

FARM VIEW

44th year of publication!

A newspaper with something for everyone

June 2021 Volume 44 #06

Inside this issue:

Meet the Cooper family at the Cooper's CSA Farm

Dr. Pol from the Dairy XPO shares his secret to a succesful attitude

OFA working to protect Ontario's farmland

The season of severe weather: Are you ready?

South Simcoe 4-H report on their activities



Lisa Cooper from Cooper's CSA Farm displays the herbs growing in the greenhouse.

Complimentary copy for the FARM household

AGcalendar

Farm View's Ag Calendar is free to non-profit agricultural groups, up to a maximum of 40 words. All others are invoiced at \$25 per month. Please note the format of the listings below and submit your item by mail or email, in a similar fashion.

June 15th: News and Advertising Deadline

The advertising and news deadline for the July issue of Farm View is **Tuesday, June 15th**

June 20th - 26th: GTHS Walkathon

#GTHSWalkYourWay2021

Come together and walk apart. Not a walker? No problem! Try a YOGAthon, RUNathon, BIKEathon or SWIMathon – whatever activity brings you, your family or your pet the most joy. Events like Walkathon support essential programs and services that help thousands of pets and people in our community each year.

Full details are at <https://www.gths.ca/2021-walkathon-your-way/> Get involved today!

June 25th: SCFA Scholarship applications due

The Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture is offering scholarships for students enrolled in college or university level agricultural programs. Full details can be found on their website. <https://www.simcoecountyfa.org/scholarship>

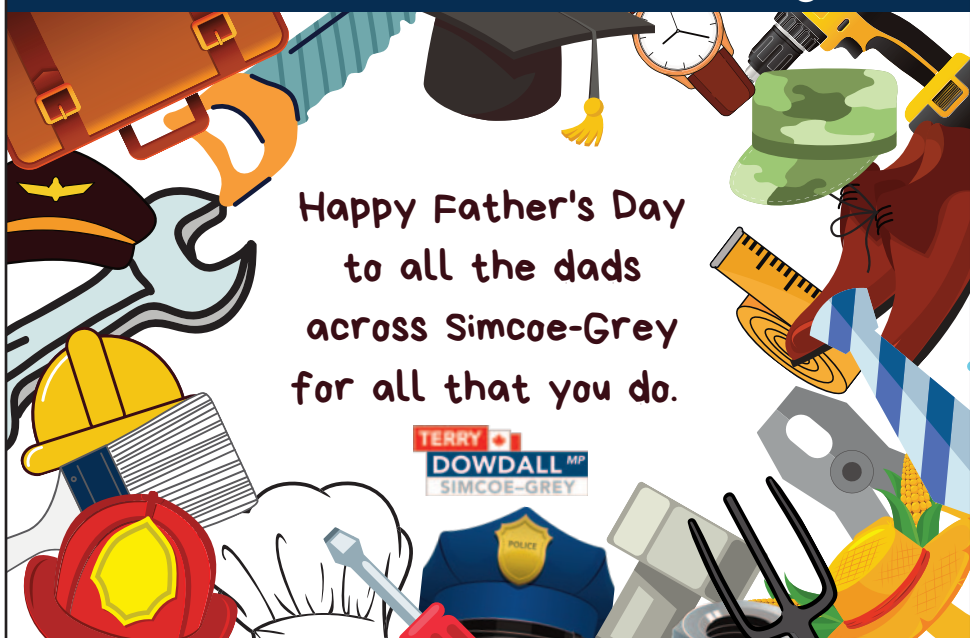
June 30th: North Simcoe SCIA Scholarship applications due

The North Simcoe Soil and Crop Improvement Association has a scholarship for students enrolled in an agricultural program at a college or university.

Applications are available from **David Spring, 2451 County Rd 92 RR #2 Elmvalle, ON L0L 1P0**

Applications must be returned to David Spring no later than June 30th, 2021.

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Worth a Chuckle...

and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

Two friends were chatting one day...

"I hear you named your sisters children."

"Yes, I named the girl Denise."

"What did you name the boy?"

"Denephew."

Flaky strawberry cream pie

As summer approaches I wanted to share my favourite strawberry recipe of the season from Canadian Living.

— Roslyn



6 sheets phyllo pastry thawed
3 tablespoons butter melted
2 teaspoons granulated sugar

Filling:

454 g strawberries hulled and sliced (about 3 cups)
1/2 cup strawberry jam
1/4 cup each cornstarch and granulated sugar
4 teaspoons lime juice

Whipped Cream:

1 cup whipping cream 35%
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Filling: In saucepan, cook strawberries, jam, cornstarch, sugar and lime juice over medium-low heat, stirring often, until thickened, syrupy and strawberries are beginning to break down, about 12 minutes. Strain through fine-mesh sieve into bowl, pressing gently on solids with back of spoon. Place plastic wrap directly on surface; refrigerate until chilled, about 4 hours. (Make-ahead: Refrigerate for up to 24 hours.)

Crust: While filling is chilling, place 1 sheet of the phyllo on work surface with long end facing you; keep remainder covered with damp towel (to prevent drying out). Brush phyllo lightly with some of the butter; sprinkle with one-quarter of the sugar. Top with 1 phyllo sheet; brush lightly with some of the butter. Cut stack into quarters to make 4 rectangles. Repeat with remaining phyllo to make 12 rectangles, keeping finished sheets covered with damp towel when not using.

Press 1 rectangle, butter side down, into 9-inch (23 cm) pie plate, leaving 1 short end hanging over edge by 3 inches (8 cm). Repeat with remaining rectangles, overlapping and going around entire rim. Lift overhanging phyllo over edge of pie plate, gathering and crumpling slightly to make ruffled edge. Brush crust with remaining butter; sprinkle with remaining sugar.

Bake on bottom rack of 350°F (180°C) oven until bottom and edge are deep golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes; if necessary, cover edge with foil to prevent overbrowning. Let cool completely.

Whipped Cream: In bowl, beat cream with vanilla until stiff peaks form.

Assembly: Spoon filling into crust. Spoon whipped cream onto centre.

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OFA vows to protect Ontario's farmland with new advocacy campaign

Farmland that supports food production is a finite and shrinking resource. Once it's paved over, it's gone forever. That's the message behind Home Grown, a new advocacy campaign launched by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA). Home Grown focuses on protecting and preserving farmland and domestic food production. The campaign, which launched earlier this month, aims to increase awareness on the issue and enhance consumer knowledge about the negative impacts of urban development on Ontario's agri-food system.

Farmland preservation is vital to ensure the next generation has a strong, reliable food supply. However, urban sprawl is threatening the viability and sustainability of productive farmland in Ontario. Based on data from the latest Census of Agriculture (2016), approximately 175 acres of farmland is being lost every day to urban development in our province.

"When you look at your breakfast plate, the wheat in your bread, the milk in your glass, the strawberries in your jam; these things all come from a farmer," said Peggy Brekveld, OFA President. "We have a choice to make – we need to decide if farmers are going to continue to grow food right here at home, for all Ontarians to enjoy, making a difference in our economy, our environment and our rural communities, or if that farmer is going to be feeding us from somewhere else."

The harsh reality is that only 5% of Ontario's landscape can support the growth of food for human consumption. With an ever-growing population, that means farmers are dealing with added pressure by having to produce more yield with less inputs and a declining land base. The agri-food sector depends on farmland to effectively produce food, fibre and fuel for the province.

