

FARMVIEW

44th year of publication!

March 2021
Volume 44 #03

A newspaper with something for everyone

***Inside this
edition:***

**Remembering a
Blackstock
Legend**

**More coverage
from Grey-
Bruce Farmers'
Week
and
the Ontario
Agriculture
Conference**

**Holmes Agro
Grower meeting
report**

**Scholarship,
Training and
Webinar
opportunities**

4-H info night



**Complimentary copy for
the FARM household**

**Dr. Laura Van Eerd received the Soil Champion Award in the
research/extension category.
Read the full story on page 3.**

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.

Ongoing until April 8: Winter Webinars

Virtual courses offered by Grey Ag Services. Visit www.greyagservices.ca for complete details.

March 4: AgKnowledge Forum

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, Holland Marsh Growers Association, Simcoe County EDO and Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture in partnership with Nottawasaga Futures are pleased to support the local agricultural community by hosting the annual AgKnowledge Forum.

The virtual event will focus on Farm Safety, Mental Health and Funding Opportunities. Our goal is to provide tools for the farmer to overcome the challenges of COVID-19.

Register: robin@nottawasaga.com

March 5: South Simcoe 4-H Virtual Rally Night

Virtual Rally Night – South Simcoe 4-H is hosting a virtual rally night on **Friday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please e-mail Carla Williams at southsimcoe4h@hotmail.com to get a link. Save \$20.00 on your membership on or before March 5th by registering online at <https://4-h-ontario.ca/association/simcoe-south-4-h-association/>

March 9: STA Working Alone and Mental Health Workshop

All are welcome to join this virtual event hosted by the York Federation of Agriculture. Taking place on **Tuesday March 9th, 1pm**. Details in the advertisement on page 13.

March 12: Equine Hardship Program deadline

Equine Hardship Program, costs incurred between March 17, 2020 and February 28 2021 will be eligible. Enrolment and claim forms will be accepted until **March 12, 2021**, or while program funding remains available. Please visit <http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/about/equinehardship.htm> for information.

March 15: News and Advertising Deadline

Advertising and news deadline for the April issue of Farm View is **Monday, March 15th**.

March 19: Deadline for Scholarship Awards

Yorkshire Valley Farms Canadian Eco-Scholar Award. A total of \$10,000 will be distributed to four deserving students. Full rules and regulations can be found on the Guelph Organic Conference website <https://guelphorganic-conf.ca/>

Find more information on page 16.

March 30: Precision Agriculture Seminar

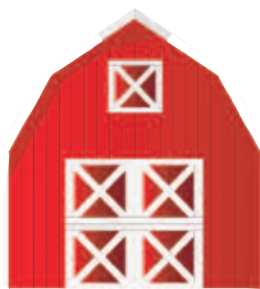
Hosted by the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture. This virtual event takes place on **Tuesday March 30th, 10 am - 1 pm**. Pre-registration required by March 26th. Details in the advertisement on page 11.

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Devotional Corner

A Time for Gratitude

By Kathleen Greidanus
Retired Priest



Last year I had a fair number of Covid-19 tests, not because I was sick, but to permit me to visit my mother who is in a seniors' residence. One of the tests was done as a result of being in contact with a person who had developed the dreaded disease. All my test results came back negative and for that I am truly grateful.

Since well before the lockdown on Boxing Day I have been keeping very close to home except for grocery shopping at our local store. This permitted me to visit with our grandchildren with a clear conscience. A few weeks ago I felt "a bit off" which lasted for a few days and my husband suggested I make an appointment for a test. The clinic staff could see me right away – how was that for service! Don drove me there since I didn't feel up to driving.

I expected the same uncomfortable stir of my brains and to go home in just a few minutes. However, after checking my oxygen saturation level which was frighteningly low and before the actual test I was sent immediately to the emergency room of our local hospital with a phone call to tell them I was coming. Right away I was taken to the Covid area and settled in a private room. Anyone who came near me or came into the room to do anything was gowned, masked, and gloved from head to toe and had to disrobe of all that stuff anytime they left my room.

Over the course of 8 hours I was monitored for oxygen which kept dropping. I was hooked up to an IV, x-rayed and given a CT scan for my lungs and abdomen. My heart was checked with an ECG and I was given blood and urine tests. I thank God that I live in Canada where such services are so readily available. Most of the time I lay in the bed looking up at the ceiling since I was too uncomfortable to sleep. That gives a person a lot of time to think.

My thoughts drifted to those people who had spent months just like this – sick and detached from family and feeling every bit like a leper to anyone who came near them. I made a point of thanking the nurses and doctor for their willingness to put themselves in danger to help others. All were grateful to be acknowledged.

Eventually the fever dropped and I was deemed well enough to go home. All I wanted to do was sleep. The Covid test came back negative and it was decided I had picked up another virus. This experience gave me a heightened appreciation for how serious this disease really is and gratitude to those who work on the front-lines.

Why was I fortunate enough to get to go home while others died in the same time span? There is nothing quite like an experience like this to make one really appreciative of life and those we share it with. I hope that you and your family practice staying safe and be well. Be kind to each other and pray for those who are ill.

Shalom,
Kathleen

If you have a question for Kathleen or would like to comment on something you read, send it to farmview@on.aibn.com, or directly to her at kathleengreidanus@yahoo.ca.

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Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association honours Henry Denotter and Dr. Laura Van Eerd

A grain farmer from Essex County and a professor in School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus have been chosen as winners of the 2021 Soil Champion Award. The annual award, which recognizes leaders in sustainable soil management, was presented by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) to Henry Denotter in the producer category and Dr. Laura Van Eerd in the research/extension category.

"We are excited to be able to present the Soil Champion Award to two recipients this year," says Chad Anderson, OSCIA President for 2021. "Both Henry and Laura are very worthy recipients of this award and we appreciate their passion for soil health and everything they are doing to advance sustainable soil health management in Ontario."

Henry Denotter farms with his family in southern Essex County, growing corn, soybeans, wheat and cover crops. His soil health improvement activities started decades ago when he planted his first crop of no-till soybeans on 30-inch rows. Today, he aims to be 100% no-till every year, all fields are grid soil sampled regularly and fertilizer is applied in-furrow for minimal soil disturbance.

Cover crops are a big part of Denotter's cropping rotation, and in the last several years he's been experimenting with buckwheat. His biggest success stories, though, have been transitioning to 20-inch rows in his no-till corn and

soybeans and a modified air seeder he bought and rebuilt that is completely convertible to accommodate multiple crops and fertilizer.

"Sometimes even the smallest thing can improve soil health - every little bit can make a difference," says Denotter. "Being selected Soil Champion is like icing on the cake. This has been part of my focus for the last 20 years and I didn't realize how much I'd done in that time."

Laura Van Eerd is a professor in sustainable soils management. When she first came to Ridgetown in 2003, much of her work involved nitrogen fertility in vegetable crops. Today, her big focus is on cover crops and how they influence carbon storage and soil health.

Following a sabbatical in 2013, she became among the first to publish about soil health in Canada. More recently, was invited to write the soil health chapter in an Introductory Canadian Soil Science textbook, which is expected to be released later this year. In addition to research, she's also involved in teaching and extension activities.

"When I look at the list of Soil Champions before me, I'm in awe; this is good company and I feel honoured to be part of it," says Van Eerd, adding she's also appreciative of the hard work



Henry Denotter pictured above received the 2021 Soil Champion Award in the producer category.

— Photo provided by the Denotter family

of her research technicians and students who support her research.

Nominations for the 2022 Soil Champion can be submitted any time up to November 1, 2021. Visit ontariosoilcrop.org to learn more about this year's winners and how to make a nomination.

OSCIA is a unique, not-for-profit grassroots farm organization whose mission is to facilitate responsible economic management of soil, water, air and crops through development and communication of innovative farming practices. For more information contact: Andrew Graham, OSCIA Executive Director, agraham@ontariosoilcrop.org or by phone 519-654-6893.

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

Lockdown humour
Having some cities lock down and some cities not lock down is like having a peeing section in a swimming pool.

Did a BIG load of pyjamas so I would have enough clean work clothes for this week.

It may take a village to raise a child, but I swear it's going to take a whole vineyard to homeschool one.

Day 27 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See, this is why I chew the furniture."

Anyone else getting a tan from the light in the fridge?

Just wait a second - so what you're telling me is that my chance of surviving all this, is directly linked to the Common Sense of others?



On the Cover

Dr. Laura Van Eerd along with Henry Denotter were chosen as winners of the 2021 Soil Champion Award. Read the full story on this page.

