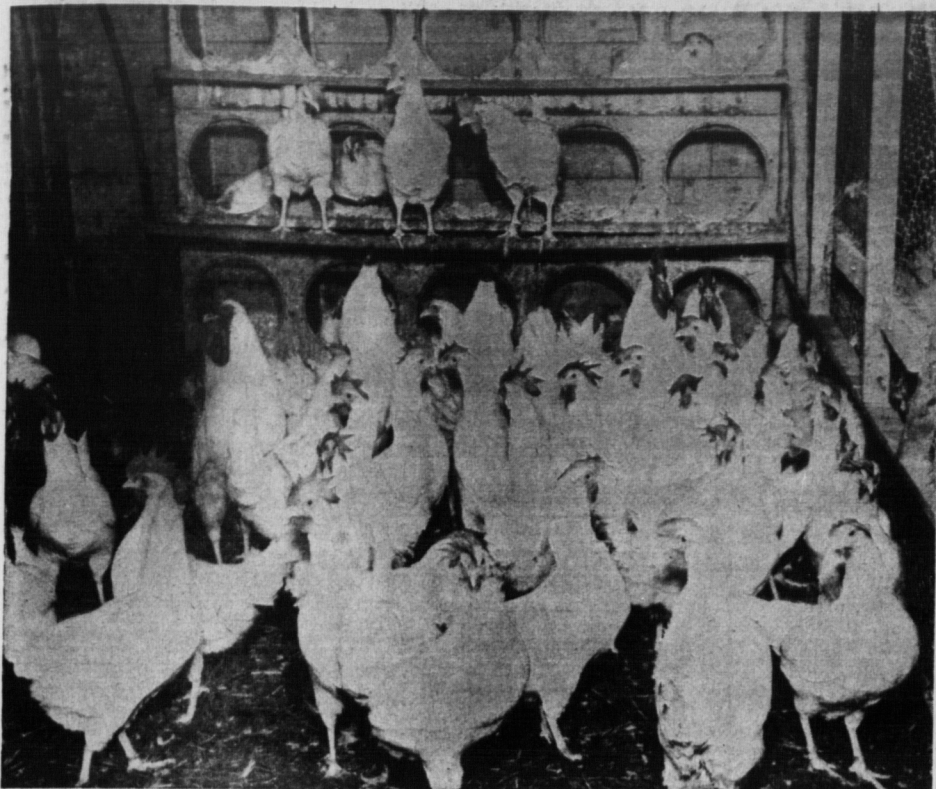


Mt. Herbert farmer proves poultry is money-maker



RAYNER SAYS BREEDING INDICATES PRICE-KILLING BLOOD SPOTS ARE HEREDITARY

ARDA SEEN BENEFITING ISLAND

Minister predicts trend to economic farm unit

By ALVIN HAMILTON
Minister of Agriculture

It gives me great pleasure to send greetings again to the people of Prince Edward Island and particularly to the farm families in whose honor this special issue is prepared.

A busy calendar and my recent illness have prevented me from visiting the Island lately, but I have pleasant memories of the hospitality I received on previous occasions and lasting impressions of the scenic attractions for which this part of Canada is famous.

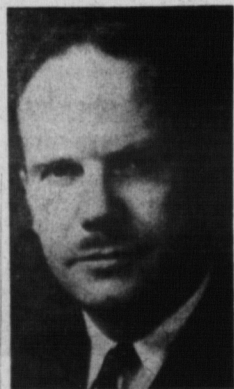
The national agricultural picture in the meantime has undergone changes which have to some degree been reflected here. I refer to the unprecedented expansion of our wheat exports; the reduction of feed supplies through drought; an over-supply of butter which is now to be made available to the consumer at lower prices. Closer to home, you have had your own problems in potato production and marketing.

I feel that throughout these developments, there has been a strong trend towards the concept of an economic farm unit. This is particularly so in Prince Edward Island where the industry is of paramount importance. The Island's population, for instance, has remained stable while the number of farm units decreased. Total population today is about 104,000, six per cent higher than in 1956; and farms number about 8,400 compared with 9,432 in 1956.

USE CREDIT ACT
Farmers are making greater use of the Farm Credit Act, now two and one-half years old. Under this legislation 235 loans totalling \$1,455,900 have been made to Island farmers for the express intention of putting them in a better income-earning position.