OFA understands that urban growth and development matters. It's important for economic growth and prosperity for the province. But where our food comes from matters too. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the demand for local food production. Consumers, now more than ever before, are looking for locally grown produce, meats and dairy products.

When it comes to growth, the government has the authority to determine where and how urban development happens using Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs). The government has the ability to bypass long-standing land use processes and rezone farmland for urban uses. Since the beginning of the pandemic, an MZO has been used six times in Ontario.

At the current rate, we are losing an average of five farms per week to urban development. Along with farmland, significant wetlands, key shorelines, and forests are being threatened by urban sprawl. If this continues, the whole province will feel the effects.

Farmers grow and produce more than 200 different fruits, vegetables, grains and livestock, provide nearly 1 million jobs in the agri-food sector, and contribute more than \$47 billion to the provincial economy.

"If Ontario is currently losing 175 acres per day, take a moment to think about how many carrots, strawberries or potatoes that is," explained Brekveld. "Once farmland is turned into pavement or concrete, its ability to grow food never comes back."

Domestic food production is vital to consumers and the economy. It's safe, sustainable and reliable. OFA urges the prioritization of farmland protection and preservation to ensure Ontario has viable farmland to grow grains, fruits and vegetables and raise our livestock for meat, poultry and dairy.

OFA encourages everyone to help protect our farms and food forever by engaging in the campaign and signing the online petition. Join the more than 3,700 people who have already signed on and make change happen today. The petition and more details about the campaign, can be found at homegrown.ofa.on.ca.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, representing 38,000 farm families across the province. As a dynamic farmer-led organization based in Guelph, the OFA works to represent and champion the interests of Ontario farmers through government relations, farm policy recommendations, research, lobby efforts, community representation, media relations and more. OFA is the leading advocate for Ontario's farmers and is Ontario's voice of the farmer. For more information, visit ofa.on.ca.

OFA Federation of Agriculture REPORT



On the Cover

Lisa Cooper of Cooper's CSA Farm is featured in one of the family's greenhouses. Read about the family and the farm on page 8.

—Photo by Roslyn Watkins

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is June 15th**

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FROM THE EDITOR

It has certainly been a quiet few weeks here at Farm View working on the June issue. Which means that all of you in the agricultural business have been and are very busy preparing for another season. On behalf of all us who eat, let me take this opportunity to say thank you. We appreciate you and the hard work that is involved in feeding our population.

A few weeks ago I received this letter to the editor which piqued my interest. I have also questioned why there seems to be such a significant price range when buying local goods at the box store vs. from the farm store vs. the farm stand vs. the Farmer's market. Cathy Hamill Hill does an excellent job introducing us to the Cooper Family who operate 400 acres of farmland. Next month Cathy will get into explaining the price differences in all our shopping options. If you would like to comment on this subject, write in and share your questions or viewpoints. Perhaps you own or operate a pick your own field or farm store and would like to share your insight with the readers.

As part of the Cooper CSA Farm story for this issue I took a trip to Cooper's CSA farm and what an eye opener that was. I strongly recommend that if you are a reader who hasn't experienced the every day work involved in preparing and planting for a new season, take some time once Covid permits to tour a farm. Consider the acreage involved, the repair of anything a rough winter has ruined, the labour required for a successful season, only a few examples of the work involved in putting meals on our tables.

Another eye opener for me this month is a statement from the OFA in the article on page 3. The OFA reports that "The harsh reality is that only 5% of Ontario's landscape can support the growth of food for human consumption. With an ever-growing population, that means farmers are dealing with added pressure by having to produce more yield with less inputs and a declining land base. The agri-food sector depends on farmland to effectively produce food, fibre and fuel for the province." Hopefully more and more people will join in on the discussion and preservation of our farmland.

As it is June and the kick off to the summer season, some of you may have the opportunity for a little R and R. Dennis Gannon has written an excellent column on fire safety for your trailer or RV. Lots of great points to ensure a fun and safe getaway for your family and friends.

As we are still experiencing Covid restrictions and for a lot of us, getting away may prove difficult to do, I'd like to share a few behaviours of one of our beloved dogs, Temari.

Follow her example and you may well feel like you are on vacation at a lovely resort somewhere.

- 1) Drive with the windows down and your face tilted to the breeze.
- 2) Nap in the sun, nap in the shade, nap in the sun, nap in the shade. As long as possible.
- 3) Eat like you're at a buffet and the calories don't count.
- 4) Love with your whole heart, no matter what.

Take care of yourselves and one another,
Roslyn

LETTERS**Buying local? Let's investigate**

Dear Farm View,

A recent article in the April issue briefly spoke of a strong "buy local" mandate as a "first priority in COVID-19 recovery" with the argument that big box store prices are cheaper. We've all been impacted by this pandemic and now, more than ever, is time to support each other because we most certainly are all in this together.

As a backyard farmer with a modest garden, local versus big box costs piqued my interest because it's something I've always wanted to know and understand more fully. Our region is blessed with prime farmland and local roadside stands/stores. For a family with a very limited budget, I've always tried to understand why local roadside farmers charge so much, sometimes more than double the price of big box. Even prices at pick-your-own farms are high when you've done all the labour. Some local farmers also provide produce to local big supermarkets where prices are the same or lower than their own roadside stand. Knowing the profit margins at supermarkets and their propensity for taking more than 60 days to pay their suppliers, has the farmer truly profited? Even municipalities with Farmers Markets seem to restrict vendors to those that are more expensive despite publicizing their support for small business and residents.

The article stated "Purchasing local...will build loyalty and people will follow the example that will eventually lead to a closer community that will benefit all." I'm all for buying and supporting local but at what cost? Truly we are all in this together and we need to support everyone in our community – embracing the loyalty of a closer community that benefits all, not just some.

Angie Belanger

Thank you Angie for writing in. Your excellent letter to the editor raises very good questions. I'm looking forward to discovering along with our readers next month what can cause higher rates or prices where we would typically think it would be cheaper.

– Roslyn

**Knowledge is knowing a
tomato is a fruit;
Wisdom is not
putting it in a
fruit salad.**

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KEVIN BARKER AUCTIONS in Lindsay

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The Farm View is also available online at
www.farmviewonline.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Farm View invites letters to the editor. They should be fewer than 300 words and deal with a single topic affecting farmers. All letters must be signed, including your full name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to editing for brevity.

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**44th Anniversary
FARM VIEW**



**In memory of
Jill Beischer**

Farm View attempts to present a forum for varying points of view from the agricultural community. Editorial opinions are freely expressed by individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the executives or directors of the federations unless specifically noted.

**"Burn down your cities and leave our farms,
and your cities will spring up again as if by
magic, but destroy our farms and the grass
will grow in the streets."**

W.J. Bryan

OFA Members Service Representative:

Leah Emms 1-866-660-5511 email: Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:

Keith Currie: 705-444-1398 email: keith.currie@ofa.on.ca

2020-2021 Executive – Simcoe County

Chairman:	Dave Ritchie	705-534-4017
Vice President:	Paul Maurice	705-427-3126
PAC Members:	Dave Ritchie	
SCFA Phone:	705-726-9300 ext 1224	
	office@simcoecountyfa.org	

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Contact YRFA:	york@ofa.on.ca	

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Severe weather: Are you ready?

