

Island Dept. keeps pace with farm development

The department of agriculture continues to keep pace with new agricultural developments and passes these along to farmers who form an important part in the province's economy, according to Agriculture Minister Andrew MacRae.

Reviewing some of the accomplishments of department, Mr. MacRae referred to the dairy industry. "Improvement," he said, "is continuing in the grades of cheese and butter production."

"Our inspection staff continues to make regular spot checks where these products are made. During the past year, sanitation in these factories has improved greatly."

MILK HAS HIGHER STANDARD

"We also began a service of fluid milk inspection at the processing level and made public the butterfat percentages. This has resulted in the improvement of milk from the processors to a high standard."

Turning to crop insurance, Mr. MacRae said "while last year saw the introduction of crop insurance to cover potatoes, the scheme will be extended this year to cover grain. When we collect more data on other crops, those crops may be included in crop insurance. Grain growers suffered losses last fall because of weather conditions but through the co-operation of the federal and provincial government, growers were reimbursed at an estimated cost of \$10,000."

Mr. MacRae said his department, recognizing the importance of clean and treated grain seed, began a loan policy for seed treaters. "A total of eight treaters," he said, "were

brought in and are now available to our farmers. We will be getting more treaters this year."

Steps taken to improve the potato industry were outlined by Mr. MacRae. The Elite seed potato farm at Fox Island, he said, is expected to boost the enviable reputation of our seed potatoes even higher. The farm is the first of its kind in Canada and seed will be available to all Island growers. "Future plans," said Mr. MacRae, "include the construction of a warehouse to store seed until required by growers."

Another step taken to protect the potato industry was the purchase of 12 steam cleaning and disinfecting units to clean potato planting equipment. "The program will be furthered this year by the purchase of about six more machines," the minister said.

MORE LOANS FOR FARMERS

Mr. MacRae suggests that this year more people than ever will make use of farm establishment loans. "Last year, 183 applications were approved," he said. "Loan assistance," he added, "helps to buy farms, increase acreage or increase livestock herds."

The minister emphasized the importance of soil testing. "A good percentage of our soil is highly acid," he said, "and requires a liberal application of limestone to bring it up to a satisfactory pH level."

"To encourage the increased use of limestone, the department started a loan-purchase policy for bulk limestone spreaders which can be purchased by Island operators. The cost of applying limestone is much lower when bought in bulk than when bought by the bag."

HON. ANDREW B. MACRAE

Seventh Annual Farm Edition

The Guardian

FIRST SECTION

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I., APRIL 30, 1963

PAGES 1A TO 12A

MONTAGUE HOG PRODUCE ACHIEVES 76.6% GRADE A

Weight watching has good results

By NEIL A. MATHESON

Provincially - Farm Editor

Montague's Charles J. Fraser

must be the Island's biggest

commercial hog producer. His

operation certainly ranks with

the most efficient, most sanitary

and most successful.

Mr. Fraser had 78.5 per cent

of his hogs in the top Grade A

category last year and this year

to date has achieved an 86.6 "A"

average though the Island average

has been down sharply in

recent months from the grades

which brought it a Canada top

marking 55.2 per cent last year. The

all-Canada average last year

was 54.2 per cent.

The high quality is due to

several reasons, Mr. Fraser

explains his hogs every Friday

and anything that his 190

pigs do, or slightly over, is

marked for the packing house.

While many hogmen lose top

grades from overweight hogs,

Mr. Fraser never does, except

once in early April when a bad

snowstorm held up his marketing

operation a few days.

'A' IMPORTANT

And "A" grades are impor-

tant. Missing one means a loss

of the \$3 premium, plus a cent

a pound for a total loss of \$4.50

on a 150-pound carcass, for ex-

ample, if a pig one hog in the

farm with a small patch of black

on the hip, a throwback event-

ually to a Berkshire ancestry.

That black pigment put the animal

automatically out of the top

grade, said Mr. Fraser who noted

with regret that he had not

spotted the animal when he

bought the lot as weanlings.

