

## Greenhouse Growing Increases In Haldimand

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In 1966 there were about three acres (121,000 sq. ft.) of greenhouses in Haldimand County. Most were glass-covered (only 20,000 sq. ft. were covered with plastic materials). Tomatoes were the leading crop, with cucumbers and bedding plants about equally divided between the remaining acreage.

A more recent survey in 1971, conducted by the soils and crops branch and farm products inspection branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, indicated a 32 per cent increase in greenhouse construction in the county, most of which was plastic covered, and an increase in the number of growers from 14 to 24.

Cucumber production was down over 50 per cent, while substantial increases were noted in tomato and bedding plants production. Bedding plants and flowers,

for example, increased from 28,000 sq. ft. to 70,000 sq. ft. These increased reflect similar expansion in other areas of Ontario. Although considerable capital is required to build and maintain productive greenhouses, it appears that as long as suitable markets for greenhouse products exist, a steady but not spectacular increase in small-greenhouse construction will continue in the immediate future in Haldimand county.

Large land holdings are not required, and as long as reasonably good, well-drained soil and a reliable supply of low-salt water are readily available, a small-greenhouse operation becomes feasible for many growers as a secondary enterprise.

More serious considerations must be given to construction of large units that will be the primary or only business of the operator. All aspects of the economics of production must be thoroughly looked into.

## Year Of Turbulence In Broiler Industry

For the year 1971 in the broiler field it has been without a doubt a year of turbulence to say the least. 1971 was the year of the infamous chicken and egg war. According to the politicians this has resolved itself. However, in reality, it is more evident now than ever before.

Broiler production in Canada has somewhat decreased this past year, over previous years. However, this being due mainly to the disastrous supply and price of pork. The future seems somewhat more pleasant, with pork swinging in an upward trend, we can look for a more stable price with possibly a slight increase in production for 1972.

During the year 1971 the boiler industry in Ontario has had to cope with many problems and most of them being caused by interests outside the province, so measures of control were almost impossible.

However, during the year which has just slipped by, this commodity group closely looked at feasible means in the implementation of a national marketing scheme. This of course, would be strictly a supply-management program, with all provinces abiding by set rules. Also we saw an attempt at a new pricing scheme, price-by-weight. However, most of the Ontario growers saw clear through the

crafty scheme of the integrator and promptly turned thumbs down to the proposal.

One item which was basically accepted by the Ontario growers was a federal levy which would act as a pot of gold in times of extreme back-logs and this then could be used on a sales incentive basis and move a large quantity of back log birds.

As for 1972, I believe we can look for an increase in chick costs and an increase in feed costs. The picture, however, is not all that bleak, with national marketing in the offing, we could be on the threshold of 1972 breakthrough, a whole new realm of communications and co-operation in the boiler industry.

This year will be a relatively stable one with a moderate strengthening of price. In all it looks like a good 1972.

## Corn Show

Continued From Page 1

Silages from Field to Manger will be discussed by Howard Henry (Production), Lyall MacLachlan (Economics), Martin Wrubleski (Equipment or Systems), Grant Richardson (Silage Conference Summary), followed by a question period.

Comments on the subject My Approach to Silage will be given at 2.30 p.m. by Fred Topp, Andy Elgersma and L.B. Mehlenbacher.

Award presentation will be made at 3 p.m.

## Stock Rot In Corn Crops

By Karl Bereza

Much lodging which occurred in the corn in 1971 that was attributed to corn borer was in fact due to stalk rots. These diseases are caused primarily by Gibberella and Diplodia species of fungi which are present on crop residue and in the soil.

Infection occurs while the seed is germinating, sometimes causing seedling blight, but the main injury shows as root, crown and stalk rot which becomes noticeable on the mature plants about harvest time.

The prevalence of stalk rots is dependent not only upon cool, moist conditions in which the fungus thrives best, but also on the amount of sugar accumulated and maintained within the plant. Loss of sugar lowers the plant's resistance to the fungi causing the diseases. Several stress factors lower sugar levels.

Leaf blight and overlapping leaf surfaces

due to narrow rows and high populations interfere with the manufacture of sugars. Excess nitrogen and a deficiency in potash mature plants too quickly thus lowering the sugar content. Drought or excess rain also cause plant stress affecting sugar levels.

Corn growers can do nothing about weather conditions, however, something can be done about the other stress factors. Fertility requirements should be balanced so as not to accelerate plant maturity.

Row widths less than 36 inches and plant populations greater than 21,000 probably cause plant stress.

In addition, other practices will minimize the incidence of stalk rots. Fall plow-down of crop residue lessens the amount of disease producing fungi. Crop rotation (except wheat) has the same effect.

