

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

Vol. XXVI, No. 1

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1948

26th Year

Published Monthly

EDITORIAL

A Business Program for 1948

Plan for full production in 1948 and get the farm business in condition to meet any slack which may occur in prices of farm products, is the advice of Michigan State College farm economists.

Speaking for economists at the College who prepared the 1948 Farm Outlook information, N. L. Smith, farm management specialist, said that prices of farm products seem likely to continue at their present level or higher at least until the 1948 grain crop is harvested.

Capacity production is good business for farmers when the general level of prices received for farm products exceeds the general level of prices paid for goods used in production. This is the case at present, and is likely to be the case during 1948. This means that the more a farmer can produce providing he produces relatively efficiently, the more profitable 1948 will be for him.

Care is advised in making purchases for the farm business. By considering how much farm produce it takes to make a purchase, the best buys can be found. Items such as fertilizer, lime, some farm machinery, and home furnishings are better investments now than they were before the war.

Other goods and services, such as labor, grain, some building materials, and certain items of clothing, are now more costly in terms of farm produce required to buy them than they were before the war.

Items which will help to increase the efficiency of the farm business, raise income, or contribute to better living are sound investments. On the other hand, items such as machinery, or buildings which may mean burdens of debt or overhead in periods of lower income should be avoided. The small farmer should pay special attention to his investments, State College farm economists point out.

Farm Bureau Membership Pays Well

Suppose you were to wake up tomorrow morning and discover that you were going to begin living without Farm Bureau accomplishments for agriculture for the past 27 years.

One way to impress ourselves that Farm Bureau membership pays is to recall a few of the outstanding gains we have made through the organization, and to imagine what it would be like without them.

The national farm program and the parity price concept for agriculture enacted by Congress has assured farmers economic equality with other groups. This program has been accomplished through Farm Bureau leadership since 1922. It has had a most profound effect in improving and maintaining an equality of purchasing power for farm people. The growth of farm co-operatives and the benefits they have produced in savings on farm supplies and increased farm income from marketings stem from the Capper-Volstead Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act, which are part of the national farm program.

In Michigan the Farm Bureau has been a leader in tax reforms which resulted in the practical elimination of the property tax for highways, and in the reduction and equalization of local school taxes through a great program of state aid.

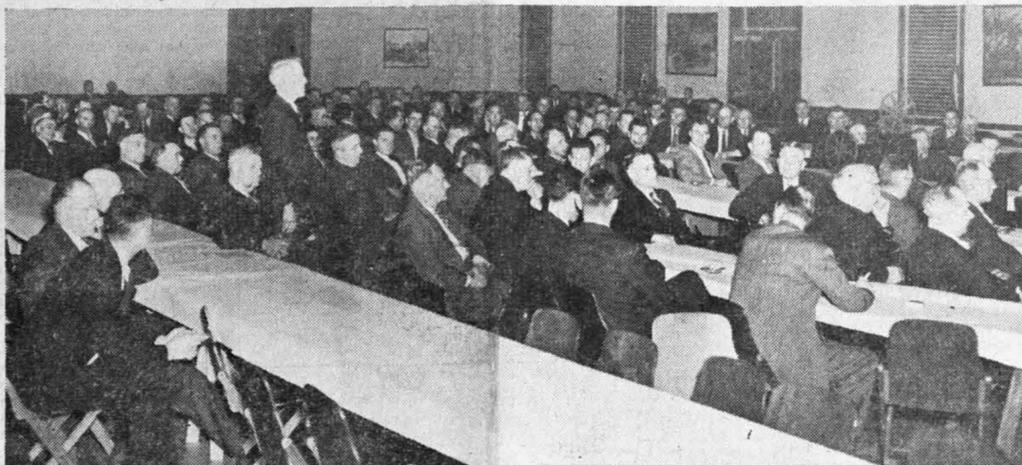
The Michigan Farm Bureau helped develop a rural electrification program that has brought electric service to nearly every farm in Michigan, and made the state one of the first to reach that happy position.

The Michigan Farm Bureau has enabled the members to set their own high standards for field seeds, dairy and poultry feeds, fertilizers and other farm supplies. Not only have they set high standards, but they have brought them into effect through their own purchasing and manufacturing organizations. The Farm Bureau has become an important influence in the market as to what constitutes a fair price for farm supplies.

Membership in the Michigan Farm Bureau has enabled Michigan farmers to build and to operate an increasing number of "off the farm" tools important to their business. These include co-operative feed and fertilizer manufacturing plants, field seed assembly and processing plants, farm machinery factories, motor oil blending plants and a petroleum products distribution system, canning plants, and a state-wide purchasing and distribution system for

(Continued on page two)

Farm Bureau Services Call Meeting of Co-op Petroleum Leaders



More than 150 representatives of 47 Farm Bureau Services petroleum dealers and co-operative oil and gasoline associations met in Lansing, December 22, to discuss the gasoline and fuel oil shortage and to consider the possibilities of gaining control of a source of crude oil supply. The industry faces the same sort of conditions that forced co-ops in the fertilizer business to get control of sources of raw materials for the manufacturing and mixing of the finished products.

KLINE OF IOWA NEW PRESIDENT OF AFBF

Allan B. Kline, a 52 year old Iowa master hog raiser who studies philosophy and economics for fun, and preaches internationalism because he believes in it, is the new president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.



When Edward A. O'Neal, 72 year old Alabamian, retired at the 29th annual AFBF meeting after 16 years of leadership, Vice-President Allan Kline succeeded him. Kline's record had made that a foregone conclusion.

As leader of 1,275,000 members of the American Farm Bureau, Kline will be the key man in giving Congress the views of a large part of American agriculture, on topics ranging from the national farm program at home to the Marshall plan abroad.

Congress will find Kline a gifted speaker and a tireless scholar. He knows the problems of the farmer because he has been one most of his life. He knows present day Europe because he has viewed it first had several times, as a representative of the United States, and as a representative of the Farm Bureau.

Kline was flat broke—like almost everyone else in 1932. He borrowed heavily to avoid forced liquidation, gambled upon his ability to handle hogs and the soil, and won.

He is an intense, dark haired Scotch-Irishman of medium stature who looks like a businessman and talks like a professor. When Kline and his wife started from scratch on the first 240 acres of the present 440 acre farm, its fertility was low, and it had been damaged by erosion. That was in 1920. Hard work and scientific management converted it into one of the best producing farms in Benton county, Iowa.

During the past four years—when he has been away from home so much as president of the Iowa Farm Bureau and vice-president of the American Farm Bureau—Mr. Kline's son has run the farm as partner. In those years Mr. Kline has made three trips to Europe, attended the United Nations Conference at San Francisco as a consultant, and has carried out an extensive speaking program throughout the nation.

In his speeches, Mr. Kline has stressed two dominant themes: 1—"American food must be used to prevent starvation in Europe. American money, machines and know how must aid the recovery of European industry and agriculture.

Mich. Farm Bureau At AFBF Convention

Over 200 Michigan Farm Bureau members attended the 29th American Farm Bureau convention at Chicago, December 14-18.

Jack Yaeger, assistant executive secretary, addressed the national organization conference.

President Carl Buskirk served on National Resolutions Committee.

Michigan's voting delegates were: President Carl Buskirk, Van Buren county; Harry Norris, Muskegon; George Block, Charlevoix; and Albert Shellenbarger, Barry county.

Women's Conference voting delegates were: Mrs. Belle Newell, Branch; Mrs. George Stevens, Antrim; Mrs. Karl Oehmke, Huron; and Mrs. Albert Emmons, Mecosta county.

Ruth Parsons, past president of the Michigan Junior Farm Bureau, was elected AFBF Rural Youth Chairman for 1948.

Harold Holt from Lapeer county was third place winner in National Rural Youth Speaking Contest.

Eleven Michigan county Farm Bureaus were recognized for having reached AFBF million and half member goal: Antrim, Branch, Clinton, Eaton, Emmet, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, Lenawee, St. Joseph and Sanilac.

If all counties in U.S. had done likewise the AFBF would have 1 1/2 million members instead of 1,275,183 members.

Four Michigan counties were recognized for having reached their AFBF million and half member goal for the second time: Clinton, Gratiot, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph.

Clinton county was honored for having made two-million member goal.

Edward A. O'Neal retired after 16 years as president of the American Farm Bureau. Allan Kline from Iowa, who has been AFBF vice president, was elected president of AFBF. Romeo Short of Arkansas is the new vice president.

5,000 people attending the AFBF annual declared it the best ever held. The program was well balanced and the speakers were of exceptional quality.

BRODY TO SPEAK IN IOWA

Clark L. Brody, executive secretary of the Michigan Farm Bureau, will speak at the annual meeting of the co-operative Farmers Grain Dealers Ass'n of Iowa at Des Moines, Jan. 27. He will speak on "Some Limiting Factors in American Agriculture."

The Iowa organization has a membership of 330 co-operative farmers elevators, serving nearly 100,000 farmers. In 1947 it bought and sold 35,000,000 bushels of grains. It is also engaged in buying and selling farm supplies, and carries on a general service program for its elevators. Patronage

2—"High farm prices are not going to last. When the bubble bursts, the price of things the farmer sells will fall much more rapidly than the prices of things to farmer has to buy.

3—"We are skidding along the crest toward the hump. When we pass the hump, we can drop so quickly that it will make your head swim."

4—"The Farm Bureau's job under Kline's leadership is to shape a national farm program that will protect and advance the interests of agriculture in good times and in bad times."

5—"Soil conservation is as important to the man in town as it is to the farmer because soil is the basis of the world's food, clothes and lumber for housing."

ED O'NEAL RETIRES TO GO BACK HOME

Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation for 16 years, has retired, and has gone back home to the cotton plantation at Florence, Alabama, to do some resting.



When Ed O'Neal retired as president of the AFBF at the age of 72, it marked the removal of one of the most forceful personalities in American public life. He had long been recognized by Americans as a most effective spokesman and a skillful leader in national politics and at Washington for more than a million farm families in the American Farm Bureau. No one was more at home before Senate and House committees and powerful leaders in government than Ed O'Neal. His job was to direct the American Farm Bureau in building, improving and defending the Agricultural Marketing Act, the Agr'l Adjustment Administration, the Farm Credit Administration and the farm parity price system, which add up to the national farm program.

When Mr. O'Neal announced his retirement to the 29th AFBF convention at Chicago in December, he said:

"It has been my privilege to lead the Farm Bureau during what is recognized as a marked period. My work is now finished and leadership of this great organization will be entrusted to someone younger, more vigorous and better equipped to withstand the battles to maintain our basic industry in its rightful place in the national economy."

"It is impossible to review the past 25 years of farm progress without being profoundly impressed with the vastly increased standards of living on our farms. That represents an achievement of the goals of the Farm Bureau movement."

Berrien F. B. Oil Co. Sells Last Fuel Oil

Watervliet found itself in much the same position as the rest of the state in the acute fuel oil situation when the Farm Bureau Oil Company of that town sold the last five gallons from its large storage tanks the latter part of December. Other oil dealers of the area reported to be in the same identical position as the Farm Bureau company.

The average car in use in the United States today is over nine years old, compared to 5 1/2 years before the war.

dividends distributed in 1947 totalled \$855,000.

Services May Become Crude Oil Producer

Tight Control of Crude Oil by Big Companies Forcing Others in Industry to Provide Own Sources of Supply

A terrific squeeze in the petroleum industry may force farm co-operatives in the gasoline, motor oils and fuel oils business to control their own supply of crude oil.

The co-operative petroleum industry faces the same sort of conditions that have obliged co-operatives in the fertilizer business to get control of sources of raw material, and to build fertilizer mixing plants to convert raw materials into mixed fertilizers.

A five year shortage of gasoline and fuel oils appears to be the prospect. December 22 the Farm Bureau Services brought together at Lansing 150 representatives of 47 Farm Bureau Services petroleum dealers and co-operative oil and gasoline ass'ns to consider the problem of supplies. Twenty county bulk oil plants were represented at the meeting.

The conference decided that the Farm Bureau Services should gain control of a source for crude oil even if it meant that farmers and their co-operatives would have to underwrite a million dollar program in order to have it.

