

Press Photo—Fetterly

Ottawa Valley Farm Show celebrates 70th anniversary

OTTAWA — When the first 10,000 people arrive at this year's Ottawa Valley Farm Show, they will receive a special birthday gift commemorating the 70th anniversary of this annual event.

Ten thousand packages of sunflower seeds will be handed out, in hope they will be planted in and around Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec to keep the beauty of this celebration going all year long.

The springtime classic show started back in 1928 as a seed fair in the town of Renfrew and has grown steadily ever since.

When the show moved to Lansdowne Park it was suggested one farm machinery display be added to the seed show and today over 250 different exhibitors present their products.

Keeping with tradition, winners from area seed competitions will gather and compete in the annual championship seed show in the Aberdeen Pavilion.

There the winning entries will be displayed, along with the prestigious pedigreed seed, for the better part of the week. The pedigree seed will then be sold at a special auction on Friday, March 20.

There are many features which highlight this year's big show at Lansdowne Park.

For the first time in history, the farm show will present the electronic approach to agriculture with displays of satellite marketing, satellite auctioning and the general use of a satellite on the farm of tomorrow.

They even have a web site set up and if you should wish to do a little browsing — www.rr3.com. The E-mail address for the show is hal@falls.igs.net.

This year has been forecasted as a very good year for sales in the farm machinery business and many of the exhibitors are gearing themselves for a busy time in Ottawa.

It was estimated last year that over $8 million worth of farm equipment rolled into the nation's capital for this show.

This variety, along with new ideas and creations and an optimistic outlook in agriculture, will give the interested buyer a lot to think about.



Welcome to the show

Ottawa Valley Farm Show president Keith Lackey invites local farmers and residents to this year's show slated for March 19 -21. The 1997 show features a seed and machinery show, a pedigreed seed sale, cattle shows and sales, a country music show, ladies programs, contests, as well as displays of farm toys, agricultural books and magazines and more. It has five display areas including the Aberdeen Pavilion, Civic Centre, Cattledome, Coliseum and a popular outdoor exhibit area.

Press Photo — Fetterly

This is the last farm equipment show to take place in Eastern Canada before the farmer returns to the field and if new equipment has to be purchased, it usually takes place during these three days in Ottawa.

For those who love to hear the excitement of the auctioneer's voice and the sound of live cattle, the Sprung Structure will feature a large and expanded display this year.

For those trying to buy and sell before the new farming year begins, the Sprung Structure will feature two regular sales on Wednesday and Friday with a special satellite sale on Thursday morning and afternoon.

The dates for this year's show are Wednesday, March 19, 9 am to 5 pm; Thursday, March 20, 9 am to 9 pm and Friday, March 21, 9 am to 5 pm.

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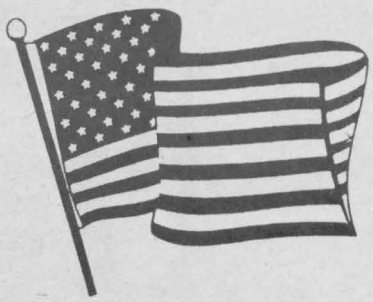
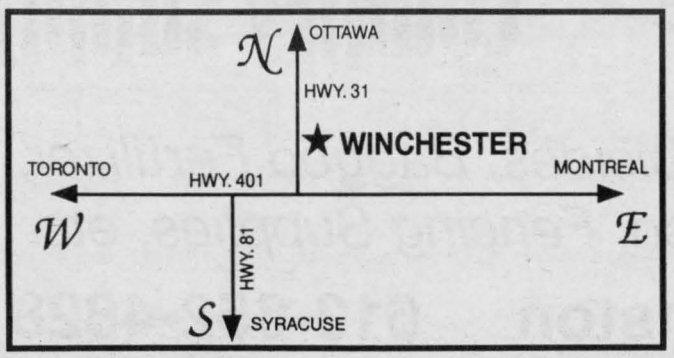


CONSIGNMENT
AUCTION



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11:00 am - Industrial equipment - backhoes, dozers, payloader, shovels, skid steer, Ziggers lifts, golf carts, etc.
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Closer look

This tractor was just one of the many models on display at the Crysler Farm Show on Feb. 27 - March 1. Local farmers can see all the latest tractors and machinery at this year's Ottawa Valley Farm Show.

Press Photo — Fetterly

Bulls carrying ureaplasma may case fertility problems

by Rob Tremblay, DVM, Health Management, Fergus

FERGUS — There is some risk whenever you bring new cattle into your herd.

This is particularly true for bulls.

Bulls can carry many infectious diseases but they can also carry venereal diseases and spread them to cows and heifers at breeding.

Many venereal diseases are rare in Ontario but some like Ureaplasma are very common.

If a bull carries one of these diseases into a herd, any cow it breeds will have poor fertility until they develop an immunity. This could take several months, so if you use a new beef bull for only 90 or 120 days, you may not have too many cows settled.

Ureaplasma is very common in dairy herds but it isn't often seen in beef herds.

