FALL FARM

Farm Line to be backed by new OMAFRA contract

OMAFRA Minister, Brian Coburn indicated at a recent meeting , his support for the advice and referral service provided by The Farm Line to Ontario's farm families. That support will translate into a second service contract between OMAFRA and the Farm Line, says Susan Klein-Swormink.

"He asked us to keep his office updated on our activities," adds Kelin-Swormink, Farm Line coordinator. "We now understand that the contract which is up November 5 will be renewed although we don't yet know the amount."

Ongoing funding, she continued is becoming an issue and it was discussed with the Farm Line advisory committee at a meeting on September 18 held during the International Plowing Match at Navan. "With at least five calls every day from Ontario farmers in distress, there is a definite need to keep The Farm Line phones manned on a long-term basis."

At some point, she said, farm organizations must take greater ownership of the service and pitch in to financially support it along with the provincial government, commodity groups and other funding parties. Currently, Klein Swormick said, The Farm Line's main source of funding are the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the federal Agricultural Adoption Council and the Canadian Rural Partnership-Pilot Projects Initiative.

An initiative of the Ontario Farm Women's Network, The Farm Line is a full time, province wide toll-free help service at 1-888-451-2903 which directs farmers in difficulty to appropriate agencies or simply provides a sympathetic ear in stressful times.

An analysis of Farm Line calls from inception of the service to the end of August shows an interesting breakdown, Klein-Swormink said. Of a total 408 calls, 225 were from men, 178 from women and five calls were from couples. The main themes were financial, general information, legal and employment. Some 146 calls were of a personal nature such as: "A caller who assumed his father would leave him the farm upon his death was distressed to find out his stepmother was giving it to her son who wasn't even a farmer. With a will backing her up, the caller who was without the money to finance a major legal battle sought suggestions from The Farm Line for rectifying the situation."



Mr. Minister on Parade Photo by S.L.Johnston

Minister of Agriculture, Brian Coburn was on parade in Spencerville earlier this fall as the Annual Spencerville Fair was beginning. Riding in style in a vintage buggy-car, he waved to the crowd as he made his way into the fairgrounds.



Straight and true

Brian Maitland from Jasper took part in the 82nd Annual Plowing Match in Spencerville on t he weekend. The match was hosted by the Grenville County Plowmen's Association and took place on the Bernard family farm.

Fun and forecasts in Almanac

by P.H.Nicol
Chieftain Staff Reporter

The special Canadian edition of The Old Farmer's Almanac for 2002 is on the newsstands now and, as usual, it offers an eclectic mixture of fun, facts and forecasts.

The first page that everyone around here will turn to is page 144, the page that predicts the weather for our area beginning in November of this year until the end of October of 2002. If you want all of the particulars you will have to buy your own copy of the almanac, but in general it says, "November through March will have near normal temperatures with below normal precipitation and snowfall."

It is also calling for a major rain storm in the middle of January, a prediction which dredges up memories of the great Ice Storm of '98. To be fair, the almanac says nothing of ice, but if it comes, we will be ready for it this time.

This year's version of the almanac contains articles ranging from matrimony to magic, which may, in some points of view, be pretty much the same thing. There are tales of spring flowers and the search for gold. There are planting tables and a guide to the best times to see your favourite star (celestial variety). There is a story about Canada's most famous race horse, Northern Dancer and another about how some people became champions in their sports. Other stories range from solar power to shipwrecks.

