

# FARM EDITION

SECTION "B" THE GUARDIAN - EVENING PATRIOT PAGES 1B-12B

## Need for regulating irrigation systems

Uneven application of water is a problem in using a sprinkler irrigation system for hillside crops.

The trouble arises from the variation in water pressure between the upper and lower levels of the system. Sprinklers near the bottom of the hill operate under greater pressure and, consequently, apply more water than do those higher up, says H. C. Korven of CDA's experimental farm at Swift Current.

The difficulty can be solved by installing a regulator in the riser pipe of each sprinkler. At Swift Current, researchers last year evaluated four makes of regulators. Two were flow control valve types of similar characteristics and designed to discharge a fixed volume of water under varying pressure. The others were pressure regulators designed to give a fixed sprinkler pressure despite variations in water line pressure.

All four were tested over a range of nozzle sizes from 3-32 to 1-4 of an inch and under pressures of 15 to 200 pounds per square inch.

Neither make of flow control valve is adjustable and because of this it is necessary to match valve capacity and nozzle size.

Stamped on each valve is its rated capacity in U. S. gallons per minute. In the tests, both gave good results over the whole range of nozzle sizes when the appropriate valves were used.

Both pressure regulators are adjustable for nozzle size, and one can be preset at the factory to a requested pressure. The latter proved to be the least reliable of those tested because only in a few cases did the regulated sprinkler pressure coincide with the factory setting. However, a series of adjustments and tests led to improvement and results comparable to those obtained from the flow control valves. Although adjustment of this regulator was found to be inconvenient and required its removal from the riser pipe, the device offered the advantage that the one size covered the entire range of nozzle sizes used in the tests.

The other pressure regulator was found to be ineffective when used with nozzle sizes of less than 3-16 of an inch. Adjustment was easy, however, and could

be made while the sprinklers were in operation — factor that partially makes up for the rather short range of line pressures over which it satisfactorily regulates the sprinkler pressure.

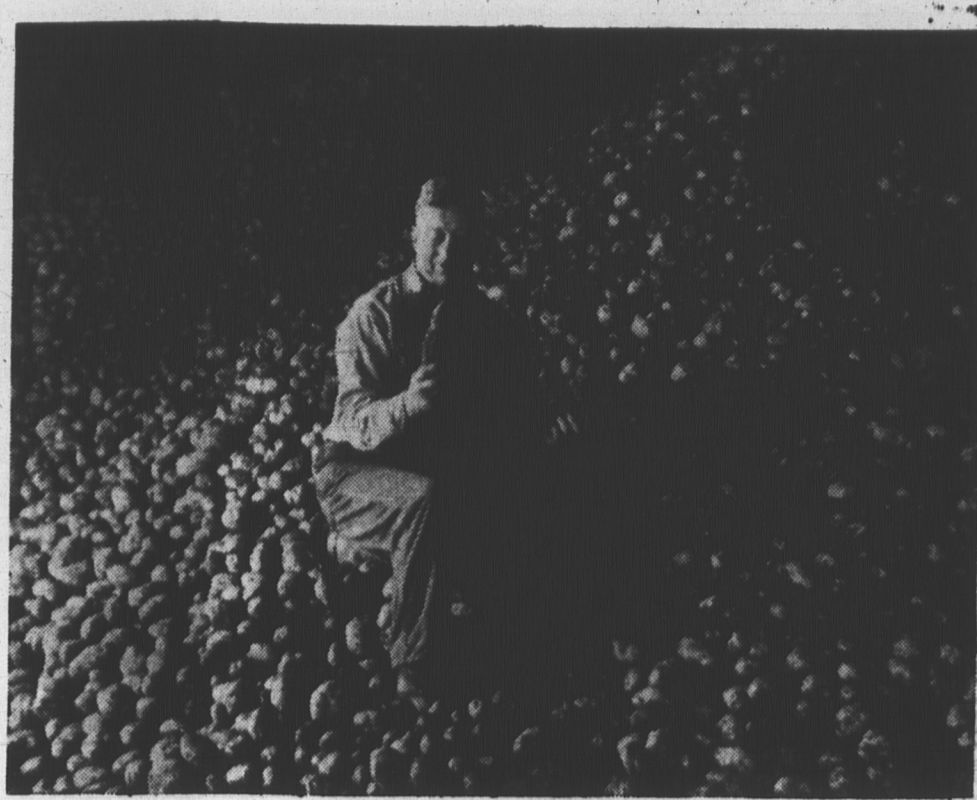
## Seed testing fees increased

For the first time in 20 years, fees for seed testing by the laboratories of the CDA's Plant Products Division have been raised.

The new rates bring the fees closer to meeting the costs of testing.

Under the revised schedule, testing of a sample of wheat, oats, or barley will cost \$1.50 for a germination test and \$1.50 for a purity test. Testing of a forage seed sample (such as timothy, red clover, alfalfa, or bromegrass) will cost \$1.50 for a germination test and \$2.50 for a purity test.

