Agriculture Update

Riddell enjoys keeping in touch

by Scott Anderson Staff Writer

Jack Riddell, the provincial Minister of Agriculture, says every time he talks to farmers he learns something new.

Whether this was the case or not, when he was in the area recently he did hear some of their concerns.

Riddell was in Huronia Sept. 15 to visit farms in the area and meet the farmers. The agriculture minister says he enjoys doing this as it keeps him in touch with the issues.

His first stop of the day was at Prettyview Farms, a 250-acre dairy farm, off the Ebenezer Side Road.

The farm's operator, Allen Mosely, told Riddell one of the concerns which he has heard from many of his colleagues is that it is difficult to find, and retain, good hired help.

Often farmers are able to get help for a short time, but they soon leave for more lucrative paying jobs, in the larger urban areas.

Riddell suggested it was not up to the government to find an answer to the problem, but that it was more the responsibility of the

farmers. He said they must provide more incentives to the hired help to stay on the job. He suggested

room and board as possible enticements.

The agriculture minister disagreed, however, that the educational facilities need to be expanded to accomodate more agricultural related programs. He said the post-secondary schools

were providing "good, practical education," noting there were three jobs for every student concentrating in agriculture.

Although Riddell didn't see a need at the present time to take any action, he did say that if the trend continued he would offer aid

Wise will be missed: CFA chief

"Canadian farmers are losing a strong supporter with the resignation from the federal Cabinet of Agriculture Minister John Wise," says Don Knoerr, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

"Wise has been instrumental in the development of a great deal of national agricultural policy. He is a strong supporter of the consultative process, and has always been accessible and willing to listen to the points of view of Canadian farmers."

to the farmers. "If it continues to be a problem, we'll certainly try to work in some program to assist the farmers,

because we know they need help," he said.

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