

SOME CONFUSION EXISTS

# When is Canadian bacon not so?

Question: When is Canadian bacon not Canadian bacon? Answer: When it is Canadian-style bacon. As a result, more Canadian loin cuts end up as back bacon than pork chops.

American tourists travelling in Canada, are often disappointed when ordering "Canadian" bacon in a restaurant, notes the Meat Packers Council of "Canada. They expect to be served back bacon (called Canadian-style bacon in the U.S.) but instead they receive side bacon, not realizing that this is the popular breakfast bacon of Canada.


The reason for the confusion is this. Bacon comes from the middle section of a hog, and the usual procedure is to split this section length-wise into two parts, the loin (back) and the belly (underpart). Loin is usually sold fresh as pork chops and loin roasts. Bellies are not sold fresh, but are cured and smoked to become side bacon.

The demand for pork chops is not as high in Canada as in the U.S. As a result, more Canadian loin cuts end up as back bacon than pork chops.


When back bacon is produced in a similar way in the U.S., it is quite often sold as "Canadian-style" bacon. There are some differences between the two products, however. The American back bacon (Canadian-style) usually has less lean, more fat, and a different texture and flavour. This is due mainly to basic differences in U.S. and Canadian swine breeds, although in recent years, U.S. producers have made great strides in raising higher quality leaner hogs.

True Canadian back bacon is a highly sought-after product bought as a luxury item by American consumers when they can get it. It should not be confused with Canadian-style kind of bacon is side bacon as which are produced in the U.S. The third (breakfast bacon), the long slice countries.

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250 SHEEP WILL ROAM FARM AT SOUTHPORT THIS SUMMER

## Leicester sheep found the best for mutton

By NEIL A. MATHESON

There will be upwards of 250 sheep and lambs roaming the Southport pastures of Athol Roberts this summer, where one of the island's best herds of Shorthorn cattle feed several years ago. Mr. Roberts has at most 100 mature females and they're averaging about one and one-half lambs per ewe thus far this year.

Mr. Roberts has purchased Leicesters, North County Cheviots and Suffolk sheep on his farm but he likes best for wool and meat animals the cross of a North County Cheviot male and a Leicester ewe, with their over a Leicester ewe, with their crossed progeny crossed in turn with Suffolk males. That gives him the best market lamb, but he likes to stop the cross breeding there.

**BEST MUTTON**

The Leicester has size and is the best mutton sheep, a nod to the great wool producers more than the Cheviots or the Suffolk. A Leicester shearing ewe produced 14 pounds for him last year, he recalls, which is most unusual. He purchased the ewe in Ontario and she had placed second in her class at the Royal Winter Fair.

Tough he's doing a great deal of crossing with good his sheep, he's "breeding a good ewe like that straight, to get good stock out of her."

He has a crop of early lambs coming that will be going to market about mid-July with the best hitting 100 pounds or more. The nine-week old lamb hit 100 pounds right now. One of his last summer lambs is over the desired weight of 10 pounds.

The early ones came from mid-February to March 5. Later ones come in May. He's experimenting at present with early and late lambs, to test which produces the most profit. The early price is much better, but the lambs take more grain.

**PERDING IMPORTANT**

He creep feeds the lambs from the time they'll eat, and the ewes are fed round oats and bran from six weeks before lambing on the average. The grain feeding is most important, he believes.

A single lamb is a better individual animal, but twin are more profitable in the end. They have had several sets of triplets in the farm since they started in sheep a couple of years ago. They had one set this year—two one Oxford cross ewe drop-

ped four lambs a male, through she had virtually no milk and lost all of them but one. The large number of sheep require a lot of pasture—the ratio is about five sheep to one cow, he estimates.

Mr. Roberts' 72-acre North Winsloe as a young man with Ayrshire cattle and recalls one cow "Strangford Bessie," who was bred by Gilbert MacMillan, Hantsington, Quebec—that was grand champion for many years at Charlottetown. A bull from her was one of the first Island cattle to take a red ribbon at the Royal, perhaps the first, he believes.

