

Dep't of Agr. Employees and Farm Groups

Sec'y Rules Employees May Not be in Membership Building

United States
Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D. C.

MEMORANDUM NO. 893 ACTIVITIES BY DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WITH RELATION TO GENERAL FARM ORGANIZATIONS March 21, 1941

Lately, reports have reached the Department of Agriculture that officers or employees of the Department have participated actively in meetings and in other activities concerned with the establishment of general farm organizations, or with recruiting members for existing farm organizations.

It has long been the established policy of this Department that its officers and employees shall refrain from taking any part in activities of this type. This is a necessary corollary of the equally long-established policy of the Department that it shall deal fairly with all farm organizations and deal with each upon the same basis.

As a continuation of this policy, it should be understood by all officers and employees of the Department that it is not permissible for any of them to—

- 1. Participate in establishing any general farm organization.
- 2. Act as organizer for any such general farm organization, or hold any other office therein.
- 3. Act as financial or business agent for any general farm organization.
- 4. Participate in any way in any membership campaign or other activity designed to recruit members for any such organization.

The phrase "general farm organization" used in this memorandum is intended to refer to such national, regional, or State farm organizations as, among others, The National Grange, The American Farm Bureau Federation, The Farmers' Union, The Farmers' Equity League, the Missouri Farmers' Association, The Farmers' Holiday Association, and their regional, State, and local constituent groups.

This statement should not be construed as implying an unfriendly attitude toward farm organizations.

Farmers, like other great economic groups in our society, require non-governmental organizations through which they may develop and express their hopes, aspirations, and desires; through which they may make our democratic processes vital; through which, collectively, they may reach the right people at the right time. But the Department must distinguish clearly between what is proper for a non-governmental farm organization to do, and what it is proper for a governmental employee to do.

The same reasoning which led to the Congressional enactment that governmental employees should not directly or indirectly take any action to influence the legislative process (except through the established procedures of government), also leads to the conclusion that official personnel must not aid in the formation or development of farm organizations, no matter how desirable they may be.

Employees may, of course, participate in the organization of groups that are needed in carrying out Federally authorized programs—for example, an REA co-operative, a co-operative of FSA borrowers, and similar groups determined by the appropriate chief of bureau to be essential in effectuating Federally authorized programs. Even here, however, care must be exercised because the Department does not wish to see this type of specialized organization develop into a general farm organization. Certainly it is contrary to policy for local groups that participate in Federal-program effectuation to federate into State, regional, or national organizations.

The head of every bureau and office of the Department is requested to bring this memorandum to the attention of all its officers and employees, both in Washington and in the field. If any violations of any of the provisions of this memorandum should occur, full information with reference thereto should at once be submitted to the Director of Personnel by the head of the bureau in which the person violating any of these provisions is employed.

(Signed) Claude R. Wickard,
Secretary.

Michigan's Flax Not Due For Rise

Any wartime prospects for increasing Michigan's flax industry seem dim in spite of possible shortages of fiber.

Fiber flax is used not only for fine Irish linen but also for cigarette papers, a French specialty, and as upholstery tow for furniture.

Chippewa county in Michigan grows the only appreciable quantity in Michigan, about 8,000 acres.

Yields of flax seed in Michigan and most other states average eight to ten bushels an acre. The farm price range since 1932 has been \$1.34 to \$1.90 a bushel.

"There seems to be no reason to believe the returns from flax seed in Michigan would prove any more satisfactory than those from wheat or barley or other crops commonly grown on good land," said H. C. Rather of the State College farm crops dept. "Even if the fiber situation boosts flax fiber prices, there can be no new fiber flax production in 1941 because of lack of seed."

Michigan Grows Most of World's Mint

Mint, widely used for flavoring tooth paste, gum, candy, medicines, and even juleps, is grown commercially on only 1,743 farms in the U. S., of which 1,034 are in Southern Michigan and 709 in Northern Indiana. Total acreage devoted to mint production was 28,084. Mint, harvested like hay, is distilled, producing mint oil, and the Census reports show the production in pounds of these 1,743 farms. Total production was 723,235 pounds, or an average of approximately 26 pounds per acre. It is so valuable that farmers often store it in bank vaults.

Mint is grown on rich muck land so soft that horses are often equipped with padded shoes to avoid sinking while cultivating. Commercial mint cultivation originally began in Connecticut; was later transferred to Western New York, and is now important only in Michigan and Indiana. Mentholatum is a by-product.

Says Wind Conditions Favor So. Haven Area

E. D. Lyman, Farm Bureau member at South Haven, Allegan county, has been a fruit farmer in Casco township for 30 years. Through observation he has come to regard the FenNVille-South Haven fruit growing area as one of the most fortunate from the standpoint of frost damage because of temperature control afforded by Lake Michigan and wind conditions.

COWS COST LESS ON PASTURE DIET

Stretching Pasture Program By Various Means is Good Investment

Lowest cost diet from principal dairy feeds commonly used in Michigan is that bitten off by a cow out on pasture, according to figures cited by A. C. Baltzer, extension dairyman at Michigan State College.

For that reason he recommends stretching a pasture program to six months rather than relying on ordinary bluegrass for three months each summer. Pasture units vary, but the cost of digestible nutrients from pasture is about 64c per 100 pounds.

