

FARM VIEW

44th year of publication!

A newspaper with something for everyone

July 2021 Volume 44 #07

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4-H member Alyssa with her dog Ava, taking a break after training learned in the 4-H Canine Club.

Complimentary copy for
the FARM household

Direct from the farm purchasing supports the local farmer

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Why is buying "direct from the farm" often more expensive than buying the same product produced by the same farmer at the big box chain store? This question is one that comes to farmers often that sell at Farmer's Markets or Farmgate Stands.

The short answer as to why the farmer has a higher price tag on farm grown products is because consumers are paying directly to the farmer. This farmer standing in front of you at the Market or the Stand has to make a profit from that product. That profit is needed to pay property taxes, fuel costs, mortgages, college tuition for the family's children, etc. The chain box store may not need any profit from that same farm product at all that week because it is part of the chain box store's "loss leaders" program.

Loss leaders are in simplest terms, the products featured on the first and the last page of the flyer. Chain box stores sell so many products that they can lose money on the "loss leaders" because once in the store, most people will buy enough regular price items to give the chain box store profit. With thousands of products in a chain box store, having a few sold for no profit does not hurt the chain box store's final profits at all. No farmer has thousands of products to sell- and instead, depends on each product to make them a profit.

"We cannot compete with loss leaders at the chain box store flyers. We don't even try," Lisa Cooper, who along with her husband own the Cooper CSA Farm in Zephyr. She says she's fully aware that people sometimes can get Ontario fresh produce cheaper from the chain box store certain weeks of the year compared to her farm prices, however, she said that the farms customers realize and prefer to support their local farmer with every dollar they spend.

Farmer's Markets are also not a discounted place to buy at. Purchases at the Farmer's Market are usually from the direct grower of that product as that is the mandate of many farmer's markets to sell only what one personally grows at their farm. Most smaller farms are diversified meaning the farms grow more than one product or one type of livestock. For example, beef cattle cannot be housed in the same space as pigs nor can they eat the same hay. For each segment of livestock production, there is a lot of money invested- and this is part of why buying from the smaller farmer at the Farmer's Market is expensive, to help cover those overhead costs. Further, livestock producers work with small abattoirs that cannot offer discounts to small farmers because again, they need that income to survive in a business that must comply with heavy government regulations. Lisa reports, "We, and other small farmers pay about \$1,000 to our local meat processor to get one beef broke down to sell whereas large corporations can have this done for 1/6th of the cost." It is no different for vegetable production. Large farms that have one product such as potatoes, need only one line of planting and harvesting equipment and one line of storage area needed for their large specialized operations so they can sell cheaper to box chain stores which in turn, means cheaper prices available at those stores.

"Some people realize that food is not just about "on sale" items. Food that is grown on a small scale and carefully is important to many people and that demand is increasing," Lisa says. She explains that her farm has laying hens that get pasture every day and eat only non-GMO feed. These pastured hens produce eggs that have more nutrients plus many people would argue they taste better compared to the eggs available on sale some weeks at a chain box store. Consumers that believe pastured hen's eggs are healthier and taste better have no issue in paying more money for eggs. Cooper CSA Farm eggs sell for \$7.50 a dozen and are so popular that special arrangements must be made to buy them as there is not even close to enough produced for the demand.

Today's consumers are becoming less and less interested in only pricing before they buy food. Diana R. from Holland Landing says she and her family want to know who produces their food and prefer to know the producer directly. She says, "We prefer buying direct from the farmer because we can see who is growing our food and know their practices. Even if a grocery store says it's from Ontario, you don't know which farm and you don't know how long it's been on the table or in their truck to get to the store. The farmer doesn't deliver direct to (the chain box store), it's still part of a longer supply chain," she says.

Freshness is highly important to today's consumer too. Diana realizes that fresh-from-the-field is a lot different than fresh picked a week ago. She says, "When I pick up my box of veggies (from the farm), they were generally just picked and that means they last longer at my house and taste fresher."