The Farm Bureau Services board of directors was asked to investigate the possibilities of obtaining rights to available crude oil in the ground. The Services board is going into the matter.

Because of the tight control of crude oil by the large petroleum corporations, many small refineries are finding themselves caught in the same squeeze that is being put upon the co-operatives. Some of these independent oil concerns have been furnishing farm co-operatives with finished petroleum products. Because they are unable to get supplies of crude oil, they are being forced out of business.

Farm Bureau Services says that today anyone who has crude oil can trade it anywhere for finished petroleum products. The Services estimates that nearly a million barrels of crude oil will be needed to make the same volume of finished petroleum products handled by the Farm Bureau Services through its local distributors the past year. That volume, however, would not meet the full demand, but would prevent a shortage that could cripple Michigan agriculture.

FERTILIZER PLANT SEVERAL WEEKS BEHIND SCHEDULE

A series of delays in the shipment of key equipment and its installation by its manufacturers has placed the progress of the Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Fertilizer Plant at Saginaw three to four weeks behind schedule, according to Fred Harger, manager of the production and manufacturing.

Mr. Harger said that in spite of the jurisdictional disputes by labor unions as to whether millwrights or steel workers would do the various phases of work, the situation would still be much as it is because of the late arrival of equipment.

Jarvis Engineering Company of Lansing and the DeGraff Construction Company of Grand Rapids are on the job to speed up the final construction in an effort to make up some of the lost time. With all the equipment for the acidulating factory on the grounds emphasis is now being placed on that plant.

Material such as potash and triple superphosphate are arriving at the plant. As soon as the installation of key machinery such as pulverizer and clod breaker is completed the mixing of fertilizers will start, Mr. Harger said. There seems to be an ample supply of the high analysis phosphate at the present time.

Cass Co. Jrs. Make Veterans Happier

Christmas was just a little merrier for bed-ridden veterans in Percy Jones hospital at Battle Creek as a result of the efforts of Cass County Junior Farm Bureau. The farm youths went out and gathered evergreen boughs and Michigan holly that were used to add a little color to the hospital wards for the injured veterans who had to spend their Christmas in hospital beds.

It's a waste of feed and care to keep any chicken over winter that isn't earning her keep.

ROLL CALL NEWS INDICATE SUCCESS IN 1948 CAMPAIGN

"You've got to ask them if you want them," is the battle cry of the membership workers of St. Joseph County Farm Bureau who are determined to contact every farmer in the county, according to Keith Tanner, director of organization for the Michigan Farm Bureau.

St. Joseph County had better than 630 members after two days in the field during their annual Roll Call campaign for membership.

Emmett county, being the first to obtain their state goal, Presque Isle was the second county over with a splendid record of 123 per cent of their state goal. Alpena county has reached their 1947 membership of 132 members and expected to obtain 175 per cent of their state goal by December 31.

Cheboygan exceeded its 1948 goal and Northwest Michigan has passed its 640 member mark and was shooting for 700 by Jan. 1. Branch county's first report was that they have better than 500 members of whom 28 are new. Calhoun's first report was 450 members.

Beginning with Jan 12 counties will begin their roll call campaigns as follows: Jan. 12 - Barry, Cass, Clinton, Ionia; Jan 13 - Huron, Sanilac, Wayne; Jan 14 - Oakland, Tuscola; Jan 15 - Lapeer; Jan 19 - Bay, Jackson, Lenawee, Monroe, Ottawa; Jan 20 - Ingham, Kent, Macomb, Midland; Jan 21 - Genesee, Gratiot.

Cheboygan Adds New Community Group

Another Community Farm Bureau group was organized December 19, making a total of twelve groups in Cheboygan County Farm Bureau. The new group will be known as Benton No. 1 Farm Bureau.

Green feeds conserve grain. Place alfalfa hay in a rack in the poultry house and put the birds on range whenever possible.

Remember! Neighbors, If you want a square deal in this world you have to be ready to fight for it

FARM NEWS

Established January 12, 1923

Published monthly, first Saturday, by Michigan Farm Bureau at its publication office at 114 E. Lovett St., Charlotte, Michigan.

Editorial and general offices, 221 North Cedar St., Lansing, Michigan. Post Office Box 966. Telephone, Lansing 21-271.

Send notices on Form 3578 and undeliverable copies returned under Form 3579 to Michigan Farm News editorial office, P. O. Box 966, Lansing, Michigan.

EINAR UNQREN Editor

Subscription: 25 cents a year. Limited to Farm Bureau Members

Vol. XXVI January 3, 1948 No. 1



PURPOSE of FARM BUREAU The purpose of this Association shall be the advancement of our members' interests educationally, legislatively, and economically.

Michigan Farm Bureau

- OFFICERS President—C. E. Buskirk, Paw Paw Vice-President—J. E. Treiber, Unionville Exec. Sec'y—C. L. Brody, Lansing DISTRICT DIRECTORS 1—J. B. Richards, Berrien Springs 2—Lloyd Ruesink, Adrian, R-3 3—Clyde Breining, Exeland, R-1 4—A. Shellenbarger, L. Odessa, R-1 5—Marten Garm, Charlotte, R-5 6—Harry G. Hodge, Snover, R-1 7—Harry North, Cassovia 8—H. E. Frahm, Frankemuth, R-1 9—H. Lautner, Traverse City, R-3 10—Thos. A. Colter, Elmira, R-1 DIRECTORS AT LARGE Carl E. Buskirk, Paw Paw, R-2 George Block, Charlevoix, R-1 Jesse E. Treiber, Unionville, R-1

- Representing WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU Mrs. U. S. Newell, Coldwater, R-3 Representing JUNIOR FARM BUREAU Miss Ruth Parsons, Fowlerville



Christmas Cards

By virtue of her feminine knack my Marthy now and then Comes up with some original scheme brand new to mice and men, And one example of her art compels a display Of all the fancy greeting cards that chance to come our way. Across the big north window's frame she ties a slender thread And on it hangs each card that comes, as soon as it is read. So here they form a graceful arc for us to gaze upon, Which one looks loveliest to her, and which looks best to me. Soon, with the Holiday's approach, the arc becomes complete For scores of folks remember us upon our quiet street. Then Marthy puts a second thread about a foot below— Perhaps she even adds a third—sometimes it has been so, And every card on every line she knows the writer of And what they said, if anything, what word of hope or love. We tell them over each by each, seeing each writer's face, And when each card is well admired we hang it back in place. But every good thing has to end and after New Year's Day There comes the time when we must put the greeting cards away. But just before she bundles them for storage in the chest We read them over once again, with pleasure and with zest. Zeb Joneses have a milkier now to ease their choretime hours, And Cousin Minnie Craddock's boy is marrying Brenda Blowers. Poor Aunt Grizel's rheumatic has her hold down in month, While Samson's have bought that farm that joins them on the south. And so it goes. We read them all, with mingled laughs and sighs For this is life transpiring here before our very eyes. These are the folks we know and love—who think it worth their while To stop and write a line to us and mail it with a smile. These are the folks, in all the world, on whom we can depend To think of us whenever there are Christmas Cards to send. So here we spend a quiet hour—fixed between earth and heaven, Then Marthy ties the bundle up—and marks it "47".

R. S. Clark 315 North Grinnell Street Jackson, Michigan

EDITORIAL

farm supplies. The savings of these operations belong to the farmer patrons and are distributed to them as patronage dividends. Perhaps even more important is the influence that 48,000 families in the Michigan Farm Bureau are able to exercise on public affairs through the discussions and actions taken in Community Farm Bureau, County Farm Bureau and State and American Farm Bureau meetings. We have too much at stake to think in terms of anything but the strongest and most effective Farm Bureau organization possible.

Community Farm Bureau Activities

By MRS. MARJORIE KARKER In these summary reports of Community Farm Bureau meetings the name of the group, the county, and the number in attendance is given in that order: Central, Cass—26. Group will treat themselves to a turkey or ham dinner at the January meeting. Members who have not been too active will be especially invited. Conway, Livingston—16. In discussing the topic of legislation wanted by farmers, this group decided that they wanted legislation that would protect the security they now have, such as exemption from sales tax on commodities used in agricultural production. Irving, Barry—13. The secretary of this group made a comment after writing about the discussion which had taken place on the party problem. This comment intrigued me and I'm giving it to you—"Heaven forbid that we ever look back and call these times, 'the good old days.'" Dexter Trail, Ingham—29. For possible topics to be discussed by Community Farm Bureau groups for the next six months, this group chose as the first topic, "Is the rural church serving its purposes?" Bingham, Huron—20. Group discussed schools at the December meeting of 84 rural teachers in Huron county in 1947. 47 were teaching on emergency certificates. Mussey, St. Clair. At the Christmas party each adult was given a piece of green or red crepe paper and asked to make a hat. Norma Ledebuhr and June Klase won first prizes for the best hats. Southland, Lenawee—8. After a discussion on our county health unit we voted that the county should vote more money toward the support of the health unit. South Saline, Washtenaw—16. As part of the recreation for their December meeting this group had a pie eating contest which was won by Herman Mehler. North Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo—24. After hearing George Rockelein, member of the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau board of directors, discuss the subject of the increase in Farm Bureau membership dues. We felt that the raise was necessary and voted in favor of hiring a county organization director. Florence, St. Joseph—28. David Lilly, Wallace Mericle and Byron Eley proved themselves as champion "smellers" of liquids commonly used around the house. This contest was part of the recreation at the December meeting. North Constantine, St. Joseph—15. Mrs. Gerber read a clipping from paper which stated that the farmer gets 70 per cent of food costs. All farmers and farm organizations should fight such propaganda. Lockport, St. Joseph—22. Following a discussion of the county welfare and health departments, a motion was passed for the chairman to appoint a committee to investigate why the county needs to pay such enormous prices for care and doctoring of county patients. Committee appointed was Charles Holton, Ned Trattles and Mrs. Newton. Old Trail, Van Buren—40. Two excellent reports of the State Farm Bureau convention were given by Mrs. Lillia Graham, reporting on the women's convention and Mr. J. E. Reane reporting on the general convention. Paw Paw, Van Buren—51. Mrs. Golda Tapper, manager of the

and adding the previous year. Easton, Ionia—16. Monroe McPherson, Jr., a delegate to the 4-H Club Congress at Chicago gave an interesting story of this trip. Kawkawlin, Bay—30. Letter sent by the group to the Beet Growers' Association protesting the method of handling the hauling cards and asking that a better method be worked out for next year. Hobart, Wexford—19. This group feels that oil and mineral rights held by the state should be given over to people who have purchased the land after a period of ten years. Newton, Calhoun—40. A "bubble gum" contest was part of the recreation of the November meeting of this group. Hope, Midland—7. Mrs. McCrary gave a report of a meeting of the newly organized Farm Bureau Women's committee in Midland county. Lee Township, Calhoun—17. New group organized in December. Four Towns, Wayne—13. \$23.00 was turned over to the 4-H Club Building by this group. Irving Rainbow, Barry—Mr. Don Stevens, president of the Kent County CIO Council, talked to the group on "Labor's Attitude Toward Agriculture." Townline, Livingston—17. December 17th. Townline Discussion group met with Francis and Maurice Lound for a potluck dinner. Thomas Lound led the discussion of several timely topics for 17 members and two guests.

JUNIORS SPONSOR EDUCATIONAL TRIP PROJECT FOR 1948

Members of the Michigan Junior Farm Bureau are sponsoring another "Short Course On Wheels" as a state-wide project for the coming year, according to John Foster, state president of the organization. Under the leadership of Leona Algoe of Genesee county and Harold Doty of Hillsdale county, this educational tour plans call for a group of 30 young people to make an intensive 24-day study of agriculture in the Mississippi valley, the South and the Eastern part of the country in a chartered bus. The Junior organization of the Farm Bureau has requested the Adult Education Department of Michigan State College to supervise the educational work. Most of the contacts throughout the South and the East have been made through the courtesy of Dr. Raymond Miller of the American Institute of Cooperation and the efforts of Junior Farm Bureau. Highlights of the Short Course will be a study of the Indiana Farm Bureau, a study of the Vocational School at Whiteville, Tennessee, a direct broadcast from Muscle Shoals, Alabama to the Voice of Agriculture Program at WJR, Detroit, Saturday, January 24, 1948 at 6:30 a. m. At Jackson, Mississippi 2 1/2 days are to be spent studying the Mississippi State Sponsorship Program of "Balanced Agriculture with Industry." This study includes a scheduled dinner with the Governor of Mississippi. From Jackson, Mississippi, the tour goes to New Orleans as guests of the Chamber of Commerce from South America. The next move is to the capital of Florida and the University of Florida to investigate the citrus fruit production. Another highlight on the tour will be a study of Southern States Co-operatives at Richmond, Virginia. Mr. L. E. Raper will be the host at this point. On Saturday, February 7, the group will be in Washington, D. C. and will again broadcast an early morning breakfast to WJR and it is hoped to have some of the Michigan Congressmen as their guests. The purpose of the short course is to develop the students who participate as resource individuals for program material in Junior and Senior County Farm Bureau programs.

