

Heather and Allan with three-year-old daughter, Stephanie. Eight-month-old Matthew was resting.

A South Mountain couple who claim they "just got lucky" have been honored by the Casco plant for delivering the best quality local corn in Eastern Ontario last year.

Allan and Heather Racine, of Racine Farms of South Mountain, received a trophy and a plaque for their accomplishments Monday morning at the company's Cardinal plant.

The young couple shipped 730 wet tonnes during the period from October 23 to 31, another 768 tonnes from November 6 to 27 and 77.43 tonnes during December, 1 to 11, for a total of 1577 tonnes of corn.

Last year the Racines' combination dairy and cash crop operation shipped 1,577 tonnes of wet corn to the Cardinal plant, grain which Brown described as "excellent quality corn."

He noted the dockage was less than one per cent, while the moisture was also good. During the farm's first shipment of corn, from Oct. 23 to Oct. 31, the moisture was less than 24 per cent, which dropped to under 21 per cent during shipments in November, ending up with early December shipments which had moisture contents of less than 20 per cent.

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Casco plant has been actively purchasing locally produced corn to supply its operation. The annual award presented to the Racines recognizes not only the quantity of corn a producer ships to the plant, but its consistently high quality as well.

The couple have operated Racine Farms for 10 years, since they took over the business from Racine's father, Clare.

At the time it was a beef operation, but in the past decade it has changed to a combination dairy-cash crop. The Racines currently milk approximately 50 head of Holsteins and have 1,000 acres of cash crops, which includes between 650 and 700 acres in corn.

Other crops include canola and barley.

"We've been shipping corn here for about six or seven years now," Racine said Monday. "We just got lucky this year."



Pancake maker retiring

Ron Spong, (left) is hanging up his spatula. The 65-year-old Eagle Farm Equipment employee is retiring this August after 25 years of service. Also pictured with Spong is co-worker, Charlie Kerr.

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Haying just made easier with new round bale mover



The Flexi-bale F-40 loads large round bales from the side;

The maker of a new round bale handler claims his machine turns haymaking into a one-man operation.

At a demonstration of the Flexi-Bale mover near Inkerman on July 27, Bernard Adams from Quebec-based Flexi-Metal Inc. showed how he could drive alongside a round bale with his trailer-style mover; scoop it up; push it to the back to make room for other bales and move on to another, all in a matter of seconds.

He said not only does the method require just one tractor and one operator, but it is also quicker than the front-end loader method often used to handle round bales.

Once the trailer is full, (it holds up to five bales) the mover dumps the bales in piles of three or four or pushes them off in rows.

Adams also claims piling the bales end-to-end in a silo formation is more compact for shed storage and will result in much less spoilage.

"When large round bales are stored outdoors unprotected, hay losses can be high," Adams said, quoting an article in the Ontario Farm Management Quarterly Report, written by agricultural engineer Tim Harrington. "For instance, four inches of spoiled hay in the outer shell of a five-foot diameter round bale represents a 25 per cent loss."

With the bales piled in a silo formation, Adams said only about one inch of the bottom bale spoils.

While the Flexi-bale mover

retails for \$6,250, Ault Van Bokhorst of Weagant Farm Supplies said the machine would soon pay for itself in labor and time saved.

He stressed its value to the one-man operation, saying a farmer could pick up 60 bales per hour (within one-quarter mile) without leaving the tractor seat, but added longer distances could create a problem.

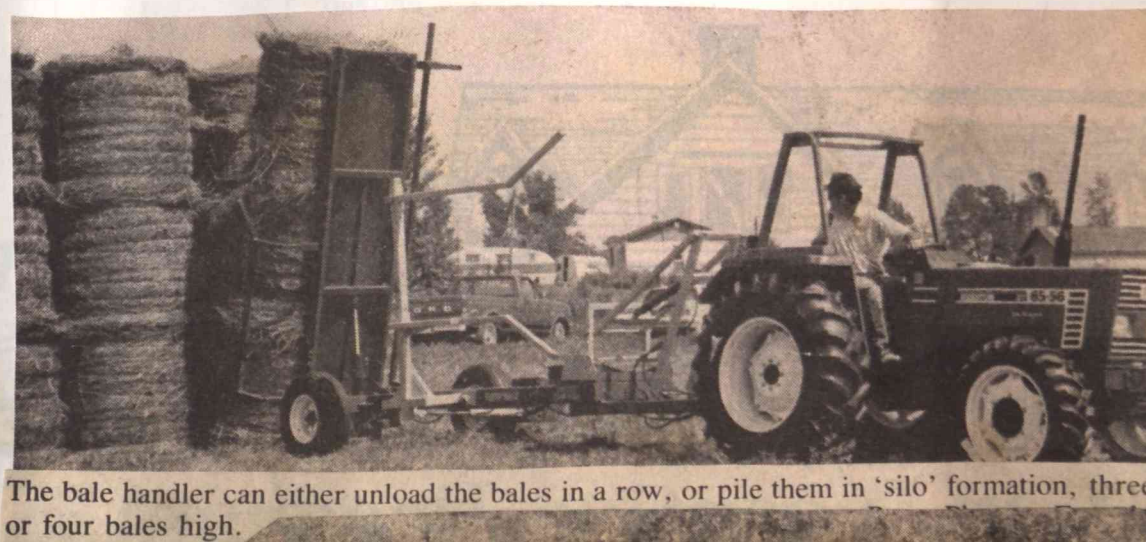
Van Bokhorst also claims a zero per cent hay loss with the mover since the hay is only being handled once — gently.

Weagant's just started marketing the Flexi-Bale mover and tried it out for the first time last Friday. But Van Bokhorst says although the weather was almost too nice last Friday, there is interest in the machine.



where a large plunger pushes it to the back of the trailer.

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The bale handler can either unload the bales in a row, or pile them in 'silo' formation, three or four bales high.