Special Supplement
to the
Winchester Press
Wed., June 1, 1988

June is dairy month

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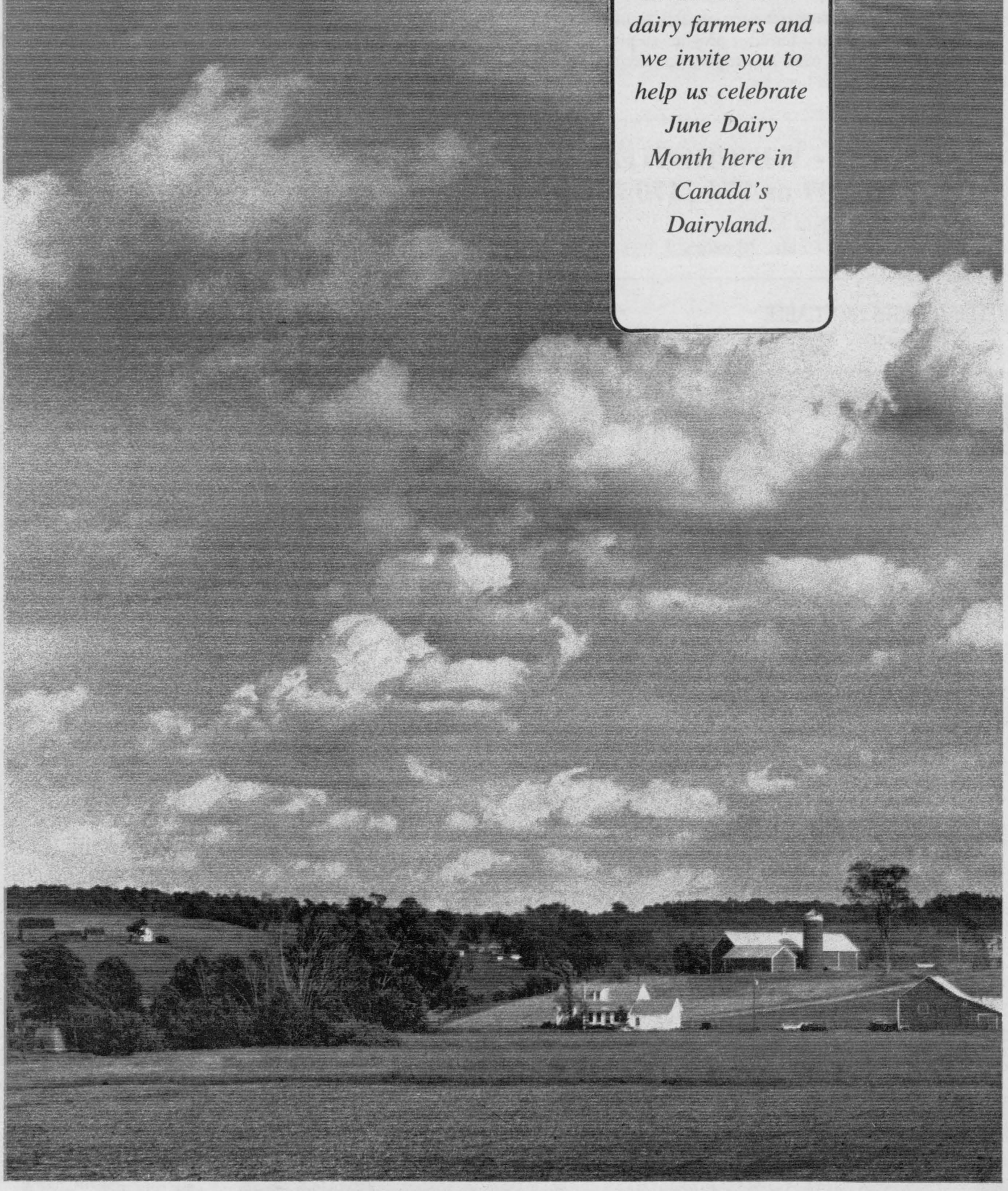

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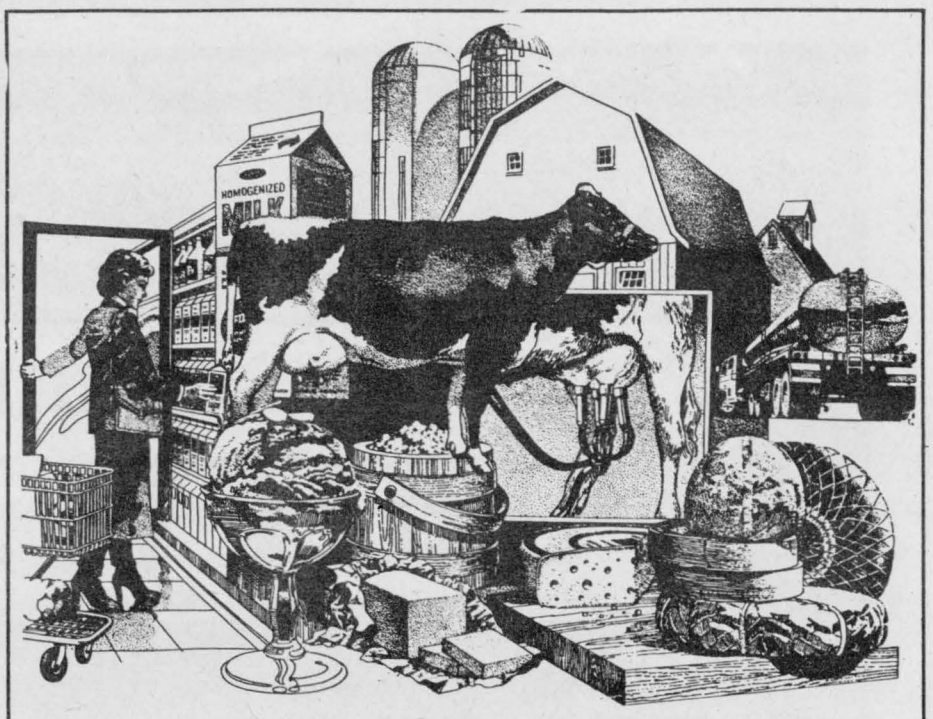

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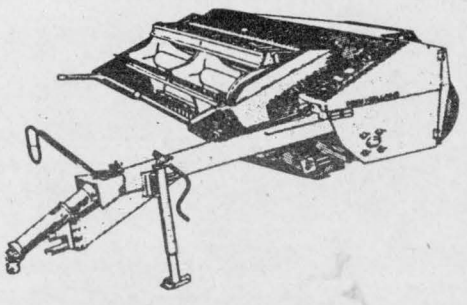

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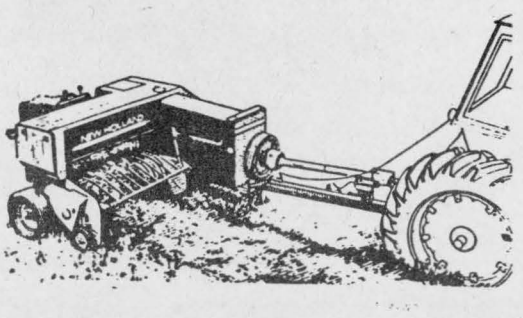

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Role helps prepare dairy princess for future

It takes a few days out of one year, but it helps prepare you for the rest of your life. In a nutshell, that's the feeling Colleen Acres, 19, has about her term as Dundas County's 1987-88 Dairy Princess.

The first year political science student at Queen's University, and second of five children, says the experience has not only helped her improve her public presentations, but assisted her own personal development in school and at work. And it will probably benefit her in day-to-day life for years to come, she says.

Acres lives on Maple Meadow Farm with her parents, just on the northern tip of Dundas County. She won the dairy princess title last summer, and will soon be handing it over to another dairy farmer in a few months when a new county representative is chosen.

These days her mind is focused on the provincial dairy princess competition scheduled for the end of August, where some 40 county dairy princesses from across the province will gather to compete for the title of Ontario Dairy Princess.

But she took a few minutes out of her engagement-filled schedule recently to reflect on her experiences. Since she was crowned at the Iroquois Festival last July, Acres has attended about 25 engagements which included visits to about 10 schools in Northern Dundas County.

School visits were by far the most enjoyable for Acres, who seemed to leave quite an impression on the kids, who not only had the chance to meet a princess, but her companion cow.

A cardboard Holstein cow was Acres' educational aid for her talks with younger students. The task of describing the trip milk makes as it leaves the cow to when it reaches the consumer's milk jug, just wouldn't have the same effect if the kids didn't have a chance to see how the milk comes out of the cow in the first place, says Acres. By attaching a rubber glove filled with milk to her wooden companion, Acres demonstrated just how the milk comes out.

The comments that followed, which ranged from "this is hard", to "I wouldn't want to do this everyday", usually leads her into a talk about the importance of farmers in the whole food chain, and the dedication that's involved with producing milk.

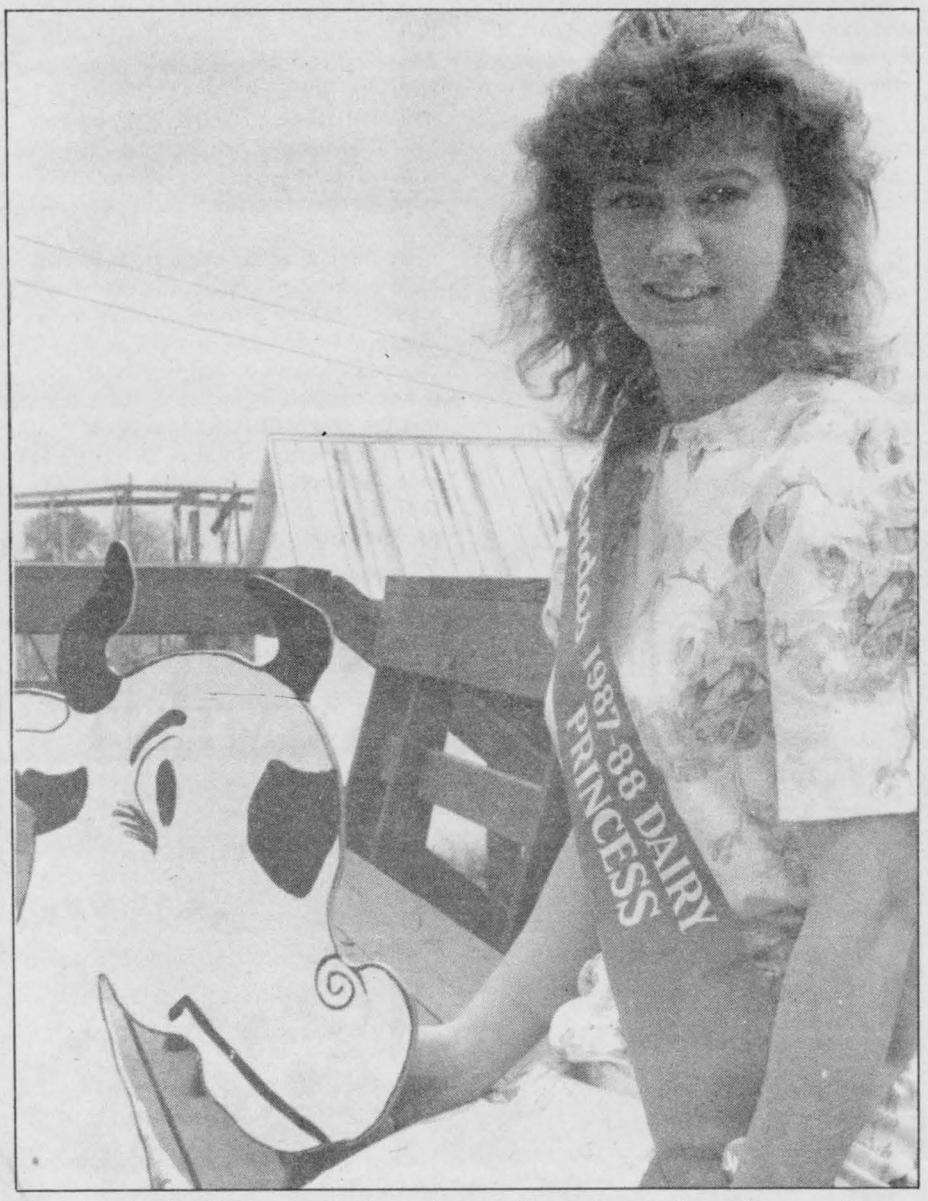
"A lot of kids have so many false perceptions about where milk comes from — some think it's even too fattening."

When dealing with people her own age and in environments where she didn't have to promote the dairy industry, Acres found a noticeable apathy among consumers about the milk industry and the people who make it go.

"When I told my friends at university what I was they didn't take me for real, and I had the impression they felt it was rather childish." She says she'd like to see the dairy princess play a bigger role in publicizing the real woes of the dairy industry, and to give her more exposure to the general urban public which needs more information about the industry than rural dwellers.

Acres says above all she'd like to see the condescending attitude many people have about dairy farmers changed. "I still feel farmers are looked down on, when they should really be praised for producing an essential food so cheaply."

This summer Acres will be working in Ottawa. Law or public relations are her two career areas of interest right now. If she does end up in PR, she doesn't rule out the possibility of some day having the chance to raise the consciousness of consumers about milk again — only then it won't be as a dairy princess.