Most people refer to pigs as

dirty animals but nothing could

be farther from the truth. They

are careful not to foul their liv-

ing area with their droppings

and the air in the big Fraser

establishment with a 700-hog

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ABERDEEN ANGUS BREEDERS ARE PROUD OF RECENT PERFORMANCES

OPTIMISM PREVAILS AT S'SIDE EGG CO-OP—PAGE 2

MINUS ARM AND LEG

Bothwell man works farm with handicaps



DON MACDONALD AND WIFE

By NEIL A. MATHESON

Provincially - Farm Editor

A visit to the farm home of

Daniel Macdonald, MLA and

Mrs. Macdonald at Bothwell, I,

was one of the most interesting

assignments I had while work-

ing on this special farm edi-

tion. It's an inspiration to visit

the home of this man who lost

a leg above the knee and an

arm well above the elbow, and

carries on a vigorous, efficient

and successful farm operation.

Dannie was crossing the Seno

River in Italy with his platoon

from the Cape Breton Highlan-

ders back in December 1944,

when a German 88 millimetre

shell came along with his num-

ber.

The powerfully built Scot who

can "remember every detail of

it as though it were yesterday"

hopped on his right leg, despite

a shattered and useless left leg

and arm, for 50 to 60 yards be-

fore he was placed on a stret-

cher against his will — he had

urged his men to go on without

him.

It was John Andrew, of East

Royalty who took Mr. Mac-

Donald's leg. They had been

trying to save it, Dannie ex-

plained, but gangrene in it and

it had to be amputated. John

was in charge of a field surgical

unit and held the rank of major

at the time. He died suddenly

in Ottawa in 1956 when he held

the rank of a full colonel.

NO HANDICAP

The leg is off above the knee

and the arm well above the

elbow, but the farmer-legislator

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VARIETY IS KEY WORD FOR SPECIAL EDITION

The Guardian-Patriot presents today its seventh annual Farm Edition. It covers a wide variety of Island agriculture with stories and pictures on a number of individual farmers and organizations.

Appreciation is expressed to the many busy people who took the time to win the coveted Master Breeder's shield. There are only 105 in Canada. The feat was a family triumph according to Mr. Jones. Some of the top foundation breeding stock and the people who fed, fitted and showed them are featured on page 3. The award demands conformation or body type, but it also demands consistently good performance in the milk pail. The Jones Crown Point herd at Pownal has both.

Cecil Godfrey, North Wilshire started with a pure bred Yorkshire gilt when he was 17. Today, at 22 he has one of the best sow batteries in the province and produces approximately 600 weanling pigs a year.

Albert Boswell, Marshfield has been known for some years as a breeder and exhibitor of pure bred Jersey cattle and also of poultry. He's showed the interesting hobby of breeding many types of wild birds. Some of his work is pictured in words and photographs on page 4.

Charles J. Fraser, Montague has one of the largest and best equipped pig barns in the province. And he gets results with better than 75 percent of his hogs carcasses hitting the top "A" grade on the rail. The young livestock man produces a great deal of the grain he feeds to his hogs on the 140 acres he grows each year.

The Aberdeen Angus cattle breeders association claims the distinction of being the most enthusiastic and the fastest growing breed association in the province. Some of their beautiful black cattle are shown along with a story of their development.

For the third year in a row some 70 P. E. I. cattlemen have made a week-long tour of some of Ontario's best livestock, hog and poultry developments. Livestock Director L. W. Roper, who planned the tour and helped to direct it, tells the story of this year's experiences.

Bothwell's farmer and legislator, Daniel Macdonald is one of the province's most unusual men. What he has done and is accomplishing with only one good leg and arm is an inspiration to many people who think life is tough going even without any physical handicaps. The story of this dynamic, friendly and successful Islander is told on page 5.

There are many other features in this edition. They include helpful articles by some of the leading technical agriculturalists, growers and reports by government people and top agricultural civil servants. They should be interesting and useful to the farmer who is seeking information about his way of life.

NEIL A. MATHESON

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

Dairy industry surges ahead

Development of the dairy industry in this province from the days when butter and, and only other products were made at home to the present modern manufacture, is a fascinating story.

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AGRICULTURISTS TEST BUTTER FOR FLAVOR
(L-R) Henry Macdonald and William Rogers

CHARLES FRASER AND SON

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