By Dennis Gannon

It's summer time. The sun has been shining, the temperature high and the wind gently blowing. The crops are growing and the people have been flocking to the beach. Within a short time, it gets cloudy and almost dark. The wind starts picking up and in the distance there might be the sound of rumbling thunder. Soon, it is raining heavily and the winds are swirling tossing unsecured items all over the place. In Ontario this type of scenario can occur frequently. Severe weather, the type that causes heavy damage to agriculture, generally comes to us in the summer months. If we look back in history, on August 7, 1979 a F4 Tornado struck the Woodstock Ontario area. Unfortunately 2 people perished, 142 were injured and scores of farms and buildings were destroyed. It is reported that a forty foot silo, constructed of concrete six inches thick toppled over. Barns and homes were totally destroyed and countless vehicles upheaved and damaged. Less than 10 years later on May 31, 1985 a series of tornadoes touched down in the Grand Valley to Barrie area. Two people died in the Grand Valley area, two died in the Tottenham area and eight people perished in Barrie. The main tornado was also a F4, the second highest on the scale. Then in the Midland area on June 23, 2010, this time a F2 tornado struck the area. Significant damage occurred. The area from Windsor to the Muskokas has been described as the Canadian Tornado Alley. An area where tornadoes are likely to occur frequently. And large urban areas aren't the only area in which this occurs. Most tornadoes are smaller in nature and occur in open spaces such as the Elmville tornado which happened on June 2, 1998. With this one a portion of the co-op building roof was torn off, two heavy manure spreaders were thrown hundreds of meters away and large trees and hydro poles were snapped off as well a chemical storage building was moved off of its foundation. Three other tornadoes were reported in southern Ontario that day. Last year the Northern Tornado Project reported that in Ontario there were 42 tornadoes in total. In this area alone the mapping shows ten incidents where damage occurred.

Environment Canada, our official weather forecasting organization, issues Watches and Warnings for different weather situations which occur. In the summer these include watches and warnings for thunderstorms which includes hail, damaging winds and heavy rain. Tornado watches and warnings include conditions that are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms with one or more tornadoes or that tornadoes are in fact occurring.

In the agriculture community it is important to be prepared for severe weather events whether they are thunderstorms, damaging winds or tornadoes. So how can you be prepared? Every agriculture operation should have an Emergency Plan. Similar to a Fire Safety Plan that everyone should have, it will provide directions on what to do in the event of an emergency. The plan should include a drawing of your property, the building locations and what is normally in them. Hydro, gas and propane shut off locations are key so that the service may be isolated. The plan should indicate who is responsible for what actions to take in the event of an emergency. Develop a contingency plan so that in advance you know who can look after your livestock if barns or dairy parlors are damaged or destroyed. Unfortunately there may be damaged buildings or other property and equipment. Where can this debris be disposed of and who can do it. A list of people connected to your operation should be available in the case they need to be contacted to assist. This could include family members who do not live on site, employees or suppliers of feed or equipment. A key to a good plan is to have and

maintain in several locations an up to date list of emergency contacts. The list should include your insurance agent or broker, gas supplier, hydro company and others who can assist in getting the operation up and going again. We all rely on our cell phones these days and often these numbers are located in them. If they are lost or destroyed the numbers can be lost and valuable time is required to find them. Keep hard copies of the required information in several locations including with key employees, family members who do not live on the property and in your vehicles. The time spent now in obtaining and recording this information is invaluable in the event of an emergency. Oftentimes farm records are kept on a computer. Backup all your information and keep a copy on an external harddrive off location.

You, your family and employee safety is important to the continued operation of your agriculture activity. When planning for the day check the weather forecast. There are many apps available for use on smartphones. They can provide forecasts up to several days in advance and even minute by minute. These apps are generally free and some include radar which can assist in seeing where storms are headed and at what time. Environment Canada has WeatherCan, there is Storm Radar, Instant Weather and TMRW Weather, all free for smartphones. Lighting detection can be seen across the world with RealTimeLightning. There are also weather radios that broadcast current and forecast weather all day long. They also broadcast real-time warnings. If you will be out and away from homebase, ensure that you have a reliable means of communications. In some rural areas cell phone reception can be spotty so a two way radio may be an alternative method. Remember to keep it charged. If you spot weather changing, get back to where it is safe. Know where on your property it is safe to shelter. For a tornado a basement or a room without windows is best. When you hear thunder or see lightning remember the saying "When thunder roars, get in doors." While thunderstorms generally don't last for more than 30 minutes,

lightning may still be active for up to 50 kilometers and for 30 minutes after the storm has passed.

A great idea for all is to take a first aid and CPR course. Along with that keeping first aid kits available on all vehicles can be a great benefit in the event of an injury.

Severe weather in the form of wind, rain and lightning events are certain this summer. Take the time now and be prepared. It is your family and your livelihood that you are protecting.

If a cowboy is happy,
does that make him a Jolly Rancher?



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By Leah Emms
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I would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank the Holland Marsh Growers Association and specifically their Executive Director Jody Mott. Getting farm workers vaccinated as quickly as possible has consumed her days for weeks. Working with Health Unit personnel in both Simcoe County and York Region to assist farmers with booking vaccination appointments has been job one for Jody. Others too have helped to get the word out to register with Jody so that when appointments become available the agricultural sector has a list of people ready and willing to get "the jab." Please join me in sending out a huge THANK YOU to Jody.

This is such a busy time of year for everyone in the agricultural sector. I know from personal experience that at the end of the day the last thing you want to do is read emails or government documents. But all of us live in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area which means our upper tier level of government has been and will continue to be undertaking the provincially mandated Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR).

The municipal upper tier areas known as Peel, Simcoe & York are waist deep in the review process. Their websites all contain information on the review exercise. I would draw your attention to the refinement mapping of Natural Heritage features and areas along with the Agricultural Systems mapping. Ask for ground truthing if you see incorrect mapping. Once the mapping is adopted into the official plan it is too late to easily change. Natural Heritage mapping is called an "overlay" in the planning world. When an individual applies for any kind of a development permit one of the first exercises is to apply the Natural Heritage overlay mapping to the agricultural mapping to identify those Key Natural Heritage features that are protected from the impacts of development. Planning is complicated due to the various provincial plans, Conservation Authority regulated areas, and local municipal planning but, the agricultural community still needs to participate and have their questions answered. Your County Federations of Agriculture are doing their best to be engaged in the local MCR process but, they cannot do it alone. They need your input to advocate for change.

Please continue to complete daily health questionnaires if you work with others, respect social distancing protocols, wash your hands, and get vaccinated. We all want to get back to resuming our normal daily activities sooner than later. Especially having social interactions! Won't it be wonderful to visit together again?

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Success is found at Cooper's CSA Farm

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Cooper's CSA Farm is a family run operation located in Zephyr close to Uxbridge. The farm has regenerative and sustainable agriculture practices.

The Coopers are 6th generation farmers. Their story began when Steve and Lisa met while working as post-secondary students. Steve and Lisa went to Ridgetown Agricultural College together in their final year. Steve purchased the current Cooper's CSA Farm in Zephyr and worked both his own farm and on his parent's farm. In love, young and ambitious, the two married. Lisa worked off-farm while working with her husband at the two farms. The 5th generation of farming Coopers had a family farm that was a successful cattle and sweet corn business. Steve as a youngster had built up a roadside stand business selling sweet corn in Newmarket beginning in 1981 at the end of the family's lane. That farm stand's tradition carried on until 2020 when COVID-19 forced the stand to be closed for the first time in almost 40 years.

Two children were born to Steve and Lisa, Cayla and Trenton. The farm greatly expanded and the children that are 7th generation of farming Coopers were always big contributors. Chores were part of life and everybody joined in even at a young age.