It is carried by cows and bulls and passed along during natural breeding. When a cow is first infected with ureaplasma, she is infertile until she develops an immunity. After she becomes immune, she will have almost normal fertility.

Because immune cows have good fertility, herds which have had ureaplasma for a while have good fertility... so good in fact they may not even think about the ureaplasma. But if one of their bulls or cows carries it into a herd which doesn't already have ureaplasma, it can cause real fertility problems for the new herd.

Cows with ureaplasma infections pass a white cloudy mucus from the vulva. Infection also destroys the embryo so the cow returns to heat. They may have regular heats or may go longer than the normal 18 to 24 days between heats.

Protecting your herd from ureaplasma isn't easy.

Buy young unused bulls because they aren't as likely to be infected.

Buy bulls and cows from herds which don't have the disease. Your veterinarian can check cows for ureaplasma and even take a sample to see if a cow or bull is infected.

Unfortunately, it isn't always easy to tell if an animal is infected so there is still some risk.

If you buy a mature bull, you can try him on some heifers first then watch closely to see if they show signs of infection.

Using AI also protects against ureaplasma. Semen from AI studs is treated to kill the ureaplasma. The major AI studs have quality control programs to make sure their semen doesn't have ureaplasma.

Private units may not handle semen so ureaplasma is destroyed. Their semen could carry the disease into your herd so ask about their quality control ureaplasma before you buy semen from private studs.

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Animal Care Helpline takes inquiries

MISSISSAUGA — A helpline was started by the Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC) in June 1992 and is a farmer helping farmer service of advice and referral.

Sponsored in part by the Carleton Cattlemen's Association, the OFAC Animal Care Helpline 1-905-821-3880.

Calls received by the service are referred to the appropriate commodity group(s) for follow-up.

The purpose of OFAC is to help, and by doing so, to try and prevent situations from arising which will require the involvement of the Humane Society or which could lead to adverse publicity to the agricultural community.

The helpline accepts calls from farmers in need of assistance as well as from anyone who witnesses what they perceive to be unacceptable conditions.

If and when a particular situation involves obvious abuse or neglect which warrants enforcement, the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) will be called in.

OFAC is a non-profit education representing the farmers, businesses and organizations associated with animal agriculture in Ontario.

The OFAC was formed in 1988 and is funded solely by donations and memberships from the agri-food sector. Anyone can be an individual member for $35 or choose OFAC as a charity of choice.

The Ontario Farm Animal Council can be contacted at 7195 Millcreek Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5N 4H1.



OMAFRA goes on-line

After nearly a year of planning, developing and testing, the official OMAFRA Internet site is now in production.

The web site has information about the ministry, the office location, livestock industry, rural development, food industry, Grow Ontario and the Farm Practices Protection Act.

Over the next several months, the existing information will be updated and new information will be added.

The web address is: http://www.gov.on.ca/omafra.



Newest lines

A row of new tractors was on display during the Crysler Farm Show held Feb. 27 - March 1.

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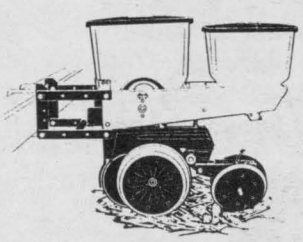

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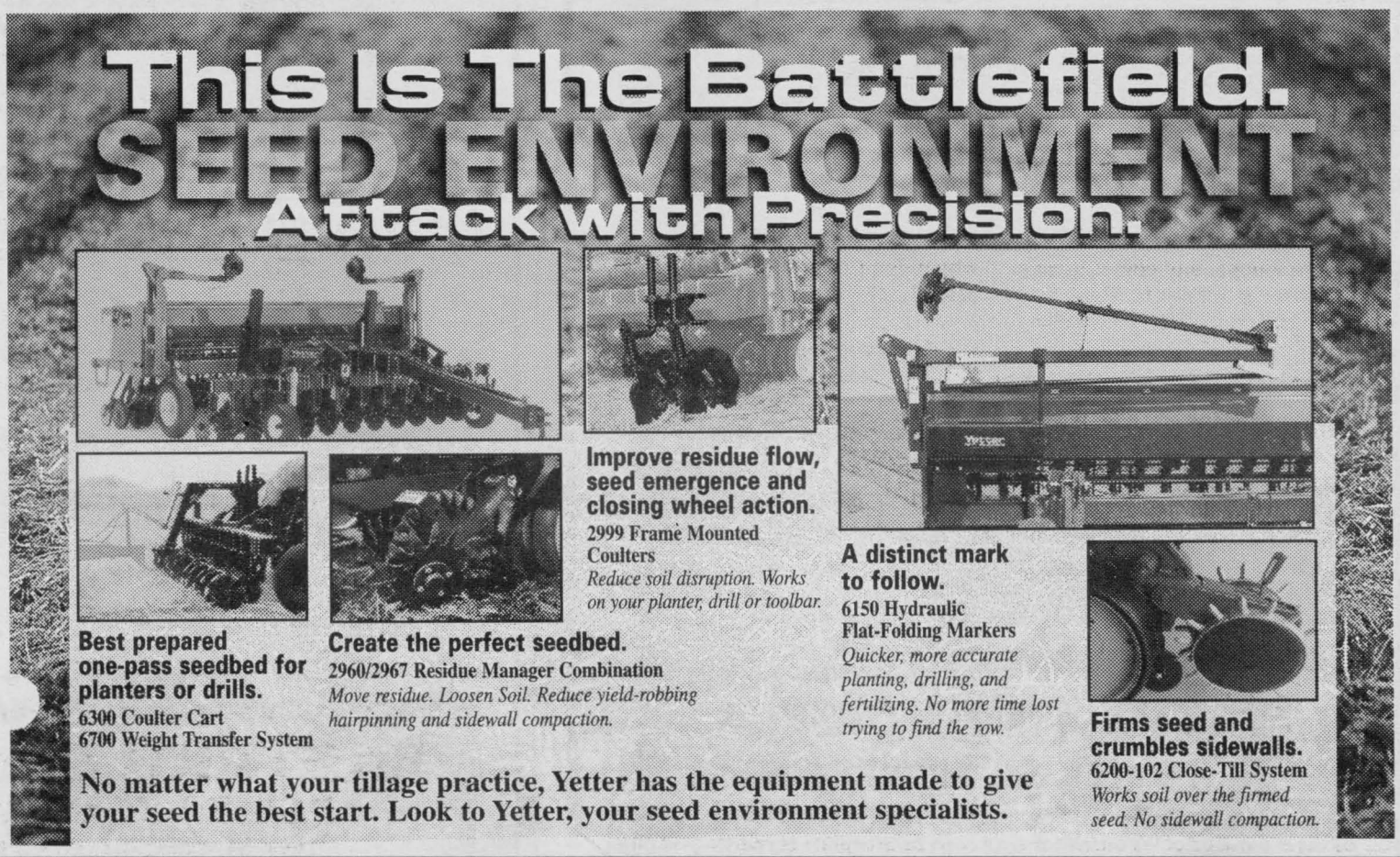


