



MRS. NANCY GARDNER

As Nancy Gardner looks out the kitchen window of her farmhouse, keeping an eye on her herd of Aberdeen Angus, she expresses concern about the diminishing popularity of the breed.

There is no problem with sale the meat. She has more regular customers for Angus beef than she is able to supply. But there is no market for purebred breeding stock.

Nancy and Roy Gardner, with their two children, Sean 13 and Tracey 12 moved to the farm at rr 1 belmont five years ago from Arva. At that time they purchased the three cows that established their herd which has now increased to 60 head with 26 cows

"We have held all our heifers," Nancy explained. Nancy is the farmer in the family. Her husband holds an executive position with a London industry, a position, she maintains, that supports the farming enterprise.

Nancy, from a farming family near Lucknow, has always wanted to bring her family up on a farm. But achieving that goal has not been too easy. "Nobody would give us the money to buy a farm," Nancy said. "Roy had no farming experience. But we could get the money to buy a house. So we bought the house in Arva and then sold it to purchase the farm."

The extent of the operation is necessarily limited to Nancy's capability with part-time assistance from her husband and children. Much of the 150 acres is rented out, partly on shares.

"We can't really expand very much because we don't have the equipment or the time and I can not handle any more."

A brief foray into the hog business was abandoned, largely because of the time factor.

The changing trend in the beef business to exotic breeds also effects the enterprise. There have been recent changes in the breed itself, with tastes changing from the boxy, short-legged angus to more feminine, long-legged conformation.

"I have always liked the Angus," Nancy said. "I knew they were easy to handle. The calves are very small in comparison to other breeds. We have been very lucky, too, with hardly any problems in raising them."

Nancy mixes her own formula using concentrate and two grains, a factor she considers the most important in contributing to her success.

Although they have never been able to show their animals she hopes that they can in the future.

An experience she is not likely to forget occurred when one of the cows fell into an old dug well the Gardners had not known about. "I got a neighbour to help and we pulled her out of the well, she recalls. "He had a rope around me and I put a rope around her and we got her out."

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Nancy Garner and her Angus Herd.

None the worse her the experience the cow calved a few months later.

In addition to the herd the Gardners have an Arab mare, which Tracey rides. Her mother also uses the horse for riding the fences. Catfish Creek cuts through the Gardner property and after a rain often overruns its banks taking out fences. "If the fences go, the cows get out, and I have to chase them," she said.

Nancy would like to see the various beef breeds unite to better promote the industry, rather than scatter their numbers in separate breed associations. "There is even a separate association for Red Angus," she noted. "They have to be registred separately. I think we could do better if all the beef breeders got together."

As secretary-treasurer of the Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute Nancy recently organized a catering group that served 1000 meals at Aylmer Fair. Nine women prepared 81 pies in two hours, she said proudly, and on one day alone they served 150 pounds of turkey.

The Institute branch sponsors three 4*H Homemaking Clubs and Nancy is a 4-H leader. This summer she led the outdoorliving project which was enthusiastically received by the youngsters who joined. "We had a good time and 15 members enjoyed outdoor camping, she noted. "But there are so many activities in the community in the summer, including organized sports, that it is difficult to find the time for another summer project."

