SEPTEMBER 27, 1989

Farm Review and Forecast

A LOOK AT SOME LOCAL AGRICULTURAL ISSUES AND FORECASTS

INSIDE

Holstein Show very popular **3**

Farmers are a breed apart! **4**

Farmers stretch their pennies **5**

Beef buyers learn abc's **8**

Ontario Beef Council to be formed **9**

Organizing your office for results **10**

Silo gas incidents on the increase **11**

Alternatives sought by farmers

Unstable prices are motivating farmers in this area to check out alternatives to traditional cash crops. Steering away from corn and soybeans, inquiring farmers are receiving suggestions that field peas and buckwheat as well as canaryseed and canola, are viable alternatives.

It is encouraging for farmers who are seeing the bottom fall out of the market for his crop that there are other crops. The knowledge that suitable alternatives do exist. Climate and soil conditions in this region are condusive to other viable crops that can often be sold at premium prices.

A company that is working to promote alternatives in this region is Elders Grain, a division of the Elders Agribusiness Group, an international agricultural conglomerate dealing in grain, wool, meat, brewing supplies and farm services.The elevator at Johnstown gave them the opportunity they sought to provide quality control from farm to ship.

Elders deals primarily with soft wheat, but," they aim to develop opportunities to bring Canadian farmers closer to prospective cutomers."

Field peas are legumes and so capable of fixing their own nitrogen and reducing fertilizer requirements for following crops in the rotation. Buckwheat is drought resistant, not prone to insect and fungal pests and has lush growth capable of choking out weeds who compete for nutrition etc. Japan is the largest international market for Canadian buckwheat since the Japanese prefer Ontario buckwheat because they feel it is of the highest quality.

A plus for these two crops is that existing machinery can be adapted to plant and harvest them with very little modification.

Canaryseed and sunflower seeds are other cash crops that can be considered by local farmers.

Another viable cash crop is mustard. Sold for its' oil once crushed, a steady supply can be sold by Elders. Hopefully, the sting felt in the area a few years ago will be forgotten and those interested will come forward and cash in on this market.

Brad Fowler at Elders is anxious to hear from interested farmers, at 925-5995.

Casco receives local corn crop

The first truck load of wet corn from the area farmers was delivered to Casco on Tuesday Sept. 19th. The load came from the John Hickling farm at Harmony Corner, north of Winchester and was delivered by Allison Trucking.

This is the eariest ever we have received wet corn locally, said Clare Brown Commodity purchaser at Casco.

This year price is $115-$116 a tonne wlhich is down approximately $25 a tonne from last year.

The price is down this year due to the U.S. market which is expected to yield 7.3 billion bushels.

"When the supply exceeds the demand the price goes down," said Mr. Brown.

The corn quality looks good, this year again, said Mr. Brown. Eastern Ontario and Quebec will have average crops and in some cases a little above average. While the corn in south-western Ontari is not expected to be as good, he said.

For the next few weeks the trucks will be hauling corn on a regular bases.

Ontario gears up for annual Agri-Food Week

Harvest time is celebration time in Ontario. A province-wide network representing nearly everyone involved in food -- those who grow it, those who prepare it for market, whose who sell it and those who eat it -- is gearing up for a special harvest celebration, Agri-Food Week, from Oct. 2-8, 1989.

Agri-Food Week is the combined effort of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and many of Ontario's commodity boards and organizations.

"Agri-Food Week celebrates the hard work of everyone involved in the food chain -- from grower to processor, laboratory researcher to retailer. It's important that Ontarians appreciate the sophistocated network of people involved in bringing good food to our tables," said Minister of Agriculture and Food, David Ramsay.

"Agriculture and food is truly a 'growth' industry in Ontario, not just because it provided an enormous selection of high quality food, but because it contributes a large percentage of income to the provincial economy," Ramsay added.

At $16 billion, the agriculture and food industry is Ontario's second largest, following the automotive industry, totalling $5.5 billion in farm cash receipts. It employs 20 per cent of the Ontario work force, in jobs such as farming, transportation, food processing and the restaurant and retail trade.

" 'Buy the food Ontario grows' is the message we want to send out this week," said OFA President Brigid Pyke. "When consumers buy Ontario food products, they're not only assured they're getting superior quality food, but they can also feel good knowing they're helping sustain, and even create, jobs right here in the province," Pyke said.

During Agri-Food Week, hundreds of farmer-volunteers from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, as well as from the different organizations which help farmers market their products, go out of their way to reach consumers.

"Agri-Food Week is unique in that it involves all these diverse groups, from farmers to marketing agencies to food companies. It's a giant effort extending across the province, and deep into city malls and rural town halls," Pyke added.

"This year is shaping up to be one of the best yet for Agri-Food

Continued on page 2



Farming in the early days

A farmer and his wife leave the grist mill after dealing with the Miller. Fall remains harvest time and crops are still sold to those who will turn them into foodstuffs. The scene would be replayed by farmers in all locals. The equipment may have changed, but the farmer is still an essential part of the community.

Chieftain Photo by S.L. Johnston

PULL-OUT SECTION

CONTINUED

Agri-Food

Continued from Page One

Week", said Carolyn Fuerth, Agri-Food Week commiittee chairperson. Events are being planned in nearly 30 towns and cities, she said.

"Many counties favour mall displays, setting up a booth in the local shopping centre and chatting with consumers about the business of growing food. This gives both rural and urban consumers a chance to meet farmers in person, ask a few questions and perhaps sample some of their products," Fuerth said.

In addition to displays in mall displays and at country fairs planned for cities and towns across Ontario, from the Rainy River District in the North to Prescott and Russell in Eastern Ontario and down to Essex and Ken Counties in the southwest, there are a variety of activities planned for Agri-Food Week.

For Instance:

•In Chatham, urban and rural folk will be introduced to contemporary farming during a bus tour of local farms. They'll end their tour with a taste of country hospitality at a corn roast.

•In Woodstock, Agri-Food Week placemats, printed with interesting tidbits of information on the agri-food industry, will be used by about 20 local restaurants.

•At the Milton Fair, students will be invited to participate in workshops with commodity groups. Teachers will be made aware that special teaching kits on agriculture are available. Organizers expect to reach about 3,000 students.

•Several activities are planned in Northern Ontario, such as Sault Ste. Marie's media tour of local farms at the end of September and a week-long exhibit in the Station Mall, an Agri-food Week display at the Rainy River Farmers' Market, a local producer display at Thunder Bay's Inter-City mall, and a Rotary Club banquet with 4-H achievement awards in Dryden.

Events in Toronto include:

•a fall fair and farmers' market at the Ontario Science Centre, beginning early Sunday morning, Oct. 1. About 35 farmers will be selling fresh fruit, vegetables and preserves. There will be ethnic dancer, 4-H club displays and tasty treats prepared in an old-fashioned steam engine;

•an Ontario apple promotion at Queen's Park, Oct. 4.

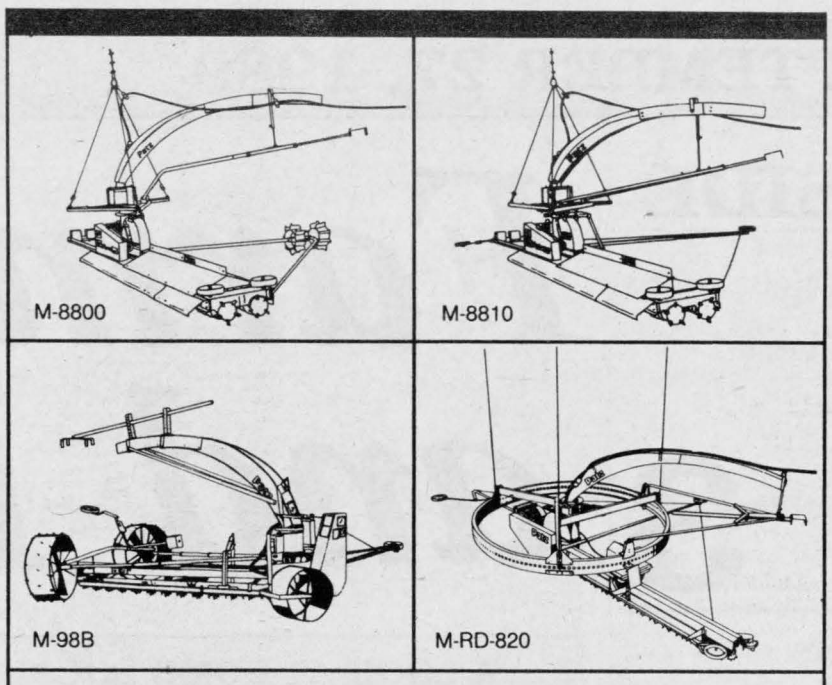
•an Agri-Food display as part of Harbourfront Harvest Festival, Oct. 8 and 9.