— Photo by Bernard Tobin

DEADLINE for the April Farm View is March 15th

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JD 6115R (E84557) 2014, MFWD, 115ENG HP, 1550HR, 40KPH, AUTOQUAD+ECO, PREMIUM CAB, LH REVERSER, FLANGE AXLE, ALLIANCE MULTI-USE 550-400/80R24-75% \$105,270.00



JD 6125M/LDR (E84947) 2015, MFWD, 125ENG HP, 7750HR, 40KPH, 24x24 SPD, PQ, LH REVERSER, ALO Q61 NSL LOADER, FLANGE AXLE, 340/85R28 NEW, 460/80R38 95%, CAB, 2 REMOTES \$77,900.00

Agriculture - Tractors Compact Utility Tractors



JD 4052R/LDR (E85624) 2018, 4WD, 52ENG HP, 525HR, HYDRO, CAB, A/C, 440R QUICK-TACH LDR, 73" QUICK-TACH BUCKET, HOOD GUARD, MID LOADER VALVE, R4 INDUST TIRES . . . \$55,690.00

Agriculture - Tractors Other Brands



NH TV145 (E85347) 2007, NEW HOLLAND, MFWD, 145ENG HP, 3800HRS, 30KPH, HYDRO, 82L LDR, CAB, 86"W GRAPPLE BKT, PALLET FORK, 480/85R34 50%, 480/85R34 50%, FLANGE AXLE \$66,530.00

Commercial - Turf & Commercial - Commercial Mowing

JD 1420 (E83185) 2003, 28HP, 2250HRS, YANMAR, 3 CYL, GAS-CARBURATED, 62" MOWER, REAR DISCHARGE, POWER LIFT MOWER, SUSPENSION SEAT, FRONT-MOUNT MOWER \$3,690.00
 JD Z950R (E85043) 2016, 27HP, 850HRS, KAWASAKI, 2 CYL, AIR COOL, 60" MOWER, 7-IRON DECK, MULCH-ON DEMAND DECK, SUSPENSION SEAT, POWER LIFT MOWER \$10,850.00
 TO 1500 (E85215) 2017, TORO, 24HP, 200HRS, GAS-CARBURATED, 60", WELDED DECK, SUSPENSION SEAT, MANUAL LIFT MOWER, COMMERCIAL ZERO TURN, INSPECTED & FULLY SERVICED . . . \$6,740.00
 JD 997 (E85263) 2009, 31HP, 1150HRS, YANMAR, LIQUID COOLED, 60", 7-IRON DECK, ISOLATED SEAT, PWR LIFT MWR, DIESEL, COMMERCIAL ZERO-TURN, INSPECTED & MOW READY . . . \$13,900.00
 KU ZD331 (E85279) 2010, KUBOTA, 2WD, 31HP, 1250HRS, KUBOTA, DIESEL, LIQUID COOLED, 60" WELDED DECK, SUSPENSION SEAT, POWER LIFT MOWER, 14 BUSHELL MCS, APPEARANCE 7 . . . \$9,950.00

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FROM THE EDITOR

I haven't mentioned Covid-19 very often in this newspaper over the past 11 months. While I'm certainly aware we as a society need to be kept up to date on case numbers, what efforts are being made, best practices to follow etc. I preferred instead to try to create a little getaway from the onslaught of Covid-19 news. I hope I have succeeded at least a little. However, on the subject of Covid-19 I would like to express my absolute appreciation for the continued readership and advertising support of the Farm View. I am all too aware of how some publications have become so very thin and so many businesses have had to close. I would like to thank Cathy Hamill Hill for coming up with creative, interesting and relevant topics to cover during the pandemic. It has been wonderful and reassuring to have Cathy to brain storm with, especially as I learn more about the agricultural sector. Another major acknowledgement I'd like to make is to my father, former publisher, John Beischer. Thank you Dad for creating such a well respected newspaper 44 years ago. And thank you for entrusting me to carry on what you and Mom began together.

In this issue we welcome new monthly advertisers Craven Maintenance, MP Terry Dowdall and MJ Auctions. Growers Mineral Solutions has also become a regular advertiser with very informative new messages each month. Most of you are probably familiar with the businesses in the Farm View that have been loyal advertisers from the beginning with my parents. If you have the opportunity to visit these businesses please let them know they are appreciated. Take the time to see what all the advertisers have to offer, without them we wouldn't have a paper to enjoy each month.

Thank you to the readers as well. It absolutely makes my day when I am filling the newspaper racks each month and a reader approaches to collect the newest issue. Please tell me what you are enjoying and what you would like to read more of.

Take care of yourselves and one another,
Roslyn

Retired couple seek new home, storage

What if you lived in your home for more than 30 years and all of a sudden you were told you have only a few months to move?

For some people this would be a simple transition to a new home. But what would be the implications if you spent those thirty plus years collecting antiques and collectables and great quilts that can't be sold on a short term basis? Like me, I think you would be devastated. My good friends are in this position and it breaks my heart that I can do no more for them than offer this story in the hope that it might generate a 'new home' possibility for them in their retirement years. Ideally a rural property with a few acres would suit them perfectly. In their present situation they have provided excellent 'handyman' maintenance and repairs in return for reduced rent obligations. Keep in mind they are on Canada pension so rental cost would have to be taken into account. This couple has restored a 1/2 dozen antique automobiles as well as numerous pieces of farm equipment and a great many farm and rural collectables. They want to store them in a safe location. Can you help? A 20 x 40 foot storage shelter [or a dry barn] would work perfectly, but anything close to that size would be helpful. A home with this storage capacity would be ideal. I have known this couple for many years and would be pleased to offer a reference for any potential landlord. You can reach me at 705-726-5308 or call them directly at 705-737-6162 or 705-728-8459. You won't meet a nicer couple or better tenants.

John Beischer,
Former Publisher, Farm View

LETTERS

Letter to the Editor:

I really enjoyed your carton of the snowman on page 2 of the January issue. It gave me lots of laughs which we need during these days of the Covid -19 lockdown here in Ontario. Job well done.

I get the paper at my local Sobey's in Angus. I read most of the articles on farming and the food production. What I see mostly happening and no one doing anything about it, is that Big Developer is buying up the farmland near urban areas and building more housing to house more people. (Ex. 50,000 more immigrants enter Canada every year.) Less land to feed these people.

I keep hearing how the price of food is going up every day and big food corporations like Loblaw's, Empire, Metro keep making huge profits. Ex. Loblaw's recent quarter profit up 36%, similar for the other two.

Bacon used to be 450g pack for \$4.95 to \$7.00. Now it is a 375g pack for the same price. Cheese slices are the same, used to be a 450g pack now 410 grams.

Big corporation has learned if you raise the price, people won't buy it. But if you shrink the amount and make the price look the same customers will still buy it. By reducing the quantity and keeping the price the same, instant profit of 15% - 20% for the corporation. Cost of re-tooling very little compared to potential profit down the road. Does the consumer refuse to buy it? No. Do they protest? No.

It would be nice to see the farmer getting some of the corporate greed without having to profit by buying the stocks of these companies.

There won't be political wars, there will be war over food and water. We need our farms and food - Stop the corporate greed.

James Vidal

"Unconsciously, Canadians feel that any people can live where the climate is gentle. It takes a special people to prosper where nature makes it so hard."

— Robert MacNeil, journalist.

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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:

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SCFA Phone:	705-726-9300 ext 1224	

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Contact YRFA:	york@ofa.on.ca	

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JD 7210R 2015 ... \$278,900
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JD 6130R 2018 ... \$157,495
MFWD, PREMIUM CAB, IVT 40K, AT READY, 225 HRS



JD 7210R 2014 ... \$187,995
STD CAB, e23 40K, MFWD, 480/46 SGL, 4 REMOTES, 2555 HRS



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JD 8245R 2018 ... \$306,995
MFWD, PST 42K, 520/85R46 DUALS, 4 REMOTES, 341 HRS



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JD 6145M 2017 ... \$155,995
MFWD, CAB, 24/24PQ LHR, AT RDY, MID VALVE, 480/80R42, 169 HRS



JD 6130R 2018 ... \$159,995
MFWD, PREMIUM CAB, IVT 40K, AT RDY, 337 HRS



JD 6130R 2018 ... \$159,995
MFWD, PREMIUM CAB, IVT 40K, AT RDY, 217 HRS



JD 6155R 2020 ... \$199,995
MFWD, CAB, 20/20AQ 40K, AT RDY, LDR RDY, 66 HRS



JD 6175R 2020 ... \$265,995
680R LDR, MFWD, DD 40K, AT RDY, DUALS, 278 HRS



JD 6175R 2020 ... \$274,795
680R LDR, TLS MFWD, IVT 50K, AT RDY, 620/70R42, 349 HRS



JD 6195R 2020 ... \$254,795
TLS MFWD, IVT 50K, AT RDY, 480/80R46, 108 HRS



JD 6195R 2020 ... \$279,995
TLS MFWD, IVT 50K, FRONT PTO/HITCH, 520/85R46, 372 HRS



JD 6230R 2020 ... \$312,995
TLS MFWD, IVT 50K, FRONT PTO/HITCH, LDR RDY 520/85R46, 340 HRS



JD 6250R 2020 ... \$323,795
TLS MFWD, IVT 50K, FRONT PTO/HITCH, 710/70R42, 130 HRS



JD 6195R 2020 ... \$271,495
680R LDR, MFWD, IVT 40K, AT RDY, 520/85R42, 375 HRS



JD 7230R 2018 ... \$294,795
TLS MFWD, IVT 50K, 650/85R38, 146 HRS



JD 8270R 2019 ... \$374,995
ILS MFWD, E23 50K, 480/80R46 DUALS, 266 HRS

Next Level Ag series plants itself on-line

—Synopsis by Don Beaulieu
—Photographs from screen captures

Conferences, lectures, annual meetings, workshops and seminars are always excellent learning opportunities. February saw the Holmes Agro team manage a learning curve of their own as they presented their Next Level Ag series on-line. The event began with host Kristen Carberry. The major sessions were pre-recorded with question and answer segments presented live. The whole “show” went well with no major technical hiccups. That is a decent feat in itself.

The major segments in the first installment of this series held early last month featured a Nitrogen Management Panel consisting of Bill Dunbar, Tim Laatsch and Greg Hodgins. That was followed by 2021 Outlook from OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs), with Mike Cowbrough, Tracey Baute and Albert Tenuta. The next segment Precision Research was presented by Will Kell and Dana Schofield. Wrapping up the presentations was Marketing, with Angie Setzer.

Carberry greeted viewers off the top, explained the format and how to submit questions to the presenters. Jeff Holmes then greeted viewers.

Holmes congratulated his team on their work at getting this presentation together. The many sponsors were reminded of the importance of their support. He introduced the Nitrogen Panel, moderated by Greg Hodgins.

Nitrogen panel

Hodgins introduced Doug Sanders and Nick Adamchak from Pursell Agri-Tech (Alabama, U.S.A.), Jonathan, an agronomist with Pursell, Bill Dunbar and Tim Laatsch. The Pursell team explained their advances in time-released fertilizer coatings. Release rates and curves can “mimic the nutrient needs of a plant”. There are many ways such a coating can be of benefit. Some research is performed in eastern Canada. This pair had to leave the session after the introductions were completed.

