

Farm Management Program

An increased number of Ontario farmers will have the opportunity to participate in the Farm Management Programs of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food which are set up to assist individual farmers in analyzing and solving their farm business problems.

Will it pay to purchase this machine? What farm adjustments are required to reach a specific net farm income? What are the market prospects for this farm product? The challenges and questions facing each farmer are different. Farm Management Programs are designed to meet these challenges.

Farm records provide some of the information needed for decision making. Canfarm, a computerized monthly mail-in farm record-keeping system, and the Ontario Farm Record Book are two record-keeping systems available through the Farm Management Program of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

In 1971, the Ontario Farm Record Book will again be available free of charge to Ontario farmers. Year-end analysis information for 1970 and 1971 Record Books will be available to those who submit their records for analysis.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, through the Extension Branch, will be able to

accommodate most farmers who may want to make use of the Canfarm system in 1971.

Registration of farmers on Canfarm is being handled by the Agricultural Representative and his staff in each County and District of the Province.

Farmers participating in Canfarm receive monthly and year-end income and expense, cash and credit statements for their own farm operation. As with the Ontario Farm Record Book, staff of the Extension Branch are available to assist farmers in using the information obtained from their Canfarm records.

Budgeting, cash flow, financial counselling, transfer agreements, tax management, and estate

planning are all important parts of the Ontario Farm Management Program.

Mr. Bruce McCorquodale, a member of the staff of the Extension Branch, coordinates the Farm Management Information Systems in Ontario on behalf of the Department. His office is located in the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Guelph.

Further information concerning Farm Management Programs, including Canfarm, the Ontario Farm Record Book and other Farm Management topics may be obtained by contacting the County and District offices of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food or Mr. McCorquodale.

Turnip Mosaic Virus Can Cause Heavy Loss

In 1970, a number of rutabaga (swede turnip) growers in Ontario suffered serious losses from a virus disease called turnip mosaic.

Dr. I. R. Evans, a virologist at Ontario Agricultural College, thinks culls and trimmings from storages and waxing plants may be more important as a source of virus infection than was previously thought.

Culls and trimmings not killed by winter cold may sprout tops, attracting turnip and green peach aphids. If these tops contain

turnip virus, the aphids become contaminated when sucking sap from the leaves. If the aphids fly to feed on rutabagas, the virus is injected into the healthy rutabaga leaf. Thus, the disease can spread from one plant to others in adjoining rows or fields.

Dr. Evans advises growers to check last year's turnip fields and places where culls and trimmings were dumped. All volunteer plants should be destroyed to prevent aphids from feeding on them.

Grain Sorghum

Sorghum, with yields that can rival the best cereal such as wheat or corn, which has proven to be suitable to southwestern Ontario, could be a profitable alternative, or even a bonus crop, on many farms.

Grain sorghum or "milo" has been a main crop for livestock production in the States, and in many countries, for years. It thrives particularly well in dry hot weather. Under these conditions sorghum has very high potential yields, exceeding that of corn. Sorghum fits right into both hog and cattle rations, in place of other cereals, in the dry state; as high-moisture sorghum or as silage. Consequently, Ontario crop scientists, who have done considerable experimentation this past two years, are quite enthusiastic about the potential of grain sorghum in this province. Incidentally, it has proven to be an excellent cover crop for game birds such as pheasants.

Grain sorghum is a short season crop. This makes it particularly attractive to many farmers who would like to complete harvesting early in the fall. Also, sorghum can produce quite satisfactory yields planted late in the season, even up to the middle or end of June, in southwestern Ontario; so when the normal seeding time has been delayed, due to extremely wet conditions in the spring, land need not lay fallow, since sorghum