To find out more about Agri-Food Week activities in your area, contact your local Ontario Federation of Agriculture field representative or your local OntarioMinistry of Agriculture and Food representative.

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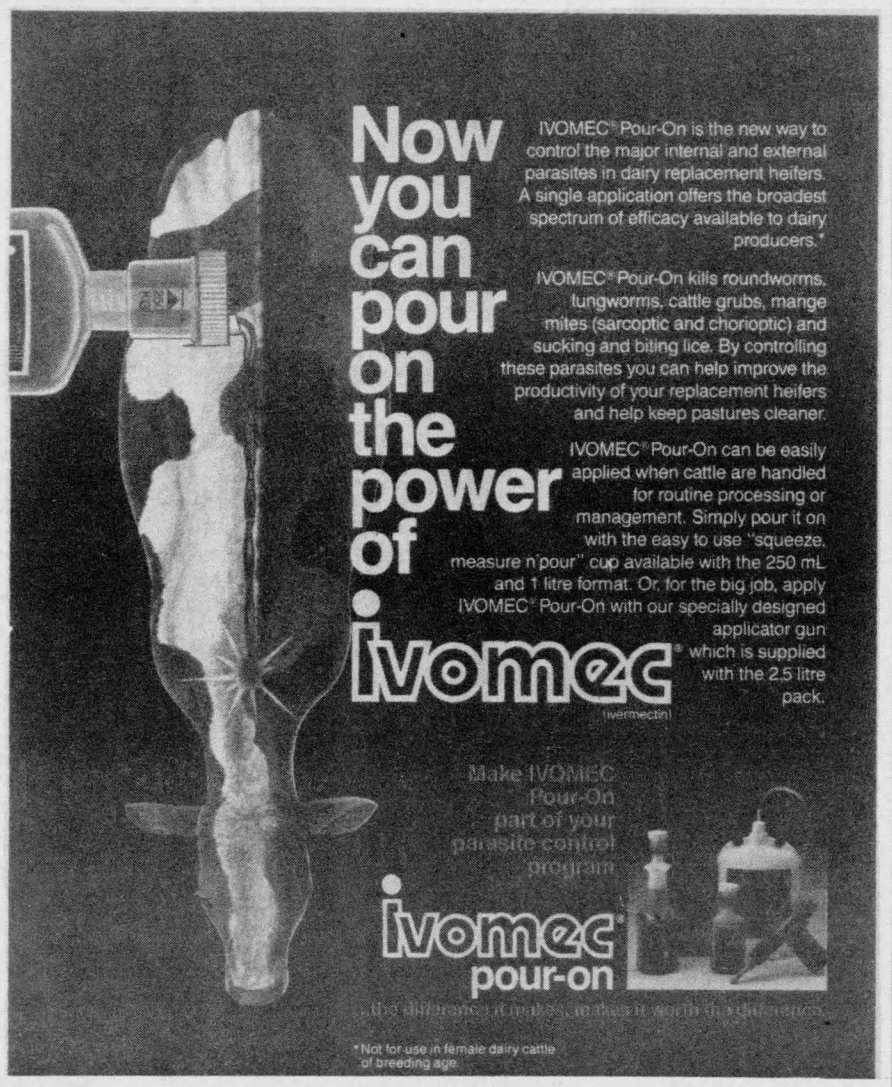
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Calcium	actual %	16.0	13.0	-	18.0	8.0	-	20.0	12.0	9.0
Phosphoros	actual%	16.0	13.0	18.0	9.0	16.0	12.0	5.0	10.0	5.0
Sodium	actual%	-	6.24	4.5	5.6	5.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.0
Magnesium	actual%	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.8
Sulfur	actual%	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Potassium	actual%	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.5
Iodine	actual mg/kg	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Iron	actual mg/kg	8,000	8,000	8,000	6,000	8,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	6,000
Copper	actual mg/kg	500	500	500	500	500	750	750	750	500
Manganese	actual mg/kg	1,420	1,420	1,420	1,420	1,420	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,420
Zinc	actual mg/kg	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,000
Cobalt	actual mg/kg	100	100	100	100	100	40	40	40	100
Fluorine	max. mg/kg	1,700	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	750	750	750	700
Vitamin A	min. I.U. /kg	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	160,000
Vitamin D_3	min. I.U. /kg	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	66,000
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Holstein show sees a record number of entries in this year's competition

Holstein breeders from near and far converged on KCAT's A.M. Barr Arena September 14th for the annual Eastern Ontario Championship Holstein Show.

In a setting that could have come right out of any of a dozen local country fairs, showmen were walking cows around a ring, while a judge gave each cow points for things like size of udder, and shape of head while a crowd looked on.

The dairy farmers were washing, shaving, blow-drying and giving last minute emotional support to their cows, hoping the months of preparation will pay off.

In each class, the cows were walked around the arena while an organist sat on top of a car, inside a glass both as she belted out rousing renditions of "When the Saints" and "Roll out the Barrel."

After the crowd and Richard Keene, a judge from Gilbertsville New York, had a good look at all the contestants, the cows were lined up side by side so Keene could get a closer look.

He looked into their eyes, at their colouring, their stance and their legs.

But the things a judge looks at, and what he finds, are very important to the farmer and the industry. Farmers have brought together the finest mothers and fathers to hopefully produce well defined, well proportioned, well mannered and efficient milk producers.

In a world of fierce competition, ever increasing stud fees and fluctuating milk prices, area Holstein Shows like this one become a gauge for the industry; an industry dealing with the introduction of high-tech production techniques and the constraints of mother nature.

Playing with gene pools, and trying to come up with the best 'cow combination' is an industry unto itself. And the thousands of Canadian milk producers need to become aware of breeding, computerized milking techniques while dealing with the day to day managment of a farm.

So Show results are crucial, and here they are.

Of the 84 exhibitors and the 232 entries, the Premier Breeder and Premier Exibitor was Sandy Crest Holsteins of Arnprior.

The winner of the Intermediate Calf Class was Bricon Counselor Johan from Robert D. McDonald.

The Senior Calf Class was Greenlark Pat Penny from Bruce Fletcher and Family.

Summer Yearling Class winner was Glenisle Hermes from Jean Claude Girod.

The winner of the Junior Yearling Class was Riverdown Mark A Treasure from Riverdown Holsteins.

The Intermediate Yearling Class winner was Sandburn Starr Barb from Cherry Crest Holsteins.



Standing at Attention

These cows probably didn't know what all the fuss was, but their owners sure did. A respectable showing can increase the value of a cow by several hundred dollars.

Chieftain photo A. Matte

The Senior Yearling Class winner was Mildown Revelation Patti from Breeze Hill Holsteins.

The Junior Champion from all the classes previous was Sandburn Starr Barb from Cherry Hill Holsteins.

The winner of the Junior Two Year Old Class was Five Oaks Starbuck Daisy from R.J. and Dwain Baird.

The Senior Two Year Old winner was Cherry Crest Crimson from Cherry Crest Holsteins.

The winner of the Three Year Olds is Hawlea Lancer Mame from Cherry Crest-Eastwest-Amilaird.

The Four-Year-Old winner is Glengarry Fiftieth from Breezehill Holsteins.

The winner of the mature cow class is Markvale Hazel Belle A from Ferme Vachale Enr.

The Udder class winner was Sandy Crest Matilda from Sandy Crest Holsteins.