BIO field rep provides tips

by Jenny Pearce, BIO Field Service Rep.

Given how we are at the low side of the cattle cycle, I'm sure we have all considered selling off our cattle, and if not, sold as many head as possible to cut some of our losses.

But what about the future? Here are a few questions to consider:

How can we improve our herd so that even in bad times our calves top the market?

The hardest exercise is to take a long, hard look at the calves we are offering.

Had we bothered to dehorn and castrate? Were the calves a desirable color, uniform, growthy, healthy and did the buyers consider them right for the feedlot? Did you go to the calf sales this fall? Do you know which calves are selling best?

Now sit down and take a realistic look at your herd.

Ask yourself "How can I get where I think I should be?" None of us have all the answers, but now when we are at the lower end of the beef cycle,we could be making changes so we can recoup our costs on the upswing.

Take a look at your cow herd. Do you have the right cow to produce those high selling calves? Look at your breeding season, perhaps narrowing in the calving period for more uniformity of size in your calf crop.

Management can make such a difference, especially the horns and testicles. When you take them off, do it right. If you use elastics make sure you get both testicles.

Your bull is the most important "cow" in your herd. Buying cheap will only show up in your calves.

Look first at the breed which will work well with your cows to produce that desirable bunch of calves. Look at his potential for growthy calves and desirable replacements.

Can he be used to calve out heifers as well as cows? Perhaps consider a polled bull. Look at his performance data, his background. Ask about temperament. Will his calves be too framey for today's market? Will he show enough red meat and muscling in his calves?

Enroll your herd in a performance program. Identify your cows and discover which ones give you the greatest return.

If you are using AI and submit records through Beef Improvement Ontario, you may qualify for some free semen through Canadian Beef Sires beef incentive program. Ask your AI technician or BIO's Field Service Rep for more information on the programs they offer.

Improving your herd takes a lot of thought and planning. Pay for that good bull and he will pay you dividends for the long haul.



Welcoming visitors

J.R. Brisson Equipment Ltd. sales reps Allen McCaslin and Paul Dorais manned the booth at this year's Crysler Farm Show. Farmers can view a large Case IH display at this year's Ottawa Valley Farm Show.

Press Photo — Fetterly

Canadians enjoy low food prices

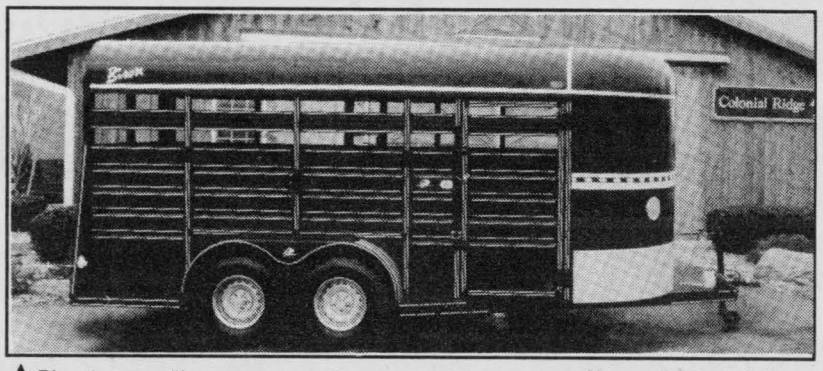
MISSISSAUGA — Recent studies have shown again that Canadians spend the least amount on food of any country in the world.