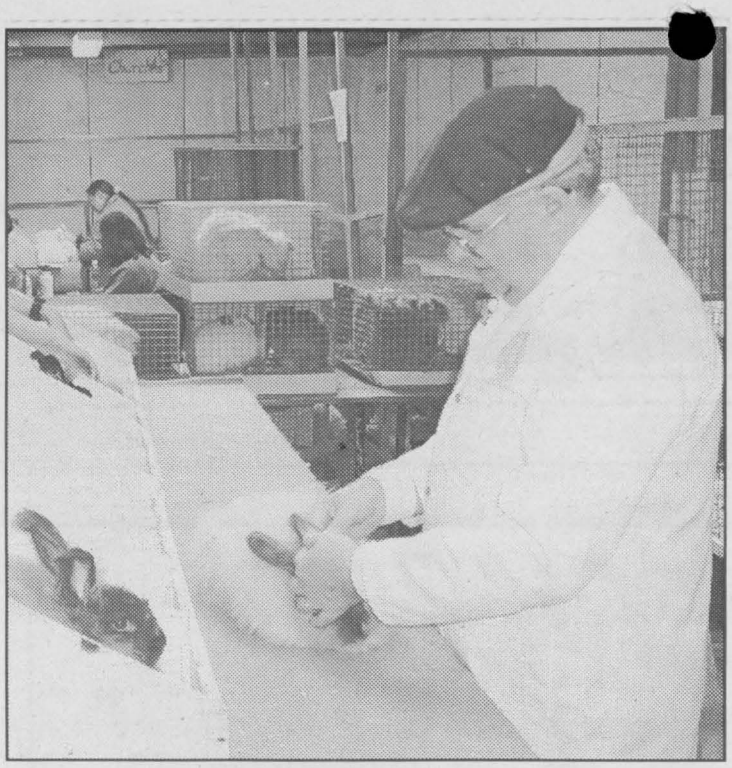
As usual, there is the annual look at tastes and trends for the coming year and a collection of anecdotes and pleasantries which include the tale (verified) of Mike the Headless Chicken and the boy who fooled a lot of people at a science fair by raising a petition against dihydrogen monoxide.

My favourite observation by the almanac involves words. It is noted that the pythagorean theorem is 24 words long; the Lord's Prayer varies from 53 to 70 words; Archimedes's Principle contains 67 words; the Ten Commandments have 179 words; the Gettysburg Address was 286 words long; the American Declaration of Independence is 1,324 words long; and the current US government regulations of the sale of cabbage contain 26,911 words. Isn't bureaucracy wonderful?

As always, the almanac contains literally something for everyone whether you need to know the best times to go fishing or why it's a good idea to give your coworkers a nudge now and then. It is a fun and entertaining read.

Most people, though, buy the almanac for its weather forecasts. The authors make no claim of perfection in this regard, and say so, they do have a pretty good track record since Robert B. Thomas began publishing it in 1792.

Rabbit show hits Spencerville



Rabbit Judging

A very serious business this rabbit is being judged on health, condition and closeness to breed standards. Careful attention to detail makes this a tough animal to win a ribbon with. *Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston*

by Theresa Roach
Chieftain Staff Reporter

About 600 people of all ages and their furry little friends, bunnies, came out to the largest rabbit show in Ontario on Sept. 29.

The show was held at the Spencerville Fairgrounds and is sponsored by the Eastern Ontario Rabbit Fanciers' Club. There were six top ARBA rated judges from the US and Canada judging the many breeds.

The judging process starts when the breeders carry their rabbits to the judging table by their breed, colour and age classes. The rabbits are judged based on health, condition and closeness to Breed Standards.

The results of this year's show are as follows. In show number one, the Best in Show Award was won by a Quebec breeder with a White New Zealand (meat breed).

Reserves went to a MiniRex Tottenham, Ontario and a Holland Lop (smallest lop eared) from Mineville, New York. They are both pet breeds.

Best in Show in the second show was earned by another White New Zealand from Quebec. Reserves were taken by an English Lop with 12 inch ears from Malone, New York and a Checkered Giant from Brooklin, Ontario. They are both rare and unusual breeds.

Nicole Pashka of Kemptville was the outstanding youth exhibitor and although this was her first show she entered four Polish rabbits, her Buck and Doe won many class awards and they only need two wins to make Grand Champions!

There were two breeds who were the most numerous in attendance and they were Netherland Dwarf with 95 and Polish with 105. These rabbits are both pet breeds.

