WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20, 1995

Farm Review and Forecast

A LOOK AT AGRICULTURAL ISSUES AND FORECASTS

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OFA President praises farmers

by Rebecca van Noppen
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Roger George came to Dundas County two weeks ago, for the first time since he became president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) five years ago.

Although he has been to the area before, it was the first time he officially addressed the Dundas Federation of Agriculture (DFA) at a regular meeting.

In speaking to over 20 local farmers at the OMAFRA office in Winchester, he congratulated them for their representation within the OFA.

"You're all people of vision and you all thrive on challenge," he said. "It's exciting to see the local organizations on the move...(and that) is critical in maintaining the vitality of the organization (OFA)."

In light of the OFA's lobbying campaign to educate Premier Mike Harris about the priority's of the agricultural industry, the vitality of the OFA is increasingly important.

Consequently, George challenged farmers to look beyond their own farm gates into the future. Farmers need to be forward thinking and look at new, creative and innovative ways of expanding their business, while continuing to be economically viable.

According to George, the industry has to be creative in light of the budgetary cuts coming down from the provincial government. There is no getting around the cuts, but the OFA is lobbying the government to ensure that wholesale cuts are not being made arbitrarily across the board.

With all the challenges ahead, the OFA is in the midst of very exciting and difficult times. But George says he is ready to face and meet all the trials that come his way.

DFA member and local OFA representative Alvin Runnalls introduced George to farmers at the DFA meeting. He said George has been an effective president who has succeeded successfully in encouraging people to work together.

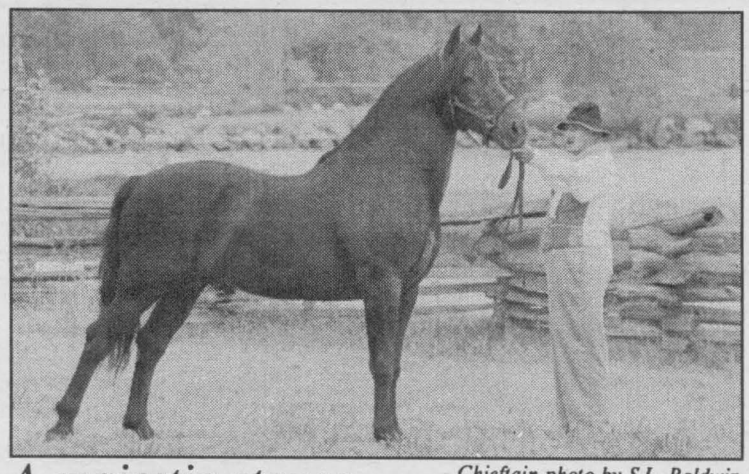
"He has done a lot of good things," Runnalls said.

Immigrating to Canada in 1972, he became the owner of a mixed farm near North Bay in Powassan. George told farmers he is perfectly situated, with his property sitting in the midst of the home ridings of both the premier and finance minister.

"Powassan is perfectly politically situated to be a real power house," he said, laughing.

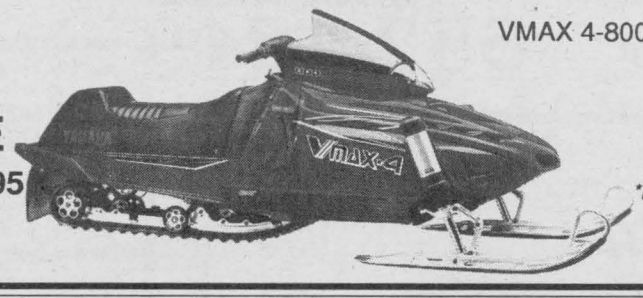
According to Runnalls, George became involved in the OFA in the late 1970s, and became instrumental in organizing regional areas. He started out as a director, then executive director and then moved into the position of vice-president. Eventually he became president - the position he now occupies.

Please turn to page 6



A majestic stance *Chieftain photo by S.L. Baldwin*

A proud animal if ever there was one. This horse formed a picturesque backdrop against the St. Lawrence at Upper Canada Village on the weekend, during the Fall Fair.

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Villeneuve opens table talks series

by P.H.Nicol
Chieftain Staff Reporter

The Ontario Minister of Agricultural, Food and Rural Affairs, Mr. Noble Villeneuve, visited the Kemptville College of Agricultural Technology last Monday evening. The purpose of his visit was to launch a series of seven "table talk" discussions with those people directly involved in the agri-food industry.

Mr. Villeneuve noted that with the implementation of the GATT and NAFTA agreements, Ontario's agriculture industry is in a strong position to compete on the global market. However, because the ministry is constrained by limited fiscal resources, care must be taken to ensure that the focus is on the priorities of the agriculture and food industry and rural communities.

He noted that his ministry has already heard from the large groups with vested interests within the industry, and now was the time to get "concession road comments", from individual farmers. During the recent election campaign, said Mr. Villeneuve, residents of rural Ontario expressed the feeling that they were being left out of the decision making process. This series of table talk discussions was created in order to address those concerns.