Jonathan works for an independent research group in Iowa and has been working with Pursell on research trials for the past year. More trials are planned for this year.

Laatsch introduced himself as the director of agronomy for North America for Koch Agronomics. Their trials take

place “across the whole of North America”.

He was eager to introduce two recent products: Anvol is promoted as the “longest-lasting urease inhibitor for urea and UAN to minimize volatilization loss”. Tribune is touted as “a dual-inhibitor stabilizer for UAN to minimize all three forms of nitrogen loss”.

Dunbar was representing the Norway-based YaraVera. He explained they have two main research centres. One in Germany and one in the United Kingdom.

The live question and answer period for this panel was moderated by crop advisor Lydia Noordegraf of Holmes Agro.

Corn rootworms

Field crop entomologist (OMAFRA) Tracey Baute was next up to speak. Her big concerns coming into 2021 are corn rootworm and Bt resistance. Ontario is dealing with western corn rootworm and northern corn rootworm. These pests have developed resistance to current pesticides. Currently, if rootworm was an issue in one year, the best way to kill the larvae is to not plant corn the following year. The larvae will die.

Rootworm larvae attack the roots, basically clipping them. This disrupts nutrient and water uptake as well as affecting the stability of the plant. Crop lodging can occur, making harvesting difficult. The result can be a 10% to 50% loss in yield. We are at a point that the United States was enduring in 2013 with this problem.

Baute warned that corn rootworm will remain a problem because of their quick adaptation to resistance to proteins. “Rotation out of corn will knock back the rootworm population”, she says. Because many farmers will not be rotating out of corn for 2021; two years out of corn is important. The adults will fly and lay eggs in neighbouring fields.

Help and suggestions are available through the OMAFRA website.

Weed control tips

Dennis Coffey of Holmes Agro introduced Mike Cowbrough, weed specialist in field crops at OMAFRA. Cowbrough spoke to giving your crops a distinct survival advantage over weeds. He provided a number of “actions” to strive for.

Action number one was to build soil fertility (20 ppm phosphorous and 120 ppm potassium). This is tied

to creating canopy. Using an example of a soybean canopy, a good cover decreased sunlight penetration by 40%, two weeks earlier than a cover grown in a poorer soil.

Action number 2 was to “Start clean & stay clean”. Allowing your crop to start with and remain without early competition from weeds will increase yield.

Crop scouting was Cowbrough’s third plan of action. Monitoring emerging weeds so one can apply the least amount of herbicide with prime effectiveness is critical. Finding something early, such as herbicide resistant waterhemp could save you some trouble too. This weed has not made its way into Farm View territory, but it is on our doorstep.

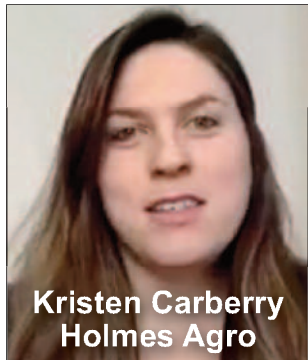
Action item number 4: “If you can’t plant winter wheat after soybean/dry beans, then plant oats!” As Cowbrough explained “Anytime you can introduce a crop to your rotation that has a different life-cycle, it has benefits for weed control”.

Action number 5 is to control weeds in the fall. Some examples cited were a control of dandelions applied in fall achieving 96% control versus a spring application providing 68% control. A late September application for field bindweed resulted in 15% greater grain yield. Spring and fall spraying of soybean resulted in a 26% higher soybean yield with a fall spraying for weeds.

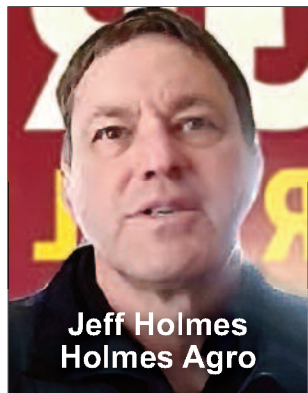
Diseases to look for in 2021

Albert Tenuta, field crops specialist for OMAFRA provided the next segment of the day. He got right into things with Phytophthora root rot and seedling blight. This is a particular issue with poorly drained compacted clay soils.

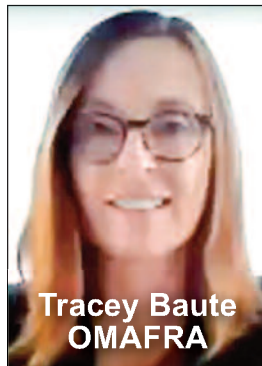
Soybean cyst nematode was discussed. This made its way into Simcoe County this past year while much of the southwest has already seen it. We don’t know about Dufferin County, so if that’s you, keep a close eye on your field and your plant roots. The extreme east end of Ontario is effected and Northumberland.



Kristen Carberry
Holmes Agro



Jeff Holmes
Holmes Agro



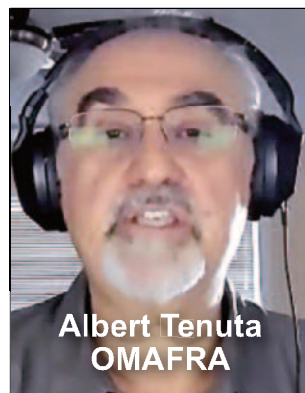
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Continued on page 15

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Remembering The LEGEND of Blackstock: The Born Livestock Man, KEITH VAN CAMP

Story and photo by Cathy Hamill-Hill

Keith Van Camp was born in Blackstock on Groundhog day in 1934 to parents Percy and Elva (Wright). Keith had two siblings, Aileen and Merrill. He grew up on a farm and was involved in 4-H. Keith showed the first time at the Royal Winter Fair with his 4-H project lamb. He fell in love at a young age with the girl across the road, two farms over named Wilma Toms who he first met at school. At 20 years old, Keith entered a prestigious judging competition at the Royal where young people competed to judge different sectors of livestock. The judges were astonished at the expertise shown especially with the judging reasons for dairy cattle and Keith won the competition.

A few years later, Keith married Wilma and the two purchased a local farm. Keith was not happy though on the farm so after the first two of their children were born, they moved. The family moved to the little town of Blackstock and this would be Keith's home for the rest of his long life. He found a barn, through family connections, to rent that was a short drive away.

In 1969, Keith planned what would be considered "a trip of a lifetime" with his good-natured wife, their two young children, a niece, a nephew and 18 show sheep. The truck of Van Camps and the trailer of sheep went to 7 major Fairs and Exhibitions from Manitoba to Vancouver over several months.

Keith's career working as a livestock dealer meant he bought and sold livestock. He specialized in purebred breeding stock from top genetics. His work spanned across the livestock sector including sheep, cattle and goats. He was a trusted source as he had the "eye" for finding what was needed to improve a herd or flock.

Doug Wherry of Oshawa was a longtime friend and often went along with Keith on buying trips across North America. Doug remembers one day in Eastern Ontario in March 1995 at a Milking Shorthorn cattle breeder's barn. "There was a pen of calves under 3 months old just inside the door. Within seconds of entering, Keith picked out a very dairy roan calf and asked immediately to see her dam. While we were walking over

to see the dam, he whispered to me, "get her bought." The calf was bought and Keith told Doug on the way home that calf would be heard to beat. That calf was the reserve junior Royal champion that year standing next to a yearling and went on to place second in a large class at the World Dairy Expo (Expo) in Madison, Wisconsin, USA. The heifer, "Jewel" won the Royal as a 2 year old then won at Expo and again at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA. She was sold to live in New Hampshire, USA but came back to the Royal in 1999 as a four year old to win Grand Champion and Best Udder. Doug says, "The breeders of Jewel could not believe that someone could see potential at under three months of age but Keith could."

Keith was not only skilled in sheep and cattle, his expertise for superior genetics led him to do the same for the dairy goat industry. His selected genetics are in the pedigrees and one doe with his own prefix, "Kampfire" are the highest classified in Canada today at EX-96. The "perfect goat" is 100 points, Keith almost got there with "Kampfire Shawnee's Angel" at EX-96, twice under two different classifiers.

In 1984, Keith attended and passed the Classifier Training Course for dairy goats in Western Canada. He was at this job for about a decade and a half. He went to classify goats across Canada. From this, he was contacted by ambassadors from Brazil asking him to find shipments of goats to bring to their country. Keith made trips to Brazil to be sure he was getting goats that would fit the needs there. It was a huge job to find the goats and then arrange for all the shipping that included getting the testing done to meet the importation regulations.

"Keith was a born livestock man. He had an eye for and an appreciation of animals, no matter what the species. Keith liked to teach. He was a determined character with a fun sense of humour. We all will miss him," said Russell Gammon of Fergus, past Canadian Goat Society (CGS) classifier, current CGS Manager and past Executive Secretary for Jersey Canada.

In a milking goat herd in southern Ontario, Keith spotted a 3 year old Sannen. He bought

her. She had no show history. Her name was Brighter Futures Ashley. About a year later, Ashley won Best Doe in Show at the 2006 Royal Winter Fair.

Keith dedicated a lot of time quietly teaching others about livestock and improving other people's herds over his lifetime. Patrick McClean of Campbellcroft is a second generation dairy goat farmer and licensed CGS judge and will always consider Keith as his mentor. It was Keith's advice that built the current Pepperpot and Pat "R" Swiss Sannen herd that now has a list for pre-ordered kids from across Canada. Keith encouraged the young farmer- and Patrick excelled in the show ring learning how to show goats at a level that Keith admired. At the ADGA show in 2001, Patrick was asked by Keith to show his goats. The friendship only grew over the years to the point that Keith had some goats living in Patrick's barn- and one of them was the 2017 East National Champion for Sannens, that incredible "Kampfire Shawnee's Angel", a 10 year old daughter of Ashley.