The Netherland Dwarf breeders did really well in the competition. Krista and Pat Castle from Bunny Castle in Metcalfe, Edith Donnelly and Doug MacLaren from Perth all won a wide variety of Best Breed and Colour Awards.

J. Connell from Cardinal, D. Drouin from Cumberland and M. Moir from Osgoode were all Polish breeders who competed and won many Best of Breed and Colour Awards.

In the meat rabbit category the area winners were M. Moir of Osgoode with her Black New Zealand and G. Pilon of Clarence Creek with his group of Satins.

Next year's Really Big Rabbit Show put on by the Eastern Ontario Rabbit Fanciers' Club will be held on September 28, 2002. For more club or rabbit information in general please contact B. Watkin at 989-2310.

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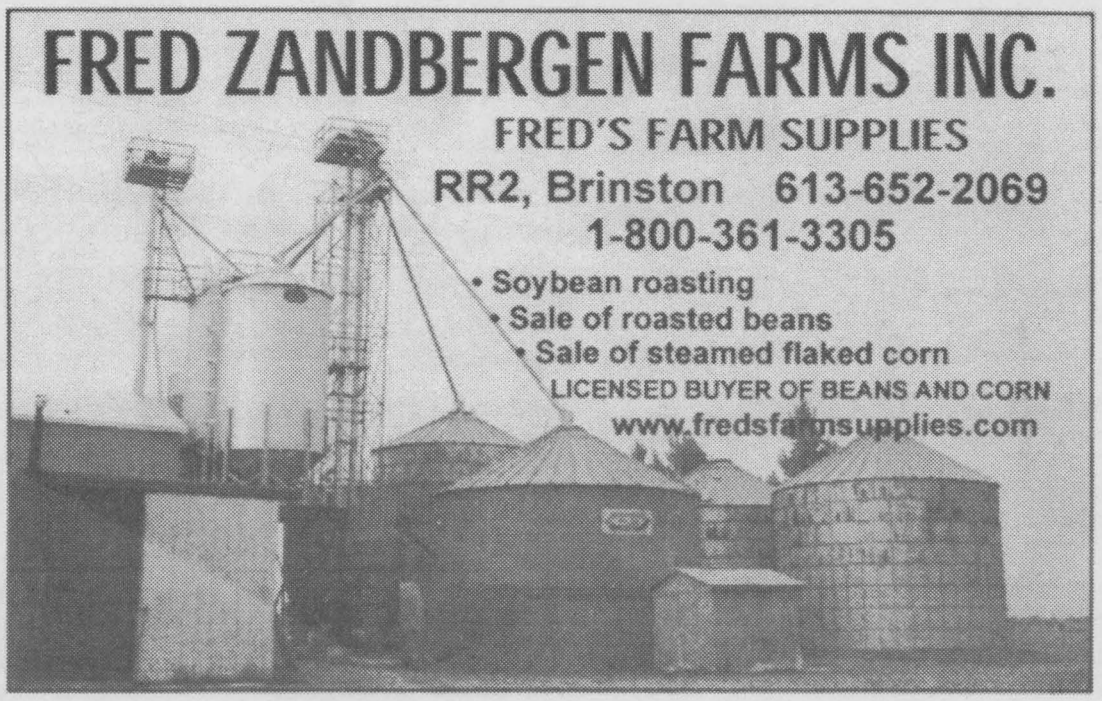

ARE-Ont and OEF offers stable owners site accreditation

by Wendy Johnston
Equine Coordinator
Kemptville College

Association of Riding Establishments of Ontario (ARE-Ont) and the Ontario Equestrian Federation (OEF) are providing stable owners the opportunity to become accredited. The successful future of equestrian sport and recreational riding in Ontario depends on you. Here is what they offer... join in, get involved.