Other new amendments to the Seeds Regulations include: a simplifying of the fee col-



A MAINSTAY OF ISLAND ECONOMY

lecting procedure for pedigree crops inspection. Canada Foundation No. 1 and No. 2. provision that, effective July 1, 1967, oil-rape seed may only be sold under a variety name if it is one of the pedigree grades. More detailed information is available from Plant Products Division offices.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM ON NORTH RIVER FARM

## PRICES REMAIN STRONG

### Island potato farmers get impressive returns

Always a strong factor in the agricultural economy of Prince Edward Island, potatoes have been particularly strong in earning capacity now for three years in a row.

The estimated cash value for the 1965 year was a whopping 18.7 million dollars and that for the previous year was an even larger 17.7 million. The value estimates are for the calendar year in both instances, not for the crop year.

Potato yields were not consistently high last year, indeed the driest growing season in many years curtailed production in many fields, although there were some top yields reported. But the strong price through most of the selling season — it's still really strong — apparently is rolling up another impressive total earnings story for people who are fortunate to have had spuds to sell since the 1965 crop season selling got underway.

The price earlier this month of \$3.00 per bag for contents was considerably below the \$3.00 and up per bag which was reported in May a year ago. But the price was uniformly good throughout the current marketing season.

The consistently strong price in the current season is all the more surprising — of course it's welcome — because the tremendously large crop in the United States last year made many potato marketing observers expect that the price for Island potatoes just could not hold up through the marketing season, though it opened with obvious strength last fall.

But the fearful were encouraged as the season advanced, as the price level was maintained through the winter and gathered strength as the spring season approached.

**TIGHT REGULATIONS**  
A threat of an increasing incidence of ring rot last year that

many farm leaders, and responsible government people, feared might endanger the Island's splendid reputation for potato excellence, resulted in more stringent regulations being announced for potato seeding this coming season.

The government move, though stirred farmers all across the province and they flocked to a number of farm meetings called to discuss a situation that was worrying many of them.

The order "to plant nothing but certified seed or better (this would be Foundation) stirred angry protests among the people who normally plant tablestock spuds. Finally the government relented and offered a compromise. Those whose own tablestock spuds which can be shown free from disease can plant them in their own farm this year — they cannot sell any for seed though, and they can plant a seed plot from which they can obtain seed to plant their own potato acreage next year, provided the seed plot production passes inspection.

The tablestock spuds will also be inspected and all of the potatoes on the farm must pass inspection — be free from disease — in order to qualify the seed plot spuds for planting next year.

It's too early to report with any degree of accuracy on potential potato acreage this year, but the fact that there have been three really good potato years in a row, so far as price is concerned, is expected to create the thinking among agriculturists for one of the bigger crop acreages.

**MOISTURE LACKING**  
One of the factors that could possibly curtail potato acreage this year is the lack of moisture.

The calendar year 1965 ended up with something more than 10 inches below normal rainfall. The past winter has been almost un-

precedentedly good for traveling, but it has been shy of snowfall, which means a lack of moisture.

There were scattered reports of Island farmers hauling water early this month. It's a most unpleasant outlook for a province with a predominantly farm economy.

And that leads to the observation that irrigation was used here in a large scale last year for the first time — garden plots had used this equipment previously, at least one did — and it's almost certain that the irrigation will be used in considerably larger proportions this year.

One large grower — Horace Willis, Kingston — told this paper late last year he would irrigate in future even though there was normal moisture. The idea of side-dressing applications of fertilizer at regular intervals through the year was suggested as an added inducement to greater production, given the certainty of adequate moisture that artificial irrigation would provide.

**PAYS FOR SELF**  
The irrigation equipment is fairly expensive but two of the half dozen or more Islanders who used it last year 9n potatoes — Mr. Willis and Chessel Irving, Murray Harbor — told this paper that the expenditure is well worth while. The equipment pays for itself, and does so rapidly, was the gist of the opinions expressed, Mr. Willis suggested.

Shipments from this province at the time this edition went to press were down perhaps 1,000 carloads from those of a year ago, and that must be regarded as an evidence of the smaller production in 1965 which was caused entirely by the moisture lack. The hope of every agriculturist here this year is that the rainfall will increase noticeably in time to provide for reasonably profitable yields of all livestock in 1966.

**CONVICTS ATTEND ABBEY**  
LONDON (CP) — There was no sign that history was being made in Westminster Abbey, except for four prison trucks and extra police on patrol outside. Inside, 50 convicts from London prisons were attending a special service with the judges, lawyers and policemen who put them in prison.

## Light can influence egg size

**KENTVILLE, N. S.** — Egg size can be increased or decreased by varying the amount of light pullets receive during the rearing and laying periods, say researchers at CDA's research station here.

W. F. Lamoreux and F. G. Proudfoot base their conclusions on experiments with several thousand birds kept throughout their lives in windowless houses.