Dundas Dairy Princess Colleen Acres takes a break from her royal duties teaching area youth the fundamentals of dairying. Acres, 19, a Queen's University student has been visiting local schools with her demonstration cow called Elsie.



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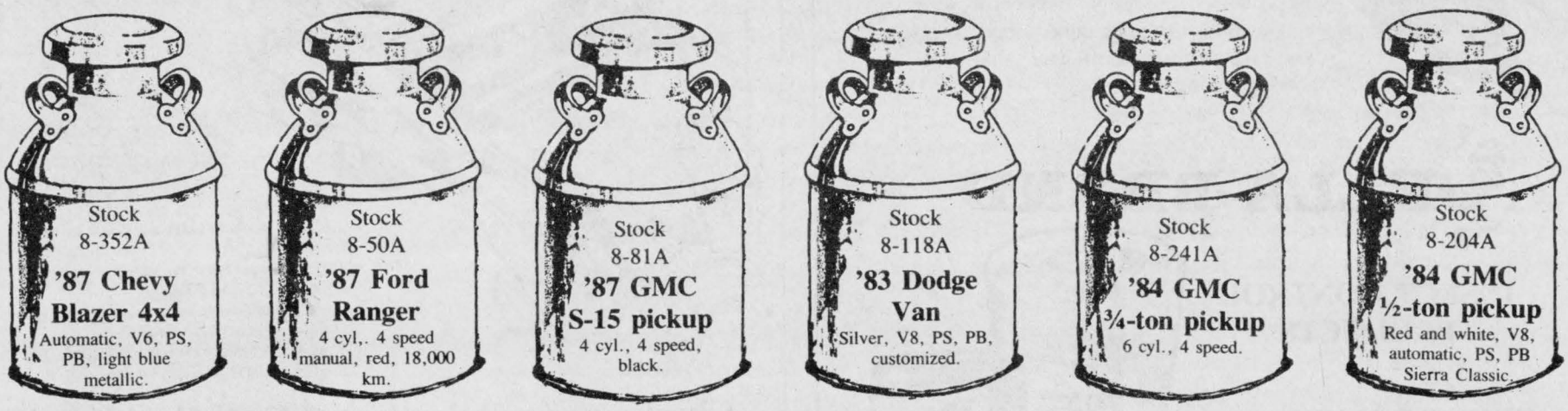

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Problem breeder cows

Every dairy farmer has experienced it, and there's usually nothing more frustrating than the problem breeder cow where the cause is unexplainable.

A cow that is a problem breeder at one particular time in her life will not necessarily be one forever, according to one dairy science expert.

Dr. Roy Ax, a dairy specialist at the University of Wisconsin, believes there are many factors which can contribute to a cow being classified as a problem breeder.

One disorder that occurs quite frequently is the retained placenta. Veterinarians are leaving the placenta rather than trying to manually remove it. However, it should be trimmed at the height of the udder attachment with clean, sharp scissors and using a vinegar and water solution.

A retained placenta often causes a delay in the cow's cycle. Researchers are now looking into injecting a gonadotropin releasing hormone, or GnRH on the 14th day after calving. GnRH is a hormone produced naturally by the cow. It stimulates the pituitary gland to release other hormones, which make the cow cycle.

By regulating the cycle in cows that have retained placentas, the uterus is altered, making it more difficult for an infection to develop. It reduces the chance of a cow developing cystic ovaries as well as increases the likelihood that the cow will come into heat.

Cystic ovaries can also contribute to breeding problems in cattle, notes Ax. Both thick- and thin-walled cysts can prevent cows from cycling normally. If a

• continued on page 5

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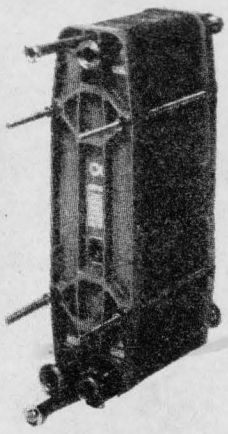

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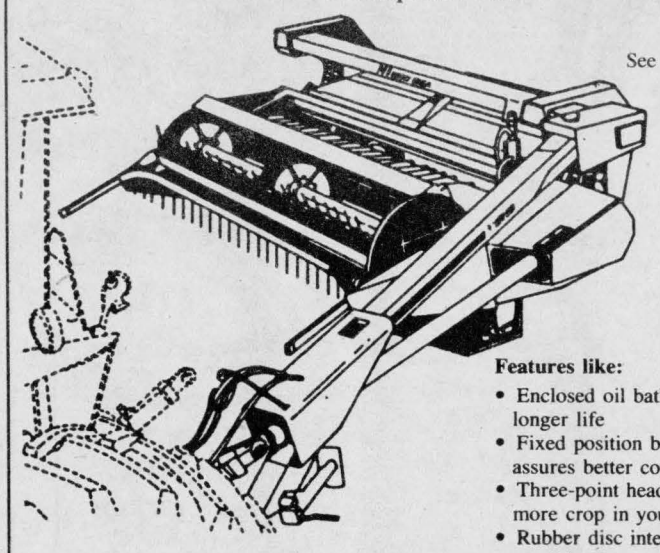

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WEAGANT FARM SUPPLIES

Strict standards ensure high quality product

by Pat den Boer
Special Correspondent

The milk produced by Ontario's dairy farmers is among the world's best in terms of quality. The task of maintaining that good quality starts with the farmer, his cows, the milking equipment and cooling system. But milk transporters, processing companies and government all have a role to play.

Overall responsibility for administering the milk quality program lies with the Dairy Inspection Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Inspection branch is responsible for:
* training and licensing milk transport truck drivers as farm bulk tank milk graders;
* testing samples of each farmer's milk at the Central Milk Testing Laboratory to ensure milk meets established quality standards;
* licensing milk and cream graders at processing plants;
* ensuring quality standards are maintained by the processor.

Milk is tested for quality by the milk transporter each time it's picked up at the farm. Each driver must hold a licence for this to ensure it meets standards for temperature and that it is clean and odor-free. A grader can refuse a bulk tank of milk that he or she believes is not up to standard.

Similarily, a milk processor can refuse to accept a truckload of milk that has not met the quality standards of the plant milk and cream grader.

The milk transporter also takes a sample of milk from the bulk tanks at the farm. Each sample is identified, coded and sent off to the milk testing lab in Guelph, where it is tested for various reasons.

First, it's tested for milk composition for producer payment purposes. Four samples, one from each quarter month, are randomly tested for butterfat, protein, lactose and solids.

Among the quality tests conducted by the lab are tests for bacteria content, added water and inhibitors or antibiotics. The sample for this is also chosen randomly, and the producer incurs a financial penalty if his milk falls outside accepted standards.

Grade A milk is defined as milk containing fewer than 100,000 bacteria per millilitre. Over 96 per cent of producers have monthly bacteria counts under 50,000 bacteria per mililitre.

If a milk sample test indicates the presence of inhibitors, no further milk can be shipped from that farm until the problem is solved.

Also, milk samples that exhibit a freezing point between minus .524 degrees C and 0 degrees C are penalized for added water. The presence of inhibitors or added water will result in a $2 per hectolitre penalty on the farmer where the milk originated. The penalty is increased in increments of two each time the test shows positive for each.

SANITATION ON THE FARM ESSENTIAL

Each dairy farmer in Ontario is responsible for ensuring his farm meets the Grade A standards for sanitation outlined in regulations under the Milk Act. They regulate the cleanliness of the herd, barn, milkhouse, bulk tank and milking equipment, as well as the personal cleanliness of those doing the milking. Producers face stiff penalties that are reflected in the price of their milk, if they don't meet the Grade A standards.

THE PROCESSOR'S ROLE

The strict guidelines also control milk quality in processing plants. Like farms, they must conform to strict sanitation standards prescribed in regulations under the Milk Act and other legislation. Pasteurization and a second test for inhibitors is mandatory for processors.

They must also mark a 'best before' date on the product and maintain dairy case displays according to guidelines outlined by the Dairy Bureau of Canada.

Because milk is such a perishable product, great care must be taken at every step of its journey from farm to store, to make sure it stays fresh and is of the highest quality.

Problem breeders

• continued from page 4

thin-walled cyst does not heal on its own and is not treated, it may cause nymphomania, which means that the cow is constantly in heat.

Sixty per cent of cysts occur between 30 and 90 days after calving. A cyst will lengthen the calving interval by an average of 26 days. Since an average of 14% of cows will develop cysts each year, this disorder can have devastating effects on the calving interval of a herd.

Cows may develop cysts as a result of calving difficulties or having twin calves. Retained placentas, uterine infections, milk fever and ketosis may also increase the likelihood of a cow developing cysts. If a cow exhibits more than one of these problems, her chances of developing cysts are even greater.

Thin-walled cysts are commonly treated with GnRH or with chorionic gonadotropin, another hormone that promotes ovulation. A thick-walled cyst is treated with prostaglandins (hormones that destroy the corpus luteum if pregnancy does not occur). The prostaglandins help to destroy the progresterone produced by the cyst, which in turn, clears up the cyst.

Cows that don't conceive after two inseminations are repeat breeders. And about 25% of cows fit this definition. Half of those cows have a clinical reason for being a repeat breeder, such as a cyst or metritis.

Embryo transfer experiments have indicated that a high percentage of embryos transferred into repeat breeder cows grow at a much slower rate than normal and eventually die. The reasons for this are still unknown, but death occurs early enough in the cycle that the cows return to heat on schedule. Studies in the U.S. and Japan have shown that injecting GnRH into cows at insemination will increase the likelihood of conception.

Silent heats occur when a cow cycles normally and ovulates, but does not show any outward signs that she is in heat. Study results indicate that low reproductive efficiency in high producing cows is often due to silent heats.

First determine, with the assistance of a vet, if the cow is cycling, and that she's not cystic.

A cow that's cycling normally but is prone to silent heats will be a prime candidate for prostaglandin treatment. An injection of this hormone will cause the corpus luteum to regress so the cow forms a new egg and comes into heat. By regulating the cow's cycle with prostaglandins her insemination can be better timed as well.

Finally, producers must remember to keep accurate breeding records. If a disorder is thought to be the cause of a problem with breeding, prompt attention to it is the best advice.



Milk pasteurizing in the home

For over almost 130 years consumers have been reaping the benefits of healthier milk products because of the discovery made by French scientist Louis Pasteur — the process of heat treating milk.

Pasteurization was indeed the answer for stopping the spread of diseases such as tuberculosis and brucellosis, which were commonly contracted by humans from drinking raw milk. While these diseases have all been wiped out in Canada and the U.S., raw milk consumption has led to outbreaks of salmonella, campylobacter and yersinia bacteria infections. These bacterial diseases result in headaches, stomach cramps, fever and vomiting. The illnesses can last two or three days and may require hospitalization and will almost always require an incubation period.

While many dairy farmers drink the raw milk from their own herds, doctors recommend that the milk be pasteurized before being served to a person living off the farm. It is true that individuals who consume raw milk for a lifetime may develop some tolerance to the various bacteria, but if a new bug enters the herd, or if an abnormally high level of salmonella, campylobacter, or yersinia bacteria gets into the milk, even long-time raw milk drinkers will become seriously ill.

An article published in the June 1982 issue of the **Canadian Medical Association Journal** states that "milk is an important source of nutrition for children but it is highly perishable and an excellent medium for the multiplication of bacteria, including a wide variety of pathogens. Virtually all diseases transmitted by milk can be communicable and no amount of attention to hygienic practices by producers of raw milk can ensure that the final product is safe for consumption."

Experts in the field say environmental contamination can occur even in the cleanest barn and bacteria can also be shed from the animals.

WHAT IS PASTEURIZED MILK?

Pasteurized milk has been heated to a specific temperature for a certain period of time to kill all the micro-organisms in the milk that can transmit disease to humans.

Currently accepted time-temperature combinations are 63 degrees C for 30 minutes; 72 degrees C for 16 seconds or 89 degrees or higher for one second. It doesn't sterilize the milk, but it does make it safe to drink.

Raw milk can also be safely pasteurized in the microwave oven. The same temperatures and times apply, but the microwave brings the milk to the correct temperature faster than a conventional stove. The microwave is ideal for smaller portions.

To pasteurize milk on top of a stove, place the milk in the top part of a double boiler, with hot water in the bottom portion. Gradually raise the temperature of the milk, stirring occasionally, until it reaches 72 degrees C (162 degrees F). Keep the milk at this temperature for 16 seconds (the other suggested temperatures will also work). Use a reliable candy or dairy thermometer to check the temperature. Cool the milk immediately after the holding period by immersing the top portion of the double boiler in cold water. Once cool, the milk should be stored in sterilized containers in the refrigerator.

To pasteurize milk in the microwave, place 900 ml of milk in one litre microwave safe containers. Immerse the

• continued on page 7

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Dundas County Dairy Princess Competition
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1987-1988 Dundas County Dairy Princess Colleen Acres.