In 1995, the average Canadian household spent only 12.3 per cent of its income buying food.

The cost of dairy products in Canada has risen only half as much as the Consumer Price Index since 1995.

Several recent comparisons of Toronto and Buffalo prices for a basket of dairy goods have shown that Canadians enjoy as low prices as Americans.

HORSE & LIVESTOCK TRAILERS



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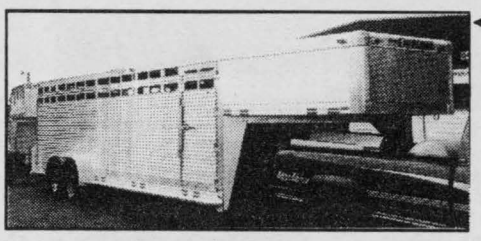

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The molecular biologist and the plant breeder

The following was presented at Farmers' Week and Trade Fair held at KCAT earlier this year.

The disciplines involved in plant breeding have been successful in improving mankind's harvest of food, feed and fibre from the plant kingdom.

Success has been evident for a wide range of species over an extended period of time and over extensive geography.

Several key success factors have resulted in the rather spectacular gains realized by corn breeders. One reason is the ability of the corn breeder to create new genetic variability.

The primary approach used has been intraspecific crosses. However, mutageneses and chromosomal and cytoplasmic manipulations have been used to a limited extent.

A second key success factor has been the breeders' ability to identify desirable genotypes. Breeders have utilized statistics, elaborate experimental designs, environmental manipulation, selection indices, correlated traits, quantitative genetics, and other tools to identify desirable genotypes.

Their efforts have been facilitated by scientists in other disciplines such as pathology, entomology, physiology, statistics and chemistry.

A third key to success, is the plant breeders' ability to integrate simultaneous selection for many traits differing in heritability.

Related to this is the breeders' ability to change the relative selection pressure applied to any given trait.

Although selection indices have been developed to assist breeders with this aspect of selection, most breeders rely on their experience.

The experience includes knowledge of the market needs, environment, the germplasm available as well as knowledge of genetics, plant breeding and statistics.

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

The application of molecular biology to maize breeding is in its infancy.

The technologies associated with molecular biology are very powerful and will play an ever increasing role in crop improvement.

One of the most spectacular contributions of biotechnology, is the process of transformation.

Until very recently, corn breeders were confined to utilizing the genetic diversity found within the corn species or within a few closely related species which will cross with corn.

The process of transformation has changed all this.

Suddenly, it has become possible to utilize genes from other plant and animal species. To the plant breeder, the bottom line is the availability of previously inaccessible variability.

An example of the availability of increased variability resulting from transformation is stalk borers in corn.

In Canada, the European corn borer [Ostrinia nubilalis (Hubner)] is the major borer affecting corn. The development of European corn borer (ECB) resistant corn has considerable economic value and is, therefore, an objective in corn breeding programs.

Despite considerable effort, progress with traditional selection for material resistant to ECB has been slow.

This has been especially true for second generation ECB resistance. The primary factors which have limited progress in attaining ECB resistance are the genetic complexity of resistance and the costly and time consuming procedures necessary to obtain the uniform infestations needed for selection.

In 1987, it was first reported that certain insects could be controlled in plants by transforming them with the gene coding for the production of proteins (Bt's) from the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Ciba Seed in Canada and the USA has registration of a Bt event which controls both first brood and second brood ECB in corn.

First sales were made in 1996 with excellent results. The control of corn borer resulted in increased yield, higher test weight, less broken stalks and fewer dropped ears.

To corn breeders, the ability to control both generations of ECB utilizing a simple genetic system represents a major breakthrough.

Now instead of working with complex genetic systems and the resultant slow progress towards the attainment of ECB resistant corn, the breeder has a single dominant gene with no side effects which will give simultaneous resistance to both first and second generation borers.

The level of resistance achieved is unheard of using the genes found within the corn genome.

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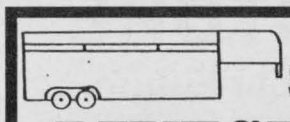
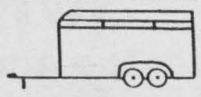


SMITH STEEL



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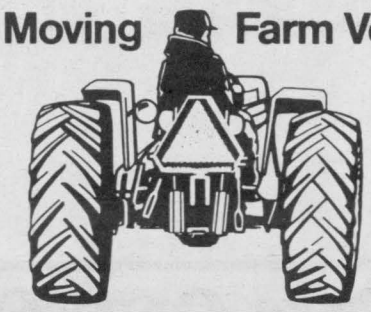
Travel comfort

TopLine Trailer and Equipment Sales of Winchester presented a large display of horse and livestock trailers at this year's Crysler Farm Show.

