

# A Challenge

To the Farmers of  
Lambton County

Issued October 1941

The time for action has arrived if Agriculture is to hold its rightful place in the economic set-up of the Dominion of Canada.

This booklet is issued by the authority of the Board of Directors of the Lambton Farmers' Association

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## *Read This Message!*

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### **Lambton County Farmers' Association**

What is the L.C.F.A.? It is an organization of farmers uniting in one group to discuss farm problems and work for the improvement of farm conditions. Who are the L.C.F.A.? There are twenty directors on the Board, two men from each Township in the County. In January, 1942, and every year thereafter, the farmers of each township will be called together to elect five directors to lead the township organization. These five directors will elect a President and Secretary from their Board who will represent the township on the county Board of Directors for the following year.

Some of the Objectives of the Organization: First, we believe, not only every farmer in Canada, but every Canadian citizen should do all that they can possibly do to win the war. We would not have the privilege of organizing if we were to lose to Nazism. We hope to become a member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture



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in 1942, and through that organization, to keep in touch with our Canadian Federation of Agriculture which has opened an office at Ottawa. We wish to encourage more co-operation among farmers. The Milk Producers of Ontario have banded themselves together and have reaped real benefits from their organization. The asparagus, tomato and peach growers have a similar organization and we believe the producers of other products could benefit from such organizations.

We recommend that all co-operative organizations be used more by the farmers, whether for selling or buying because we believe these organizations are doing a great deal toward keeping down the chances of speculation at the farmers' expense. We offer the farmers of the County an opportunity to discuss farm problems, and will forward their problems and recommendations for improvement to our Ontario and Dominion Federation, who will in turn take the questions up with the proper authorities. We realize for the individual farmer to write to the Government for any action is useless but through organization, we believe some benefits may be derived.

**Finances:** How are these organizations financed? Each county has their own system of financing. They receive grants from County and Township Councils. Also, grants from any farm organization that is in a position financially to aid in this worthy cause. Some have membership fees. We believe these organizations will be a benefit not only to every farmer, but to our urban centres because a prosperous farm community means a prosperous village or town. Surely no farmer wants to stand aside and let his neighbors finance an organization for his benefit. We all want to help, so the L.C.F.A. is circulating a petition giving you the opportunity of expressing your willingness to help finance our way out of our difficulties.

Barrett Forbes, president.

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## STEPS ALONG THE WAY

### SIMCOE COUNTY BLUEPRINT OF THOUGHT AND ACTION

**Lessons From The Past** Ever since Confederation, Ontario farmers have been building up or letting down one province-wide farm movement after another—the Grange, the Patrons of Industry, the Farmers' Association, the United Farmers of Ontario. Periods of depression and grievances seemed to stimulate the building process. Periods of fair prices, with their "every man for himself" outlook, a few misjudgments in financial and political policies, educational foundations not thoroughly laid — all hastened the "let downs."

Be it emphatically noted, however, that each organization made a special contribution to the period it served, not only in dollars and cents, but in cultural and social life. To claim that these movements "failed" is no more true than to claim failure for the life of a good and useful citizen because he finally succumbs to the ravages of disease.

Permanent foundations, however, have never been laid: even the once powerful United Farmers Movement is today but a shadow of its 1920 strength although it has attempted repeatedly to "come back." For over fifteen years now neither Ontario nor Canadian farmers have been in a position to speak effectively the one language which modern society understands.

**Unifying Influence Needed** On its formation in November 1935, the Federation of Agriculture became the unifying influence which has brought all these specialized groups together in order to deal with matters affecting farmers generally, no matter what commodity they produce on their own farms. In other words, the Federation has assumed the responsibility for the formulation of agricultural policies, of approaching governments and urging the adoption of such policies; also stimulating intelligent discussion of these policies back on the sideroads.

## NATIONAL OFFICE

Canadian Federation of Agriculture has opened a National Office, 304 Booth Building, 165 Sparks Street, Ottawa. Mr. Walter E. Haskins, Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Federation, is in charge.

Mr. Haskins is known throughout the Dominion as a Specialist on produce marketing. He was born on a farm in Elgin, Albert County, N.B. As a young man he came to Western Canada and studied law in Sir Charles Tupper's Law Office in Vancouver, B.C., and practised law for twelve years. In 1920 he bought a fruit farm in Pen-ticton, B.C., which he has operated personally since 1922. He has been active in the Producers' co-operative move-ments in B.C. for many years and has been Chairman of the British Columbia Fruit Board since 1934.

Mr. Haskins is well qualified to take the active Sec-etaryship of the Canadian Federation through his train-ing and experience.

Mr. H. H. Hannam, better known as "Herb" was raised on a farm in South-Grey. Fol-lowing his graduation at the Ontario Ag-ricultural College in 1926, he joined the staff of the Canadian Countryman as their livestock representative. Later he became Secretary of the United Farmers' Co-Operative and man-aging-editor of the Rural Co-Operator.