Small farmers often grow products that are different from the mainstream produce available at the grocery store. Farmers Markets offer that experience. Diana reports, "Some farmers focus on different types of produce that you won't find in common grocery stores. Browsing at a farmers market let's you get to know the different varieties and types of produce out there and discover something new. Finding a giant head of lettuce for \$2 that has amazing flavour can't compare with the nondescript version at my grocery store."

Supporting local may not be the cheapest option every week to the consumer, but it certainly is the option that helps the most to keep small local farmers in business.



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AUCTIONS?
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See page 18

Essa Townships best advocate of preserving and recording the municipality's history has died.

By Richard Blanchard

Long time Essa Historical Society secretary Olive Lee passed away in May at 77 years of age.

Olive, a long time resident of Thornton, joined the society in 1997 and became the society's secretary shortly afterward.

"Olive was such a driving force behind the society's projects for the past two decades. From so many of our plaques to our annual calendars and her authorship of several local histories of the township's villages and hamlets, she played a critical role in the society." Said society president Richard Blanchard.

Olive came by her love of township history easily. Born in the township, she lived there all her life until a recent move to the Muskoka area.

During her professional career, she worked as a secretary at several Barrie schools including over a decade at Barrie Central Collegiate and at the school board office in Midhurst.

She was a member of the Barrie Chapter of Professional Secretaries International (PSI) and obtained her CPS rating in 1988. She held many positions within PSI locally, provincially and internationally.

"Olive brought those strong organizational skills to the society. It was a great help to all of us on the executive," said society vice president John Beischer.

She and her husband, Ross Lee, were instrumental in producing annual calendars for over a decade and the erection of seven plaques through the township.

She and Ross also helped maintain many of the plaques after their erection.

"Olive especially enjoyed meeting with family members who contributed their family stories to those local histories," said Blanchard. She was crucial to the publication of histories of Ivy, Thornton, Egbert and Utopia in the past decade.

Most recently, Olive was involved in the society's unveiling of a plaque for the Nicolston cemetery in 2020.

Olive's service was recognized when she was elected to the Wall of Honour at the Museum on the Boyne in Alliston in 2012.

In addition to her husband, Ross, she is survived by her sons Allan and Ralph (Cindy) Blakely and by her sister, Elenore Helmer. She was predeceased by her husband, Jim Blakely, and her brothers, Fred and Mervyn. A memorial service is planned for the future.



Olive Lee at the unveiling of the West Essa plaque in 2018 with then Essa Mayor Terry Dowdall.

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Do you want more news from your farm community?
Send us your pictures and reports and they will be included in the next issue. Be sure to include a contact name and number.

Contact information on page 4.

After The Chores: Bad drama for the Llama

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



This long night of chores, I was about to close the front door- when I noticed there was an empty pen. The pen belonging to Hummer. Pandee was lying down in his spot beside the empty llama pen per usual. Pandee was almost asleep.

There are no fences from the barn to the quiet sideroad we live on. We have paddocks for the sheep but it is wide open otherwise. Hummer could be anywhere. I was picturing Hummer getting hit on the road- or llama loping into the next County. Hummer wears no collar or halter so catching him would be impossible. The only way to move a Hummer is with a bucket of grain and call his name. So for the third time this longest night, I put the lights back on. I then went to find a grain bucket and some grain. I had to find Hummer, there was going to be no peace for me until I found my llama friend.

There was no moon, not even a star out in this pitch black night. I debated on what to do. The idea of waking up Sweetie to go llama hunting was officially last resort. The idea of going to the house for the big flashlight was placed second and first plan was to walk the property by the house and call out for my long necked friend.