Patrick summarizes, "I want Keith to know how he has helped me through the years. How grateful I am to be asked to show his goat at the Royal and at the ADGA Nationals. Thank you Keith for your wisdom in breeding and showing goats. You are my mentor, my dear friend. I will always cherish our times together."

Keith was a devoted family man. His love for his family was his first priority. No livestock business ever got in his way for being there cheering on and teaching his family of 4 children, Cindy Werry (Dennis), Barry (Steven), Leanne O'Donnell (Jim), Debbie Van Camp-Showler and Jay Van Camp (Kelly) and his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Keith would arrange his work life to be with his family at 4-H events, milestone celebrations and for celebrating holidays together. The Royal was the event that Keith supported the longest- and he encouraged his family to be part of this. He was an exhibitor at the Royal for 71 consecutive years.

His last years of life were touched greatly by the effects of Parkinson's Disease. It was the compassion and tireless dedication of care of Barry and his partner, Steven that allowed



Keith Van Camp was an exhibitor at the Royal Winter Fair for 71 consecutive years. Here he is with a member of his "Kampfire" herd of Sannens at the Royal.

for Keith to continue living in his Blackstock home.

With the aid of a motorized scooter, Keith soldiered on to attend his final Royal in 2019. His very last day there was to attend the Royal Junior Dairy Goat Show. The born livestock man was ringside to see, in his seventh decade of coming here, 4 generations of Van Camps at this Royal. Keith's own Sannen was there and was shown the day before along with his son Barry's own LaManchas. Keith's granddaughter, Haley Van Camp was showing this day. And so were Keith's great grandchildren, Paige, Tate, Leigh and Anna Werry.

On January 1st in his Blackstock home while near his cherished wife of over 64 years, the great family man and Legend of Livestock, peacefully slipped out of this world. He was in his 87th year.

To honour Keith's life the family would appreciate donations by cheque or postal money order to:

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Working Together to end Global Hunger

2020 Loaves and Fishes Growing Project Report

The Loaves and Fishes Growing Project began in the fall of 1997 when a group of local farmers and individuals gathered at the Bond Head United Church. They made plans to grow corn, soybeans and wheat to donate to the Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB).

The biblical story of the Loaves and Fishes highlights that when a little is given to feed the hungry it is multiplied many times over. Our efforts make a difference no matter how small. This was evident once again in 2020, our project's 23rd year.

The CFGB is a Christian organization, which consists of 15-member church denominations that provide food and development assistance to people in need through the mission/relief/development agencies of the churches involved.

Global hunger is on the rise due to conflict, a changing climate and now COVID-19 which makes this work even more important. Our community is incredibly generous in giving both time and resources for this cause.

In 2020 our project on 138 acres grew corn, soybeans and wheat; most inputs were donated by local agribusinesses and farmers. Farmers who donated their equipment and time to grow and harvest the crops. Churches and individuals also donated cash.

This past year, we had above average crop yields and commodity prices were much better as well, resulting in \$135,000 being sent to the CFGB. Over the 23 years we have sent in \$2,955,647 million dollars to CFGB. This money is matched by the Canadian International Development Platform at a ratio of 4:1. So for every dollar we donate we can receive up to 4 government dollars. Our Tax dollars at work for us!

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Plans are underway for our 24th year in 2021. Our project is always looking for more individuals to contribute to this worthy cause, in any way possible. Thinking Globally and acting locally.

Kevin Eisses
Project Co-ordinator
keisses@gmail.com;
705-623-0432
CFGB website:
www.foodgrainsbank.ca

20/21 International Plowing Match And Rural Expo Is Moving Forward



Directors and staff of the Ontario Plowmen's Association are proud to announce that they will be "Moving Forward" with plans for the 20/21 International Plowing Match (IPM) and Rural Expo. While continuing to honour and respect the health situation and health regulations caused by Covid-19, the organizers will be simultaneously planning both the traditional IPM and a re-envisioned IPM.

Local and Provincial volunteers look forward to welcoming visitors to the Municipality of Kawartha Lakes from Wednesday, October 13th to Saturday, October 16th. As planned, the IPM will be hosted on the Lindsay Fairgrounds and neighbouring farms.

The traditional IPM features such as the BMO Plowing Competition, the Hydro One Education and the Queen of the Furrow Competition presented by Ontario Mutuals may look a little different this year but you can be assured they will be just as exciting and memorable.

Alternate designs for both the Tented City and the RV Park are being developed. The revised designs will protect our exhibitors, volunteers and visitors with additional health protocols.

"Our provincial and local volunteers will be ramping up their committee planning with conference calls and video calls. And, we really look

forward to the in-person committee and community meetings that we will be held just as soon as the provincial health situation allows", said Don Priest, vice-president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association.

As part of their commitment to the community, and through the generosity of the Celebrate Ontario grant programme, the Ontario Plowmen's Association was pleased to partner with the Lindsay Agricultural Society to present the "Merry and Bright Festival." The IPM display highlighted some of the features you will be able to see in-person at the 20/21 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo.

Visitors and volunteers are urged to check additional plans and progress at www.plowingmatch.org

For further information, please contact:
ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Sheila Marshall, president, Ontario Plowmen's Association

Don Priest, vice-president, Ontario Plowmen's Association

Cathy Lasby, Executive Director, cathy@plowingmatch.org

(Because our office is currently closed due to the Covid-19 regulations, please email your requests and we will call you).

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Grey-Bruce Farmers' Week, Goat Day Explanations of "Skinny" Goats in the Herd

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Dr. Talia Fletcher of the Markdale Animal Clinic- and owner of a mixed animal farm in Grey County was a speaker on Goat Day.

There are 3 top reasons that can change a goat into "skinny" which is defined as greatly below average in body condition.

The first reason is Johne's. According to Dr. Fletcher, Johne's is contagious, chronic and fatal. Transmission for Johne's usually happens as a baby kid from an infected adult. It spreads from fecal matter from the adult and then sits inside the gut of the goat until about two years old when it may- or may not show symptoms.

Goats with Johne's often are skinny because they are slowly wasting away. The disease causes the gut to not work properly so the goat will eat well but that food does no good at all to the goat.

Testing can be done through fecal tests when the goat is over two years old. By the time it is found the rest of the herd has been exposed.

A skinny goat could also be in that condition from the most common of all concerns today in the dairy goat industry, CAE which stands for Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis.

CAE is a highly contagious multi problem disease that, according to Dr. Fletcher affects "80% of dairy goats in Canada" at this time. CAE is a goat-only disease and is not contagious to any other species but goats. It is most commonly seen as arthritis, CAE causes swollen knees often as a first sign. Dr. Fletcher stressed, "It is not normal that goats should ever be walking on their knees." CAE can also cause a deep cough that often advances into chronic pneumonia. Further, CAE can effect the goat's udder causing both halves to be hard with no or little milk making it a real issue for the dairy industry. It is rare she said but CAE can also cause brain damage in kids under six months of age. The most that can be done for CAE is pain management for arthritis and antibiotics for pneumonia which are temporary fixes.

There is now an effective blood test for CAE. Dr. Fletcher says, except for a month before kidding, the test is accurate to determine if the goat is negative or positive for CAE.

While it is not possible to either vaccinate or treat CAE to the point of recovery, there are proven methods of controlling it in the dairy herd.

"Snatch and rear" the kids from the doe at birth, she said adding the kids need to be raised on non-pooled milk or artificial (powdered milk). Kids should be started with artificial (powdered) colostrum and then fed either powdered milk or milk that is not pooled from any doe but the kid's mother. Doe's that are CAE positive or showing signs of CAE should be culled as in euthanized "not sold to other herds or we will never get CAE under control," she said. Herd owners that are serious about eradicating CAE follow the "test and separate" which she says means testing for CAE and moving out any does that come up positive immediately.

She added that by following control measures, "a lot of dairy herds reduce CAE and Johne's at the same time."

It could be argued that the third reason that contributes to reducing a goat to skinny condition, Caseous Lymphadenitis best known as CL, is not as critical to the herd because there is a proven vaccination. Some farmers will argue that they are not dealing with CL simply because it's just too unsightly. The issue with CL is that it is "really gross," Dr. Fletcher says explaining the disease causes large lumps at either external or internal lymph glands sites. Externally, these large lumps fill up with a soft, cottage cheese like pus that eventually burst

contaminating everything the pus touches from the herd owners clothes, other goats and also feeders and mangers. The pus can live outside the body for weeks or months actively contaminating.

To control CL in the herd, the animal with the CL lump should be moved to an isolated "hospital pen." The lump will ripen to the point it will soon break open however, it is advised that the lump is first lanced and flushed for control. The goats owner should wear gloves and be sure to collect all the pus that comes out of the lump. The abscess site is scrubbed along with surrounding skin with iodine. The goat stays in the hospital pen until the site scabs over.

Some CL lumps get as big as a human fist or bigger- and if those lumps are internal like on the lungs it can kill the goat causing it to first get skinny.

The vaccination for CL is readily available at a vet office and it works, according to Dr. Fletcher.

The best way to find out the exact cause why a goat goes into a condition of skinny is to find out "why" at the time of death to prevent further losses. There is an online tool for farmers that want to learn how to do post-mortems on the farm at: <https://oahn.ca/resources/video-the-value-of-a-postmortem-for-your-goat-herd/>

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Planting Cold: Planting in cold conditions to beat early frosts

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Today's crop farmers often have a huge amount of area to plant, at different locations so planting in "cold" conditions has been a question often asked to professionals. Planting Cold was session #13.

Chuck Belanger of Maisex Seeds said in his area of Chatham-Kent, there is heavy clay soil which is not comparable to other soils like the "forgiveable loam" type. With clay soil, he advises, "it pays to be patient."

