

No comparison —

Our sheep farms smaller than those in Australia

by Stefan Ruhl

When it comes to sheep farming, there's just no comparison between Australia and the Castor area, says a man who should know.

Australian sheep farmer Brett Crook recently passed through the area as part of an International 4-H exchange program. He stayed with Martin Reichert, director of Russell County Junior Farmers.

In Australia, the farming approach is extensive while here, it's intensive, says Brett who expects to return home in January.

Australia is the world's largest producer of sheep for wool and mutton. An average size flock in Australia is about 3,000 head while 400 sheep here is considered a lot.

Thanks to relatively warm weather, Australian sheep can

graze outside all year at little expense to the farmer. They require a small amount of oats as supplementary feed.

In Canada, hard winters mean the animals have to be brought in and fed at least part of the year. This costs the Canadian farmer more to raise sheep and severely limits the number of sheep that can be kept. Brett saw snow for the first time in his life while he was in Russell.

Australian sheep are about four and a half times cheaper than Canadian sheep.

Dairy farming takes a distant second place in importance to sheep farming in Australia but the methods are the same, Brett said. The average herd is about 100 head on a 500-acre farm. The

cows graze outside year round but

they give only about two thirds as much milk as a Canadian cow because they only get small amounts of supplementary feed.

Brett's farm, which he works with his father, has 6,500 acres and the same number of sheep. He also grows wheat and barley as a cash crop on 3,000 acres, rotating the crops every few years to keep the land from being exhausted.

Brett, who toured the U.S. for six months before coming to Canada, says the U.S. and Canada are similar. But he notes Canada more closely resembles Australia because of their common heritage with Great Britain.

When he gets home Brett expects to lecture to his fellow countrymen and share his impressions of North America.



Brett Crook

—Stefan Ruhl photo

2 M. INSULATION

RR3 Russell, Ont.

Installers of CMHC Approved
RAPCO Foam & Cellulosic Wood Fibre.

Complete Home Insulation Services

offered

FREE Estimates

Rebates Available under CHIP program

Liston McIlhagga
RR3, Russell Ont.
445-5513

Roger Villeneuve
RR2, Berwick, Ont.
987-5290

Best Wishes of the Season

from
the Poras (Nick, Virginia,
Nikki, Leanna, Sandra, Nicholas, Jr.)
and Staff at

**Continental
Mushrooms**
Metcalf



Looking forward
to growing
with the
Castor area
in 1980

**Loral
Home
Hardware**

Home &
Farm Supplies
Russell
445-2191

VICE & CRAIG

Funeral Homes
Inc.

METCALFE
821-2120
WINCHESTER
774-2120
CHESTERVILLE
448-2120

JOHN CONSTRUCTION

General Carpentry:

Homes, Renovations, Siding

Farm Buildings:

Roofs & Dry Wall Finishing

MOREWOOD, ONT. 448-2683



Our Local
Representatives:

Rob McVey — 526-0076
Jim Senos — 445-5372

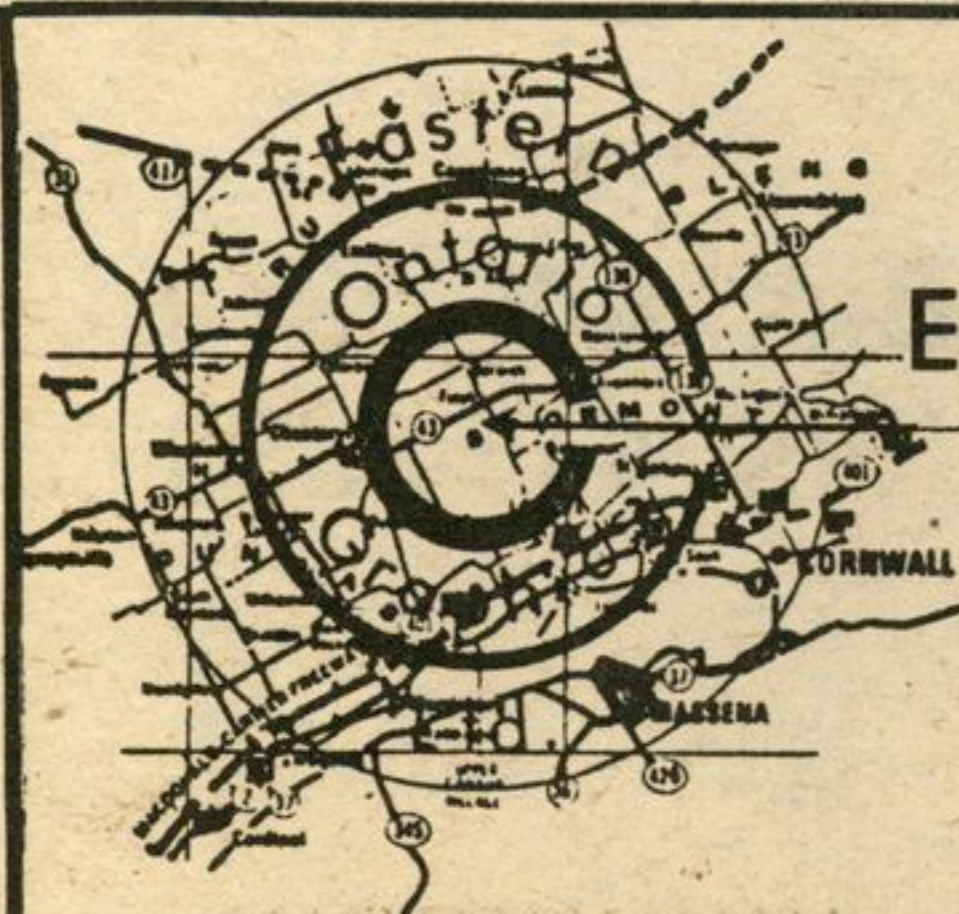
NEW AND USED CARS AND TRUCKS
GMC TRUCKS—DAILY RENTALS AND
LEASING

1492 Youville Dr. Orleans 824-8550

HUMBUG

Help Undo Metrication BUG your MP

AND HELP US BRING THESE FACTS TO
THE ATTENTION OF OTHER CANADIANS



Eastern Ontario Graphics Ltd.

Hwy. 43 By-pass
CHESTERVILLE
Ontario

CUSTOM PRINTING RUBBER STAMPS 448-2137
WEDDING INVITATIONS MAGNETIC SIGNS
OFFICE SUPPLIES