I called out plenty around the yard- and nothing answered. I shook the grain pail and called out again to Hummer nothing. Now I'm in full out panic stricken terror that my llama friend is really gone somewhere. Pray. I should learn to pray as first resort not third plan. With prayers for Hummer,

calling out Hummer's name and shaking the grain bucket all at the same time, out POPPED Hummer into the yard light scaring me nearly to bits. With no resistance, Hummer trotted behind me to the barn to get into his pen for his grain per usual. It took me half an hour to recover from the experience. Hummer had eaten and was lying down ready for sleep when I finally got the barn lights turned off for this long night.

It seemed that Hummer was angry from being left out that night and all the bad drama that was caused from that. He was in a bad mood the next week or so. He almost got himself put on a livestock truck as he was suddenly mean and rude to the sheep. Hummer forgot his manners.

Observation is the key to farming. Any body can put water and feed into a pen for animals, but only a farmer can observe an animal and figure out if the animal is well or not well. I observed Hummer. He was healthy but he was "mentally off" being irritable and angry. I watched him carefully- and realized that he was being "picked on." Hummer is a natural born guardian, he takes care of his flock of sheep and watches them all, baby lambs included. When he gets upset with the sheep, he will paw using his front hoof but will never make contact with a sheep. When he gets very angry, his ears go flat and he will puff air in the animal's faces that he is angry at.

Hummer's "bullies" were three week old kid goats. The kids were marching into Hummer's pen at grain time through the big hole left open we have for Pandee to visit his father. The kids that weighed about 15 pounds each at most would put their little faces into Hummer's grain bucket- and the 300 pound 7 foot tall llama did his best to get them out of there. Hummer pawed and huffed and puffed- while watching the kids eat all his grain. The gentle llama was full out beaten by the little goats.

I apologized to Hummer. First, about forgetting about him outside that night. Second, about him getting picked on by those kid grain bandits. The old plastic sled I tucked



It is chore time. Chore time is known by Hummer the llama here as he gets in place waiting for his grain snack.

— Photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

away fit into Hummer's manger so that I could wedge in a grain bucket at his eye level. Hummer now had his own high grain feeding station that nobody but he could reach.

I still was feeling guilty about Hummer going through so much bad llama drama making him feeling so bad that he nearly got sent out of here. I was putting the grain into the sheep's grain buckets one day and spied Hummer through the window. I opened the window and Hummer walked up to me. I put the grain bucket on the windowsill and offered Hummer a grain snack from the bucket. I didn't think Hummer would remember but now, he's at the window every night. I pet Hummer while he serves himself now from the grain bucket. I consider this a "bonding session" and this bonding could well be handy if I ever get forgetful again on a long night of chores.

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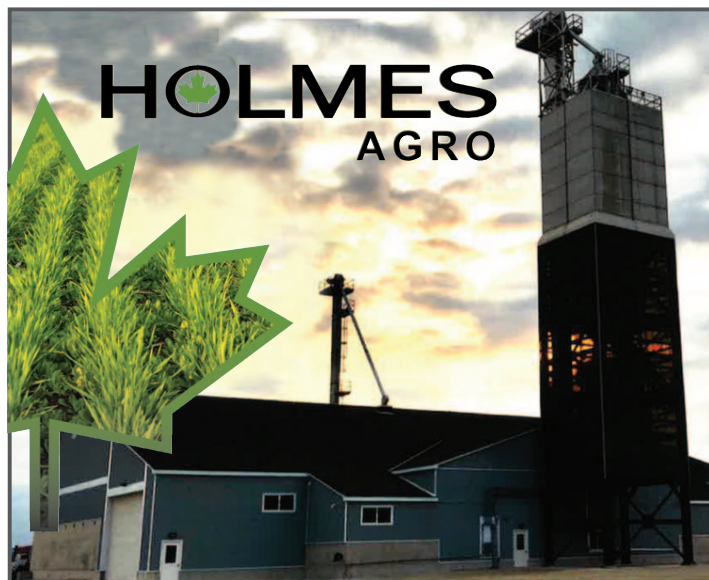
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Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Scholarship Winner

Grey Bruce Farmers' Week has been a main stay for the agricultural industry in Grey and Bruce Counties since 1966. The featured commodities have evolved as the area's agricultural focus has changed, but the mandate to provide information to producers and agribusiness has remained firm. Producers have supported our programming for 55 years, so the committee would like to give back to the community. With that mandate in mind, the Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Committee has established an annual \$1000 Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Prize in conjunction with the University of Guelph, Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), to recognize new veterinarians entering food animal practices serving producers in Grey and Bruce Counties. This award recognizes the individual's past accomplishments, but also encourages their future contributions, and commitment to our rural communities.