Acres of improved land was reported in 1956 to be 100,000 less than it was 50 years before. There still exists a sizeable area of submarginal farm land relative to the area of the province, and I believe the recently-activated Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Administration may be able to help convert this to more profitable use. Some discussions have already been held between ARDA and your provincial government.

Agreement has almost been reached on insurance of the Prince Edward Island potato crop. Discussions have been held with the provincial government which is keenly interested in participating in the benefits offered under the federal Crop



MR. HAMILTON

Insurance Act passed in 1959. I am sure this will be of great benefit and a wise precaution. The decline in farm income which you experienced in 1961 was in large measure due to lower returns from the sale of potatoes and the incidence of fusarium rot in the previous year's crop. My department paid out sums equivalent to the provincial government's grants to lessen the impact of this damage.

An ambitious program of potato indexing is being started this year to eliminate bacterial ring rot and viruses which are the main scourge of this important cash crop. Our plant protection division staff at the Charlottetown research station

New Herta barley tops expectations

BY D.E. STERLING
AND R.B. MACLAREN
Experimental Farm

Herta barley is the only cereal variety which was subject to new and wide-spread distribution on Prince Edward Island in 1961. To date, this variety has exceeded expectations, and is most favourably accepted by virtually all of its growers.

Herta is expected to rapidly replace Charlottetown No. 50 as the leading barley variety in the province. While it has, in some cases, performed well in mixture with oats, it usually does not appear to compete well under these conditions. Therefore, it is recommended that Herta be seeded as a pure crop.

There are approximately 70,000 acres of mixed grain (oats

and barley) and approximately 300 acres of pure barley annually in the Province.

FALL RYE FOR GRAIN:
Tests with fall rye during the past three years have led to the following conclusions.

1. The most satisfactory seeding dates are from August 15 to September 12 for the variety Dominant which is recommended for this province.

2. Simulated grazing studies suggest that the removal of top-growth from early seedings has no effect on grain yields.

3. The spring application of 100 pounds of nitrogenous fertilizer generally improves yield.

BARLEY JOINTWORM:
In view of the 1961 increase in the population of barley jointworm, CONTINUED ON PAGE 11-A

Fusarium loss can be reduced

Canadian potato growers sometimes suffer heavy losses from fusarium, or storage rot.

Such losses can be reduced and even eliminated by dipping the whole seed in an organic mercury fungicide - Semesan Bel for instance. This prevents the disease organisms on the tubers from contaminating the soil and is also effective against verticillium and black-leg.

This suggestion comes from G. W. Ayers of the Canada department of agriculture Experimental Farm at Charlottetown. He points out fusarium is caused by a fungus that turns the tubers dark brown to black during late fall or winter.

If the disease organism is in the soil when the potatoes are being harvested, the spores can enter the tubers through bruises from the digging or later handling. Careful handling reduces losses because it reduces the number of potatoes infected.

Dry soil and above normal temperatures during the growing season favor the development of this destructive fungus.

Research ups cranberry production

By W. M. BLACK
AND E. C. MACMILLAN
Experimental Farm

Cranberries are considered to be one of the better small fruits that are native to Prince Edward Island.

Several methods of increasing yields on existing stands have been under trial by the Experimental Farm at Blooming Point. Experiments have also been established to ascertain means whereby cranberries can be established on upland soils.

While no new experiments were established at this location during the past year, work was continued along the same lines as formerly, in an effort to obtain additional information on cranberry culture.

OIL IS SPRAY

Herbicide Oil was used again as a spray in the early spring at the rate of 200 gallons per acre. This treatment gave excellent control of grasses, but had little or no effect on most weeds and woody plants such as low cutweed, bayberry, hardhack, sheep laurel and blueberry.

A new experiment was begun in 1960, when a new product was applied. This material had a controlling effect on woody plants at rates of 100, 200 and 400 gallons per acre, but also killed the cranberry vines.

Lower rates, including 50, 100, 150 and 200 gallons per acre, were applied in 1961 with corresponding results. It is felt, however, that by adopting a different method of applying the material, and by utilizing lower rates, the desired effect may be obtained. A new method of application will be tried in the summer season of 1962.

SCYTHING RETARDS
It was observed that the scything of hardhack and bayberry retarded their growth temporarily. It appears, however, that this method increases the growth of the plants in succeeding years.