The Breeders Herd Class winner was Sandy Crest Holsteins.

An the Overall Winner for the entire Show was Hawlea Lancer Mame from Cherry Crest-Eastwest-Amilaird.

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Farmers... they are a breed apart!

They are red and swollen, scarred, dry and cracked. They look like they belong to a man of 60 rather than one in his early 40's. They give the appearance that they have been cut off someone else's arms and stuck in his sleeves. The fingernails are thick and horny, white in colour rather than pink and yet at the same time they are gentle and loving and almost tender. They are the hands of a farmer.

When speaking to a farmer take note of his most noticeable feature and nine times out of ten it will be his hands. Weathered through years of hard work and often unsurmountable odds, these hands have come through some pretty tough times.

Since this area is known for farming as a mainstay industry, it is fitting to pay tribute to thesededicated people who keep us eating in a manner we have grown accustomed to.

The same scenerio is carried through each morning as farmers waken to another morning, the exact farm location is not essential, rather the men, women and children who carry out the routine, the stars of this stage are the important factor.

Every morning before most of us are thinking about leaving the sanctity and warmth of our beds, farmers are dressed and on their way across the yard to the milkhouse door to start their day. Shrouded in darkness, the barn looms in front of the solitary farmer as he approaches the structure of his labours...

Reaching the door latch, he fumbles for the light switch and may go through a ritual, of lifting his always present cap (advertising his brand of corn, or tractor) in an attempt to clear away the last of the sleepy cobwebs, yawning and blinking in the sudden surge of light that floods his senses and then flips the switch on the stainless steel box that will give the milking equipment a final rinse.

Stepping into the barn proper, he surveys the herd, his herd. There they stand, a large number of black and white cows, all purebred Holsteins, the most productive breed of dairy cattle in the entire world. He stands for a few more moments, seeing "his" rows of "mothers"..his life is here in this barn and he knows it.

The arrangement is condusive to milking and efficient use of time and manpower. Lining the sides of the barn, the cattle stand nose in, tails to a wide centre aisle that runs the entire length of the stable. A pair of narrower aisles along each wall allow a feed cart to pass in front of the bovine.

As the farmer steps into the centre aisle, the younger cattle get to their feet, the elder states cows know that there is time and so remain in a prone position awhile longer.

A "good" farmer will take time to check the herd, for any abnormalities. Pregnant cows especially, but each animal is important and so deserves a look. Even the heifers in the loose stalls at the far end of the barn seem to look for that however brief nod as the flashlight sweeps a flicker of light through their home.

The hired man/men may be family members, or outsiders, no matter their tasks are the same. Proud of their heritage of working to cultivate their chosen path, they would not trade their rural attitudes or duties for the urban sophistication of a factory job offering less tangible benefits.

The technology is racing ahead at such a pace on the farm in the 80's that several people are needed to ensure that breeding, registration and selling and buying are handled properly, the milking, calving, feeding, planting, harvesting, maintenance and cleaning that are the jobs on all farms are done and without disaster striking a blow.

The stable cleaner does the work that used to take hours of hot, sweaty work. By pushing a button, the 400 and some loops of heavy chain fitted at 16-inch intervals with paddles that scrape the gutter clean, up one side and down the other, is set in motion. Pulling the manure through a hole in the wall and dumping it into a concrete pad behind the barn, about 15 minutes sees the entire operation completed. There is a tap on a barrel that lets oil drip onto the chain to lubricate it and ensure low upkeep. Once shut down, clean straw is forked into the gutter as well as under each animal. It is the combination of the carbon (straw) and the urine it soaks up that makes nitrogen that does so much good for the soil. There are many farms that utilize the liquid method where all the waste is turned to a liquid, no straw is used rather it is watered down to a slurry and pumped into a storage tank. This is more expensive to use and to maintain. Each to their own.

Also in many barns there are "milking parlors", but in some there still remains the "pipeline system" of milking. The two-inch diameter glass pipe runs through the barn above the cattles' heads. From the milkers which suction the milk from the cows' udders, the frothy white fills the pipeline, travels to the sealed stainless steel tank, from where it goes by truck to dairy and on to supermarkets and into our homes... never having been exposed to the air.

Milking should be a pleasant and relaxing experience for the animal if the farmer wants to remain in business. The farmer has a job that requires his full attention when going about his daily tasks...removing stress in his animals. Taking away the stress an animal is feeling will ensure that a cow produces and that is what farming is all about in the dairy business. By bringing them inside and providing a warm barn the stress of weather is gone; the stress of bad feet, dirty water, disease, and crowding are all taken care of.

Watching what is fed is important, cows ought to turn grass into milk...but the highly bred creatures that are found on farms today, need a carefully formulated ration to reach their full potential.

Growing the feed necessary for a herd can save money and provide a stable diet that can be measured and regulated by the farmer. Farming is still at the mercy of the weather, nature and her decisions can make or break a year on the land...even with the best plans and execution of same.

After approximately three and a half hours in the barn, things are pretty well taken care of and breakfast is on the table...as the sun begins to climb into the sky and the rest of a sleepy world rises to greet the day, the farmer has the rest of his day laid out, as he saunters across the yard to the kitchen, his eyes go skyward to check the weather, dart over to the thermometer and before opening the back door, he will measure the water in the rain guage just to be certain his plans will not need to be revamped for this day.

Farming, ah the only life for some, thank heavens for the rest of us!!!

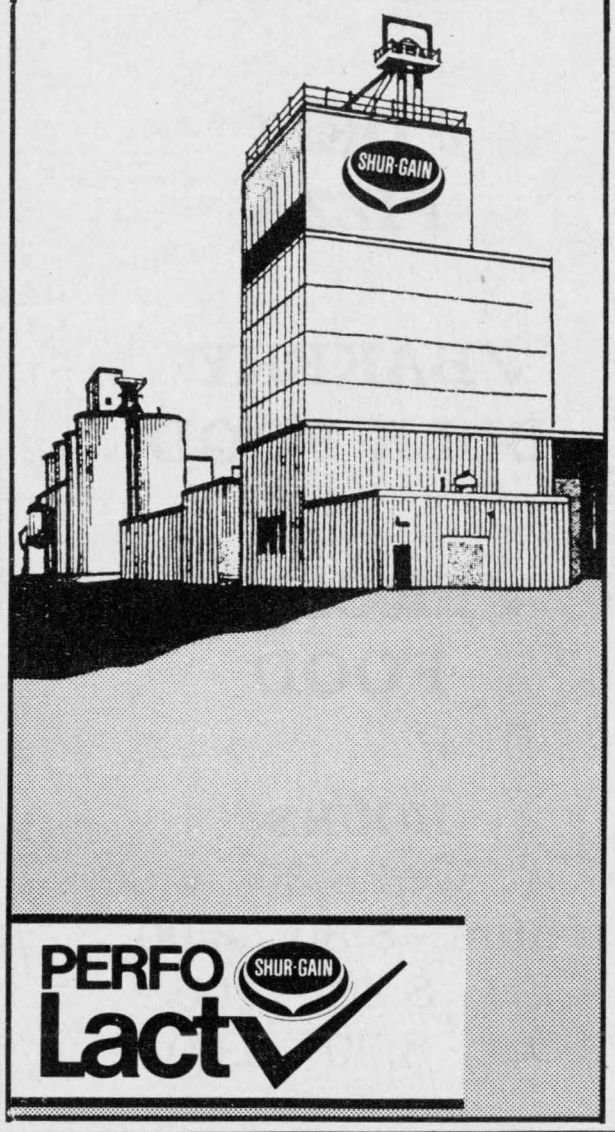
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Lonely and abandoned

This walking plow seems to be forlorn and alone...with the modern technology available to farmers in the 80's, tractors and many furrowed plows cover vast areas of farmland in never ending efforts to grow more and better crops to feed the multitudes. *Chieftain Photo by S.L. Johnston.*

The changing face of agriculture

Are young people leaving farms to live in the city? Is the farm population aging as a result? What is happening to Canada's rural population? Figures from Statistics Canada paint an interesting picture.

For example, the farm population is declining by three per cent a year, but many people are staying in rural communities. In fact the population in small communities has remained stable at about 24 per cent of the total Canadian population for more than 20 years.

