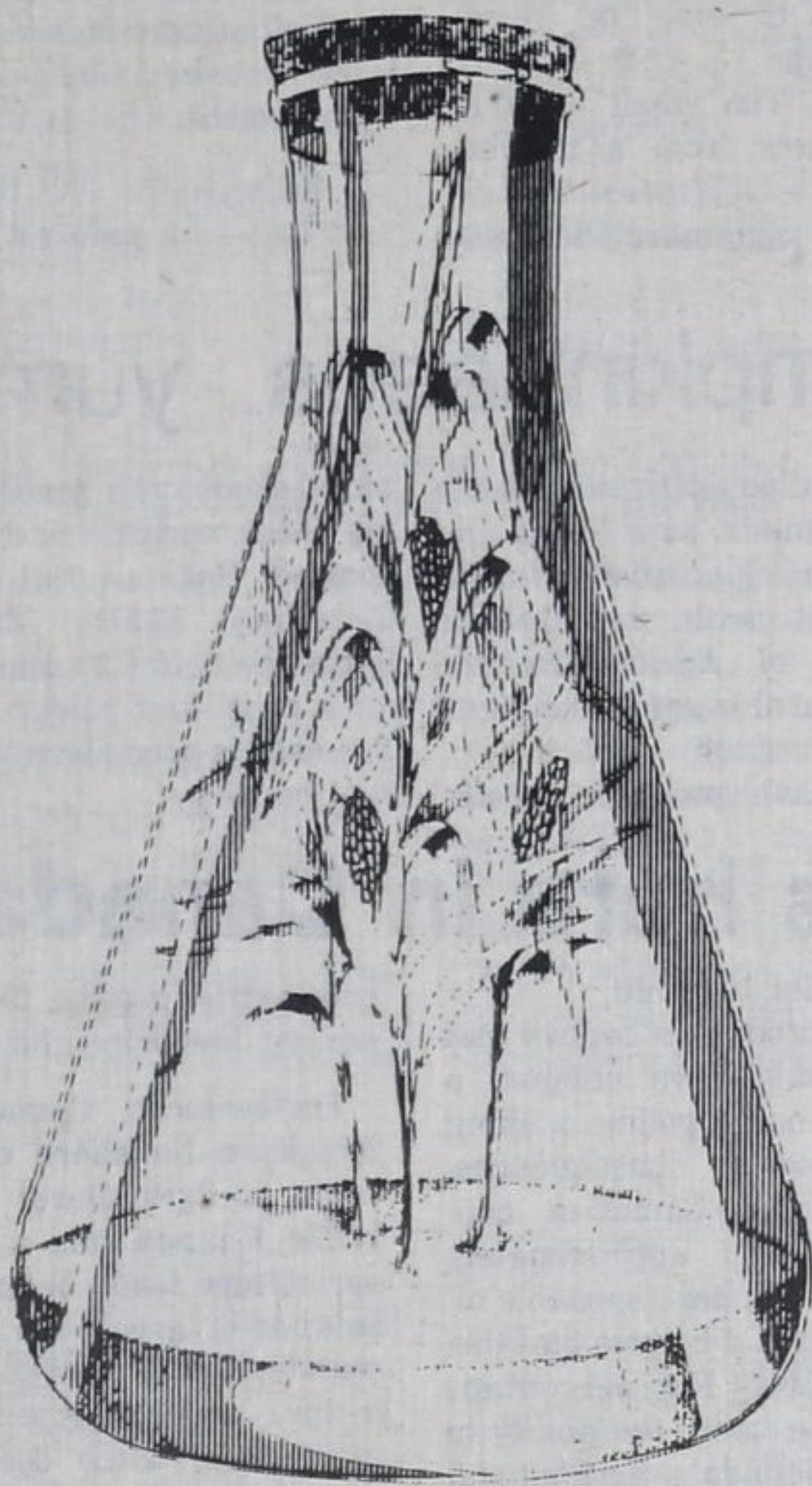


Farming today



Canada is still one of the best

Canada has one of the best records for animal health standards in the world.

Agriculture Canada has several programs to ensure they maintain this reputation by preventing exotic animal diseases from entering this country.

All livestock coming into Canada must be certified as free of disease and are inspected upon arrival.

They are particularly proud of the effort made by veterinary inspectors at points of entry such as airports.

Another program the department carries out to prevent diseases from entering this country is a close inspection of imported meats.

As well, during the past several years, incinerators have been built in Canada to burn "International garbage". This activity is carried out at

airports and sea ports.

A close eye is also kept on people coming from other countries who may be carrying meat or other animal products.

Are these precautions necessary?

Keep this in mind.

Livestock sales in Canada add up to \$5 billion each year and retail sales of meat twice that.

Consider that one small outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Saskatchewan in 1952 cost the livestock industry \$800 million to eradicate.

If a disease such as African swine fever were to enter Canada, we would have to slaughter every hog in this country.

Inspection services are our first defense against the disaster of such disease outbreaks.

Every hour counts for corn freshness

Every hour it is off the stalk, corn loses its sweetness. That's because its sugar content changes into starch, says Foods and Nutrition Specialist Monica Beaumont of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's rural organizations and services branch.

For the best-tasting corn, buy it locally and serve it the same day.

When buying fresh corn, look

for bright green ears with soft husks. Examine the silk to be sure it is free of decay or worms. Check the stem end. It should be moist and white.

A brown, shrivelled or dry stem means it is an old ear of corn, says Foods and Nutrition Specialist Monica Beaumont of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's rural organizations and services branch.

Agricultural Update Fall 1985

Man and nature combine forces

Farming is one of the toughest jobs around

Being a farmer has never been an easy job. The combination of natural and man-made hazards have combined to wreak havoc on farms that have been productive for a family for years.