Life of Railroad Tie

By improving the present method of attaching rails to cross-ties, now being studied, railroads hope to increase the life of cross-ties, which is now about 25 years, by approximately 15 years. Plant Farm Bureau Seeds.

ATTACK ON CO-OPS HEADLINES FBS ANNUAL MEET

The efforts of farmers to strengthen their bargaining power and so increase the income from their enterprises has resulted in a nationwide attack on farmer co-operatives with a purpose of destroying them and driving the farmers back into an important bargaining position. Clark L. Brody, executive secretary and general manager of the Farm Bureau Services, Inc., told nearly 500 shareholders at the organizational annual meeting December 9 at Lansing. In reaffirming Mr. Brody's warnings that a small but powerful business bloc is seeking to hamper agricultural economy by legislative attacks against farmer co-operatives, Roy D. Ward of Dowagiac, president of the Services organization, said that if we allow our farmer's co-operatives to be knocked out, the American farmer's cost of production will increase, and many of the unfair practices in marketing, processing and distribution will come to life and would eventually place them in a position far worse than he ever has been.

Representatives of the 153 member co-operatives heard Boyd A. Rainey, manager of distribution for FBS, say that the organization completed one of the biggest and best years with \$11,200,000 worth of seeds, fertilizers, steel and petroleum products, machinery, insecticides and paints purchased by the shareholders compared with a volume of \$8,250,000 for the previous year. Fred J. Harger, manager of production and manufacturing reported that in spite of work stoppages over jurisdictional disputes and the multitude of other problems that have confronted the completion of the Fertilizer plant at Saginaw, it was hoped that production would get started sometime during the first part of 1948. The plant will produce 45,000 tons of mixed fertilizers and 30,000 tons of superphosphate.

GOV. SIGLER PROCLAIMS CO-OP MONTH

PROCLAMATION Co-operative Month STATE OF MICHIGAN Executive Office—Lansing Farm Cooperatives in Michigan have proved themselves to be of great value to both the rural and urban residents of the state. Some seventy-five percent of our farm families are members of the 256 farm cooperatives operating in this state. These cooperatives, embracing some 170,000 farm families, did more than \$164,000,000 worth of business last year. The objectives of the Farmer-managed cooperatives, which now embrace nearly every phase of agricultural life, are to improve the economic and social position of the family-sized farm through efficient production and marketing; they likewise give the consumer the benefit of improved quality and better business methods, as well as to develop new and more stable outlets for our agriculture. This produces a wholesome effect on the entire economy of our state. Therefore, I, Kim Sigler, Governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim January as "Farm Co-operative Month" in Michigan, in recognition of the importance of the farm cooperative movement in this state. Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Michigan this twenty-third day of December, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-seven and of the Commonwealth the One Hundred Eleventh.

KIM SIGLER, Governor. By the Governor: F. W. ALGER, Secretary of State.

Livestock fed adequate protein perform much better in many ways. They eat more, make faster gains in weight and make more gain for the feed consumed. They also acquire more finish or fatness and sell higher on the market.

Classified Ads

Classified advertisements section containing various notices for machinery, veterinary remedies, wool growers, fertilizer, live stock, egg cartons, and farm machinery.

Organic Matter and Our Food Supply

By DR. GEORGE D. SCASETH American Farm Research Ass'n. A few extra hard rains and the resulting floods are front page news of importance. A few weeks without any rain and the headlines cry DROUGHT THREATENS FOOD SUPPLIES. Crop reporters lower their estimates. Grain speculators take notice and prices soar. The crops show nitrogen starvation symptoms, and farmers grumble about the shortage of nitrogen fertilizers. Our Nation's President pleads for meatless and eggless days.



This is not a new story because keen observers through the years have seen it. In about 1750 Jared Eliot, a country minister, doctor and farmer from Killingsworth, Conn., said in a letter—"I have observed when I was in yack parts of y Country about 20 years past when y woods was not pastured & full of high weeds & y ground light, then y rain sunk much more into y earth and did not wash & tear up y surface (as now)".

The agronomists and soil scientists know that the basic cause of our food shortage is the low and declining content of organic matter in our soils. A well fed people eat lots of protein foods—meat, milk, eggs and cheese. A good example are the mid-west people with their locker plants and their home deep-freeze units. Protein foods largely disappear from the diet of poorly fed people, and they must manage on cereals—largely energy foods that contain chiefly carbon, hydrogen and oxygen and very small quantities of tissue and bone building substances. We read how millions of people are on diets too low in calories (2,000 calories or less) to supply them with adequate energy for living. Little wonder they aren't productive workers. The energy foods are only human gasoline and the malnutrition of such people must be terrific even if death does not result. Protein foods are nitrogen carrying foods. Every farmer knows that nitrogen and soil organic matter are closely related. Every farmer knows that a soil high in organic matter is also a very productive soil. Every farmer also knows that legumes like clover, alfalfa and sweet clover add valuable organic matter to the soil. The farmers also know that the organic matter from these legumes is better than the organic matter from non-legumes, because clover makes nitrogen into chemical compounds out of the free nitrogen in the air. Any close observer traveling through the corn belt this last season observed the paradox frequently where on one side of the road the corn crop was almost a failure because of early wet weather and late summer drought, while on the opposite side of the road there might be a corn field that was producing abundantly and apparently not adversely affected by the so-called bad season. No one saw this more accurately than my great friend George Hoffer of hybrid corn

matter in soils is related to the supply of important plant food nutrients. "The humus level in mineral soils is very closely associated with the supply of the nutrient elements, such as calcium, phosphorus, potassium and nitrogen. Since plant residues are the source of nearly all the soil humus, the quality of plant growth and hence the rate of humus formation will depend to a large extent upon the supply of available plant food in the soil." Doctor Bear says the same thing from another angle. "Of particular significance is the discovery that fertilizers, even though they may contain no organic matter, are one of the most fruitful means of adding organic matter to the soils, by reason of the more abundant residues and roots of crops that have been liberally treated with them."

Experiments show that it takes chemical plant foods to make organic matter. Moreover, with lots of humus in the soil the added fertilizers work best. There is lots of data to show that the loss of rain water by running off the ground is extremely high, and especially on soils that are compacted and deficient in organic matter. Of course, we all know the value of having the soil covered with some kind of crop. The spring rains are sometimes of great intensity for a few minutes, as high as 10 or more inches rate per hour. During this great intensity as much as 80 percent of the water that falls on the ground may run off. Not only is there, therefore, a great loss of water that the soil would need later in the summer, but the water running off the ground does untold damage in erosion and in carrying away plant nutrients.

We can summarize in a "nutshell" some of the main points in the following manner: When soils are low in organic matter their porosity is poor, and much of the rain that should go into the ground runs away. When soils are low in organic matter they do not have a large capacity for holding available moisture so that when mild dry spells come, the crops will suffer for lack of water, whereas if there was more organic matter in the soil the crops could stand much more drought. When soils are low in organic matter they are very deficient in available nitrogen, and crops usually starve for this nutrient with the consequences that they will be low in protein content. When soils are low in organic matter they become hard and compacted so that roots have a difficult time in growing through the soil to pick up plant nutrients, besides the air-space will be so slight that the roots easily starve for the lack of oxygen. When roots starve for oxygen they die and the crop correspondingly injured. When soils are low in organic matter the crop yields are seriously reduced and the yields obtained are very inefficient. When soils are low in organic matter the response of crops to added fertilizer is not as good as when the soils are high in organic matter, because it takes a good root system to use applied fertilizers to best advantage. Winter is a good time to check over farm machinery so it will perform well next season, advise Michigan State college agricultural engineers.

Rural Telephone News advertisement featuring a telephone booth illustration and text promoting Michigan Bell's rural telephone service.

SPECIAL COURSE IN MUCK FARMING PLANNED BY MSC

Michigan State college will offer a short course in muckland farming during January 1948. It will be the first time since 1940 that this course has been offered, according to Dr. Paul M. Harmer, muck soils specialist at the college.

Approximately one acre out of every eight acres of tillable land in Michigan is muck soil which requires special care and farming practices. Practically all of the celery, onions and mint produced in Michigan, as well as a large proportion of carrots, parsnips, cabbage and other vegetables are raised on this type of soil. Methods of production on muck land and the marketing of the crops are so different from upland crops that special training is highly desirable for the man who is starting this type of farming.

The short course will open January 5 and continue through January 30. Instruction in muck soil management will include courses in muck soil management and fertilizer needs, effects of minor elements on various crops, and prevention of wind and frost injury to crops. Other courses will include plant disease control, control of weeds with chemicals, insect control, horticulture, agricultural engineering and farm management.

Details concerning the course can be obtained from the director of short courses, Michigan State college, East Lansing, Michigan.

Notice to Secretaries And to Membership

Regarding delivery of Michigan Farm News: We shall appreciate postcard or other notice that any member is not receiving his paper. Please report any irregularity in delivery, such as duplicate copies, wrong RFD, error in name, etc. If member moves from RFD address in one county to RFD address in another county, please advise in change county. Place of residence determines which County Farm Bureau is your County Farm Bureau. We do our best to have everything right, but we are not

BUY SHARES IN BARRY COUNTY'S FUTURE

Farmers, factory workers, laborers, businessmen and all other Barry county residents have an opportunity to participate in a co-operative community effort to purchase a farm that may pay rich dividends. The Barry Grassland Farms, Inc. recently launched a drive to sell \$25,000 worth of stock of the corporation. This non-profit organization was incorporated by a group of Barry County leaders from the community Farm Bureaus of the county, Granges, Soil Conservation District, and the Hastings Chamber of Commerce.

The purpose of the organization is to purchase a farm in Barry county that is typical of the rolling land in the area and to farm it without the use of cultivated crops to show the value of this type of farming. They expect to prove that grassland farming, properly done, can earn a good living for rural families on land considered unproductive and still prevent soil erosion. The farm purchased will be operated by a manager selected by the board of directors and the methods used and the results obtained will be published for the use of all.

\$3 Wheat Too High To Feed Livestock

Farmers can't afford to feed livestock \$3 a bushel wheat unless corn, oats, barley and rye have the same dollar feeding value as the cereal, according to Andrew Loman, manager of the Hamilton Farm Bureau. He said that there has been a sharp decrease since 1942 in the volume of wheat sold at retail, presumably for feed.

RUTH PARSONS HEADS AFBF YOUTH COMMITTEE

Miss Ruth Parsons of Fowlerville, past president of the Michigan Junior Farm Bureau, was elected to the chairmanship of the American Farm Bureau rural youth committee at the convention in December. The committee is responsible for the rural youth work of the American Farm Bureau. During 1948, Miss Parsons will direct these activities:



- 1-Sponsorship of the youth section of the annual Midwest States Farm Bureau training school in midsummer.
- 2-Develop an international exchange program for young farmers between the United States and other nations. In 1947 France sent a group of young men to study American farming methods. Many of them were located on Michigan farms.
- 3-Organize the national speaking contest speaking contest for rural youth at the annual American Farm Bureau convention.
- 4-Organize the youth section of the American Farm Bureau convention at Atlantic City in December of 1948.

Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa and Tennessee Farm Bureau youth organizations are represented on the committee. Miss Parsons will speak to the American Medical Ass'n annual meeting early in February on the topic "Rural Youth Looks at Health."