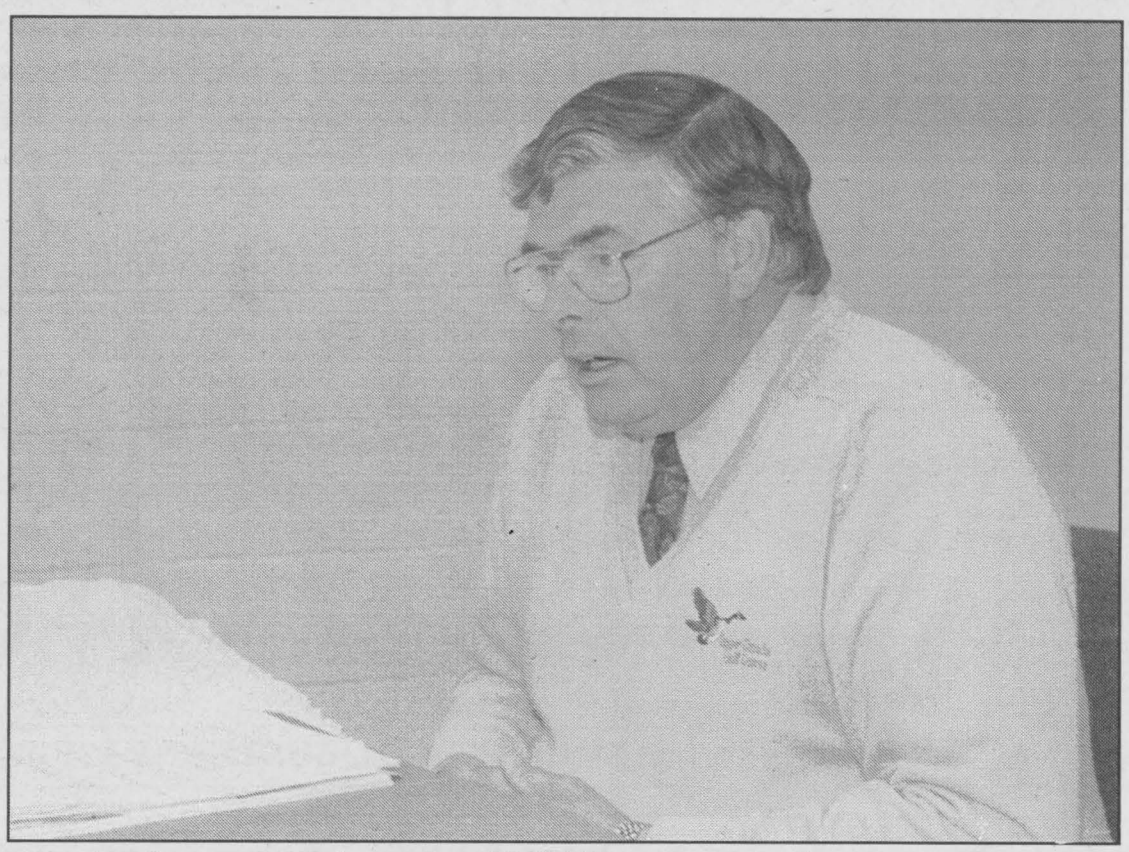
In a press conference preceding the discussions, Mr. Villeneuve stated that only 2% of the province's population produce the food we eat and it is necessary that his ministry set a trajectory that is compatible with the people of Eastern Ontario.

"We need to be on the leading edge of what they need," he said, pointing out that agricultural centres such as Guelph and Kemptville are leaders in the research and development field and that with help from the private sector, money spent in R&D will be returned many-fold.

The information received from these table talks will be converted into an informational package which will be presented to the minister early in November. It has been five years since such a survey has been undertaken, and Mr. Villeneuve indicated that his ministry needs this information in order to serve the people who are producing food.

The timing of the survey is convenient since Mr. Villeneuve indicated that his government is intending to bring down a mini-budget or financial statement about mid-November.

People who were unable to attend Monday's meeting are invited to send along their written comments to the Honourable Noble Villeneuve, Minister, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, 11th Floor, 801 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 2B2. Your comments should be received by September 26.



Agriculture Minister at KCAT

The Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Mr. Noble Villeneuve, was at the W.B.George Centre at KCAT Monday evening. Mr. Villeneuve was there to open the first of seven table top discussion groups on the direction his ministry will take to assist farmers compete in the global marketplace. *Photo - P.H.Nicol*

Need a break from business?

Tired of the hectic day to day chaos of the business week? Why not escape from the business scene and spend some worthwhile and peaceful time in the beautiful countrysides of rural Ontario!

The Ontario Farm and Country Accommodations (OFCA) proudly maintains a membership of over 100 bed and breakfast/farm vacations hosts across the province. OFCA members are committed to providing weary travellers comfortable accommodations and lasting memories.

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The OFCA, successfully operating in its 27th year, offers guests the chance to escape from the stress and pressures of the city scene by simply "taking it easy" in the country.

Guests may choose to relax under the shade of an old maple tree with their favourite book or take a leisurely stroll through the meadow and along a country lane. Often times guests will take a day to visit neighbouring villages to visit bakeries, parks or community theatres.

Each year OFCA publishes a directory which lists and describes each of the OFCA establishments. The directory also highlights special activities and surrounding attractions and usually includes very affordable bed and breakfast/vacation rates.

