Faint were Mr. and Mrs. Bob Faint, Nancy and Darrin of Port Dover.

Last Monday, Mrs. I.N. Rummey, Mrs. W. Stewart and Mrs. F. Rynex visited with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nixon.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvern Isaac attended the White-Bell wedding in Collingwood on Saturday. Mrs. Mervin Russell visited during the weekend in Orillia with her sister Mrs. Percy McGrath.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Vasey attended the funeral of the late Mr. Clifford Duckworth in Orangeville on Friday.

The Vasey United Church Women will hold their annual bazaar on Wednesday October 26, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sunday school rooms.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Faint enjoyed a bus tour sponsored by the Huronia Woodlot Owners Association on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Edwards spent the weekend in Stouffville visiting Mr. and Mrs. John Wylie and family.

Weekend visitors of Mrs. George McLay were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Graham and David of Toronto.

The Vasey 4-H Krispy Kritters have completed the unit "Cereal Shelf" and are now preparing a skit and completing their record books for Achievement Day on November 19. During the past few meetings the members have prepared baked lasagna, chili rolls and gingerbread with lemon sauce. Menu planning was discussed in relation to the Food Guide for Health, and seasonal foods available.

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