In 2003, a big change came to the farm when Lisa decided to leave her off-farm job to work on the farm full-time. Three years later, the farm became a popular fall tourist day trip destination with the creation of "The Uxbridge Maize." This was a 10 acre field of corn turned into a maze to entertain children and families on the farm. Pre-COVID-19, this maze brought hundreds of families to the farm who would also visit the on-farm store and enjoy a tractor and wagon ride to see the animals and the farm in operation.

In 2007, the farm launched another program, the "Community Supported Agriculture" program which has seen huge success. Today, about 650 households are part of this program. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a program where consumers buy shares into the farm in exchange for receiving produce from the farm. CSA allows for the consumer to be part of a farm while receiving in season produce direct from the farm and from this program, farmers know their market and prices are set.

Cooper's Farm has taken CSA to two more levels than most CSA participating farms. The first option here is the fact that customers at this farm get to "choose" what items they want in their fresh food box. "We offer a choice for people, we put about 14-22 items and offer as a choice for up to 8 items in per box. We ask that people tell us what they would prefer by selecting their preferences prior to the season starting" she explains. The farm grows vegetables from asparagus in the spring to pumpkins in the fall and fruit including strawberries and cherries. The next option is the fact that "pastured meat" is also grown on this farm meaning customers can also source their protein as a CSA member, if they prefer. The "pastured meat box" offers a choice of beef, chicken and pork.

All the Coopers Meats are grown directly at the Cooper farm under the care of the family. Pork is from the family's herd of pigs. Lisa says her son, Trenton is the "piglet provider"

now having the sows at his own farm. The sows have their babies under Trenton and his wife's care at the farm the young couple recently purchased. Under the Artisanal Chicken Program with Chicken Farmers of Ontario, chickens are grown. There is a herd of beef cattle on the farm. All chickens, pigs and beef cattle get to enjoy a life living outside on pasture and even in winter, they have access to outside if they want to go out. The meats are processed using licensed abattoirs, Windcrest Meat Packers of Port Perry, and Morrison Poultry Processing of Omemee. Meats include all the traditional cuts and specialized items like "Coopers Healthy Hot Dogs" which are made of only farm grown beef and pork.

The CSA program allows for the farm to have "regenerative and sustainable" agriculture. Meaning the farming practices are kind to the land and the animals and products are priced so the farm can provide a reasonable living for the family and its employees. There are 4 migrant workers that work here and depend on the farm to send money home to their families. There are also four full-time employees including family members along with six seasonal students and two full-time seasonal people working here.

Being kind to the land is important at Cooper CSA farm. To ensure the CSA boxes have the best selection possible, the Cooper family use a combination of practices to ensure good food can be grown. One of these practices is using "high tunnels." High tunnels is a sort of "floating greenhouse" Lisa says explaining that about one acre of the farm at a time is covered in a plastic-type tarp with "tender crops" growing underneath like melons or tomatoes. These crops are often bothered by pests and weather conditions so this protection keeps them safe and growing in more predictable conditions with extra natural heat from the covering plastic. Pests are deterred from going under the cover so this is a non-evasive environmentally friendly way for keeping them out. Irrigation is the only source of water so a heavy rain cannot cause damage. It takes about four hours to install the cover in the field at the start of each season.

In the pasture, rotational grazing is used to keep pastures safe and productive. This means that animals can be on one pasture for only a short time before being rotated to a different pasture giving time for the first pasture to naturally regrow with fresh, clean vegetation that animals enjoy the most. Rotational grazing is a natural way to extend pasture life.

This season Cooper's CSA Farm is planning to be part of two Farmer's Markets. On Saturdays, the farm will be at the River Walk Commons in Newmarket. On Sundays, they will be at the Second Wedge Brewing Co. in Uxbridge.

The on-farm store that includes an on site bakery is now open with COVID-19 rules in place. There is also an online store. There is still time to sign up for the 2021 CSA program. Information is available at: www.coopersfarm.ca

Next month: "Supporting our Local Farmers, regardless" We find out "why" consumers are happy to buy direct from the farmer regardless of chain grocery store's cheaper prices.



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Soil Health: Laying the Groundwork for the Next Policy Framework

By Marie Versteeg, Communications Manager for the CFFO

Last month, a federal NDP private member's bill on soil health received first reading in the House of Commons. Bill C-290, An Act Respecting Soil Conservation and Soil Health, is aimed at developing a national strategy for improving efforts to conserve soil health and raise public awareness about the importance of soil health. Private members' bills are rarely passed in the legislature, but this looks like one to root for.

Should the bill be passed, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food will be tasked with developing a strategy to promote soil health and conservation efforts, including research and analysis on soil health and agronomic issues, education for farmers and other land users, and public advocacy efforts, among other things.

The bill recognizes the heavy involvement needed by farmers in order to achieve its goals, but it also looks like it won't leave them holding the bag. One of the goals of the national strategy would be to "maintain, enhance and rebuild the capacity of soils to produce food and fuel in a manner that is both regenerative and profitable." In other words, any future policy or legislative changes to promote regenerative farming would have to ensure that farmers can actually afford to do them.

Conserving and improving our soils is a tremendously important task, involving education, extension, cost share funding and other efforts. Public support will be necessary to protect this precious resource.

That very argument has also been made in a recent report published by the Greenbelt Foundation. The report, called "The Power of Soil," was developed with input from agriculture industry stakeholders, including the CFFO. It calls for supports to help farmers navigate increasingly erratic climatic conditions.

The recommendations focus on enhancing soil health knowledge, incentivizing soil health practices, and conserving agricultural land and protected areas. It calls for govern-



ment to prioritize soil health in the next agricultural policy framework, which will replace the current Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) in 2023. Importantly, the report notes that an effective national soil health program will require tens of thousands of farmers to adopt soil health practices. They should not bear the brunt of the dramatic change needed. The report calls for increased and simplified funding opportunities for farmers, as well as further extension and peer learning opportunities.

On the provincial level, we're seeing a similar focus on soil health. OMAFRA is currently hosting an industry stakeholder working group to build actions from Ontario's Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy. The CFFO participated in the development of the strategy in 2018 and currently belongs to the working group. The recommended actions coming out of the strategy are still in development, but hopefully they will also influence decision-making around the next agricultural policy framework.

Given the current pandemic, it's likely that risk management and industry resiliency will be top of mind for policy makers shaping the future framework. These are important considerations, but now is the time to recognize soil health as a major contributor to the prosperity and resiliency of farming far into the future. The CFFO believes that current CAP designations toward soil health must be expanded in the next policy framework to offer programs and cost share opportunities across the province.

What is it?



One of Farm View's readers sent in these photos. The tool in question was purchased at a farm auction. The owner describes it in the following way:

The tool is made of brass and has a rubber cushion on the head. It works opposite of pliers as it (spreads) holds something apart (ring) on handle for storage or used for holding.

Email your responses to farmview@on.aibn.com or mail to 8 Luella Blvd., Minesing ON L9X 0W7. The answers will be printed in the next issue of Farm View.

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Never give up: Advice from Dr. Pol

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Dr. Jan Pol says the way to get through life in troubled times like now in dealing with the global COVID-19 pandemic is all about attitude. He says an attitude of “never give up” can get you through anything. Dr. Pol was a speaker at the recent online Dairy XPO.