It is considered that a spray method would be more desirable to eradicate the weed plant if some suitable material could be procured. Tests are to be conducted in this respect in 1962.



RAYNER KEEPS RECORD OF LAYERS

Farm is managed on 'family plan'

BY NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial and Farm Editor

A tremendous improvement in poultry development is reported by Ralph Rayner who conducts a large-scale farm test program on his ranch at Mt. Herbert, in addition to his extensive egg production.

Production was rated pretty good if it hit an average of 60 per cent, when Mr. Rayner started his development back in 1947. Today production runs to a peak of 90 per cent, and averages out at 75-80 per cent.

Mortality was high at that time with 15 to 20 per cent loss, but today anything more than 10 per cent mortality is considered impractical, and some of the test pens run as low as three per cent over the year.

The Mt. Herbert man has two pens of his layers in the nation's Random Sample test at Ottawa which has birds from right across the country, and his two pens stood eighth and ninth in a recent year with a net profit production of \$2.10 per bird.

EGGS HATCHED
The term "Random Sample" means exactly what it implies. The birds represent a cross section of his flock and there is no opportunity for selection. The poultryman sends a case of 30 dozen eggs to the organization at Ottawa which hatches them and keeps 120 pullets for the test. They use 60 birds in the two pens they select and they are fed and treated the same as the other birds on test from right across the country.

But Mr. Rayner runs his own farm tests at home with 24 pens. The idea, he explains, is to find the smallest bird that will lay the most eggs, without sacrificing size or quality, on the least amount of feed.

"I have found," he says "that we can reduce the size of the Leghorns without affecting the quality or production."

The Mt. Herbert ranch is also high on its Rhode Island Red and White Leghorn Cross, which is giving the straight White Leghorns a stiff battle in the average net income competition, even though they are slightly heavier. The RIR x WL cross runs to five pounds per bird and the White Leghorns run to four pounds each.

But the pure bred White Leghorns are also crossed, though it is a crossing of strains within the breed, and many of the birds have three strain crosses in them, as the breeder endeavours to emphasize most desirable characteristics.

Mr. Rayner finds the test work "interesting and most rewarding", although it entails a great deal of work and of detailed bookkeeping. It's just as important, he stresses, to find the poorest bird as it is to find the best.

"I couldn't get along at all on the record keeping without Miralim"—Mrs. Rayner teaches at Prince Street School but it finds time to help with the poultry records, in addition to the many other chores about the home.

There is a great amount of work on the detailed records kept, but one laborious chore has been eliminated in recent

years. Trap nesting individual birds required a great deal of manual and clerical work. In other years, but that has been dropped in favor of pen testing.

Stressing the family-operation angle, Mr. Rayner said that Ronald, 17, is in first year at Prince of Wales College; David, 14, is in Grade nine at Queen Charlotte High School; Gale is nine and Melody is four.

BLOOD SPOTS

The Mt. Herbert man is particularly happy about his success in eradicating blood spots. Reports from two farmers who buy his pullet chicks say that they have gotten as low as three spots in 110 dozen eggs and four spots in 100 dozen eggs, which is unprecedented. It means repeat orders from satisfied customers, but it means more to Mr. Rayner, who is delighted with the results.

For years he had asked at fairs, at poultry exhibitions, at meetings and at every possible place, what causes blood spots? but he never received a satisfactory answer. Some people told him they were caused by birds being frightened but one poultryman put a Collie dog in with his flock and found no appreciable increase in blood spots from his terrified flock.

By test breeding, Mr. Rayner has found the problem is largely hereditary, for he has found that by carefully selective breeding, he has been able to almost wipe out the costly fault.

Even a pin-sized point spot puts the eggs down in a low grade, and a large spot makes the egg a reject, he explained.

Mr. Rayner now feels that he has the answer and can breed with confidence. "We know exactly what we are doing", he said a few days ago.