There are thousands of children and adults directly involved in Ontario's horse industry each year. The riding facilities, programs and instructors that service these people have a responsibility to provide safe, high-quality service. As a result of recent events, the importance of the need for accepted standards of equine practices and professionals throughout Ontario has been identified. In response to the demand for safe equine standards and practices, the Association of Riding Establishments of Ontario, in partnership with the Ontario Equestrian Federation is pleased to introduce this exciting new program. Over the past year, the ARE-Ont, in co-operation with the OEF, has developed accepted Site Accreditation Standards. ARE-Ont/OEF Site Accreditation Standards are outlined in an 11-page booklet containing approximately 35 standards. The Standards cover the site/facility, the program operations, and the program management. Standards are prioritized as either "mandatory" or "recommended". Accredited sites must comply with 100% of the "mandatory" standards and 80% of the "recommended" standards.

Site Accreditation is a process in which group riding programs and/or facilities are evaluated on compliance with these standards and 80% of the recommended standards. Accreditation is available to all types of riding establishments and programs. Accredited sites must be ARE-Ont and OEF members.

While compliance with these standards cannot guarantee the safety or competence of any riding facility or program, it will prove that the facility is committed to safety, education and animal welfare.

Take the opportunity... for more information contact the OEF @1-877-441-7112 or at education@horse.on.ca

Horse'n around?? Have a safe and fun summer. See our web site for more information on our summer horse shows and activities at www.kemptvillecollege.com

Segments by: The OEF, from "Whoa" January 2001.



Drought Warning

The South Nation Conservation has posted conserve water signs on its billboards. The signs will remain until the current drought is over.

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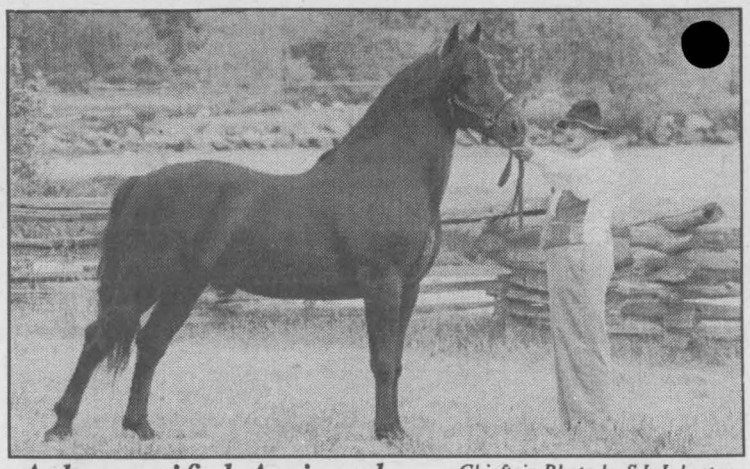

A beautiful Animal

Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston

A proud and magnificent animal, the Canadian is a delightful horse, always up to the task at hand, they are a nice sized animal to work with too. This lovely poses for the judges at the Annual Fall Fair held at Upper Canada Village each year. A multipurpose horse, they were bred here in the early 1800s and anyone today would be proud to own one.

Fourth annual rural development conference

Ontario's fourth annual rural development conference will be held at a new venue this year, at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston, on October 25 and 26, 2001.

Rural Ontario 2001: Nobody does it better is the theme for the Ontario Rural Council's (TORC) fall conference. This year's conference will feature renowned speakers, workshops focussing on important issues facing rural communities today, and the chance to connect with key contacts from all sectors who share an interest in rural Ontario's future.

"Participants in Rural Ontario 2001 will strengthen their links with others who share a commitment to rural Ontario," says Wayne Caldwell, chair of the Ontario Rural Council. "This year we are challenging participants to focus on rural assets, their contributions to Ontario's prosperity, and how we can work to conserve and grow our assets."

Featured at this year's conference is `The Great Debate'. Two leading journalists, Richard Gwyn and Ross Daily, will examine the perspective that rural Canada represents the `old' and `obsolete'. Hear their insights about some of the most important questions facing rural communities today. Youth participants will also have their say during the debate, including Karen Scott, a graduate of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program.

June Callwood, an internationally acclaimed author and journalist, will speak on the importance and potential of rural people to make a difference in their communities. Entertainer and songwriter James Gordon will also perform at this year's conference.

