

Emphasis on type reaps Rose rewards



MOUNTAIN — Taking top honors at the Central Canada Exhibition Ayrshire Show in Ottawa last week does not make Donald Rose's recollection of early failure in agriculture any less vivid.

Rose, a 60-year-old Mountain farmer, had no trouble recounting Friday how he was first introduced to the Ayrshire.

At 16, Rose took an Ayrshire calf into a 4-H competition. He remembers his mother giving him a bigger push than his father to enter a 4-H club contest.

"I was interested enough but I didn't have the experience," he said of his intention to raise Ayrshire cattle. And in his first ever 4-H competition, Rose's inexperience was clearly evident.

"I placed last in showmanship and last in type," he recalled of the 4-H event, one in which he had to put his Ayrshire calf in the back seat of his car to get the animal to the show.

"I made up my mind that I would try to improve," said Rose.

Since then, he has built up his father Samuel's farm, which was solely made up of dual-purpose shorthorn cattle, to 120 Ayrshire, milking 45. Rose says his experience as a teenager in different 4-H clubs was a "big benefit" towards running his farm operation.

"One thing (4-H clubs) did, it got you so you could get up on your feet and speak," he explained. "It definitely helps."

It was a mutual decision between Rose and his father to move away from raising shorthorn cattle and into farming Ayrshire cattle.

Rose says his only son, Ken, is well on his way towards taking over the reins of the Rosayre farm. Ken, 26, is the sixth generation of the Rose family to farm the Crown land located north of Hwy. 43 about three km west of Winchester.

He credits Ken's knowledge in the Ayrshire field as contributing considerably to his success at last week's show. Rose won this year's premier exhibitor title by a point, over Bruce and Leigh Mode, winners in this category the previous five years.

Rose says his son's ability to select a good quality Ayrshire has helped keep their cattle competitive in area shows.

"He (Ken) has made some excellent choices," said Rose.

Rose claims you can't train someone how to pick a potential top quality Ayrshire or any other breed. Instead, making a good selection is a talent some farmers, like Ken, are "gifted with."

Rose's four-year-old cow, Rosayre Desdemona, is the result of a good buyer's eye. She was named the exhibition's senior and grand champion Ayrshire for a second year.

"It was very fulfilling," he said of the top showing in the Ayrshire competition. "We haven't been doing all that well for the past four or five years."

Rose acknowledges the importance of competitions like the Central Canada Exhibition Ayrshire

Show, which he considers to be one of the top five Ayrshire competitions in Canada.

He says the good showing last week helps bring more interest in his cattle.

Rose, while he plans to continue living on the farm, admits he is starting to move away from the physical duties, while working on the transition of passing the farm on to his son.

"I'm starting to slow down, there's no doubt about it," he confided.

He is pleased to see the farm continue as a family operation, however, as it enters a sixth generation of ownership by a Rose, something he is impressed by.

"It's just fortunate that someone (in the family) has always wanted to carry it on."

The Winchester Press

Wed., August 30, 1989

Family farmers

Donald Rose, right, is in the transition of passing his Ayrshire farm on to his son, Ken. Ken is the sixth generation of the Rose family to farm on the same plot of land.



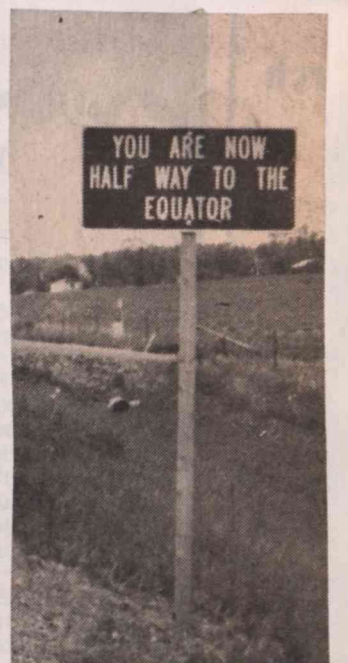
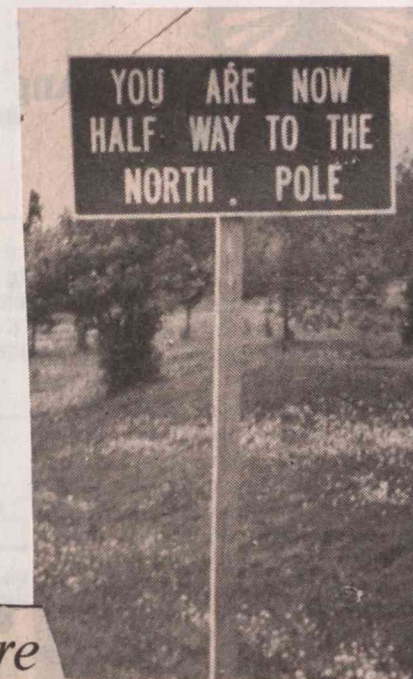
Lanson Hyndman, 67, of Mountain Township gives his Belgian horses a break during their daily run. Hyndman says the horses are exercised about one hour each day to keep their muscles

tight, keeping them in shape for sleigh rides and horse pull competitions.