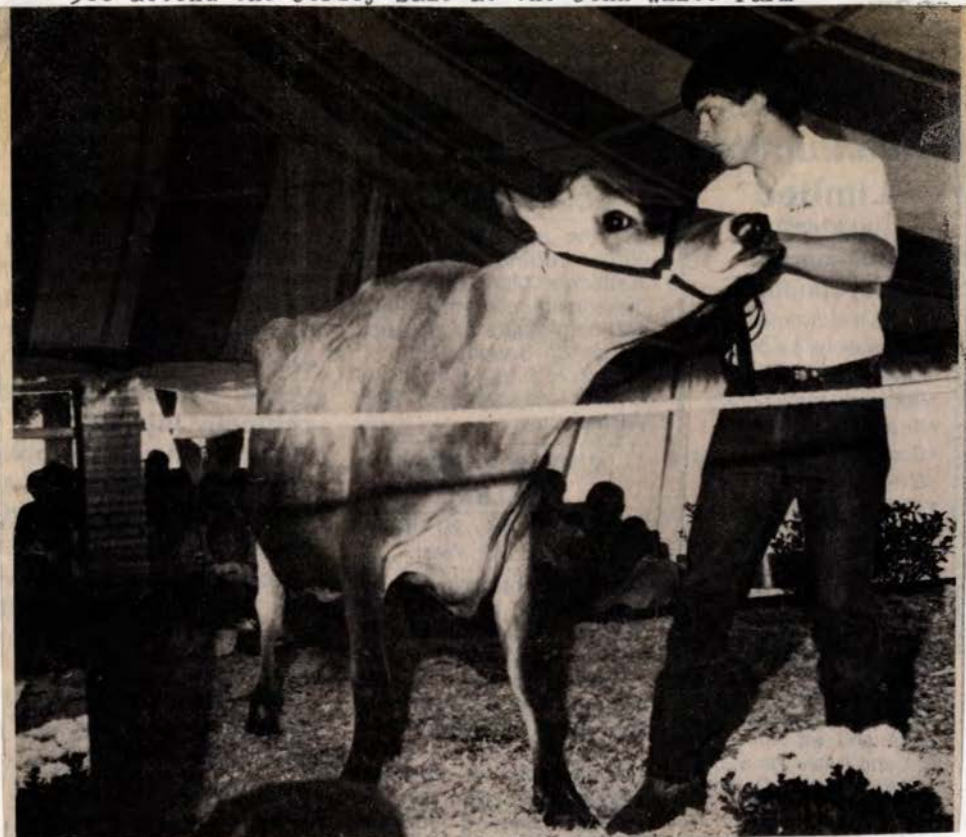
Nancy's club includes a number of boys who prefer cooking projects so she feels they will skip the fall club on accessories and pick up again with the next food club.

Volunteer activities in the community include serving hot dogs once a month at the school. For some time she also helped with remedial reading but found she had to discontinue that activity due to lack of time.

The Gardners have a woodlot and sell wood from it. But customers outnumber the supply.

When time permits she enjoys volunteer service at the nearby Senior Citizens home in Aylmer.

500 attend the Jersey Sale at the John White Farm



About 500 bidders attended an auction of Jersey cows and heifers at the Vallystream farm of Jack and June White at Mapleton. \$200,000 plus in sales were recorded during four hours of bidding. About 300 attended a beef barbecue and auction preview held at the farm on July 14.

An auction of 44 Jersey cows and heifers at the White Farm brought more than \$200,000 in sales. The average price of \$4,630 per lot was the highest ever for a Canadian Jersey auction.

Bidders from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and other states attended along with Canadian bidders.

So many attended the auction that parking accomodation was a problem. A calf donated by the White's was auctioned for \$2,200, with the money going to the Jersey Canada Youth Fund.

The auctioneer was Merlin Woodruff of Urbana, Ohio.

A high bid of \$20,200 for a half-interest in Valleystream Silver B Jo a five year old production record breaking cow, was the highest ever paid for a half-interest in a Jersey cow at an auction in Canada.

The cow, purchased by a syndicate from Markham, will stay on the Valleystream Farm.

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Women's Institute ProgrammeAGRICULTURE MEETING

Topic: "ONLY ONE EARTH - HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?"

Chairman introduces topic -

This evening our Women's Institute members and guests will hear from a panel of guests, who have just arrived by plane from overseas to-day. This panel will provide you with upto-date information on the soil conditions in Africa and India. The situation in some parts of Africa is critical and there is a desperate need at the present time to produce food and firewood for thousands of people.

A glimpse at India, will reveal what women have done to protect the trees from destruction in one of the Indian villages.

