



Inducted: 2005

Clarence Alfred Hardy believed in the importance of farmers working together. As evidence of this belief, he offered his time and talent to many organizations, particularly the Middlesex, Ontario and Canadian Cattlemen's Associations, and the Ontario Beef Improvement Association. After volunteering with the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II, Mr. Hardy returned to his home in Lucan – Biddulph to farm. He was a pioneer in the feedlot industry, and along with his brothers, operated a thriving butcher business. He was a mentor to fellow farmers, and constantly strove to obtain a "better deal" for the farmer. He also devoted himself to many service organizations in the rural community, and to his wife, Beulah and their nine children.

**CLARENCE ALFRED HARDY
1918 – 1995**

Clarence Alfred Hardy was born in Biddulph Township in 1918, six years after his parents came to the area. He began Lucan Public School in 1924, and continued his education at Lucan High School. He went on to serve his fellow farmers by involving himself in numerous organizations.

He joined his brothers in a wholesale butcher business, taking over his father's work. In 1939, he married Beulah Hodgins, a local teacher. They raised nine children between 1940 and 1960: Helen, Frank Jr., Bob, Tom, Gord, Ann Louise, Julia, Bill and Cheryl.

In 1941, he joined the Air Force, and went to the Ontario Agricultural College (now University of Guelph) where he studied as a dietitian. Then he served overseas from 1943 to 1945, doing his part in World War II.

After the war, he returned home and built a slaughterhouse on the north side of his farm, as part of "Hardy Brothers Wholesale Butchers". (By the 1980's, this business was carrying on with the third generation.)

Mr. Hardy expanded his cattle and cash crop farming, developing a large, prosperous, multi-layered business, all based in Lucan – Biddulph. In the 1960's, he demonstrated his foresight by establishing one of

the earliest feedlots with 1000 head of cattle and 1000 acres of land, including pasture and crops. His operation became known as Clarence Hardy & Sons “Auxsable Farms”

Mr. Hardy’s desire for excellence in his beef operation led him to become involved in all levels of organizations concerned with the improvement of raising cattle. He was an active member of:

- Middlesex Cattlemen’s Association (serving on the executive, and later as President)
- Ontario Beef Improvement Association (Provincial Representative)
- Ontario Cattlemen’s Association – formerly the OBIA (serving as president in 1975)
- Ontario Cattlemen’s Association Representative to the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association
- Middlesex Soil & Crop Association

In 1982, he was Chair of the Dietician (Food) Committee for the International Plowing Match, held at Lucan that year.

While his cattle operation grew, Mr. Hardy gave back to the community in many ways. Some of the organizations he was involved with were:

- Masons
- Warden, Holy Trinity Anglican Church
- Middlesex County School Board (Board of Education)
- Chair, Middlesex House League Hockey
- Local and Southwestern Ontario Racing Pigeons’ Clubs (Serving as President)

In 1984, Mr. Hardy was given the Middlesex County Farmer of the Year Award and received a Certificate for Excellence in Farming.

Mr. Hardy believed that by working together, farmers could improve the food that they provided to the public, and thereby improve their lot in life. He offered his time and talent to many organizations in an effort to get “a better deal” for farmers. He was a great mentor to the agricultural community.

For his role in gaining recognition of farmers’ needs on many provincial and federal committees, Clarence Alfred Hardy has been nominated by the Middlesex Cattlemen’s Association and is today inducted into the Middlesex County Agricultural Hall of Fame.