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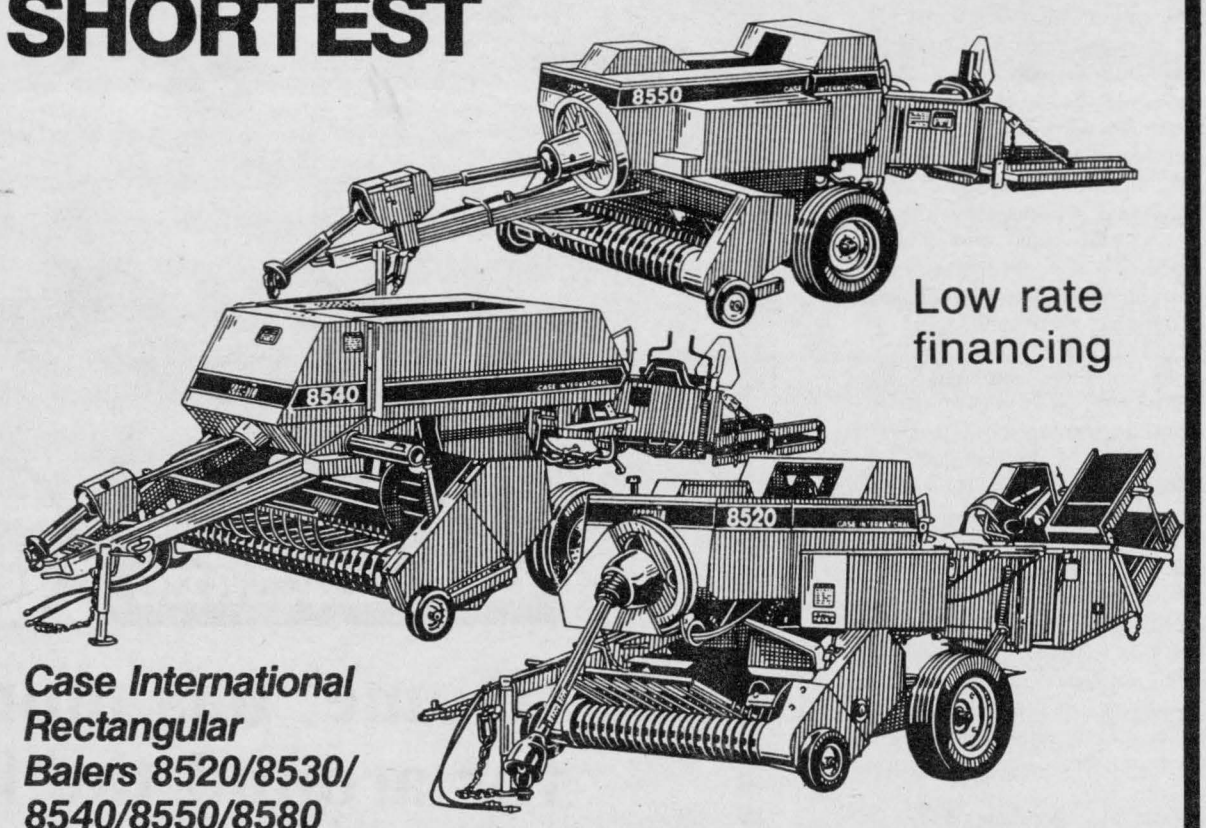

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Bacteria most commonly transmitted through raw milk

Bacteria	Incubation period	Duration of illness	Symptoms
Salmonella	12 to 36 hours	A few days. Individuals may be carriers for up to one year	Headache, abdominal pain, diarrhea, fever, nausea and sometimes vomiting. May lead to complications including abscesses, menengitis, pneumonia. Deaths are uncommon except in the very young, the very old or the infirm.
Campylobacter	3-5 days	One to four days, may be up to 10 days. Twenty per cent may have prolonged illness.	Diarrhea (often bloody), abdominal pain, fever, nausea and vomiting.
Yersinnia	3-7 days	A few days, unless complications occur.	Diarrhea, abdominal pain mimicking appendicitis, fever, malaise and vomiting. May lead to complications such as arthritis and the spreading of infection into blood, liver, spleen and bone.
Q Fever	2-3 weeks	Several weeks.	Fever, headache, malaise, severe sweats. In many cases chest infection, pneumonia. Occasionally infection of the liver and the heart (including damage to the valves). Many infections go unrecognized because of the mild nature of the illness.
E. coli	12 to 72 hours	7 to 10 days.	Abdominal pain, fever, vomiting, severe debilitating bloody diarrhea, can lead to death.

Pasteurize

• continued from page 6

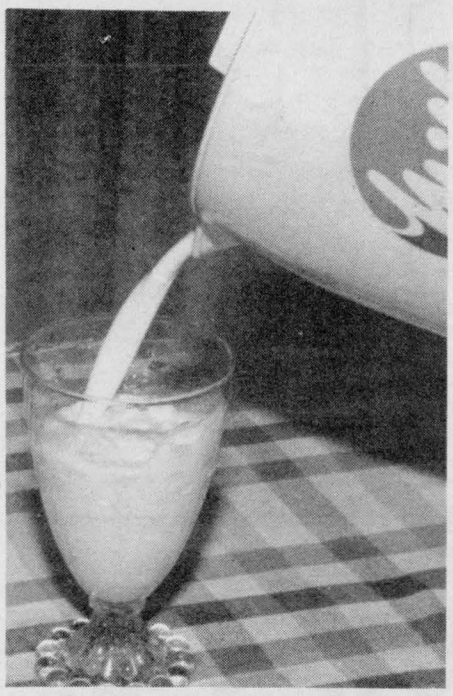
temperature probe in the milk and heat to 72 degree C. This usually takes about six to seven minutes in a 700 watt microwave. When the milk reaches the correct temperature, stir to ensure even heat distribution, then reheat to between 72 and 75 degrees C and hold for 16 seconds. Cool immediately in a cold water bath.

Commercial pasteurizers are also available. These are water-jacketed units which can hold up to two U.S. gallons of milk. The milk is heated electrically with thermostatic controls. When the pasteurizing cycle is completed, the unit turns off automatically and a loud buzzer sounds. This is the signal to begin cooling the milk by water circulation.

Greater convenience, reliability with proper milk heating and cooling and better flavored milk are probably the greatest advantages of a commercial machine.

Pasteurizers range in price from $170 to $300 and can be purchased from select dairy equipment suppliers.

Pasteurized whole milk should keep for up to two weeks in a refrigerator that is set at four degrees C or 40 degrees F.



Skim milk will leave better taste

Consumers conscious of their fat intake often opt for skim milk for their daily calcium fix. But a large percentage don't stay with it because of the unpleasant watery texture and chalky aftertaste.

To get around that marketing hurdle, processors are now managing to give skim milk that whole milk taste and texture without adding any calories. The product is called Break Plus Milk, and it's produced by a firm in Georgia. It's currently being sold throughout the southeast and mid-Atlantic regions of the United States.

It's still too early to determine whether Break Plus is attracting new milk drinkers or if it will eat into the stable and biggest market, for 2% milk. Canadian and U.S. dairy producers are probably not that eager to find out.





At a glance

by Bob Humphries
Dundas County Ag Rep

In the calendar year 1987, county milk producers shipped close to 86 million litres.

At the agricultural office we monitor the milk flow each month. We also look at the number of producers, lactose, protein and butterfat.

In the calendar year 1978, county producers shipped 77.8 million litres. The number of producers dropped during 1978 from 458 to 431.

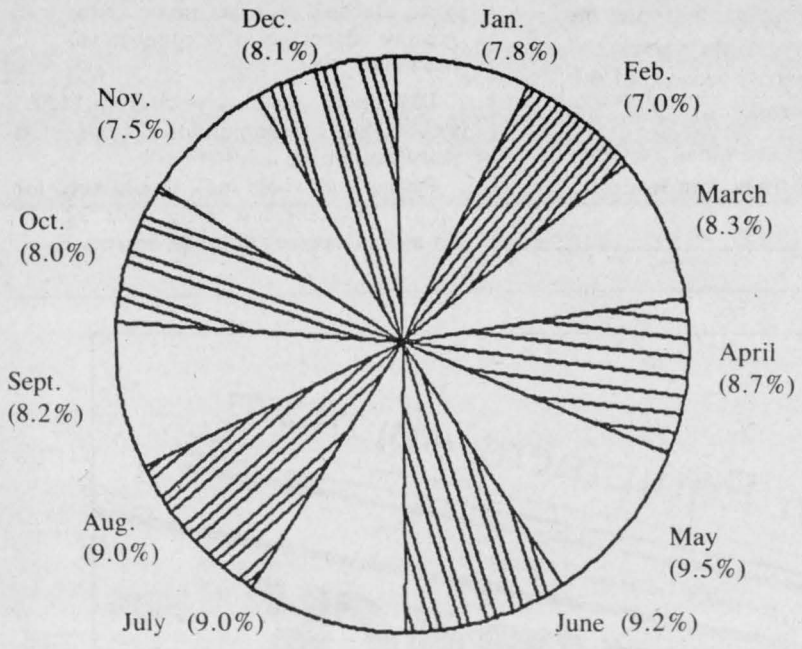
In 1987, the average annual shipment per OMMB licence was 234,252 litres. In 1978 the average shipment per farm was 175,232 litres.

In 1987, Dundas County was in third place of the 12 counties of Eastern Ontario. Ottawa Carleton Region produced 91.4 million litres and Prescott County produced 86.1 million litres.

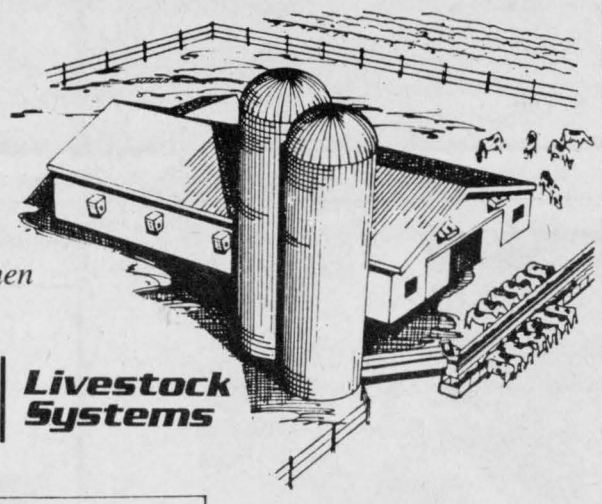
Dundas County Milk Shipments - 1987

Month	Number Producers	Milk Vol. Litres	Lactose Per Cent	Protein Per Cent	Butterfat Per Cent	1987 production Monthly	Per Cent of 1986 Yearly
January	369	6,527,388	5.10	3.30	3.94	100	100
February	367	6,054,129	5.06	3.32	3.96	101	101
March	366	7,101,714	5.07	3.25	3.95	101	101
April	367	7,497,445	5.17	3.21	3.86	100	101
May	368	8,143,656	5.19	3.17	3.84	102	101
June	367	7,930,665	5.11	3.17	3.81	101	101
July	367	7,714,755	5.04	3.17	3.71	101	101
August	368	7,749,326	5.03	3.27	3.69	104	101
September	367	7,023,479	5.05	3.42	3.90	102	101
October	367	6,847,764	5.03	3.46	4.04	106	102
November	366	6,436,065	5.01	3.38	4.03	108	102
December	366	6,944,130	5.06	3.34	3.98	109	103
Average	367	7,164,210	5.08	3.29	3.89		

Total Shipments - 85,970,516 Litres



1987 Dairy Production
Dundas County



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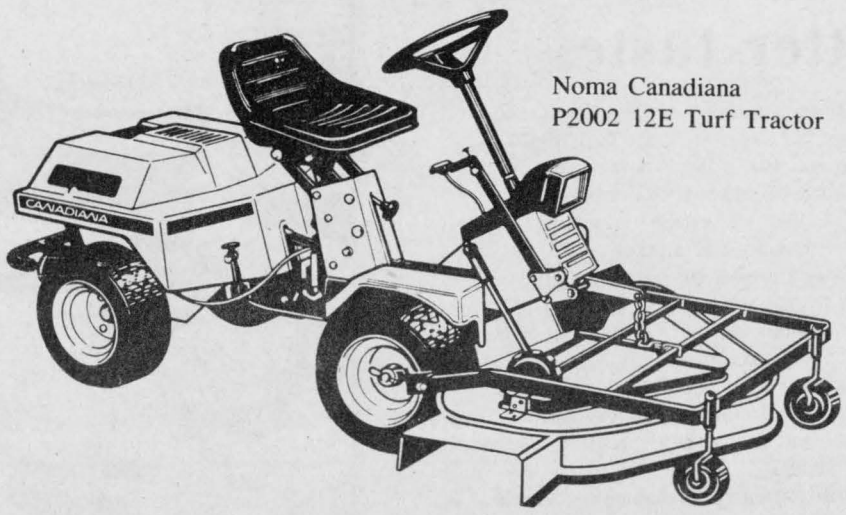

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OMMB maintains orderly dairy market

The Ontario Milk Marketing Board came into existence following a study commissioned by the Ontario government in 1963 to inquire into the problems of the milk industry.

It studied the boom and bust cycles of shortages and surplus that made milk marketing so difficult. The report indicated the need for one producer-controlled marketing agency in the province. As a result, the Milk Act of 1965 stipulated that all milk produced for sale on Ontario farms must be sold to one buyer and seller. And that body would be the OMMB.

The board, in consultation with the processing sector, created an orderly marketing system, including uniform pricing to replace the one in effect. To ensure stability the board implemented a program of supply management — the scheduling and matching of production with demand. Its primary tool would be the quota assigned to each producer.

