

# City Man Tackles Dairy Farming at Claremont

(By G. K. Honey, "Farmer's Magazine")

As a business management consultant, Robert G. McLeish spent most of his life showing other people how to make their business profitable. Often he envied the farmer who, he feels, has more opportunity than most urban businessmen to make his own ideas and efforts pay for himself and his family. In fact he became so envious he decided to take a crack at farming himself.

For three years he used most of his spare time studying all types of Canadian farming. He became convinced that dairy farming with Jersey cows would bring him the greatest net returns.

He bought a run-down farm at Claremont, Ont., stocked it with four registered Jerseys and set as his goal a Jersey herd that would produce an average of 9,000 pounds of milk in 305 days, or 30 pounds a day per head.

He started by getting a fluid milk contract, adding ten more cows and hiring Hollander Marinus Verhoog as farm manager.

At first they got many headaches and little milk, but as they licked each breeding and feeding problem milk yields went up a notch. Now, after 7 years of operation, their 1954 records show a herd average production of 8,700 pounds of milk for 21 cows.

Let's take a closer look at Mr. McLeish's reasons for choosing dairy farming and Jerseys, and how he and Marinus Verhoog made this farm pay off.

"My investigations showed that by and large over the years the most successful farmers in every area reasonably close to a large population centre were the dairy farmers," says Mr. McLeish. "When I extended my studies to other countries, I discovered that all countries, except one, specializing in dairy products had more or less standardized on the Jersey cow. But most Canadian dairymen kept Holsteins."

"Several of my farmer-turned-city-men friends told me the Canadian farmer, like his cousin in the States, kept Holsteins because they gave more milk and implied that dairy-specialty countries like Denmark and New Zealand were all wet in tying their dairy economy to the Jersey cow."

Mr. McLeish wasn't satisfied with this answer, so he began asking questions. How much would 30 cows cost? How much barn space would they need? How many acres would 30 cows need? How much hay, grain, concentrates would they eat? How much milk could he expect to get?

Most of the information was difficult to find, but he did get some answers. Here's what he says about it:

"I found that a barn for 30 Jerseys was too small for 30 Holsteins, that I could carry 45 Jerseys on the same acreage as 30 Holsteins, that 30 Holsteins eat as much hay, grain and concentrates as 45 Jerseys, and that top price Holsteins with a herd average of 12,000 pounds of milk, testing 3.8 per cent butterfat wouldn't make any more money than Jerseys with a herd average of 9,000 pounds of milk testing 5 per cent butterfat, and the best Jerseys could be bought for a lot less money."

Mr. McLeish believed these were some of the reasons why the Danes and New Zealanders kept Jerseys. He decided to find out for himself, and that's why he bought this 125-acre farm at Claremont and some registered Jerseys from accredited Ontario and Maritime herds — keeping the average price below \$300.

Many dairymen told him his goal of a 9,000-pound herd average was almost impossible to reach, that except under test barn conditions and 3 times a day milking only one herd on the continent had better production figures than that. Mr. McLeish wasn't convinced.

Let's visit Mr. McLeish's Misty Hollow farm at Claremont and see how he made out. From the outside Misty Hollow farm doesn't look particularly prosperous and certainly not fancy. "Just a farmer's farm," he says.

However, when you take a peek inside the barn and see its neat cleanliness and the rows of contented Jerseys, you get a different impression. Farm Manager, Marinus Verhoog, whose late father owned one of Holland's better Holstein herds, surprises you more when he says he likes Jerseys better.

Marinus quickly explains by showing you the latest production figures. For instance, on October 22, 1954, 24 milking cows produced 700 pounds of milk on about 233 pounds of grain, and concentrate (oil cake and 32 percent dairy concentrate), some fresh-cut kale and 60 pounds of hay. A cow gets one pound of grain, including concentrate, for each three lbs. of milk produced over 10 lbs.

This works out to about a

\$24 return above feed costs. "Due to a lack of definite information on breeding and feeding we had to take chances and try out our own ideas," says Mr. McLeish. "However, the many breeders I talked to were most helpful and from their information we designed a breeding program which we thought would give the kind of results we wanted."

The basis of their plan was to mate animals from families with a production record of not less than 8,000 pounds of milk and five per cent butterfat test, expecting the progeny to give production figures close to the average of their ancestors.

"Better to breed to a bad cow in a good family than to an outstanding cow in a bad family," Mr. McLeish says.

He planned to raise his own herd sires and prove them quickly by breeding them back to their mothers and daughters as soon as possible.

One day at a sale a young Jersey cow caught his eye. This animal had been shipped to Ontario from New Brunswick and shortly after arriving she dropped a bull calf. He bought her for \$295 with the calf thrown in. He checked the records and found the calf had a family background of 8,500 pounds of milk and six per cent test, so he raised him as a herd sire registered as Bokar Favorite Warrior.

One of the first cows he used this bull on was Broadview Janet, purchased as a junior yearling for \$75. On her one record (she died soon after dropping her second calf) she made 5,860 pounds of milk and 372 pounds of fat in 305 days.