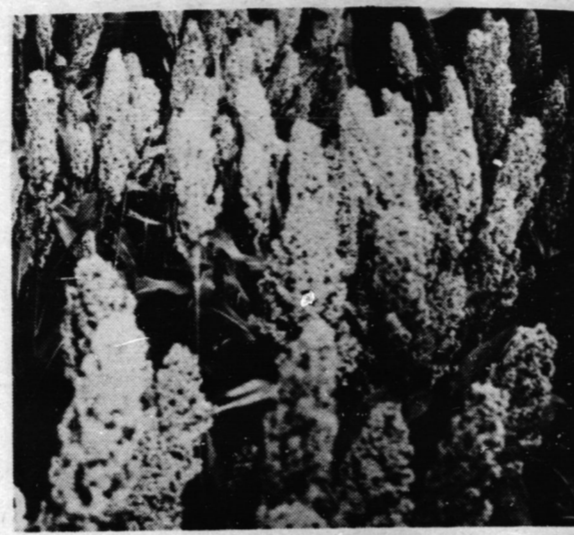
varieties are now available. In addition, it is noted this challenging new crop will withstand periods of drought and flooding much better than other cereal crops, and still produce satisfactory yields.

Crop scientists at Ridgetown report that the crop can be grown without any additional investment in special farm machinery. It can be planted with an ordinary grain drill and harvested with a regular grain combine. However, for seeding they would prefer a bean or corn planter which can be calibrated more accurately than most grain drills. The seed which costs about 28 cents per pound, if over-seeded, could be costly and would likely produce inferior results.

Pride Hybrid Company of Canada, the company that

has introduced this crop to Ontario, has grown sorghum on a field scale basis for three years, with excellent results. They now have only grain sorghum varieties licensed for sale in Canada. The two varieties being offered are: P 200 and MMS 54 BR. The latter is resistant, due to the high tannin content in the maturing seeds, during the growing season. This MMS 54 BR variety, bird resistant feature, can be a boon to farmers that are having problems with wild birds such as blackbirds and others.

The Ontario Crop Committee, who are responsible for the licensing of sorghum, have supported the licensing of these two Pride Hybrid sorghum varieties.



Something new for Ontario farmers - Grain Sorghum. This short season crop, proven in three years of field testing, can either be an alternative or a bonus cereal grain crop on many southern Ontario farms. It's average yield rivals most cereals like wheat or corn.

Soybeans In Rations Good For Dairy Cows

Improved soybean yields are an important source of protein for the farm. Soybeans warrant careful consideration from both economic and nutritional points of view.

Dr. G. K. MacLeod, Department of Animal Science, University of Guelph, offers several hints on the use of soybeans, based on research at the university.

Feeding experiments with soybeans with the University of Guelph dairy herd have been carried out several years. It was found that milk production composition were far when conventional rations were compared with rations plus oats and soy, soybeans plus hay and ear corn, and soybeans plus high moisture corn. Also, corn silage, hay crop silage and combinations of these feeds successfully fed with bean-grain mixtures.

In addition to good milk yields, soybeans were found to provide satisfactory stability, and to be highly digestible, while maintaining good milk quality and animal health and body condition.

The following are some suggestions Dr. MacLeod offers for efficient use of soybeans:

1. Rush the soybeans by rolling or grinding. Grinding will be a problem grinders unless the

soybeans are mixed with other grain.

Mix with grains in proportions that will meet the requirement of the cattle. Soybeans average 38 to 39 percent protein at 10 to 12 percent moisture.

Feed according to milk production as with other grain mixtures. Feed mineral and salt in the grain mix and/or free choice. Trace minerals in either the salt or mineral mix, plus vitamins A, D and E are recommended.

Always consider the price of raw soybeans, soybean oilmeal and other protein sources before deciding on a grain mix. Cull soybeans are satisfactory, provided they are reasonable clean, free of mold and foreign matter.

Mix high moisture ear corn and soybeans daily and feed at 15 percent higher rate than with dry corn. One percent salt and one to one and one half percent mineral-vitamin mix should be included in the mixtures or fed separately on a regular basis.

Exercise care to avoid off-feed conditions since corn-soybean mixtures are high in energy but low in fiber. Shelled corn and soybeans may be fed without other grains, but based on Guelph experience, a lower milk fat test can be expected.

Don't store mix for more than a week in hot weather.

Avoid the use of urea in the grain mix with raw

soybeans. The combination can be harmful.