The Winchester Press Wed., July 26, 1989

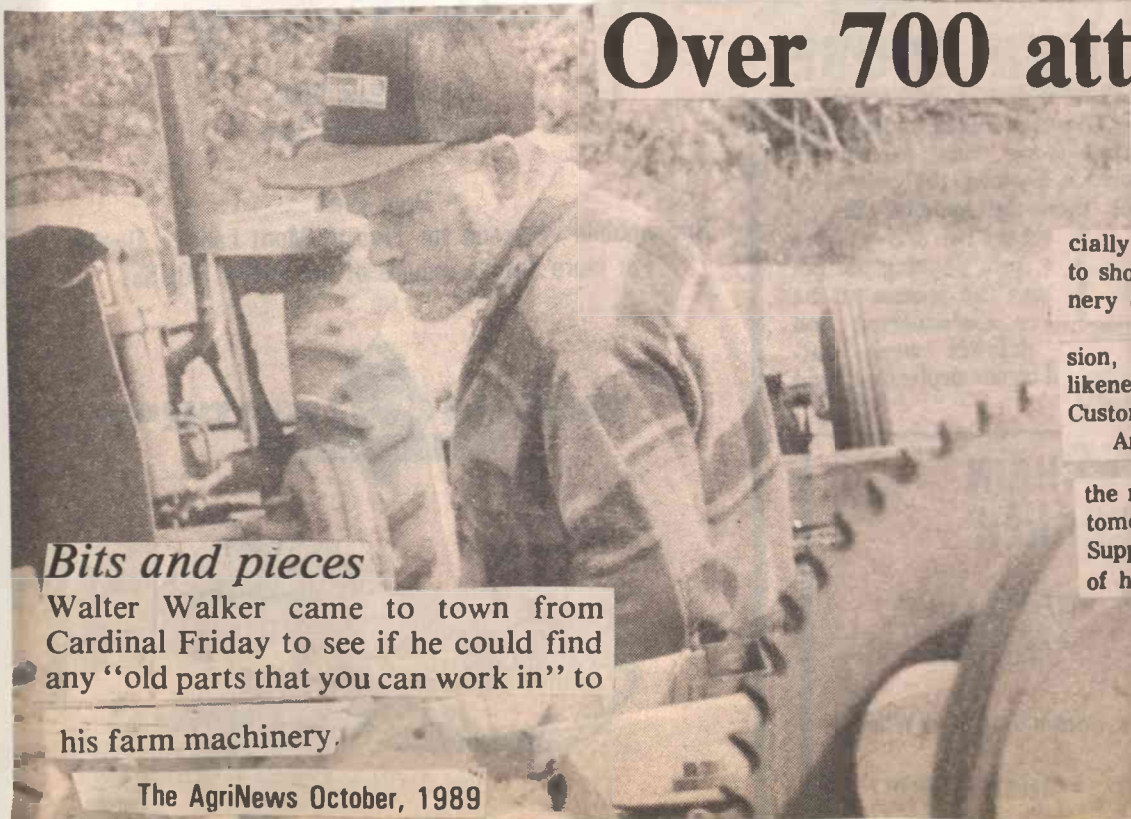
Half way there

Either way you look at it, you're half way to either the North Pole or the Equator when driving between Mountain and South Mountain. These informative signs were recently placed at the roadside to provide lost motorists with directions.



The Weekly Advance, Wednesday, May 27, 1987

Over 700 attend Weagant's open house



Bits and pieces

Walter Walker came to town from Cardinal Friday to see if he could find any "old parts that you can work in" to

his farm machinery.

The AgriNews October, 1989

It was officially tagged as a Grand Opening to show off a local farm machinery dealer's completed expansion, but owner Bob Weagant likened the event more to a Customer Appreciation Day.

And according to Weagant,

the more than 700 potential customers filing into Weagant Farm Supplies made this year's edition of his annual open house stand

out from the others.

"I thought it was the most spectacular open house we ever held," said Weagant.

Traditionally, Weagant Farm Supplies has held an open house each spring, but this year it was postponed until October to coincide with the completion of the new building. In one form or another, some type of open house has been provided each year since 1978 by this farm dealership located on Hwy. 43 just west of Winchester.

Weagant said a "total commitment of staff" for two weeks

helps make the day a success — complete with free Bavarian "Oktoberfest" sausages, an auction sale of wagon loads of surplus parts and attachments, numerous door prizes, advice from salesmen and even a Dundas Farm Safety display.

A larger turnout combined with a larger display, made the 1989 open house a cut above the rest which Weagant hopes, obviously, will translate into more regular customers.

"New faces mean new customers which means new business," he said.