The government appointed George McLaughlin, a well-known dairy farmer from Beaverton, Ontario, as the first chairman. After guiding it through its infancy, McLaughlin retired in 1977. He was succeeded by Ken McKinnon of Port Elgin who stayed on as chairman until 1986, when the present chairman, Grant Smith took over his duties.

In the beginning, all board members were appointed by the government. Today milk producers elect one from each of 12 designated regions in the province. A 13th member is appointed by the government to represent the cream producers. Also 53 local milk committees serve as liaison between the board and producers.

The OMMB's activities are monitored by the Milk Commission of Ontario and are subject to decisions of the Farm Products Appeal Tribunal, the watchdog body that is empowered to hear appeals from producers and anyone who is affected by the board's decisions.

The board's main objective is to see that farmers get a fair return for their product, and security from the price fluctuations that they experienced before 1965. At the same time, consumers are assured of milk quality, stable prices in the supermarket and increased production when it's warranted.

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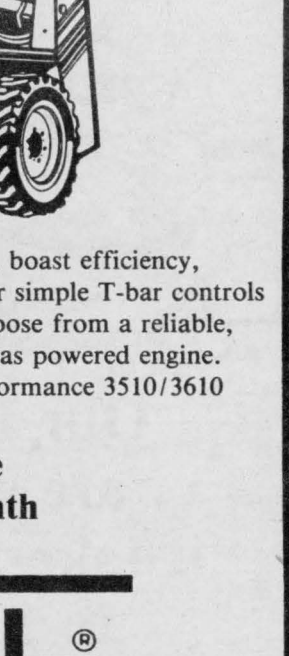

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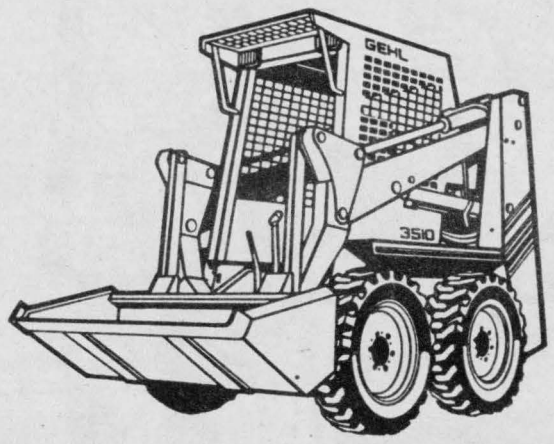

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Controlled vs. free marketing

Those people in favor of an end to the Ontario Milk Marketing Board (OMMB) usually point to the free marketing system in the United States as the way Ontario dairy farmers should be heading. The free marketing system in the U.S. barely survived the first world war. In fact, the Americans have had legal marketing boards, which they call co-operatives, since the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922.

In the '80s, American dairy policy provides anti-combine immunity and regulated prices. Since 1949, support prices have become a permanent part of the furnishings. In 1983 the U.S. government made $2.4 billion or $10,000 in direct spending to every dairy farmer in America.

The reason for this is that the dairy industry is big business in the States — in 1985 it raked in $35 billion. In comparison, in Eastern Ontario, milk sales are about $260 million annually.

The present Ontario system of milk marketing developed much later than its American counterpart. In Ontario, the chaotic marketing of milk and the depressed prices of the '50s and '60s were threatening the livelihood of many dairy farmers. Organized on a local basis, producers were dependent on the fortunes and the whims of the dairy which bought their milk. In other places they got as low as 50 per cent less.

To rectify these circumstances, the OMMB was formed in 1965 through the Milk Act. Today, it is still the most powerful and successful of the 21 marketing boards administered under the Farm Products Marketing Act.

Unlike the American co-operatives, which grew slowly and merged, the OMMB was created in one large step. The co-operatives south of the border are among the largest service companies in the country. John Donahue, an observer of the industry, writing in **Atlantic Magazine** said they are "similar to agribusiness firms, complete with political action committees and well-paid executives with MBAs."

But there are some major differences. The American co-operatives are owned by farmer associations rather than shareholders. Secondly, they have the right to combine and co-ordinate prices. However, minimum milk prices are set by the government.

Distribution of milk has met with some criticism in the U.S. Local farmers are encouraged to produce a plentiful local supply even though the area might not be suitable for dairying. The greatest weakness of the American system appears to be supply management. To solve the surplus problem, the government has been buying dairy products or paying farmers not to produce them. In July 1983, the American government shipped a surplus of 481 million pounds of dried milk and 933 million pounds of cheese to 500 storage sites across the country.

Since 1970 when supply management was introduced in Ontario, farmers have had a better handle on supply vs. demand for milk. Here the burden of surplus is borne to a great extent by the producer. The OMMB attempts to project consumer demand and then tells farmers to produce within five per cent of that market projection. Through an over-quota levy, producers virtually pay 100 per cent of the cost of disposal of the surplus.

Unfortunately, even in a closely monitored system such as exists in Ontario's dairy industry, surpluses remain the perennial problem. The surplus is sold to the Canadian Dairy Commission, which acts as a broker. About 11 per cent of the butter is filtered into the domestic market and most of the skim milk, onto an open market.

Despite this, the dilemma of balancing supply and demand is less of a problem for Canadian dairy farmers than for those in the U.S.

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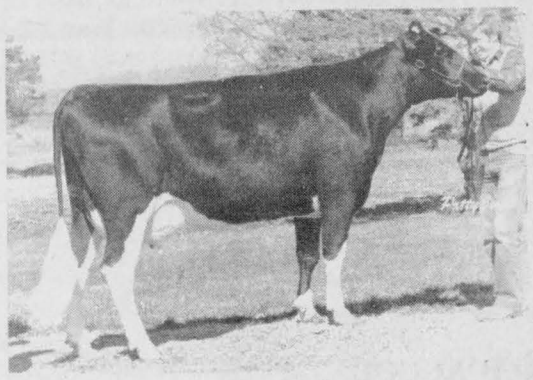

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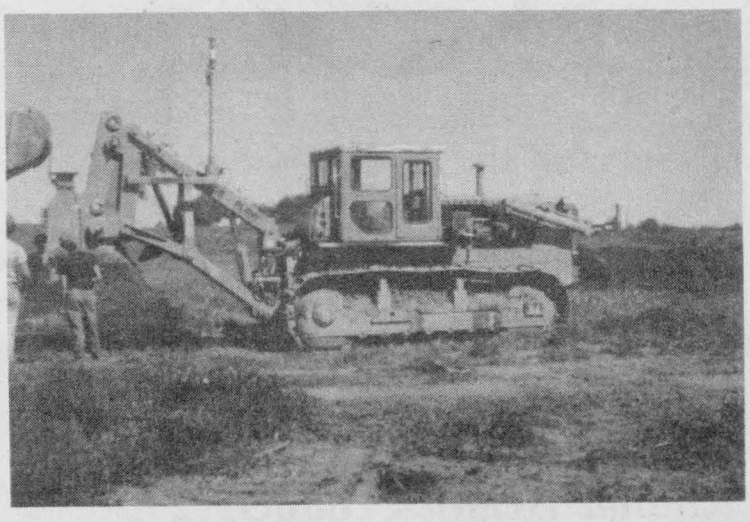
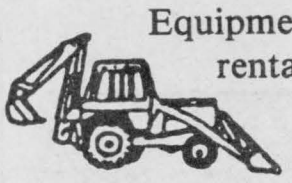


Installation of farm drainage systems.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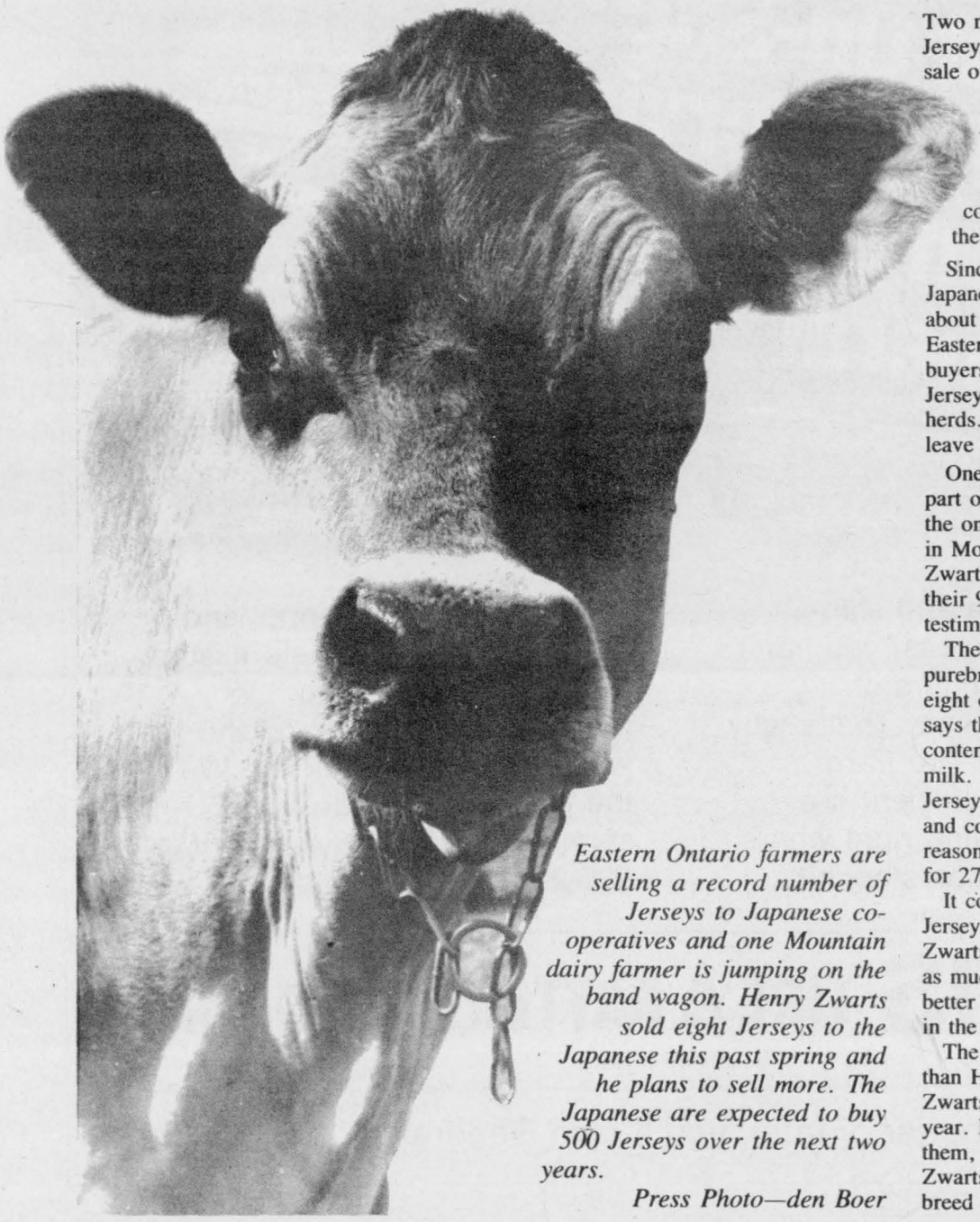
International demand for Jersey cattle strong



Eastern Ontario farmers are selling a record number of Jerseys to Japanese co-operatives and one Mountain dairy farmer is jumping on the band wagon. Henry Zwarts sold eight Jerseys to the Japanese this past spring and he plans to sell more. The Japanese are expected to buy 500 Jerseys over the next two years.

Press Photo—den Boer

Two months ago when the Canadian Jersey Association negotiated the largest sale of Canadian Jerseys to Japanese buyers, it was a proud time for all dairy farmers. But without a doubt it made those who participated in the sale by contributing cattle, feel extra proud of their herds.

Since February, representatives of three Japanese co-operatives have paid out about $200,000 for 135 Jersey cows from Eastern Ontario. In the next two years, buyers will probably add another 500 Jerseys from Eastern Ontario to their herds. The next shipment is expected to leave Canada in the fall.

One family operation that plans to be part of that deal, just as they were with the one this spring, is the Zwarts family in Mountain Station. Maria and Henry Zwarts swear by the Jersey breed, and their 950-acre Mountain Station farm is testimony to their loyalty.

The Zwarts have about 400 head of purebred Jersey cattle and this spring eight of their heifers left for Japan. Maria says the Japanese like the higher butterfat content that Jerseys produce in their milk. But she also suspects they prefer Jerseys because they're easier to handle and cost less to feed — two of the main reasons why the Zwarts have kept Jerseys for 27 years.

It costs about one third less to feed a Jersey cow than a Holstein, says Maria Zwarts. "Of course they don't produce as much milk, but you usually get a better butterfat, protein and solids reading in the tests," she adds.

The calves also need a bit more care than Holstein or other dairy breeds. The Zwarts have about 80 new calves each year. But once you get used to handling them, it's no problem, Maria says. The Zwarts say they don't push the Jersey breed on other people, but they do believe you can do well by them. "You can make a good living from any type of cow as long as you've got good management skills and are a good farmer in general," says Maria Zwarts. Having purebred cows in the herd is essential though.