Soybeans should not be fed to young calves. Use a commercial starter followed by the usual grower ration.

Improving Fairs

The two-day convention, sponsored by the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, review all types of fairs and exhibitions held in Ontario. Other suggestions presented at the meeting were:

1. Promote exhibits where people are working - "live exhibits" will draw the crowds.

2. Keep midway noise down so that all results and timetable schedules are heard clearly.

3. Conduct livestock and other classes in front of the grandstand so that as many as possible see the animals.

4. Use the money provided to build and maintain clean washrooms and spectator facilities.

5. Dress up every fairground. Make the fair a holiday outing for patrons.

6. Stagger events so that timetable is easily maintained.

7. If conducting an evening program, finish afternoon events in time for patrons to get home and then return for evening shows.

Positive Approach To Plant Protection

A symposium on a "Positive Approach to Plant Protection," chaired by Dr. C. M. Switzer, Associate Dean, Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph, was held February 8 to 11 in Dallas, Texas, as part of the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America. The symposium was sponsored by the Society and featured delegates dedicated to the principle of environmental protection through the sensible use of pesticides.

Dr. Switzer said the symposium was formed to discuss better ways of communicating to the

general public the value and relative safety of crop protectant chemicals. The following points were discussed:

1. Crop protectant chemicals are vital for the production of necessary food supplies. To rely on nature and still provide for an ever-increasing world population is impossible.

2. While biological control of weeds is being studied intensively, it will be many years, if ever, before satisfactory biological control methods are available for even a few weeds.

3. Herbicide use is regulated by stringent laws

designed to protect both crops and public.

4. Every chemical has an element of danger. The public accepts the poisonous qualities of aspirin tablets, salt and alcohol because their advantages outweigh their disadvantages. A similar attitude must be developed towards crop protectant chemicals.

The symposium concluded that pesticides must be put to maximum use with a minimum of danger, and that a continuing positive approach to the problems must be demonstrated by all public sectors.

Fortified Foods Needed For Better Nutrition

Man feeds his animals better than he feeds himself. In a recent address at the Conference on Changing Concepts in Agriculture and Food, Prof. J. C. Alexander, Department of Nutrition, University of Guelph, said that cattlemen, poultry men, pet owners, and others who care for animals insist on giving them adequate and balanced rations. But human food fortification programs are inadequate, he said, and have gradually declined in recent years.

Prof. Alexander said that

foods is needed, and that this should not be a voluntary process. Very little bread is enriched, much milk contains little or no vitamin A or D, and salt may or may not be iodized.

Most people don't know the difference, and a slight reduction in price will entice them to buy the non-nutritious product.

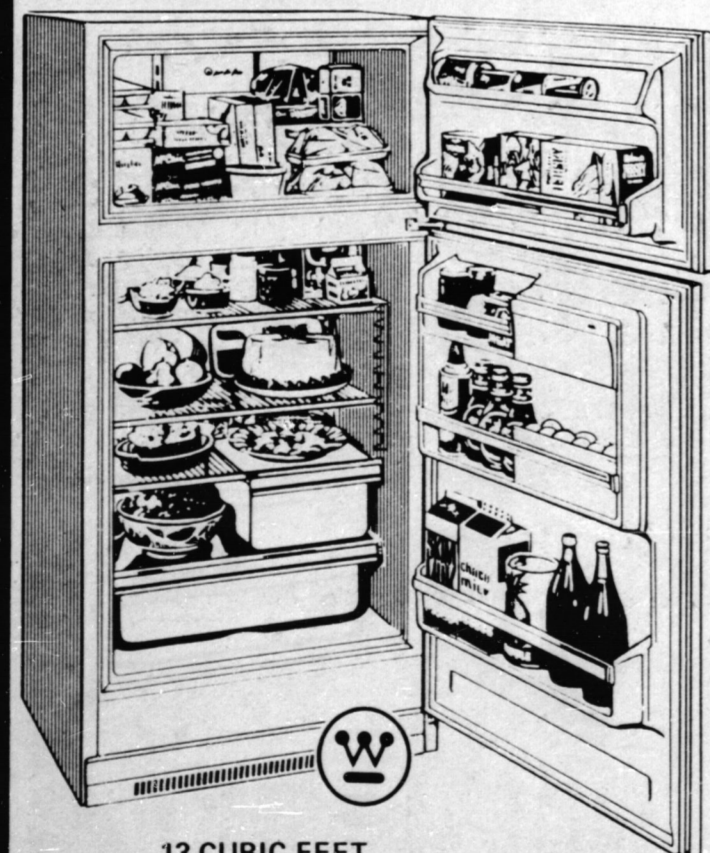
Most people regard malnutrition as prevalent only in underdeveloped countries, but Prof. Alexander cited a U.S. survey which showed that in 70,000 low-income