Several examples of hazards of the natural order made, struck farms this year. One of the most spectacular instances of nature at her worst was the lightning strike at the farm of Honore Lesperance.

An estimated \$35,000 in damage was caused when a bolt of lightning destroyed the barn of the Allenwood farmer.

The early morning strike that started the blaze also knocked out the phone at the family farm. Claude, one of Honore's two teenage sons had to race to a nearby neighbour to phone the Elmvalle fire department.

While Claude was running to make the call, Marc, the other Lesperance boy and Honore worked frantically to rescue as much livestock and equipment as possible. Finally the heat became too much and the pair had to stand by leaving some 12 animals in the burning barn. One bright point was the fact that most of the families cattle were out grazing in nearby fields.

Lesperance lost all of his tools, a large quantity of grain, several pieces of machinery and a brand new wagon.

The members of the volunteer Elmvalle fire department were on the scene within minutes but could do little but stop the flames from consuming nearby outbuildings.

The barn was gone within an hour.

Other natural enemies faced by the area farmers this year were the annual attacks on crops from insects and bacteria.

Alfalfa weevil damage was much more apparent this year in Ontario than it has been in some time. Weevils were found on several farms in North Simcoe.

Most of the destruction is caused by the weevil's larvae.

The larvae feed within the stems and soon make their way

to attack the leaf buds at the tip of the plant. Later it makes its way down to the lower leaves.

Some fields in the area displayed the characteristic grey or frosted look of weevil damaged crops.

Harvesting the crop for limit

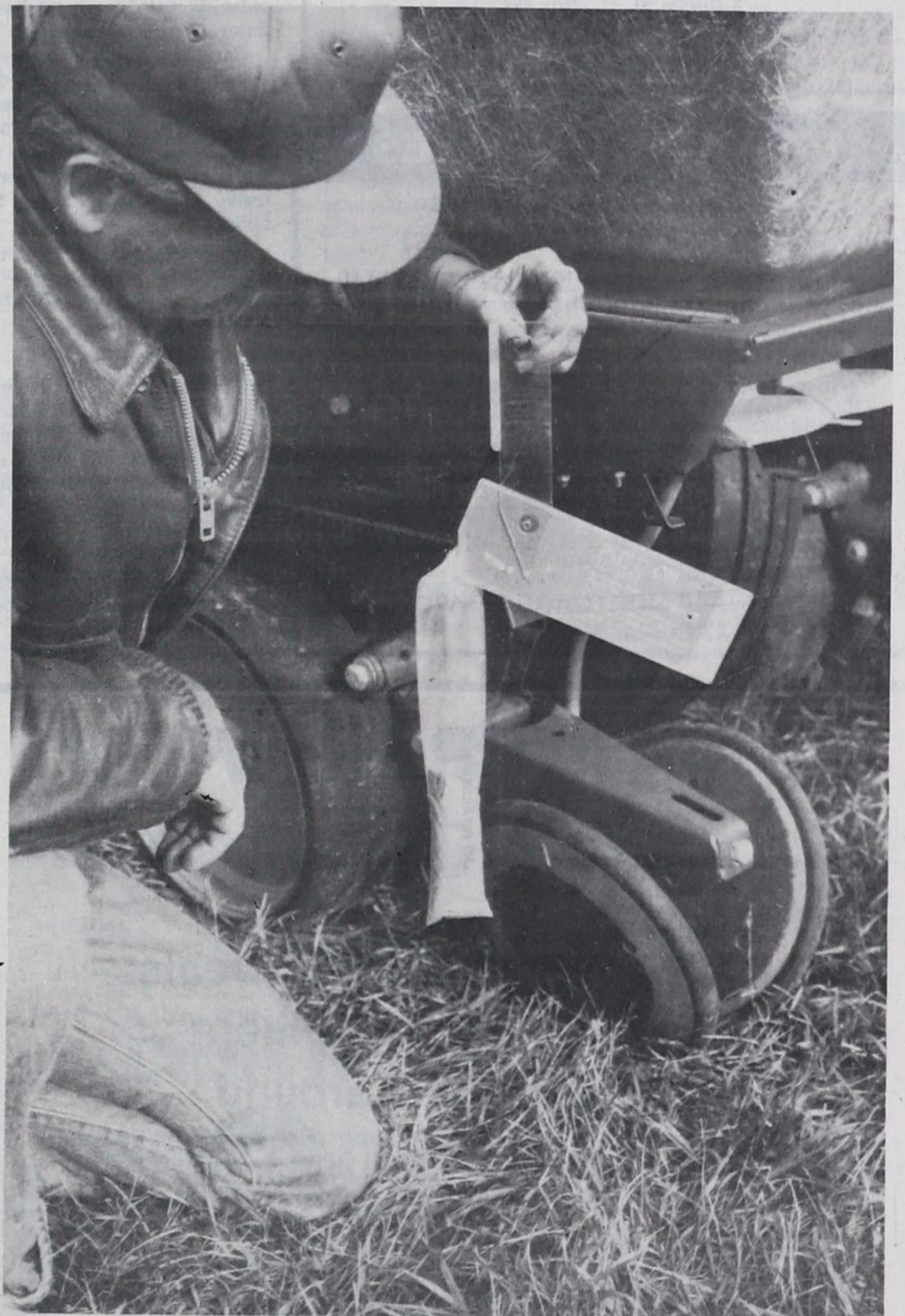
feeding was recommended and in some cases spraying was necessary.

Farmers were encouraged to check their alfalfa fields for signs of the damaging pest.

Corn rootworm was another pest that assailed the crops of

local growers. Ministry of agriculture specialists made the rounds offering demonstrations to farmers on proper equipment calibration for con-

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