The hype created over the recent sale of Jerseys from this part of the province has, however, sparked some interest in the breed from some established farmers loyal to other breeds. These days it's not uncommon to see five or six Jerseys in among a purebred herd of Holsteins or Ayrshires. The theory is that it will help beef up the overall butterfat reading in daily shipments.

According to Dundas Ag Rep Bob Humphries, there aren't too many Holstein breeders who would want anyone to know they have Jerseys in their herd. But he says he is aware of several farmers who do have them.

The Holstein has such an established base in Dundas and the rest of Eastern Ontario's dairy farming community, it's difficult to say whether the Jersey is in for a revival. One thing is for sure though, dairy farmers who prefer Jerseys will stick by them just as Holstein breeders will swear by their cows.

Says Maria Zwarts: We really like them, they're a nice cow that's gentle, doesn't cost as much to feed and they're almost like pets."

The demand for Jerseys is mushrooming and according to local Jersey association officials, there is no possible way that farmers in this area could supply the Japanese with the number of cattle they require.

The Jersey cow might not regain popularity here, but the sale of top quality Eastern Ontario cattle like the ones that left earlier this year, suggests that the Jersey might just become the favorite dairy cow for millions of Japanese.

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BST could be in use by '89

Bovine somatotrophin or BST is the growth hormone being developed for dairy cattle. Two years ago, discussions about BST's use were prefaced with statements suggesting a long duration before it would be available for Canadian dairy herds.

Well, all indicators show that by year end 1989, American Cyanamid, and the other companies developing the bovine hormone, will have permission to market it in Canada.

For producers, the hormone will have a chance to prove itself as the milk production booster researchers have claimed it would be. Dr. Lumir Drevjany, a dairy nutritionist at Kemptville College believes the hormone will permit a dairy cow to stay at peak production periods longer. But the cow's nutritional needs will increase as well.

The quickest and most economical way for producers to pull up sagging milk production now is to turn to the cropping program. Drevjany recommends a high quality alfalfa haylage as a good source of protein and high moisture shell corn is a very good energy source.

Introducing the BST hormone into a cow's system will mean change in feeding programs and the rations. During the peak period a cow does not receive enough nutrients from her diet to make up for the ones she loses in her milk. For each five pounds of milk the cow produces from her body reserves, she loses a pound of weight.

With the hormone, the liveweight losses could be unacceptably high. The question that has some producers wondering about is what will keep her from breaking down altogether?

Producers who use the hormone will probably have to go to protein supplements like brewery grain, fish and soybean meal and corn gluten meal.

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Yeast cultures show promise as dairy cattle supplement

For at least the last 4,000 years man has used yeast cultures for everything from making bread, to beer and ehtanol. It's also started to prove itself as a good agent for improving animal diets too.

Commercial yeast additives have been available in Europe for several years. And in the last two or three years, farmers in Eastern Ontario have experimented with it in cow rations, in an attempt to achieve higher milk yields, while improving dietary digestability.

A yeast culture supplement, which is really a live yeast culture in a dry medium base, is currently available in Canada and the U.S. through most feed stores under various processor names. Pure yeast is not the same as a yeast culture. The latter is a dry product composed of yeast and the substance on which it's grown, and then dried in such a manner as to preserve the yeast's fermenting capacity.

A number of farmers in Dundas County have tried yeast cultures in their herds. Apart from all the nutritional benefits it is supposed to generate, some farmers say the yeast also calms the herd and makes it easier to handle.

Although pure research has been done in this area, specialists warn farmers to be leery of on-farm type testing that has been done on yeast supplements. Beth Wheeler, a dairy nutritionist at Kemptville College says it's difficult to determine what exactly is making the herd perform better in a testing situation where everything isn't monitored and recorded very strictly. Even though yeast may have been added to a herd's diet, another variable might be contributing to the increased production of the cows.

Nonetheless, research that's been done to date on the effects of yeast cultures on cow and calf diets, has been similarly positive in its findings.

Several research studies in Ireland and the U.S. concluded that dairy cows fed a high strength yeast culture produce higher milk yields and increased fat content. It also improved dietary digestability.

The studies also found calves on starter rations experience greater weight gains and increased feed consumption when given yeast culture. Wheeler thinks this might be because the vitamins normally produced in the rumen with the help of large amounts of milk are now being aided with the use of yeast instead.

Ordinarily, calves that are being weaned experience a slack period when the milk is reduced and the grain and forage is increased. "Usually their rumen isn't working very well and therefore, the essential B vitamins that the calf needs to grow, aren't being produced."

Improved hair and hoof conditions, healthier animals and less variation in feed intake and increased feed palatability were a few other conclusions found in the study.

A British test completed in 1987 reported that milk fat levels were higher in high and average-producing herds which were fed a yeast culture. But actual milk production only increased in higher yielding herds.

Still other studies have shown that lactating cows experience increases in milk production of about six to eight per cent. In the U.S., where feeding yeast culture has become a popular practice with the high-producing herds that are on heavy grain diets, studies have concluded that yeast culture increases the ph in the rumen. It also increases the bacterial activity in the rumen when a live yeast culture is included in the diet.

This is especially important for owners of high producing herds, because the B vitamins naturally produced in the cow's body are made in the rumen with the presence of forage. A high producing cow is probably getting more grain than forage, and therefore, might not be producing as many B vitamins as she should to put out her potential in milk.

Wheeler thinks the yeast might either stimulate the production of B vitamins or create its own once in the cow's system. However, further research is needed. Experts still don't know exactly how the yeast works in the rumen.

Study is needed in the mode of activity in the rumen, the associated effects on diet types on yeast activity, types of fermentation in the rumen, effects of high and low concentrate diets and the availability of the essential vitamins and amino acids in the rumen, she suggests.

New Johne's test developed

Johne's Disease, an ailment that is often more talked about among goat breeders, can strike cattle just as easily.

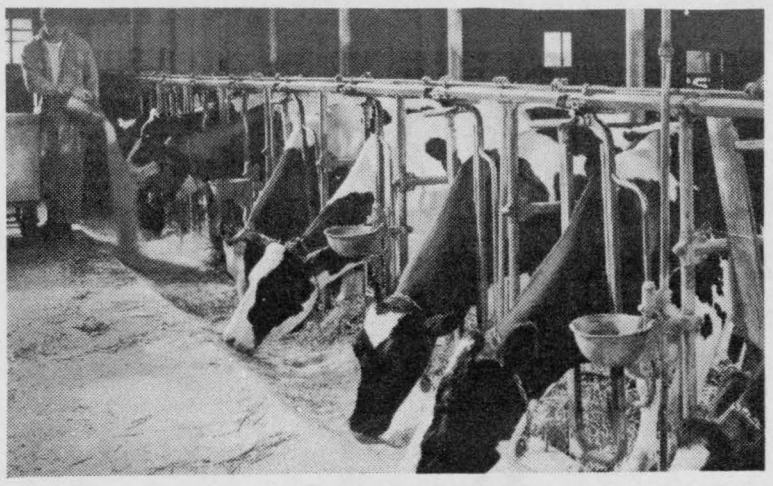
Johne's destroys the intestines of all ruminants. The virus thrives in moist soils and manure. Once an animal contracts it, nutrients cannot be absorbed and the animal will eventually starve.

Just recently, researchers in Wisconsin have developed a quicker method of testing for the disease. The turnaround time needed to confirm Johne's disease could be dropped from three months to three days with a new DNA probe.

Blood tests, although quicker than culture tests, detect exposure as well as the disease. Therefore, animals with the best immune response — those least likely to get the disease — are more likely to have a positive blood test.

With the DNA probe, which identifies pieces of DNA unique to the bacterium that causes Johne's, it will be possible to test an entire herd in about three days.

The probe is not yet commercially available, but once it is, it's bound to be a real benefit to producers anxious to sell Johne's-tested cattle.



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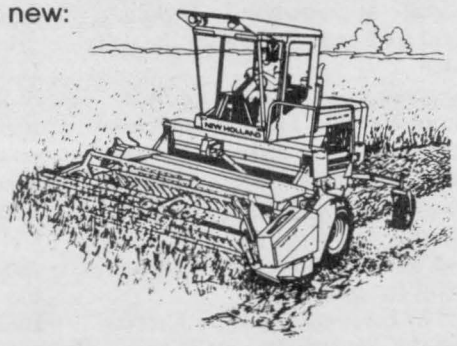







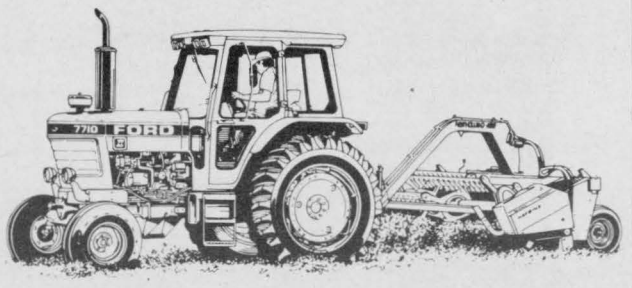

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Milk bread is probably the best thing since sliced bread for using surplus skim milk powder, and it's more nutritious than regular white bread, because it has up to three times as much skim milk powder in it.

The product was launched in Ontario in time for the Christmas season in 1986, after a successful test marketing in Quebec. "It's much nicer tasting and it's sweeter," says Jennifer Ritchie, a consultant with the dairy bureau of Canada. "It also makes great toast. It gets crispy on the outside and stays soft on the inside."

Milk bread was developed out of a program to find new uses for skim milk powder. In making enough dairy products to meet Canadian needs, extra skim milk powder, a by-product of cheese and butter making, is produced. The powder is usually sold on the world market. Because of weak prices, the powder has been selling at large losses in recent years. Since dairy farmers cover the loss, any increase in domestic use of skim milk powder lowers the cost to the dairy economy.

Milk bread is being promoted by a subsidy of about $2.11 per kilogram on powder purchased to make milk bread. The subsidy is divided into a 50 cents per kilogram cut in the cost of the skim milk powder and $1.61 per kilogram spent on advertising for the first six months of the program.

The $2.11 amounts to the difference between the domestic and world prices of powder, meaning the cost of the program is the same as if it were exported. The 50 cents is a direct subsidy on the powder to assure the consumer won't have to pay too much. The $1.61 helps bakeries launch their own brands of milk bread. The promotional funding is spent in the form of joint venture brand advertising. Once the milk bread is well established the Dairy Bureau of Canada plans to run generic advertising like it does for cheese and butter, says Rene Bouthillier of the Dairy Bureau. "The rationale is to get the product off the ground," says Ritchie. The incentives are really a sweetener to get the bakeries involved.

The introduction of milk bread has been aided in the last three or four years by consumer interest in calcium. Although the timing may be good to have this product take off, it's really the return of an old product rather than the introduction of a new one. Milk bread was first produced more than 25 years ago with the introduction of sliced bread to differentiate it from the older crusty style of bread.

It was first introduced in Quebec. Then it expanded to Atlantic Canada and the four western provinces. In 1986 it was introduced to the Ontario market by one major bakery and then others followed.

Bouthillier is happy with the program. If the Dairy Bureau can reach 10 per cent of the white bread market nationally, then it could move 1,000 tonnes of skim milk powder, he says. Although this won't cure all the problems of the surplus skim milk powder, it will help. The bureau is still looking at other uses for the surplus product. In the meantime, this program has at least saved dairy farmers lost income from foreign sales and increasing consumption of milk products. But more important, it's showing how new uses for dairy products can be identified and successfully developed.

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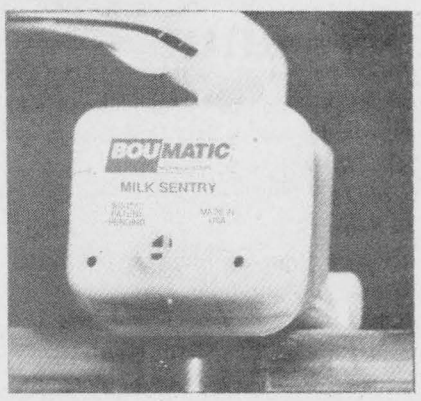

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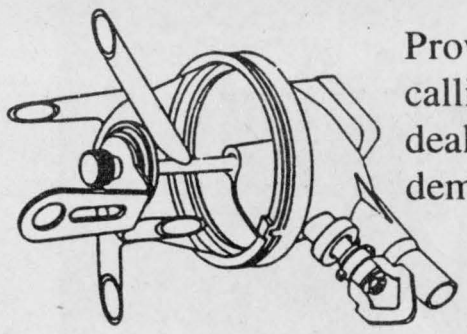

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Milk consumption key to preventing osteoporosis

by Pat den Boer
Special Correspondent

Any woman who still thinks milk is for kids, should think again. One of the major developments linking milk consumption with osteoporosis, a disease of the bones, in this decade, suggests that women who don't drink enough milk during their younger years will end up bent over and brittle with the disease.

The term literally means porous or brittle bones. And it's a very serious and prevalent disease. Approximately 25 per cent of all women by the age of 50 are affected by the disease to some degree. In men the condition is half as common, partly due to the fact that they usually have a larger skeleton.

Bones need to be replenished with the mineral calcium because over the years it's lost naturally. If they're not boosted, they become porous or brittle.

While the whole body is affected by osteoporotic bone loss, some parts are more vulnerable than others. In the elderly, fractures are more common in the hip, wrist or arm as well as in the spinal vertebrae.