The resulting daughter, Misty Hollow Warrior's Jan, as a two-year-old gave 7,508 pounds of milk and 367 pounds of fat in 305 days; as a three-year-old 6,209 pounds of milk and 312 pounds of fat in 248 days (she was bred as soon as possible to get her freshening in the fall), and as a four-year-old she gave 9,428 pounds of milk and 473 pounds of fat in 296 days. He was bred back to her sire, Bokar Favorite Warrior.

Her daughter, Misty Hollow Warrior's Janet, just completed her first record which shows 7,320 pounds of milk and 380 pounds of fat, farm figures, in 296 days. She is now bred to Misty Hollow Baseleus-Penn, a bull raised on the farm with a family record of 9,000 pounds of milk.

Here's an idea of how this breeding program has helped step up production.

If we work out the production figures on 305-day basis we find that in 1950 the herd average was about 4,400 pounds of milk for 14 cows; in 1952, 6,400 pounds for 17 cows; and in 1954, 8,700 pounds for 21 cows.

What about their feeding program? At first Marinus had plenty of trouble finding the proper level and balance of feeds.

"The vet bills were pretty high," he says. "We noticed other dairymen also had much other trouble, so we figured overfeeding was the cause. Also the cows would eat good one day, but not the next and of course milk yields dropped. So we cut down until under trouble stopped and milk flow kept steady."

Marinus keeps a constant check on feed cost. He knows the cost per pound of feed and how much each cow gives, so she doesn't get more feed, except hay, than will leave a profit.

This is the kind of winter feeding program they found best. The following amounts are worked out for 9,000 pound cows: Morning—2½ pounds of grain per cow, 1½ lbs. of oil cake per cow, ¼ bushel of mangel and 5 bales of hay for the herd (34 head altogether). Evening—2½ lbs grain per cow, ¾ pound of 32% dairy concentrate, ¼ bushel mangels and 5 bales of hay as before. All animals get mineral supplement.

Marinus likes to interchange dairy concentrate and oil cake for variety to keep the cows' appetite sharp.

He feeds dry cows only hay and minerals. So far the cows have finished their lactation in good condition, so he figures they don't need grain or concentrate when dry. Also, he never steams up dry cows because he figures it burns them out too soon and shortens their productive life.

"Another big factor in boosting milk yields is good care," says Marinus. "If cows are handled like ladies they really pour out the milk."

**WINNIE BONNER,**  
native of India  
at  
**Stouffville United Missionary Church**  
APRIL 3rd

# SHOPPING ON FRIDAY and SATURDAY NIGHTS

COMMENCING THIS WEEK THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS PLACES WILL BE OPEN FOR YOUR SHOPPING CONVENIENCE ON FRIDAY EVENING UNTIL 10 P.M. AND ON SATURDAY EVENING UNTIL 9 P.M.

- Wagg's Jewellery
- K. H. Middlemiss
- Len Wilkes Clothes Shop
- The Three Sisters
- Golden's Clothing Store
- Stouffville Radio Television Centre
- Lehman's Shoes
- Stouffville Fruit Market

## Quaint Old Dialects Are Disappearing

(Continued from Page 3)

ful for they shall obtain mercy." Oon day I went awver di Car-scombe di see Tommy Mason. Tommy had a bwoy workin' varn. Tom wad'n there zoo I asked the bwoy where a waz. He zed quote "I dunno where he's runned away tot, he's noowher di be zid (jist then a hen jumped up on the forge zoo the bwoy zed "this vowel's gwine lay in the vire". Oon day last wick — no — twas these wick, I took Arthur wi I awver di Taunton Market. We zid a zow and pigs zold vir farty poun, jist as much as they got vir a cow 'n calf. We zid zum girt gyets aytween voot' long and your voot tewntyzebm and twentyaye shillins apiece — can ce imagine they varners awver di Markham or Stoveville bein able di buy a girt aytween voot gyet vir dree dollers and zeventyve zents? I was down di Wimborne and I ast a veller there if they'd got any zewers in Mimborne. He zed "no" but they got these here modern zesspools now. There used di be a wold genulman down at Darchester who hid'en do en a lot a good because there be only sech a

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SAT., 8 p.m. — The Film entitled "THE MISSING CHRISTIANS." Over 30,000 people have been brought to Christ through the showing of this unusual film on Christ's Second-Comeing.  
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## view voke can rade it anyhow.

He got di be a minister when he was about farty, and when he did he was pur'd'n near 90 year wold. They got a monument to en on High Street and here's what en di zay. "Zoo now we hope his kindly feace is gone di vind a better pleace but still vi voke aleft behind he'll always be akept in mind." Poor wold chap, he lived and wrote Dubbervills and Two on a Tower. We zid dthic tower yesterday we druv right pass 'en. Well they two pooor wold fellers be bwoth gone whum di Heben.