In one experiment pullets were allowed six hours of light a day until 47 days of age; then the light was increased by 18 minutes per week until a maximum of 18 hours light per day was reached. These birds produced 60.1 per cent Grade A Large or Extra Large eggs while a control group on a standard 14-hours of light per day produced 56.8 per cent Large eggs or better.

In a second test, light was decreased from 17 hours a day at hatching to nine hours at 147 days then increased 15 minutes per week to 20 hours per day. This group produced 53.6 per cent Grade A Large or better compared with 50.7 per cent for the control group.

In a third experiment, light was decreased from 20 hours and 40 minutes at hatching to 14 hours light at 147 days then increased 10 minutes per week to a maximum of 18 hours. The test group produced 60.6 per cent Grade A Large or better while the control group produced 56.8 per cent.

The researchers say that the odds are greater than 100 to one that the differences could not have occurred by chance alone.

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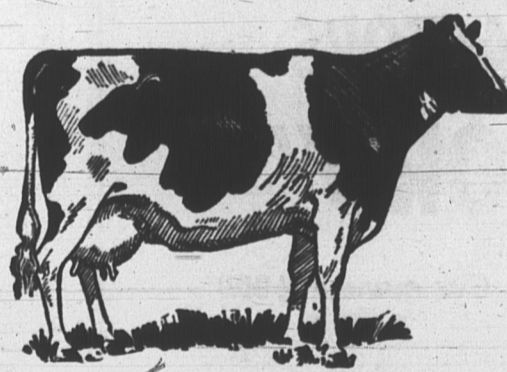
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## Livestock division lists dairy cattle ROP results

Milk production certificates for 106,475 purebred cows were issued in the last fiscal year under the Record of Performance (ROP) program supervised by CDA's Livestock Division. The program provides production credentials for each cow entered on test. This information is used as the basis for intelligent constructive breeding programs.

According to the ROP annual report just issued the 4,142 dairy herds which participated were from: Ontario (2,502), Quebec (928), British Columbia (173), Alberta (122), New Brunswick (317), Nova Scotia (89), Prince Edward Island (80), Manitoba (74) and Saskatchewan (57).

Holsteins led in breed representation with 2,954 herds on test, followed by Ayrshires (512), Jerseys (338), Guernseys (222), Red Polls (9), and Brown Swiss (6).

Results for the year, on lactations up to 305 days on twice a day milking, were:

Holsteins, 64,731 records averaging 12,041 pounds of 3.72 milk milk (448 pounds of fat); Ayrshires, 10,655 records averaging 9,042 pounds of 4.04 milk (365 pounds of fat);

Jerseys, 9,292 records averaging 7,676 pounds of 5.29 milk (406 pounds of fat);

Guernseys, 5,592 records averaging 8,555 pounds of 4.86 milk (416 pounds of fat);

Canadiennes 924 records averaging 6,966 pounds of 4.49 milk (312 pounds of fat);

Shorthorns, 442 records averaging 7,316 pounds of 3.9 milk (285 pounds of fat);

Red Polls, 153 records averaging 6,699 pounds of 4.12 milk (276 pounds of fat);

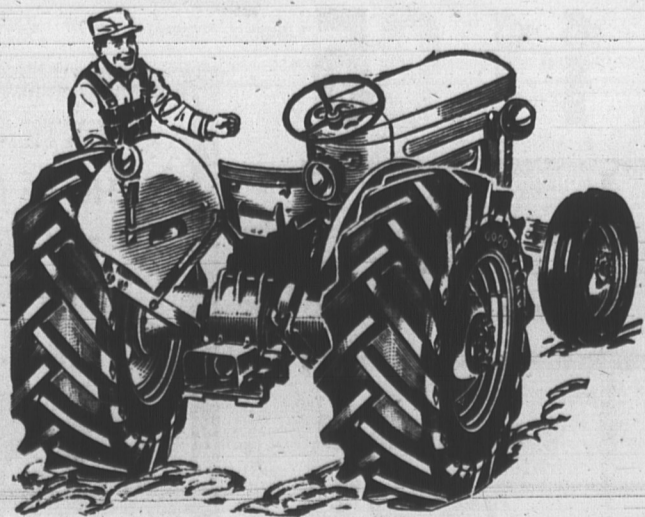
Brown Swiss, 78 records averaging 9,927 pounds of 4.2 milk (417 pounds of fat).

Herds of 50 and more cows comprised only 7.7 per cent of the herds on ROP, the 20 to 39-cow category accounting for more than 50 per cent.

Of the 106,475 records made, 86,198 were under Plan A and the remaining 50,277 under Plan B. Under Plan A, the herd owner weighs each cow's production at each milking and records it. This is supplemented by a monthly visit by the ROP

inspector who spot checks weights and makes a butterfat test on each cow. Under Plan B weights are recorded only on the day of the month that the inspector visits the farm.

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