Bielinski Becomes Personnel Director

W. Victor Bielinski has resigned his affiliations with the Michigan Association of Farmer Co-operatives as field representative effective December 31 to accept the newly created position as manager of the personnel division of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Although he had been acting in this capacity for some time on a part time basis, he assumes the duties of his new job beginning January 1. Mr. Bielinski came to the Farm Bureau in 1937 having previously worked for the Lapeer County Cooperatives from the time he graduated from MSC in 1936.

SEED ALFALFA, BUT ORDER NOW BENNETT SAYS

This is a year to seed alfalfa. Farmers should get their orders placed at once with their local Farm Bureau or co-operative dealer while it is still possible to get most of what they want. Roy Bennett, manager of Farm Bureau Services seed department advises.



R. W. BENNETT

This year the Farm Bureau will have available the following varieties of Alfalfa, Idaho, Montana Grimm, Utah, Nebraska, Canadian Grimm, or Variegated, Michigan Grimm or Variegated, Certified Michigan Grimm and Certified Michigan Hardigan. These will be in Farm Bureau brand bags. This is the first year in a long time, Mr. Bennett said, that the seed department has had all of these varieties available and the prices are lower than last year's.

There will not be enough red clover, Alsike, and sweet clover to go around this coming year and the prices will be higher. It will be cheaper to seed alfalfa for a green manure crop. For needed hay and pasture crops to offset the shortage of feeding grain, farmers should get alfalfa. Brome grass this coming year is more reasonable in price. It makes a good companion to seed with alfalfa. This combination provides a wonderful sod to turn under for corn or potatoes, according to Mr. Bennett.

If a farmer wants a short rotation crop, alfalfa will do the trick. Utah, Nebraska and Idaho alfalfa are the varieties to use, he suggests, while Montana, Michigan and Canadian alfalfas should be sown for long time hay and pasture stands.

Sudan Grass make a good pasture. Cows prefer sweet Sudan to common Sudan. However, sweet Sudan does not recover as quickly as common. One half acre of common Sudan Grass ten inches high will keep a cow until the Sudan is killed by frost.

Seed oats and barley will be in heavy demand, but prices will be in range with other feed grain prices. Michigan will have enough good grain seed to take care of the demand. Farmers who think they will have more red clover than they will need should take it to their local Farm Bureau dealer and he will return it to Services' seed department for redistribution to farmers who are not fortunate to have any.

Mr. Bennett points out that the farmers of Michigan and elsewhere have helped with their dollars to build many plants and factories for other people. But the only money that helps build their own Farm Bureau plants are the dollars they spend for Farm Bureau products. The farmer helps himself and his neighbor when he buys Farm Bureau brand seed and other quality products. Farm Bureau seed has known origin, adaptability and carries the Farm Bureau guarantee.

Austin Gwinn

Austin Gwinn, well known to many Michigan Farm Bureau people as a former employee of the state organization, died at Lapeer December 31. Mr. Gwinn had been a hardware merchant at Lapeer since leaving the Farm Bureau. From 1929 to 1939 he worked for the Farm Bureau membership dept and Farm Bureau Services. At one time he worked at the Saginaw store. Mr. Gwinn opened and managed the Farm Bureau branch established at Lapeer. It is now the Lapeer County Cooperatives, Inc.

A Good Time to Get Down to Business

By MRS. EDITH M. WAGAR
Briar Hill Farm, Carleton, Michigan

How easy it seems to say Happy New Year to everyone we meet the first days of the new year.

All too soon we find it's the same old world with the same leadership and the same problems. It means that we ourselves must delve deeper into the problems and find a way to solve them.

As I see it, we in America cannot expect peace in the world until we



MRS. WAGAR

can have peace and understanding here at home. Oh! How I wish some of our national problems might be solved in their merits and on what is best for the country rather than be used as an advantageous talking point for a political party or some candidate.

What a price we pay for that! My hope for this year is that we do get down to business and have a better understanding with other countries and that we find none of them so much opposed to us as we have been led to believe.

I hope that we as farmers can have a better understanding between farm organizations than we have had. We should work out our differences through conferences so that we speak for agriculture as one. The farmer has too much at stake in this period of readjustment to have his future jeopardized.

I hope that these days of higher prices will be no temptation to farmers to do things in a big way. We might far better move along in the conservation way until the bubble breaks and our farm dollar will buy what we think it should.

It is a good time to do sensible planning for the future. Plan on as much added comfort as you can have without too much unnecessary expense. It's hard to resist a new car at an inflated price. The farm sized plane offers speed and thrill.

New furniture of questionable quality can be a temptation.

If we have to have these things to be real happy, I'd say get them

if you can see your way clear to do so, but I'd want to be certain. I'd take an inventory of my belongings and compare them with my longings and decide whether they were current whims or longtime necessities.

Another hope I cherish is that Michigan folks will concentrate on the problem of education until we secure a school system that is adequate and in keeping with the times. Some 50 years ago Australia sent a delegation to inspect school systems in the States. Michigan folks were delighted when they pronounced our schools far ahead of all others.

We have an old saying, "Resting on your laurels." We must have been doing that, for Michigan schools are now well down the list for high standards. We are still confining our districts to the same size and to almost the same standards laid out by our great grandfathers.

We just cannot continue as we are going and maintain our self-respect. My hope is that our farm folks will take the initiative themselves in making a change rather than have some political or promotional group come along and establish something out of line with good judgement.

It's our job to see to it that the children of our community have just as good educational advantages as the children have in other communities. Let's not be short-sighted in our educational thinking for, as it is now, we are paying mighty dear for a system that does not bring the results our children have a right to expect.

After we have shown our willingness to do our part, we can then demand better teachers, better curriculum, greater attention to agriculture, home making and vocational training. We can see to it that more thought is given to fundamentals and less to non-essentials.

Yes, there's much that can be done in 1948 to improve the everyday life of all of the peoples of the world if we but will it so. We must practice co-operation in its broadest sense; we must think of all humans as creatures of God. Our world is coming together into a compact unit through marvelous scientific developments,—so rapidly

that we fail to comprehend it until we are shocked into it.

We must adjust ourselves to the progress of the changing world and the tomorrows that will follow. Much as we may want to be left alone as the one country to be envied for our advantages, opportunities, surpluses and freedom, we can no longer sit static and watch the other peoples of the world dig themselves out of their dilemmas alone. We cannot take part in a world war without assuming some responsibilities in the clean-up that follows.

Passengers on trains traveled an average of 81½ miles per trip in 1946, or a little more than twice the average in 1929.

Fruit Meeting At MSC, Jan. 13-15

A conference to be held at Michigan State college on January 13, 14, and 15, will be of interest to all Michigan fruit growers, says C. A. Langer, MSC horticulturist, who is in charge of the program.

College research men will explain work being done to aid the Michigan fruit industry and some of the state's leading growers will bring stories about the future in horticulture.

Information about the conference can be obtained by writing to the Director of Short Courses, Michigan State college, East Lansing.

Plant Farm Bureau Seeds.

PARENT STOCK

THE SEED CORN YOU PLANT can be no better than the parent stock used by the seed grower in his seed fields. Every precaution is taken to insure TRUE TYPE and PERFORMANCE of the PARENT STOCK USED BY GROWERS OF Michigan Certified Hybrids

inbreds are propagated and kept pure by hand pollination under the direct supervision of Professor J. W. Thayer, Plant Breeder at Michigan State College.

SINGLE CROSS PARENT STOCK—(the seed used to plant Certified Hybrid Seed Fields) is grown under the direction and control of the FARM CROPS DEPARTMENT MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE

This assures only highest quality FOUNDATION SEED used as PARENT MATERIAL

AT YOUR LOCAL SEED DEALER OR ELEVATOR

MICHIGAN Certified HYBRID SEED CORN PRODUCERS

It's the Carload Business

Valley Lea

That makes Dairying Profitable for Member Producers of the Mid-West Group

These Dairy Products of proved Consumer Acceptance bear the Valley Lea trade name

Butter • Cheese • Evaporated Milk • Roller or Spray Process Non-Fat Dry Milk Solids • Condensed Dairy Products • Buttermilk Powder • Sweet Cream

Market your milk and cream with a Mid-West Member Producer Creamery, where you can earn more... where you as a producer become a part and receive the benefit of an organized business working for your best interests.

Mid-West Producers' Creameries sales department specializes in car-load sales of dairy products shipped from its 24 member cooperative creameries. Product sales in large quantities always are advantageous to both the seller and purchaser... the seller gains by reduced handling and shipping charges while large buyers prefer to obtain their supplies from Mid-West because they always are assured of high quality laboratory controlled dairy products from member-producer owned plants... fine Valley Lea brand dairy products result from Mid-West's progressive operations together with the honest desire of every member-producer to always do his part for the business, of which he is part owner.

Valley Lea

Cooperative Marketing Brings High Dollar Marketing

Mid-West Producers' Creameries, Inc.

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- MICHIGAN**
- Coldwater—Coldwater Dairy Company
 - Constantine—Constantine Coop. Creamery Co.
 - Carson City—Dairymen's Coop. Creamery Co.
 - Elsie—Elsie Cooperative Creamery Co.
 - East Jordan—Jordan Valley Coop. Creamery
 - Fremont—Fremont Cooperative Creamery Co.
 - Grant—Grant Cooperative Creamery Co.
 - Nashville—Farmers Cooperative Creamery Assn.
 - Niles—Producers' Cooperative Dairy
 - St. Louis—St. Louis Cooperative Creamery Co.
- INDIANA**
- Columbus—Farmers Marketing Association
 - Crawfordsville—Farmers Coop. Cr., Inc.
 - Middlebury—Middlebury Coop. Creamery Co.
 - Marion—Producers Creamery
 - Orleans—Producers Dairy Marketing Assn., Inc.
 - Portland—Producers Creamery
- TENNESSEE**
- Gallatin—Sumner County Coop. Creamery Assn.
 - Murfreesboro—Murfreesboro Coop. Cr., Inc.
 - Nolanville—Nolanville Coop. Cr. Assn., Inc.
- OHIO**
- Dayton—Miami Valley Coop. Milk Pr. Assn., Inc.
 - Greenville—Farmers Cooperative Dairy
- ILLINOIS**
- Pana—Equity Union Creamery & Produce Co.
 - Paris—Equity Union Creamery & Produce Co.
 - Atwood—Atwood Cooperative Creamery, Inc.

I SPEAK FOR THE FARMER!

I want to protect farm income. I'm interested in better marketing. I want a square deal on taxes and all legislation dealing with farm business. What the legislature does on such matters is important to me—and to you.

FARM BUREAU IS THE LEGISLATIVE VOICE OF 48,000 MICHIGAN FARMERS

Here are a few of the bills important to you that the Michigan Farm Bureau helped enact in the 1947 legislature:

- Authorization to use unexpended township funds for highway purposes.
- Increase gasoline tax to aid county roads. Vetoes. For us, this remains unfinished business.
- \$151,000 appropriation for horticultural research by Michigan State College.
- \$100,000 appropriation for general marketing research by Michigan State College.
- Resubmit sales tax diversion amendment on the 1948 ballot.

LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD

Michigan farmers must be organized to deal with problems before the legislature. In the 1947 session the Farm Bureau made this record:

Bills favored by Farm Bureau	32
Bills favored by Farm Bureau and passed by legislature	25
Bills opposed by Farm Bureau	22
Bills opposed by Farm Bureau and not passed by legislature	22

Speak for yourself through your own farm organization... the Michigan Farm Bureau. Join the Farm Bureau. Take an active part. Continue your membership. More than 48,000 members in 56 County Farm Bureaus in Michigan. More than 1,000,000 members in 46 states. Family membership is \$10 per year.

JOIN YOUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Roll Call for Membership Starts Soon

Make the Farm Bureau organization and service a part of your farm.

NTEA PROGRAM WOULD CRIPPLE FARM CO-OPS

The most determined legislative effort in the past twenty-five years to cripple the farmer in the operation of his business will prevail in the coming session of congress, W. H. Tobler of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington warned farmers of northern Michigan attending the Northern Michigan Planning Committee at Gaylord.

Mr. Tobler said that the fight that is being waged from coast to coast by the so-called NTEA is a struggle to completely eliminate farmers co-operatives. Everything that the Farm Bureau has gained in 25 years may be wiped out by what is developing in Washington.

