

Agriculture Update

At C.N.E.

Youth program for Junior Farmers

Every year the Canadian National Exhibition sponsors a program for 4-H and Junior Farmers. This year's program will be held August 30 and 31 1988. Several activities will take place during the

two days.

The conference program for 4-H members in the C.N.E. area who are 16 and 17 years of age begins at the University of Toronto. The first day will feature workshops,

group sessions, tours and free time at the Ex. On the second day, the delegates will have the opportunity to participate in either a skillathon or the Open Judging Competition.

During the skillathon, the 4-H'ers will work in groups and move from station to station to learn new skills, make group decisions and solve problems.

The Judging Competition is open to both 4-H and Junior Farmer members from across Ontario. Competitors will judge and give oral reasons on several classes. In addition, competitors will complete an Identification Quiz. Special

awards will be available for the top contestants in each age category.

Another exciting event will be the Demonstration Competition. Each county or region in the C.N.E. area is invited to present an educational and entertaining demonstration or skit.

An Awards Presentation Dinner will highlight the conclusion of the program. At this time, winners of the Individual and Team Judging and the Demonstration Competition

will be announced.

Don't miss out on this fun filled event. For further details, contact your local office of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

4-H is a program for young people 12-21 years of age. 4-H members learn new skills, meet with friends and have fun. They participate in projects such as foods, outdoor camping, rabbits, crops, veterinary livestock and youth leadership.

Drought reduces crops by 30%

The Ontario wheat crop has been seriously affected by the widespread drought experienced during the month of June.

Harvest commenced in Essex County on the July 1st weekend, which is probably the earliest general start-up on record. While quality is fair to good, yield per acre has been reduced by about 30%.

The Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board, which is responsible for the purchase and sale of all wheat marketed by producers, estimates the total provincial crop has been reduced from a projected 900 000 tonne volume to about 630 000 tonne.

Based on projected prices for 1988 crop of about \$170.00 per tonne, producers will lose about 50 million dollars as a result of the dry weather conditions.

The province's 17,000 producers had been encouraged by signs of world price improvements which affects about 70% of their production through exports. However, the general yield reduction will nullify those expectations.

Glen Courtis, R. R. 4, Wallaceburg, chairman of the Ontario Wheat Board, said there is some satisfaction in the recent price increases on the future market which are about \$37.00 per tonne over one year ago.

He said the board had made limited export sales of new crop but has been out of the market for about six weeks in order to get a handle on quantity and quality of the crop.

The domestic market consumes about 250 000 to 300 000 tonne of the Ontario crop annually, and there should be ample stocks for that market according to the board's estimates.

As far as the domestic price is concerned, Courtis said the board will be setting the price to pro-

Canola

The Ontario Canola Growers' Association has been authorized, under Section 13 of the Farm Products Marketing Act, to collect fees on each tonne of commodity sold, Jack Riddell, minister of agriculture and food announced today.

Effective July 5, 1988, licence fees of \$2 per tonne of commodity will be paid to the association by the producers.

The association asked for the authority to collect fees and use the revenue to improve the production and marketing of canola in Ontario. In May, the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission distributed more than 400 voter packages to known canola growers. Of the ballots returned, 94 per cent were in favor of designation under Section 13.

"We are pleased with this announcement and I hope that the association, with the industry, will now be able to achieve its objectives," said association Chairman Frank Van Hevel.

The Ontario Canola Growers' Association is under the supervision of the Farm Products Marketing Commission and will undergo an indepth review by the commission in two years' time.

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cessors for August and September soon, and it is expected there will be little change from the \$257.00 per tonne (\$7.00 per bushel) level which has been in effect for over 12 months.

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