

York County

Farm production is still more than \$20 million

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Our attention in York County focuses on Western Canada these days quite regularly. The grain situation there affects us directly, as the emphasis in York's farm industry shifts steadily from livestock to crops.

While our base is still solidly livestock, the minority group of cash croppers has a few more farmers added to its ranks every year.

The sale of farms and the prospect of future development certainly are deterrents to expansion of livestock facilities. A big item too, is that dairymen can now quit the milk business and sell their quota for money that pays them fairly well for their years of work towards the fluid market. This has to be one of the really good results of the marketing plan.

Crops then, fit nicely for short range plans, often on rented land, and it's a happy situation that we have top land and climate in Whitechurch and Markham for growing grain.

It is satisfying to know that steps are being taken in the West to control the grain surplus build-up. A lot of land here would be left to grow weeds if the

grain market really hit the skids.

It's always good to look for new crops. Grain corn is the big one, but nursery sod, soybeans, peas, forage seeds, vegetables and small fruit should be used wherever they fit.

Farmers like Jake Baker and John Doner have had good success with Birdsfoot Trefoil for seed. For steep slopes, it can be left down for a long time and has quite an edge on red clover.

Soybeans have potential too. They have to be carefully managed but no special machinery is needed.

Drying and storage is a major bottleneck in corn. It's slow and expensive. One of the answers may well be the use of

propionic acid. Applied evenly to wet corn, bacterial action is stopped so that grain can be stored in any regular bin.

Our grain growers might also do well to put some effort into selling direct to big livestock feeders. Many beef, hog or poultry producers could be quite interested in contracting locally for the production of his feed grains.

A final point on our industry is that despite land sales, total production for York hasn't slipped very much. It's annual income is well over twenty million dollars, and there are over seven hundred farms grossing over

\$10,000 per year. York is still one of the strong farm counties in the Province.

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