

'No Hunting' Signs, The Farmer's Answer To Trespassers

STOUFFVILLE — The words 'no trespassing' or orders to that effect, are perhaps the most commonly printed signs seen today in the fields and woodlots of Southern Ontario. Unless something unforeseen occurs to change the trend, there is little doubt that more such signs will be seen in the future.

A WARNING

Why is this so? Is it to warn tramps away? . . . To caution people away from some danger? . . . A warning to friends and neighbors? In most cases the answer is "No". More probably it is a warning to you, Mr. Hunter, to stay off the land.

Although game belongs to the Crown, not the landowner, the landowner has control of entry to and use of his property for any purpose, including hunting. Your hunting licence does not give you the right to trespass — it only permits you to hunt and take certain numbers of animals and birds, during their open seasons.

PRIVATE LANDS
Who owns the land in Southwestern Ontario? Although small percentage belongs to the Crown — Crown lands, Provincial Parks etcetera — a very high percentage is in private ownership.

A good proportion of the land, today, is gradually passing from the hands of farmers in to those of individual non-farmer, absentee owners — non-farm rural residents who prefer to live in the city and work in the city or surrounding area — who use their land for personal recreation. Hunting on such lands, although posted, is often granted to the family, friends or by permission. In many cases, such posting is a means of regulation, rather than a means of prohibiting hunting.

Remaining lands, apart from municipal and urban development, are owned and controlled, largely, by farmers living on and tilling the soil and whose chief occupation is farming. (The average farmer does not post his lands against hunting or trespassing). To promote better present and future farmer-hunter relationships, it is very desirable that hunters always ask for permission to hunt, from the land-owner.

WHY DOES THE OWNER POST HIS PROPERTY?
Protection from irresponsible hunters — such as groups tramping down grain, leaving gates open so that farm stock can wander from the field, parking vehicles in farm lanes and litter 'bugging'.

Personal and family safety — discharging fire arms in and around buildings, in areas where the farmer is working, where children are playing, close to farm animals and fowl and the intentional shooting, at times, of such animals and birds.

Damage to fences — breaking down and cutting of fences, causing damage that must be repaired at the farmer's expense. A chance to hunt game himself — since the land helps support game found on it, many farmers feel that they should have the



No 'Trespassing' signs are common in all townships surrounding Stouffville. They pose a warning to trespassers and indicate strained relations that have built up over the years between indiscriminate hunters and farm owners.

—Staff Photo.



FARMING REPORT

By AL WALL

There have been more changes in York County's hog industry in the last year or so than there were in many previous years.

Large, automated units have been set up that make it possible to feed hogs at a very small labour cost.

Improved breeding, cross-breeding and even hybrid breeding have resulted in hogs that can come very close to broilers for feed efficiency.

Many breeders using S.P.F. stock have been able to solve the disease problem. Without virus pneumonia and rhinitis, a commercial hog producer has a lot more security in his business.

The future for hogs is good. There will quite likely be a price drop in 1967, but the long term prospects are that hogs will remain in a strong competitive position with other kinds of livestock from the standpoint of profit.

The compulsory number for all choirs was 'They Call It Canada', while the Ontario County choir sang 'Run Sammy Run' as the selection of their choice.

The members of the Ontario County Choir are:

President: Donna Robertson; Port Perry; Secretary,

Pat Hunter; Seagrave;

Treasurer: Sheila Disney;

Brocklin; Dianne Graham;

Balsam; Linda Graham;

Balsam; Mary Hadden;

Blackwater; Beatrice Lee;

Greenbank; Betty Munro;

Port Perry; Marie Raines;

Blackwater; Marilyn Rodd;

Greenbank; Karen Sonley,