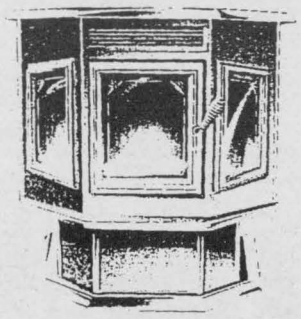
The directory is available free of charge by sending a self addressed $1 stamped envelope (#10 size) to the: Ontario Farm and Country Accommodations, Box UN-10, R.R.@ Alma, Ontario, NOB1AO.

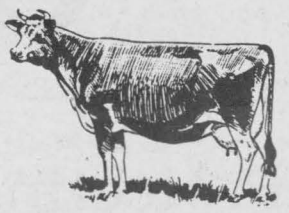
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OFA says research is the key to economic growth

If the provincial government makes any move to cut funding for agricultural research, it will have to answer to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA).

OFA President Roger George has told agricultural researchers at the University of Guelph that budget cutbacks to the Ministry of Agriculture's $30.6 million annual University of Guelph research grant would be misguided and disastrous for the long term viability of Ontario agriculture.

The Guelph facility does research and development that brings an average $40 return for every dollar spent.

George cited an example of a new soybean variety OAC Bayfield to demonstrate his point.

"The development of this variety of soybeans has pushed the economic production of this crop to new geographic frontiers. Furthermore, due to genetic superiority, OAC Bayfield soybeans will return an extra $28 per acre income to farmers, with no increased costs," George said.

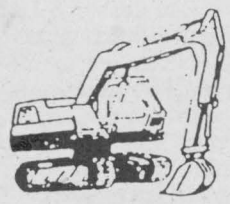
Conservative estimates indicate that this will increase the farm income by $12 million annually, with a multiplier effect on the Ontario economy.

George visited the Guelph facility several weeks ago, taking a further step in the OFA's campaign to protect Ontario's food and production sector from poor budget cuts.

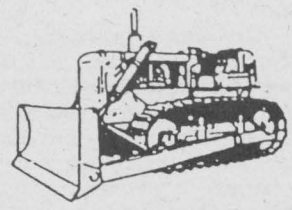
"Agricultural research is the most effective farm safety net program we can have," George said.

Of the university's total annual agricultural research budget, $67.3 million, $30.6 million comes from the Ontario Ministry of Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). This core provincial funding ensures that Guelph research can attract further federal, private and stakeholder funding.

"As the two major levels of government address their fiscal concerns, cutting back on agricultural research would be a betrayal of the next generation of food production," George said. "Canada has earned a world reputation for agricultural excellence, efficiency and innovation as a result of 100 years of public sector commitment to research. Protection of this infrastructure and the continuation of the hundreds of vital projects being undertaken at the university is critical to the growth of Ontario's economy."



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Farlinger top judge

Robert Farlinger was the top judge in the 4-H Judging Competition on August 3rd at Kemptville. The top three seniors were Robert Farlinger, Jonathan Wilson and Steve Bossel.

Robert Velthuis, Daniel Schuler and Stephanie Devries were the top three Intermediate Judges.

Top Juniors were Yann Bossel, Ashley Dillabough, and Daniel Meier.

The members judged dairy, beef, goats, horses, barley, meat cuts and completed an ID quiz.

Jonathan Wilson, Steve Bossel, Robert Velthuis and Tammy Henderson represented Dundas at the Regional 4-H Judging Competition.

Congratulations to all the 4-H members who accepted the challenge to participate in this event.

4-H Dairy judging contest

Dundas was well represented at the Intercounty 4-H Dairy Judging Competition at Kemptville. Team One Robert Farlinger and Korrine Hutt finished 4th out of 39 teams.

Congratulations.

Our other team of Robert Velthuis and Steve Bossel finished 26th. Korrine finished 18th overall and Robert 19th.

78 4-H members participated in the competition.

The members judged nine classes of dairy cattle and gave reasons on six. They also completed a quiz on dairy judging.

Dogs cause problems for Edwardsburgh

Dogs caused fowl problems in Edwardsburgh last month.

Two attacks on ducks and turkeys in August have cost the municipality $480.

The first occurred Aug.18 when a few canines got into a turkey pen at Deputy Reeve, Ross Somerville's farm and killed 16 of 50 turkeys he was raising.

The municipality livestock valuer, Steve Henderson, valued the birds at $400.

Somerville quickly put up a snow fence around the perimeter of the pen to prevent further attacks.

He's lucky he did.

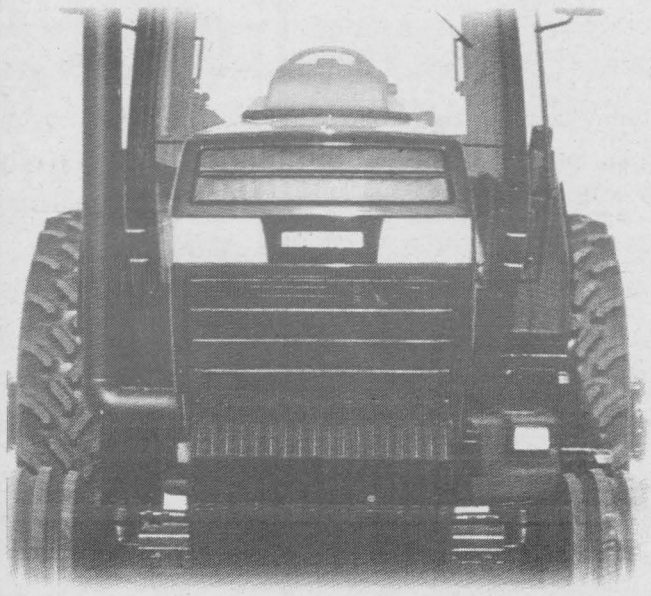
"There was evidence that they came back, but they couldn't get near the pen this time," said Somerville.