Here are the cost figures on typical dairy feed crops: Oats, 932 units of digestible nutrients an acre, cost of 100 pounds of digestible nutrients, \$2.02; corn silage, 2,320 units, cost for 100 pounds of digestible material, \$1.54; corn as grain, 1,778 units, \$1.38; timothy, 1,257 units, \$1.21; soybeans, 1,725 units, \$1.06; red clover hay, 1,622, \$.97; alfalfa hay, 2,522, \$.83.

Good summer feeding of dairy cows involves an abundant supply of water, grain for the heaviest milkers and an always available supply of salt and steamed bone meal in the ratio of two to one.

Pasture should not be abused, warns Baltzer, and this means letting pasture plants get well established before grazing and to keep herd from overgrazing.

Baltzer also suggests, "Consider the advisability of improving pastures by fertilizing and good grazing practices, as outlined by county agricultural agents; consider the use of sudan grass plus permanent pasture to stretch out summer feed; consider dry weather possibilities of soiling crops such as peas and oats, soybeans or soybeans and sudan grass; study prospects of putting Reed canary grass on low spots for permanent pasture."

Order Farm Bureau Membership Signs

Michigan County Farm Bureaus have ordered 5,000 metal Farm Bureau membership signs for their members. The orders were placed through the State Farm Bureau membership relations department.

Why Risk \$10.00 to Save a dime?

INOCULATE ALL LEGUMES!

A good crop may consume \$10 per acre in Nitrogen taken free from the air if inoculated. Robbed from the land if the seed was not inoculated.

UNICULTURE
costs only 5 to 10c per acre!
Sold by Farm Bureau Stores and Co-op Ass'ns

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WISCONSIN 355 531 606 645
OHIO M-15 K-23 MINNESOTA 402
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M.A.C. Picketts Golden Glow
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ENSILAGE CORN

We offer open pollinated and hybrid varieties best suited to the several corn growing zones in Michigan.

It Pays to Treat Seed Corn with Semesan Jr.

Semesan Jr. dust treatment checks seed borne diseases of seed corn, protects against seed rot. Corn treated has shown 3½ bu. gain per acre over untreated. Cost 2½¢ per acre! 1½ ounce, 15c packet treats 1 bushel. Pound can, 75c.



SEMESAN BEL FOR SEED POTATOES
Dip treating with Semesan Bel reduces or prevents loss from seed-borne scab and rhizoctonia. Cost 21c per acre. 1 lb. can treats 60-80 bu. 2 ounce packet 25c.

The Best Seed is always the CHEAPEST when you look at the extra yield and consider the quality of the crop !!!

- SOY BEANS** **ALFALFA** **BROME GRASS**
Manchu & Mandarin Grimm, Hardigan, Mich. Var. Michigan & Canadian
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You Can SAVE This Year, too, with FARM BUREAU FERTILIZERS

Recommended Analyses

2-12-6	0-20-0	3-18-9
2-16-8	0-8-24	4-16-4
2-8-16	0-12-12	4-10-6

Agr'l Limestone Lime sour fields now and make possible more profits through increased yields



We Use 90% Water Soluble Starting Nitrogen

MERMASH

Chicks gain fast on Mermash 16 or 18% protein with vitamin A & D feeding oil. A lifetime mash for chick, pullet and laying hen. They pay you well for Mermash.



Well Begun is Half Done

For EGGS

100 lbs. of Farm Bureau Mermade Balancer 37% protein and 400 lbs. of home grown grains, or 100 lbs. of Farm Bureau Poultry Supplement 32% with 300 lbs. of home grown grains makes one of the best 16% mashes. Your cash outlay per 100 lbs. is very low. It makes hens lay their best.



PORKMAKER 44% For Fast, Cheap Gains

175 LBS. OF PORKMAKER 44, 425 lbs. of corn, 400 lbs. of wheat midds makes an excellent pig starter. 1 of Porkmaker to 10 of corn is an excellent hog fattener. State College reports pigs with supplement gained 4 times faster than without. They made 100 lbs. of pork on much less feed!

For MILK

Cows on pasture need grain. 100 lbs. of Milkmaker 34% protein and 300 lbs. of farm grains makes 400 lbs. of an excellent 16% dairy ration. Feed with alfalfa hay. With clover hay, use 200 lbs. of farm grains and 100 of concentrate. Use 100 lbs. of Milkmaker 24% with about 200 lbs. of home grains.

BUY Farm Bureau's UNICO FLY SPRAY This Year

For SPRING WORK



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GIVE YOUR HOME a Beauty Bath
with Farm Bureau's low cost

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They're very good. Compare the Prices!
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BARN PAINTS WALL PAINTS ENAMELS
VARNISHES

Farm Bureau Brand Supplies at 300 Farmers Elevators
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, Lansing, Michigan

Court Denies Writ In Land Board Case

The state supreme court in early April denied a writ of mandamus sought by C. L. Stickler, and others, against Vernon J. Brown, auditor general, and the state land office board. The plaintiff had sought to prevent the land office board from giving a deed to land involved in a tax sale.

Vegetable puree, nearly two million cases, and fruit puree, over 800,000 cases, are canned yearly especially for infants. U. S. canners' reports to the Census Bureau state.

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