

DESTRUCTIVE WEED CUTS YIELDS 50%

Farmers warned to control ragwort

The importance of controlling ragwort, a particularly destructive weed, in permanent pastures is emphasized by W. Norman Black, supervisor of Illustration Stations for the Ex-

perimental Farm here. Ragwort can be controlled by cultural means and by the application of chemical weed sprays.



MR. BLACK

this weed. Hoed crops in the regular rotation also help to eliminate ragwort. Two successive crops of grain, with fall cultivation after the first grain crop, will kill the seedling plants and also those weeds which have developed from root fragments.

Repeated treatments the following year are usually necessary due to reinfestations or the germination of seeds which, under certain conditions, lie dormant in the soil for several years.

TIMING IMPORTANT

Proper timing is very important when applying chemical weed sprays. In an infested field, there can be found plants in the seedling, rosette and flowering stage of growth. This makes it impossible to treat all plants at the optimum growth stage in any one treatment.

Esther formulations of 2,4-D as a spray and one and two pounds ester ingredient per acre in 24

gallons of water (40-50 lb. pressure) in mid-June and again in mid-September, have given good control of ragwort in pastures. The rate of 15 gallons per acre, at the rate of 15 gallons per acre, Unfavorable weather delayed spraying until July 20, when some old ragwort plants had reached a height of from 8 to 10 inches and were commencing to bloom; other ragwort plants were in various stages of growth and all growing vigorously.

All regions are expected to reduce its acreage. If there are smaller crops in both countries, look for good returns from potatoes in 1963.

Based on average yields for the past five years, the crop would be 40 million hundredweight, about 4 million less than in 1961 and the lowest since 1958.

The most effective means of cultural control found is to plow the land, cultivate it well and fertilize before reseeding by hay or pasture. A heavy sod can be broken up by termination and establishment of

herds annually. Excess butter is still a major problem. Stocks at the beginning of this year totalled 239 million pounds compared with 197 million a year earlier. If there is a change in present dairy policies production in 1963 may reach 370 million pounds, 10 million more than in 1962.

Stocks of cheddar cheese, evaporated milk, processed cheese and dry whole milk are much below those of 1962. Last year, more than 100 million pounds of cheddar cheese were consumed in Canada for the first time, and another increase is expected in 1963.

POTATO ACREAGE TO BE LOWER IN MARITIMES '63 NATIONAL FARM OUTLOOK

High produce demand expected to continue

The heavy demand for farm products and the upward trend in spending by consumers are expected to continue in 1963. Capital spending by all levels of government in 1963 is expected to reach \$9.1 billion this year, four per cent more than last year. An expenditure of this size will strongly support the Canadian economy through the year.

Exports are expected to increase because Canadian producers are in a better position to compete. Farm cash income, given an average weather, should be well maintained in 1963. Prices of farm products should be generally stable. Some prices may drop under the pressure of supplies, but prices for other products will likely be higher.

Veal calf marketings this spring will be seasonally heavier and prices lower. Little change from last year's marketings is expected, but 1963 prices in a few areas slightly lower in competition with lower beef prices. Looking ahead to 1964, finished beef should be plentiful if feed supplies are adequate. Beef cow numbers in Canada and the U.S. were up 5 and 6 per cent last December (compared with a year earlier) and there were more calves too. This indicates larger supplies of cattle for feeding this year of a neat.

Prices of oats and barley have fallen from last year's high levels. In early March, at the Lakehead, oats were about 10 cents less and barley about 5 cents less per bushel. Prices of oats are not expected to rise this spring and summer despite good export sales. Barley prices, because of the tight supply, should stay firm at least until the crop of the new crop can be estimated.

Lamb prices have been much higher since last fall than they were a year earlier. The market was stronger because fewer fed lambs were marketed and less dressed lamb was imported this past winter. Firm prices are expected this year. Seasonally light marketings in spring and summer will keep veal lamb prices at about current levels until marketings increase in August. In mid-March, good old-crop lambs were about \$24.75 per hundredweight at Toronto.

A smaller lamb crop is indicated. The December survey showed nine percent fewer sheep with the drop a little more pronounced in Eastern Canada than in the West.

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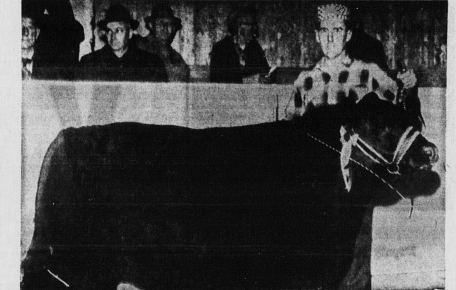
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