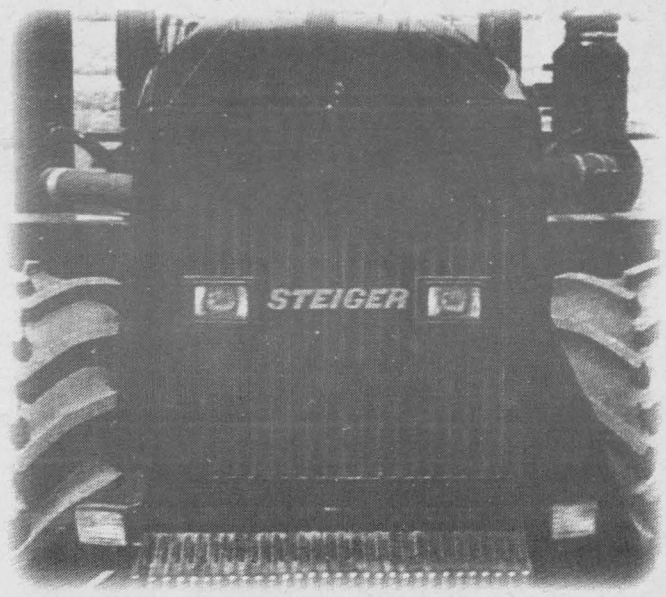
Another attack 10 days later, resulted in 4 ducks being killed.

Henderson valued the ducks at $20 each.

"Dogs aren't a big problem in the municipality," added Somerville. "We usually have four or five claims each year."

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Harris a no show but Fair still a premiere event

by Jeff Brownlee
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Mike Harris didn't show, but the 140th edition of the Spencerville Fair was still a premiere event.

Previous commitments kept Ontario's new head of state from officially opening the fair, but the province's minister of agriculture filled in.

"I'm proud to be here," said Noble Villeneuve, minister of agriculture, food and rural affairs at the opening ceremonies Sept. 9. "For 140 years, this fair has opened it's heart and doors to the public."

The local MPP for Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry and East Grenville had help opening the fair from Angela Hunter, last year's Spencerville Fair Queen and this year's Ambassador of the Fairs, Bill Horner, president of the Spencerville Agricultural Society and this year's fair queen, Tammy Henderson.

"Nowhere else in Ontario has a fair like we do," said Angela Hunter.

Excellent weather last weekend was partly responsible for the estimated crowd of 10,000 people that packed the fair grounds, say organizers.

"The fair was great," said Miriam Woodland, secretary-treasurer of the fair. "Overall, the attendance was about the same as last year."

While attendance equalled last year's mark, the number of exhibitors in the numerous competitions was down this year.

The first fair goers walked on to the grounds at 10 a.m. Sept. 8 for the pet show. Kids of all ages showcased their friends on the matted ice slab of the arena.

An hour later, attention turned to trick-roping cowboy Tom Bishop at the grandstand.

Ralph Carlson and the Country Mile and Elvis Presley Jr. entertained a large audience Friday evening before Henderson was crowned new Spencerville Fair Queen.

Henderson, 18, from Brinston, is in Grade 13 at Seaway Valley District High School.

She was crowned the 1989 Jersey Princess and the 1994 Matilda Carnival Queen.

On Sept. 9, the attraction of the day was an hour-long parade. "The parade was exceptional this year," said Woodland.

Leaving from Centennial '67 Public School, over 100 entries made their way through the streets of Spencerville en route to the fair grounds.

Many onlookers said that the parade stealer this year was a boy doing his version of Due South. The youngster, dressed in an RCMP uniform, was riding a small snowmobile and accompanied by a Siberian Husky.

Other events during the day included harness racing, horse shows and of course the midway.

With 100 entries, this year's parade is being dubbed the biggest and best one yet by organizers.

In the non-business float category, the Edwardsburgh Lioness Club took home first place. The Cardinal Kids Klub's theme of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was good enough for second place while the Grenville County 4-H Club captured third.

In the businesses float division, Spencerville's Village Pantry earned top spot while Spencerville Home Hardware was a close second. Nationview Garage took home the third-place award.

Justin Roddick earned the prize for the best child in costume. Britney White and Rebecca Lawrence finished in second and third respectively.

Justin's brother Joshua, captured first-place in the child in costume with pet category. He paraded around the streets of Spencerville with his goat.

Fiona Tousaw finished in second place while Jonathan Clarke took home third.

In the junior category, the Edwardsburgh Co-operative Playgroup finished first. Ray Levere and family took the first-place award in the senior category.