Attempts to curtail the soil conservation service, marketing agreements, Steagall Amendment, Agricultural Adjustment Act, Bankhead Commodity Loan Act, Production and Marketing Research Act have been made.

"Powerful groups are out to cut the ground right out from under agriculture and they are playing for keeps," Mr. Tobler warned. The attack upon patronage dividends is only one of the many battles faced in Washington by agriculture, he said. The powerful banking interests are out to eliminate the Bank

for Co-operatives. The Farm Bureau legislative representative is a native of Michigan, having been born and reared on a farm near Traverse City.

Horse Events Set For Farmers' Week

The big day of the year for Michigan horsemen is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 1948 during the Farmers' Week program at Michigan State college, according to Harry Moxley, MSC extension animal husbandry specialist.

Outstanding breed representatives of both draft and light horses will be on exhibit during the day. Draft breeds shown will be Belgians, Percherons and Clydesdales. The light breeds will be American Saddle Horse, American Trotting Horse, Thoroughbred, Walking Horse, Quarter Horse, Arabian, Appaloosa, Palomino, Morgan, and ponies. Many of these animals will be champions at state and national shows.

The morning program will be spent on draft horse events and horse pulling contests, while the afternoon will be devoted to the light horse program.

The corn picker is the most dangerous of farm machines. Follow all rules of safety when using it.

There are 187 hospital beds for each 100,000 farm people, but 272 for each 100,000 city people.

BRODY NAMES WHAT FARMERS WANT ANSWERED

By C. L. BRODY
Executive Secretary, Michigan Farm Bureau

The annual Farm Bureau membership roll call this winter is of the utmost importance to the farmers of Michigan. The many problems concerning agriculture in this postwar readjustment period can be met only by strongly organized influences and co-operation.

Problems for which every Michigan farmer wants the right answer include:

(1) The development of a national agricultural policy with its international responsibilities.

(2) The nation-wide attack on co-operatives and on their farm credit institutions;



CLARK L. BRODY

(3) soil conservation and agricultural research programs;

(4) the growing prospect of renewed attempts to establish price controls and rationing;

(5) the farmer's interest in the national debt and general tax programs.

Added to all this are many state problems of unusual concern. How shall we finance farm-to-market county roads and rural schools? There are efforts to eliminate or cripple the 15-mill amendment. How shall we answer the problems occasioned by the recently adopted sales tax diversion amendment? We must register farmer interest and opinion regarding state administration policies and institutions.

The situation is one that necessitates the enrollment of the largest Farm Bureau membership ever attained. Fortunately, we have in the Michigan Farm Bureau an effective farm organization. Through the Farm Bureau farmers are working on these many problems and relationships.

Over 48,000 farm families are members of the Michigan Farm Bureau. In 56 County Farm Bureaus, 780 Community Farm Bureaus, and several hundred local committees they discuss state and national questions. The deliberations and activities throughout each year culminate in the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting. Here the views and interests expressed by the members in the county and local units are co-ordinated and harmonized each year at the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in November. The program determined by the official delegates chosen by the members becomes the yearly program for the State Farm Bureau administration. The national and international recommendations are conveyed to the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation and to its board of directors.

Co-operative business services required by our members are carried out through the Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and the Farm Bureau Fruit Products Company, and through regional and national federations of farm co-operatives.

So in becoming a Farm Bureau member the farm family unites its influence with that of more than a million rural families over the entire nation. The Farm Bureau provides a clear two-way channel of participation and contact from the individual farm enterprise to state and national objectives.

The annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau held at Michigan State College November 13 and 14, 1947, has prescribed the program for a Greater Farm Bureau for the next year.

Battle Creek Plans New Buildings

The Battle Creek Farm Bureau Association, Inc. has purchased three and one-quarter acres of land in Battle Creek and in the next four years intends to build a modern business plant to house on one site all of its sprawling operations. Plans call for the completion of 500 foot spur track from the main line of the Michigan Central railroad this winter. Eventually the organization will have a consolidated mill, elevator, sales rooms, offices, scales, warehouses, grain storage, feeds and coal docks, each of which now occupy separate and scattered locations of the city.

The two four-wheel trucks which support a boxcar weigh about 14,000 pounds or approximately one-third of the total car weight.

To stop a train running at 60 miles an hour requires enough power to lift the train vertically to a height of 120 feet.

Notice to Roll Call Membership Workers

Please be sure to do two things when signing new members:

- 1-PRINT somewhere on the application the new member's name.
 - 2-INCLUDE RFD NUMBER or street address, and zone number if there is one around large cities.
- All membership records and the Michigan Farm News label are taken from what is written on the membership agreement. It's bad for the Farm Bureau to have names come back to members misspelled because an "a" was mistaken for an "o" and an "i" for an "e", etc. It's also expensive to make corrections.

Postoffice regulations require that newspapers and magazines show a complete address for delivery.

FARMERS NEED TO OWN SOME RURAL YARDS

"Ike" Walton, manager of the Michigan Live Stock Exchange, is telling the 26,000 member shippers of that organization that Michigan farmers need in addition to their terminal market at Detroit several co-operative, farmer-owned rural stockyards.

The Michigan Livestock Exchange is now selling debentures to finance an entry into the rural stockyards business.

At Lapeer recently, Mr. Walton and others addressed a county meeting of Live Stock Exchange members. The Lapeer County Press quoted the speakers as follows:

Ike Walton: "There are now 53 auction yards in the State plus 20 concentration yards and 28 packers buying at their plants. Big packers, to fill their needs, must send buyers and trucks to several yards. When one high-salaried buyer has to spend a day at an auction yard to get one truckload of stock, it makes inefficient, costly buying. Those high costs come out of the farmer."

"Michigan does not produce enough hogs to fill its own needs but rural auction yards are paying 40 cents under Detroit and Detroit is 40 cents under Chicago. The reason is inefficient buying by the packers and lack of organization by the producers."

"When producers scatter their livestock all over the state, they can't expect to have any control over it. Farmers now control their milk and many farm products through their co-operatives. They aren't doing much of a job controlling their livestock after it leaves the farm."

Mr. Walton said the ideal setup would be four or five rural stockyards owned by the farmers plus the terminal market at Detroit. "The Detroit market sets prices for the entire state and should be supported, but we also realize there is a need for a strong producer-owned rural yards."

Allen Rush, Live Stock Exchange vice-president, said that farmers do not realize the heavy shrink they are taking on stock sent to rural yards.

"Farmers protest the high price of corn fed hogs at the Detroit yards but actually it is the best they ever had for corn. We ran a test on several lots of hogs, feeding half of them corn and keeping half of them

REAL DEMOCRACY AT WORK ...

AFBF IN CONVENTION AT CHICAGO
DECEMBER 16-18, 1947



off feed. We found that through gain in weight, farmers got \$19.70 a bushel for all the corn fed hogs at the stockyards. Rural yards do not feed livestock. It is weighed empty and farmers lose. We forget that it is not price alone that determines how much we get for livestock. It is price times weight."

Don Stark, Michigan State College livestock specialist, said Michigan was lagging behind other states in developing a strong chain of rural stockyards.

"Farmers can't hope to get full value for their livestock until they take a hand in its selling. It's too bad that a farmer spends months raising a critter and then forgets it as soon as it leaves his farm. Selling is half the business in producing livestock."

Rats eat or destroy 200 million bushels of grain each year on the nation's farms. Rat control is good measure to help save grain.

There were 31.2% less work animals on U. S. farms in 1945 than there were in 1935.

A freight car, on the average, is loaded about twenty times in a year.

17 AGENTS FOR 18,000 FARMS IN NORTH MICHIGAN

The fact that there is only one county agent for more than 1,000 farms or 17 agents for 18,000 farms proves that the farm people of northern Michigan are the forgotten people of the state, Earl Grambau, member of the Presque Isle County Farm Bureau told better than 250 farmers, newsmen and Congressmen at the Northern Michigan Agricultural Planning Committee's legislative meeting assembled in Gaylord's Civic Auditorium December 11.

Agriculture in the upper counties of lower Michigan is a \$40,000,000 industry, yet only one-fifth have telephones, only one-half have electricity, and only one-third have running water, Mr. Grambau pointed out. What this area needs is more extension workers to help the farmers with their problems. With tourist and resort work added to his duties the county agent is badly overworked and needs help.

Mr. D. H. Flemming, Otsego county, said that there were only 37 rural telephones in his county and that many more were needed. He asked that the overworked county agents be given help in the form of resident extension specialists to aid the farmers in their many problems.

Other speakers on the program

included Stanley Powell of Michigan Farm Bureau, Everett Young of Michigan Association of Farmer Co-operatives, H. W. Tobler of the American Farm Bureau, Dean E. L. Anthony, and Wesley Hawley, district 10 representative of Michigan Farm Bureau. Mr. Hawley was chairman of the meeting.

Berrien Co. Tries For Goal in Three Days

With a goal of 3,000 members, the Berrien County Farm Bureau 1948 membership roll call campaign will be brief but intense this year, according to J. M. Artman, county secretary. The goal will be sought in a three-day drive, January 5, 6, and 7.

Earl Gale

Earl Gale of Mecosta, Mecosta county, a charter member of the Michigan Farm Bureau and one of the first membership workers, passed away at his home December 7. Mr. Gale worked for the membership department of the Farm Bureau for several years, but for the last 20 years had been a district insurance agent for the Farm Bureau, working in the central north-west counties of the state.

Wiring specialists advise posting a diagram of your wiring circuits by your fuse box to help spot the trouble when a fuse blows.

Farm safety is a family affair.

Saves Time and Money

...WELD IT YOURSELF
...MAKE YOUR OWN REPAIRS

PREVENT CROP LOSS - SAVE TRIPS TO TOWN

With a Farm Welder, the economy and time-saving convenience of repair welding can be fully realized. It's like having liberal insurance against equipment breakdowns and crop loss.

The owner of a Farm Welder doesn't need to rely on outside help when broken implements or machine parts interrupt his planting, cultivating or harvesting. Repairs can be made quickly and easily, right on his own farm and he can get his equipment back to work in a jiffy—frequently without dismantling.

RECONDITION WORN TOOLS IN "OFF SEASON"

During slack or winter seasons, a Farm Welder offers added savings. Damaged plow points, coupler blades, etc., can be hard surfaced for extra wear—a badly worn clevis may be strengthened—weakened parts can be reinforced. These and hundreds of similar hard surfacing and repair jobs can be quickly done.

Weld-repairing of this kind will more than double the life of your equipment and offer substantial savings in both time and money.

SPECIAL OFFER ON FARM WELDERS

Mail the coupon below with your name and address to the Farm Bureau Services Electrical Department and we will explain our special offer for January and February that will save you money in purchasing a Power Factor Corrected Welder from your local Farm Bureau dealer.

Simply Cut Out and Paste on Post Card or Write

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, Inc.
Farm Equipment Division
221 North Cedar Street—P. O. Box 960
Lansing 4, Michigan

Dear Sirs:

I am interested in purchasing a welder especially built for use on rural power lines. Please send me information regarding your special offer.

NAME _____

TOWN _____ RFD _____ STATE _____

I would like to purchase this welder from _____

Name of Your Local Farm Bureau Dealer _____

For Real Economy, Build with Unico LAMINATED RAFTERS

Unico Laminated Wood Rafters are easily erected at low cost construction figures. They afford good appearance, more storage space, strength and durability. They can easily be altered for additions or extensions.

They produce lower cost enclosed space than any other type of construction as every square inch of interior space is usable. Stop in for complete information.

Buy Unico Laminated Rafters Through Your Local Farm Bureau or Co-op Dealer

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, Inc.
Machinery Dept. 221 N. Cedar St. Lansing, Michigan

HOW to do it . . .

CONCRETE Handbook of Permanent FARM CONSTRUCTION

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When You Buy From the Farm Bureau - You Buy From YOURSELF!

HOSP. SERVICE ENROLLMENTS TAKEN TO APR. 1

A new opportunity for enrollment in Blue Cross is being offered to Farm Bureau members between now and April first, and present subscribers who wish to change their type of service may do so during this re-enrollment period.

Effective date of applications received during this period will be May first.