Naturally, the farm population is following the trend of the general population in which average age is rising slowly as "baby boomers" get older. The average age of the farm population is currently 32 years compared with 30 years in 1971.

But farming isn't an aging, dying industry. Statstics show that young people are still opting for a career in agriculture. The proportion of producers under 35 has remained stable for 50 years at about 20 per cent.

Younger producers aren't restricted to small, part-time farms. Producers under the age of 35 represent about 20 per cent of all operators but control 22 per cent of the farms with sales over $100,000 and only 15 per cent of farms with sales under $10,000.

"Farmers are spending more time concentrating on the financial side of the industry," says Wayne Jones, chief of the Farm Income and Finance Section at Agriculture Canada.

"It's considered just as important to understand balance sheets and cash flow statements as feed rations and chemical application rates."

Today's young farmers are also well-educated with more opting for courses in farm management. According to Stephen Olive, registrar at McGill University's MacDonald College, 80 per cent of the students in the school's diploma program have farm and rural backgrounds. The program's graduates generally go on to operate a farm of their own.

Farmers learn how to stretch a penny

by Dael Bierworth
Agricultural Representative

The story is told of a Newfoundlander who had invented copper wire. He was attempting to stretch a penny. In today's economy it would appear as if farmers must join this new industry of copper wire manufacturers.

Recently a producer mentioned how he had made his investments give a greater return. This fellow related that he took an early inventory of feed and this information was the basis for his shaving $6000 from his feed bill.

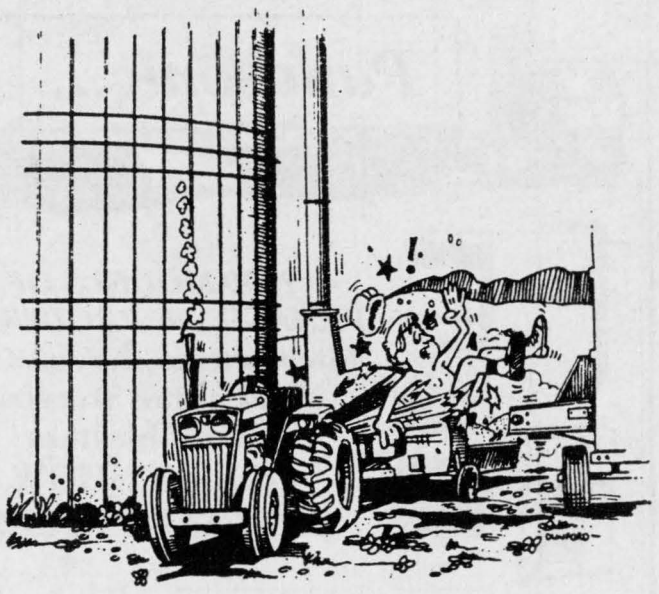
On occassion it has been rumoured that farmers feel the "book work" required in farming has left little time for making a profit. This dairyman, in contrast, felt it was very beneficial to have an inventory of feeds taken as early as possible. This inventory included not only a physical recording of the quantity of feed, but also a qualitative measure, as the results of having a representative laboratory analysis of each product, Information from this complete inventory was combined to have a tentative ration prepared so the production from his herd would be maximized. The results allowed him to determine the shortages of feed produced with those required. By comparing with the physical inventory, quantities and types of feeds that needed to be purchased were determined.

Having reviewed his cost per tonne of feed from November to April for several years, he noted the trend for higher prices toward spring. A further check into some projected yields indicated some international shortages for the upcoming year.

These facts encouraged our friend to buy his winter's feed by forward contracting his requirements. The decision cost him in terms of cash flow. On the other hand, he realized a savings of 53 cents per cow per day from Oct. 1 to May 15. Only pennies a day really, but the net effect for his 50 cow herd over the 250 day feeding period amounted to a tidy sum of nearly 16000 by spring planting.

If you plan to moonlight in the wire business this year, a feed inventory is a good place to start.

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Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston.

Should you still weigh for only $10.00 per calf?

by Carolyn Closs

Red Meat producers are questioning the fact that weighing incentives have dropped from $25 per calf to $10 per calf in the new Red Meat II Program. There are a lot of comments like "There is not money in the program anymore", and "It's not worth the bother for only 10 bucks."

Red Meat Advisors can try to convince producers of the value of the Red Meat Program and the usefulness of its performance information, but the value really is only something that can be determined by the producer who could benefit from it.

Beef producers need to look back at the basic purpose of the whole program. It was never intended to be a handout program. It's purpose was to provide some financial incentives to encourage producers to try out some new and different techniques which could hopefully increase the profitability of the whole beef operation.

Weighing calves is a mandatory component of both the old and the new Red Meat Plans. Weighing encourages the basic identification of animals so that it is known which calf belongs to which cow. The performance data which results from the weighings allows the determination of which cows are producing the good calves and which ones are producing the poor calves. The bottom enders can then be culled and replacement heifers kept from the superior cows.

Many producers have already gone through five years of weighing animals in their herds. The producers will now have both total herd and individual animal performance records that can be collected together to be accurately studied and compared. These records are, also, down on paper where figures do not lie or fade away as memories often do. Certainly this information is only a start but, when combined with other important factors, a very essential component of the herd management.

Producers need to take a good look at the whole Red Meat II program before writing it off completely because of the $10 weighing incentive. There are various parts to it and there are certainly areas which many producers could utilize and benefit from.

To aid in making the decision about Red Meat II, producers may want to participate in the cow-calf seminar co-ordinated by the OCA on Saturday, September 30, 1989. "Getting the Cow-Calf Businesss Working for You" will be held at the Casselman Community Centre, Casselman, Ontario. The program will look at the various considerations today's successful cow-calf producer must keep in mind in the selection, feeding and management of the cow herd.

Topics include "Feeding for Conception and Growth", "Selecting Cows for Profit", "What Bull Should I Use?", "Pasture for Gains", and a panel discussion.

For more information on this or Red Meat II, please contact your local OMAF Office.

Ministry invites input on future direction of programs and services for agriculture

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food is inviting producers, the food processing industry, food retailers and consumers to discussions that will set the tone of future ministry programs and services.

Twenty meetings involving the agriculture and food industry and consumers will be held across the province from mid-October to late November. Ministry staff have been participating in a similar series of planning sessions this summer.

A final report, expected in early 1990, will serve as the basis for the ministry's agenda for the remainder of the decade. Although ministry staff are in close contact with farmers through a network of county and district offices, this is the first full-scale OMAF planning process to directly involve private sector participation.