Sean McKinstry wraps up the parade awards with his prize for the best-decorated bicycle.

The mammoth pumpkin contest lived up to its name this year.

Bob Marcellus' Goliath tipped the scales at a whopping 663 pounds. This shattered the previous fair record by 65 pounds.

Marcellus, a judge of the competition, not only took home the year-long bragging rights, but a trophy and a cheque for $200 as well.

Art Milburn and his 555-pound entry captured second place while Christine Bax, "The Queen of the Pumpkin Patch" locked up third place with her 521-pound entry.

The other winners in this category could not break the 500-pound mark. Gus Saunders finished in fourth spot with his 478-pound pumpkin. Brian DeJong and Margie Bradley wrapped up the top six with 466.5 and 425-pound entries, respectively.

Howard and Ross Carkner took home top honors in the corn competition this year while Streight Farms was a close seond. Keith Matthie wound up third.

Last year, Streight Farms earned the bragging rights to this category while the Carkners finished in second.

Doreen Wilson's 68 points was good enough for the overall title in the flower competition this year. She beat out her nearest contender —M Brown — by 33 points. Lillian Stille finished third with 23 points.

Bruce Snowdon earned the ten dollar top prize in the grain and seeds category while Robert Streight finished second.

In the arts and crafts division, Josh Cameron took home the trophy for overall points. Second place saw a log jam with three contestants tying for the runner-up position. Ruth Dukelow, Brenda Darling and Sandra Watson each earned $12.

The baby contest drew 50 infants this year.

Mackenzie Park Shouldice took home top honors in the boys' 6 months to 1 year category. His par-

Please turn to page 5



Spencerville Fair Queen

Tammy Henderson, of Brinston, was selected as the 1995 Spencerville Fair Queen. No newcomer to pageants, Tammy is the daughter of Frances and Doreen Henderson.

Chieftain photo by J. Brownlee

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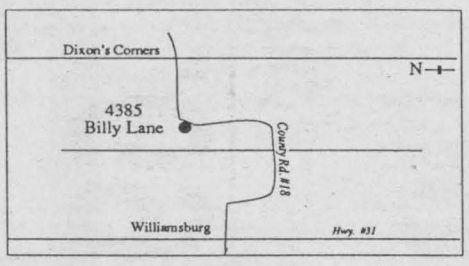
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Royal Agriculture Winter Fair in November

Put the Royal Winter Fair on your calendar November 7 to 18, 1995.

The Royal promotes excellence in agricultural and equestrian activities through world class competitions exhibitions and education. Australia is the theme for the Winter Garden Show.

The Royal Horse Show will feature judging of the different beef breeds. Many youth activities are featured on the weekend of November 11 and 12. The Knob Hill Beef Heifer show starts on November 11 as well as the Provincial Go For The Gold Competition and the Robert Graham Horse Judging Competition.

Sunday November 12 features the Scotiabank Hays Classic Dairy Showmanship classes and square dancing. Swine judging starts on November 12.

Sheep shows happen everyday from November 15 to 18. The second week highlights the dairy shows. Thursday November 16 has the judging of the Ayrshire, Brown Swiss and Jersey cattle. Friday November 17 is highlighted by the Holstein Show, the Milking Shorthorn and Guernsey Shows. A copy of RAWF Show Highlights is available from OMAFRA Winchester 613-774-2313.

CONTINUED

Fair results

Continued from page 4

ents are Shirley Mulder and John Park of RR3 Spencerville.

Joel Kennedy, son of Amber Kennedy, finished in second place while Conner Polite, son of Bridgite and David Polite wound up third.

Amara Heisel finished in top spot in the girls' 6 months to 1 year division. She is the daughter of Lisa Heisel and Mark Heisel.

Cindy and William McGinn's daughter, Sierra, finished in second spot while Taylor Roddick, daughter of Stacy Roddick and Michael Pakeman, took home third place.

In the girls' birth to six months category, Kirsten Van Beilen took home first place. She is the daughter of Pam and Mark Van Beilen.

Lisa Westlake and David Boyer's daughter, Elle, finished in second place while Effie Theodosiou wraps up the winners in that category with her third-place finish.

In the boys' birth to six month division, Brodey Lee Casselman, son of Brenda Casselman of Williamsburg, claimed top honors.

Dillian Ault finished in second while Jacob Johnston Keeler wound up third.

Mr. Norm Matte won the Bill Hooper Trophy in the cheese judging. He was joined by Lawrence Lalonde of Abbotsford, B.C., who took home the W.H. Connell Award.

Oxford Mills took home the top prize for the highest number of points in the church organization category.

Garreton, Roebuck and Bishop's Mills all finished in second.

Mountain's Ken and Shirley Rose had a productive weekend at the fair.

Rosayre Liz 2 was named Grand Champion and best udder in the Ayrshire competition.

The couple also nailed reserve grand champion with Woodlea Tiumph's Nancy.

In the Jersey judging division, North Gower's Eric Beggs took home the award for the best breeders' herd.

Beggs' Cranbook Jino's Gert was named grand champion and Cranbook Tops Lina was crowned reserve champion.