Press Photo — Fetterly

Slow Moving Farm Vehicle



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T F 1. Every farm tractor and self-propelled implement of husbandry, when operated on a highway, or any vehicle towed by either of them must have a slow moving vehicle sign attached to the rear.

T F 2. The SMV sign must be displayed in the centre of the rear of the last vehicle between 0.6 and 2.0 metres above the roadway.

T F 3. The SMV sign must be visible for a distance of not less than 150m.

T F 4. To ensure visibility, the SMV sign must be replaced when worn or faded.

T F 5. As driver of a farm vehicle it is your responsibility by law to clearly indicate all turns.

T F 6. Under the Highway Traffic Act, a farm wagon remains a farm wagon regardless of the towing vehicle.

T F 7. Each farm wagon or implement of husbandry being towed, must be connected to the towing vehicle by two separate means of attachment.

ANSWERS:

1. T 2. T 3. T 4. T 5. T 6. T 7. T

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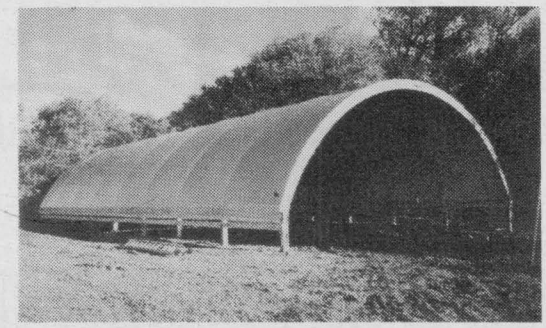

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(See us at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show, March 19-21 at the Calhoun Agri Services booth)

FSA update

New program developed

The Farm Safety Association is currently developing a New Farm Worker Program with funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

The program will have a number of components including a new farm worker handbook, an employer's guide and teaching package as well as videos and resource material which can be used in safety training.

New workers on the farm, whatever their age, may not be aware of specific job hazards or may be operating machinery different from what they are used to.

These types of situations often lead to accidents, injury and even death.

Making new workers aware of the hazards and giving them adequate job instruction will prevent a needless tragedy from occurring on the farm.

Listed below are some tips for training new workers.

Before any worker takes on a new job, the employer should assess the individual's skill for performing the required tasks.

Adequate employee training is the key to safe, efficient job performance.

Following are the basics which should be considered when training new workers:

1. Explain how and why a particular job is being performed.

2. Personally demonstrate the correct way of doing the work.

3. Point out any hazards associated with the job.

4. Before leaving new workers on their own, make sure they can demonstrate their ability to perform the work in the correct manner. Don't leave workers until they are confident they will carry out the required tasks as instructed.

5. Make frequent checks on new workers. In most situations, positive reinforcement is considerably more effective than harsh criticism. If the employee is unable or unwilling to perform the work properly after a reasonable period of time, it may be necessary to switch them to a different job, or let them go.

6. All employees should be instructed in proper lifting techniques. Improper lifting is a major cause of accidents.

7. Employees should be made aware of specific hazards and encouraged to report unsafe conditions or equipment. Timely reaction to problems can save money and reduce accident potential.

8. Employees should be instructed in how to deal with emergencies such as fire or situations requiring first aid.



Greeting the public

Clarence Haak and Kerry Irven represented Lorne E. Acres Equipment Inc. at this year's Crysler Farm Show. Farmers can catch the Acres display at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show on March 19 - 21. Press Photo — Fetterly

DFO launches new campaign

MISSISSAUGA — Active people who love milk sing its praises in a new fluid milk campaign.

The campaign is built around the theme "Drink Milk. Love Life," and uses Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* as the musical accompaniment.

The first advertisement establishes the campaign with a cow-spotted orchestra and choir. Subsequent ads feature active people who love milk.

The new campaign continues to build on the successful message that "Milk energy plus 15 essential nutrients helps you do the things you love to do."

The strong multi-media campaign will include television, billboards and transit signage.

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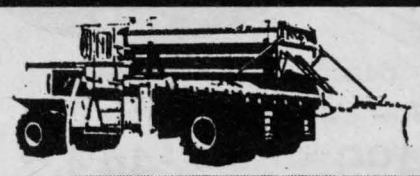