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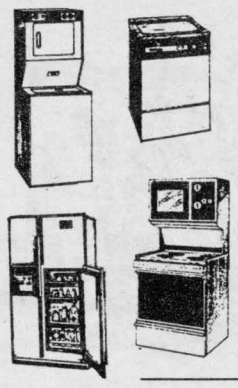
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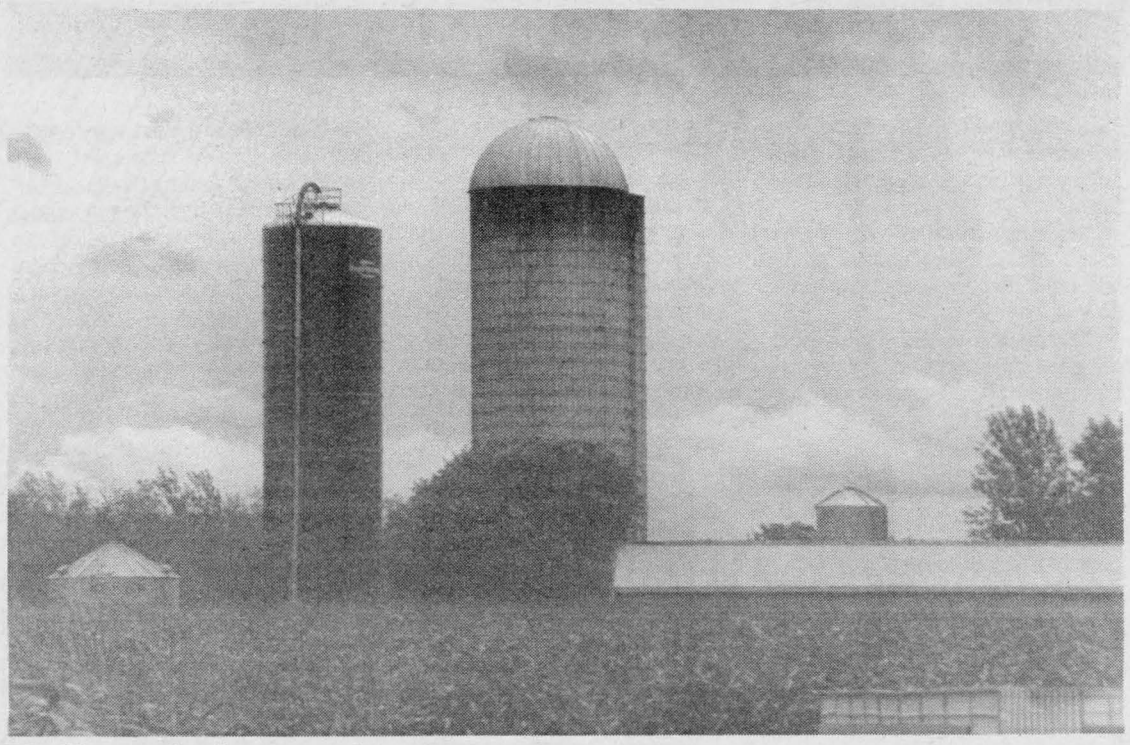
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Tall and short of it

Farming is complex, looking across a local corn field we can see the tall, strong corn stalks in the field as they encompass the tall, straight silos that will store the crop once harvested.

Chieftain photo by S.L. Johnston

Agricultural technology transfer is a very essential ingredient

Research done nationwide by Agriculture Canada is finding practical application on the farm thanks to the transfer of new discoveries to Canadian producers.

A case in point is the stack silo, designed in the early 1970s by Eric Comeau, to solve the problem of silage removal from traditional silos during the winter.

Mr. Comeau is a researcher at the Experimental Farm in La Pocatiere, Que. and has also worked at the Experimental Farm in Kapuskasing, Ont. He has become known as "Mr. Stack Silo" in some circles because of his efforts to introduce the stack in northern Ontario and Quebec.

"I have lectured on the stack silo all over Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes," he says.

Building up a stack silo is simple but it requires a little more care than with a traditional silo. Grass silage is heaped directly on the ground or concrete. The stack is covered with plastic secured by tires or sandbags.

"We have discovered that it's more important to seal the stack quickly than to take the time to pack it down," Mr. Comeau explains.

Initial research has shown that if the technique is used properly the stack silo produces excellent quality silage, comparable with or superior to conventional silage.

Producers were slow to adopt the new technique initially because they were concerned about the quality of the silage. In some cases, problems occurred when the method was not used properly.

But over the years Agriculture Canada researchers in Kapuskasing, Lennoxville and La Pocatiere have been gathering data which shows that silage from stack silos is an effective feed for cattle, especially in the northern agricultural regions, where the soils are better suited to the production of forage grass than grain.

The stack silo got its first field evaluation 10 years ago when Quebec officials established a network of a dozen test farms in Abitibi.

"On the strength of its success in Abitibi, the stack silo technique began to spread through Eastern Canada and people started to take us seriously," Mr. Comeau says. "By 1985, there were about 1,300 silos in Ontario, Quebec and Maritimes."

The method, which allows rapid ensiling of the forage crop at a lower cost than traditional silos, attracted the interest of producers in southern Quebec. Relatively high feed prices in the 1970s gave farmers added incentive to consider silage as the primary feed for their herds.

The technique has changed over time to adapt to the needs of different farms.

"That is precisely the advantage of the stack silo," Mr. Comeau explains. "It's suitable for various herd sizes and may be modified to allow for changes that occur on the farm."

Holland to host Viv-Europe '90 on animal production

The Utrecht Jaarbeurs (Holland) will come home to the world's premier trade fair on intensive animal production for the 12th time, from 13 to 16 November 1990.

Intensive animal production is poised on the brink of major change with 1992 and the single European market looming ahead. Other major factors are changing environmental demands and the increasingly powerful retail lobby. All have a bearing on production conditions and techniques.

Viv-Europe '90 focuses on those developments which industry has been following most closely; important aspects covered will be biotechnology, biological feed additives and biological manure treatment.

Visitors representing over 100 nationalities will be coming to Viv-Europe '90 to see the latest development presented by exhibitors from 30-plus countries from all five continents.

Viv-Europe '90 will have 4,000 square metres extra net stand space this year to cope with growing demand. The total stand area will be an impressive 35,000 square metres.

Following enthusiastic reactions by visitors and participants, the sector-by-sector layout introduced in 1988 will be repeated this year.

The scope of the trade fair will be further broadened this year with the addition of a new sector: cattle breeding and raising. Viv-Europe'90 will present a more comprehensive overview of intensive animal production than ever.

Viv-Europe '90 will cover the following sectors:

poultry production
poultry processing
pig production
calf production
cattle breeding and raising
combinations of the above

In Viv-Europe '90 will once again be the largest trade fair for farmers, producers, importers and exporters.

The increase total of visitors from abroad will reinforce Viv-Europe's position as the world's most important trade fair on intensive animal production.

With a new trade fair manager, Robert P. Schotema, at the helm, the Viv-Europe organization team aims for ongoing internationalization.

The international exhibitors' brochure is available from the organizers of Viv-Europe '90: Jaarbeurs, Postbus 8500, 3503 RM Utrecht, The Netherlands, telefax 31-30-940379.

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Grenville Ag. Report

by Stuart Leyenaar, P.Ag.,
Agricultural Representative
Grenville County

Dianne Lowe: Grenville Rural Organization Specialist

On Tuesday, September 5th the Grenville County O.M.A.F. Office welcomed Dianne Lowe to the position of Rural Organization Specialist. Dianne, origially from Nova Scotia, has a strong rural, 4-H background. She attended the Nova Scotia Agricultural College for several years and graduated from the University of Guelph earlier this year. During the past four summers, Dianne has worked as a Summer Assistant and Agricrew and Junior Agriculturalist Co-ordinator.

We are pleased to welcome Dianne and her husband, Tony, to the Kemptville area.

Beef Stock and Feeder Sales

We have received information about two Special Fall Sales being sponsored by the Eastern Ontario Stocker and Feeder Sales Association. This Association was fromed about 10 years ago to organize and promote beef stocker sales for the benefit of Eastern Ontario's cow-calf producers. Over the years, these sales have become price-setters for the area.

Consignements are now being accepted for the two sales planned for September 30 and October 28, 1989 at the Galetta Sales Barn. Consignors should arrange groups of five or more quality cattle of the same sex and approximate weight. If the consigned groups of cattle are not sufficiently uniform, a sorting committee established by the Sales Association will remove singles of divide groups to be sold separately. Calves should not weight less that 350 lbs at the time of the sale. The first 1000 cattle consigned to each sale will be accepted.

Beef producers interested in consigning cattle to the Eastern Ontario Stocker and Feeder Sales should contact the Secretary-Manager, Don Black, for more information. Mr. Don Black can be reached at 838-3147. Information and entry forms are also available at the County O.M.A.F. Offices.

Coming Events

Saturday September 30: Grenville Plowing Match, Time: 10:00 a.m. at the Milburn McCully Farm, R.R. number 4. Prescott (Domville). Thursday October 12: Leeds-Grenville Argi-Food Celebrity Pumpkin Carving Contest: Time: 7:00 p.m. Thousand Islands Mall, Brockville. Friday October 13: Eastern Ontario Championship 4-H Show - Ottawa Winter Fair: Time: 9:00 a.m.: Lansdowne Park, Ottawa.

For further information contact: Stuart Leyenaar, Agricultural Representative, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Provicial Building, Box 2004, Kemptville Ontario, K0G 1J0. Telephone (613) 258-8298.