On June 12, 2021, the OVC Class of 2021 Virtual Veterinary Oath Ceremony took place. The GBFW Committee was delighted to watch this ceremony and to announce that Dr. Heather Reinhardt is the recipient of the 2021 GBFW award.

Heather grew up in South Bruce County (Teeswater), on a small dairy farm. The farm has been in their family for four generations. Since Heather was a young child, she has been highly involved in the farm work. She much

preferred being out in the barn caring for all the calves or kittens than spending time in the house. Heather was an active member of the local dairy 4-H club. She started riding horses at the age of 11. Although the farm was mostly dairy cattle, when she was a teenager, she purchased a few sheep and started her own small sheep flock.

During her undergraduate degree Heather was fortunate to gain experience working in the swine industry. She managed a sow barn, and worked for



Southwest Vets, a swine specialty veterinary clinic. Prior to attending veterinary school, Heather completed a Master of Science Degree in livestock nutrition.

Heather always wanted to be a veterinarian; however, over the years, many experiences and mentors influenced and shaped her reasons for pursuing this career. Heather loves animals and has a deep passion to help them and work with them. Being a veterinarian will allow her to blend that passion with a desire to be involved in agriculture and production medicine.

Heather views veterinary medicine as an opportunity for a diverse career path with many different areas of interest and opportunity. Veterinarians are not only involved in health management of food animal production systems but also are highly involved in production management. Heather chose to serve in a large animal practice as that is where her roots lie. She is so excited to be working within the agriculture community and have the opportunity to work alongside the hard-working families that provide us with our food. She is also pleased to return to her hometown region and provide support to her family run dairy farm.

Dr. Reinhardt is currently employed at the Walkerton Hanover Veterinary Clinic, and the Walkerton Equine Clinic. She will be performing a diverse set of roles and services within the clinics. It may be too early to ask Heather what her specialty will be, but she is hopeful that her training in livestock nutrition will be a unique asset to the clinics, in addition to her passion for production management. She is looking forward to beautiful sunny days on the road, driving around the countryside and chatting with local farmers about cows and other livestock!

The Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Committee congratulates Dr. Heather Reinhardt, and wishes her all the best in her future endeavours!



Dr. Heather Reinhardt



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South Simcoe 4-H clubs report on their activities

Cookstown 4-H Beef Club News Report

By Madeleine Cullen

On May 26th the Cookstown 4-H Beef club held our third meeting on Zoom. We had a guest speaker, Christine Ryan who's occupation is a large animal veterinarian in the Barrie area. She presented a wonderful and educational slide show on herd health and vaccinations. She discussed herd health programs to members and answered many questions. She played a cow breed guessing game with 15 photos of different breeds of cattle. The member with the most correct received a prize. Our president Emma Hulse said the 4-H pledge and 4-H motto. We all learned a lot and had a great evening on Zoom.

On June 9th the Cookstown 4-H Beef club held our fourth meeting on Zoom. We discussed local fairs that are cancelled in our county and alternative plans that we will need to create for our achievement day. We discussed the virtual judging competition and what is required from the members in our club. We learned how to judge beef replacement heifers at this meeting. We made notes and gave a set of reasons for our placements. Lynn Gilpin gave the official placement of the class. We discussed appropriate times to visit our 4-H beef animal projects and that we should call the day before to make sure it is okay to work with the animal we have been assigned. We repeated the 4-H motto and pledge. We had a great meeting and are excited to do the county virtual judging competition.