The Honourable Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State for Rural Development and FedNor, will address current federal activities related to rural development. A provincial minister's panel with the Honourable Elizabeth Witmer, Minister of the Environment is also planned.

The conference agenda includes a workshop series. Workshop topics will focus on succession planning for rural enterprises and organizations, the development of a rural lens focussed on health, building community with capacity, and globalization in rural Ontario.

Winners of the Foundation for Rural Living's third annual Awards of Rural Excellence will be announced in seven Award categories, during the conference banquet.

A pre-conference youth symposium will be held to explore ways to attract young people back to rural communities.

Conference participants will include economic development and planning professionals, rural business people, infrastructure service providers, producers, agri-business, environmental groups, social and community service agency staff, rural youth, art, culture and tourism professionals, municipal representatives, First Nations, and provincial and federal representatives.

The Ontario Rural Council brings together 40 organizations, private corporations and government representatives who share a commitment to building strong rural organizations and communities. The Council provides a unique and important opportunity for multi-sector cooperation within the rural community. Members identify issues, and collaborate to develop innovative solutions and strengthen rural voices.

Registration forms and agenda information for Rural Ontario 2001 are available online at www.torc.on.ca

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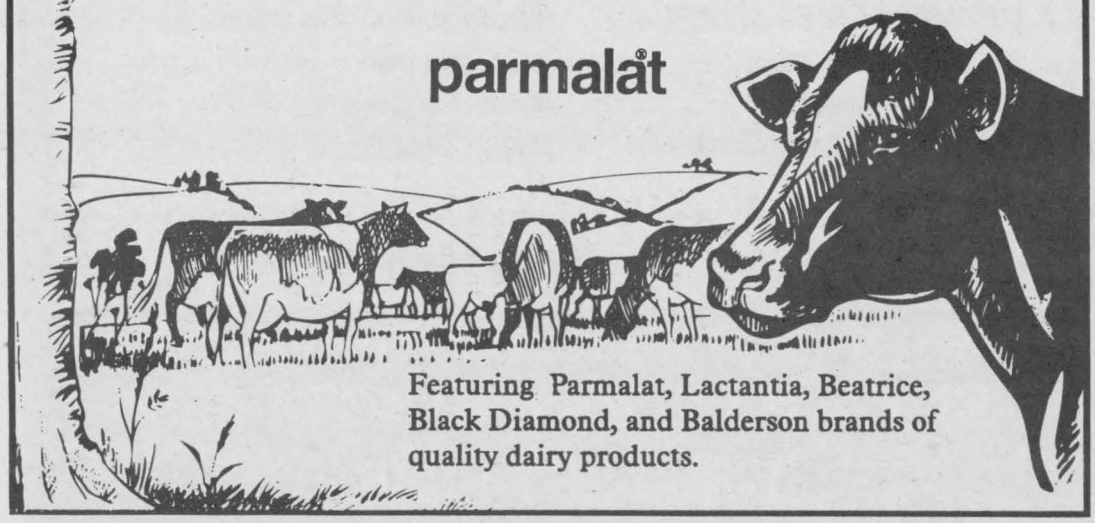

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Arabian Horse Association is here to stay

The Seaway Valley Arabian Horse Association came into being as the result of Mary McBride travelling to Western Canada to visit her sister back in 1980.

Mary's sister introduced her to the Wild Rose Arabian Horse Association. When Mary returned home to Ontario she carried with her all the information required to start up a new Arabian Horse club.

Mary next contacted her friends, Ernie and Cathy Boesch (of Edelweiss Riding Academy) and they placed ads in local newspapers to announce the first meeting in December. Turnout for this meeting was excellent, not only did Arabian Horse owners and enthusiasts show up, but also several owners of non-Arabians.

Through trial and error, the first Seaway Valley show was held in June of 1981. Seaway Valley did not concentrate solely on horse shows though, they also held many fun events for members including a car rally, sleigh rides, pleasure rides and drives, Competitive Trail rides and Fun/Open shows. In addition they also hosted the Stormont Horse 4-H Achievement Day and supported 4-H Arabian owners in whatever way they could. Around 1992 a lack of enthusiasm and new volunteers led to the dissolution of the Seaway Valley AHA.

