



A good stand of tobacco plants growing in greenhouse. (Staff Photo)

## Adding Micronutrients Not Always Beneficial

Adding micronutrients to increase yields may only increase the cost of production and lower net returns, says Russell W. Johnston, soils specialist at the Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology.

Mr. Johnston says Ontario farmers may be encouraged to use micronutrients because of instances in the United States where use has increased yields.

Micronutrients are used by plants in very small amount but are very necessary for good growth and production. There are

seven known micronutrients: iron, copper, molybdenum, chlorine, boron, manganese, and zinc. In most cases, the natural supply is sufficient. Only boron, manganese, and zinc have been occasionally deficient in Ontario.

Boron deficiency has occurred in sugar beets in Kent and Essex Counties, and in alfalfa in dry seasons on the high lime soils of Central Ontario. Most other field crops, such as corn or soybeans, have shown no deficiency.

Manganese deficiency has appeared on oats and on

soybeans, mainly on very high organic matter soils and on compacted, poorly aerated clay soils.

Zinc deficiency has appeared recently on eroded sidehill areas in several southwestern Ontario counties. These areas are quite small and do not respond to zinc applications every year. It is highly unlikely that a response will be obtained over the entire field. It is on these eroded areas or on levelled land where response to zinc treatment has been observed in the United States.

Mr. Johnston cautions that a yield decrease can occur where micronutrients are applied, but not required. The margin between too much is quite narrow, especially with boron and manganese. Farmers who feel compelled to try some micronutrients on the farm should do so on a small trial area, he says.

## Ontario Bulls Winners At Costa Rican Show

At Costa Rica's National Livestock Show, March 17-21, 1971, held at Heredia, Costa Rica, Canadian Angus bulls placed Grand Champion, and Reserve Grand Champion in the Angus class.

The Grand Champion bull, Burger of Windfields, exhibited by Edgar Sanchez, was bred by Windfields Farm Ltd., Oshawa, and the Reserve Champion bull, Tullamore 6925, exhibited by Fabio Pacheco Sanchez, was bred by Tom Jackson and Sons, Mono Road. The Ontario Angus Association presented a gold cup to the exhibitor of the Grand Champion bull, D. W. Munro, Canadian Ambassador to Costa Rica, made the presentation.

These prize bulls were part of a trial shipment of beef cattle exhibited and sold in Costa Rica in July 1970 by the Associated Beef Breeds of Ontario, under the Ontario Food Council Market Development Program. The Costa Rican ranchers have been most impressed with the caliber of Ontario beef breeding stock which has been exported to this market as a result of this Food Council promotion.

Approximately 700 beef and dairy animals, including Angus, Charolais, Brahma, Hereford, Cebu, Santa Gertrudis, Holstein, Brown Swiss, Jersey, Guernsey, and Ayrshire breeds, were exhibited at the Costa Rican National Show.

There is considerable interest in Costa Rican ranches in using Canadian beef bulls for crossing with native cattle such as Brahmas and Cebu.

Charolais-Brahma crosses and the Champion Steer Club.

Cyril Cook, Barrington, President of the Ontario Hereford Association and Vice-president of the Associated Beef Breeds of Ontario, and Morris H. Secretary of the Ontario Food Council, were impressed with the show and the interest in developing superior livestock through breeding programs.

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## Management Program For Swine Breeders

A new Swine Counseling Management Program (SCAMP) has been produced by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food for Ontario swine producers.

SCAMP is an intensive program that will be made available to as many producers as can be serviced adequately. Producers enroll in a two-year program and thereafter will receive information by mail on new program developments and production.

Producers must have a genuine interest in improving their operation, be prepared to keep comprehensive records, and be willing to invest in the planning, building and renovation of swine facilities, environmental control, and manure storage and handling.

SCAMP will also provide information on crop production - variety selection, soil fertility, weed and insect control, and harvesting techniques.

Participants considering major changes in their farm business will be helped to establish a detailed financial plan and financial analysis for their operations.



Tomatoes ready for processing at Innes Foods Ltd., Port Rowan. (Staff Photo)

Participants will be assisted in setting up breeding programs, including selection of gilts and boars, culling and identification of sows, keeping breeding herd records, and herd management techniques aimed at improving reproductive efficiency.

Least-cost feeding programs, gestation, lactation, starter, growing and finishing period management, and use of home-grown grains will be covered, as will the planning, building and renovation of swine facilities, environmental control, and manure storage and handling.

A business analysis summary will be provided for each participant so that an individual producer can compare his analysis with the average analysis of all program participants. All

information on individual operations will be treated confidentially. Participants can accept or reject recommendations made under the program.

Further information from SCAMP is available from county Swine Specialists or Agricultural Representatives or from the Livestock Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

## Ontario Certified Raspberry Plants

In the Ontario Raspberry Plant Certification Program, plants free of viruses are propagated by qualified growers under strict regulations designed to prevent virus infection and to control crown gall, nematodes, and several other pests. Use of certified plants is recommended by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

In the past, virus diseases have caused low yields, crumbly berries, and short life of raspberry plantings. It is very important that healthy plants be used to start new plantings because once a plant is infected with a virus it does not recover, and all canes produced by it are also infected. Although such plants do not always show symptoms, their vigor is reduced. Viruses are spread mainly by certain species of aphids.

Each bundle of Certified plants will carry an official red tag issued by the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station. These tags are the seller's guarantee that the plants have been certified. Look for the words "Ontario Certified" in advertising to make sure that the plants are from the Ontario Program.

Further information may be obtained from the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario.

Vineland Station, or the Farm Products Inspection Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

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