



WINTER SCENE AT EXPERIMENTAL FARM IN CHARLOTTETOWN

## Grower is safeguarded by variety verification

Plots at Canada Department of Agriculture seed stations across Canada are being reseeded to receive plants representing scores of well-known varieties of field crops. During their growth they will be studied constantly by trained observers for characteristic development. Off-type plants will be picked out, and the grower or dealer will be located and told of the need for remedial action.

This is part of the important work of variety verification carried out by the seed section of the Canada Seeds Act and Regulations. In aiming to preserve varietal purity it also serves as a safeguard for grower and buyer against misrepresentation in the trade.

Variety verification has become a necessity with increased use of pedigreed seed, the growth of both the import and export trade in seed and Canada's commitment to adhere to seed certification procedures of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development.

**SAMPLES OBTAINED**  
H.R. Parnell, Assistant Chief of the Seed Section, said samples are obtained from inspectors in the eight Plant Products districts of Canada. In addition to a program of specific investigation of varieties of some crops, samples also come in from corn plants, and from inspectors who have reason to check the true-ness to variety of crops in their area. Most of the work involves lots labelled and sold as Certified seed. Ottawa is the headquarters for verification work which is also done at Sackville, N.B., district stations and Regina, Saskatchewan.

Variety verification only began on a large scale in Canada a few years ago. But John Pauken, who is in charge of the chief station at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm, says he now is receiving about one thousand samples a year for testing.

Some of these can be checked out in the greenhouse or in the laboratory but the big majority require field testing. Right now

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there are many potted seedlings waiting to be transplanted, and probably 50,000 will go into the ground as soon as the weather improves.

**100 VARIETIES**  
Testing includes cereal, forage and horticulture crops. Hybrid corn is a very important item in the work schedule at the present time. There are more than 10 varieties of this crop available to Canadian growers and careful verification is needed to assure the farmer that he is getting a variety with the characteristics claimed.

Assistance in the work of the Seed Section is given by the Canadian Seed Growers Association and plant breeders who supply control samples and originators' descriptions.

Recently a vegetable crop being grown by several farmers under contract failed to conform to the variety claimed. Samples were tested at Ottawa and it became evident to the experts at an early stage of plant growth that the seed was not the variety claimed. On the basis of these findings adjustments were made between the parties involved.

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# Experiments find best livestock buildings

Which is the best type of swine building for your farm? Agricultural engineers, reports the Meat Packers Council of Canada are continually designing

new buildings for housing livestock and comparing them under various conditions to find out which ones are the most economical.

Animal scientists at Purdue University recently built four different kinds of hog bars:

(1) an open front pole barn with a paved exercise and feeding yard outside, (2) a steel frame building with a concrete floor, (3) a steel frame building with a completely slatted floor, and (4) a steel frame building consisting of long narrow pens with only the rear portion being slatted.

The experiment showed that the 4th set-up, a steel building with long narrow pens and partially slatted floors, was the cheapest unit for raising hogs. While further tests are being run, preliminary results indicated that the long pen arrangement required much less labour to look after the hogs. The costs of feed and bedding were much lower than any of the other buildings and the combination of long narrow pens with partially slatted floors at the rear, lowered hog production costs considerably, even though the open front pole barn type of building was the cheapest to build initially.

Livestock buildings which save labour can often be justified even if they do cost more initially, because they allow one

man to handle a larger volume of hogs. However, unless the labour saved allows the farmer to either cut down on his hired help or increase the number of hogs raised without in-

creasing his labour, then his profits will likely show little improvement.

## Supports on hogs are same

Agriculture Minister Harry Hays announced that the price support for hogs will remain at \$23.85 per hundred-weight for Grade A hogs during 1964.

As in previous years, the support program will be on a deficiency payment basis and will apply to a maximum of 100 carcasses (Grade A and B) marketed by individual producers.

This year's support price — the same as last year's — amounts to 88.3 per cent of the national average for the past 10 years.

Hog marketings were lower last year than in 1962 and the national average hog price was \$27.30. Since it exceeded the support price, no deficiency payments are being made for the year.

Prospects for the current support year indicate that hog prices will be almost as high as the 1963 average, Mr. Hays noted.

**UP SEVEN PER CENT**

There were seven per cent more hogs on Canadian farms at December 1, 1963 than a year earlier and estimates indicate a seven per cent increase in the spring pig crop.

Increased marketings would normally result in a lower price level. However, the Canadian

hog price is linked closely with that in the United States where prospects are favorable for higher prices this year, due largely to a smaller pig crop this spring.

Feed prices currently are somewhat lower than those prevailing in the same period last year and, although this summer's crop conditions will influence them, the outlook is for a little change from 1963.

**PLANS JOURNEY**  
FRANK, Alta. (CP) — Ann Kerr, 23, of Frank will join an expedition to the Karakorum Mountains in Kashmir, Pakistan. She says the expedition will travel by car from France to Pakistan. The last leg will be a 150-mile trek on foot.

**SEWS QUILT**  
COBHAM, England (CP) — A patchwork quilt made from 5,000 men's ties is being sewn by Mabel Lawton at her home here in Surrey. So far, she has used 2,000 ties for the eight-foot quilt, including college and old school ties.

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