

Farm

Tribune

O. F. A. president urges - one voice for all farmers

Whitchurch meeting attended by 150

VANDORF—One organization with one voice for all farmers. That was the recommendation of O.F.A. President Charles Munro, the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Whitchurch Township Federation of Agriculture at Vandorf. It was attended by 150 people.

"Why do we need two organizations to represent farmers?" asked Mr. Munro, "we have come to the conclusion that what we require is one strong general organization, not only in Ontario but across the entire country."

Mr. Munro pointed out that it had become difficult to raise sufficient finances to cover expenses involved in such an operation, especially when considerable preparation is needed in making presentations to governments. He said that through a single representative voice, expenses could be reduced.

Mr. Munro revealed that on Jan. 5, a meeting was held that included officials from the Co-operative, the Federation of Agriculture and the Farmers' Union. It was during that meeting

that it was decided to form a 16-man committee, the O.F.A. President said. He admitted that in order to achieve the goal of one organization, a spirit of goodwill was imperative. Mr. Munro commended the executive and members of the Whitchurch Federation for their excellent attendance. "I only wish that a similar kind of enthusiasm was prevalent in other parts of the province," he said.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition paid to Mr. and Mrs. Mel McMillen of Pine Orchard. They are leaving Whitchurch where they have farmed for 26 years to take up residence at Stayner. Mr. McMillen served as the first President of the Whitchurch Federation and a Director in the York County Federation. He was also the Chairman of the York County Hog Producer's Association.

Mr. Harry Ferguson presented Mr. and Mrs. McMillan with an electric wall clock. Mrs. McMillen received a bouquet of flowers.

The family farm from father to son

Many farm sons wonder about their future on the family farm. Father often says "don't worry about it, the farm will be yours when I'm gone." Should this answer satisfy the son? In most cases, it is not enough.

First of all, the farm may not be his. Everyone should have a will; unfortunately, many do not. Without a will a person's estate will be divided by law among his relatives according to their relationship to the deceased. Even with a will, the son has no guarantee that the farm will be his, because a will can be changed any time during a person's lifetime. A person who remarries automatically nullifies his will made previous to the remarriage. Wills are sometimes so involved and restricted that it would be impossible for a son to take over the farm on a reasonable basis.

There are other reasons why more than a will is needed to transfer the farm to the son. The son wants some security, especially if he is married. The will does not give him this. He wants a stake in the farm business, includ-

ing a share of the real estate.

Another reason is the large estates that many farmers have now accumulated. Careful, long-range estate planning is needed to minimize death duties. For example, on an estate of \$100,000 left outright to the wife with no dependent children, death duties would be \$6,981. If the estate was \$75,000 the death duties would be \$900. Giving it all to the son at once or transferring just a year or two before one dies will not help much either.

Swine disease control policy

Two diseases of swine, Virus Pneumonia and Atrophic Rhinitis, are being successfully eliminated from swine herds under the Certified Herd Policy, according to Dr. P. G. Oliver, Swine Disease Consultant, Veterinary Services Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food. The policy is designed to help farmers establish and maintain

herds that are free of these diseases.

Virus Pneumonia and Atrophic Rhinitis, thought to be caused by infectious agents, have no satisfactory cures.

The program, supervised by the Veterinary Services Branch, consists of complete isolation of herds from contact with possible disease sources. Farmers can get disease-free stock from certified herds. Establishment of a herd requires thorough cleaning and disinfection at least sixty days before the arrival of new pigs. After the herd is established, it must be strictly isolated. All traffic onto the premises must be controlled — animal as well as human.

When veterinarians with the Veterinary Services Branch are satisfied that a certificate is issued.

The policy, as Dr. Oliver points out, is not a cure-all. The pigs are still susceptible to disease, but with good management, feeding, breeding, and isolation of herds — they provide a good source of swine for farmers in Ontario.

Any farmer interested in breeding stock that has been certified under this program should contact his Agricultural Representative or a veterinarian with the Veterinary Services Branch.

Organize lions club

CLAREMONT—The initial meeting to organize a Lions' Club has met with excellent response and the minimum requirements for membership have already been met. The first meeting was held at the home of Mr. Les Parker.