Then in the Spring and Summer of 2000 talk began amongst local area residents, that the area could and should support two Arabian Horse clubs. There was strong feeling that Seaway Valley would compliment other area clubs.

Seaway Valley AHA held a general meeting in December, 2000 (20 years after the first one) and there was incredible enthusiasm. It looks like Seaway Valley will be a viable club for many years to come. In keeping with the Seaway Valley ideals that "fun" should come before all else, the group met at a member's residence, enjoyed a potluck brunch and discussed the future goals for the Seaway Valley group.

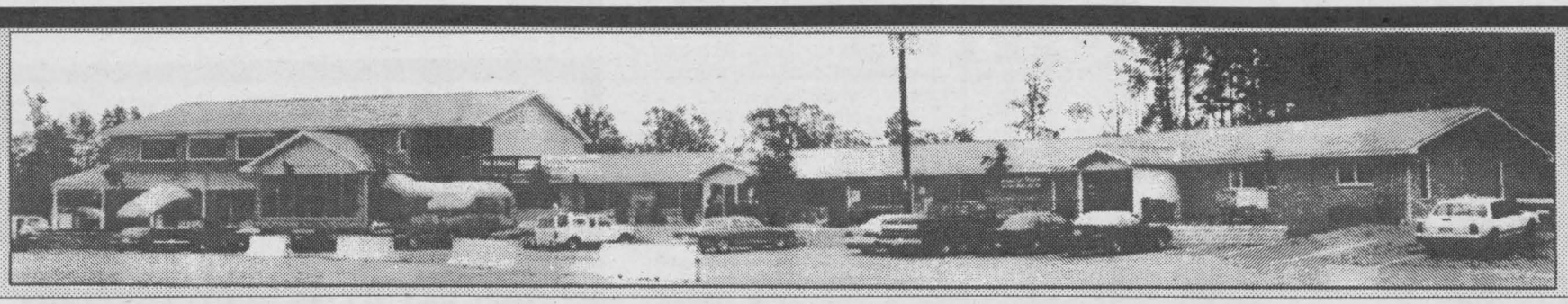
The group decided that instead of putting all of their volunteer efforts and resources towards one large show annually, that the focus would be on education and our youth as well as supporting the horse community at large. It was decided to hold a meeting each month and to have guest speakers to each meeting on a variety of topics such as Competitive Trail Riding, Endurance Racing, Dressage, Team Penning, show attire & rules, paperwork questions, general/basic training and judging. Meetings are not limited to attendance by members, in fact, each member is encouraged to bring one non-member with them. In addition hands on clinics were planned with quality instructors.

Seaway Valley will also participate in community activities to promote both the Arabian breed and the horse in general. One such activity will be the design of a float celebrating the Arabian horse and its versatility. Members will travel to communities throughout our area and participate in scheduled parades, either riding the float, or their horses. As time passes, look for the Seaway Valley AHA to develop other programs to educate the community about horses in general and the Arabian Horse specifically. Our members are friendly and open, welcoming, everyone to visit their farms and their horses, or visit with them at local events such as the area Fall Fairs.



Pulling their Weight

These heavy horses are getting back into the spring of things by spreading manure on a local farmer's field in South Mountain. A heavy horse team can pull up to 13,000 lbs at any given time.



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Open House and Career Day Oct. 17

by Ellen Mooney
Liaison Officer
Kemptville College

Kemptville College is hosting an Open House and Career Day on Wednesday, October 17th 2001 in the W.B. George Centre, Kemptville College Campus from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Prospective students will have an opportunity to investigate Kemptville College as well as 11 other Ontario Community Colleges in one location. Representatives from Kemptville College and other colleges will be on hand to answer your questions about admission requirements, costs, programs and student services.