He gave an example of two clay loam fields worked in 2020 that were comparable. One field was planted on May 8th and when Chuck was called in he was "100% happy with the soil, it was ready to go. I agreed it was time to plant though the forecast stated that it was going to go cold. The second field in this comparison was planted, after all the cold, on June 2nd. On May 11th, there were 2 inches of snow and on May 15th-17th there were 2.9 mm of rain. Harvest for the first field yielded 183.1 bushels to the acre on November 5th. Harvest for the second field yielded 234.6 bushels to the acre on October 29th.

Chuck Belanger came home to farm with his grandfather in 1990 to grow seed corn. He remembered, "We were not allowed to plant the corn until the company came out with a thermometer to check the soil temperature and it had to be 68F before we could put a seed in." He added it took 11 hours to plant 50 acres then. Now, "planting 50 acres can be done in 2 hours."

He advised that crop farmers "Look at the long range forecast, look at 7 days not just 2 days. I have seen 21 days before the seeds get out of the ground."

He added that planting "cold" means that the seeds have to work a bit harder to get out of the ground so they might need some help with field tillage.

With clay type soil the corn seed after 16 days, in tests, that stayed in the ground weren't going to survive. "The tough little soybean" though will make it because the seeds "work together to push up through the crust," he reported adding that when planting in cold conditions, the soybeans need to be planted together so they can work together to emerge. Chuck said that a big part of his job now is to "walk the fields" and help to decide if a replant is needed for fields that are not emerging at a rate where a profitable yield can happen. He said there is a management tool of Replacement Decision Making at: www.go-corn.net

Deb Campbell of Agronomy Advantage Inc., works in the mid-west, Central Ontario region and says that planting in cold conditions happens often because of the shorter season with early frosts coming in September. She says that planting in 2020 occurred April 28th to May 1st and some nights it went down to -8 C to -10C.

Deb said that "early emergence ratings" are important for crop farmers to watch if planting early. She added that seed

treatments are important too because they "protect the seed while in the ground." Early planting means the seeds could be in the ground for 4 weeks before they first emerge.

Pulling seeds from the ground after planting needs to be done, Deb advised. She said that in 21 days the fields should be closely monitored because a replant at that point could happen. Corn that has a "corkscrew" growth means that the plant will either die or grow in a stunted condition. She said, "dig in the field and see what is happening- in several rows in the field."

To have success, "everything when planting early has to be optimized," she said adding that the soil must be in top condition along the correct seeding rate and fertilizer application. Deb stressed that working with experts is critical at each step.

Farmer's Guide to Road Safety: Safety needs to be top of mind

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Farm equipment today is "heavier, bigger and faster than ever before. And farmers are spending more time on the road than ever before. Safety needs to be top of mind," said Ian MacDonald of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the moderator for Session 9 of the Ontario Agriculture Conference. The two experts at the discussion were Richard Curado and Matt Mitchell, both traffic enforcement officers for the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. There was an opportunity during the live portion of this discussion for questions to be sent in- and there were hundreds, Ian reported.

Today's farmer often has properties spread out across the countryside meaning it is necessary to move farm equipment using public roads. According to the Highway Traffic Act (HTA), any road whether it be the 401 or the municipal owned sideroad is considered a "highway." And the HTA applies to every highway in Ontario.

Farmers have a legal right to use public highways however, the HTA has rules in place to keep everyone safe that shares the highway.

One of the big issues today is sharing the road. There is nothing more maddening to an eager cottage owner on a summer weekend than to be stuck behind a tractor going 40 km/h on a highway for a long time.

"Let the traffic pile (line) up and wait to get to a SAFE place before you pull over," stressed Officer Mitchell. He stressed that care must be used to find a level spot that is strong enough so the tractor or self-propelled implement can

be safely stopped.

"Management is everything," said Officer Curado explaining that time management is important because moving equipment on a July weekend is a lot more inclined to have traffic issues than other times. He said it is not pleasant to have long lines of angry people backed up in cars that can be laying on the horn in frustration. He agreed with his colleague that, "move over but ONLY if it's safe, creating a dust cloud is not being safe from moving over. It's important to find a safe clear spot, then move over. If you move over, hit a soft spot and something happens, you might be in a liability position," he warned.

"We want you to drive on the paved portion of the highway," he stated. "Farmers are entitled to the road like everyone else," he added.

While farm equipment is allowed on the road, there are some rules that must be followed and these rules are there to keep everyone safe.

It is law to have the Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) sign attached where the driving public can see it on every farm tractor or self-propelled implement. Officer Curado explained, "the SMV needs to be where it is going to be seen so it needs to be at the back of the last wagon being pulled not on the tractor where it cannot be seen. Keep the SMV sign clean and replace the old faded signs with new ones." He added in response to a question from a listener that SMV signs should not ever be used at the end of a lane way and instead, to be only used for slow moving vehicles with no exceptions. He added that SMV signs should not ever

Planting early for soybeans is done "for the yield." There is no need for more equipment or to add in any extra cost to get on the fields earlier in the season. Deb reported, "By planting early, the end of August is the pod filling time- and then it misses the most moisture stress time." She added that last May 5th it was so cold that it snowed however, the soybean yield from planting in those times were not effected at all.

"Pushing the planting dates earlier is worth it, to get more yields," she concluded.

Chris Olbach works in Eastern Ontario. He advised that watching the weather forecast is critical when considering planting in cold conditions. "Planting just before a stress event such as a cold rain or snow can cause significant plant loss."

be placed upside down.

SMV signs are used for vehicles going no more than 40 km/h. Officer Mitchell explained that, "no one can exceed 40 km/h with a SMV sign. It is capped at 40 km/h and the police can issue tickets for exceeding that."

The HTA has rules for lighting that involves the time between thirty minutes before sunset to thirty minutes after sunrise or when the weather is bad. Lights must be visible minimum for 492 feet (150 m) for all farm tractors and self-propelled implements. All must have two white or amber headlamps and a minimum of one red tail lamp. If the tractor or equipment is over 8 feet, 6 inches (2.5 m) wide, it must have two red tail lamps and two red reflectors in addition. Further, if a combination of vehicles exceeds 20 feet (6.1 m) there must be also two green or amber side marker lamps or reflectors near the front and 2 red side marker lamps or reflectors near the rear.

There was a question about a combine having to fill up grain wagons from a field with no other place available then the quiet sideroad for the wagons to be parked while being filled. Officer Curado said, "In that 2 minutes that the road is blocked, emergency vehicles could not get through. The road must not be blocked at any time."

Several times, the speakers said that a farm equipment accident on a highway can be a near disaster for a farmer especially if found to be at fault. One key way to avoid farm accidents is to follow the HTA and keep safety in mind, at all times.

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March into Spring Fire Safety Tips

By Dennis Gannon

Spring is in the air. The meteorological start of Spring begins on March 1 and the astronomical date is Saturday March 20. With the season of Spring upon us we start to remove ourselves from hibernation and get outdoors more. While we look forward to getting outside more frequently, we still need to keep our guard up to avoid the damaging effects of an unintentional fire.

On Sunday March 14 we move into Daylight Saving Time. When we move our clocks ahead one hour, we need to check our smoke alarms. If they are battery operated then it's time to change the battery. Smoke alarms have a 10 year life expectancy so check the date on them and replace them as needed. If your smoke alarm is wired into your household wiring it still has a 10 year life so check the date on them as well when you test them. At the same time give all your smoke alarms a quick vacuum to remove dust that may have accumulated. Frequently the cause of smoke alarms going off near the bathroom or kitchen is from an accumulation of dust caused by showers and steam. Vacuuming will assist in making sure that they are working properly and not sending false alarms.

This year there has been an increase in the number of fatal fires in Ontario. In two separate cases 4 people in each have lost their lives. While the outside temperature is rising and we are looking forward to getting outdoors more often, we still require our heating equipment. All homes that are heated by natural or propane gas, wood or oil require a Carbon Monoxide detector on every level of your home. Additionally if you have an attached garage one is required there as well. Carbon monoxide detectors require monthly testing and have a shorter life expectancy than smoke alarms. Check the expiration date that is printed on the unit and replace it with a new one if necessary.

March is also a good time to make sure that your family fire escape plan is up to date and has been practiced. Everyone in the household should know 2 ways out from every room if possible. Who is assisting older adults, those with disabilities or younger children? Confirm your family meeting place. If possible make it at a neighbour's house. Know your civic address and keep a charged cell phone nearby at all times and call 9-1-1 from outside the house. Finally do not go back into a house on fire to retrieve items. Almost everything can be replaced.

EVERY SECOND COUNTS! Fire and smoke can travel so quickly that despite their best efforts, firefighters may not be able to rescue you or your family if a fire occurs in your home. You need to be out of your home when the firefighters arrive!

Finally if there is a fire hydrant near your home help the fire department by cleaning the snow away from it in a 10 foot area. Valuable time is lost when firefighters need to climb over snow banks and clear snow before being able to get water flowing to the fire trucks.

For more information on home, farm or business fire safety contact your local fire department. They are always happy to answer questions for you.

The ice box on the farm

By James Vidal

I was raised on a small farm in Saskatchewan and in the early 1950's as a small boy, I remember that we didn't have a refrigerator but we had a ice box. It stood in the kitchen and did the job like a fridge. A block of ice went in the top and food that had to keep cool went into the lower part. Lucky for us we lived near a large lake and were able to get ice.

There was always a team of horses in the barn ready to work. In the winter after the lake would freeze over, my Dad and uncle would head out onto the ice and cut blocks of ice for the ice house. The team of horses pulled the load of blocks on the wagon. A long ice saw was used to cut and a big pair of tongs used to pull the blocks out of the water.

The ice house was built long before I came along but I remember it was a rectangle about 15' by 30' long dug into the ground about 4 feet deep. It had log walls about 3 feet above ground and a metal roof. A block of ice could last 3 to 5 days, little less in the summertime.

Me and my two sisters in the hot July weather would go down to the ice house and play in the straw that was used to

cover the blocks of ice to prevent them from melting. My Dad was good at estimating how much ice we needed as we never ran out.

