UCO has new corn hybrids

United Co-operatives of Ontario, (UCO), has received licenses for two new seed corn hybrids—Co-op 2695 and Co-op 2880. Both will be available for the 1986 planting season.

Co-op 2695 is a 2700 heat unit single-cross with outstanding stalk quality and high yield. Bushel weight and grain quality have been described as "excellent".

Co-op 2880 is a 2850 heat unit hybrid with a deep dark green color. This hybrid has excellent dry-down capabilities on a green plant so it will stand up under the most severe stress. High yields of top quality grain are characteristic of Co-op 2880.

United Co-operatives of Ontario, the fourth largest seed corn operation in the province, has been in the seed corn business over 25 years. At its research facilities in Chatham, the Co-op actively breeds and tests new hybrids for release each year and currently sells 18 seed corn hybrids in a full range of maturities.

UCO also provides a complete line of farm inputs including feed, seed, fertilizer, petroleum and hardware through approximately 180 Co-op outlets. In addition, it markets livestock and grain.

UCO is owned by 48,000 individual members and 45-member co-ops, representing an additional 39,000 members.

The Hulshof hog farm on Bloomington Sideroad is a family affair as Frank Hulshof (left) works with his sons Jim (shown here) and Joe. Mr. Hulshof believes in giving dry feed by hand to produce superior results. The veteran farmer hopes to retire soon and hand the farm over to his sons.
— Erkki Pohjolainen

Proof is in the pork

Pigs are very clean hog farmer insists

By ERKKI POHJOLAINEN

The common phrase "dirty as a pig," isn't accurate, according to hog farmer Frank Hulshof. He says swine are cleaner than most livestock.

During an interview at the family farm, on Bloomington Road east of Hwy. 48, Frank explained, cattle void in their stalls while feeding. But pigs, he said, "sleep in a clean area of the pen and mess in another."

Frank's been a pork producer in the Stouffville area for more than 30 years. With Mary and sons Joe, 30, and Jim, 25, Frank's "sow-weenie" operation yields more than 1,200 "weenines," or baby pigs, every year. To do that he keeps three boars busy with 75 sows.

Having refined his methods of production over the years, Frank has strong feelings concerning the best management for his farm. He uses a dry manure system and hand feeds his animals.

"Cement floors, like in a wet manure operation, tear the skin off the little pigs' knuckles," he explained. In a dry system, the floors are covered with straw.

He prefers to feed the hogs off the floor, he said. "It's better for disease control. If a pig isn't eating, you can see it just lying there, but with an automatic system, it can be sick for a long time before you notice it."

To further combat disease, Frank gives the young hogs a special medicated feed. The ones still nursing off the mother receive medication squirted in their mouths.

Frank said he seldom lets other farmers come close to the pigs for fear they might be carrying some kind of hog disease or virus. He explained pigs are very susceptible to numerous maladies which can spread through the entire stock.

Though the Hulshofs grow barley on two-thirds of their 150 acres, they only produce about a third of the required feed for the hogs. "The rest is bought from nearby farms," Frank said.

The grain is stored on the farm. County Mobile sends a truck, equipped with a portable mill, to the Hulshof farm to prepare the feed.

Frank said he'd never swill-feed pigs because the meat would not be up to export standards. He explained, "it's too watery and pale."

The other third of their acreage produces "cash-crops." Frank said they "rotate the fields. About 50 acres is used for growing cauliflower each year. The soil can easily handle vegetables every third summer."

From mid-April to November, Frank is busy with the cash-cropping operation. In early spring he starts the cauliflowers in a greenhouse, planting enough for about three acres each week. By the time he's transplanting the last of the seedlings after six weeks in the nursery, he's already picking the cauliflower he planted in May.

To help with the vegetable production, Frank hires two local students for the summer. He said he's "never had any problem with them. All the helpers I've had have been good workers."

Mary also helps out in the fields. Frank explained, "You get tired fast when you have to climb on and off the tractor every 10 feet. With Mary driving it, I don't get so tired."

When not helping in the fields, Mary keeps house, knits and crochets. As well, she sees to it that the men have a morning coffee break and an afternoon tea.

The Hulshofs work seven days a week, "like most farmers," Frank said, adding, "but we take time every week to go to church."

Through the cold months, work at the farm isn't as strenuous as in the summer. For the past five years, Frank and Mary have taken winter vacations to Florida. Before that, they visited Frank's native Holland twice and this year took a trip to Cuba. The sons take care of the farm while the parents vacation in the south.

The 59-year-old smiled as he said: "I intend to retire soon and let the boys run the farm. I've already severed a piece of the property to build a house on." He added: "I'll still help work the farm."

He and Mary looked at houses in town, but decided not to move off the land. "We're used to living in the country and that's the way we like it," he concluded.

Pigs aren't that dirty compared to other livestock, according to Frank Hulshof shown here with one of the hundreds of piglets produced on his farm each year.

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