Music: "We Are The World" plays in the background as the panel members arrive and are seated about a table. Panel members are dressed in native costume.

Chairman introduces each panel member -

- (a) Dr. Mostafa Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme).
- (b) Mullo Teferra from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- (c) Kenya woman, speaking about Seedling Production.
- (d) Indian woman, speaks about the Chipko Movement.

Chairman: Our first speaker, Dr. Tolba, will tell us about some very important environmental issues.

Dr. Tolba: Thank you very much for inviting me and my panel to share with you this evening, what is happening in some parts of Africa and in India also.

"Recently, I spoke to some delegates in Nairobi, Kenya, and I plan to share the same message with you.

Did you know that the most devastating environmental problem existing to-day is land - arable and grazing land - being turned into desert at the rate of six million hectares each year?

In the last decade poverty forced villagers and slum dwellers to destroy renewable resources like fuel wood and soil. The tropical forests are being depleted in Africa at the rate of 8 million hectares every year, and like forests and soil, our fresh water resources need to be properly managed. Today, one in four people living in the cities of the developing countries has no access to clean water. In the rural areas where the majority still live, the situation is even worse - more than 70% must drink and wash with dirty water.

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People's health is also being put at serious risk by the increasing volume and numbers of potentially dangerous chemicals released into their environment. A similar threat is posed by the transport and disposal of hazardous waste, especially long-lived radio-active waste.

Environmental neglect can have repercussions far beyond national borders. Oil spillages are a problem for nations sharing a common sea. Acid rain has become a serious problem not only in polluting countries, but even more in those countries with the misfortune to be downwind.

To-day we face a problem which no previous generation has had to face. There are two choices:

- to carry on as they are and face by the turn of the century an environmental catastrophe which will witness devastation as complete, as irreversible as any nuclear holocaust, or,
- to begin now in earnest a co-operative effort to use the world's resources rationally and fairly.

ONLY ONE EARTH - HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?"

Chairman: Thank you Dr. Tolba, for sharing with us the facts as you know them to exist in your part of the world.

Our next speaker, Mullo Teferra, will inform you about a very serious condition in her country.

Mullo Teferra: "Thank you for the opportunity to speak to so many people this evening. I have travelled from Ethiopia to be with you this warm night.

I live on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in a tin roofed shanty. Ten years ago, when I was 34 years old, I walked 6 kilometers to fetch firewood for cooking and heating. Now, 10 years later in 1985, I trudge 12 kilometers for my firewood, because much of the forest surrounding my Ethiopian capital has been stripped away. I have seen the trees disappear. Soon I think we'll be walking greater distances. I have brought with me a 30 kilogram (66 lb.) bundle of kindling to show you. If I was home, I would carry this bundle on my back, as I return home from gathering this firewood for my cooking and heating needs."

Chairman: It is a problem for so many of us in Canada to realize how difficult it is for women in other parts of the world. You have made us see how you must daily walk great distances for your household firewood. Thank you Mullo Teferra, for sharing with us your story.

I recently read in my local paper, The London Free Press, (June 6, 1985, A 12), that deforestation is especially acute in Ethiopia, but is common to much of Africa. A century ago, nearly half of Ethiopia was

carpeted by forests, but the quest for wood for fires and building by a swelling population reduced the woodlands. Today, in an area 3 times the size of California, only 4% of the land is thickly forested.

The indiscriminate destruction of African woodlands has opened the way for the Sahara Desert, stretching from the Senegal in the west to Sudan in the East, to edge southward almost 105 kilometers (62 miles) since the 1970's.

Since trees are vital to binding the soil and preventing erosion, the loss of forests, particularly in Ethiopia has contributed to the current food crisis in that country. The African energy crisis is not about coal or oil, it is about fuelwood, and it affects mainly the poor living in the rural areas.

ONLY ONE EARTH - HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?

Chairman: Our next speaker is going to tell us about a project undertaken in Kenya.

