

Farm

Tribune

Little Red Riding Hood tales

No real wolves in southern Ontario suggest withdrawal of death bounty

By Edgerton Pegg, Claremont, R.R. 2

From time to time, I have read reports in local newspapers of dogs, and wolves running in packs in the southern townships of Ontario County. I have also heard of mothers who expressed fear that wolves might attack their children.

I would like to assure those people who are still living in the day of Little Red Riding Hood; that they can safely unlock their doors and let their children go outside to play. In the first place there are no wolves any nearer than Algonquin Park and even if there were you have nothing to fear since there is no record of a wolf ever having attacked anyone — dogs, yes but not wolves. It could be well over a hundred years since the timber wolf roamed in our locality. The last one sighted in Prince Edward County was in 1922.

Coyotes however do have. These animals came into Ontario from the south about the turn of the century. In no way is the coyote a wolf, nor will it mate with one. They are not livestock killers as some people believe, seldom taking anything larger than a rabbit. I have been reassured of this by ranchers that I have spoken to in Saskatchewan, where new born calves are dropped on the prairies unprotected and miles

away from any buildings. As clever as it is the coyote has never learned to climb over poultry fences nor does it run in packs to menace deer.

Farmers in Prince Edward County were alarmed last year when their sheep were killed, supposedly by wolves. As reported in the Kingston Whig Standard — a laboratory was set up and 16 animals that had been shot were brought in. Fifteen of these were coyotes and the other was described as some sort of hybrid dog. Autopsies were carefully performed by game wardens. Stomach contents of the 15 coyotes showed that nothing had been eaten other than rodents. Traces of pigskin and wool were found in the dog. Once again proving that coyotes are more beneficial than harmful.

When brush wolves, as they are sometimes called are scarce, a female may choose a dog as a mate, this is where trouble begins. The off-spring, known as coy-dogs, will sometimes turn to killing livestock. Coyotes teach their young to catch grasshoppers, then rats and mice, groundhogs and other rodents. In the west they help to control the destructive gopher. Roadside kills provide them with carrion, thus keeping our ditches and streams free from additional pollution. No animal is more gentle to humans, even when cornered or trapped it will not fight back but cringes in terror.

It is difficult to understand why the coyote is so misunderstood and so mistreated, being shot, trapped, poisoned, snared



Wolves on the prowl in Southern Ontario? Don't believe it, says Edgerton Pegg, Claremont, R.R.2. He recommends the 'death' bounty be removed.

Farmers invited

County seed fair

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

YORK CTY. — Spring is here and the York County Seed Fair is on. It's on Thursday (today) at Victoria Square.

The emphasis at the Seed Fair has shifted strongly to hay, silage and various forms of grain corn. So it's easy to show exhibits now. No more hand picking samples of grain — show it "like it is" is the theme now. Just pick a full bale of hay out of the mow, or a gallon of silage from the silo and you're in business. Entries are invited from all farmers in York.

Chemical spraying has to be the number one topic this year, and the program at the Seed Fair is devoted entirely to it. The speakers are Bruce Shillinglaw of Fison's, and Paul Fish, our Soils & Crops specialist.

Weed killers will be a main item. Materials to knock annual grasses out of corn, new products to tackle thistles, bindweed, buckwheat and quack grass, and weed killers for soybeans, will all be dealt with.

Insecticides and fungicides have to have a new look this year. Some insecticides have been taken off the market so changes have to be made.

Seed treatments are very important, with soil treatments and foliage sprays being generally restricted to very severe outbreaks only. Seed treatment is too often taken for granted. As long as there is some strange looking pink colouring on seed, it's assumed that it is protected against all diseases, insects, cold weather and whatever.

The fact is that seed often is not fully treated

as it comes from the dealer. This whole business of chemicals in farming requires special knowledge and training. The trial and error approach isn't good enough when a whole crop is being risked, and the health hazard for the person handling them is a big factor too.

This is the purpose of the Seed Fair program, March 19. It starts after lunch and all farmers are invited.

Establish county rabies clinics

YORK CTY. — Due to an increase in the incidence of rabies in York County during the past several months, the Federal Department of Agriculture, Health of Animals Branch is organizing with the help from local Municipal Authorities and with the assistance from local Veterinary practitioners, free rabies vaccination clinics for dogs and cats.

Clinics in 18 locations are planned and will commence Monday March 23rd through April 2nd.

The reservoir of rabies infection in Ontario is in the Wild Life population, mainly foxes and skunks. Where the number of these animals is large, dogs and other domestic animals and man are more likely to be exposed.

In an area such as that strict control measures are to be enforced to prohibit dogs from running at large and coming in contact with a rabid fox or skunk. Local authorities are required to eliminate stray and

Senseless slaughter

Ken Faulkner, Conservation Officer

Dear Editor: Recently a complaint was investigated concerning the harassment of jack rabbits by snowmobilers. The area in question is located south of Highway 7, behind the village of Concord, in the township of Vaughan. There are several open fields, taking up half a concession and free of houses and fences, thus allowing snowmobilers to run wild.

Upon arrival in the area, the officer discovered one of the worst massacres of wildlife he has ever encountered. Scattered in every direction were carcasses or remains of one of the sportiest game animals still existing in this part of the province — the jack rabbit. Further investigation turned up 21 butchered animals that had been run over by these powerful machines. Closer inspection revealed the imprints of the rubber tracks of these machines imbedded in the animals. The snowmobilers had chased these animals to death.

Can snowmobilers be blamed for this useless destruction of life or the cowardly attitude of a few so-called fun-loving citizens?

Unowned dogs as they are potential means of spreading infection.

For vaccination to be effective, at least 75 - 85 per cent of dog population must be vaccinated. However vaccination alone will not eradicate the disease. There is a percentage of dogs which do not become fully immunized when vaccinated. Annual vaccination of dogs and cats in rabies enzootic areas is absolutely essential.

Director

UNIONVILLE — At the annual convention of the Ontario Nursery Trades' Association held recently at the Skylene Motel, Toronto, Mr. David Petric of White Rose Nurseries Limited, Unionville, was elected to the Board of Directors to serve as Chairman of the Research Committee.

YOUR OLD FRIEND THERE'S ONE TIME WHEN A WOMAN DOESN'T HAVE THE LAST WORD, WHEN SHE'S TALKING TO ANOTHER WOMAN



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