Use of hybrids showing most resistance to stalk breakage is a definite asset. The full season, late mat-

uring hybrids retain sugar content longest, and therefore better resist the advance of rot producing organisms. Corn should also be harvested as soon as possible after maturity to minimize lodging.

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## Can Crop Association

The Haldimand, Welland and Lincoln Can Crop Association is important to vegetable growers in these counties.

Tomatoes, cucumbers, cauliflower, cabbage, peppers and other vegetables are grown.

Several meetings are held by the directors each year. The annual meeting is well attended and resolutions presented. Delegates attend the provincial convention in Hamilton and processors are invited.

Guest speakers Dr. Ernie Kerr, of Vineland Experimental Station, Ken Best of Cayuga addressed the group on Roadside Marketing.

Directors visited Ridgetown College and Vineland to learn about Test Trials, Direct Seeding and Mechanical Harvesting. They study farm magazine articles and college literature. They learn how to save on operation costs, better marketing of products and the most economical use of their equipment to provide a better income. Their objective is greater production with newer seeding methods in these changing times.

One of our directors has been elected to the provincial board. Two directors, flew to Russia, at their own expense, in 1971 and viewed agriculture in that country.

Plans for 1972 are: To bring cucumbers and cauliflower under the Farm Products Marketing Board.

To increase tonnage per acre. We are very much concerned about imports, which tend to present difficulties to our industry.

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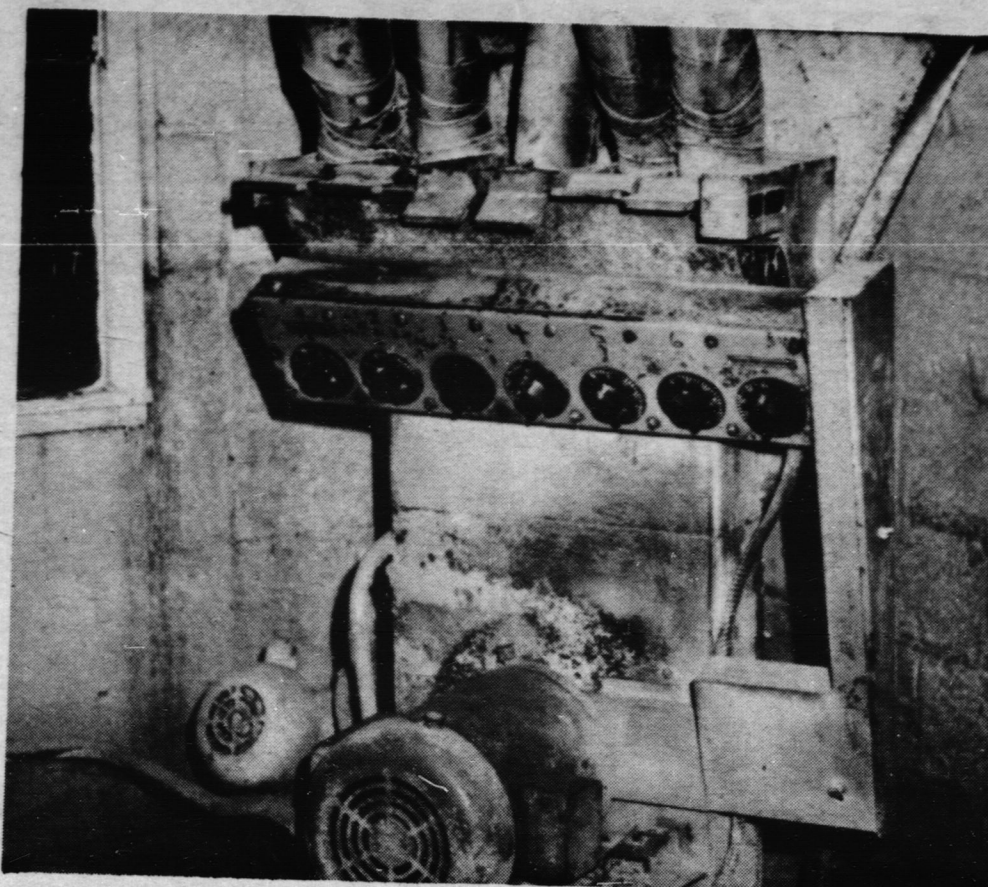
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## Zone 3 Sheep Breeders Association

A regional sheep show and support of 4-H Sheep Clubs in the area along with general problems pertaining to sheep are the main concerns of the Zone 3 Sheep Breeders' and Producers' Association.