I suppose there are just as many people in these countries who use da LITTLE dialect — just a word here and there. I visited a lady recently whose husband had a very bad accident. She said that hem vell and het his haid, him was unconscious ver a long time, then him was took di hospidale and so on. (the poor chap has since died). The good lady came out with this wonderful philosophy — "I aint gwina think too much about what's happenin' now. I di think about they good 35 years we had together. That poor woman is a lady in the highest and best sense. I must try and adopt a littel of her philosophy since I have been grumbling about the cold all the time I have been here."

It has suddenly dawned upon me that we have had hardly any rain at all. Everybody grumbles about the everlasting amount of rain here, but this trip it has been fine all the time. We took a trip to a place called Cheddar in Somerset. They have a lot of caves there, some what like the ones in Kentucky. We went in about a quarter mile — you go in on the level and the hill rises over the caves about 500 feet, whereas in Kentucky you go down down down and the top remains level. The Cheddar caves are smooth and wide and the Kentucky ones are high, ragged and narrow. At Cheddar, they have 300

## Goodwood Potatoes Were Tops at Seed Fair

The Ont. County Seed Fair and Competitive Bacon Show was held in the township hall, Brooklin, recently. This was a popular event and over two hundred farmers were in attendance.

The seed fair brought out a large exhibit of high quality. Forty-eight exhibitors showed 76 entries. A number of these entries were selected after the Ontario Spring Show at Peterborough, March 16th to 18th.

The highlight of the Seed Fair meeting was an interesting talk on "The Economics of Farming" by Prof. P. A. Wright of the Economics Dept., O.A.C., Guelph. Mr. Wright emphasized the importance of farmers keeping accurate records as a check on their general farming operations.

The results of the Seed Fair are as follows:

Registered oats, early: Ralph Veitch, Uxbridge, R.R. 4, 1st and 2nd; Russell Morrison, Beaverton R.R. 2, 3rd.

Registered oats, late: Murray Dunkeld, Claremont R.R. 2, 1st; Ralph Veitch, Uxbridge R.R. 4, 2nd; Milton Parkin, Brooklin R.R. 1, 3rd; Ralph Veitch, Uxbridge R.R. 4, 4th.

Registered barley: Russell Morrison, Beaverton R.R. 2, 1st. Fall wheat: Heber Down, Brooklin, 1st; Clifford Ross, Beaverton, 2nd; Edward Ball, Locust Hill R.R. 1, 3rd; Howard Malcolm and Son, Locust Hill R.R. 1, 4th.

Oats, late, any variety: Heber Down, Brooklin, 1st; Ralph Veitch, Uxbridge R.R. 4, 2nd; D. Crozier, Blackwater, 3rd; Howard Malcolm & Son, Locust Hill R.R. 1, 4th.

Oats, early, any variety: Russell Morrison, Beaverton R.R. 2, 1st; Ralph Veitch, Uxbridge R.R. 4, 2nd; Don Crozier, Blackwater, 3rd; Fred Drake, Beaverton R.R. 2, 4th.

Oats, Clinton: Bill Batty, Brooklin, 1st. Barley: Heber Down, Brooklin, 1st; Clifford Ross, Beaverton, 2nd; Russell Morrison, Beaverton R.R. 2, 3rd; Christie Bros., Port Perry R.R. 4, 4th.

Ear corn, any variety: Howard Malcolm and Son, Locust Hill R.R. 1, 2nd. Soybeans: Ken Holliday, Brooklin, 1st.

Red Clover: Ralph Veitch, Uxbridge R.R. 4, 1st; Howard Malcolm and Son, Locust Hill, 2nd; Russell Morrison, Beaverton, 3rd.

Timothy: Ralph Veitch, Uxbridge R.R. 4, 1st; Howard Malcolm & Son, Locust Hill, 2nd; Russell Morrison, Beaverton, 3rd.

Potatoes, early: Ivan Norton, Goodwood, 1st; Harold Norton, Claremont R.R. 1, 2nd. Potatoes, late: Ivan Norton, Goodwood, 1st; Harold Norton, Claremont, 2nd. Junior Section.

Oats, early (any variety): Keith Ashton, Port Perry R.R. 1, 1st; Gary Taylor, Pefferlaw R.R. 1, 2nd; Robert Taylor, Port Perry R.R. 1, 3rd; Paul Bryan, Sunderland R.R. 2, 4th; Roger Snodden, Pefferlaw R.R. 1, 5th. Clinton oats: James H. Thomson, Brooklin R.R. 1, 1st; Bob Holliday, Columbus R.R. 1, 2nd; Oats, medium or late (any



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Our landlord has requested us to vacate our present premises, to permit him to expand the grocery store. At present no suitable quarters are available to carry on business within the town. Therefore we are moving the business both sales and service, to our home on the Markham, Whitchurch townline, on the north side of the road, between the sixth and seventh concessions. We still intend offering the same products and service, you have come to know over the years. The reduced operating costs from our home will reflect in the lower prices we'll be able to offer you. As soon as premises are found suitable for our needs we'll return to town. Temporarily, please call 64802 for Farr's Radio Electric after April 1st. We solicit your co-operation in our efforts to serve you, please accept our thanks in advance.  
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