Dr. Pol is the star of the reality show, The Incredible Dr. Pol which has been a #1 program on the National Geographic Wild network. The program is a running documentary featuring his life as owner of Pol Veterinary Services that includes both large and small animals in rural Michigan, USA. He works with his wife of over 50 years, Diane and their son, Charles produces the show and helps at the clinic. The couple first met in Michigan when Dr. Pol was there as an exchange student. He says his life as a tv star and as a vet has not been an easy road.

He landed his first job as “third man in a three man practice” which was a learning curve for Dr. Pol who admits he always “wanted to be my own boss.” He said that he proved himself to his co-workers at a difficult calving which was his specialty in the Netherlands. He also grew up on a dairy farm. “I got that calf out and it was alive,” he remembered, adding that once he proved himself as a vet then he was treated equally as a vet. “Never give up” is the only thing that kept him going those first ten years as he was not in a place of peace, he wanted his own practice.

An opportunity came up for Dr. Pol to set up his own practice and his family of three children and his devoted wife all joined in to make it happen. He said that he believes strongly that children should be part of the parent's work lives.

“We always wanted our kids to help with our work,” he says remembering one call he made to deliver a colt. Dr. Pol delivered a healthy colt and then the mare lunged for the colt. The horse owner explained that she killed the last colt and now it was known how that happened. Dr. Pol offered to take the colt home in his station wagon and his children raised the colt and returned it after weaning. His children learned a lot and they enjoyed the experience. He said though the key is to remember the child's life is equally important. “When our kids were young we made sure we went to their activities at school or wherever. We also made time to do fun things that were not work, together,” he added.

Dr. Pol was the boss of a three man vet practice. He said he had to hold on to his “don't give up” many times as he went through staff. He said to work with someone well, “you need to think a lot the same” which takes considerable time for the bond to form. He said he was part overjoyed and part sad when vets that he worked so well with would decide to move on to set up their own practice. He said other staff decided to leave the profession to retire or move away to other locations. At the worst time, Dr. Pol was left in a 3 man vet practice with one vet, himself. He said one Saturday he did 22 separate farm calls.

“The Incredible Dr. Pol” TV show is based on Dr. Pol's real life practice. The show is not scripted and instead follows along as calls come in. Dr. Pol uses a direct “get it done to help the owner and the animal” approach. He has a vast knowledge gathered over his 50 year career. He was born in September of 1942 so he has reached what many consider “retirement age” however, he's sure

not slowing down any. He says he has had to use his “never give up” when he gets occasional criticism with his show. “I treat animals like animals,” he said and some don't agree with that.

He was feeling really low at the time of this criticism when he was encouraged by a viewer's shared story. This viewer lived in the city and was a strong fan of the show. She was out driving when she noticed a farmer assisting a cow down calving and in trouble. She pulled over, went into the field and accessed the situation. “The closest large animal vet was 200 miles away. It just happened that we had a show that was about this exact same calving problem. The woman remembered what I had done and she told the farmer what to do. Between the two of them and the Dr. Pol show they saved that calf,” he says adding that is why he does the show, “so people can learn. I can never give up.”

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.



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RV and Trailer Fire Safety Tips

By Dennis Gannon

It's summer and the opportunity to get away from it all for even a few days is appealing. Last year there was a tremendous increase in the purchase of recreational vehicles and trailers. So great was the increase that many dealers ran out of stock. With the increase there came about many new people to camping that may not be aware that there are significant fire safety issues that they should know of as they venture out this year. Recreational vehicles, due to their light weight, are constructed of materials that unfortunately can ignite and burn quickly. It's important to follow these safety tips to keep you and your family safe as well as your investment.

In an emergency, please make sure that emergency services can find you – **SECONDS DO COUNT!** When travelling in an RV or pulling a trailer, it's crucial to know your location so emergency responders can find you in the event of an emergency. Be aware of your location and surroundings. Not all locations in Ontario have 9-1-1 service. When you check in, inquire what the number is for the local emergency services and your site number. There is a new app that the OPP and many police and fire services are now using called what3words. It is free and if you are uncertain of your exact location the emergency service can identify your location using this app. Download it now and hopefully you will never have to use it and remember to keep your cell phone charged and nearby at all times. Have a fire escape plan in place that everyone is familiar with and has practised. A fire escape plan just isn't for your home. It is definitely required for your RV or trailer due to their smaller space and the fact that fire can travel faster with the lack of doors in the unit. Have at least two escape routes – one in the front and one in the rear of the RV if possible. Test all escape

windows, hatches and door latches for smooth operation and keep all escape windows, hatches and doors clear of any obstructions. As soon as they are old enough, teach children how to open escape hatches and emergency exits and have them practise how they operate. One or more smoke alarms that operate are required under the Fire Code of Ontario. A RV or trailer is considered a residence and the same rules that apply to your home apply to them. As well a carbon monoxide detector is required. RV's and trailers have propane operated appliances such as water heaters, furnaces, refrigerators and stoves. Carbon monoxide is odourless and colourless and should there be a leak, only a CO detector will alert you. Propane gas leak detectors are also needed. Test those detectors regularly to ensure that they are operating and that those who are sleeping in the RV or trailer are aware of the different sounds they make. All RV's and trailers are required to have a fire extinguisher in them. Is it charged and ready to be used? Do you and those camping with you know how to use it? The time of an emergency isn't the time to read the instructions and learn how it operates. Do you have more than one? It is a good idea to have more than one depending on the size of the RV or trailer and keeping one outdoors is a great idea. Should a fire or carbon monoxide emergency occur, Get Out and Stay Out. Items can be replaced but people can't. Once people are away from the emergency and help has been called, an attempt to extinguish a small fire with the fire extinguishers on hand can be tried. The three takeaways here are people are out and away, help has been called and the fire is small. Most portable fire extinguishers have less than one minute worth of extinguishing agent in them. Remember also that most appliances are powered by propane

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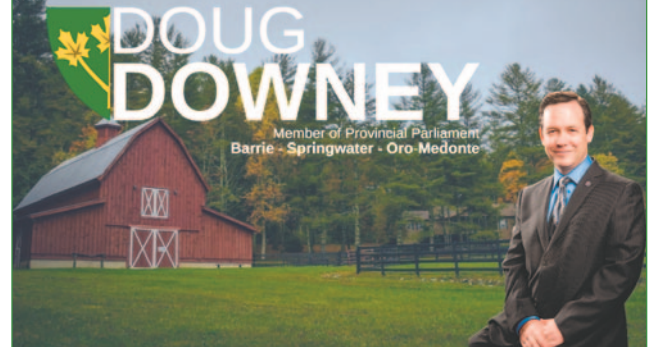
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which can increase the size of a fire and is explosive. If you are concerned about valuables such as important documents, consider a fireproof bag to keep near the door. These are not that expensive and may provide you with some piece of mind. Almost all campers get excited about the campfire, after all who doesn't like sitting around one and enjoying the company of those you are with. Annually too many young children are injured at the campfire when they trip and fall into it or are burned roasting marshmallows or hot dogs. Keep your campfire at least 25 feet away from your RV or trailer. Make certain that there are no hazards nearby, do not use any flammable liquids to get it started and when done for the day, use water to put the fire out. There are many propane fire pit options available which while not offering some of the same experience as a wood fire, are as attractive and are easily started and extinguished.

The summer season is one that we all enjoy. Enjoying it by travelling around this beautiful province in a RV or trailer is one way we get to see how lucky we are to call this home. Ensure your trip is a safe one by thinking about fire safety. Happy Trails!

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The history of milk cans

Milk has long been a part of our diets. But getting milk from cow to consumer hasn't always been easy.