Many questions regarding Blue Cross and its protection are being asked at this time of Blue Cross secretaries in the Farm Bureau Discussion Groups. Austin L. Pino, Blue Cross rural enrollment manager, lists some questions which he considers important, together with their answers. They are as follows:

Question—What is Blue Cross?
Answer—Blue Cross is a non-profit plan of the doctors and hospitals of Michigan which makes it possible for enrolled members to meet their hospital and surgical expenses in advance.

Q.—How may I enroll?
A.—Farm Bureau members enroll through the Community Discussion group of which they are members.

Q.—When may I enroll?
A.—If your Discussion Group is already enrolled, new members may be accepted in the group up to April 1, 1948 and their service contracts will be effective May 1st.

If your Discussion Group is not yet enrolled, a group enrollment may be completed during any month in which a sufficient number of members sign applications and make their payment for the first period.

Q.—Is there a waiting period for maternity service?
A.—Yes, there is a nine-month waiting period for childbirth after the effective date of your contract.

Q.—May I enroll my whole family?
A.—Yes, your wife and all your single children under the age of 19 may be enrolled as a family.

Q.—May I go to any hospital for care?
A.—Yes, you may go to any recognized hospital, but the service benefits apply only in the participating hospitals of which there are 143 in Michigan.

Q.—What are the benefits in non-participating hospitals?
A.—Holders of semi-private service contracts are allowed up to \$6.50 per day against costs of board and room and an additional \$32.50 to apply against other benefits listed in the certificate for each hospitalization.

Holders of ward service contracts are allowed up \$5.00 per day against costs of board and room and an additional \$25.00 to apply against other benefits listed in the certificate for each hospitalization.

Q.—What surgical services are covered?
A.—Michigan Medical Service pays for all operations on the basis of a liberal fee schedule for each operation performed in a recognized hospital and for certain operations performed in a doctor's office. (Ask for literature which gives details regarding this service.)

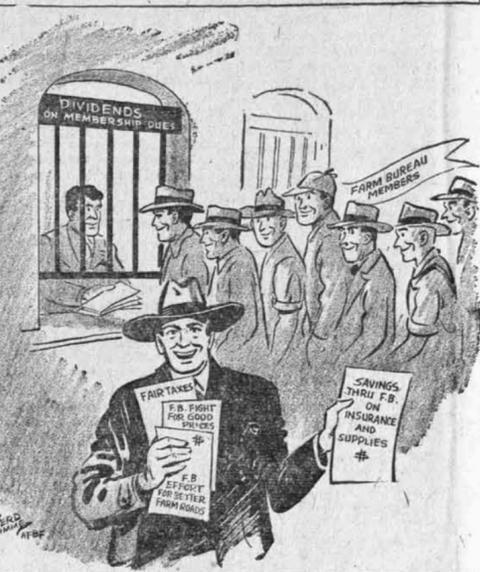
Q.—Is there a medical (non-surgical) service?
A.—Yes, but that service is sold only in connection with the surgical contract. It pays for your doctor's calls when you are a bed patient in a recognized hospital for other than surgical care. This provides for a maximum of 30 days care per contract year for each member on the contract.

Q.—How may I get more information about these services?
A.—By contacting your group Blue Cross secretary, one of the Blue Cross District offices, or the home office, 1900 Washington Boulevard Building, Detroit 26 Michigan.

Farm Bureau, Grange To Meet With College
Leaders of Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan State Grange will meet jointly with the Michigan State College, January 8 to discuss possible improvements in the colleges agricultural work. The two groups suggested that the college invite representatives of other farm organizations in the state.

Plant Farm Bureau Seeds.

F.B. MEMBERSHIP DOESN'T "COST"... IT PAYS!



State College Gives 1948 Farm Outlook

From Michigan Farm Economics MSC Ext. Service, Economics Dept.
The economic situation is highly unstable. Many factors are operating to push prices higher. But present activity is in part based on borrowing from the future, and there are indications that downward trend may begin late in 1948. Action taken by the special or regular sessions of Congress might mean the difference between further inflation or the beginning of a downward price readjustment. For this reason trends in the general business situation should be watched closely.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND COSTS

Crop production and exports are the major factors to watch. It is probable that agricultural prices will average as high or higher during the first half of 1948 as in the last quarter of 1947. The trend during the last half of 1948 is less certain. Strong and definite action by Congress may be a factor affecting changes in the level of business activity and consumers' income.

Production costs will increase further in 1948. Net farm income may decrease, but farm earnings still will be favorable. Prices usually outstrip costs during periods of advancing prices, but net incomes are squeezed by costs when prices begin to level off and decline.

Rising costs will increase parity prices and hence, the levels of the government price support programs. These provide a floor through 1948 for the major farm products. During seasonal peaks of production government purchases may be required for a number of agricultural commodities under the Steagall amendment.

Continued exports of grain and flour for European feeding plus the small corn crop this year will result in tight feed supplies in many areas. Consequently livestock products are likely to be in somewhat reduced supply during much of 1948 and prices as high or higher than at present, unless a business slump appears.

FACTORS INFLUENCING 1948 PRICE LEVELS

We are in a period of inflation. National income still is rising with no indication of a leveling off as yet.

Exports of U.S. goods and services reached an all-time peak of \$19 billion (annual rate) in May and have declined since then by about 20 per cent because foreign dollar balances are running out. Even if action is taken to make foreign loans available, exports will decline further. Imports are not likely to decline very much. Consequently, the current lack of balance between exports and imports will be reduced, removing part of the inflationary pressure of exports.

Even though European dollar balances are running out it appears probable that the current political attitude towards the spread of influence of Soviet Russia will encourage some form of financing of continued U.S. exports.

Organized labor is in a strong position to demand higher wages to meet rising costs of living as their present contracts expire this winter and spring. Such increases would further boost national income and purchasing power in terms of dollars. Some wage increases are likely for certain white-collar workers.

Congress may reduce income taxes. If so, this will increase inflation. Continuance of federal tax rates will permit some retirement of the public debt. Debt retirement is deflationary.

A few lines of durable goods are catching up with demand, including such items as radios, tires, and many household appliances. Possibly 1948 will see greater price competition or cutbacks in production and some temporary unemployment.

Per capita food production and consumption are considerably above prewar. The percentage of total income spent for food now is about 10 per cent higher than before the war. Competition of other goods for the consumer's dollar may reduce the proportion somewhat in 1948.

The upsurge of building construction during the summer probably will continue next year though the winter decline even though costs of construction are relatively high.

Consumer credit is at an all-time high but is not excessive in relation to national income. Credit outstanding will probably increase further, thus borrowing from future income to obtain present goods.

A shift in public attitude either toward purchasing goods in anticipation of further price increases or toward postponing purchases in anticipation of price declines might be very important in 1948. At present the first appears more likely and is more to be feared.

MOVES TO BRING PARITY PRICES UP TO DATE

The United States Department of Agriculture has submitted a proposed change in the method of computing "parity" farm prices for farm products. The proposal has gone to the senate and house agriculture committees, both of which are conducting studies of long-range agricultural policy.

If the proposals are accepted by Congress, they will provide the first important change in the basis for farm price supports since 1933 when the first Agricultural Adjustment Act was passed.

The present parity system was designed to provide a given quantity of farm products the same purchasing power as it had in the five year 1909-14. The parity prices of tobacco, potatoes, soybeans, citrus fruits, and some other products are exceptions—they are based on more recent periods.

Agricultural economists have criticized the parity system for being too rigid. Changes in consumer demand and in methods of production which affect the relationships among farm product prices are not reflected in the price support bases.

For example, there has been a marked upturn in demand for milk and dairy products since 1909. Yet dairy products price supports bear the same relation to prices of other food products that they did 35 years ago.

Grain production methods have improved relatively more than livestock production methods during the last 35 years. This has increased grain production per man hour and lowered prices in comparison to livestock prices. Yet the parity price supports nail livestock and grain prices in the same pattern that existed 35 years ago!

The changes proposed by the Department of Agriculture would "modernize" parity.

Instead of the 1909-14 base, the most recent 10-year average would be used. Thus, the base for price supports would move with the times and be kept constantly up-to-date.

Instead of computing purchasing power equal to that of the 1909-14 period, the department would compute it equal to that of the 1937-41 period.

Broadly speaking, the new method raises parities for livestock and livestock products. It lowers parities for grains and cotton. It also reduces parity for potatoes, the product which has given the government the most headaches in price support during recent years.

The department's proposals probably will be accepted by Congress and incorporated in any new farm legislation next session. All the major farm organizations are in favor of changing the present parity system and the department's suggested changes seem to meet their requirements.

Changes in the bases for farm price supports have no immediate significance, of course, because the world demand for farm products is so great that prices are far above either the old parities or the proposed new ones. They will be significant, however, if and when a decline in industrial employment or a loss of foreign markets sends farm prices down again.

Revision of the out-of-date parity bases is a first step in revision of our entire scheme of federal farm programs. The proposals of the Department of Agriculture look like a big improvement in formula.

Doubtless our agricultural statisticians and economists in the state agricultural colleges, private universities, and agricultural trades and industries will give the new formula a thorough scrutiny.

It may have some faults that don't appear on the surface, but the general direction certainly is right. —The Des Moines Register.

Oceana Women Raise \$900 for Hospitals

A money raising program through the sale of birthday calendars as a benefit activity for the Hart and Shelby hospitals in being sponsored by the Oceana County Farm Bureau women.

Mrs. Jesse Bonham is the new president of the county organization assisted by Mrs. Donald Hawley, vice-president; Mrs. Ruby Brickey, secretary; Mrs. A. L. Norton, director of the county board; and Mrs. Fred Kerr, publicity director.

HEALTH AND PRODUCTION MAKE PROFITS

By R. H. ADDY, Manager Services Feed Department

The feed department of your Farm Bureau Services, from its beginning, away back in 1921, has formulated the rations offered its customers on the basis that production is necessary to profit. Along with production—and equally important—is health. No animal, or bird, can continue the heavy production necessary to make profit unless health is maintained over the period that profitable production can logically be expected. Farm Bureau feeds include health factors that tend to maintain top production.

Let's take Milk Maker 34% and see just what we mean. Naturally the protein carriers such as linseed oil meal, soybean oil meal, etc., are used to furnish protein. That isn't enough because we know that some minerals are apt to be in too short supply to enable heavy production of milk to be possible over a long period of time unless they are added to the ration. Therefore iodine, cobalt, manganese as well as copper, iron and phosphorus are added to Milk Makers.

Then our long winters, with little sunlight and continuous housing, leave our cows dependent upon hay for the sole source of vitamin D—the vitamin that makes possible the assimilation of calcium and phosphorus.

Wanting to be safe, instead of sorry, your feed department has added vitamin D to Milk Makers for many years.

Minerals and vitamins are as necessary to production as protein and probably more necessary to good health.

As evidence of the value of Milk Maker over a long period of time we can refer to a herd that averages 33 in number. This herd had been on Milk Maker for 12 years. Its average production in D.H.I.A. was 565.5 lbs. butterfat. Two ten-year-old cows produced as follows: No. 1—26,383 lbs. milk and 892.8 lbs.

fat. No. 2—24,991 lbs. milk and 845.1 lbs. fat.

We believe these figures illustrate our contention that a feed, made correctly for production, is a more valuable feed if a balance in vitamins and minerals is achieved.

Your Farm Bureau M.V.P. poultry concentrate (the base of Mermash feeds) and Porkmaker are made for the same purpose; that is, to carry the production values combined with ample vitamins and trace minerals so that production and growth will be as good as the breeding of the animals and the quality of management will allow.

AFBF ESTABLISHES ANOTHER RECORD MEMBERSHIP

An all time high of 1,275,180 farm family memberships was set by the American Farm Bureau Federation for the year 1947 which represents an increase of 141,921 over the previous year, according to Wilfred Shaw, Secretary of the AFBF.

The five highest state Farm Bureaus in the country are: Illinois, 142,937; Iowa, 127,719; New York, 87,336; Indiana, 85,459 and North Carolina, 65,109. Michigan ranks eleventh in the United States for membership.