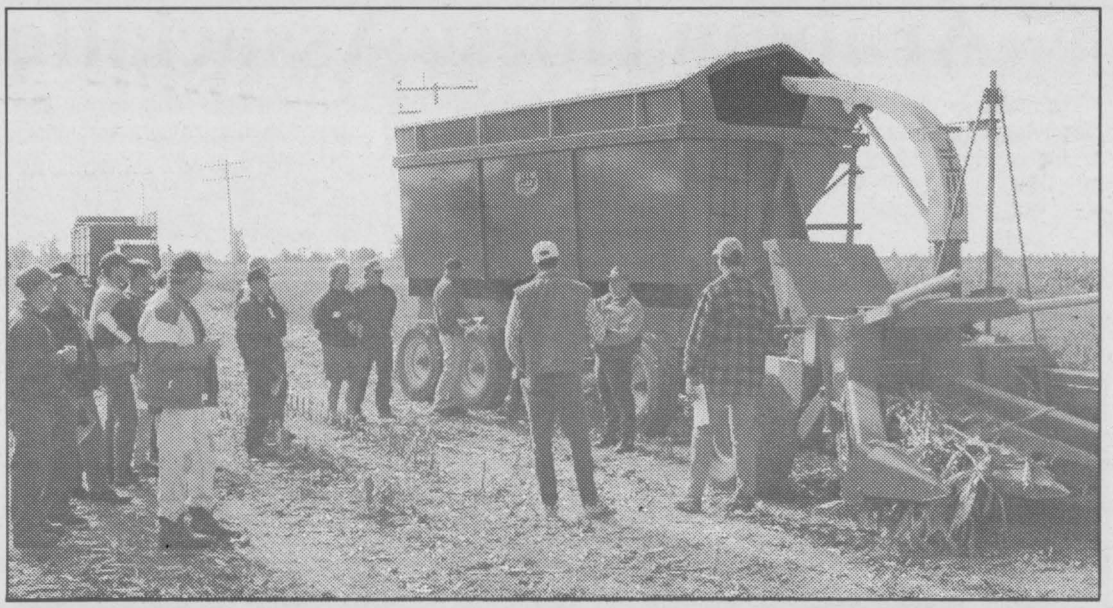
Each year we have had approximately 300 students, parents and teachers visit our campus for this event. Please feel free to join us and learn more about the programs offered at Kemptville College and our visiting Community Colleges.

Kemptville College students will be leading tours of our Kemptville College Facilities including our residence.

Free parking will be available!

For more information call the admissions office: (613) 258-8336; E-mail: college@kemptvillec.uoguelph.ca; Web Site: www.kemptvillec.uoguelph.ca.

Upcoming Events /Courses - for more information call 613-258-8336 ext 242 - Hoof Care for the Horse - Oct. 16 ; Horse Feeding and Nutrition - Oct 15; Western Riding Program - Oct 20; Traffic Control Course for Workers - Oct 27; Practical Fork Lift Operator Course - Oct 27; Transportation of Dangerous Goods - Oct 26; Air Brake Z Endorsement - Oct 20 and Food Services Carreer Night - Oct 16, 7 - 9:30pm.



Farmers check out this harvesting machine at an Open House.

Antique Wheels in Motion

Harvest Days Demonstration and the World Foodgrains Bank will be holding a special ceremony on Thursday, October 18th at the Algonquin Library, County Rd. 15 (Maitland Road) at 7:30 p.m. to celebrate the donation of 12 tons of wheat which was matched 4 to 1 by the government. The World Foodgrains Bank, the Federation of Agriculture, and the Christian Reform Church all work together to provide humanitarian relief to the World's Hungry.

Antique Wheels in Motion holds Harvest Day Demonstrations each August and in that event they harvest a variety of crops; this year they donated all of the wheat harvested to the World Foodgrains Bank under a program that saw the government match the tonnage of donated wheat by 4 to 1.

A donation to St. John's Ambulance, Prescott of $500 toward the purchase of a new guerney will also be presented.