Kenyan Woman: It is a pleasure to speak to you this evening. My home is in Kenya, East Africa. For many years I have seen the devastation of the Kenyan forests. This has come about because the trees have been used to make charcoal, not only for home consumption, but for massive export to the Middle East, and all without any thought of replanting. However, 8 years ago in 1977, the greenbelt Movement, sponsored by the National Council of Women of Kenya, began the slow task of rebuilding and saving the forests of Kenya. The prime objective has been to avert desertification, to provide firewood for Kenya's rural population, and to reforest the country to restore its natural beauty, to prevent more soil erosion and to restore traditional rain patterns.

I am one of several hundred Kenyan women employed in seedling production, near my home. I know I am creating a positive change not only for myself, but for the environment and my country.

Chairman: It is heartening to know that positive steps are being taken to help in the soil erosion problem in Kenya by the women.

We will now hear of positive action taken in India.

India Woman: Good evening. I live in India. I am going to tell you about 50 women who protested severely against a commercial contractor, who wanted to fell 50 ash trees in their Indian village, April 1973. The spontaneous protest is known as the Chipko Movement.

Chipko means literally "Hug The Trees", and that's what the women did. The wholesale clearance of great forests which once covered thousands of square miles of the Himalayan foothills has upset the ecology of the area, altering the climate and creating desert in a once fertile region. At first the government was upset and unsympathetic and the Chipko protesters were arrested. More recently, however,

there has been a change of policy, and conservation measures are being introduced as of 1984.

Chairman: Thank you very much for telling us about the women in India, and their belief in the value of trees.

This concludes part 1 of our Agriculture program. Would you please show your appreciation to the panel, for giving us an excellent insight to conditions in their countries.

ONLY ONE EARTH - HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?

Music: Panel make their exit as "Tears are not Enough" is played.

end of part 1

Part 2

Chairman: Before we hear from the next group of panelists, who will be speaking about conditions in Canada, I wish to tell you something about our farmers. It is a well known fact that Canadian farmers are a very efficient business group of individuals. As some of you are aware, farmers have been urged for the past number of years to become more efficient and produce more. In some instances to produce more crops, natural windbreaks have been ploughed down in order to crop more land, and thus produce more. This practice has led to some very serious problems in certain areas in Canada.

Are you aware of the following facts about Canada? Canada is the second largest country in the world, and that almost half is totally unsuited to agricultural production. A further 28% combines other adverse factors which leave it with virtually no potential for agriculture. Then there is the land used for forestry, recreation, transportation and urbanization. This leaves less than 9% of Canada's land area which can be potentially cultivated, and only 4.5% which is actually cropped coast to coast.

ONLY ONE EARTH - HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?

There are threats which put soil at risk. Between 1961-1976, Canada lost more than 3½ million acres of farmland, which is almost the size of the whole of Prince Edward Island. The installation of oil and gas pipelines and surface mining activities are 2 major causes of soil mixing and disturbance on agricultural land in Canada.

In Part 1 of this Agriculture program you have been made aware of some of the problems in other countries. Now as Part 2 commences, you will become aware of the situation that exists in Canada, in regard to our land and resources.

Music: "Can-a-da" is played as the panel of Canadians enter the room and take their places around the table.

Speaker 1: Good evening. The Soil at Risk Report, was completed July 1984, by the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Chairman was Senator Herbert Sparrow. Of interest to Women's Institute members, is that Senator Martha Bielish, a Women's Institute member, was a member of this Committee. The report attempts to define soil degradation and reveal its seriousness on a national basis.

A plane ride over Canada showed this Committee that there are serious problems in Canada. In the Atlantic Provinces, water erosion is devastating, with the top soil gone forever.

Speaker 2: As the plane flew over Quebec, it could be observed that the organic soil along the St. Lawrence Seaway was overworked, therefore being affected so easily by water and wind. If not attended to, the land will be out of production within 20 years.

In Ontario urban expansion is a problem, with over 1,000 acres of farmland lost to urbanization each year. Erosion problems in Southwestern Ontario has caused serious loss of yields in some crops.