We finally got a fridge in later years. It was a Leonard. The ice saw and tongs hung in the garage. The ice box was still put to use after the fridge came. It was put on the porch and used to store Mom's homemade Christmas chocolates and mince meat tarts and other items minus the ice. It was a simple way of life and we enjoyed it very much. You can take away the items but you cannot take away the memories a small boy had growing up on a farm in Saskatchewan.

New Year, New 4-H Clubs

By Tamara Fisher-Cullen

South Simcoe 4-H is set to launch their 2021 season with a virtual rally night on Friday March 5th. Returning members and families, as well as those interested in starting their 4-H experience, are encouraged to attend. Please email Carla Williams at Southsimcoe4H@hotmail.com to get the zoom link. During the online rally night, leaders will provide a brief overview of the clubs running this year, including new clubs such as the canine club and the South Simcoe market club. Returning clubs include the livestock clubs (dairy, sheep and beef) and life skills clubs such as cooking and gardening. There will also be a demonstration of the registration process, as it is now fully online. Be sure to check out the list of clubs online at <https://4-h-ontario.ca/association/simcoe-south-4-h-association/>. You may sign up prior to the rally night if you wish. This is the year to use your head, heart, hands and health to better yourself and help those around you. We look forward to seeing you there!

ward to seeing you there!

Please note, while we hope to meet in person at some point this season, many of the clubs will be starting online. When local restrictions allow, clubs may consider a safe return to in-person meetings. All in-person meetings will be organized using the 4-H Ontario framework for in-person meetings and adhering to the local health unit guidelines.

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CHRISTMAS LIST

Poem written by Helen Steiner Rice 1949

I have a list of folks I know all written in a book;
And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look.

And that is when I realize that these names are of a part;

Not of the book in which they're written, but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime,

And in that meeting, they've become the Rhythm of the Rhyme.

And while it sounds fantastic of me to make this claim,

I really feel I am composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any special link,

Just meeting you has shaped my life more than you can think.

For once you've met somebody, those years they can't erase,

The memories of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.

So never think my Christmas greeting is just a mere routine,

Of names upon a Christmas list forgotten in between,
For when I send a Christmas greeting that is addressed to you,

It's because you're on that list of folks I am indebted to.

For I am but a total of the many one's I've met,

And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.

And whether I have known you for many years or few,

In some way, you had a part in shaping things I do.

So every year when Christmas comes, I realize anew,

The biggest gift, life can give is meeting someone like you.

And may the spirit of Christmas that forever and ever endures,

Leave it's richest blessings, in the heart of you and yours.

My father recently gave me a copy of the poem above. I know it isn't Christmas, but it is a lovely reminder to send a card, or call your family and friends at any time.

— Roslyn



Gardiner's gate barn quilts custom made this barn quilt for Bailey Creek Farms in Loretto. For detailed information on the history of barn quilts and maps please visit www.barnquilttrails.ca or <https://experience.simcoe.ca/barn-quilt-trail>

— Photo by Dave Webber



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Be aware and involved early, information is power

As the middle of February rolls around, I always rejoice in the fact that visibly longer days means spring is around the corner!

This month, I want to encourage our readers to become better informed on your local municipal decision-making processes. I'm not suggesting that you run for a council seat in the next election or even attend every single council meeting.

What I am suggesting is simple.

Schedule an hour each month and review the agenda for your local council meeting. This is easy and convenient to do from the comfort of your own home. Most municipalities post the agenda on their website several days before the meeting. Much can be learned about proposed by-laws. Many agenda items will also have important background informational documents attached which provides the reader with a greater context of the issue. In my experience as an OFA field rep, being aware and involved early in the process is the key to providing an objective position. Information is power!

If you have questions regarding an item on the agenda call your councilor. Developing a positive relationship with your councilor is beneficial. If they know who you are and where you live, they are more likely to understand your position on an issue. We are constantly told that farmers represent less than 2% of the population. This is why we all need to advocate for our industry at the local, provincial and federal levels of government. How often have you heard a neighbour talking about how council passed a restrictive by-law without any input from the local agricultural community? Keep in mind that councils represent all residents. Sometimes, well-meaning by-laws created for rural residential or even urban areas have unintended consequences for

agriculture. How does this happen you ask? We have become disengaged and hope that someone else will take up the fight. Investing a small amount of time to introduce yourself to your councilor before you require their assistance could make all the difference.

I firmly believe that the agricultural community can do a better job at communicating our challenges with proposed by-laws to municipal staff and councilors if we get in the game early! It is far easier to have discussions regarding by-laws before they are passed. We need to ensure that we keep ourselves informed. Each County Federation of Agriculture has representatives on their boards from each municipality in your County or Region. If you learn of an issue that will impact your farming operation or all farms in your area, please call or email to inform that local representative and myself.

Remember to visit the OFA website for information on our submissions and comments to government on policy that affects your farm business. There is also information on OFA initiatives that support your farm business such as Feeding Your Future. <https://feedingyourfuture.ca/> This service assists farmers and agricultural businesses searching for skilled employees. A new element in this program is the creation of the Ontario Agriculture Worker Safety and Awareness Certificate. Up to five employees can register to take this training per

business at a reduced cost of \$49/person until the end of June 2021, feedingyourfuture.ca/agri-training. Always in Season is a tool kit created to assist those who are looking to create events celebrating local food. <https://ofa.on.ca/AlwaysinSeason>



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What is it?

One of Farm View's readers sent in these photos. While he has a fairly good idea what the item in question is, he would like confirmation to be certain.

The sender states "The saw on the left is undoubtedly a hand crafted "swede saw." The saw on the right I presume is a "cross cut saw" that has been cut in half and used for cutting ice? The saw in the middle is the question. It has a very sharp blade which extends about 6" from the tip onto the top edge as well. The rest of the top edge is wide and flattened, as if it is a surface to be struck upon. The end of the blade has a slight curve like a hockey stick. The handle is also off set about 4" from the projection of the blade.



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The answers will be
printed in the next
issue of Farm View.

US-Canada Trade under the Biden Presidency

By Clarence Nywening Interim General Manager for the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

With the Biden administration settling into office, it's a new era south of the border, and generally people here in Canada are heaving a huge sigh of relief.

The politics of division and disruption brought on by President Trump saw economic upheaval in many quarters – including in our agricultural sector.

The US is our largest trading partner, receiving \$24.7 billion in agri-food exports in 2019. Of course, trade goes both ways: \$25.6 billion worth of agri-food products came north, according to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

It's a big deal, especially for a country like Canada, which is so dependent on international trade. So in 2018, when the US engaged in a trade war with the Chinese, Canadian grain growers lost out while American farmers benefited from tens of billions of dollars in bailout money. Our dairy industry took a hit when President Trump disparaged it in public. And concessions were made to the supply management system to reach the new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).

The influence of the Trump years on trade went global. The World Trade Organization (WTO), which rules on the fairness of trade actions between countries, was crippled when Washington began blocking appointments to its appellate body.

While it looks like the new Biden administration is more stable – and far more open to multilateral trade – the president is still committed to a "Made in All of America" agenda. He's even signed an executive order, which among many things, affects \$600 billion in goods that are procured by US federal agencies.

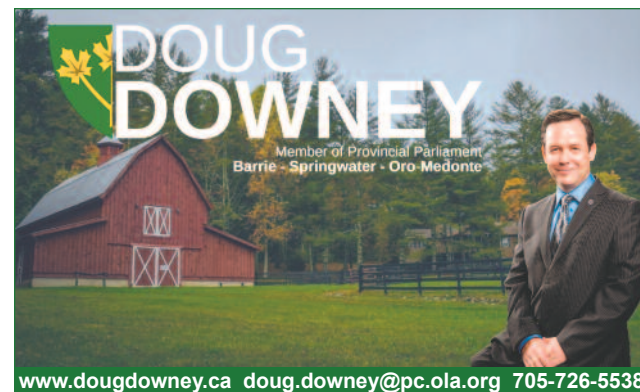
Biden's agriculture secretary, Tom Vilsack, has also mused about bringing back mandatory country of origin labelling (also known as COOL). In 2011, this US policy triggered a WTO dispute by Canada and Mexico against the US that dragged out for six years, affecting especially our pork and beef exports. In the end, it was repealed, but only after Canada and Mexico threatened to slap WTO-approved tariffs on American goods.

Vilsack most recently said that he would only revive the

COOL policy if it didn't trigger sanctions from the WTO, but the current administration is not averse to protectionist policies.

For now, it's early days. The US and Canada are stilling trying to wrestle the COVID-19 pandemic to the ground while dealing with its economic fallout. At the same time, the Biden administration is returning attention to climate change. American policies will have impacts in Canada, including for agriculture.

As we move into 2021, our hope is that policy makers will find ways for our two countries to work together in mutual respect for the good of our people, our economies and our environment.



