

Royal show

It's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair time. The show, dating back to 1922, opens Nov. 8, (to-morrow), and extends through Nov. 17. The location is the Coliseum, Exhibition Place, Toronto.

The Royal, regarded as Canada's "show window of agriculture", will feature more than 13,000 entries in 23 divisions as well as 14 classes of field crops. Prize money will total \$300,000.

Special attractions will include the heavy draught horse show, described as "North America's largest".

As part of Ontario's Bicentennial celebrations, several farm families who continue to work the land first settled by their ancestors more than 200 years ago, will be present Nov. 12.

The grand finale for the centennial celebrations of Holstein Canada, will be held, along with sheep-shearing competitions.

"The Royal is the ultimate in terms of livestock and crops—the top show in North America," says General Manager Andy Stewart, "if you're a winner here, it means you have the best in the business."

Honors for 13 Beavers



Investiture ceremony held at Latcham Hall

An Investiture was held Thursday evening at Latcham Hall for thirteen new members of the 3rd Stouffville Beaver Pack. The boys, with their Beaver mascot, are shown here. They are: Front Row (left to right) Steven Lummiss, Stephen Kalinovich, Michael Szucs, Kevin

Koornneef, Mark Kaspick, Trevor Fogal, Bowen Satchell. Rear Row (left to right) Andrew Kaspick, Chris Gillespie, Robert Paisley, Chris Mackenzie, Brendon Burnett and Jason Thompson. The key leader of the 3rd Stouffville Beaver Pack is Gil Gould.

Treat farmers fair

The banks should play a bigger part in handling the financial affairs of the rural community, the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Harry Pelissero, said at the Canadian Bankers Association agricultural credit conference in Ottawa.

"I believe the new era of agricultural credit will demand more and better advice from your branches, your credit officers and your agricultural extension staff," Pelissero said.

He suggested several ways banks could help farmers reduce their debt load. "You can offer time, still the scarcest commodity... You can help make the transition from the dated equity-financing method to the pragmatic science of cash flows."

"The delegates were asked to treat farmers as well and as fairly as other creditors. If you ask for a waiver of rights against equity to secure a loan, then you should offer something in return, like a better rate or a more favourable repayment schedule," Pelissero said.

He said bankers should work with farmers to investigate co-operative ownership of machinery and should consider encouraging some farmers to rent additional land instead of buying it.

The OFA's two major thrusts to stabilize the farm economy are agri-bonds and market risk insurance (stabilization). Pelissero said that if the banks joined the OFA in lobbying the government for agri-bonds, "we would be as certain of success as you could ever be in politics."

Agri-bonds are an investment vehicle that offer low interest rates in return for tax concessions. The provincial government has indicated its support for the agri-bond concept.

Market risk insurance, or stabilization,

would take care of the income side of the farmers' financial problems, Pelissero said. He said the OFA's market risk insurance plan "would stabilize farm income without leading to over-production, like in the U.S., and without hampering the laws of supply and demand, like in Europe."

Farmers and both the federal and provincial governments would pay into a market risk insurance plan. When the market price for a certain commodity drops below a pre-determined level, farmers would get a pay-out.

Pelissero challenged the banking institutions to work "co-operatively", with the farming community towards workable solutions. "That means new approaches and new partnerships, partnerships that include creditor and client—farmer and banker."

DID YOU KNOW...

That 80% of adults in the Markham/Stouffville area rate their community paper (the Economist/Tribune) as 'important' to them?

Now You Know. (Source: Kubas and Associates study, March 1984. Details on request.)

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