Representatives of the Federation of Agriculture, St. John's Ambulance (Prescott), World Foodgrains Bank, Antique Wheels in Motion will be present. All are welcome to attend.

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Appreciating food and farmers

by Bill Mailloux
Vice-President,
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
for Accent

Food, one of the key elements in sustaining life of all sorts, is something that appears, almost magically in the minds of some, on grocery store shelves and then on the dining room table or at your favorite restaurant.

A dwindling number of people are physically engaged in the production of food. That's maybe why so few understand or have much appreciation for farmers and the work they do.

Three years ago an Ontario MPP, Bert Johnson from the riding of Perth-Middlesex, introduced a private member's bill to proclaim the week leading up to Thanksgiving as Ontario Agriculture Week.

He wanted society to take a week to try and understand the industry of agriculture a bit better and perhaps even establish some appreciation for Ontario farmers and the work they do to get food to the processors, grocery store shelves, farmers' markets, or roadside stand operations. Farmers in Ontario traditionally maintain a low profile, happy for the opportunity to work the soil and take care of their livestock. This approach has slowly been taking its toll on the farming population, not just in Ontario but across Canada. Slowly, the percentage of people prepared to dedicate their lives to producing food has dropped.

It's human nature for everyone to want or expect some form of appreciation for the work they do on a daily basis. Farmers and their families have every right to have such expectations. This appreciation could come in the form of adequate compensation for product produced, or recognition from society and governments in times of need, and a variety of other ways.

Canadian farmers have been in a position of needing more government support for the past three years because of adverse weather and low world prices.

Ontario Agriculture Week, October 1st to 7th , is society's opportunity to give a second thought to the primary producers of food in this province, an opportunity to say 'thank you' to a farmer and the family that contributes so much of their lives to feeding others.

It would also be a good time for citizens everywhere to speak to their MPs and MPPs and municipal councillors and make the point that agriculture is very important and deserves greater respect and support.

After all, in Ontario, farmers contribute $6.5 billion annually to the province's economy; their produce results in the employment of more than 600,000 people doing everything from stocking grocery store shelves to assembling or repairing farm equipment.

On Wednesday, October 3rd, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and a number of the province's farm organizations are hosting a special program, Food Fair in the Square, at Nathan Phillips Square in the heart of downtown Toronto.

That event, which coincides with the final farmers' market of the season in the Square, will feature a number of learning stations where elementary school children from the core area of Toronto can learn more about agriculture. During the noon hour, a fair atmosphere will be created with special music by Jamie Warren and his band, and visitors to the Fair In The Square will be able to enjoy beef or back bacon on a bun and chicken on a pita.

Additional entertainment will come when farm leaders, politicians and celebrities try their skills at carving pumpkins for hallowe'en. Following this, the school children will return to their learning stations to wrap up the event.

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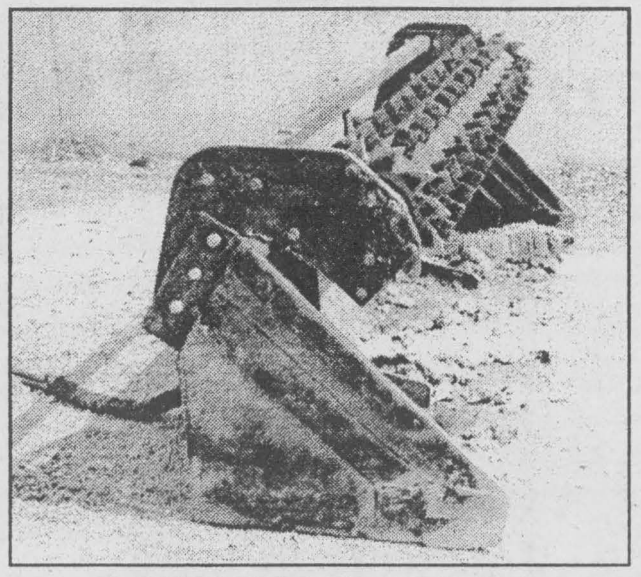

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