individuals in 10 states, every kind of malnutrition that had been seen in similar studies in Central America, Africa, and Asia was encountered.

As a partial solution to the problem, Prof. Alexander suggests the marketing of food products similar to those marketed to developing countries. Such food products, containing a relatively complete list of essential nutrients, are used to supplement the diets of groups such as preschool children, and pregnant and nursing mothers.

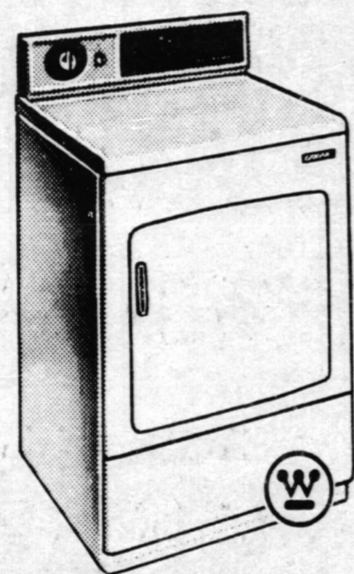
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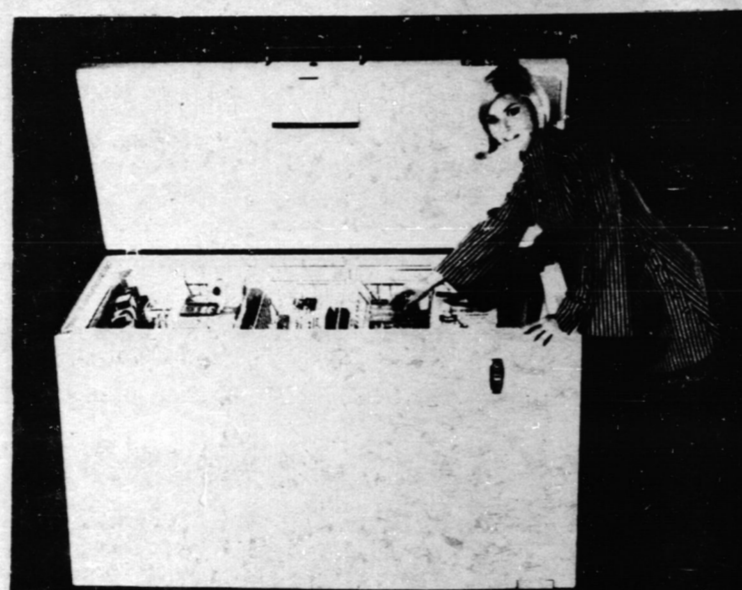


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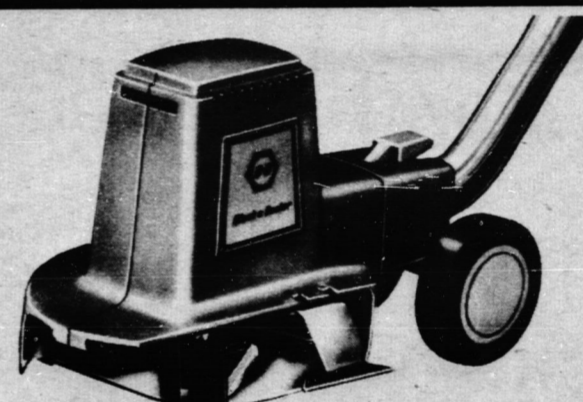
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