At first, milk was carried in wooden buckets. British milkmaids would have a yoke across their shoulders from which they hung two or four buckets. Loads could weigh as 80 pounds, a considerable load since milkmaids were often teenagers. Such buckets were unhygienic, cumbersome, and there was a lot of stillage. Worse, they tended to tip if transported by wagon or train. Something better was needed.

We were still a long way off from cardboard containers, glass bottles, and plastic jugs, however. In the interim, farmers transported fresh milk via metal cans, sometimes called 'churns.'

The term churn often confuses people since there is no churning involved. Instead, the term comes from the can's resemblance in shape to butter churns. This is no mere coincidence. For a time in Britain, before metal cans surfaced, milk was shipped via train in wooden containers almost identical to butter churns. These containers eventually helped to inform the design of metal milk cans.

Milk cans were tall and cylindrical, designed to be very stable. They had a tapered top to prevent spilling if the cap should some-

how come loose during transportation. There were handles on the side to assist in carrying. Though typically made of tin, milk cans could also be of copper or steel.

Getting milk from cow to consumer in early Ontario didn't differ from today just because the dairy was shipped in metal

Village stories
by Andrew Hind

cans. In many ways, the process would be foreign to us. The journey began, of course, with milking. This was very different in the days before mechanization and pasteurization. Farmers, seated on a low stool, milked into a pail sitting beneath the udder. The milk was then heated in an attempt to kill off any bacteria that might exist in the liquid, and then the milk was stored and cooled in the milk can.

In some localities, a middleman would buy the milk from the farmer. In this case, you would find a milk stand at the end of the farm's lane alongside the road where the can would be left out awaiting pickup. The stand would be elevated at the height of a wagon bed to make

it easier to transfer it. Other times, farmers would do the delivery themselves.

The largest dairy herds in 19th century Ontario were found in south-western and central parts of the province. But even in areas of Ontario where there were not large herds it was nonetheless a common sight to see railway sidings lined with milk cans awaiting shipment to larger centers, or hear wagons trundling through town, their beds filled with cans destined for local merchants or to sell directly to the public.

Customers would bring their own container – a pail, pitcher, or jar – and the fresh milk would be ladled directly into it. Milk would naturally separate, so those customers who were served first would get a higher quality of cream, whereas those who were served from the bottom tended to get watery milk.

While revolutionary for their time, there were some inherent drawbacks to milk cans. Not well insulated, the milk inside might sour in summer heat or freeze on cold winter days. Additionally, they were also heavy when filled.

Milk cans fell out of favour by the 1930s when bulk refrigeration trucks began collecting milk from farms.



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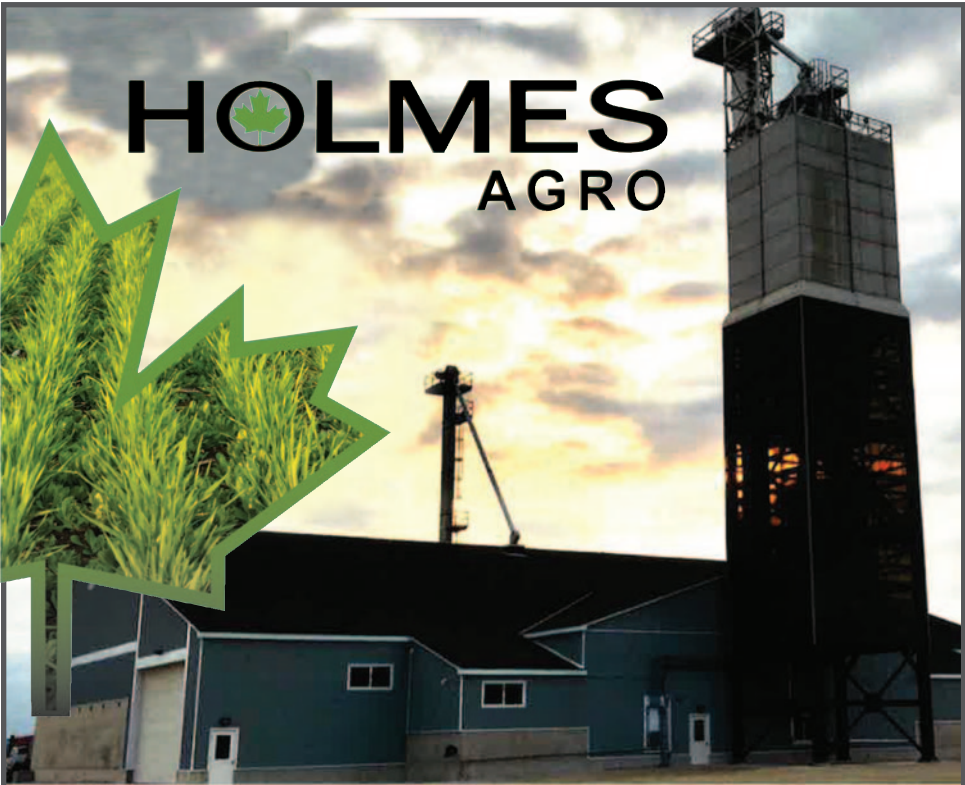

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After The Chores: Long night in the barn

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



Some chore times just do not go as planned.

Pandee has done everything possible for a llama to do trying to convince me he should get a bottle- but his bottle days are officially over. Pandee is officially weaned though he officially has not accepted it yet.

I weaned Pandee and had a hard week from my decision. Like a persistent cat, Pandee did laps around me that first morning of no bottle. He tried everything that a llama could do in his quest for a bottle. He tried humming at all ranges, long, slow, loud and soft- I didn't realize one young llama could make all those sounds. He tried pushing himself against me and throwing up his head to look me straight in the eyes. He put his head over the gate in the rabbit section of the barn and hummed, sadly for twenty minutes straight. He was my shadow at every step, humming his want of a bottle as I made trips back and forth to bring in hay from the outside feeder. Poor Pandee, he was just wasting his time.

I had a lamb that did not look "right." Livestock farmers know what I mean when a baby looks "off" but nothing is obvious as to why. When I checked his mother, the problem was obvious that there was milk but not enough for this big lamb. There are now some high end milk replacers so making up milk for a baby is no big job these days. I found an old bottle of Pandee's and filled it up with this new great replacer. The lamb grabbed the bottle and drank. I had found this lamb's problem. My new problem now was convincing Pandee the bottle was NOT his. Thanks to straw dealer, Blackie, we now have straw bales- and I used one of those bales as a lamb feeding station. While sitting on the straw bale, the lamb across my lap and one hand on the bottle, the lamb drank, and my other hand was used to push back Pandee as he kept reaching for the bottle. Thankfully, the built-in guardian feeling towards lambs is already strong in Pandee so he would not lunge, instead he tried to gently reach over and tried to get hold of the bottle with his tongue. Larry was there too trying to lick the lamb's face hoping for a few spare drops of this great milk replacer. Sweetie said we made quite the crowd.

There was one night this baby season that I would not want to live through again. It had been "one of those days." I was at this point in that evening tired of pretty much everyone and everything. I was even tired of Pandee trying to grab that bottle. I checked the barn and outside paddock at 4:00 that afternoon and was convinced this was going to be a quiet night. There were zero signs of anybody ready to have lambs. I had less than five minutes left of chores this

evening- then it was the couch, the blanket and the last half of a fast-paced novel set in Occupied France before tv news time which is my evening's entertainment. I should have learned a long time ago to not make plans when it comes to farming.