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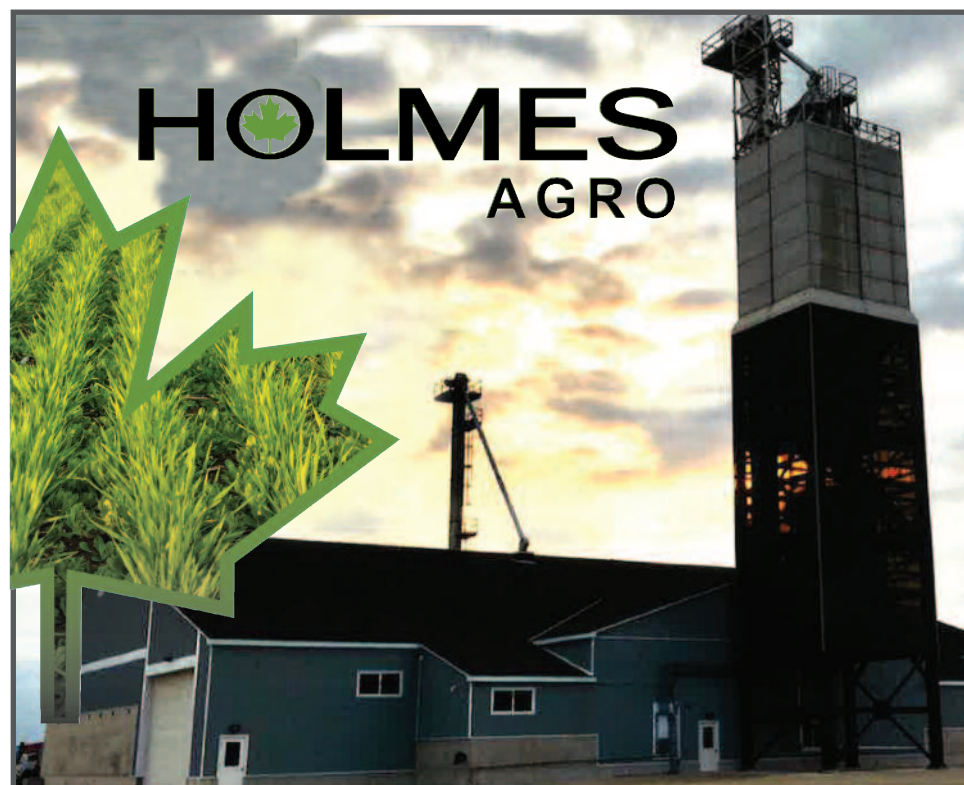
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Next Level Ag continued...

Sudden death syndrome (SDS) follows where the cyst nematodes go.

Tar spot on corn was mentioned. This disease was in southwestern Ontario this past year. It thrives in cool and wet conditions, about 16°–23°C. It likes 7 hours of leaf wetness at night and relatively high humidity, 75% or more. It overwinters in corn residue.

Tenuta says “We need to be aware of it (tar spot), we do not need to fear it”.

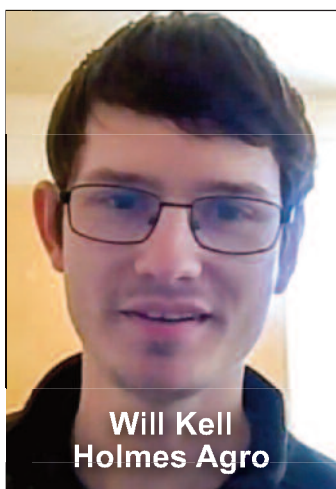
Making precision pay

Will Kell of Holmes Agro addressed new technologies on the farm. He began his presentation with the National Research Council’s definition from 1997:

“The application of modern information technologies to provide, process and analyze multi-source data of high spatial and temporal resolution for decision making and operations in the management of crop production”.

In a nut shell, what that means on the farm today is the use of Global Positioning Systems, yield monitoring, satellite imagery, soil mapping, variable rate applications and data management systems. The more varied your farmland is, the greater the benefit from variable rate applications. Kell reminded us that base fertility is of utmost importance.

One of his closing thoughts was regarding more restrictive terms for nutrient and fertilizer use. This could come from the 4R programme or through government regulations. We will need “strategies that allow us to get the best



**Will Kell
Holmes Agro**

efficiency out of all the inputs that we apply” he said. He predicts that with carbon credit programmes coming, there will be an emphasis on data management and being able to prove that you (the farmer) are following the rules and meeting the criteria.

Digital in 2021

Continuing with precision agriculture, Dana Schofield, digital business manager at Corteva Agriscience, spoke to



**Dana Schofield
Corteva Agriscience**

how digital continues to play a larger role. Schofield is looking forward to working with Holmes Agro and their customers this year with the MyFarm application, powered by Granular Insights. He explained some of the newer aspects of the programme:

–One can upload data from over 10 manufacturers including the John Deere Operations Center.
–Comparing profit on each acre with varieties using agronomic and financial map layers.

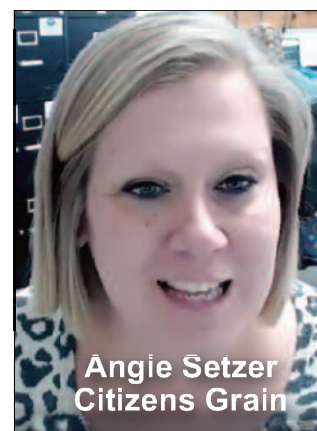
–The ability to pull up simple charts showing the effect of harvest moisture and planting date on your yield.

–Collaborating with your team by snapping photographs and sending notes.

–The ability to catch and correct issues faster with the add-on Directed Scouting.

Marketing

The final presenter of the day was Angie Setzer of Citizens Grain LLC of Michigan. Keeping focus and maintaining profitability was her goal. She gave us the history of world



**Angie Setzer
Citizens Grain**

events and politics of the past year.

In telling us what to look for ahead, she said that demand developments in China and around the world will need to be monitored. How the new United States administration approaches stimulus, foreign policy and monetary moves will be key. Setzer had a short list of items of concern which were China-related:

–A resurgence of COVID being reported with cities having been locked down ahead of the lunar new year holiday.

–ASF is being reported for the first time since last October with a new strain found in barns of China’s fourth largest hog producer.

–A bird flu is spreading across Asia into Europe with millions of birds being euthanized.

She spoke to corn and beans based on U.S. conditions but with some relevance with regard to world markets.

Setzer expects us to be in a bullish market for an extended time. She figures *volatility* will be the word of the year for 2021. There are likely too many unknowns to have confidence in any type of price or supply and demand outlook.

She listed the biggest components to success with the first one being “Have a plan”. Successful marketers have an idea months in advance what they are going to plant. Mother Nature can change your plan, but cost structure alone is not the only factor in play when making planting decisions. Successful marketers are also aware of rotational aspects and benefits that are not necessarily easily identifiable.

Knowing your costs and the factors that influence them is of utmost importance Setzer insists.

Two more installments of Next Level Ag were presented later in February.

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Report from the SCFA

By John Morrison, President, Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture

At our February meeting David Bradbury gave a very informative presentation on the Alliston Good Shepherd Food Bank. He commented on the number of volunteers who help at the food bank and the support given by the community. David also noted an increase in the number of people using food banks since this pandemic arrived.

We had a very successful Grain Marking Seminar with positive feedback from the participants. Thank you for the comments. It's always encouraging when an event is organized, especially during these unprecedented times, to hear how well you enjoyed it. Many thanks to Steve Kell for presenting this seminar; he drew on his many years of experience in the grain marketing business.

Our next event will be a Precision Agriculture Seminar on March 30, at 10:00 am. Steve Reynolds from Huron Tractor in Exeter will give a presentation on Auto-Trac, Section Control, Telematics and the future of Precision Agriculture. Should be a very interesting presentation. To register (by March 26) for this virtual presentation, see the ad on page 11 for instructions.

Your Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture Board is working with Simcoe County Agri-Tourism to erect signs on hiking trails throughout the county explaining the benefits of agriculture to the environment. We are hoping to place five signs with five different messages on these trails. As time goes on, we will be able to add to this number. During this pandemic, we have seen more use of hiking trails by people wanting to get some exercise in the outdoors. The signs are a good way of informing the public and promoting agriculture in the county.

We are investigating the possibility of creating a video of all the different agricultural activities in the county, from the production of grains and oilseeds, livestock and vegetables to Christmas tree production. We have a very diverse agricultural industry in Simcoe, and showing these industries in video will help promote, not only our industry, but Simcoe County as well and show people it's a great place to work and live.

Mental Health is becoming more of an issue. It's always been with us, but during these times it has become more predominant. In the past, people were hesitant to talk about their mental health, but more and more people are coming forward expressing concerns. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture recognizes this and has resources to help. If you or someone you know is having trouble, please contact the OFA office as they have information to help cope.

Yorkshire Valley Farms Canadian Eco-Scholar Award

Are you a full-time student at a Canadian academic institution? Are you passionate about organics? We want to hear from you!

We are pleased to announce that our cooperation with Yorkshire Valley Farms has allowed us to expand our scholarship awards.

This year, a total of \$10,000 will be distributed to four deserving students.

One \$5000 award for first place, two \$2000 second place awards, one \$1000 third place award.

Find Out More!

The Yorkshire Valley Farms Canadian Eco-Scholar Award is open to all residents of Canada, except Quebec, who are 16 years of age or older, and are full-time students actively enrolled in a Canadian academic institution. All areas of study are eligible – what matters is that you are passionate about organic agriculture practices and how they can be a force for good in our society.

To apply, submit a video maximum 2 minutes in length in which you tell us about the role you hope to play in the organic regenerative movement. We want to know about you, how you are engaged in organics, and how you intend to use your studies and your actions to progress organic regenerative practices in your community.

Application details, including full rules and regulations, can be found on the Guelph Organic Conference website.

Submissions are due March 19, 2021

Please spread the word to all students that you know! This is a great opportunity to help support and guide the next generation of organic and regenerative leaders.

After The Chores: COLD FARMING with a HOT IDEA

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



I hate winter. I hate the cold part of winter the most.

As a cold person that lives in a warm house and still needs two layers of clothes and two blankets to even possibly have a chance to feel warm, winter is a hard season to get through.

The barn here is frozen from end to end. The network of pipes and taps that were all put in place to make chores pleasant are now just useless ice cubes until spring. The only way to get water into the barn is through a water hose from the laundry tub's tap, through the basement window and into a 90 gallon storage tank in the barn. Sweetie thankfully put a floating heater in the tank so that leaves only the manual tap left to freeze. We thaw out that tap using a kettle of hot water that I fill from the last time the tap is unthawed. The job left then is to get those 90 gallons of water out to those that need it. I have refused, never in the winter, Sweetie's offer to put together a grand plan of a heated water system for the barn that would work in all seasons because carrying weights is said to be good for my bones.