North American Maple Syrup Conference

The Ambassador Hotel, Kingston will be the site for the North American Maple Syrup Conference October 22 to 24.

This International Event is expected to draw maple producers, manufacturers of equipment, maple scientists and maple extension personnel. A pre-conference tour is planned for October 22.

The tour will visit George and Marilynne Drummonds Maple Syrup Operation and Pancake House near Spencerville and visit Kemptville College of Agriculture Technology's new Agroforestry Centre and sugar bush.

The final stop will be Delta Foods International, Ontario's largest packer and processor of maple products.

The Conference program will include presentations covering maple orchards, the use of steam in evaporation, maple seal quality programs, cleaning equipment, cost of production and processing maple products.

The business management and marketing program will cover topics including media relations, the challenge of change, marketing approaches of the Ontario Christmas Tree Growers Association and excellence in customer service.

The Conference concludes on Tuesday evening with a banquet. Guest speaker will be Dan Needles. The conference will also have a Trade Show, a Poster Presentation Show, Maple Syrup Competition, Maple Photograph Competition and a Maple Gift and Craft Show.

For more information contact Ken McGregor, Strathroy, Ontario 519-232-4596.

Large Herd Beef Cow Calf Conference

A planning committee has met to start plans for an Eastern Ontario Conference for large beef herd operators. The dates are October 27 and 28 and the location will be Napanee.

The theme is marketing and cost control.

More information will be available shortly.

If you would like a copy of the agenda leave your name with OMAFRA Winchester 613-774-2313 and we will forward you a detailed agenda when it becomes available.

EBI Beef Congress

Beef Up Your Bottom Line is the theme for this year's EBI Beef Congress on Saturday September 30 at Ben Bleecker Hall, Belleville.

Harland Hughes, North Dakota State University will talk on the Economic Reality of Your Beef Herd.

Profitable Beef Calf Management Practices will be the topic of Dr. Mark Spire, Kansas University. A breeder panel will discuss My Profitable Beef Enterprise.

A progeny showcase and breeders commentary barn will be located at the Belleville Fairgrounds.

On Saturday evening participants can plan to attend the Hastings Herd Builders Sale at Hoard's Station Sale Barn.

The congress starts at 9 a.m. For those who wish to stay over to Sunday there will be farm visits in the Belleville area. Contact Anne Brunet at 1-800-267-9222 for more information.

Food for thought video available

The Ontario Farm Animal Council has released a video "Food For Thought". The video is divided into three sections and addresses the issues of farm animal care, food safety and agriculture and the environment.

A copy of the video is available on loan from the OMAFRA office Winchester 613-774-2313.

It would be an excellent resource for the classroom, produce meetings or projects.

BST Workshop

Kemptville College of Agriculture Technology is co-ordinating a workshop on rBST on Tuesday November 21, 1995 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Avonmore OMAFRA Boardroom.

Dr. Elliot Block, a professor and researcher at MacDonald College is one of 5 Canadian AgriFood Researchers recommended to conduct information clinics on rBST.

Dr. Block will be discussing the pros and cons of incorporating a rBST (recombinant bovine somatotropin) hormone program into an overall dairy management plan. He will present some of the Canadian research and look at the US experience.

Cost is $21.40. Please register by calling 613-258-8369 or fax 613-258-8429. Make cheques payable to Kemptville College and send to Kemptville College Box 2003, Gibson Hall, Continuing Education, Kemptville, Ontario, KOG 1JO.

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OFA president

Dundas Federation of Agriculture (DFA) members were all ears at their September regular meeting, as Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) President Roger George gave a special address. DFA member Corry Martens presented George with a small token of appreciation for all the hard work he does, representing Ontario's agricultural industry.

Chieftain photo by R. van Noppen

Summer's end heralds fall fair

It's fall. There's a crispness in the air, school's back in session, and the lazy hazy days of summer give way to the harvest. It's time to enjoy the best of fresh Ontario produce. Among the pick of the crop: Ontario's apples, broccoli and cauliflower, including both picnic fare and hot meals, to ease you through this season of transition.

For a fall picnic: Why not pack a thermos of hearty Quick Garden Cheese Soup and follow Beef and Potato Salad Parisienne and assorted sandwiches, with Pickled Cauliflower Salad on the side? To finish off, have Apple, Blueberry and Pear Granola Parfait, made with yogurt.

If you prefer fall fare hot, Rolled Apple-Stuffed Turkey Breast is a marvellous main course for a sit-down dinner - and everyone will think it took hours, instead of minutes, to prepare.

Whether you dine al fresco or more formally, the easy but elegant Apple-Ginger Torte makes for a memorable finish.

You might plan your fall picnic around a trip to one of the almost 150 fall fairs taking place in Ontario between now and Thanksgiving Day. Many of these fairs date back well over a hundred years, to a time when agriculture was the engine of Ontario's economy and horsepower was harnessed to a surrey with a fringe on top.

A great way to gather the ingredients for your fall fair picnic - or an apres-fair dinner - is to visit one of Ontario's pick-your-own farms, or a farmers' market, and select food fresh off the farm. Foodland Ontario produces the free "Pick Your Own" guide listing hundreds of farms and farmers' markets where you can get the best produce Ontario has to offer.

