

# Farm roundup

# Spring grains planted

A comparatively dry spring has enabled farmers to work the land early.

There has been considerable planting of spring grains with some early planted areas now nicely up.

The first dairy herd out to pasture was observed on May 8 near Midhurst.

Recent cold night temperatures are not expected to do any crop damage in our area.

#### Agricrew '81

Agricrew, an Experience '81 program sponsored by the Ontario Youth Secretariat will once again be available in North Simcoe.

Agricrew appropriately describes the crew of four young, energetic, farm oriented students who are available to farmers on a daily basis.

The crew can do various jobs such as haying, fencing, picking stones, painting fences, and all those odd jobs that need to be done. The cost to the farmer is \$90 for an eight hour day and the crew provides their own lunch and transportation.

Agricrew will be available from June 22 to August 14, 1981.

Applications are still being accepted for crew members. If you are looking for a summer job and have some farm experience contact the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food office in Elmvalle. If you are interested in hiring Agricrew or simply would like more information about the program contact the O.M.A.F. office also.

Cheryl McArthur, Agricrew Co-ordinator, 1981, Simcoe County.

#### Pounds for Profit

With the high cost of inputs and marketing conditions in their present state-No beef producers can afford to be inefficient. How can a cow-calf producer improve his production efficiency and monitor his progress? Well read on!

Simcoe County Cattlemen's Association would like to establish a weaning weight program for any cow-calf producer in Simcoe County, regardless of herd size.

The proposed weighing program has been tried in other counties, and has proven to be very successful. For example, Renfrew County beef producers have increased weaning weights on their calves by 129 pounds over six years of the program. If calves sell at \$.90 per pound - that's a worthwhile improvement!

What does this weaning weight program entail? Producers enrolled on the program must identify all cows and replacement heifers with ear tags, neck chains, etc.

Each calf must be identified at birth and the birthdate, sex and dam recorded. All of the calves will be weighed at weaning time, by an official weighman. The weaning weight is then adjusted for a 200 day weight, the age of the dam, and the sex of the calf.

The information obtained from this program can be used by the producer to assist in culling the cow herd, and improving calf weaning weights.

The program involves the purchase of a portable scale. Each producer will be asked to make a prepayment of \$100 toward the purchase cost.

The producer will be repaid by obtaining four hours of prepaid service. The four hours can be used up in one to four years depending on individual producers. Insurance, transportation and weighing will be the responsibility of the Cattlemen's Association.

This could mean extra dollars in the cow-calf producers' pocket. A small investment for the returns.

Interested, contact Bob Cowan, Secretary, Simcoe County Cattlemen's Association 728-2330 or the Agricultural offices at Elmvalle 322-2231 or Alliston 435-5521. This could be the most worthwhile \$100 you have ever spent.

#### 4-H is on the Road

All of the 4-H clubs in North Simcoe have re-organized for a busy 4-H year in 1981.

There are 15 4-H clubs this year, located in various communities around the county.

These clubs include dairy, beef, vet, horse, sheep, tractor, and plowing projects.

Club members will have the opportunity of becoming involved with several club, county, regional, and provincial activities. A special county competition will be held this year, in conjunction with the I.P.M.

The Simcoe Federation of Agriculture is sponsoring a 4-H Gate Sign Competition open to Agricultural 4-H members in Simcoe County.

Other county activities include Sports Day, Judging Competition and Demonstration Competition.

Silver Dollar, and various other interclub fairs, provide North Simcoe 4-Hers with an opportunity to meet

members in nearby areas.

Provincial activities include Leadership Week, Queen's Guineas

Competition, and various seminars and exchanges. Yes, this will be a busy 4-H year. A hearty welcome is

extended to all of our 4-H members, leaders and their families involved with North Simcoe 4-H.

We look forward to seeing you at various activities and your assistance in making 4-H Fun in 1981.

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### No. 6820 meant steaks

Alvin Dupuis and Mary Ellen McLean were the winners in the recent Club Richelieu beef raffle.

Dupuis, a resident of 70 Church Street, won

with ticket 6820 75 pounds of sirloin steaks.

Twenty-five pounds of sirloin steaks were won by 6 Country Club Court resident Mary Ellen McLean, who held ticket 4489.