The effect on the spine causes the individual to lose height, resulting in the old lady, dowager's hump.

Women are also more likely to get this disease because of the hormone changes they undergo at menopause and through childbirth. A reduced secretion of the hormone estrogen helps regulate calcium absorption from food and calcium excretion by the kidneys.

Osteoporosis develops gradually over many years, so the serious consequences aren't hard to prevent but are very hard to treat. Therefore, prevention is the key.

One sure way to prevent it is to maintain proper calcium requirements in your diet. Adults require a minimum of 800 mg, but should really have about 1,000-1,500 mg of calcium every day. Lactating women need an additional 500 mg per day, to reduce the risk of bone loss in postmenopausal women and elderly men.

The most healthy way to meet calcium requirements is through diet. Self-medication with calcium supplements may be harmful, especially bone meal or dolomite supplements which may be contaminated with lead.

Dietary sources are well absorbed by the bone, less expensive and supply many other nutrients as well as calcium. In real terms, this means consuming at least two servings from the milk and milk products group in addition to selecting other types of calcium containing foods. If other calcium containing foods are not consumed in one day, then it's advisable to have an extra serving from the milk group.

Certain lifestyle factors and genetics also influence the development of osteoporosis. A good level of physical activity will also prevent the loss of calcium from the bones. The activity of muscles working against gravity is needed to maintain strong bones.

Smoking and excessive amounts of alcohol and caffeine have been shown to decrease the body's ability to absorb calcium. That means if you consume the required amount of milk products, but then follow it with large amounts of coffee, or other caffeine products, or alcohol and cigarettes, then the calcium in the milk has done you very little good.

Examples of one serving from the Milk and Milk Products group are:

Food	Serving Size	Approximate Calcium Content
Milk—Whole, 2%, Skim	250 ml (1 cup)	315 mg
Buttermilk	250 ml (1 cup)	300 mg
Cheddar cheese	45 g (1½ oz)	325 mg
Yoghurt	175 ml (¾ cup)	300 mg

Some foods other than Milk and Milk Products, containing a significant amount of calcium are:

Food	Serving Size	Approximate Calcium Content
Sardines	7 medium	390 mg
Dried peas and beans* (eg., cooked soya beans)	250 ml (1 cup)	115 mg
Green leafy vegetables* (eg., brocolli)	1 whole med. stock	160 mg
Some nuts and seeds (eg., shelled almonds)	125 ml (½ cup)	175 mg

**Calcium from these sources is not as well absorbed in the body as calcium from Milk and Milk Products.*

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Clean, dry environment helps control mastitis

by Harvey MacDonald
Udder Health Specialist

One of the main concerns of the dairy producer should be to produce a quality product, cost effectively. Mastitis affects both quality and cost to the producer.

By following bulk tank and individual cow somatic cell counts, the farmer can get a feel for the quality of milk produced and udder health in his herd.

Mastitis is caused by two groups of pathogens: contagious and environmental.

Streptococcus agalactiae and staphlococcus avreus are the main contagious organisms. It is possible to eradicate these organisms from a herd completely by using an effective mastitis control program.

Environmental pathogens are divided into two main groups of bacteria, coliforms and streptococci non-agalactiae. Environmental mastitis can be due to other organisms such as psedomoras, serratia bacillus and proteus, but outbreaks are less common.

Most environmental pathogens can be found in the cow's surroundings. Manure, bedding, mud and stagnant water are common sources.

The most effective means of control is to reduce the exposure of the teat end to any environmental contaminant. Stalls should be scraped daily and all manure and wet bedding removed. Cow trainers and bedding savers can be used in tie-stall barns to keep cows cleaner. Bedding savers should be properly installed to allow for drainage of urine from the back of the stall.

Free stalls should be properly designed and maintained to keep cows clean and free from injury. Dry lot areas should have adequate drainage and no mud. Don't allow cows to lie in muddy areas.

Environmental pathogens can gain entry to the udder during the milking process. Teats should be properly cleaned and thoroughly dried to remove any contamination on the teat.

Recent research suggests that pre-dipping prior to milking will reduce environmental mastitis by 50%. A clean environment is still a high priority even with pre-dipping.

Particular attention should be paid to dry cow management. Dry cow therapy helps control new infection during the early dry period. Dry cow therapy is less effective against coliform infections than streptococcal infections.

Cows need a clean, dry environment prior to calving to prevent new infections from occurring during this high-risk period. Therapy offers no control during this time.

Treatment of infection during lactation is less effective than dry cow therapy. Cure rates range from 50-60%. Infected cows should be sampled to determine the bacteria responsible for the infection.

The most effective drug to combat the invading organism can be recommended by a veterinarian. Any cows with an infection during lactation should be treated at drying off, due to low cure rate during lactation.

As farmers eradicate the contagious pathogens from their herds, environmental mastitis becomes more of a factor. Herds maintained in a clean, dry environment will have few clinical outbreaks of mastitis due to environmental pathogens.

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Micro-chips move to the country

by Howard Giles
Farm Management Specialist

Today's dairy farmers are finding life a little easier due to the tiny micro-chip.

Farmers with milking parlors can now have a unit in the barn which records milk weights from every cow. Some units will alert the farmer when milk should be withheld because of a drug treatment for mastitis, etc. Other units record the temperature of the milk and warn farmers if a cow may be sick or in heat. A few units are available which automatically remove milkers when milking is finished.

Automatic feeders for cows are becoming commonplace. These feeders can be either a cart which moves around the barn or can be fixed in one location in the barn or barnyard. Each cow is fitted with an electronic identifier. The farmer can program the feeder to give each individual cow a specific amount during each 24 hour period. Usually the day is divided into six to eight periods and the total grain allotment is divided and fed in equal amounts each period.

Equipment such as tractors, combines, etc. are rapidly being computerized.

There are many different types of micro-chips installed which make routine monitoring and adjusting to conditions automatic. This helps the farmer become more efficient.

About 20 dairy farmers in Dundas now have a micro-computer on their farms. These computers are being used for financial record keeping and record analysis, for graphing lactation curves and for ration balancing. Other uses are games, school work, recipes, magazine indexing, field records, and so on. The list is limited only by the imagination.

These systems have been available for a few years but the cost was prohibitive. Today most farmers can afford much of this technology.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Winchester has two computers available to staff for working with farmers and doing routine chores. Three important programs which staff use are the Dairy Ration program, the BEAR (Budgeting Enterprises and Analyzing Risk) program and the Ontario Farm Management Analysis program. These are used to advise farmers on ways they can improve their farming skills.

The OMAF machines are also used for word-processing and mailing lists. Staff can calculate payments on loans, volume of silage left in a silo, value of a new feedstuff and Corn Heat Units (which are printed in the local weeklies each week). They record monthly milk shipments and keep 4-H records. The 1986 Census of Agriculture data is on disk in the office. They receive and send electronic mail daily.

Feed testing pays off

With an increased emphasis on putting money where it will get the best return on a dairy farm, most dairy farmers are now taking advantage of either provincial or private forage testing services.

But about one quarter of the province's milk producers still don't use any testing at all.

Without knowing the nutrients in the feed, a farmer is unlikely to add the right amount of top dressing, or supplements, to add to each cow's meal.

The tests usually cost about $25 but it can save a farmer a lot of money and headaches in the long term. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food specialists have case histories that show how forage testing has saved farmers up to $3,000 in feed costs. By matching the amount of purchased feed to the nutrient value of the home-grown fodder, a dairy farmer feeds his cows for most efficient output.

A well-fed cow accounts for a large chunk in a milk producer's cost of production. A 1985 Ontario Milk Marketing Board study showed average feed costs at more than $225 per day for a herd of between 45 and 60 cows.

To get the most of the forage sampling, farmers should take samples of the hay, haylage or corn silage as it's put into the silo or in the mow. Ministry officials suggest that each time a new crop comes off, a new sample should be taken.

OMAF has computerized ration formulations now. Local offices even have microcomputers to bring the job of ration formulation still closer to the farm.

Feed companies can do the same job with their own computers and feed services, however. But it's a good idea to get a second opinion, either from OMAF or a private company, especially if you're experiencing a problem with your herd.

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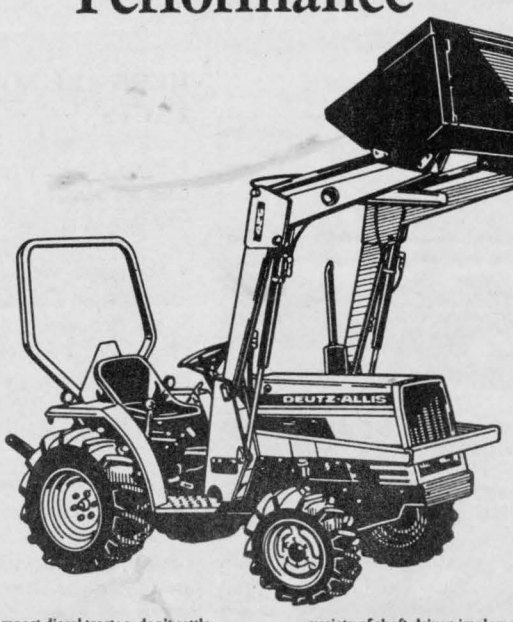

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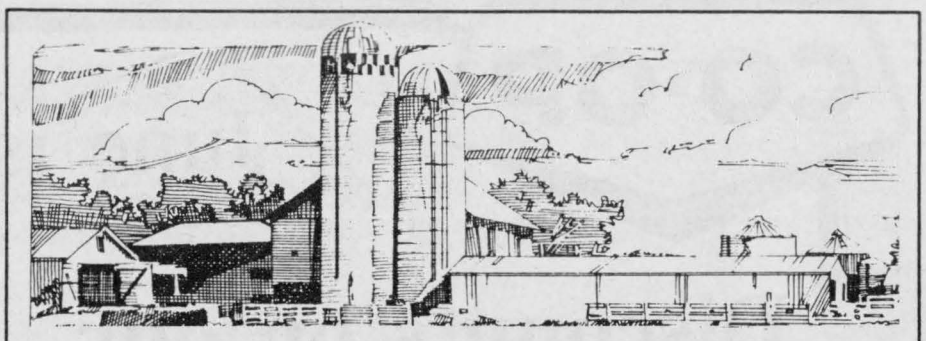

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Dairy Bureau trims advertising by $2M

The Dairy Bureau has trimmed its promotional budget by $2 million this year. And most of the cuts have been made in television advertising for cheddar.

The move was necessary to keep spending in line with revenues. In 1987 unused funds from a joint-venture promotional program with butter manufacturers were used to fill a $2 million gap between income and expenditure. That reserve is now filled up. The Bureau's budget for 1988 is about $27 million, but is only approximately $25 million in potential revenue from producers. That means $2 million has to be cut.

Most of the cuts go to promotion of cheddar cheese because there is already considerable branded advertisements done by cheddar makers. The bureau will still spend $3.3 million on cheddar promotion this year, which is down 57% from the previous year.

At the same time, it's increased its spending on butter. Last year just over $10 million of producer-derived revenues were budgeted for butter promotion.

However, money received from the Canadian Dairy Commission for special projects jumped substantially to nearly $7 million in 1987 from $2.7 million in 1986. About $2.5 million of the total was earmarked for butter, bringing the total spending to $12.5 million.

The bureau received $7 million from the commission again this year. About $3.7 million will be used to promote butter. And of the producer-derived revenues, about $10.5 million will be for butter promotion.

Bureau officials say increased spending on butter is warranted in light of recent Statistics Canada and CDC figures that suggest a reversal of the trend might lower butter consumption. Many in the industry feel the bureau's new butter promotion efforts have been largely responsible for the recovery.

In a six-week period during one butter promotion program last year, bureau estimates show butter consumption rose 15%. The bureau is planning a new butter campaign to help boost consumption even more this year.

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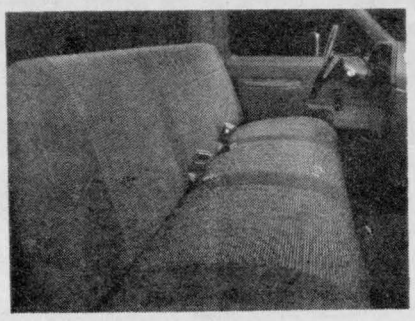

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Cheese please!

Canadian cheddar retains popularity

Canadian cheddar cheese, either natural or processed, is the most popular cheese in Canada. It accounts for about two-thirds of all the cheese consumed.

Nutritionally cheddar is probably the best cheese you can consume. It's made of whole milk. It goes well with nearly all other foods and is the key to flavorful appetizers, entrees, soups, salads and even desserts.

To get the most of cheddar cheese, here are a few handy hints to keep in mind the next time you replenish your supply.

To get the most out of your food dollar:

* compare the price per pound of store brand cheese with the brand name cheese, and of Canadian-made cheddar with the imported cheeses.
* compare prices of bulk cheese and prepackaged or sliced cheese.
* calculate price per pound of food packed in larger packages versus small.
* compare the price per pound of old cheese with that of medium or mild cheese. Mild cheese sells for several cents less per pound than the fuller-flavored old cheese, which costs more because of its longer storage.
* save on grated cheese by grating it yourself.