The guide is available by calling 1-800-Ontario (for the French edition, call 1-800-268-3736); or from participating Home Hardware Stores.

Royal Winter Fair trip planned

On November 16, 17 and 18, the Dundas Holstein Club has planned a trip to Toronto to attend the Royal Winter Fair.

The highlight of the trip will be the Royal's Holstein Show on Friday, November 17th.

Accommodation will be provided at Toronto's Skydome Hotel. On the way to Toronto the bus will stop at several farms to see some of Ontario's finest Holsteins.

Call Jennifer Thompson at 652-4077 or Phyllis MacMaster 774-2313 to register.

OFA president

Continued from the front

George told the DFA farmers there is a lot of stress and responsibility in his job, especially during these economically difficult times. But he also said there is a lot of satisfaction and excitement in the work he does.

KCAT Fall Programs

The Continuing Education Department at Kemptville College has put together a series of educational opportunities for farm and rural clients in Eastern Ontario.

The Fall Program has the following areas of study: Agricultural/Rural Living, Computers, Cooking, Crafts, First Aid, Landscape/Horticulture, Technical, Unemployment.

Please contact 1-613-258-8369 for a copy of the calendar.

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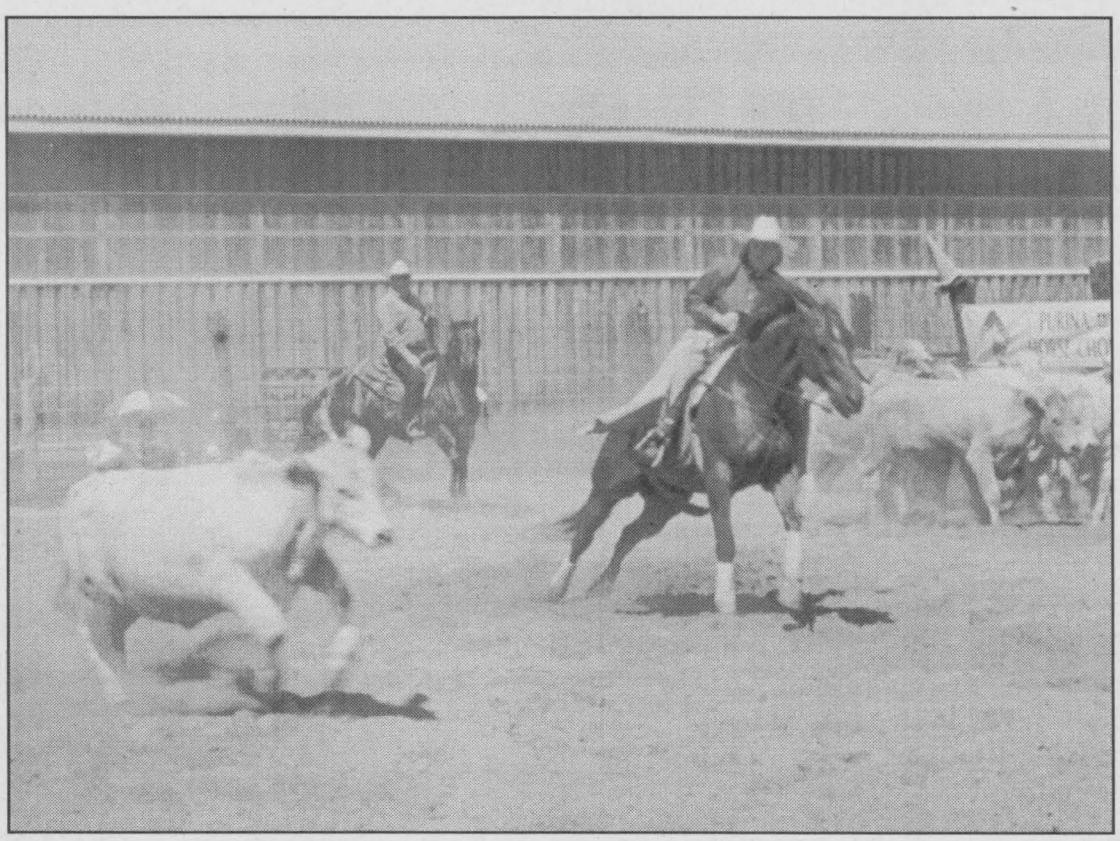
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Cutting classic

The Ralston Purina Cutting Horse Classic at Siebenfeld Farm north of Iroquois was once again a huge success. Cutting horses are still used on farms and ranches across North America today.

Chieftain photo by M.C. Bailey.

OFA launches major lobby for agriculture

Over the past month, Ontario farmers having being working hard to protect their interests.

At the end of August, farmers launched a campaign to ensure that the Harris government's impending budget cuts do not impede the growth of a strong Ontario agricultural industry.

During an Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) board of directors meeting in Toronto, President Roger George said it took the OFA over two years to convince the last premier of the importance of the agri-food sector.

"We have less than two months to drive this point home to Premier Harris," he said.

While the much touted Harris task force on rural economic development (October 1994) promises no cuts to agricultural programs, George told the OFA directors that "all bets are off" as Harris attempts to control the deficit.