"I have TOO MANY rabbits," I snarled to Sweetie as the first cold snap in January hit as I dropped a load of fully frozen water bottles inside by the back door. I had two more trips before I got them all in. Then the bottles need to be lined up like soldiers for the thawing to take place. We keep the house warm, 73F this year as that is our "pandemic treat" since we sure are not going anywhere else. It takes 5 hours for the bottles to thaw.

Sweetie felt sorry for me so when I came home from my off-farm job on a Saturday, I was greeted with a gift from Sweetie. The gift is a custom made rabbit bottle carrier in the form of a sturdy basket. I now only had to make two trips and while my load is real heavy, this, for sure was easier. It was easier but the bones said this was too much starting on week 2. I was going to be in physical trouble soon so I needed a new plan. I texted my Friend with rabbits. Friend has 3x as many rabbits as I do and her unheated barn is much further from the house so she just could not be doing what I was doing. She wasn't- and she shared her bright, hot idea.

Sweetie being the sweet smart guy he is can build anything, with a plan. Friend went to her barn and measured. Back come the measurements- and Sweetie gets out a pen and paper making sketch. It took two days of a lot of noise in the basement workshop- and it emerged. The beautiful "hot box".

The hot box looks like a small fridge. Its wooden and insulated with two shelves inside. Sweetie added in a thermostat so the heat lamp comes on to warm up then it goes off, automatically. I use my new basket to load up bottles then walk to the hot box and place them on the shelves for thawing. No more long hauls and no more stairs to navigate carrying heavy bottles so my bones are happy again escaping all that heavy work. I wait for five hours and the bottles are thawed out. Topping the bottles up is the next step, then back in the basket and out to the thirsty bunnies.

Since the cold is continuing three weeks and counting here, I have a new way of doing chores. I start with plugging the kettle in and then give Pandee his bottle. The kettle has frozen ice to burn though so next I go load up my hot box with frozen

water bottles. Pandee follows me to the rabbit barn and watches for a while then goes back to have a hum with Hummer. Next, I thaw out the manual water tap with the water from the now steaming kettle. Pandee was part fascinated and part scared of the steam at first so he leaned against me for security. I am cold and Pandee is warm so we ended up in a hug.

Sweetie was back for the second time waiting in line again one cold day to get water for his chickens. He finally asked what in the world was taking me so long to fill my one water bucket to bring water back for the rabbit bottles. I had to tell him that this was "Pandee hugging time." Sweetie just shook his head at me and the llama.

Today its warmed up to -8 C, still too cold and I still hate winter.

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Sawmill of Glenville

Looking at what little remains of Glenville today, it's not easily to imagine that at one time there was a thriving village here that for almost a century the humming sounds of the local sawmill were heard over the hills. Today, the only sounds you might hear are the buzzing of cars going by on nearby Highway #9.

Glenville, located west of Newmarket, was founded in the earliest years of the 19th century when the vast forests of York Region lured industrious men into the wilderness in search of their fortunes. These men scoured the area for suitable sawmill sites, and once they located one, began felling trees with gusto. Timber was gold at the time, in particular pine, which was used as masts for the Royal Navy.

William Lloyd, a hardy Pennsylvanian Quaker, happened up a forested gully just west of Yonge Street in 1807. The site was perfect for a sawmill - it had a ready supply of water to power the machinery, was thickly wooded with great stands of pine, and was within easy distance of Yonge Street, which at that time was the only link to York (Toronto) and therefore the region's commercial artery. Lloyd recognized a good thing when he saw it and built a sawmill on the southern of two ponds. As happened with most mills, a small village slowly developed around it.

Lloyd didn't remain in Glenville long enough to see this community take shape. Infused with pioneering spirit and plagued by wanderlust, he refused to stay tied down in one place for very long. Despite the fact he clearly had a good thing in Glenville, a restless Lloyd sold the mill, picked up stakes, and moved into southwestern King Township to establish the village of Lloydtown.

The sawmill's new operator was Ellis Hughes, a fellow Pennsylvanian Quaker who had previously owned a mill at Holland Landing. Hughes has an interesting place in history: it was his mill which provided the lumber for the Sharon Temple, a unique house of worship built by a divergent Quaker sect and now the premier historical attraction in the Newmarket area. Under Hughes, the mills continued to thrive and employed half a dozen men full-time, year-round.

This heyday lasted only about twenty years or so. By the time Richard (Dickie) Kirton, took over the business in the 1870s its fortunes were on the down swing. Good trees were becoming rarer and the waterway which powered the machinery had been greatly reduced in size and strength. Kirton wasn't overly concerned, however. He was first and foremost a farmer and operated the sawmill only seasonally to supplement his income.

Fire claimed the weathered and by then rather decrepit building in 1898. Since most of the area forests had long since been cleared of worthwhile lumber, Kirton opted not to rebuild. Instead, comfortably wealthy from his many years as farmer and miller, he sold his properties and retired to Newmarket.

Never again would the sounds of the sawmill echo through the hills of Glenville. A hushed and uncomfortable silence, like that of a wake, fell across the community.

Village stories

by Andrew Hind

DON'T WAIT, CHECK THE DATE!

CHECK THE DATE.

Look at the back of the smoke alarm for the date of manufacture. The expiry date is usually 10 years from that date. **Replace expired alarms.**



TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARMS.

Once you've checked the date, test your smoke alarms by pressing the test button. Test alarms monthly. Change the batteries once a year.

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It is **vital** that you know what to do when the smoke alarms sound in an emergency:

- Sit down with everyone in your home and discuss how each person will get out in a fire.
- **GET OUT & STAY OUT!** When the smoke alarms sound, get out immediately and call 9-1-1 from outside. Never re-enter a burning building.

Despite their best efforts, the fire department may not arrive quickly enough to save you from a fire. **You need to be outside when the firefighters arrive.**

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COMING EVENTS

Join us for the annual March Classic virtually March 22 and 23, 2021!

Grain Farmers of Ontario hosts the March Classic each year for between 700-1000 farmers, AG industry, AG media and government professionals.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2021 March Classic will be held virtually online on March 22 and 23, 2021. Attendees still can hear from world class speakers, visit a tradeshow of industry professionals and network with fellow farmer members. Knowing the challenges of engaging people online and keeping everyone's interest, we are working to build a very interactive event with a number of opportunities for engaging speakers, networking online, contests and prizeing, fun activities and more. Grain Farmers of Ontario is excited to try this new format and we look forward to connecting with our communities during the 2021 March Classic – Marching Ahead Together. More information can be found by emailing web@gfo.ca or by calling Grain Farmers of Ontario at 1 800 265 0550 X308.

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Free classified word ads (maximum of 40 words) are for non-profit individuals and farm groups. Ads can be mailed or emailed. They must reach us by the 15th of the month before the next month's issue. Telephone orders are invoiced at \$15 for the first 25 words. Word ads run in one issue only and must be re-submitted each month to repeat. For mail-in ads, use the space below to neatly print out your FREE classified word advertisement.

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March Training Opportunity - Understanding the CanadaGAP Program Course (LIVE ONLINE)

The Understanding the CanadaGAP Program course is being offered by Food Safety Solutions on March 10-11, 2021 from 8:30-4:30 MST. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the course will be taking place virtually this year.

This two-day training opportunity is designed to educate attendees on the CanadaGAP Food Safety Program. It includes general information about the CanadaGAP program, certification and an overview of the main technical requirements.

*Please note, the Understanding the CanadaGAP Program course is not equivalent to the CanadaGAP Auditor Training Course. Participation in the Understanding the CanadaGAP Program course cannot be used to meet the CanadaGAP auditor requirements. Please visit the CanadaGAP website for additional information.

Why should I take this course?

Understand how to become certified to the CanadaGAP Program (how to enrol in the program; how to keep records; how to prepare for an audit, etc.)

Understand basic food safety hazards in fresh produce operations.

Understand how to use and implement the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manual.

Who should take this course?

Growers/producers, packers, repackers, wholesalers and brokers interested in becoming certified.

Program participants and persons responsible for the food safety program.

Agriculture sector professionals and consultants.

Buyers or other stakeholders.

Course Details:

Dates: Mar 10-11, 2021
8:30-4:30 MST

Cost: \$625+tax per person
Maximum: 15 participants

What are the system requirements to participate in the training?

Computer (Windows or macOS)

An internet connection – broadband wired or wireless (3G or 4G/LTE)

Speakers and a microphone – built-in, USB plug-in, or wireless Bluetooth

A webcam or HD webcam

built-in, USB plug-in

Registration Link: <https://foodsafetysolutions.ca/product/understanding-the-canadagap-program/>

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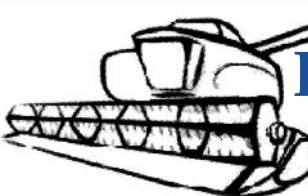
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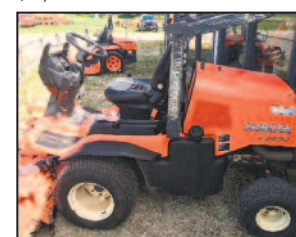
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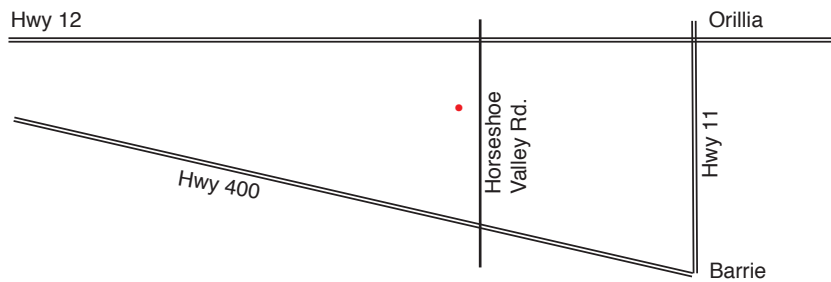
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