When the Canadian Chamber of Agriculture was or-ganized in Toronto in 1935, he was elected as Ontario's Director on the Canadian Board and was made vice-presi-dent of the Canadian Chamber of Agriculture when the officers were selected. In January of this year he became President succeeding J. H. Wesson of Regina who had been president from the inception of the organization. In January 1936, when the Ontario Chamber of Agricul-ture was organized, he was elected president, which office he held until April of this year at which time he was ap-pointed Honorary President.

Mr. Hannam has travelled in Europe studying co-operative methods. He has written several books on co-operative movements which have been accepted as author-itative text books.

Mr. Harry Scott has a farm of 135 acres in Oxford County. He has served in municip-al council for some time, three years as President of Ontario Federation councillor and two years as reeve and was warden of Oxford County in 1931. Mr. Scott is past president and is now a Director of the North Norwich Agricultural Society. He is President of the Concentrated Milk Producers' Association and of the On-tario Federation of Agriculture.

V. S. Milburn was born in Smith township, Peterboro County, on his grandfather's farm which was the first farm land in the Ontario Federation Peterboro district to be taken up from the Government. Mr. Milburn has been inter-ested in farm organizations for many years and was the first President of the U.F.Y.P.O. Club of Peterboro and was Vice-President and Manager of the Peterboro Indus-trial Exhibition. Mr. Milburn is now Secretary of the Canadian Dairy Farmers Federation, a Director of the U.F.O. Co-Operative Company and is Honorary President of the Ontario Whole Milk Producers League as well as being Secretary of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.



## SOME THINGS ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE

The following is a brief outline of some of the accomplishments of farm organizations in which the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has helped to play a part in co-operation with the county units, commodity groups, national organizations and the Canadian Federation. It is difficult to state the exact amount of influence that the Ontario Federation has had in all of this work:

Our protest against the first suggestion of the maximum peg price for butter ultimately secured for us, we believe, 4 or 5 cents a pound butterfat during the winter months.

Our protest at the London meeting of the treatment accorded agriculture in this war effort helped to secure a provincial bonus on cheese of 2c a pound, a federal bonus on cheese of approximately 2.6 and a provincial bonus on hogs of \$1.00 for A's and 50c for B's, this plan being recommended by one of our county units.

The promise at the London meeting of a minimum price for butter and the subsequent fight for establishment of a minimum price higher than that which was recommended by the trade (29c), our recommended price being 34c which was close to the price that prevailed during the production period.

The securing of greater recognition by the Federal government for farm organizations.

A Feed Conference, the preliminary meeting of which was held in Toronto and later one in Ottawa and the recommendations of the feed programme which later came into being at the meeting called by Mr. Gardiner, federal minister of Agriculture, for that purpose, influencing the final outcome of the food program whereby all freight is paid on western feed grain from Fort William.

The bringing together of the executive of the dairy groups to discuss their joint problems and the bringing together of commercial hog producers from different counties to discuss commercial hog production and marketing problems and attempt to organize a Commercial Hog Producers' Association.

The seeking of provincial legislation which will enable the financing of the organization by levy plan of either 1c an acre or 1/5 of a mill on assessment.

Assisting in the preliminary organization work of thirty odd counties and continuing to stimulate the interest and desire of working together upon the part of the large number of provincial commodity organizations.

Participation in the International Plowing Match with an educational feature.

Stimulating interest in our County groups in the Municipal Doctor Plan.

Assisting in developing good will and public opinion through numerous contacts with the Press.

Consideration of the farm labour problem.

The establishment of the Ontario and Canadian offices with full time secretaries and the multiplicity of smaller details that are involved in all the aforementioned.

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## THE MAIN JOB THIS SEASON

The main job of the county units this coming season will be to complete and perfect their organization machinery, to arrange for adequate finances.

It must be stressed that the Federation does not attempt to supplant existing organizations but rather to consolidate the efforts of farmers into one organization through which they may advocate a national policy for agriculture. The principles of the national policy for agriculture have been carefully defined and set forth in five clauses, as follows:

1. Recognize the fundamental nature of food and land and farm people and the importance of agriculture in our national economy.
2. Establish a fair balance between agriculture, labor and industry.
3. Provide a systematic marketing program designed to feed our markets both at home and abroad in an orderly and efficient manner.
4. Develop a production program shaped according to the needs of the marketing program, and designed to give our farmers guidance which will enable them to plan their farm program at least two years in advance.
5. Recognize the principle of a two-price policy. This means that prices of farm commodities in the domestic market must bear a proper relationship to cost of production and cost of living in Canada.

There will be a great number of immediate detail problems that will require redress, with which the Federation within its financial, physical and mental ability, will attempt to deal.

## Thoughts That Demand Your Consideration

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**Just Announced** An over-all ceiling has just been announced to hold down prices in Canada, including wages, rents, and the cost of living. Has the farmer no interest in this program? The National Office of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture will watch the interests of Agriculture in all Legislation.