Storage

There is still a certain percentage of water in cheese, so to prevent it from drying out in the fridge, wrap it tightly or store in covered container in the refrigerator. But if the cheese becomes dry, grate it for use in cooking and refrigerate in a covered container.

To store a large cheese, cover the cut surface with plastic film, or wrap or put it into a tightly closed plastic bag. If it is necessary to freeze leftover cheese, cut into blocks about one inch thick and wrap tightly in plastic material and aluminum foil. However, beware that cheddar cheese becomes quite crumbly after thawing and is best used in cooking.

Finally, cheese that develops surface mold doesn't have to be thrown away. The mold and any discolored parts can be cut or scraped off before using.

Cheddar's Food Value

Cheese contains the most important nutritive elements of milk — calcium, protein and riboflavin. Nearly half the daily amount of calcium recommended for adults can be found in one-and-one-half ounces of cheddar cheese. It's an excellent alternative for meat by providing high quality protein.

Cheese has its fullest flavor if it is allowed to come up to room temperature before serving. Also, avoid overcooking cheese. It is easily toughened by high heat — so cook at moderate temperatures and melt only over low heat.

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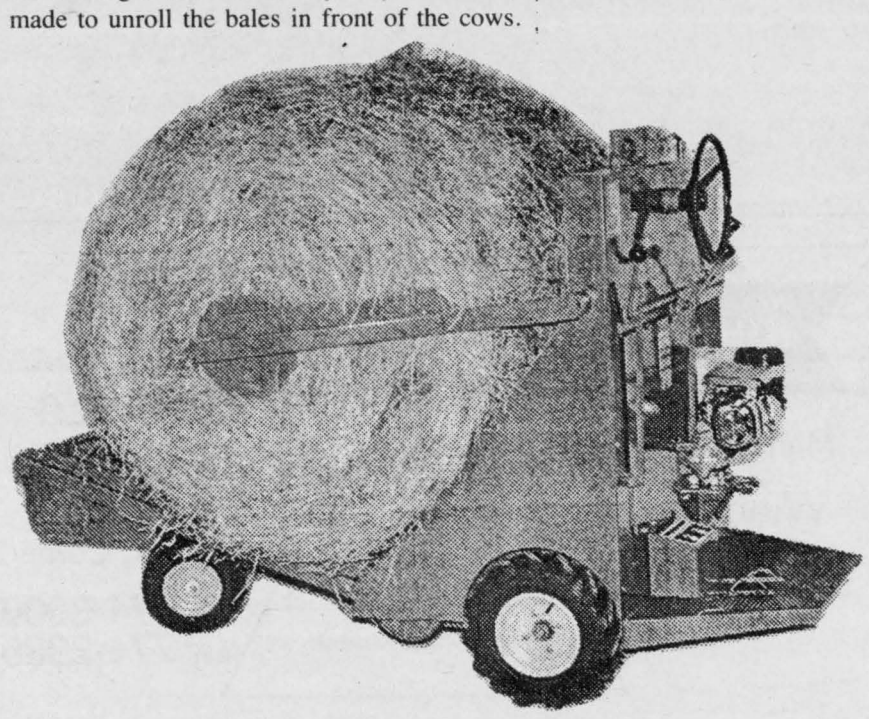
Newcomer to the WIC motorized cart family, made for transportation and for feeding round bales, very easy to handle, this new feed wagon is made to unroll the bales in front of the cows.



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Dundas dairy farms have finances analysed

by Bob Humphries
Dundas County Ag Rep

For the past three years, the Winchester office has prepared individual farm analysis for Dundas milk producers.

This winter we processed the financial records of forty-three (43) co-operators. The objective is to identify strengths and weaknesses in a business and to compare data within a group.

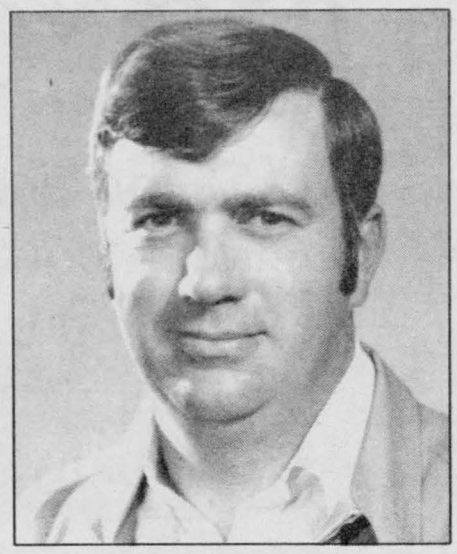
The analysis is very comprehensive. This year the participants selected 11 criteria for comparison. They were: total farm revenue; total farm expenses; net farm income; per cent equity; debt load per hL; number of cows; milk sold per cow; debt load per cow; value of enterprise production per cow; return over direct expenses per cow; return over direct expenses per hL sold.

What did the average of the Dundas group look like for 1987? The number of cows milked was 41, total milk sold was 240,513 L, milk sold per cow was 5,899 L with an average fat test of 3.87 kg/hL, five tillable acres were used per cow.

The average investment for our study group was $608,246 with liabilities of $216,627. This produces a healthy equity of 64%.

The local program is part of the Ontario Farm Management Analysis Project. The Dundas data is added to data from the other counties and districts to compile a provincial report. Preliminary information from Guelph shows an average of 44 cows milked, 265,237 litres sold, milk sold per cow 6,028 L with average fat test of 3.85 kh/hL, tillable acres per cow remained at 5.0.

Homegrown feeds were transferred to the dairy enterprise at current market value. This resulted in a cost of $11.92 per hL. Purchased feeds cost $5.44 per hL. The average net income for the dairy enterprise was $17.73 hL.



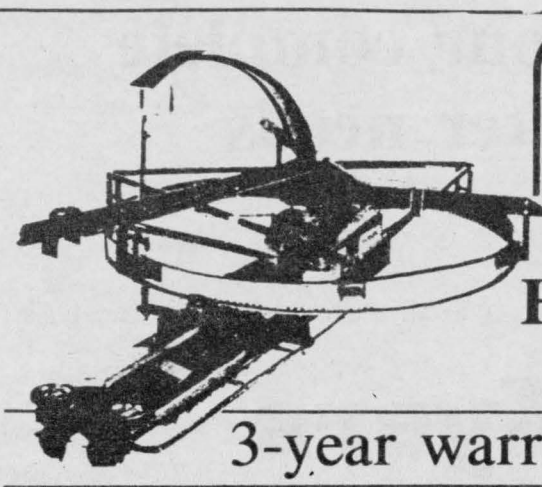
Bob Humphries

Dundas farms are more profitable when it comes to looking at net dairy enterprise income. Dundas had a net of $17.73 per hL compared to the preliminary provincial results of $15.69 per hL.

1987 Dundas Dairy Enterprise Report

	Per hL
REVENUE	
Milk sales, 240,513 litres	$51.38
Breeding stock, 3 hd	1.31
Cull stock sales, 8 hd	3.41
Other dairy livestock sales	1.23
Other dairy sales	0.12
-Livestock purchased, 4 hd	1.73
+Inventory change	2.82
+Change in receivables	0.49
Value of Enterprise Production	**$59.03**
EXPENSES	
Purchased feed and grain	5.34
Purchased forages	0.10
Home-grown grains	3.81
Home-grown forages	8.11
Total Feed Costs	**$17.36**
Vet and medicine	1.01
Breeding fees	1.00
Marketing and trucking	5.98
Stable supplies	0.98
Misc. livestock expenses	0.31
Direct Expenses	**$26.64**
Hired labor	1.93
Gas, oil and fuel	0.21
Mach., equip., truck repairs	0.46
Bldg. & fence repair	1.06
Hydro, telephone	1.29
Taxes, insurance	1.07
Car expenses	0.24
House, heat & repairs	0.13
Rent (land & buildings)	0.07
Other farm expenses	0.69
Interest (term)	4.51
Interest (operating)	0.39
Allocated Expenses	**$12.06**
Change in payables	$0.11
Depreciation	$2.48
Total Expenses	**$41.29**
Return over direct expenses	**$32.38**
Net enterprise income	**$17.73**

In general terms, the Dundas farms represented in our study are slightly smaller than the provincial group.



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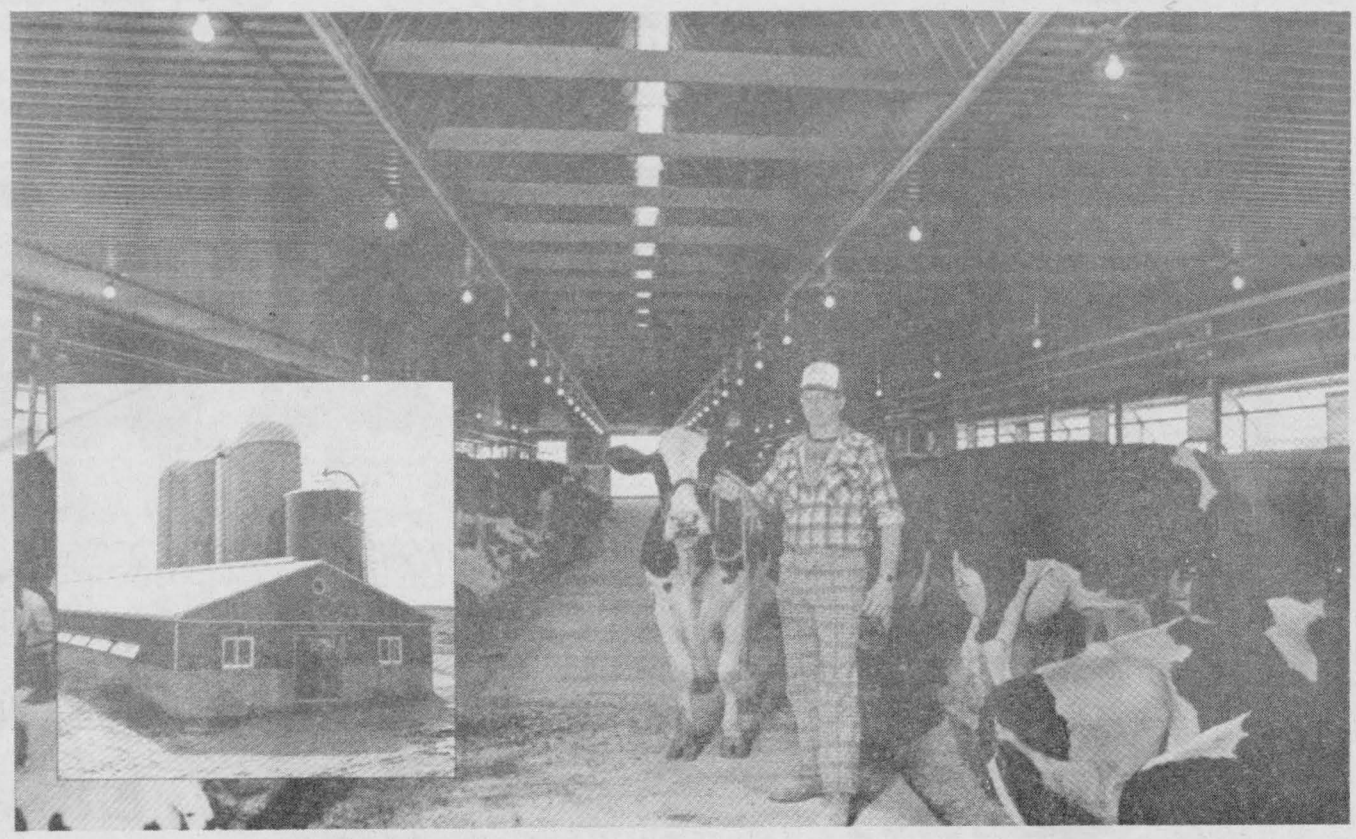

The FAROMOR System

FAROMOR pioneered their first naturally ventilated barn in 1982. It's still in profitable operation today, along with hundreds of later systems.

Since then, numerous significant refinements have taken place. FAROMOR's engineering research has developed an integrated system that virtually eliminates the early problems of temperature fluctuations that still exist in some ''other'' systems.

Vent doors, ridge vents and/or curtains are precisely modulated via FAROMOR's own thermostat. Stainless steel actuators operate from a low voltage power supply. With the addition of a battery back-up, the system continues to operate automatically, even during a power failure. This provides reliability and assures a ''fail safe'' operation.

FAROMOR manufactures vent doors, both in plexiglass (see-thru) and insulated (urethane core). All vents are prehung and include built-in weather seals. Ridge vents are manufactured from extruded PVC and equipped with all stainless steel operators.

Customers are continually impressed with the amazing ease of operation of our automated system. Both ridge and side vents move incrementally in response to temperature change. This eliminates the need to reset ventilation parameters with changing weather patterns.

FAROMOR is the market leader in natural ventilation systems for all livestock producers, regardless of size or type of livestock produced. FAROMOR is currently installing systems for hogs, dairy, beef and poultry.