South Simcoe Garden Club 4-H News Report

By Isabella Cullen

We opened with the 4-H pledge at the South Simcoe 4-H Garden club's meeting on June 2nd. We viewed a video about Canada blooms. We saw amazing flower arrangements and creative garden displays. Lots of great ideas. We talked about what we were all planting and growing for the season and a bit about our garden journals.

Our leaders introduced us to the Ontario judging and exhibiting standards. We discussed how to prepare vegetables and flowers to be shown properly at our achievement day. Did you know to trim the carrot top approximately 1.3 cm above the crown, potatoes should be brushed clean so as not to

damage the skin and tomatoes the calyx should be attached if you were planning to show it at a fair.

We learned that we need to know the differences between a spray, bloom and a stem to make sure we get our flower entries correct. We judged asparagus and rhubarb to prepare for the virtual judging event. There was a slight difference in everyone's final placements, but most of us learned that you should pull rhubarb.

The leaders told us they would email us last years entry list and for us to let them know what we were hoping to show for this year so changes can be made if required. It was another great learning meeting.

Canine Club News Report

By Jessa Bray

We have had an amazing start to our Canine Club. Our club has done many exciting things including having Sarah and her super collie, Hero. We sure did see them do some awesome tricks. Another amazing visitor that we have had was Tanya from The Tiny Paws Company. She taught us all about how to take care of our dogs' grooming needs and to know when to take them to a professional. Last but not least, we had Jane from the COPE support dogs program. She showed us some of the amazing commands they teach with black lab, Sierra, that are used to help people with physical disabilities. The COPE dogs also visit schools and hospitals to help children and adults during tough times. Then we enjoyed learning a little bit about dogs with jobs. That was just the first three meetings and we can't wait to have more!

Cookstown & Everett 4-H Sheep Club Report

By Morgan Gilpin

The Cookstown & Everett 4-H Sheep club had their 3rd meeting Monday June 14th online using zoom. The president opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with the minutes of our last meeting. Tonight's roll call was what is your favorite breed of sheep. We discussed this year's virtual judging competition that started Monday June 14th and will run for the week ending Friday June 18th. The judging competition is mandatory for all members in a livestock club. Thank you to the committee who could make the virtual judging competition happen. Our leader Grant Cowan showed us two videos about what to look for when judging market lambs, which is a reason's class at this year's judging competition and how to start training your lamb for the season. We also discussed what this year's achievement day will look like with the current Covid 19 restrictions. Our meeting ended in two exciting Kahoot games that were created on showmanship and general animal care. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm with the 4-H motto Learn To Do By Doing.



4-H member Morgan Gilpin and his lamb Buttercup.



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Fun at South Simcoe 4-H

4-H Go For The Gold Club Report

By Abby Patton

The South Simcoe Go For the Gold club met for the third time. At this meeting we explored all things bread with Breadventure! Did you know that yeast needs to be put in water to be woken up before you can use it? Next we learned about Farm Machinery. We went through all the different symbols you could see on a tractor dashboard and what they mean. Then we broke into breakout rooms and made questions so we could quiz each other. Next meeting we will be learning about Llamas and fitness.

Cookstown and Everett Judging 4-H Club

By Brooklynn Downey

On May 24th, we had our fourth meeting. We had one of our leaders teach us how to judge apples. With an upcoming judging competition, we watched a video on how to judge market steers. We are looking forward to our next meeting, where we will be giving our reasons from the virtual judging competition.

4-H Cookstown Mini Horse Club

By Isabella Cullen

May 27th was an exciting night on Zoom. We all got together to start the 4-H Cookstown Mini Horse club season! We opened with the 4-H pledge. Members introduced themselves and told everyone their expectations for the season. Our executive is as follows President Arley Cochrane, Vice Amber Folliott, Secretary Jaiden Van Kolschoten and News Reporter Isabella Cullen. We talked about getting our mini horses registered in Assist Expo on our laptops. We talked about the club requirements. A senior returning member created and had the members play a couple of kahoots. Kahoots are quizzes in case you didn't know what they are. You play them on technology and running results are live. Its amazing to see who goes up because they are getting answers correct and who goes down because they are learning and guessing. It also tracks if you are on a streak. Over all they are a lot of fun and a great learning opportunity to test your knowledge. We adjourned the meeting by repeating the 4-H motto learn to do by doing.



