

# FARMING REPORT

By AL WALL

Agricultural Representative for York County, Newmarket.

This week's report is a collection of different items that I hope will be of interest.

The first has to do with Workmen's Compensation. The first step in getting the plan into operation was taken last week. Letters were mailed to most farmers asking for estimates of wages to be paid for the year. The letters also gave farm owners an opportunity to get personal coverage. It is possible that some did not receive a letter due to the difficulty in getting a complete mailing list. Those who were missed may send their name either to our office or directly to the Compensation Board.

The Junior Farmers in York County have an interesting Centennial Project going. It will identify and give recognition to farmers whose farms have been owned by the same family for a hundred years or more. Help is needed in finding the farms that qualify. Anyone knowing of "centennial farms" is asked to advise the president, Spencer Finch of R.R. 1, King City.

Mastitis continues to be an irritating problem in a lot of dairy herds. There are dozens of things that can be done to try to beat it but many of them are a trial and error proposition. To me, the Mastitis Control programme offers the surest, most reliable method for making real headway. Our quota in York has vacancies at the moment and further details as well as application forms, can be had from our office.

A bus tour has been arranged for beef men in York It goes to Oxford County on March 29th. Feedlots, large and small, as well as a cow-calf business, will be visited. Reservations should be made this week.

Corn growers can enter an Ontario-wide yield competition this year. Prizes are good and we want lots of entries from York. Entries have to be made right away though and I'd like to hear from anyone interested.

4-H Clubs will be organized during the Easter holidays. Boys and girls between 12 and 20 years, are all invited to join a club in their community.

Our congratulations go this week to two men from York. Roy Barker from Woodbridge caps a long career as a Holstein breeder and as a leader in the Holstein association by being elected President of the Canadian organization. And Doug Cook from Armitage last week won the championship in the dairy cattle section at the Kemptville Agricultural School Royal. While the two accomplishments are very different, they are both well worthy of recognition.

## Beef Bull Show At Hays' Arena

The largest sale of beef bulls in Ontario was held under the auspices of the Ontario Beef Cattle Improvement Association on March 15 and 16 in the Hays' Sales Arena, Trafalgar. There were 178 top quality beef bulls up for auction.

"Bulls being offered at this sale were from the best herds in the province," states Mr. H. E. McGill, Live Stock Commissioner, Ontario Department of Agriculture.

The sire, of course, is the most important influence in a cow-calf herd. A performance-tested sire with good rate of gain and weight for age will transmit a considerable proportion of his superiority to his offspring, according to Mr. Charles Gracey, Secretary, Ontario Beef Cattle Improvement Association. This means heavier weaning weights and more rapid gains on feed. Moreover, such a sire's daughters returning to the breeding herd will carry this superiority as well.

"Realizing these principles," Mr. Gracey reports, "a group of commercial cow-calf herd owners from the Eno and Ft. Francis area of Northwestern Ontario attended the Ontario show and sale of bulls last year, purchasing 27 performance-tested bulls. The increase in quality and gainability of the progeny of these bulls will, without doubt, soon attract the attention of feedlot operators in Southern Ontario. In the future, these operators will likely turn to Northern Ontario as a source of feeder cattle."

This year, 123 Herefords were shown and sold on March 15, while 39 Short-

### Farmer Seen Failing To Adjust

Many farmers are having a rough time of it, not because there isn't money to be made from crop and stock production, but because they have failed to adjust.

This was the opinion of Prof. Brian B.P. Perkins, agricultural economist, University of Guelph in an address at the conclusion of Farmers' Week '66.

"Earnings of farmers do not appear to have been lower than the average of all occupations in Ontario," Prof. Perkins said.

"However, it is clear that the occupation of farming as a whole has been less rewarding than alternative occupations."

He blamed this on technological changes in agriculture which has resulted in increased output and lower farm product prices.

The most important income problem, in agriculture he said, is that a large proportion of farmers have not been able to adjust to change sufficiently to raise the income of their families above the poverty level.

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# Farm Tribune



OUT LIKE A LAMB. These two pig-tailed lasses learned that the month of March is supposed to go out like a lamb, and determined that the lamb would go out in style, they decked its fluffy head with a spring-green wreath.

