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HERB MATTHEWS HAS GOAL OF 100 ABERDEEN ANGUS CATTLE

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## Alberton cattleman aims to increase herd to 500

A herd of 500 Hereford cattle is the aim of an Alberton man, Gordon White, who started building up a herd of top grade animals several years ago. He is one of a trio of West Prince men whose cattle are pictured



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on this page. The others are Fred Ramsay, Montrose a veteran Hereford breeder, and Herb Matthews, Alberton who started last summer to develop a herd of 100 Aberdeen Angus cattle.

Mr. Ramsay, a former member of the legislature for First Prince, is the veteran of the trio as he has been breeding Herefords for more than 25 years.

His Montrose Ranch herd has built up such a reputation that he sells all of his bulls for breeding animals—he has never

raised a steer — and all the females he can spare.

"I can't supply the demand" for breeding stock, said Mr. Ramsay who claims he has the best milking Herefords in the Maritime provinces in a herd built up by carefully selective breeding. He has had cows milk as high as 60 pounds and gets an average of 30 pounds, he reported.

"I've always kept my best heifers," he emphasizes. "Even though he has often been under considerable pressure from eager buyers."

50 ANIMALS IN HERD  
Mr. Ramsay had approximately 50 animals in his herd when visited him several months ago. He has had up to 75 Herefords, he said.

His herd traces back to the sire "Bocardo Domino" bred by Charlie Bull and Son, on their farm near Calgary, Alberta, he said.

Aiming for quality Mr. White is using a son of a Royal Winter Fair grand champion as his herd sire at present. He's a son of Whittier National Velvet, and was purchased from Ernest Himmelman, one of the country's best known Hereford men who has a farm at La Have, Nova Scotia.

Mr. White is using the modern method of open-air feeding for his herd. He has a loafing barn 180 by 25 feet and had 150 feet of feed trough space where the animals feed outside through the winter.

A natural shelter and wind-break of heavy brush is supplemented by a high board fence so the cattle are sheltered from winds.

FOUNDATION STOCK  
Foundation stock came from some of the best known Maritime and Canadian herds. George Rodanz, Stouffville, Ontario; Jim O'Brien, Windsor, N.S.; Miller and Tom Sanderson, North River, Fred Ramsay, Montrose and Hammond Sanderson who has since sold his Hereford farm at Winsloe to Edwin MacRae.

He had an arrangement with Fulton Sanderson, and Sons, North River to use their herd sire "Fowey Triumph" for a year. His first herd sire came from Jim O'Brien's herd.

Mr. Matthews, known through the Maritime provinces as a breeder and producer of Turkeys, purchased 10 bred heifers last October at the Futurity Sale in London, Ontario. His first calf was dropped in January and he has six calves at the present time.

Losses in lettuce and carrots from aster yellows may be reduced by controlling the six-spotted leafhopper, reports L.S. Thompson, of the federal experimental farm at Charlottetown.

The virus disease, which may reduce crops by 30 per cent or more, is picked up by leafhoppers from infected weeds or crop plants. After a period of eight to 15 days, the insects can transmit the virus to healthy plants while feeding on them.

Controlling the leafhoppers is the only practical way of curbing the disease, Mr. Thompson states. Spraying crops and nearby weeds with malathion, DDT or parathion is recommended.

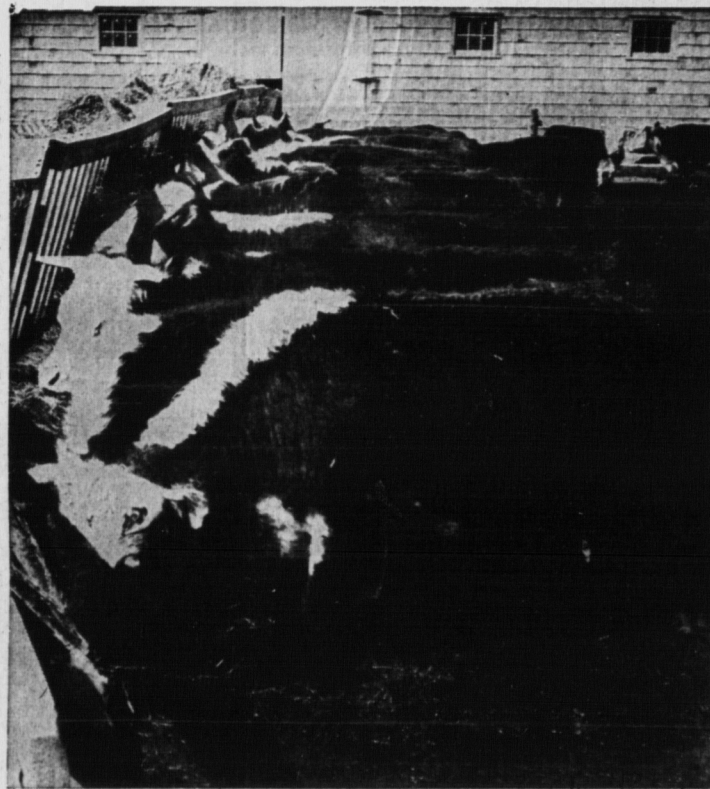
SPRAYING NEEDED  
In the case of lettuce, Mr. Thompson points out, spraying may have to be carried out every three to five days, although carrot crops do not require such frequent treatment.