The next meeting will be held in the Legion Hall, Feb. 28. Officers will be elected and an application made to Lions International for a club charter. Any further information can be had by phoning Mr. Parker, 649-2026, R.R.2 Claremont.

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Harry Ferguson (left) President of the Whitchurch Federation of Agriculture presented Mr. and Mrs. Mel McMillen of Pine Orchard with an electric wall clock at the annual meeting at Vandorf. Mr. and Mrs. McMillen will take up residence at Stayner. —Staff Photo

GARDEN GUIDE

Leave Rock Gardens for Professionals

By JOHN BRADSHAW, Garden Editor.

A rock garden can not only add a great deal of beauty and character to any garden, but can provide the man or woman who genuinely loves growing flowers with a rewarding hobby and a never-ending fascination.

One of the biggest drawbacks to the care of a larger rock garden has been the difficulty in keeping it free of the annual weeds and grasses. This problem is now a thing of the past with the introduction of the new grass and weed control plant foods which will not only feed each pocket of the rock garden successfully, but will provide season-long protection from the onslaughts of the annual weeds and grasses. The new controls also mean that you can go away for a month's holiday and not come back and find the rock garden over-run with weeds.

Very few home gardeners have the ability to build their own rock garden. A lot of people don't possess the healthy body, the strong back and the strong heart necessary to move the rocks into place. The majority of the people don't have the imagination necessary to do this job. I'd recommend that you call in an expert landscape firm to build your rock garden. The best plan is to check with one of the leading nurseries because they usually supply nursery stock to the better landscape men.

In any case, be sure to check the firm's qualifications very carefully before you give them a contract to do the job.

What you want is a rock garden, not a pile of rocks that would suggest to passers-by that you were a recent graduate of Kingston penitentiary.

Hundreds of rock gardens in southern Ontario have been built by mounding up the soil in front of the house to hide part or all of the foundation wall. All the so-called rock garden expert did after that, was to level the slope, apply a thin layer of top soil and then take a group of rocks of approximately the same size and shape and place them in even rows along the slope. He compounded his lack of knowledge and ability by placing the rocks so that the ends point up to the sky.

In my experience most people ignore the garden part of the term when it comes to building a rock garden. Despite the fact that we use rocks of all sizes and shapes, we're still primarily concerned with creating a garden; not a modern castle or some other type of architectural monstrosity. We are really trying to imitate the eye-satisfying formations we see in the woods. There you'll never see a group of stones on end or marching in a straight line.

The best site for a rock garden is a gently sloping bank, either at the front, side or rear of the garden. Unfortunately, this is the type of site which is seldom present in the average subdivision garden where the land is almost entirely levelled before beginning to build the homes. Never-the-less, this needn't prevent you from having a rock garden. An artificial mound of earth can be created in the garden as the site for a rockery.

It may never look quite as natural as one built on a gently sloping bank, but who cares? It's the fun and joy of rock gardening that counts.

Each rock garden consists of many pockets, large, medium and small. The pockets are composed of small areas of soil surrounded by rock. The landscape man or the home gardener will need equal amounts of large size stones (that one man will have trouble moving by himself) medium and small size stones. The large ones are needed to add character to the rock garden and also to use up quite a bit of the height of the bank.

The kind of rock to use will vary with the area in which you live. Undoubtedly the most attractive kind is the porous weathered limestone found in many places in southern Ontario. I've also been able to create attractive rock gardens using granite and field stone.

One of the most exciting happenings in the rock gardening world in recent years has been the introduction of very light weight lava rock which comes from the Sierra Nevada mountains in California. This rock is not only extremely attractive and natural looking, but has the added advantage of only weighing about a third as much as ordinary stones. Its lightness will mean that the home gardener will find it much easier to build his own rockery than was possible in the past.

Regardless of the kind of rock used, the professional and amateur alike must be able to recognize what is called the "face" of the rocks. Each one has a "face" which is best described as the way it looks best when set in the soil. It may be necessary to move it several times until you get it in the position where it looks best.

Edgar Ward Director of beef assoc.

CLAREMONT — Edgar Ward of Claremont has been named a director of the Ontario County Beef Improvement Association, representing the Township of Pickering. The annual meeting was held at Sunderland.