Pet ducks make great fly catchers

Trading a flyswatter for a pet duck may sound crazy, but researchers at the University of Guelph claim it makes perfect sense down on the farm.

The agricultural university says tests indicate that Muscovy ducks beat other fly control methods hands down.

"Sanitation is still the number one concern, but for supplementary fly control Muscovy ducks appear to outperform everything else," says Professor Gord Surgeoner.

"They wag their tails every time they get one."

In one lab test, a five-week old Muscovy was placed in a small cage with 400 flies. The quacker devoured 326 within an hour!

Another lab experiment saw the ducks do a job on flies in half an hour that took man made products 15 to 86 hours. (commercial traps and flypaper)

Field tests at a local dairy operation also proved successful, says the Professor, adding that mechanical flycatchers must be placed out of reach of animals, but ducks can get right into livestock pens, where manure buildup provides a nesting ground for flies.

Mechanical fly control can cost farmers up to $455 a season...the ducks are $2.00 each!!

Beef buyers learn their ABC's

by Tom Hamilton
Beef Cattle Specialist

It's back to school time for children across Ontario! Ontario cow-calf producers are also undergoing a learning experience this fall - learning the ABC's of herd sire selection. In this case, ABC stands for Across Breed Comparison. It's part of a new system of genetic evaluation being implememted by the Ontario Bull Test Program.

The Bull Test Program uses a central test system to evaluate yearling beef bulls for economic traits. The system has recently been upgraded to utilize the latest techniques in genetic evaluation. The program now reports genetic potential for postweaning gain in the from of Expected Progenty Differences (EPD's). EPD's are easier to use and more accurate than the old system. The EPD takes into account the heriditary of the trait and the fact that a parent transmits one half of its genetic potential to its progeny. The EPD is a "bottom line" number that estimates the difference in performance of the bull's progeny, relative to an average animal of the same breed. The postweaning gain EPD is reported in lbs. of weght gain in a 140 day period. This corresponds to the length of the latest test period. A bull with a gain EPD of twenty-plus lbs. would sire calves which, on average, would gain 20 lbs. more in a 140 day period than average calves of the breed, if all were fed in the same group.

The Across Breed Comparison (ABC) adds the option of comparing bulls of different breeds. This is of particular benefit to commercial herd managers who may be able to select sires from among several breeds. The ABC is calculated in a manner similar to that used for the EPD's. Like the EPD's, the ABC's reported in lbs. of gain in a 140 day period.

In order to help farmers understand the new evaluation system, OMAF, along with Canadian Beef Sires and county Red Meat Clubs, is cosponsoring a series of Beef Improvement Workshops across Ontario. Along with the use of EPD's and ABC's in sire selection, the workshops will cover crossbreeding and factors affecting calving ease. Eastern Ontario locations include Sydenham High School on December 6 and Opeongo High School on December 7. Start time is 7:30 p.m. sharp.

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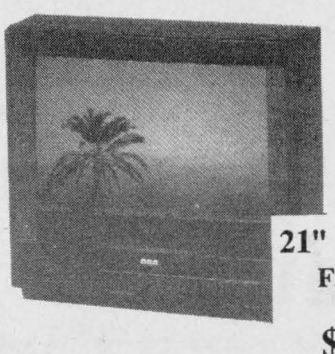
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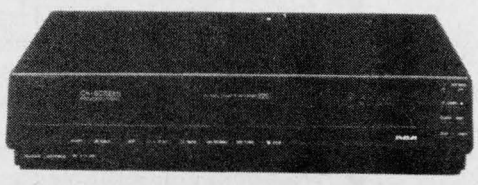
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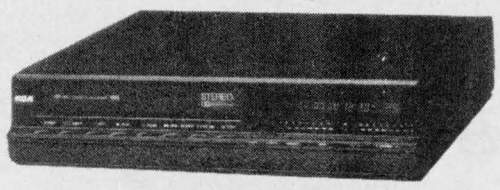
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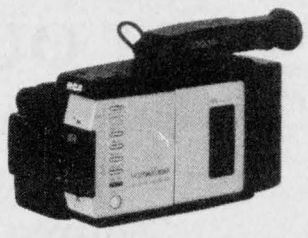
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Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston

Milk is good for you

The bovine population in this area are an important factor in the survival of us all. The Dairy industry thrives as many return to the family farm. Farms in this area are being run by second, third and even fourth generation farmers. Local Fairs provide a showcase for local herdsmen.

New minister has farm experience

David Ramsay, Ontario's new Minister of Agriculture and Food has extensive farming experience. He operated a farm near New Liskeard for 12 yeasr where he was involved in industrial milk production, cow-calf farming and cultivation of cereal grains. The new Minister is a founding member of the Timiskaming Grain Growers' Association and served as president of the Tamiskaming Federation of Agriculture for one year.

First elected to the Legislature in May of 1985, Mr. Ramsay was re-elected in 1987.

He was born in Sydney, Australia in 1948, and was raised in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. He and his wife Kathleen have three children.

His background in farming is a help to him and allows him to enjoy the process of taking a closer look at the issues and the people involved.

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Ontario Beef Council being started by Cattlemen Assoc.

An all-industry Ontario Beef Industry Council is being established by the Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The 17-member Council will bring sectors of the beef industry together on a regular basis to research and provide advice to the Minister on production, processing, retailing and promotion of beef.

"By establishing the Council, the OCA is fulfilling a recommendation of the 1988 Beef Marketing Task Force," said OCA President, Jim Magee. "The Council will serve to formalize industry-wide meetings on a quarterly basis."

"The OCA has met individually with all these groups in the past, with the Council, with all it's representatives, will play an important role in strengthening the industry as a whole in the future," he said.

Agriculture and Food Minister, Daivd Ramsay, commended the beef industry for the establishment of the Council.

"We have to recognize that our beef industry faces increasing competition from other jurisdictions. Through the Council, all participants in the industry, from the farm to the retail counter can work together for the long-term viability of the beef industry in Ontario," Ramsay said.

The OCA will name Council representatives from the feedlot, cow-calf, custom-feeding, veal, Northern Cattle Sales Network, and livestock dealer sectors of the industry.

Associations representing provincially and federally inspected slaughter and processing plants, beef and veal purveyors, livestock auction markets, livestock truckers, meat retailers, hotel restaurant and institutional trade and consumers will be each asked to name a representative to serve on the Council.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food will name the three remaining members to represent agricultural marketing, production and safety net programs which it administers.

A chairman and representatives to the Council will be named in the near future. The first meeting of the Council is planned for this fall.

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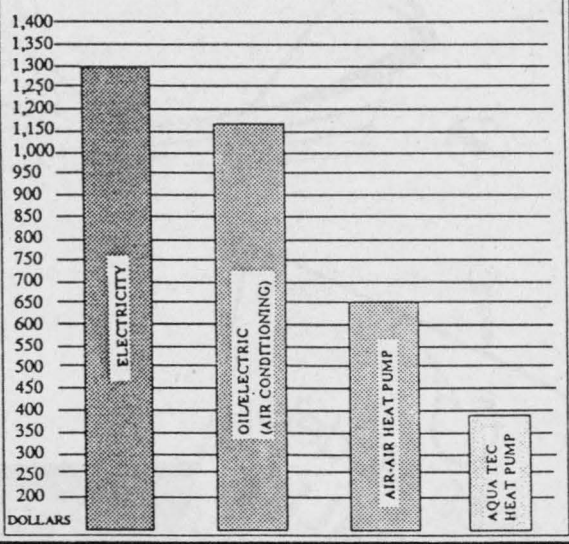
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No easy task

Mathew DeJong found out that the modern methods of farming are not too bad after all. He was a young interpreter this year at Upper Canada Village and was assigned tasks a farm youth in the 1860's would have been responsible for. Carrying wooden buckets of water wears on the shoulder blades.

Chieftain Photo S.Cumberland.

Modern farmers need organized office

The days are gone when the kitchen table can double as a farm office or the interior of the barn door as a spot to record crop production levels or calving dates.

The operation of a farm in the 1980's is very complex and sophisticated and as such requires a separate and well organized farm office. The need to be a "good" farmer is stronger than ever and so farm management must be easier and more efficient, records and decisions have to be made not just for today, but for the future, if success is the goal.

