

## Minister's Message

The plowshare stands as a symbol of peace and progress. Likewise Canada, where agriculture is vital to the economy, has enjoyed and continues to enjoy a greater measure of peace and progress than most other countries in the world. The International Plowing Match affords us all an opportunity to review agricultural progress that has been made, and to assess the equipment that is

available to this very important industry.

I want to congratulate those dedicated persons who have given so generously of their time and their talents to build this organization, and to make this year's Match possible. This is especially true of the Directors of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, the members of the local Committees in the host

county, and the staff of the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies Branch of our own Department. To be successful plowman you must have a good team. Teamwork is also necessary to create and carry out a successful Plowing Match.

Farm people are charged with a heavy responsibility, the care and management of our most priceless resource — the land. In many ways the land is like a bank or a sound investment, it will pay dividends and provide security. Ours is a responsibility to plow as much back into the soil as we take out, to fertilize, to conserve, to rehabilitate and to manage. We possess the technology and the equipment; are we prepared to invest the time and the effort?

My very best wishes to

the Ontario Plowmen's Association, the International Plowing Match and all other projects and activities of this important organization in 1971.



Agriculture Minister William A. Stewart officiates at the opening of the International Plowing Match. (Ag. Department Photo)

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## Peaches This Year Of Finest Quality

NELAND — Peaches the fruitlands of Ontario and southwestern Ontario now available on the fresh market are of the quality produced in Ontario for at least the last years, according to Tregunno, chairman of Ontario Fresh Fruit Growers' Marketing Board. Our overall crop this year is very good both for size, and the

weather has certainly helped us," says Mr. Tregunno. "Consumers can expect peaches of top quality that are distinctively tastier and sweeter and they are going to be in good supply at the markets."

Peaches are more climate-sensitive than any other fruit crop, and the favorable weather in July provided ideal conditions for the developing fruit,

improving both the sugar content and the flavor. Also the long delayed spring worked in favor of the peach growers by holding back blossom development until danger of frost damage had passed, assuring a larger crop this year.

Varieties now on the markets are of the early Red Haven type which have good eye appeal to match their texture and quality,

and supplies are steadily increasing.

This year's bigger crop means that more Golden Jubilee and Elberta peaches will be available for canning by Canadian processors. Edgar Wiltshire, chairman of the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers' Marketing Board which negotiates prices with the processors predicts that greater quantities will go for canning.

"Growers sold 12,000 tons for processing last year out of a total Ontario crop of 45,000 tons, and I am sure we can look for some increased buying this year when we have better crops of the varieties best suited for processing."

Ontario produces 80 per cent of Canada's peach crop and also the finest peaches in North America, thanks to the unique combination of

soil and climatic conditions found in the tender fruit areas of the province.

Shipments from Niagara and the Essex-Kent region of Ontario supply fresh markets in Canada from the Rockies to the Atlantic Provinces with the timing of picking the peaches being all important to make certain the fruit reaches its destination without losing any of the taste and texture which distinguishes Ontario peaches.

Although no official estimate of the crop value has been made, growers are confident that it will top the level of \$9 million set in 1970.

### Grazing May Lower Yields

GUELPH — In Ontario, cutting or grazing alfalfa during certain fall periods will lower the next year's yield or even cause winterkill. Prof. R.S. Fulkerson, crop science department, University of Guelph, says this critical fall harvest date is important for a healthy crop.

Alfalfa and other perennial forages must store food reserves to prevent them from dying over the winter. These reserves make the plant resistant to low winter temperatures and also help to initiate growth in the spring.

To store the most food, alfalfa should not be grazed or cut for three weeks before or after the critical fall harvest date. This date varies throughout Ontario, from about Oct. 1 in the southerly alfalfa-growing regions to approximately Sept. 10 in the more northerly areas.

After several severe frosts, late fall browsing can be resumed, says Professor Fulkerson. However, he cautions, never cut or graze too late in the fall. A minimum top of eight inches should be left to hold the snow, provide insulation against low temperatures and prevent ice sheets from forming on the crowns of the plants.

Winterkill can develop with continued early harvest of legumes. For the highest protein content, farmers are advised to cut the legume at the first flower stage. However, this does not permit sufficient time for root reserves to be replenished, and without reserve food, there is the danger of winterkill. Therefore, legumes harvested at the first flower stage should be allowed the entire fall period to replenish these reserves, says Professor Fulkerson.

One added measure, he says, is adequate fertility for the forage stand. This ensures good yields and persistence, since a good crop may remove over 200 pounds of potash and 50 pounds of phosphorus annually from the soil. For the best results, fertilize according to a soil test prior to the critical harvest date in your area.

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