Other directors for 1968 are: Bert Guthrie, Whitby, R.R. 2; Walter Beath, Oshawa, R.R. 2; Norman McLeod, Blackwater, R.R. 2; Peter Hart, Port Perry, R.R. 3; Hugh Shillinglaw, Mt. Albert, R.R. 3; Harvey Blackburn, Uxbridge, R.R. 2; Clare Bagshaw, Sunderland, R.R. 2; Clarence Hewitt, Beaverton, R.R. 3; John Speedie, Brechin, R.R. 1; Hector McKinnon, Orillia, R.R. 6. Directors at large are: Gus Lask, Sunderland, R.R. 1; Wm. Newman, Balsam and Carman Roadway, Mt. Albert, R.R. 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Stiver, Danny and Kathy of Hall's Lake were recent visitors with her sister, Mrs. Stewart Vague and family of Ringwood.

Hog quality competition

UXBRIDGE — The annual meeting of the Ontario County Hog Producers' Association was held at Sunderland. The guest speaker was Dr. S. C. Tanner, Head of Technical Services, Animal Health Products Division, Eli Lilly Company of Canada Limited, Toronto. His subject was "Hot Health."

Winners of the 1967 Hog Quality Competition were: (farmers producing 25 to 100 hogs) Stan Lynde, Ashburn, R.R. 1; Harold Jones, Zephyr, R.R. 1; Harry Woodland Goodwood, R.R. 1. (farmers producing 101 to 200 hogs) Earl Dowsell, Goodwood, R.R. 1; Wilmot Suggitt, Sunderland, R.R. 1; Douglas Harder, Blackwater, R.R. 2; Wm. Pegler, Janetville, R.R. 1; Lloyd Wilson, Ashburn R.R. 1; Don Hadden, Blackwater, R.R. 1; C. B. Hewitt, Beaverton, R.R. 3; Les Faux, Blackwater, R.R. 2. (farmers producing 201 hogs and over) Oscar and Brian Gibson, Seagrave, R.R. 2; John Townson, Uxbridge, R.R. 3; Harold Clark, Uxbridge, R.R. 2; Duncan McTavish, Uxbridge, R.R. 3.

Elected directors for 1968 include: (Scott) Maustyn McKnight, Uxbridge, R.R. 2; (Reach) Ted Lamb Port Perry, R.R. 4; (Uxbridge) Gordon Kydd, Uxbridge R.R. 2; (Scugog) Anson Gerrow, Port Perry, R.R. 3; (Whitby) Heber Down, Brooklin, R.R. 1 and (Pickering) Lloyd Wilson, Ashburn, R.R. 1. Directors at large are: Gordon Taber, Brooklin, R.R. 1; Earl Windatt, Beaverton, R.R. 3 and Harvey Moore, Brooklin, R.R. 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dawson of Goodwood visited Sunday with his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hallett and family of Whitby on the occasion of Mr. Dawson's birthday.

For top farm profits

A. A. Wall, Agricultural Representative for York County.

I got into a bit of an argument the other day on the principles involved in making the best profits from a farm. It's still on my mind, because I think I got the wrong side of it.

I took the view that the key was to have a nice difference between cost of production and selling price. Get production costs down with good management, and then when production methods have proven out, get volume as big as possible, for the most money.

The guy on the other side argued that my theory was backwards. His idea was that management should first concentrate on building gross income. By him, a small margin on a big volume had a lot more potential than a big margin on a small volume. He would have us go all out first on gross income, and then worry about net income later.

For sure, this theory is a lot better than mine in a strict business sense. And, it's important to recognize that it's likely going to be the prevalent philosophy

in the future. If we follow it, pressure first goes on crop yields. Corn, barley, alfalfa and orchard grass should replace some of the plants we grow now.

Bad reputations are blocking the progress of some of these plants. Barley for example gets blamed for being hard on land and being a hot feed. Actually, it doesn't take any more plant food from the soil than oats, and its almost tops for digestibility compared to other feeds.

Orchard grass hardly rates as a hay or pasture plant in York County because it has a reputation for maturing too early. This really should be a point in its favour, with the equipment we have to handle it. It's the best grass to go with the Flemish alfalfa. Harvested right, it can be up to 70% digestible its regrowth is far superior to any other grass, and it can't be surpassed in total yield.

These kinds of things are going to be a lot more important than the chances for success of the new Kelsey oats.

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