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**Controlled Prices** If controlled prices will work in war-time, why will they not work in peace time? Leading thinkers and writers talk and write freely about a new social order. What place will Agriculture hold in this new economic set-up? Individually we cannot do a great deal, collectively we can do a great deal by supporting our own farmers' association.

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**Net Income** Net Income is not a final measure of the farmer's position for it is a yard stick and fails to take into account changes in the buying power of money.

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**Inflation** Prevention of inflation is mainly a question of restricting spending. The success of this measure depends upon how willing Canadians are and how anxious they are to accept and to facilitate the preventive policies. General co-operation is also essential if government controls are to be fully effective.

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**Parity of Income** The three primary producing elements in national income are Capital, Labor and Agriculture. Farmers are entitled to a reward for their labor comparable to that received by other groups. A well balanced national economy demands a parity of income for all services rendered. In the economic system the two former groups are well organized.

**This Should Not Be** Agriculture has been periodically down at the heel for the past thirty years; so accustomed has agriculture become to re-occurring conditions that it has become apologetic. Rural young people, effected by the bled out condition of their environment, join the job seekers in the already overburdened urban centres.

An anti-rural bias has been built up. The so-called abandoned farms made their appearance on the rural landscape. The farm was not abandoned in the full sense of the word. Use is being made of the land — as grass land — but the buildings are not required.

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**Farmers Join Your Association** When you are asked "Why should farmers form an organization and pay dues" answer by asking two questions:  
1. "Why do manufacturers join the Manufacturer's Association and support their organization by paying a membership?"

2. "Why do labor men join a labor union and pay assessed dues to the union?"

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**Your Organization** Your farmers' Association holds the same place in relation to the individual farmer or to agriculture in general, as does a Chamber of Commerce to the citizens of a town or city.

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**Unity** Unity in our nation is the prime requisite of every Canadian. An interchange of ideas, or opinions and of viewpoints develops confidence and self-respect in one another. Group mindedness means less selfishness as one must consider his fellow worker, his neighbor, his community and his country as well as quality and fair dealing.

# FARM RADIO FORUMS

The C.F.A. has joined with the Canadian Association for adult education and the C.B.C. to promote Radio Farm Forums.

Mr. R. Alex Sims has been appointed National Secretary of this project. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation will present dramatized discussions over stations from coast to coast, every Monday evening, 9.00-9.30, E.D.S.T. on C.B.C. stations. Lambton County — one hour later.

## INTRODUCTION

Nov. 10—Farming Along the Airlines with the CBC Commentators.

### I. AUTUMN FORUM SERIES:

1. Nov. 17—Food for the People.
2. Nov. 24—The Farmer Must Live.
3. Dec. 1—Man and Machines.
4. Dec. 8—Home and Export Markets.

### II. CHRISTMAS SERIES: Agriculture from Coast-to-Coast. Word Pictures of Canadian Farmers at Work.

- Dec. 15—In the Maritimes.  
Dec. 22—In Quebec.  
Dec. 29—In Ontario.  
Jan. 5—In British Columbia.

### III. WINTER FORUM SERIES:

5. Jan. 12—Wheat and the Prairies.
6. Jan. 19—Is the Farmer Inefficient?
7. Jan. 26—Can We Get Cost of Production?
8. Feb. 2—Buying Together.
9. Feb. 9—We Can't Afford to be Sick.
10. Feb. 16—Who Will Own the Land?
11. Feb. 23—Will the Soil Last?
12. Mar. 2—Selling Together.
13. Mar. 9—Whither Agriculture?
14. Mar. 16—Education for Rural Life?
15. Mar. 23—When the Boys Come Home.
16. Mar. 30—Conclusions.

# Copy of Petition You are Asked to Sign

## LAMBTON COUNTY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the proposed non-political organization is "to raise the general economic level of Agriculture."

We, the undersigned farmers of Lambton County, hereby signify our support, or opposition, to the proposed program outlined below:

1. We are in agreement with the purpose and aims of this proposed organization, and pledge our active support and loyalty to its constitution, by-laws and regulations, as may be made.
2. We request an immediate war-time program to enable farmers to receive the same economic security as other groups of society, so that we may be able to supply necessary foodstuffs to Great Britain whatever the requirements are, at the price she can pay. We ask a simple, workable plan that will enable us to furnish our full contribution to Britain's needs.
3. We desire a peace-time economy, designed to build a Canadian Agricultural policy, which will give stability, equality and leadership to the farming industry, thus preparing for the post war period so that the farm group will make its contribution not only to Canada, but to the Empire.
4. As a matter of sound financing, we request this organization together with all the counties of Ontario, to petition the Government requesting such legislation as may be necessary, that our farms may, for this purpose, be assessed in a sum not to exceed one cent per acre per annum as long as the organization functions.

TOWNSHIP OF .....

S. S. No. ....

Name Address

In Favor of Opposed to

Owner Tenant Farmer's Son