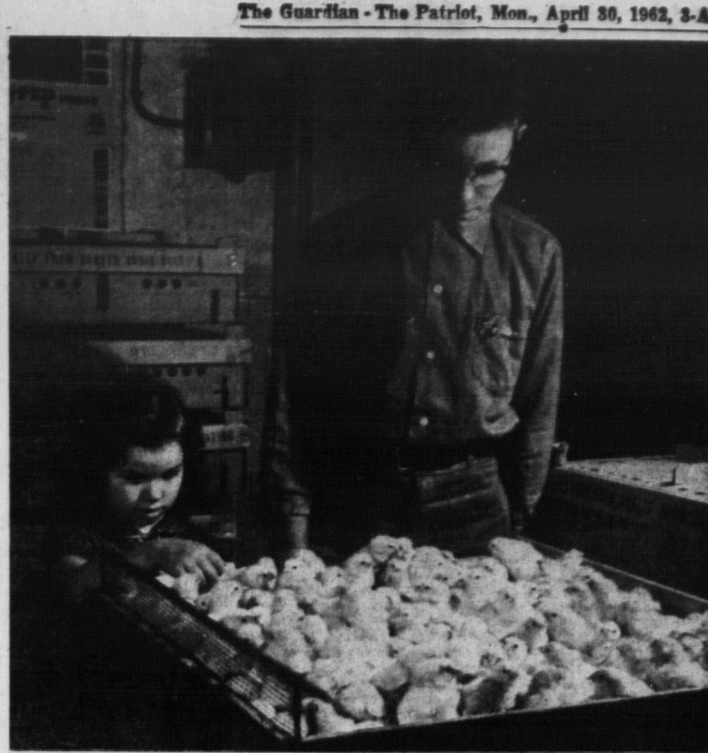
CAN'T MEET DEMAND
He says he is unable to supply the growing demand. Shell texture improvement is one important development — it leads to less breakage and cracked eggs — which he says he has found to be partly hereditary and can be improved by breeding, although feeding also plays an important part.

Mr. Rayner is the only man in the Maritimes who breeds White Leghorns. Others sell "franchise chicks" and must turn over a royalty per chick to the people who breed them, some of them Americans. One firm exacts a royalty of 18 cents on a chick that sells for 59 cents, he reported.

The Rayner chicks sell much less, despite their high quality, as the operation is entirely controlled by him.

The present poultry house was constructed in the fall of 1955, after a fire had destroyed the former building that summer. The two-story 30-112 foot building accommodates 3,000 hens after space is taken out for feed rooms on both floors. Space requirement was five feet for a large bird and four feet for a Leghorn in other years, but the present idea is to house a Leghorn in two to two-and-one-half feet of space per bird.

Whole grain is fed to the poultry on this ranch with the concentrate in pellet form. "The hens do the grinding, we feed no mash", the owner explains.



FARMER'S CHILDREN MELODY, 4, DAVID 14, VIEW TRAY OF CHICKS



PRODUCTION RECORDS ADD TO WORK, BUT SAVE MONEY

53.7 PER CENT ARE GRADE A

Island hogs lead Canada

Although the number of hogs graded in 1961 was down from the previous year, the percentage of Grade A carcasses was the highest since the grading program was launched in 1940, reports Elgin Senn, chief of the grading section, Livestock Division, Canada Department of Agriculture.

Prince Edward Island's percentage of 53.7 led all Canada. A total of 6,448,956 hogs were graded last year, a decrease of 315,240 from 1960. Reflecting a continuing improvement in quality, the percentage of Grade A carcasses rose to a record 23.7 from 30.5 in 1960.

Mr. Senn attributes the gain in Grade A's largely to the change in payment of the federal government premiums from \$2.00 on A and \$1.00 on B grade to \$3.00 on A grade.

The percentage of Grade B's dipped to 45.2 last year from 46.5 in 1960, while the percentage of over-fat C hogs decreased to 9.5 from 10.7 in 1960.

Of the Grade B hogs, 11.2 per cent were one to 10 pounds too light for the 135-pound minimum weight for Grade A's and 11.4 per cent were one to 10 pounds above the maximum 170 pounds weight for the top grade.

Provincial percentages of hogs graded A in 1961, with 1960 percentages in brackets:
Alberta 27.4 (22.4); British Columbia 32.9 (28.3); Manitoba 29.4 (28.9); New Brunswick 48.3 (46.9); Nova Scotia 51.8 (49.9); Ontario 36.3 (34.5); Prince Edward Island 53.7 (53.2); Quebec

32.1 (31.7); Saskatchewan 31.4 (31.4); Grade B, 45.2; Grade C, 9.5 (9.5); Grade D, 0.6; light, 2.4; heavy, 3.3; extra heavy, 1.2; ridgelings, 0.5; stags, 0.3; sows, 4.3

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