American Farm Bureau Federation continues to hold the title of the Nation's largest farmer organization. Mr. Shaw points out, Farm Bureaus in 45 states and Puerto Rico make up the 28 year old Federation, which, in 1933, had only 163,246 members.

New Soybean For Michigan Growers

A new soybean which promises to be of importance to Michigan farmers was described this week by Leyton V. Nelson, Michigan State college farm crops extension specialist.

The bean, called "Hawkeye" is also being released this year in several of the other states in the northern part of the soybean belt.

Work on the variety began nearly 10 years ago, when two familiar varieties, Mukden and Richland, were crossed in Iowa. The crosses were tested further and found to be superior for yield and oil.

The Hawkeye is earlier and has more lodging resistance than either Lincoln or Earlyanna and ranks as one of the stiffest of the better yielding varieties.

The seed supply of the Hawkeye is limited. In order to build up the seed supply in 1948, all seed will be allocated to growers who will grow it for certification.

A few of the most common livestock pests are flies, lice, grubs and ticks.

tion continues to hold the title of the Nation's largest farmer organization. Mr. Shaw points out, Farm Bureaus in 45 states and Puerto Rico make up the 28 year old Federation, which, in 1933, had only 163,246 members.

\$30,000 in PRIZES for MALTING BARLEY

ALSO TROPHIES, ALL-EXPENSE TRIPS and FARM YOUTH AWARDS are offered in 1948 Midwest Malting Barley Contest open only to farmers in North and South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan who plant approved varieties of barley.

PLAN NOW to grow this cash grain crop in 1948. For information and seed sources—see your County Agent, Elevator Mgr., or write

MIDWEST BARLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION 828 North Broadway, Milwaukee 2, Wisconsin

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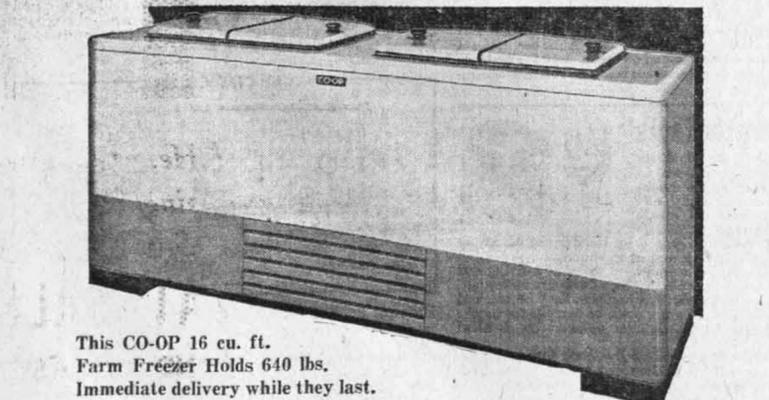
State Mutual policies cover all power driven machinery used on your farm except trucks. Only limitations are the value of the machinery itself and amount of insurance carried. ... ANOTHER STATE MUTUAL FEATURE!

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"State Mutual Insures Every Fifth Farm in Michigan—Ask Your Neighbors!"
Optimum for Agents in Some Communities

Hundreds of Michigan Farmers Are ENJOYING FARM HOME FREEZERS



Butchering time is here! Think of the convenience of having a full stock of frozen foods right at your finger tips. No need to drive long distances to get it. You can buy when markets are favorable and store foods for your table in freezer fresh condition. Live better, eat better at bigger savings with this low-cost CO-OP Home Freezer.

The 16 cu. ft. Co-op Chest-type or the Unico 15 cu. ft. and 30 cu. ft. Freezers are the latest word in modern food conservation and convenience. Fully warranted for five years.

See Your Local Farm Bureau Dealer Today
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.
Farm Equipment Division 221 N. Cedar Street Lansing, Michigan

FARMERS' WEEK TO FEATURE ENGINEERING

Easier and more efficient farming with new agricultural engineering developments will be spotlighted during Farmers' Week, to be held at Michigan State College, January 26 through 30, 1948.

Sessions will be held in the new agricultural engineering building, located on Farm Lane on the East Lansing campus.

Michigan State college staff members will conduct discussions dealing with varied problems such as hay making and storage, irrigation for farm crops, vegetables, and flowers; dairy labor saving; new equipment for farms; and electrification. Other sessions will deal with the farmer's interest in the tourist business and activities of the department's service to tourist and resort operators; farm safety; and reports on the engineering work done by the MSC Agricultural Experiment Station.

Agricultural engineering meetings will feature hay making and brigation on Tuesday; farm structures and general problems on Wednesday; and Thursday sessions will concentrate on rural electrification and the tourist and resort service.

GEORGE SCHULTZ RETIRES AS F.B. REPRESENTATIVE

George Schultz of Paw Paw, Michigan Farm Bureau membership representative of district one, retires January 11, 1948 after 11 years of service with the organization.

Richard Nelson, of Grand Rapids, who has been working with Mr. Schultz will become the new Farm Bureau representative for that district. Mr. Nelson has been a member of the Mason County Farm Bureau since 1940 and is a former state president of the Junior Farm Bureau during 1943-44 year.

He has been working for several years as one of the first part time county organization directors in the state. Mr. Nelson served on the resolutions committee in 1945.

Directory Issued By Clinton Farm Bureau

A 23 page directory of information about their organization was recently issued by the Clinton County Farm Bureau. The printed booklet carries the names of all the 1300 or more members in the county.

The directory also lists the officers of the Junior and Senior Farm Bureaus as well as the members of the county's action committee and the officers of the 21 Farm Bureau community groups.

A Message to All Members



The feed department of your Farm Bureau Services should have expressed their appreciation of your wholehearted support of Farm Bureau feeds at Thanksgiving time. We are really thankful for the co-operation you have given us.

Co-operation Profitable

We are certain that such co-operation has been profitable to you because your Farm Bureau Feeds have no superiors, whether it is MILKMAKER for cows, MERMASHES for poultry or PORKMAKER for hogs. They are all made for you with your needs and your welfare given every consideration.

WANTED—More Members to Be Served!

NOW—A new year is here! We want to serve more of your Farm Bureau members and thus serve you better by making more savings available to you. Increased volume can do this. SO—we want to express, along with our appreciation of past support, a sincere welcome to any of you Farm Bureau members who have not used Farm Bureau feeds and to the ranks of loyal and interested farmers who believe that their dollars spent with their own organization for commodities used on the farm are dollars wisely spent.

Buy Quality Open Formula Farm Bureau Feeds

MERMASHES MILKMAKERS PORKMAKERS

At Your Local Farm Bureau Dealer

Wishing You Happy, Prosperous New Year

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.
Feed Department
221 N. Cedar Street Lansing 4, Michigan

American Farm Bureau On National Policies

Background Material for Discussion this month by Our Community Farm Bureau Discussion Groups
By NORMAN K. WAGGONER, Research and Education

Will federal taxes be reduced or increased? When the present farm price policy expires during the coming year, what will take its place? Who will write the new policy? What should be done to curb the rising cost of living?

Will adequate funds be available for research in improving marketing methods to stimulate consumption of farm products? A sizable portion of the output of many farm products has gone into foreign trade in recent years which has had a very direct effect on farm prices. Will these exports be continued, expanded or will they be curbed? Who will decide the issue?

These are a few of the issues which must be decided during the next few months. They are all issues which directly concern farm people. Who is going to make the decisions? What part will farmers have in directing such decisions?

Organized farmers and their representatives throughout Michigan and the United States met at the American Farm Bureau Federation convention in Chicago during the week of December 15 to determine their policy on these matters. How much weight their voice carries in the final decisions depends largely upon how aggressive the members are in urging their position.

What Can We Do About Inflation? Farmers are very much concerned about inflated prices because they are aware that when prices begin to fall, the prices received by farmers fall faster and further than do the prices paid by farmers. The cost of living in Michigan has increased steadily since 1939 and it is now 1 6/10 times the 1935-1939 average. Likewise, wholesale prices of all commodities have increased steadily since 1939 and are now 2 3/10 times the 1935-1939 average. Further, it is calculated that the dollar is now worth only about 60 cents as compared with the pre-war dollar.

Individuals and organized groups are expressing concern about inflated prices and the high cost of living. Several suggestions have been advanced by various groups. Some have recommended that we return to rationing and various methods of price controls. Others have suggested that foreign exports be reduced and, in some cases, eliminated. Some have advised that steps be taken to increase the output of consumer goods. The following table gives some information concerning the output of industrial production by years as compared with 1935-1939:

Year	Increase over 1935-39
1941	1.6
1943	2.4
1945	2.0
1947	1.8

The voting delegates at the American Farm Bureau convention recommended:
1—That the re-establishment of price controls and rationing be avoided.
2—That the use of excessive consumer credit be restrained.
3—That all citizens accept their responsibility to produce the greatest possible volume of useful goods and service.

What Should Our Farm Price Policy Be? The following information, taken from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, shows the relationship of present farm prices to the average for 1935-1939:

Commodity	1935-1939 Sept. 1947
Milk, cwt.	\$1.78 \$ 4.35
Hogs, cwt.	5.68 27.20
Potatoes, bu.	0.67 1.80
Navy beans, cwt.	3.94 11.50
Wheat, bu.	0.80 2.52
Apples, bu.	0.90 2.20

On the other hand, the question might be asked, "How does the cost of production of various farm products compare with pre-war costs?" The following information, taken from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics statistics makes a comparison of present costs with those which prevailed during the years previous to World War II:

Commodity	Increase over 1935-39
Feed	2.6
Seed	2.4
Fertilizer	1.3
Equipment and supplies	1.5
Wages	3.4

Farmers will recall the tragedy which befell agriculture when, in 1921, farm prices dropped 43%. Farmers hope that this experience will never happen again. Organized farmers recognized that within the next twelve months the present price policy, which pledges the support of the federal government to maintain farm prices at 90% of parity will expire on December 31, 1948. Will a new policy be written or will it be allowed to expire? If it is written, what will organized farmers have to say about it?

American Farm Bureau recommendations:
1—That sufficient flexibility be allowed in acreage adjustment programs to meet changing needs in production consumption.
2—That price supports should vary from 60 to 90% of parity in accordance with the supply and price position of farm commodities.
3—That anytime the parity for any commodity is out of line with

the parity price for another agricultural commodity, the Secretary of Agriculture shall adjust the price for the commodity.

4—That the present parity formula, which is based on 1910-1914 period should be adjusted to a ten-year moving average, where each year the year would be added to the base period and the most distant year dropped from the base period, therefore keeping the average current.

What Can We Do About Federal Taxes? The cost of federal, state, and local government in 1947 will be about \$372 per person in Michigan. We continually make increased demands on the government for service. Consequently, the cost of government is steadily increasing. Last year the cost of operating the federal government was 3 1/2 times what it was during 1939. The total public debt at present amounts to \$4.25 per employed worker. People everywhere are concerned about this public debt. Some contend that it should be retired as rapidly as it is economically possible to do so. There are those who would keep the present federal taxes high and pay off the national debt. There are others who contend that the cost of living is now at such a point it has become necessary to reduce the personal income tax. There is a bill now receiving consideration which would raise the personal income tax exemption from \$500 to \$600, thereby eliminating a million or more people from the income tax roll. The voting delegates at the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation recognized that this was a matter worthy of consideration by farmers.

American Farm Bureau recommendations:
1—That this period of inflation is not the time for any material reduction in income rates.
2—That all non-essential governmental expenditures be eliminated and all remaining revenue used to reduce the national debt.
3—Prompt but temporary reduction of the lower-bracket personal income tax rate be provided for during periods of low business activity.
4—That a federal sales tax be avoided.
5—That federal excise taxes be limited to amusements and the so-called luxury goods, including alcoholic liquors and tobaccos.
6—That the transportation tax and the tax on communications should be repealed.

What About Farm Credit? Recently the United States Treasury received approximately \$76,750,000 from the Federal Land Bank at St. Paul. At this time, all twelve of the Farm Credit Administrations' federal land banks became wholly owned by the farmers who have loans from them. The co-operative federal land bank system is now owned entirely by those who use it. Since the land banks were established on July 17, 1916, over 1,250,000 farmers have borrowed all five billion dollars. Complete member-ownership is now likely to continue indefinitely. During the period of low prices, which followed the period of inflated prices immediately after World War I, farmers everywhere came to appreciate the value of farm credit.