Last year the association gave financial support to 4-H Sheep Clubs in Haldimand, Halton and North Niagara. As well, an additional sum was given to support Haldimand County's 4-H Manitoba exchange trip since a sheep club member, Alice Harvey took part in this exchange. To support these activities the association holds an annual draw.

The Regional Sheep Show is the main event of the season for the Zone 3 Association and for the past few years it has been held in conjunction with Caledonia Fair. The zone is comprised of the counties of Oxford, Brant, Waterloo, North York, Norfolk, Haldimand, Halton, Perth and the Niagara Region, and exhibitors at the show are generally restricted to this area.

As a service to sheeplemen in the area, the Sheep Show Committee invites the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited to the Zone show. In this way, the Co-op brings necessary sheep breeders supplies such as worming medicine and shearing equipment, into the area for the convenience of local sheep farmers, thus solving the problem of mail orders.

Zone 3 is one of five sheep zones in Ontario and elects two directors - one representing the purebred breeders and one representing the commercial breeders - to the board of directors of the Ontario Sheep Breeders' and Producers' Association.

Zone 3 representatives are Ralph Cooper, Smithville, for the purebreds, and Jim Barrie, Galt, for the commercial breeders. Wilson Douglas, Caledonia is the Zone 3 Chairman and Vice-Chairman is Murray Donovan, Ancaster.

## Haldimand Holstein Club

1971 was with out a doubt a very successful year for the members of the Haldimand Holstein Club. All events were very successful, especially the consignment sale held last October when 45 head sold for an average of \$675.88.

The most recent club activities was the annual banquet and dance when a record crowd of 325 persons enjoyed a excellent program to conclude a big year.

The directors of the Haldimand Holstein Club will endeavour to make 1972 an even more successful year and encourage all Holstein breeders and their friends to take part in and support all the Club activities.

The following is a brief list of events for 1972. Feb. 26, barn meeting, at Don and Bob Moerschfelders, Selkirk. March 20, bus trip to Wentworth County. April 5, 6, 7, selection of cattle for club sale. July 20, twilight meeting, at Crestvale Farms Caledonia. July 27, judging conference, at Sid Gill's, Welland. Sept. 29, black and white show, Caledonia Fair. Oct. 6, West Central Ontario Championship Show, Erin. Oct. 12, Haldimand Holstein Club consignment sale, Selkirk. Dec. 6, annual meeting, Kohler.

## HFA For Farmers

The Haldimand Federation of Agriculture is an organization of farmers; it is directed by farmers and exists to serve farmers. It is not an agency of government, in fact it has no political or religious affiliations at all.

H.F.A. is a member body of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture in Toronto. The organization keeps abreast of provincial and national events of concern to Ontario farmers.

As responsible as possible, it approaches its job of trying to protect the economic position of farmers.

O.F.A. supports marketing programs that benefit farmers, presses for government programs to aid farmer's and investigate the prices of farm supplies. Competition is instigated wherever a need is seen.

Farmers produce an abundance of high

The Jarvis Record, Thursday, March 9, 1972 - 3  
quality food. The Federation of Agriculture's efforts are directed for fair returns so that farmers may find their place in the sun.

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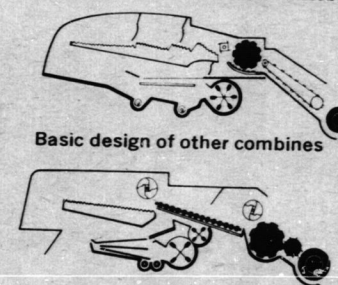
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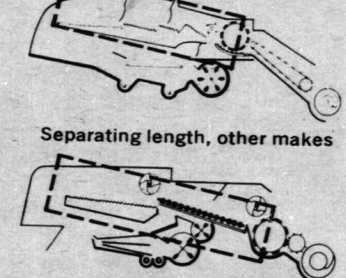
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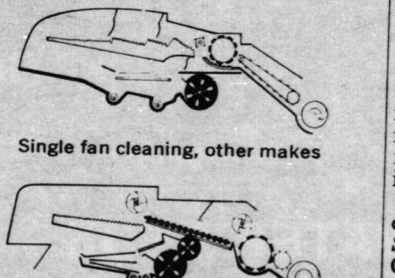
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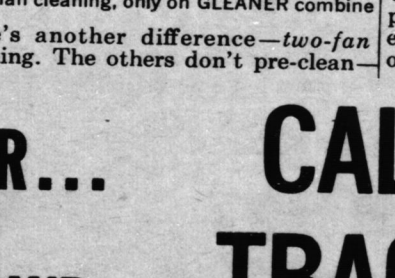


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