Instructions on the insecticide labels should be followed closely, the researcher warns. If the stipulated interval between final application and harvest is not observed, the insecticide residues will make the crops unfit for sale.

Complete prevention of the disease is not yet possible because the insecticides do not kill the leafhoppers quickly enough to prevent them spreading the virus. However, a reduction of aster yellows can be obtained by destroying the insects before they can infest additional plants.

The virus overwinters in Eastern Canada in a number of biennial and perennial weeds. Sources of infection can be reduced by destroying weeds along roads, fence rows and in the crops, Mr. Thompson says.

Disking or plowing in the remains of a lettuce crop immediately after harvest eliminates another source of infection.



GORDON WHITE HOPES TO BECOME BIGGEST OWNER WITH 500 HERD

## Soil research program probe two pathways

BY DR. DONALD C. MACKAY  
(The following approach to a proposed soil research program at the Experimental Farm here is by Dr. Donald C. Mackay who was transferred from the Research Station at Kentville on Sept. 1, 1961 to head up an expanded research program in soil fertility and set up a new soil testing laboratory. Dr. G.B. Whitehead who headed the former soil testing laboratory retired the first of this month.)

Two main types of research will be carried on in the new

soils laboratory: (1) Research to determine soil management practices have appeared to increase the availability of potassium and reduce the fertilizer requirements, while in other instances the opposite seems to be true. The influence of liming is a case in point.

One way of tackling such a problem might be to establish a series of plots at various locations on the island. They should be selected to represent different soil types, different types of rotations, different fertilizer practices, different levels of liming and so on. Provided there are plenty of replications, and provided the experiments are carried out for a fair number of seasons, we should be able, with a given crop, to obtain a fairly good picture of the potash fertilizer needs. But if we undertake the same approach for each of the crop species, not to mention varieties, of economic importance to the province, not much imagination is necessary to see what a hopeless task we have undertaken.

The other alternative, and the one we have chosen to follow is to try and determine, primarily through greenhouse and laboratory investigations, how various factors are affecting the availability of native soil potassium, and the efficiency of applied fertilizer potash. We would expect that, with improved soil tests, with the proper assessment of extraneous factors, and with the known potash needs of specific crops, we will be able to predict the potash needs for a given situation.

In addition to this type of problem, we are co-operating with other researchers in determining the effects of fertilizers and plant nutrients on the performance of specific crops. These projects involve quality assessment of tobacco, nutrient composition and nutrient requirements of vegetable crops, particularly those grown in processing, as well as nutritional studies of forage and cereal crops.

amounts are insufficient. On some occasions, certain management practices have appeared to increase the availability of potassium and reduce the fertilizer requirements, while in other instances the opposite seems to be true. The influence of liming is a case in point.

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## Maritimes led battle on bovine TB

The Maritime provinces played an important role in the Canada department of agriculture's war on bovine tuberculosis, recalls Dr. Orlan Hall, a retired assistant veterinary director general now living in Ottawa.

Testing of cattle for tuberculosis was begun in three counties of Prince Edward Island in 1925, he said. Systematic testing of all cattle in Canada was begun two years earlier in the Carman area of Manitoba, and the following year in the Huntingdon district of Quebec.

Health of Animals Division records reveal that in 1925, the first test year in the Maritimes, 20,500 cattle were tested for bovine tuberculosis in Kings county, P.E.I., and 113 or 0.55 per cent of the cattle tested were discovered to be infected. The figure dropped consistently in each test year until, in 1942, only one reactor was discovered in 19,720 animals tested. In 1955, the last year for which figures are available, 21,545 cattle were tested and 22 reactors (0.10 per cent) discovered.

In Prince county, in 1925, some 35,100 cattle were tested and 222 reactors uncovered. Infected cattle represented 0.63 per cent of those tested. In 1942 the level of infection fell to 0.01 per cent and has remained constant since that time.

QUEENS COUNTY  
In Queens county, 39,172 cattle were tested in 1925 and 226 or 0.58 per cent were found to be infected. The level of the disease dropped to 0.13 per cent in 1929, rose to 0.32 per cent in 1935 and fell again to an all-time low of 0.01 per cent in 1949. In 1955, the last year for which figures are available, only 18 animals, or 0.03 per cent of the 51,674 cattle tested reacted to the tuberculin test.

Testing was begun in Nova Scotia in 1927 and in New Brunswick in 1930. Most heavily infected areas in Nova Scotia when the program began was the Colchester area where 4.50 per cent of 22,459 cattle tested were found to be infected, and the Hants area where 4.10 per cent of 16,587 cattle were diseased.



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