



Feeding two-day old Jersey calf

## Some dos and don'ts

Silo unloaders can be very dangerous. Each year in Ontario, there are a number of accidents involving silo unloaders. Cables, winches and electrical wiring on unloaders should be periodically checked for wear.

Electricity should be shut off when making any adjustments. Avoid getting underneath a suspended unloader and under no circumstances stand on an unloader while it is being hoisted. Avoid any of these dangers with your silo unloader.

And did you know the average cost of a farm accident is increasing?

It is generally agreed upon by most safety experts that the uninsured costs of an accident are usually ten times the insured costs.

Accidents can cause financial hardships for farmers. You can reduce the risk of an accident on your farm by setting up comprehensive safety program. A safety program will not only reduce the number of accidents but will eliminate the costs that go hand in hand with farm accidents.

And did you know a large number of farm injuries happen to children under the age of fifteen. While children can be very helpful around any farm, they lack maturity and the knowledge of danger areas associated with farming.

## Maple trees tapped

Last year a total of 79,485 maple trees were tapped.

The information is contained in a report prepared last year by the staff of the Ontario Ministry of Ag.

Meanwhile it has been revealed that 123,159 acres was set aside last year in the county to grow hay while 78,329 was set aside for alfalfa and 24,000 for corn silage.

## Farm products sales close to \$500 million

Statistics taken from the 1981 census for Central Ontario state that \$475.2 million was the value of 1980 farm products sales.

Nearly 35,000 people lived on 10,312 farms in 1981. Farm cash receipts for

1981 totalled \$500.1 million.

According to the 1981 census, the average number of automobiles per farm was 1.18; farm trucks, .96; tractors, .2; grain combines, .29; swathers, .18; balers, .56.

## Ontario Egg Board accomplishment

Egg producers attending the 21st Annual Meeting of the Ontario Egg Producers' Marketing Board were told 1985 was a sound and stable year as far as financial, production, and marketing situations were concerned.

Nevertheless, said Board Chairman Jim Johnstone, 1985 was a year of significant achievement for the Ontario Egg Board.

"The past year has been most satisfying for me as your chairman," he said. "There were no major controversies. No new policy initiatives, only

minor amendments to several existing policies. The move to our new office went off without a hitch; the contract for the 'Ontario Egg Producers' Chair' at the University of Guelph was signed. All in all, a year of many accomplishments."

The Chair established at the University of Guelph will investigate new uses for eggs with the aim of improving markets and so enabling producers to increase their production.

The research Chair is the first at the University, and represents the only such work of its scope being

conducted anywhere in the world.

The past year also saw the Board move into its first Board-owned office building, in Mississauga. It had been renting office space in Willowdale, north of Toronto.

Ontario Egg Board General Manager Brian Ellsworth said 1985 brought few financial, market, or production changes for producers.

While producer prices declined 6 cents over the year, he said, they followed declining feed costs and so continued to provide producers with adequate returns. The Board sets minimum producer prices using a cost of production formula which includes such input costs as feed, pullets, and labour.

Mr. Ellsworth said productivity—the number of eggs laid by a hen in a year—had increased by about 1% in 1985. And although table consumption of eggs (those bought by consumers) was about even with last year's, an increase in usage by the processing market meant producers were able to maintain their quota allotments.

The Ontario Egg Board sets production quotas in order to ensure adequate supplies of eggs are produced for consumers. Quotas are based on hens, meaning each producer is allotted a certain maximum number of hens he may have in production at one time. These quota allotments are based on each producer's historical capacity.

The 21st Annual Meeting was held March 18-19, in Toronto.

## Maple Syrup '86

Although some local sugar bush operators tapped their first maple trees a month ago, and have already harvested two or three small runs of sap, the maple syrup season is considered a little late compared to recent years.

Last year, the sap was flowing by the end of February, before a severe cold snap halted production until later in March.

Once the season is underway, the sap normally flows off and on for between four to six weeks.

Ministry of Agriculture Maple Syrup Specialist John Butler, in Elmvale, reports generally good news about the maple

syrup production anticipated for 1986.

"The sugar should be in the trees," he explains, "after a healthy growing season last summer."

Weather conditions from the previous winter are traditionally used to predict the quality of each maple syrup season, but Butler claims next month's weather is of far greater importance to the trees' production. Cold, frosty night (mid to low 20° F), and warm days (mid 40° F) are the optimum conditions for good runs of quality sap.

In addition, demand for this year's crop is expected to be high, he says.

## Annual crops

In Simcoe County last year a total of 15,483 acres were set aside to grow potatoes.

On average their crops yielded about 20,000 pounds per acres.

Another cash crop gaining returns in the county is sod. Last year a total of 12,000 acres was set aside for this cash-producing product.

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## Coming Events

**THURSDAY, APRIL 3**  
 OMAF Boardroom  
 1 P.M.  
*"All About Canola"*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10**  
 OMAF Boardroom  
 1 p.m.  
**Gallagher Power Fencing Seminar**  
*Hay Preservatives*

**TUESDAY, APRIL 15**  
 Sprayer Calibration  
 & Rootworm Control Clinic  
*Bring your sprayers & your questions!*

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