Bees for rent

Most fruit and seed crop production depends on pollination. Because bees do not gather much nectar for making honey from orchard blossoms, fruit growers must rent colonies of honeybees from beekeepers to perform the vital service of pollination. This is done each year. It usually takes one colony, sometimes two, per acre of producing fruit trees. For best results the colonies are moved into the orchard just as the blossoms are beginning to open. There are approximately 133 thousand colonies of bees in Ontario with two thousand four hundred and forty beekeepers.

Farm Tribune

Suggest farmers turn to soy beans

A. A. Wall

With seeding delayed, and a sad market for barley, there is a lot of interest this spring in soybeans. With barley selling for two cents a pound and oilmeal costing almost six, growing the beans looks like an awfully good move for these who feed either beef or dairy cattle.

It's a good move providing a person can handle the special problems that go with beans.

First, it's hard to get a thick even stand. Beans have to have a long continuous moisture supply to germinate, and if the seedbed isn't just right, too many seeds just never get going.

A crusted soil surface is hard on beans too. Unlike other grains, the seed itself split itself into two cotyledon leaves, has to push through the soil surface to grow. A clay soil often gets a crust on it that is too hard for many bean shoots.

Weed control has to get special attention too. Soyabeans are almost hopeless in competition with any kind of grass, and they don't put up much of a fight against broadleaved weeds either.

The best treatment is Treflan and Linuron, incorporated before planting. Treflan gets the annual grasses, and Linuron the ragweed, pigweed, mustard, etc.

The variety to use almost depends on what is available. Altona, Portage and Merit are all suitable for York County, and Hardome, although later, has been alright here too.

Seven inch rows have worked well in York. Fourteen inches would be better if there is a danger of crusting. Where soybeans are new on a field, inoculation of the seed is well worth the trouble.

A point too is that the seedbed should be as flat as possible. Any ridging left by disc harrows or the seed drill will prevent the combine from getting right down under the pods.

I know that all of these points make soybeans sound difficult. The returns are enough higher however, than oats or barley, to at least consider them. Those who grew them last year are putting in bigger acreages this year.

Twelve cows qualify for production award

Twelve cows owned by Ontario Ayrshire Breeders have qualified for special production certificates in recognition of high lifetime production achievements. Ruby Seal Certificates are for cows which produce over 125,000 lbs. milk and Gold Seal Certificates are for cows which produce over 100,000 lbs. milk. All of these cows completed their lactations on practical twice daily milkings.

Two local animals are in the group.

W. S. Ramer, Richmond Hill, Ont., has been awarded a Gold Seal Certificate for Raycroft Dusky Orel. In her first eight lactations, she has produced 113,853 lbs. milk, 4,045 lbs. fat in 2,748 days. In each of her last three lactations, she produced over 16,000 lbs. milk. Her yield at 8 years was 16,353 lbs. milk, 603 lbs. fat in 366 days; at 9 years, 16,507 lbs. milk, 592 lbs. fat in 329 days and at 10 years, 16,849 lbs. milk, 526 lbs. fat.

Farm machinery price inflation

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has decided to go to the Federal Government concerning the differences in selling prices of farm machinery in Ontario and Great Britain.

The decision comes one week after it was revealed that the OFA is assisting agricultural organizations in six different provinces to begin their own farm machinery importation programs.

The original Federation program was begun with tractors last year to illustrate the inflated mark-ups in farm machinery prices. The OFA imported seven tractors from the United Kingdom at a saving of about $20,000 to the purchasing farmers.

Some time later the program was expanded to include any piece of machinery that the farmer wished to order, if it was available in Britain. Inquiries concerning more than $2,000,000 worth of machinery were received.

Agricultural students study farm business

Senior students in the two-year diploma course at Centralia College of Agricultural Technology have the opportunity of examining the problems of real farm business.

The project, nearing the end of its first year of operation, involves six farms in the area, ranging in size from 100 to 400 acres and involving dairy, beef, swine and poultry production, along with corn, cereals, forage and canning crops production.

Students working in small groups examine all aspects of the farm and have access to all business records.

Farm record books are being completed for each farm, and in the final analysis the student must project the course the farm would take under his management to increase net farm income within the resources available to the practicing farmer.

Although the four main divisions of the college — Agronomy, Engineering, Livestock and Business Management — all provide courses which must be completed successfully by the senior student, no student will graduate without completeing to the satisfaction of the College a detailed farm business analysis project.

The farmers involved are responsible along with the college staff for assessment of the students' effort and achievement on the project, and the college is indeed grateful to these farmers for their excellent cooperation.

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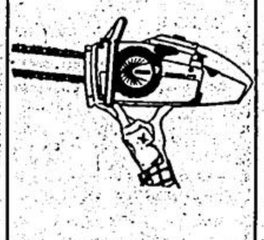

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