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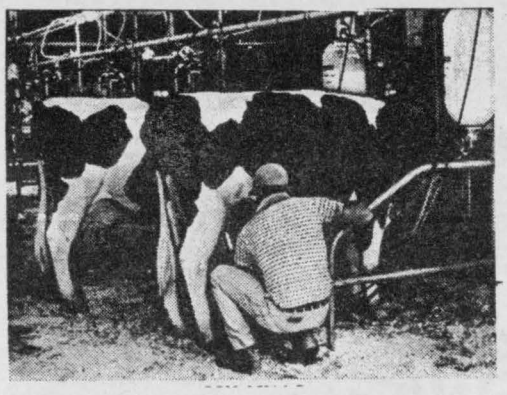

Dundas Holstein Club

Upcoming events:

July 28
Twilight Meeting - Chicken Barbecue, Peter and Alida Scheepers, Winchester, 6:30pm

August 8
Golf Day at Cedar Glen Golf Course, Williamsburg, 10:00am

August 20
Black and White Show, South Mountain, 10:30am

October 29
Annual Banquet, Matilda Community Centre, 6:30pm

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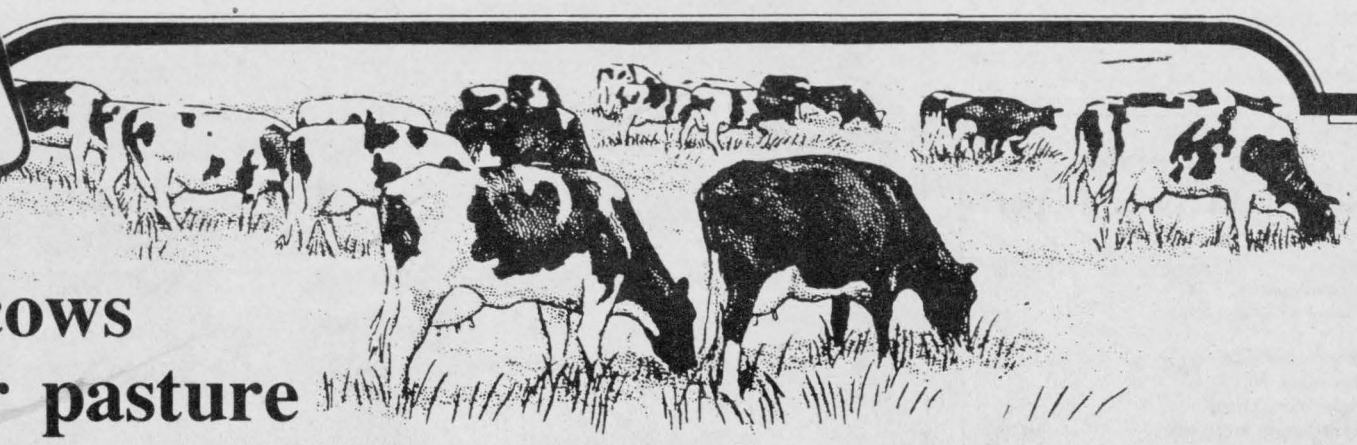


Getting cows ready for pasture

1. Prevention of internal and external parasites.

PROBLEM: **Worms, face and horn flies.**
SOLUTION: Treat cows with **BANMINTH** or **TRAMISOL** and heifers with **IVOMEC.** **BOVAID** ear tags help.

2. Maintenance of production and growth.

PROBLEM: **Butterfat depression.**
SOLUTION: To be expected if some dry hay is not fed. Feeding dry hay will also control bloat during early turnout on pasture.

PROBLEM: **Protein supplementation for heifers on pasture.**
SOLUTION: Use Liquid Protein Supplement (LPS).

PROBLEM: **Pasture quality.**
SOLUTION: Feed free choice, corresponding **CO-OP MINERAL** depending on pasture quality. (See below.)

AA Mineral (14:14)



Mixed Pasture (Mixed Grasses and Legumes)

HP Mineral (0:20)



Legume Pasture

MP Mineral (18:9)



Grassy Pasture

Also
HMg CC premix
HMg XP premix
contains 8% magnesium to overcome magnesium deficiency.

Getting pasture ready for cows

Is your pasture ready for cows?

Have you fertilized? — Have you taken soil samples? In order to maintain vigorous, high yielding, stands of forages, adequate fertility is necessary. Phosphate and potash levels are the key nutrients for stands in alfalfa fields.

La Coopérative Agricole d'Embrun Ltée

Embrun Office 443-2833 Fertilizer Plant 443-3333

ODHIC in 1988

Role of milk recording will continue to evolve

by R. McNamara
Regional Supervisor, Region 12, ODHIC

We've come a long way in milk recording since Michael Cook, a Dundas County dairy farmer brought the first Holstein cow to Ontario to his Aultsville dairy farm in 1883.

Cook imported over 1,000 head of registered Holsteins from the Netherlands and the United States and he showed the first Holsteins at the 1884 Canadian National Exhibition.

In 1883 the only production test that was used was the weight of milk. The first component test, the Babcock Test for Butterfat, was not introduced until 1891.

The Holstein, Jersey, Ayrshire and Guernsey dairy breed associations were quick to follow this up with the Record of Merit (ROM) testing programs.

ROM records were seven, 14 or 30 days in length. The supervisor or milk tester was present at all milkings for the entire record. The milk from each milking was weighed and tested for butterfat. The record was updated after each milking, and when the last milking of the record was tested, the herd owner had the numbers for his own use. Only chosen cows in selected herds were tested. But because of the high cost of labor, this program was discontinued in 1924.

In 1905 the Canadian Agricultural Department started its Record of Performance (dairy). Selected herds were on the program, and only chosen cows were on test. But by 1949 all cows were required to be tested in herds that were on ROP. The records were either 305 or 365 days in length.

In 1985, the ROP program in Ontario was privatized and became part of the farmer-owned and operated Ontario Dairy Herd Improvement Corporation (ODHIC). It is the heir of OMAF's DHI program which started in 1949 and was privatized in 1981.

Farmers are represented on ODHIC's board of directors with delegates. For every 125 licenced milk producers, one delegate is elected by its owner members. Dundas County has three delegates.

The board has 12 members, six are elected from the delegates and six others are appointed from OMAF, AI, JDBC, Agriculture Canada and the OMMB.

Just as MPA was transformed into the OMMB, milk testing on milk sold for payment has changed from the method of testing a sample with preservative, to testing a fresh milk sample. This is done at CML by the milk board.

To keep in step with the time, milk recording had to take on the use of many technical terms unheard of years ago. RHA, BCA, Genetic Index, ETA, Deviations plus or minus, ET and many more are now used regularly when dairy cattle breeders are expressing the performance of the cows in their herd.

The ODHIC program has been operating under CMRB's rules since the introduction of a new computer program in late 1985. After each farm visit by the ODHIC supervisor, the farmer receives an update of his herd's production including each cow's stage of lactation, the freshening date, sex of the calf, sire, ease of calving, health, record of mastitis, mertitis, breeding dates, dry times, if the cow was sold, died or received oxyoctin. The herd owner also finds out the RHA, projected BCA, completed BCA and how the cow ranks in the herd, with a plus or minus herd average.

BCAs have been in use since 1954 at which time the average cow had 100 BCA. Dundas County today has an average of 145 BCA. In just over 33 years the average cow now produces 45% more than her ancestors.

Improved feeding and dairy herd management have contributed greatly to this change, but the great bulls of the AI industry have also raised the genetic base of the cow herd. This allows today's cows to respond better to these improved management practices.

EBI is now a household name in most dairy farms because of the great bulls of the past and now in the present. Great bulls developed through EBI's young sire program, such as Valiant Sir, or the genetic giants of yesterday like Rockman, which had over 30,000 production tested days, and Admiral Citation, which has had semen exported to over 50 countries, have helped everyone connected with the dairy industry.

Just as cars and farm machinery have changed, so too has milk recording. It has developed from a system that expressed pound of milk and butter to KCs of milk, butterfat, protein and SCC. As the number of dairy farms continue to decline, the average dairy herd increases in size with the average cow's production capacity. Therefore, the ever-changing role of milk recording will continue to be updated as well.

Through the constructive criticism of herd owners, the AI industry, dairy breed associations and any other person or organization involved with the dairy industry, ODHIC will continue to respond and change with the times. The ODHIC slogan "Farmers working for Farmers", best describes the role of ODHIC in meeting the needs of the corporation's owners, the dairy farmers of Ontario.

Here is a 30-second milk cooling performance test

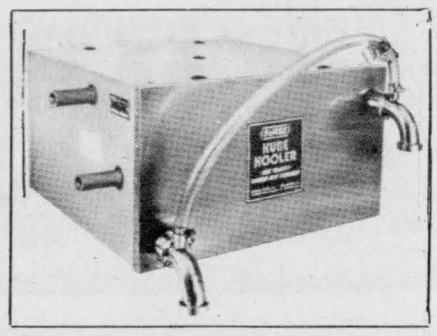
	Yes	No
Is your condensing unit working overtime?	☐	☐
Does the blend temperature exceed 50%?	☐	☐
Has your milk lost its fresh taste?	☐	☐
Does the agitator seem to run constantly?	☐	☐
Have your utility bills gone up more than your milk cheque?	☐	☐
Does your milk cool down to 40° on time?	☐	☐
Would your cows drink more water if it wasn't so cold?	☐	☐

If you answered yes to any of these questions, a **SURGE Kube Kooler** can give your milk cooling system a performance boost. The **Kube Kooler** offers a simple solution to many milk cooling problems.

Using well water or chilled water as a cooling medium, the **Kube Kooler** lowers your milk's temperature before it reaches the tank. Compact, easily cleaned, self-draining, it has no moving parts and is economical to install and operate.

Precooling can reduce condenser running time and help maintain safe blend milk temperatures. Less agitation and churning results in higher butterfat tests. Tempered water cuts water heating costs and provides more drinkable water for stock tanks and waterers. Adding a **SURGE Kube Kooler** can help you protect milk quality and reduce operating costs with your present milk cooling equipment.

There is a **Kube Kooler** or combination of **Kube Koolers** to meet the needs of your dairy. If you are thinking about a complete new milk cooling system, **SURGE Kube Kooler** will also reduce the condenser horsepower requirement.



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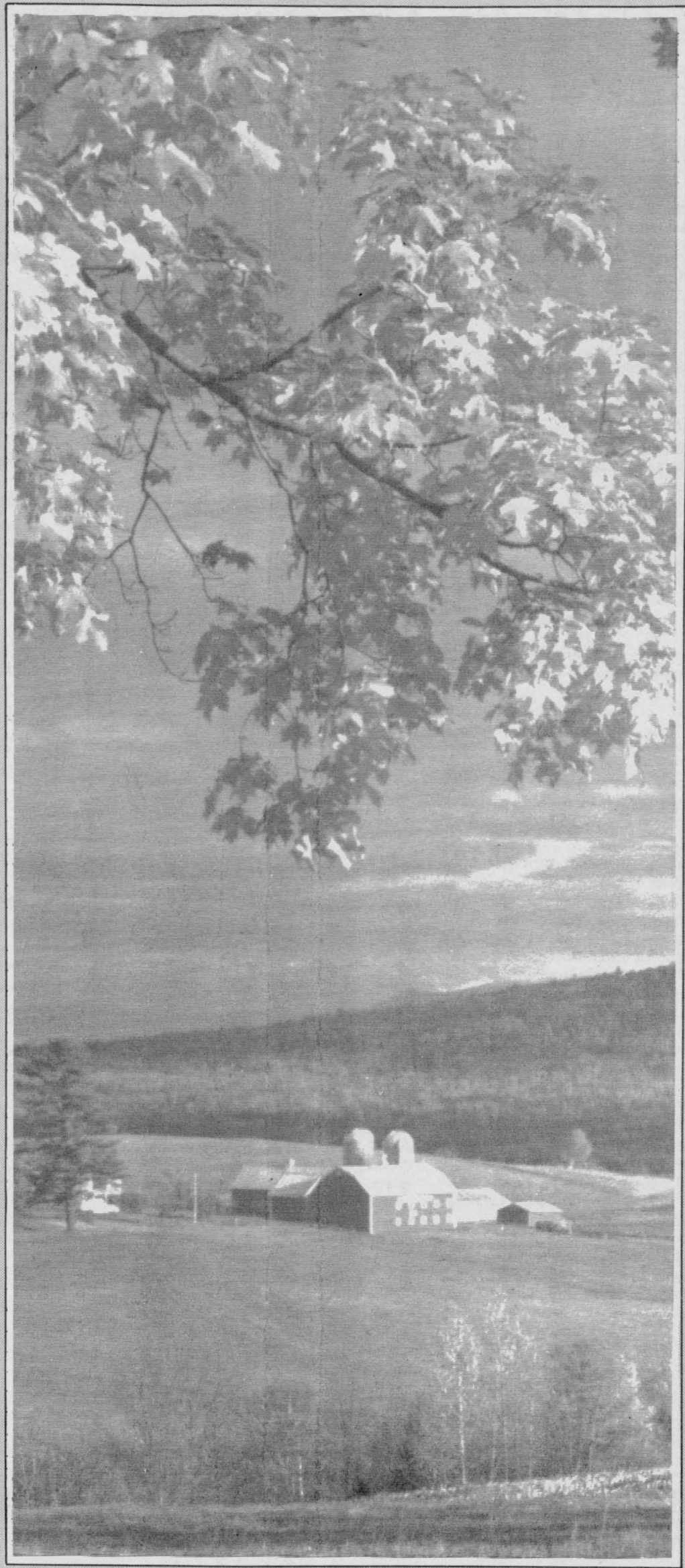

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