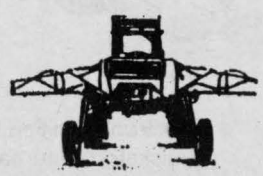

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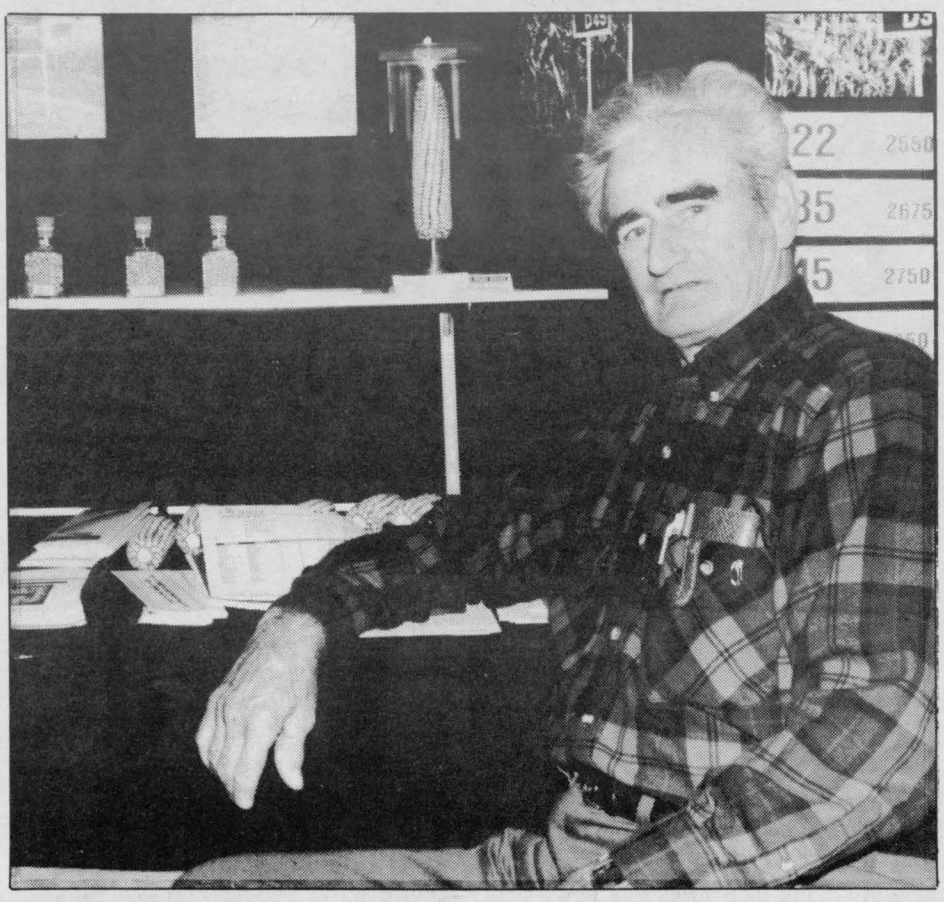

Seed sales

Direct Seeds sales rep Bill Johnston of Martintown was busy promoting his brand of seed during the Crysler Farm Show held recently. Virtually every brand of corn seed available will be featured at this year's Ottawa Valley Farm Show set for March 19 - 21. Press Photo — Fetterly

4-H Ontario gets web site

BRAMPTON — Anyone who visits the new 4-H Ontario web site will have an opportunity to tap into local information as well as provincial.

Tell us about meetings, achievement programs, judging day, training sessions, association meetings and any other special events so it can be included in our website.

CYBERPALS

CyberPals is a new twist on pen pals and information exchange.

If you would like to be a part of an exciting new way to communicate with folks who share your interests across the province, please send us the following information: name, county, E-mail address and age (optional).

Indicate whether you are: a 4-H member, volunteer or alumni and list your interests.

Please forward the information to E-mail — elhum@sympatico.ca; Fax — 905-454-0437 (8:30 am to 5:30 only) or write Elinor Humphries, P.O. Box 38509, pm Brampton, Ont., L6Y 4W5.

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Preventing botulism in horses

by Rob Tremblay, Health Management, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Horses are the most sensitive of the domesticated animals to botulism.

Botulism is a disease which occurs when toxins produced by the bacterium, Clostridium botulinum, get into the horse's body where it causes weakness.

The botulism bacterium is commonly present in soil and in decaying animal carcasses. It occurs less often in decaying plant material. Silage and especially haylage can be contaminated with the botulism bacterium.

When the bacterium grows, it produces one or more botulism toxins. These toxins block the connection between the nerves and muscles. As a result, affected horses have muscle weakness. They usually have muscles tremors too.

They may be so weak they cannot stand up. They lose control of their tongue so it may hang from their mouth. They can't eat and they drool because they can't swallow. Their tail may lose its tone. They may walk stiffly with a short stride or they may be weak and stumbling.

Eventually they die because their respiratory muscles become paralyzed or because they get other health problems from being down.

Horses can get botulism in any of three ways. In foals, botulism can occur if the bacterium grows in the foal's intestines. Foals that are growing well and are being fed grain are most likely to get into trouble. These foals are called "shaker foals" because the muscle weakness from the toxin makes them tremble.

Occasionally a wound can become infected with the bacterium and cause botulism in adults. Fortunately, this is rare. Far more commonly, botulism occurs when horses eat contaminated feed or water. The bacteria can grow and produce toxins in feeds such as haylage. Water and feed can also be contaminated with the carcass of a dead animal.

When several horses develop botulism, toxin in feed or water is usually the reason.

Since large wrapped round bale haylage came into common use, there have been several reports of groups of horses developing botulism after eating this type of feed.

It was first reported in Great Britain but it has occurred in Canada too. In some of these outbreaks, the haylage looked and smelled spoiled. In others, the bales didn't look as if they were spoiled but horses eating them developed botulism.

Botulism is difficult to treat. There is an anti- toxin but it is not widely available. It is most beneficial if used when animals are first seen to be sick. With supportive care, horses can recover but, if they are exposed to a large amount of toxin, most will die despite treatment.