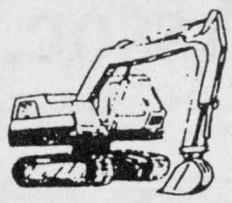
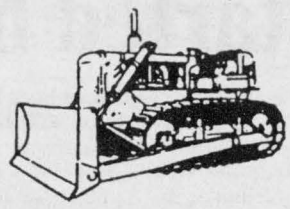
To be flexible enough to allow for growth, farmers must keep pace with the everchanging times Traditionally farmers have invested heavily in production equipment and neglected farm management tools and equipment...now is the time to even out the difference.Effective investment of time, using good equipment in the farm office, rates just as high in priority as other farm investments when the farmer now considers the increased importance of management in today's farm operations.

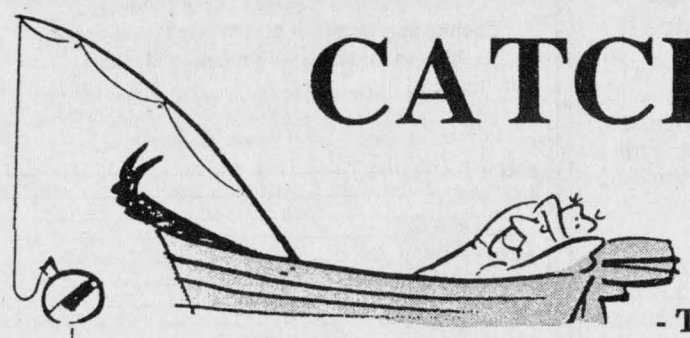
The future is heading in the way of giving an increasingly important role as the hub of a successful farm operation. More and more time will be spent analysing information and trends and as computers become more common in all business areas, it will be prime to have good and accessible records to provide correct input data to make the most of all information.

Information is availible from the county Agricultural office on the "home buiness centre."

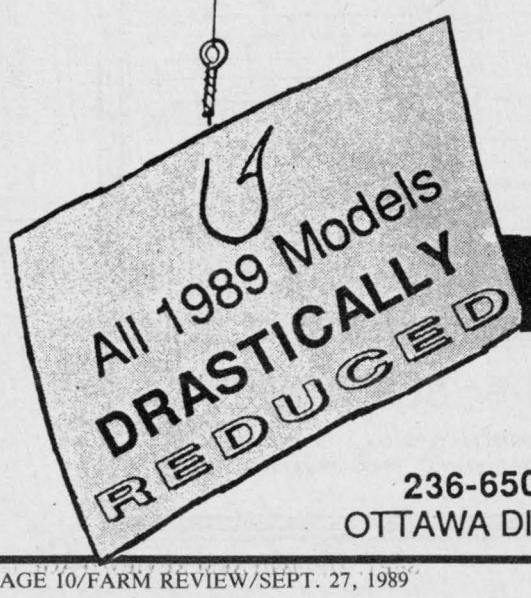
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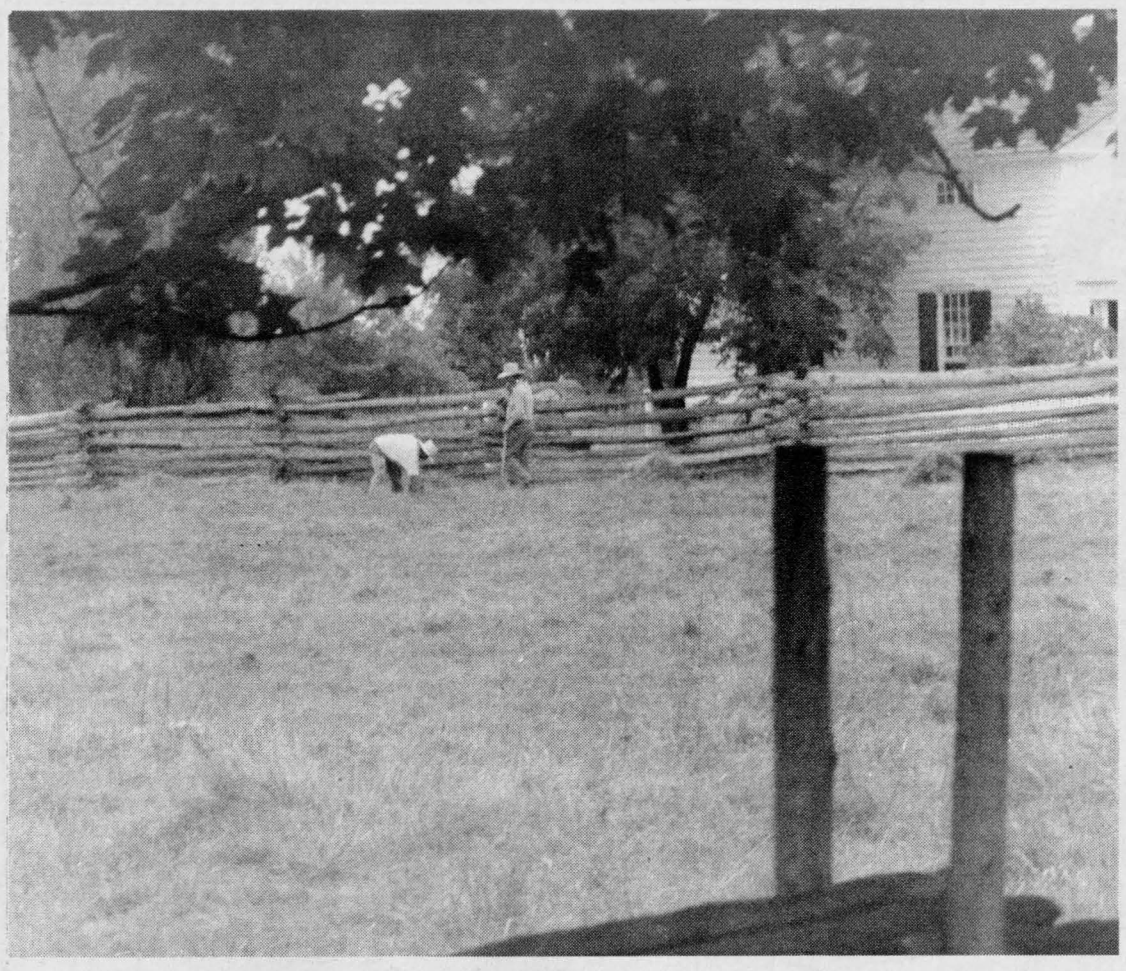

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Haylage harvested

Two farmers at Upper Canada Village harvest their hay by hand with forks, a far cry from the modern baling methods used on todays' farms. I wonder if the loose hay kept any better than the bales do???The change to the large round bales may be helping extend the keeping properties?

Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston.

Silo gas incidents on the increase

During the first few weeks of September, 1989, the Farm Safety Association has received an increased number of reports of sile gas formation. The Farm Safety Association recommends that farmers take extreme care this fall when filling silos.

Drought-like growing conditions in some areas of Ontario may have created a situation where silo gas may be more of a problem this year than others. Climatic conditions play a large role in the formation of deadly silo gas, and weather conditions this summer have caused some farm safety experts to issue warnings concerning the gas.

Silo gas or nitrogen oxide is produced as a by-product of the fermentation process that takes place once plant material is put into a silo. A variety of climatic stresses on the plant material during the growing season can dramatically increase the possibility of toxic gases forming. To avoid silo gas, farmers are advise not to harvest crops immediately after a rainfall. Conversely, crops damaged by hail or frost should be harvested as quickly as possible to avoid build-up of excess nitrate in the plant material. If weather or other factors have increased the possiblity of nitrate build-up, plant material should be cut higher than normal, as excess nitrates are stored in the lower portion of corn stalks.

Silo gas may be visible within a few hours after silo filling and may be recognized by a bleach-like odour and may be visible as a yelowish-brown haze. Deadflies or birds at the base of the silo may also be an indicator of the gas.

