

Farm

Tribune

King of furrowland

Treated like royalty

STOUFFVILLE—Grant Wells, the Canadian king of furrowland, has returned home from Salisbury, Rhodesia, feeling like royalty. For that is how he and his wife Marion were treated during their stay there. Grant, a farmer near Lemonville in Whitchurch Township in Canada's number one representative in the World Plowing Match in the community of Norton, 30 miles outside of Salisbury.

"From the time we arrived to the hour of our departure, everything was just wonderful," said Marion. She described the country as a land of flowers and sunshine.

Grant expressed the same kind of praise for the match itself. "The handful of men who organized it, deserve every credit," he said, "they were efficient in every detail."

Grant described the match site as "excellent" with both sod and stubble lands in close proximity. This allowed the spectators an opportunity to see the two operations without difficulty. The attendance, expected to be about 10,000, exceeded all estimates. The final figure was 33,000.

Weather conditions just prior to the competition, left something to be desired. It rained exceedingly hard and the quality of plowmanship suffered. Grant noted, however, that considering soil conditions, some good lands were completed. The top four plowmen all used their own equipment, shipped in from Holland, West Germany and England. Grant's tractor was a Ford

4000 and a Ransom plow. "The Rhodesians treated us like heroes," he said, "they had never seen plowing like that before."

For Grant and Marion, there was more to their stay in Rhodesia than the competition between men and machines — much more. They visited a game preserve for a close-up look at elephants, zebras, giraffes and other forms of wild life.

A highlight of the trip was their visit to the research stations and farming communities. "They have made great strides in agricultural efficiency," said Grant. Irrigation is important to them, especially this year when the drought has been the worst in 40 years. Some farmers have re-planted their crops four times. Manual labor is still used extensively.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells visited one farm, 30 miles from Salisbury where the owner had just completed the building of a 30 foot dam to maintain a water reservoir covering 25 acres. Next year, this lake will be used to irrigate 300 acres of cotton plus pasture lands for 500 beef cattle.

For the native African, seeking government aid, he begins by cultivating 4 acres of burley tobacco and some maize. Thus, in a small way, he becomes part of the agricultural community and assists in improving the economy of the country.

It was an exciting two weeks away for Grant and Marion. But they both agree too, that there's no place like home sweet home.



Springtime grazing

A herd of Charolaise cattle add a touch of color to a rural scene on the farm of Arthur Stollary, conc. 6, Markham Township. —Staff Photo

Albert Hockley

Heads potato club

ONTARIO COUNTY — Albert Hockley, Claremont, R.R.1, has been named chairman of the Ontario County 500 bushel potato club. The meeting was held at Uxbridge, May 9.

The organization was first organized in 1945 and has been successfully operated since that time. Eighteen growers completed this high-yield club in 1967.

Last year's winner was Richard Colwell, Claremont, R.R.1, with an estimated yield of 501 bushels per acre. The average estimated yield for all eighteen growers in the 1967 competition was 328 bushels.

Persons wishing membership may submit his application and \$3.00 to the Department of Agriculture and Food office, Uxbridge, by June 1.

The 1968 executive follows: Chairman, Albert Hockley, Claremont, R.R.1; Ivan Norton, Goodwood, R.R.1.

Soybeans eligible for insurance

Insurance on Soybeans is now available, the Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario announced today.

Following closely upon the introduction of their Grain Corn Plan, coverage is now available on Soybeans for 70% of a farmer's average farm yield.

"A spokesman for the Commission stated that applications will be accepted for insurance on Soybeans up to 10 days after seeding or June 20th — whichever date occurs first. For purposes of insurance and indemnity, the Commission has established the price of Soybeans at \$2.50 per bushel (based on 60 lbs. at 14% moisture content).

The low rates to be charged by the Commission produce a premium cost of around \$2.50 to \$3.00 per acre, depending on average farm yields in individual cases.

As a result of recent additional agency appointments, the Commission now has more than 160 agents across the Province.

Pasture prospects poor

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

Last week's cold weather held growth to almost a standstill. Newly seeded fields made very little progress and wheat is having a hard time to really get going.

However, there's nothing wrong with these crops that a week or two of hot weather won't cure. There is the usual worrying that seed will rot in the ground if it's cold and wet, but this is very rare. Insect damage is a great hazard, for seedlings that do not get up and get going in a hurry.

The weakest spot in crop production in York County now is probably hay and pastures. Damage from being too wet last summer, combined with serious frost damage last winter, has left many fields in poor shape, to start with. Then our recent weather hasn't given the plants a good early start.

It's a time to think about putting some nitrogen on hay or pasture fields if the alfalfa is mostly gone. Up to 200 lbs. of Ammonium Nitrate or 150 lbs. of Urea is almost sure to pay for itself in extra yield. But if it doesn't go on in the next day or so, it will be too late.

Another answer might be to move to mechanical grazing this year. A forage harvester will certainly stretch the pasture acreage.

A third possibility would be to plant an annual crop to be used as roughage. Oats can be used for mid-summer feeding. Corn or sudan hybrids can save the day in early fall. These two could also be stacked and fed in November and December.

The best way to meet a shortage of hay and pasture will depend on specific conditions on a farm. But the decision should be made soon.

Corn growers' club

ONTARIO COUNTY — For the past fourteen years, corn growers in Ontario County have organized and carried through to completion a very successful high yield corn club. This club has for its objective 100 bushels of shelled corn per acre.

The winner of the 1967 competition was Mr. Henry Westney, Pickering, R.R.1, with a yield of 155.8 bushels per acre. Mr. Paul Meyers, Claremont, R.R.3, was second with a yield of 154.8 bushels per acre.

The officers and committee follow: Chairman, Malcolm Allbright, Balsam; Vice-Chairman, Don Dunkeld, Claremont, R.R.2; Secretary-Treasurer, Lynn Fair, Uxbridge; Committee Members: Jack Morgan, Claremont; Bert Lewis, Stouffville, R.R.3; Murray Dunkeld, Claremont R.R.2; Albert Foster, Claremont R.R.2; Don Dunkeld, Claremont R.R.2; Paul Meyers, Claremont R.R.3; Paul Wellman, Claremont R.R.2; Malcolm Allbright, Balsam; Carman Boardway, Mount Albert, R.R.3; Bob Timbers, Mount Albert, R.R.3; Bob Hunter, Brooklin, R.R.1.

Anyone interested in joining this high yield club for 1968 should send their application, together with a \$3.00 membership fee, to the Department of Agriculture and Food Office, Uxbridge, by June 1.

Farm land sales soar

UXBRIDGE TWP. — Farm land sales continue to soar, particularly in the areas between concessions 2 and 4 of the Twp. of Uxbridge. Several properties have been purchased and rumors are rampant as to the ultimate plan behind the transactions. Prices are said to range from \$600 to \$900 per acre. Reported proposals include everything from a giant airport to a satellite city. To date, nothing has been confirmed. One Stouffville area realtor told The Tribune

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that several farms in Uxbridge had been acquired merely for speculation purposes with no immediate plan for development of any kind. The Uxbridge Township Planning Board has received no applications for either a residential, industrial or commercial venture of any size.

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