He sold the Ayrshire herd in the "hungry thirties" when he was raising beautiful heifers and had to sell them for beef, and milk was worth practically nothing.

**LESS WORK**

He switched to Dual Purpose Shorthorns and purchased his foundation stock from Preston MacNutt, Malagaque and Seymour Wood, Mt. Herbert. Then he changed gradually to Scotch Shorthorns, because there was less work in them.

One of the most knowledgeable beef men in the country, Mr. Roberts sold his farm at Highfield about 17 years ago when he received an offer that was too good to turn down. A visitor asked him one night if he would sell and the deal was made next morning.

From there he went to Bradford to establish a Shorthorn herd for an American who purchased a property and two years later came to Southport where he purchased the farm which had formerly been the Royal Raymond fox ranch. There he built up another fine show herd of Shorthorn cattle, and had a milking herd as well for several years. He had 80 head, or more in the barn one year.

**SHOWED HORSES**

Mr. Roberts began to show animals at the exhibition in Charlottetown when he showed Cynosdale horses at the age of 14. He showed every year since then.

But the best show animal he ever had was the Tee-Kay-Dee 43 female he won grand championships with at Charlottetown and Amherst for several years before he sold her. He saw her more profitable in the end. They have won the grand ribbon, he emphasized.

I remember Athol showing me the heifer when he brought her

## Quiet revolution on in strawberries

The strawberry industry has had its quiet revolution.

Now a strawberry grower using certified virus-free plants needn't worry about virus diseases during the usual life of his planting.

Even if virus disease does occur in the second year it would not be significant enough to have justified taking control measures in the year of planting.

Reporting on this happy state of affairs in the industry, H.T. Stultz of CDA's research station at Kentville, N.S., says it evolved as nurserymen took advantage of research in many parts of the world. This research led towards recognition of virus diseases of strawberry and development of methods for obtaining and propagating virus-free plants.

Leading nurserymen in Nova Scotia fell into line when the government sponsored strawberry nursery certification in 1957. This program incorporated new findings as they became available and the advantages are now becoming fully apparent.

Capable growers using virus-free stock can produce 8,000 to 15,000 quarts of berries per acre compared with the previous highest yield of 6,000 quarts. (The average yield in 1951 was 2,229 quarts per acre.)

Because of better runner production only one-half to two-thirds as many plants per acre are needed as were required in 1951.

How to acquire virus-free plants? Mr. Stultz says the nurserymen start with plants which have been found virus free through special testing techniques. Then, in a small lot,

that was later used by the P.E.I. Shorthorn Breeders Club.

"She was the best cow I ever owned," he told me a few days ago.

**LADIES DON'T WIN HAMILTON (CP)**—A six-year-old girl who plays tick-tack-toe to win probably is a tomboy, according to results of research among 1,000 children. At an anthropological conference at McMaster University, Prof. John Roberts of Cornell University said the results indicate a lady plays the game to draw.

The heifer was sired by Beithon Chamer a bull he bought from Ontario for Mr. MacKinnon.

**ENDORSES PROJECT**

**MOOSE JAW, Sask. (CP)**—The public school board here has endorsed a Voice of Women campaign to gather children's teeth for a strontium 90 research project. About 500 teeth have been collected and another 1,500 are wanted from the area. Each child donating a tooth receives a button reading "I gave my tooth to science."

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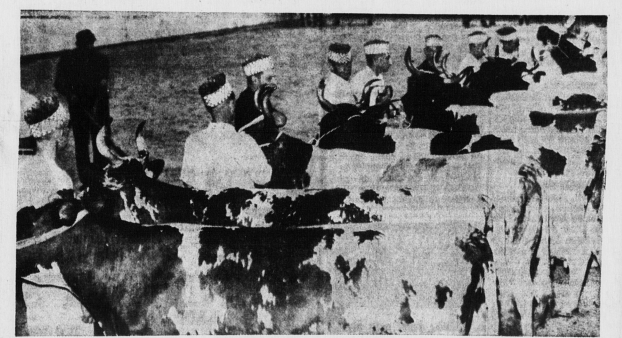
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