

# MANY FARM FIRSTS

(Continued from Page 5)

Edward Island. For this reason, careful and complete meteorological records have been kept since the Farm first started in 1927. Eye readings of pressure, temperature, humidity, cloudiness and precipitation are recorded daily. Hourly graph readings of pressure, humidity, rainfall and temperature are recorded automatically.

On an examination of these data, we find that we have relatively cold winters and late spring seasons. The summers are tempered by moderating conditions and temperatures rarely exceed 85 degrees. The fall is generally more open than in Central and Western Canada. The monthly mean temperatures range from 37.7 degrees in February to 66.4 degrees in July. Prince Edward Island has abundant rainfall for all crops. Annual precipitation is about 36.75 inches of rain and 108 inches of snow.

## AGRICULTURE

Many phases of bee culture have been studied at the Experimental Farm, Charlottetown, during the past forty years. Early experiments dealt mainly with colony management, races of bees, sizes of colonies, etc., and overwintered colonies were used in this experimentation. Little progress showed that better results could be obtained from packaged bees imported annually from the South than from overwintered colonies.

Animal Husbandry work is confined largely to dairy cattle and to the Ayrshire breed in particular. Beef cattle are maintained solely for grazing purposes in pasture experiments.

## PASTURE EXPERIMENTS

The dairy herd consists of approximately 75 head, of which 50 are breeding females and the balance young females and bulls. Fifty head of steers are annually required for the pasture experiments. The buildings set up include a modern dairy barn, 145 feet long, containing, in addition to stanchions and box stalls, thirty-two individual calf pens, a bull barn for twelve bulls, equipped with the best available safety rails and gates; two loose housing pole barns for young cattle and dry cows; four upright silos and two horizontal silos. One of the horizontal silos is located inside the loose housing barn and is fitted for self feeding. In addition to the above, a semen processing and milk testing laboratory is maintained.

The principal breeding project deals with inheritance studies in dairy cattle. This project is being carried on in co-operation with other Experimental Farms across the province and with co-operation of breeders. The object of the experiment is to study the inheritance of traits of economic importance in dairy cattle. Charlottetown is playing a key role in the project as one of the bull stud farms. Ayrshire bulls are maintained at Charlottetown and the semen from these bulls is frozen and distributed to other Experimental Farms from Ottawa.

## EXCELLENT BACKING

The Experimental Farms Service has a line of purebred Ayrshires which are polled. The imported, polled sire "Clover Crest New Design" is now stationed at the Experimental Farm Charlottetown, and his semen is available in the frozen state at other Experimental Farms. Approximately fifty per cent of his calves are polled. Clover Crest New Design has excellent backing for both milk and type, and his daughters now coming into production are doing well.

Each year Prince Edward Island farmers have large quantities of cull potatoes to dispose of. An experiment conducted over a three-year period confirmed the opinion that potatoes are a useful and economical food for the dairy cow.

## CEREAL CROPS

One of the functions of the Cereal Division at the Experimental Farm is to determine the value to the producer of new cereal varieties of Canadian and foreign origin.

In 1953, the cereal breeding unit at Charlottetown was enlarged and re-organized so that all breeding projects for the Maritime area could be co-ordinated from this location. Lodging, a serious problem under Maritime climate, particularly with oats and barley, is receiving much attention by the project group. Resistance to lodging found in foreign varieties is being transferred by hybridization to commercial varieties. Septoria awes, which causes a leaf blotch and stem rot, is the most serious oat disease in the Maritime Provinces.

## SOIL LABORATORY

The soils of Prince Edward Island belong to the Podsol Group. Owing to their inherent characteristics, they have a relatively low natural productive capacity. Consequently, maintenance of a high level of soil fertility is a major problem in Prince Edward Island.

The research work conducted by the Soil Laboratory section is concerned with the study of the fertilizer requirements of crops on different soil types; a comparison of several sources of nitrogen; and with control of soil erosion by water action. Soil fertility studies are conducted on different soil types in co-operation with the farmers-owners as well as on the Experimental Farm, at Charlottetown, and on the Illustration Stations in the Province. Erosion control studies, conducted on a series of plots at the Experimental Farm, are designed to study the effect of continuous row cropping with the slope

versus contour cropping, on the control of the amount of run-off and removal of soil.

A soil advisory service on fertilizer requirements and soil management for the farmers of the Province is provided at the Soil Laboratory. This service is conducted in co-operation with the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

## FORAGE CORPS

The Forage Division at the Charlottetown Farm has been chiefly concerned with pasture research and the testing of forage varieties pastures are evaluated by the ultimate production of beef or milk, and projects are carried on with both beef and dairy cattle. Methods of grazing, such as rotational grazing and fresh daily grazing, have been tested.