My second last step that night was to let in the sheep and the llamas. I noticed Hummer was upset, he kept looking behind him- that is always a bad sign. The sheep stampeded in per normal out of this pitch black night but Hummer was right, a ewe stayed back and she was baaing to a little baa that I knew had to be out there. So much for this night to finish as I had hoped. The baby pens were full which meant there had to be a sheep shuffle done- the last thing I wanted for this night as moving sheep here is not easy. I was deciding who to move when I went outside to find the new baby lamb- I figured Hummer could help. We only found the lamb that was already getting his supper being smart from this new ram- I found ANOTHER ewe. Once the ewe stepped into the lights of the barn, it was clear that there was more lambs coming tonight.

Baby lambs must go in a small pen to bond with the mother sheep for at least a few hours if not a day or two to make sure both mother and babies know they belong together. Even the big sheep farms have these bonding pens as they are a critical part of raising lambs. My bonding pens were full to begin with that night. The sheep that was in visible labour kept staring at me as if saying "I need a pen!" I looked at the sheep and at Larry- and had to give in to the fact I needed help. Right near the end of his favourite tv show, now in the new season, I am at the house door yelling for Sweetie to come to the barn now to help me shuffle sheep. Sweetie did not look impressed- but he sweetly grabbed an uncooperative sheep and tugged/pushed/pulled it to where I was pushing back sheep so that I could get those baby pens empty. This had to happen five times before we got everybody finally sorted out. Sweetie got back to the house since the rest I could handle because he works off-farm full-time and these are my sheep in the first place.

Next was to attend to the new lambs born and be sure everybody is fed to the point they were safe this cold night. And battery powered lights have to be situated so the new mothers can see their baby lambs but not too bright to keep the whole barn awake. It was an hour and a half before I had everybody sorted out, fed and content to the point I could leave the barn for the night. And then, I notice one pen is empty- and that is a story for next month.

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South Simcoe 4-H clubs report on their activities

South Simcoe 4-H Rabbit Club

By Abby Patton

Tuesday April 13 the South Simcoe 4-H Rabbit Club met on Zoom for their second club meeting this year. The screen was full of people and rabbits. First the leader Scott shared his screen and showed us a video about showing a rabbit and doing a full health check. Then as a group we learned step by step how to pick up your rabbit, hold your rabbit etc. We followed along and tried it with our own rabbits! It was an amazing meeting! Next time we will learn about nutrition.



Shown above is Sara Ford and her rabbit named Nemo.

South Simcoe 4-H Maple Syrup Club

By Abby Patton

Saturday April 24th was a sweet day! It was the Achievement Day for the South Simcoe 4-H Maple Syrup Club. We met over zoom and each member had a turn to share their slides of their accomplishments. Some members showed their Maple Syrup Journey of tapping trees and making Syrup. Other members shared their delicious baking and cooking with Maple Syrup. There were some great Maple Syrup yields along with unique recipes that include Maple Syrup shared. Have you ever heard of a Maple Beachcomber pie or Maple BBQ Ribs? The Maple Syrup season is a sweet one and we are all sad that it has come to an end. Thank you to the leaders for such a SWEET club!



Thomas Edwards proudly displays a bottle of the Maple Syrup he produced this year.

South Simcoe 4-H Gardening & Farmers Market Club News Report

By Isabella Cullen

The 4-H SS. Garden Club and the SS Farmers Market Club had a shared meeting on line via Zoom on May 5th. We had a guest speaker named Amy Gilbert who spoke to us about her business and microgreens! What are microgreens? Microgreens are grown in medium soil and get harvested just before the leaves form. Amy spoke about all the steps that you



Abby Patton showcases her microgreens.

must perform to grow, harvest and market your own microgreens. It was a hands on deck meeting as we were given special drop off deliveries earlier in the week. We had to prepare the soil and place it in the biodegradable trays. We soaked the beans in water the night before. We placed the beans into the soil and pressed them down. I placed a heavy container on mine over night so the roots would grow down into the soil. Amy gave us lots of cool facts about growing microgreens while we were preparing and planting. Members enjoyed this meeting very much. Our leader showed us different types of beans and asked us to identify them. All the beans were identified correctly. Minutes from the previous meetings from both clubs were read and approved. The Presidents thanked the guest speaker. Stay tuned the 4-H South Simcoe Farmers Market Club is planning to sell the microgreens that the members will be growing to learn how to be an entrepreneur business.



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South Simcoe 4-H introduce new clubs!

Cookstown & Everett 4-H Sheep Club Report

By Morgan Gilpin

Cookstown & Everett 4-H Sheep club's second meeting was held May 10 2021 at 7:30pm online.

Our president opened the meeting 7:30 with the 4H pledge. We moved on to our guest speaker which was Delma Kennedy OMAFRA. She talked to our club about body condition scoring.

Scoring system goes from 1 through to 5. 1 being extremely thin and 5 being extremely fat the one you want to aim for is a stage number 3. You want to feel the bones but you want them to be rounded but not sharp. Short ribs are more reliable to get a better body score when feeling the lamb with your hands. Delma showed us how to use your hands to do a body condition score. 1 is very sharp using the end of our fingers, 2nd is using your 2nd knuckle, stage 3 is using your 3rd knuckle and 4th is using the top of your hand. Always keep your hands firm and flat and fingers together. We thanked Delma and said goodbye to her. Then we moved on with the rest of our meeting. The secretary gave the minutes from our first meeting.

Grant Cowan went over the requirements of assist expo for the members and their lambs. Paperwork is due by May 21, 2021. Our president closed the meeting with the 4-H motto which is learn to do by doing and adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.



4-H lambs Dutchess and Ellie are seen here smiling for the camera.

South Simcoe 4H Poultry Club News Report

By Mila Bilinski

Fellow Poultry Club members, during the first meeting of our club which was April 26th, the topics of discussion were introduction of all members, show breeds of chickens, and how to manage predator problems. The meeting concluded with roles being assigned to each member.

When considering a breed to choose as your show bird, you should select a purebred chicken, for example a Rhode Island Red, Plymouth Barred Rock, or a Silkie chicken. You can also choose to show exotic breeds, but make sure you check what shows allow.

If you have a problem with predators, here is an idea of how to make a trap for small predators like weasels and rats. Take a cardboard box, put a store-bought mouse trap inside, and cover it with spare chicken feather. Do not do this if you aren't sure what kind of predator you have, because if a large one like a racoon or a coyote finds the trap, it may lead them to your poultry, and not stop them at all.

Finally, each member of our club was assigned a role to help out, and each role was voted on. This concludes the news report on last week's meeting.

P.S. A eggcellent fact is that an ostrich egg is the largest bird egg in the world.



Mila Bilinski's 4-H chickens.

4-H Go For The Gold Club Report

By Abby Patton

The South Simcoe Go For The Gold is a brand new club for this year! We met for the second time on April 29th over Zoom. We used this meeting to get to know each other better by sharing our favorite car and someone famous we would like to meet. Go For The Gold is a trivia club and some of our members will represent Simcoe County at the provincial competition this fall. We spent the rest of the meeting having fun with some friendly competition on Kahoot, which is an online quiz game. We will be busy studying for the next game!