As the plane flew over the western provinces, indications are that wind is a worse problem in the Prairies than water.

British Columbia has every basic type of soil degradation. This includes the forest industry as well as agriculture.

Speaker 3: Because of the serious nature of the findings, several recommendations were made by this Committee.

- (a) That the government intends to make soil management a priority.
- (b) More colleges and university technologists working in the fields with the farmers.

Mr. Sparrow stated that, "There is a great deal of technology out there that is not being delivered to the farm gate. There is a lot that can be done at the local level without costing a lot of money. The consumers, politicians and the agricultural community must all work at improving the situation."

Speaker 4: I wish to briefly tell you about some conditions that arose in Dover Township, Southwestern Ontario, when serious flooding took place in the spring of 1985.

At one farm field in Dover, across River Road from the Thames River, an estimated 12 inches of topsoil washed away in the flood waters. It is estimated that it will take 30 years to regenerate 1 inch. Only grass would grow well in the non-fertile soil. Flooding is one of the costliest forms to prevent. The combination of wind, water, pollution and urban encroachment all contribute to soil loss. If protective measures are not taken, the country will not be able to produce any crops in another 30 years.

When Senator Sparrow viewed the damage to the land from the floods in Dover Township, he remarked that Canada could become the Ethiopia of North America if soil erosion continues unchecked for another 30 years.

Speaker 5: I wish to tell you what our Agriculture Minister, The Honourable John Wise has said about the soil conditions in his County, (Elgin County) Ontario.

"In our County, some of the best soil in all Canada can be found in this area. Elgin County has more than 2,000 farms producing some very high value crops. The ability of the Canadian farmer to produce food, depends on the quality of our soil. Unfortunately, Canada is rapidly losing productive land to soil degradation. The impact of soil erosion on farm income is not as obvious as the effect of high interest rates. Even when we see soil blowing or washing away, we don't really see it as money we've lost.

It is estimated that in Southwestern Ontario, \$56 million per year in yield reductions and increased fertilizer and pesticide costs is due to soil erosion.

Agriculture Canada is now in the process of developing a national agricultural soil and water strategy. Funds have been reallocated and staff assigned to monitor soil degradation across Canada."

According to Mr. Wise, soil erosion is the second most serious problem facing Canadian farmers today, next to the problem of farm financing. He believes stopping soil erosion is everyone's responsibility.

ONLY ONE EARTH - HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?

Speaker 6: It is obvious that we need to reassess in Canada, what is happening to our soil and begin to care for it.

I would suggest that in order to improve our own properties some of the following suggestions could be used:

- (a) Plough under manure and straw in the fields to improve the organic matter.
- (b) Grass waterways to slow down water runoff and soil erosion.
- (c) Use compost for our gardens to build up soil structure.
- (d) Plant trees for windbreaks to decrease wind erosion.

In the future we can expect:

- (a) More crop rotation including small grain and cover seeding.
- (b) Minimal or zero tillage to reduce soil compaction.

The use of these and other technologies depend on public awareness. Information is readily available from local Crop Improvement Associations, Conservation Authorities, Agricultural Representatives, as well as from private industry.

Perhaps most importantly it is people discussing ideas that have worked for them, or ideas that could be adapted to improve our properties.

ONLY ONE EARTH - HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?

Chairman: Again, I wish to thank our panel of guests for speaking to us this evening. I am sure they have made us much more aware of the need to care for our soil.

ONLY ONE EARTH - HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?

Music: "Tears are not Enough" is played as the panel leave.

The End

Note: This program was prepared by Mrs. Janet Hiepleh, Agriculture Convener for her Branch, Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, for use at the regular meeting of the Branch in 1985.

The program was presented at a County Rally, and it was there that more than 100 Women's Institute members and their guests were made aware of the serious conditions around the world and in Canada.

ONLY ONE EARTH - HOW MUCH DO WE CARE?

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