Once a silo is filled, it should be sealed and declared off-limits for at least a three-week period. During this period of time the silo should not be entered unless all rules for confined space entry are closely followed and a self-contained breathing apparatus is used.

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Farm machinery dealers must register

The Farm Implements Act will be proclaimed Jan. 1, 1990 Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food David Ramsay announced today.

"The Farm Implements Act has been developed in response to the concerns of farmers and farm implement dealers across Ontario. It is a progressive piece of legislation and will prove advantageous to all parties involved in buying and selling farm machinery," Ramsay said.

The act, which received royal assent in December 1988, regulates the sale, service, warranty and safety requirements of farm implements. It provides for the return of defective new farm implements by farmers and for the orderly termination of dealer-distributor agreements.

In order for dealers and distributors to operate in Ontario, they must be registered with the Farm Implements Board by Jan. 1, 1990, Ramsay told the audience at Ontario's largest farm machinery show. The board was created by the Farm Implements Act to register dealers and distributors of farm implements, to mediate disputes between puchasers and dealers or distributors and, to supervise safety measures relating to farm implements.

Dealers and distributors should contact the Farm Implements Board as soon as possible to obtain application forms. The address of the board is 2 Carlton Street, Suite 1816, Toronto, Ontario, M5B 1J3. The phone number is (416) 326-3799.

Safety a very important concern for all farmers

Perhaps the greatest fear a farmer has is the death of his child resulting from a careless or dangerous approach to farm work. This is to be prevented at all times.

It is very important that farmers never let their guard down on safety.Due to lack of resources the farm safety associations cannot stress this point often enough to the farming community and so leave it up to the individual to practise safety measures at all times.

Never becoming too familiar with a routine task around the farm..always do the proper checks and take precautions.

This year, Farm Safety Week carried as its theme, "Children on the farm-Keep them Safe!" This week each year is set aside to stress safety, but the task remains all year long.

The Canadian Safety Council urges farmers to resist the temptation to give youngsters a ride on the tractor or other farm equipment. Also, they stress making silos, grain bins, liquid manure storage facilities, ponds, stationary machinery and wells inaccessible to children in a conscientious effort to avoid problems before they turn into diasters.

Farmers are also warned to store hazardous materials and toxic chemicals in locked storage areas for the safety of everyone on the farm.

Teaching youngsters the proper behavior around farm animals, so injury is not commonplace. Work areas are off limits to children until they are old enough to help. It is prime to realize that it is not wise to assume that children share an adults experience and or knowledge of safe farm habits.

Setting a good example, enforcing the rules, eliminating the hazards and educating youngsters can save lives and allow them to grow into the farmers of tomorrow.

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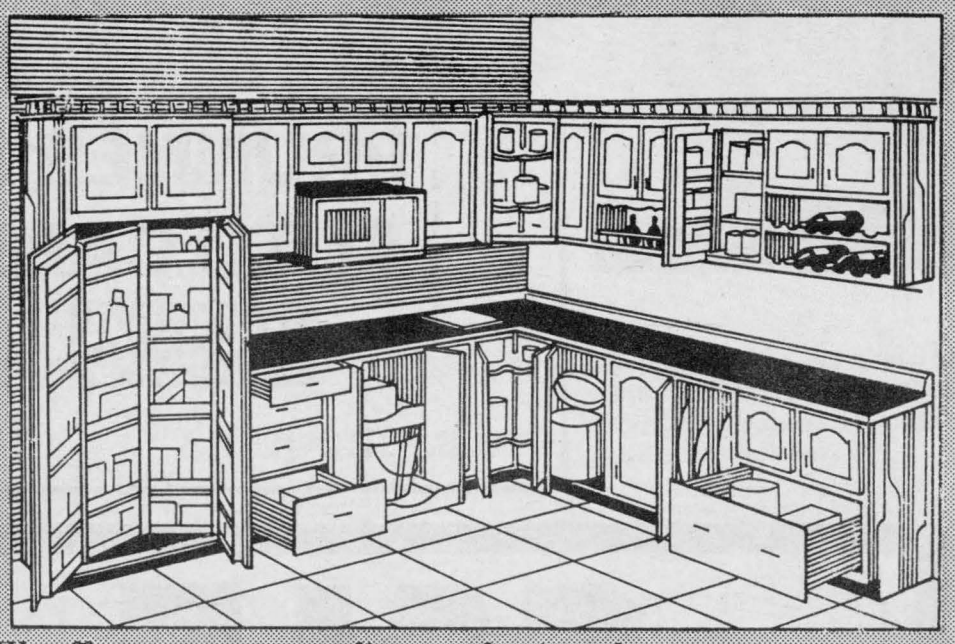
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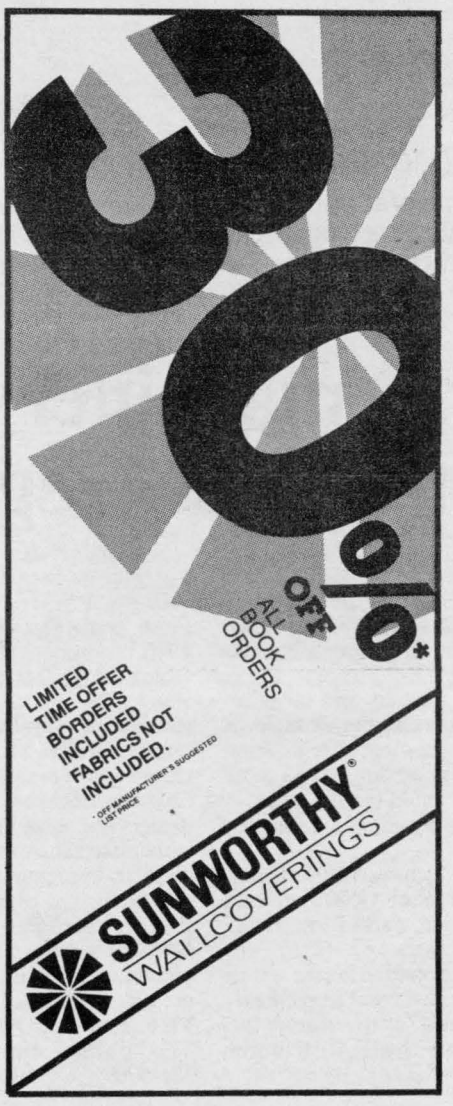


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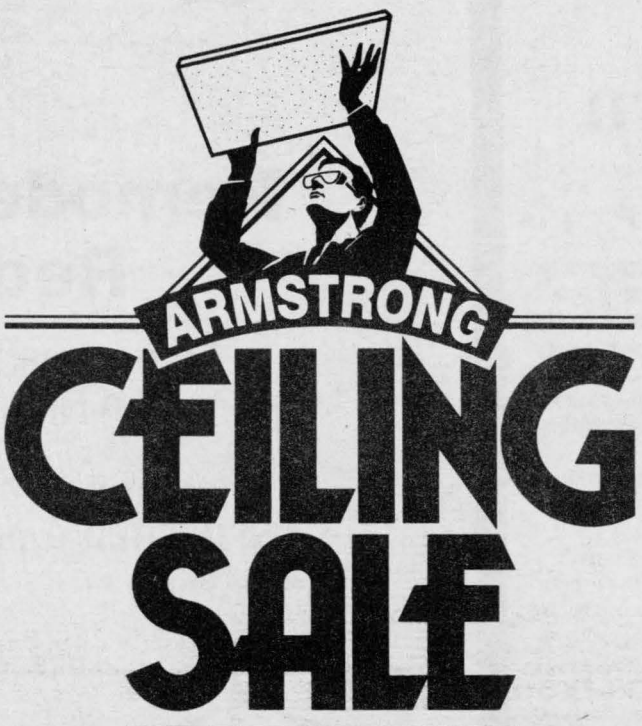
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FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

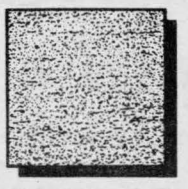
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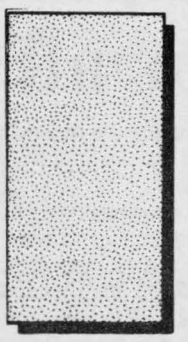
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