Two hillbillies were sipping shine on the front porch when a truck went past loaded up with rolls of sod.

"I'm a-gonna do that when I win that there lottery," announced hillbilly #1.

"Do wut?" Asked hillbilly #2.

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Sample of Springwater Project

Photos and story provided by Flos Agricultural Society

The Flos Agricultural Society ran a successful project on June 12th called "A Sample of Springwater." We wanted to bring a little bit of Elmvale Fair food, activities that families could enjoy safely as well as items to promote the wonderful agricultural heritage that we are so fortunate to be part of. Candy Floss, Kettle Corn, honey, crafts, gardening supplies, novelties, recipes and lots more were in this pre-packaged bag. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we were able to offer it for only \$20.

The public's interest overwhelmed us and over 150 bags were sold within 48 hours!

Successful buyers safely received their bags by way of a drive-thru curbside pick-up, following current health & safety guidelines.

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you'd like to share?**

Email us at farmview@on.aibn.com

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

A little more Canadian humour...

- Name the two seasons of Canada. Winter and July.
- Did you know that Canada has a real hard water problem? Most of the time, it's frozen.
- A Canadian went into a Tim Horton's and noticed there was a "Roll Up The Rim To Win" Contest. So, he rolled up the rim of his coffee and started yelling, "I've won a motor home! I've won a motorhome!" The girl at the counter said, "That's impossible. The biggest prize is a car." The person shouted, "No, it's not a mistake. I've won a motorhome!" He handed the Cup to the girl who read: "WIN A BAGEL"

New Improved Ontariohaylistings.ca

The Ontario Hay Listings is new and improved! Until now, the site has provided an avenue for buying/selling only hay, straw and biomass products. In an effort to improve the site and provide increased value to our producers, the categories have been expanded to include everything from manure exchange to the labour to shovel it! There is always room for expansion and improvement, so if you have something forage-related to advertise that isn't included, please let us know.

The process has been simplified and you don't require a user account to post an add. Simply fill in the form and click post. The site will remember your information for your next ad.

New available categories include:

- Hay/straw wanted/for sale
- Switchgrass and Miscanthus wanted/for sale
- Cover crop grazing opportunities – Do you have a cover crop you would like grazed, or are you seeking winter grazing opportunities?
- Farm Labour
- Equipment - limited to forage equipment
- Manure Exchange – Do you have excess manure, or are you seeking it for your land?
- Hay Hauling and Transport

Canadian Culture

This puzzle is from <https://thewordsearch.com>

N	O	V	A	S	C	O	T	I	A	H	S	N	A
I	S	I	O	D	Y	A	D	A	D	A	N	A	C
I	I	H	F	A	F	G	N	I	I	K	S	F	P
D	R	D	N	O	N	E	T	O	R	O	N	T	O
L	E	I	N	R	A	S	N	L	G	O	O	S	E
O	V	V	G	M	A	P	L	E	S	Y	R	U	P
C	A	E	D	N	G	I	R	O	A	R	N	I	I
R	E	R	E	G	I	E	E	R	D	E	E	E	H
I	B	S	F	G	A	L	I	F	E	T	E	H	O
C	C	E	P	C	A	N	R	O	R	N	F	C	C
W	O	N	S	E	R	S	A	U	U	I	F	C	K
M	A	P	L	E	L	E	A	F	C	W	O	K	E
R	R	R	G	N	I	H	S	I	F	E	C	I	Y
C	R	D	E	F	R	E	V	U	O	C	N	A	V



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