"No one respects fiscal responsibility more than Ontario farmers," George said. "But indiscriminate budget slashing coupled with current regulatory impediments to innovative economic strategy will freeze agricultural growth. If this government stalls agriculture, it will stall the entire Ontario economy."

"The economy has to be growing at the same time as cuts are made in order to avoid a major recession...The premier has to be made aware that we must keep generating profits on the farm in order to generate the economic activity necessary to pay for the social programs people have come to demand. Ontario farming, grossing $7 billion, is a vital component of the engine of growth. Financial mechanics at Queen's Park had better use their tools to fine-tune the engine, not to throw a wrench in the works."

The full response of the 40,000 member OFA and of Ontario's commodity organizations has been deployed for this major government lobby, according to the president.

"Protecting the infrastructure of agriculture, including key farm programs, is critical to productivity in all sectors of Ontario. We cannot allow agriculture to be victim of the same folly of government neglect that destroyed the Atlantic fisheries."

Maple syrup producers meet in October

The 1995 annual meetings of the North American Maple Syrup Council, the International Maple Syrup Institute and the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association will be held at a joint conference at the Ambassador Hotel and Convention Centre, October 22 to 24 in Kingston, Ontario. This international event is expected to attract several hundred maple producers, equipment manufacturers, maple research scientists and maple extension personnel from four Canadian provinces and at least a dozen maple producing states of the United States.

A pre-conference tour is planned for Sunday, October 22. In the morning, the tour will visit George and Marilynne Drummond's maple syrup operation and pancake house near Spencerville.

The Drummonds are fifth generation maple producers and operate Ontario's oldest continuous maple syrup operation, having produced maple syrup every year since 1802.

The tour will also visit Kemptville College of Agricultural Technology's new Agriforestry Centre and sugar bush, as well as the college's 20 year old sugar maple orchard. The pre-conference tour will be attended by Ontario's new Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Honourable Noble Villeneuve.

On return to Kingston, the tour will stop at Delta Foods International, Ontario's largest, most modern packer and processor of maple products. They will be operating for tour visitors that day.

There will be an optional evening boat cruise from Kingston to the Thousand islands in the St. Lawrence River on the Island Queen, a Mississippi-style riverboat. This dinner boat cruise offers a most magnificent experience travelling through one of North America's finest recreational and tourist areas.

Included in the program are technical presentations covering maple orchards, the use of steam in evaporation, maple seal of quality programs, cleaning equipment, and cost of production and processing of maple products. The business management and marketing program will cover several topics including media relations, the challenge of change, marketing approaches of the Ontario Christmas Tree Growers Association, and excellence in customer service.

The conference concludes Tuesday, with a banquet in the Ambassador Hotel Ballroom. Guest speaker for the event will be Dan Needles of Collingwood, Ontario.

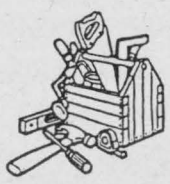
Included in the conference will be a maple industry trade show, a poster presentation show, maple syrup competition, maple photograph competition, and a maple gift and craft show and sale. The Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association will also hold their annual maple auction.

This is the fourth time that the North American Maple Syrup Council Meeting will be held in Canada since the council was organized in 1959. The conference will be the largest, most comprehensive maple event in the world this year. Plan now to attend.

Anyone interested in maple syrup production and the maple industry is invited to attend. Information on registration and accommodation for the conference is available by contacting Ken McGregor, RR 6, Strathroy, Ontario, Canada N7G 3H7. Tele: 519-232-4596. Fax: 519-232-9166.

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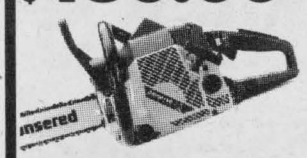
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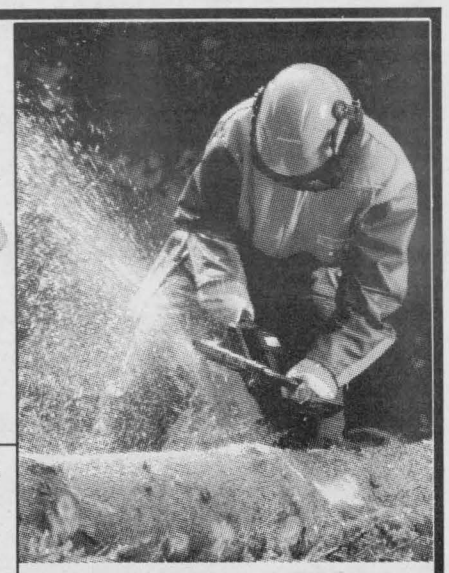


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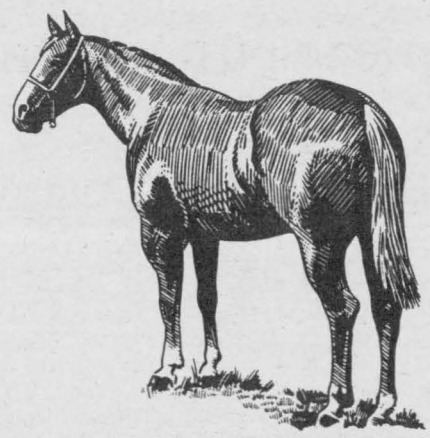
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