South Simcoe Cooking Report

By Nicole Palmateer

This month in Cooking Club we had so much fun and learned a lot. On May 1st, we made delicious garlic chicken ranch pizza. It was super delicious. Then on May 8th, we had a guest teach us how to make royal icing and decorated sugar cookies. It was really awesome. Many people showed their finished cookies and everyone did so well. We learned so much and some people sent a picture of their sugar cookies to The South Simcoe 4H Instagram page. You can check out our Instagram feed here: <https://www.instagram.com/southsimcoe4h/>



Cookstown 4-H Beef Club News Report

By Madeleine Cullen

On May 5th, the Cookstown 4-H Beef Club had their second meeting via Zoom. The meeting opened with the members saying the 4-H pledge. Members learned about the selection of a breeding heifer and the 4 goals breeding heifers need to achieve. Members learned about the importance of calving ease, birth weight and weaning weight, when selecting breeding stock. Our leader Elizabeth Gilpin created an excellent slideshow with each heifer's information for members that are borrowing a 4-H animal. Members virtually selected their 4-H beef project, as the Ontario wide lockdown does not permit members to visit in person. Then the club went over the process of registering our 4-H project animals on Assist Expo. The meeting was adjourned with the 4-H motto. It was another great meeting!

Cookstown 4-H Hiking Club

By Rebecca Lange

Although Ontario is in the midst of a third lockdown, the Cookstown 4-H Hiking Club is being proactive so we can hit the trails after the lockdown is lifted.

On May 3 the hiking club got started online. We did the presidential elections and then the fun began! We played games to test our knowledge on all the essentials to pack when preparing for an adventure. This enabled the new members to learn what they need to consider while packing and was a great refresher for the more intermediate members. We also discussed what kind of hikes we would like to go on when we are allowed to go hiking again. We then adjourned the meeting with the hopes we can go on at least one hike this year as a group in person.

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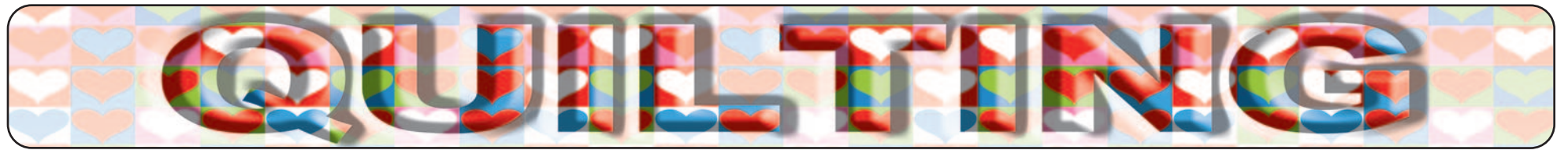
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Commonwell's Seedit program

The Commonwell's Seedit program is providing families across Ontario with the opportunity to grow home vegetable gardens and support local food security by sharing a portion of their harvest with a local foodbank, community group or neighbour.

In order to participate families may visit thecommonwell.ca/seedit to request a participant voucher. Vouchers are redeemable at the selected garden centre for up to \$50 in product related to food producing garden including but not limited to plant seedlings, seeds and soil. Participants are invited to join the SEEDit facebook page to share growing progress. When it comes time to harvest participants are encouraged to send photos of their harvest and especially the portion of their harvest that they are donating to a foodbank, community group or neighbour. If the participant does not use facebook they are encouraged to email seedit@thecommonwell.ca to share their harvest.

Participant Eligibility:

- Participants must have a primary address in Ontario
- Participants agree to follow public health guidelines regarding COVID-19 including but not limited to social distancing and mask compliance when visiting garden centre participants to redeem voucher.
- Participants must be at least 18 years of age or have parental consent.

By requesting a voucher, participants agree to receive emails related to the program and future community supporting initiatives by The Commonwell. Voucher Guidelines:

- Vouchers are redeemable at select garden centres for up to \$50 in product related to food producing gardens including but not limited to plant seedlings, seeds and soil at the discretion of the garden center participants.
- Vouchers are limited to one per household.
- Vouchers have no cash value and must be surrendered to the garden centre upon use.
- Vouchers must be redeemed between April 29, 2021 and July 31, 2021 or earlier if inventory of garden center partners runs out. We recommend visiting as early as possible.
- The voucher is only redeemable at the garden centre it was issued for.
- There are only a limited number of vouchers available. It is first come, first serve and no additional vouchers will be available. SEEDit Facebook Community Guidelines:
- Participants and local plant enthusiasts are invited to join our facebook community group where we will share gardening tips, content from local farmers, food security and sustainability groups and more.
- Participants must follow facebook community guidelines.

By sharing photos in the facebook group you consent to the use of those photos on the SEEDit website, in promotions of the program and future Commonwell initiatives.

Comments should be kind, courteous and posts relevant to gardening. All posts and comments that are off topic may be deleted at the sole discretion of the group administrators.

In addition to the main SEEDit Program, The Commonwell is interested in supporting existing community gardens committed to giving back to local food security initiatives including foodbanks through small grants. To apply for these grants please visit thecommonwell.ca/seedit and complete the form titled Community Support. Grants will be awarded at the sole discretion of The Commonwell based on community need and having a clear plan for use of the funds.

PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS can be found at

https://thecommonwell.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Seedit_Rules_and_Regulations-1.pdf

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

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"Well, shoot, that explains why no one was at church either!"

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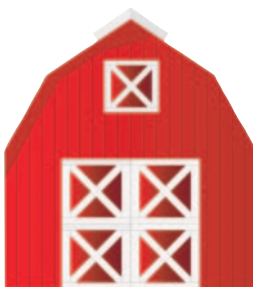
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Olive May Lee

October 29, 1943 ~ May 14, 2021 (age 77)

LEE, Olive May (née Jennett) – Passed away peacefully on May 14, 2021 at South Muskoka Memorial Hospital in her 78th year. Olive was born to Emmerson Jennett and Dorothy May Hughes at Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie on October 29, 1943. She was raised and lived in Essa Township until November 2020, at which time she moved to Gravenhurst. She is predeceased by her husband, Jim Blakely, and her brothers Fred and Mervyn. Olive leaves behind her husband, Ross Lee whom she married in 1982; sons Allan and Ralph (Cindy) Blakely; her sister Elenore Helmer. Upon graduation from Barrie Central Collegiate, Olive started her career working for the Simcoe County Board of Education which spanned more than 40 years as secretary at several area high schools and finally at the Board Office. She was a member of the Barrie Chapter of Professional Secretaries International and obtained her

CPS rating in 1988; she held many positions within PSI locally, provincially and within the USA. Olive was a member of the Essa Historical Society since 1997 where she produced many calendars, history books and coordinated the unveiling of 7 plaques of Essa Township. She served as secretary to the Historical Society for 23 years. For her service, Olive was elected to the Wall of Honor at the Museum on the Boyne in Alliston in 2012. Cremation has taken place. Due to the current restrictions, a memorial service will be held at a later date. Please check the funeral home website for updates. Memorial donations may be made to Diabetes Canada through the JENNETT FUNERAL & CREMATION CENTRE, 152 Bradford Street in Barrie. Words of comfort may be forwarded to the family by visiting www.funeralhome.on.ca

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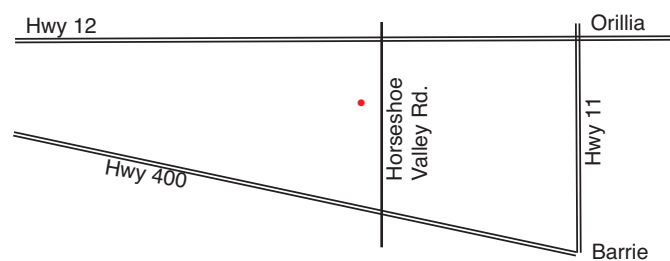


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