There is a vaccine available in Canada to protect horses against botulism. If you are feeding large wrapped round bale haylage to your horse, ask your veterinarian about the vaccine.

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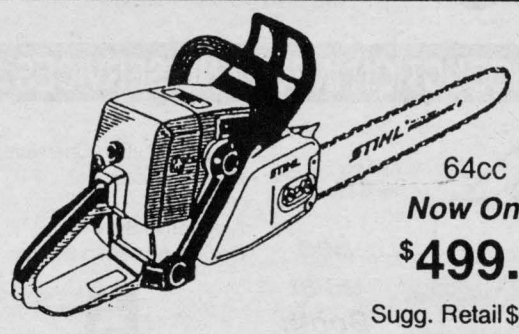
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Spring wheat gains interest

by Jack Kyle, Soil and Crop Advisor, OMAFRA

The following was presented on Crops Day held at the Kemptville College of Agriculture and Technology during Farmers' Week.

WHY GROW SPRING WHEAT?

Economics from the grower's standpoint have increased the interest in hard red spring wheat (HRSW). HRSW provides an alternative to other spring cereals and does well in the fringe of traditional soybean and corn growing areas.

The results in Eastern Ontario have been better than in the rest of Southern Ontario. Also with the economics goes the reality of the barley market which has weakened over the years.

Rotation is another positive aspect for HRSW that has encouraged the increased interest.

With the problems of winter kill in winter wheat, one must look to a spring cereal to get cereals into the rotation. There has been a considerable amount of work done on the effect of rotation and it is all positive — two or more years of the same crop tends to depress yields.

One caution though, do not plant wheat following corn because of disease problems.

In recent years, there has been more acceptance by Ontario millers to use different types of wheat in their milling processes. By blending different types of wheat, they can produce the desired flour quality. This relates to more open trade with the USA and the flow of grains and flour as well as baked goods between the two countries.

VARIETIES

There is a number of varieties that are now available and more new ones coming in the future.

The initial attempts at HRSW in recent years were with Katepawa and Columbus which were adapted to Western Canada. New varieties such as Celtic, Roblin, Quantum, Domaine, Teal and Grandin have given much improved yields.

In local trials conducted through the Soil and Crop Associations in this areas, Celtic and Domaine have done well. Grandin has done well but this variety has slightly different milling qualities and I would caution you to make sure where you are going to market this variety. Do not grow it with the idea that somebody might take it at harvest time. Quantum has done well but seed supply is somewhat limited.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

To receive the best price for your HRSW it needs to be marketed in Pool C which will bring a premium of about $40 per tonne.

You must have the seed tags to verify the variety when you deliver the wheat, so it is important to keep the seed tags to identify the variety.

HRSW which does not have the seed tags goes into Pool F which does not attract a premium.

Pool C has protein premiums of $10 per tonne for 12 per cent to 12.4 per cent protein and $18 per tonne for 12.5 per cent and higher. These values are for the 1996 crop. There is no protein premium for Pool F.

Seeding rate is important if you are to get the kind of stand to maximize yield. You should aim for a stand with 400 heads per square metre. This translates into 120-140 pounds of seed per acre.

Check the kernel size; with a large seeded variety such as Celtic or Quantum you may want to increase the seeding rate in order to get the necessary population.

Seeding should take place as early as possible into a reasonable seed bed. Late April is preferred and certainly not later than early May.

HRSW responds well to good levels of fertility. There is also a significant response to 15 pounds of phosphorus with the seed as a starter.

Phosphorus availability is temperature related and thus in the early part of the season when soil temperatures are cool, the availability is reduced.

By putting a starter phosphorus with the seed you can aid the plants in getting a good start. In trials done over the years, starter phosphorus has given yield advantage.

Nitrogen in the range of 70-89 pounds per acre is recommended. This rate will depend somewhat on the previous crop and whether or not any manure was applied.