## Ontario Mastitis Program For Responsible Control

The Ontario Mastitis Control Program conducted by the Department of Agriculture is not a slaughter program. It's an attempt to control mastitis. According to Dr. H. J. Neely, Veterinary Services Branch, "When half of Ontario's cows have mastitis, dairymen must accept the responsibility of doing something about it. We suggest that dairymen remove hopeless cases from the milking line. Those cows which are highly infectious should not, of course, even be near the rest of the herd. It's strictly a voluntary program. We don't force farmers to do anything; we only advise."

One of the enrolment conditions of the program states that any cow not responding to treatment should be removed from the milking line and isolated or disposed of in a manner approved by the Director. Unfortunately, this is the major excuse hindering farmers from enrolment because they are afraid that they must dispose of the best breeding stock in their herds.

"We've never asked a dairyman to remove a cow from his herd," reports Dr. Neely. "With regular herd testing, the dairyman is in a position to decide which cows mean mastitis trouble and lower milk production."

Mastitis is controlled by three basic steps. First, farmers must embark upon a system of sound milking management. This includes milking procedure and the general maintenance and care of their milking machines. Second, they must set up effective sanitation barriers, to eliminate new infection and reduce disease in those already infected. The third major step is the removal of those cows which are hopelessly infected.

## Farm Machinery, Feed Costs Keep Climbing

Canadian farmers are being charged more this year than last for some livestock feeds, farm machinery and fertilizer, several sources report.

In Ontario, prices of grain for feeding livestock and poultry are reported up an average of about 12 per cent from a year ago and in Western Canada protein supplements for animals are reported up about 10 per cent.

The Meat Packers Council of Canada said that a rise in the price of feeds doesn't mean an automatic increase in meat prices but there may be higher retail prices this fall or next spring.

Increases in grain prices are said to reflect a scarcity of grain in Europe.

At Newmarket District Cooperative, the grade of oats most widely used for livestock sells at \$63 a ton this year compared with \$57 a year ago.

Murray Loughheed, manager of the feed department, added that the main grade of feed barley now is \$66 a ton compared with \$60 a year ago. Mill feeds, left over from wheat ground for flour, are up \$10 from \$56 a ton and protein supplements are up about \$7, he said.

Feed oats at Winnipeg recently were \$9 1/2 cents a bushel compared with 76 1/2 cents a year earlier. Feed barley was \$13 1/2 a bushel, up from \$12 1/2 a year earlier.

Farm machinery prices average from 2 1/2 to four per cent higher than a year ago, largely because of high labour and raw material costs, says Massey-Ferguson Ltd.

The suggested retail price this year for the company's biggest combine is \$12,818, up from \$12,505 last year, the company says.

**TRACTOR PRICES UP**

At Brampton, Sholdice Service and Supply Ltd. sells 50-horsepower tractors for about \$3,000, up \$75 to \$100 from a year ago. Manager William McCurdy said the increase was less than previous years.

Fertilizer is more expensive in Ontario but cheaper in the West. United Co-operatives of Ontario, which supplies retail co-ops, says prices are higher by an average of two per cent.

## Drainage Tile Expert Urges Spring Cleaning

"If any puddles hover over your drainage tile, dig down now!" urges Professor R. W. Irwin, School of Agricultural Engineering, Ontario Agricultural College.

"When there's a stoppage in a tile line," Professor Irwin explains, "water rises to the surface at the point of stoppage. This can cause a serious washout. The tile should be dug up at once and cleared. Broken tile or wide cracks are another menace — they cause cave-ins. At the sign of the smallest hole, these should be repaired before too much silt enters the tile system. Ontario Department of Agriculture Publication 36, Laying Tile by Hand, describes a method of relaying short sections of drain tile," this agricultural engineer adds.

Ditches are often overlooked. Unfortunately, however, they too won't drain efficiently if they're clogged. "Trees, weeds, logs, brush, old fencing, and other debris should be cleared from the channel now," Professor Ir-

win relates. "This is a real hazard where culverts or bridges may be blocked by this refuse. Burning and the application of chemicals are sometimes effective in weed control, but the use of chemicals may create a hazard to livestock that use the drainage water for drinking purposes."

The Ontario Department of Agriculture's Publication 290, Care and Maintenance of the Drainage System, offers additional information, free of charge to Ontario residents from the Information Branch, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

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