## ILLUSTRATION STATIONS

Six Illustration Stations, located on five major soil types common to the Province, serve as centres where supplementary research work may be conducted. In addition, two stations located in the Magadalen Islands, Quebec, are operated under the general administration of the Experimental Farm, Charlottetown.

Illustration Stations in Prince Edward Island are located on farms owned by:—T.A. Hicken, Alliston; Hugh J. MacDonald, Monticello; William E. Johnstone, New London; Robert Woodside and son, O'Leary; John W. MacKenzie and son, Rose Valley; and Zenon Gallant, Urbainville. In the Magdalen Islands, stations are established on farms owned by Edward Bouffard, Boileville, and Alberic Lapierre, Portage du Cap.

Problems associated with soil fertility, crop adaptation, cultural practices, woodlot management, financial aspects of farm business as well as control measures for weeds, insects and disease are evaluated under a wide range of soil and climatic conditions.

## POULTRY

Experimental work in genetics and management of the domestic fowl is being conducted at the Experimental Farm, Charlottetown. Much of the work is co-operative in nature, similar experiments being conducted at Experimental Farms across Canada.

At the present time, the practice of restricting the feed intake of pullets during the rearing period is being evaluated. Each year, a large flock of Leghorn chicks is divided randomly into two groups. During the rearing period, one group is full-fed and the other is restricted in feed intake. After housing both groups



MODERN EQUIPMENT MARKS C. YEO'S FARM

are fed ad lib. Information is obtained on feed consumption, mortality, egg production and related traits, the results being expressed as income from eggs and meat less feed cost. Experimental work with broiler chickens is also conducted.

## HORTICULTURE

The research work being conducted in horticulture includes the breeding of flowers and vegetables, evaluation of flower, fruit and vegetable varieties for the home, market garden or processing, and the carrying out of cultural and other experiments designed to improve production methods or quality in horticultural products.

Special emphasis is placed on the development of native fruits, chiefly cranberries and blueberries and methods have been devised to establish cranberries economically on upland soils. Extended experiments of various types are being conducted with potatoes, which includes the testing of a large number of named varieties and seedlings for yield, disease resistance, quality and processing value. Pickling cucumbers are also being studied in relation to pollination, fertilizers, weedicides, varieties and other problems and breeding work designed to produce an early variety to fit local

requirements has been initiated. The production of virus-free strawberry stocks, designed to supply nurseries with superior plants, is being carried out in a large screenhouse and indexed stock from Ottawa is being used in this work. Experimental orchards are maintained at several points in the Province where varieties, double-working, fertilizers, mites and other problems are being studied. Ornamental grounds are main-

# 'Have Something To Sell' Is Key Rule On This Farm

"Always have something to sell" is a principle which Charles Yeo of St. Eleanor's has always followed in his farming career and if farm appearances count for anything, it would appear that Mr. Yeo has been working on pretty sound principles.

On his 113 acre farm just north of Summerside he carries on a mixed farming business which involves 40 head of dairy cattle, 15 of them milkers. He runs a larger than average poultry house, grows eight acres of potatoes and each year ships a good quota of hogs.

This whole operation he carries out with the help of a well-mechanized farm and a year round hired man.

## MODERN BARN

Mr. Yeo says the matter of always having something to sell was a principle firmly adhered to by his father who carried on farming throughout his lifetime in Lot 16.

"I do not believe in going out of any one phase of production just because there is a poor price for that particular product," says Mr. Yeo, "because when that product begins to come back you have nothing to make money with."

A new barn erected on the

farm in 1956 is one of the most modern in the country. Designed by himself the barn boasts a mechanical cleaner which removes all the manure from behind the cows without even so much as touching a fork to it.

## POWER IS BOON

Mr. Yeo believes that electricity on the farm is one of the greatest boons that has ever struck modern agriculture. Not only is the barn cleaning equipment operated by electricity but it supplies water to the automatic draining cups in his cow stable and for his large poultry flock. Electric sterilizers in his milk house insure a sanitary supply of the product. The milking machine and separator are also operated by electric power.

What about the future of agriculture, Mr. Yeo who is APEC's representative on agriculture and is a past president of the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture, was asked. q q

"I am not a pessimist," said Mr. Yeo, "so therefore I must reply that there is a future for agriculture for the farmer who is willing to do a good day's work seven days a week and keep abreast of modern farming methods."

## BACKS CO-OPERATION

Speaking of vertical integra-

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"I cannot see why farmers will associate themselves with some other industry when they could benefit themselves far more by co-operating among themselves," said Mr. Yeo who believes that orderly marketing of farm products will do much to improve agriculture in general.

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