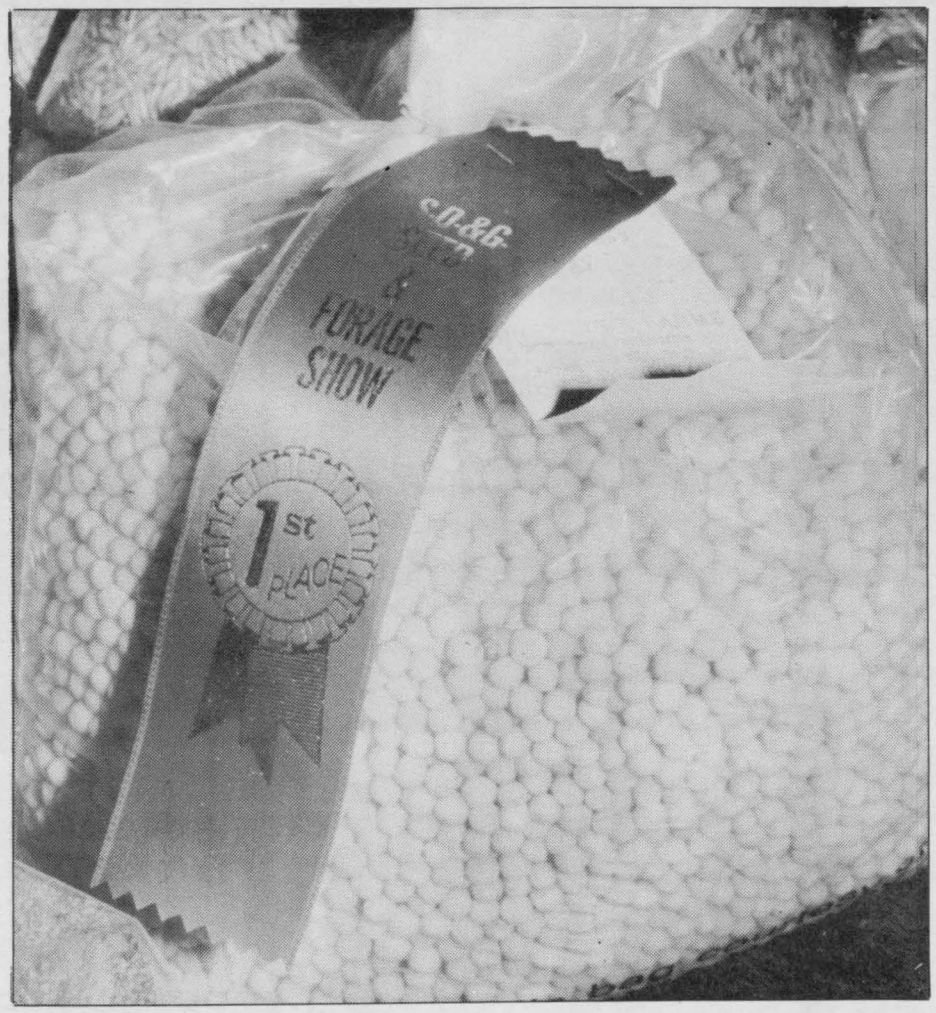
Weed control is fairly straightforward; the phenoxys and/or bromoxinils will get most broad leaf weeds. There is also a range of products that make it possible to control a number of annual grasses including wild oats in HRSW. Consult Publication 75 — *Guide to Weed Control* for the best products to meet your needs.

Harvest of HRSW will be several weeks later than other spring cereals — likely mid-August or later. Know where you are going to market your wheat before harvest — not all elevators will be receiving HRSW. On-farm storage and direct shipment to a mill may be your best option.

If you are growing forages, HRSW can be underseeded with forage seed with good results. HRSW has better standability than other spring cereals and this lends itself well to forage establishment. You may want to seed at a slightly lower rate.

Hard red spring wheat is a viable crop for Eastern Ontario. With the climate that is present in the area along with the winter kill problem with winter cereals this crop will work well for you.

One final comment is a caution that was mentioned earlier — do not plant wheat following corn in your rotation, the risks are too high.



Prize-winning beans

One of the winning entries in the SD&G Seed and Forage Show was on display during the Crysler Farm Show. Top entries in individual classes are eligible to compete in the Eastern Ontario/Western Quebec Championship Show slated for March 19 - 21 during the Ottawa Valley Farm Show.

Press Photo — Fetterly



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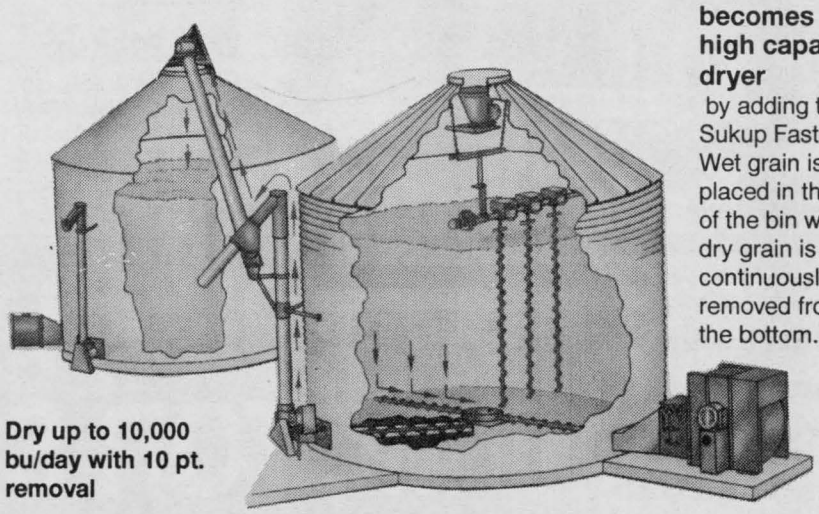

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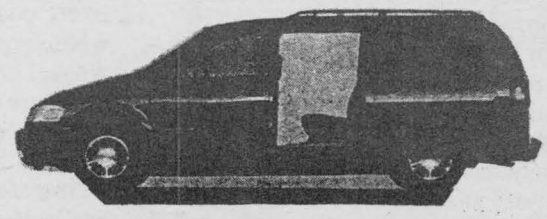

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