American Farm Bureau made recommendations:
1—That every effort be made to eliminate inefficiency, and overlapping, and duplications so that further progress may be made in placing farm credit agencies on the self-sustaining basis.
2—That the portion of a loan above the present 65% lending limit be underwritten in some manner designed to insure the bank against loss on the extra risk portion of the loans.
3—That the present limitation of \$50,000 to any one borrower be eliminated.
4—That the Farm Bureau oppose any attempts to enact legislation which would require the Farm Credit Administration to secure the necessary funds from annual appropriations instead of from the issuance of bonds and debentures.

These are a few of the major issues considered by the voting delegates at the national convention. Every effort is made here to set forth the position as established by these delegates.

MCCABE SAYS NTEA INTERESTED ONLY IN CO-OPS

Ben McCabe, President of the anti-farm co-op Nat'l Tax Equality Ass'n, told the House Ways and Means Committee that he thinks labor organizations have a right to organize co-ops but ought to be investigated. He said farm and consumer co-ops are escaping taxation to the extent of \$300,000,000 a year.

When Mr. McCabe was asked what the National Tax Equality Association had investigated besides co-ops in the interest of tax equality, he said that there were some things the NTEA hadn't got around to yet.

Mr. McCabe was sharply questioned by Representative Carl T. Curtis, Nebraska Republican, who asked: "If there was a town in Nebraska that had five elevators, and one was a corporation owned by local business men, one was owned by an individual proprietor, one which was owned by four partners, the fourth was owned by fifty farmers, and the fifth was owned by a business man who gave it to a college. How would you tax them? And would you tax them equally?"

McCabe said the question was too tough, and Curtis asked if tax equality was what McCabe is interested in. It was at this point that McCabe admitted the NTEA hasn't bothered with questions of tax equality divorced from co-ops.

The Minneapolis grain dealer told the committee that his business has been very good but he doesn't like the competition of cooperatives. He said CIO and AFL pamphlets on cooperatives are too critical of the profit system. Asked whether he believes co-ops are communist in tendency, he said, "I do not really believe so," and shrugged off "little articles and little boxes in our paper" in which the terms was used.

He denied that the NTEA employs thirty lobbyists, said the number should be three. He asked the committee not to insist that he divulge the names of contributors to the NTEA for fear of reprisals by the co-ops.

Fulton Lewis, Jr., whose anti-coop broadcasts have been heavily promoted by the NTEA, commented later over the air that McCabe went too far in proposing that patronage refunds be taxed. "That actually would place a more severe tax burden on co-operatives than the ones that tests at the present time on private concerns," Lewis conceded.

BARRY DIRECTORS BUILD WORKING COMMITTEES

Barry County Farm Bureau board of directors has a committee program that commends itself to other county organizations for getting a lot of work done by many interested people.

This fall President Albert Shellenger asked each of the ten members of the board to appoint at least four members to work with them on their committee assignments in the expanded Farm Bureau program.

At the December board meeting, each director reported that he had at least four people to work with him, which means that about fifty people are going to be doing committee work.

January 8, the following Barry County Farm Bureau committees will start: Membership, Women's Activities, Junior Farm Bureau, Community Groups, Publicity, Program Planning, Resolutions, Legislative, Social and Recreational Meetings, Hospital Service and Farm Commodities.

All delegates attending the state and national Farm Bureau meetings were asked to serve as resource persons at information meeting set for Dec. 29 for the chairman, discussion leaders and secretaries of 33 Community Farm Bureau groups.

Mrs. Herbert Powell
Mrs. May Powell, wife of Herbert Powell, former state commissioner of agriculture, and the mother of Stanley Powell, legislative counsel for the Michigan Farm Bureau, died at her home December 25 at Ionia after having been in ill health for the past three years.

SENATOR AIKEN DENOUNCES ATTACK ON CO-OPS

In an address to the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association annual convention at St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 6, Senator George D. Aiken of Vermont lauded cooperatives as "free enterprise in action" and proposed that "The Congress of the United States should require the National Tax Equality Association and other power seeking class organizations to make full and open financial reports, and to pay taxes on their enormous cash incomes."

"They not only do not pay a dollar of income tax on these collections," Aiken said, "but the contributor is actually permitted to deduct the amount he gives from his own income in making his personal return."

"Why" he asked, "should organizations established for the express purpose of creating class prejudice be permitted to avoid the payment of taxes on millions of dollars contributed for this purpose?"

Aiken went directly to the heart of the farm co-op tax dispute and denounced "the vigorous and vicious campaign which is constantly being conducted for the purpose of putting the farmer in a false light."

"I am not attacking American industry," Aiken explained. "As a whole, industry is as conscientious as other groups, but there are monopoly-seeking elements of industry and commerce that know no scruples. They are determined to break the strength of organized agriculture at any cost, by any means."

"They would deny the farmer the right to market his grain and other crops except through channels which are controlled, and all too often exploited, by monopoly-seekers."

"They would deny the farmer the right to purchase his gasoline and oil except at a price above that

which he should pay."
"It is to the everlasting credit of our industrial workers that not one of our leaders, so far as I have been able to determine, has attempted to put the blame on the farmer for the unprecedented high cost of living which exists today."
"They seem to know, as we know, that the campaign against farmers is designed to promote class antagonism between those who work in the factory and those who work on the farm, and to divert attention from some of the real culprits that contribute to the high cost of living."

HEALTH UNIT VOTE BACKED BY LAPEER F. B. WOMEN

Voters of Lapeer county may have the opportunity to decide next September whether or not their county will have a health unit providing five per cent of the registered voters sign petitions being circulated by the women of the Lapeer County Farm Bureau.

Under an act introduced at the last session of the legislature, an election is now mandatory if petitions are signed by five per cent of the registered voters. Prior to the passage of this act, a health unit could only be established by the board of supervisors.

The Lapeer county board of supervisors refused twice last year to establish a health unit for the county on the grounds of inability on the part of the county to foot the estimated bill of \$20,000 annually. The county clerk estimates that it will take 500 signatures to bring the issue before the voters next fall.

Good farm drain tile should be dense, uniform in shape have proper strength, and be free from checks, cracks, or foreign material which will cause slacking or disintegration.

LITTLE CHANGE IN TAX FIGURING FOR FARMERS' RETURNS

Farmers will find the job of figuring their federal income tax returns comparatively easy this year. The tax forms, rates, and information needed are the same as last year.

E. M. Elwood, farm management specialist at Michigan State college, explains that two changes in procedure may affect some farmers in making out the 1947 returns.

The first change in procedure deals with expenses incurred in the preparation and development of farms and orchards. The following are some of the typical expenses no longer deductible as current operating expenses: cost of clearing, leveling and conditioning of land; planting of trees; drilling and equipping wells; building roads, ponds, and terracing; and the cost of physical equipment having a useful life in excess of one year.

A second change involves Michigan's new community property law. Under the new law a farmer and his wife may file separate returns and divide equally all income earned from the farm on or after July 1, 1947. This may result in a tax saving since dividing the income may put each in a surtax bracket where the rates are lower.

HAROLD HOLT WINS 3RD PLACE NAT'L CONTEST

With a subject of "American Farmers Stake in World Peace", Harold Holt, member of Lapeer County Junior Farm Bureau, won third place in the National Speaking Contest for rural youth at the American Farm Bureau convention at Chicago.

The general subject which all the contestants used was, "American Rural Youth and the Problems of the Future". The committee in charge of the contest broke this general subject into seven sub-topics. Each contestant drew from a hat his sub-topic as well as his position of speaking in the contest. He was then allowed 30 minutes to prepare his speech and 5 minutes for delivery.

Each of the contestants were winners in state speaking contests. Mr. Holt, representing Michigan, won at the state speaking contest held at the Junior Farm Bureau convention.

The committee of judges awarded first place to Indiana second to Oklahoma, and third to Michigan.

PREDICT FEWER PIGS IN 1948

A smaller hog crop in 1948 than in 1947 seems likely, believes Don Stark, Michigan State college agricultural economist, commenting on next year's farm outlook. Short grain supplies and high prices for grain are likely to keep some farmers from greater pork production.

The specialist advises that hogs now on Michigan farms be finished out, soft corn or off-grade wheat may be used for this purpose. Marketing at weights around 200 pounds makes more efficient use of grain, but may lower the total production of pork and lard.

Old sows can be disposed of while prices are high and replaced with gilts to farrow next spring. The spring pig crop can then be carried through the summer on good legume-pasture and finished after the 1948 small grain crop is harvested. Feeding specialists say a greater use of protein supplement will decrease the amount of grain needed to feed pigs.

Swine Day will be held at Michigan State college on Wednesday, January 28, 1948, during the 1948 Farmer's Week program.

Plant Farm Bureau Feeds.

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Take time to save time

Have you ever mapped—with pins and thread, or with pencil on paper—the daily "chore route" of your farm or ranch? Have you figured how much back-tracking you do, how many unnecessary extra steps you walk in a day? Have you taken time to save time, and steps, and labor?

A number of agricultural colleges and experiment stations have made practical work studies on farms and ranches, with some astounding results. For example, one dairy farmer (who thought himself pretty efficient) adopted improved machine milking techniques, rearranged his barn to save steps and time in feeding and watering. He saved himself two miles of walking per day, cut his daily chore time by two hours and five minutes. That's 730 miles of walking and 760 hours of work in a year. In making the changes, he spent less than \$50.

Indiana tells of farmers who, by planning their work, are raising hogs with one quarter their former hours of labor... There's a report of men making hay in 90 man-minutes per ton; while others using similar equipment—but older, harder ways of working—spend twice that time... There are scores of other examples.

Perhaps you cannot make such great savings in your operations. Maybe you can make more. It's certainly worth looking into, for even little savings are important. Five steps saved a day makes a mile in a year. Five minutes a day gives you three extra days a year.

There's no master plan to fit every farm and ranch, because no two are exactly the same. You have to work out your own plan of improvement. But the time it takes may well be the most profitable time you've ever spent.

A four-step scheme is suggested. First, consider each job or chore separately. Break it down into its parts. Check each part with a watch or tape measure and see if steps or time can be saved. Second, compare your work methods with those of your neighbors. Third, examine and check the details of your work methods. Fourth, develop and apply the new method. In a nutshell, "Plan your work and work your plan."

Time studies and job analysis have helped Swift & Company increase efficiency and make important savings. That's why we so confidently suggest similar studies in your operations. One excellent bulletin on the subject is Number 307, published by Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. It's interesting reading and well worth writing for. Your county agent or state agricultural college can tell of other bulletins on the same subject.



Soda Bill Sez: ... the man with a dull hoe is wasting nobody's time but his own.

Martha Logan's Recipe for HAM LOAF

- (Yield: One 8 1/4 x 4 1/4 x 2 1/4 inch loaf)
- 3/4 pound ground ham
 - 1 1/2 pounds ground fresh pork
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 cup dry bread crumbs
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 1 cup milk
 - 1/2 cup brown sugar
 - 1 tablespoon dry mustard
 - 2 tablespoons vinegar

Beat eggs. Combine meat, eggs, crumbs, salt, pepper, and milk. Mix thoroughly. Form into loaf in 8 1/4 x 4 1/4 x 2 1/4 inch loaf pan. Combine sugar, mustard, and vinegar. Spread over meat. Bake in a moderate oven (350° F.) 1 hour, or until meat has reached an internal temperature of 185° F.

Track Down the Facts

A great family "man" is *Fiber Zibethicus*, better known to American farmers as the muskrat. He raises his many offspring in marshes, and about streams, lakes and ponds. Muskrat tracks are easily recognized by the drag of his knife-like tail, which shows up well in soft mud.

The muskrat-trapper works hard to make a living out of muskrat skins, and generally his efforts are rewarded. But there is one fact about his business that he tracked down long ago. He knows the price he can get for muskrat skins depends on the popular demand for finished pelts.

In the business of processing livestock into meat for people's use, we at Swift & Company have to keep track of the demand for meat everywhere in the nation. We must know, too, the weights and grades of cuts preferred by housewives. Experience has taught us that the price the producers receive for their livestock is governed by what the meat packers can get for the meat and by products.

How to Save More Pigs

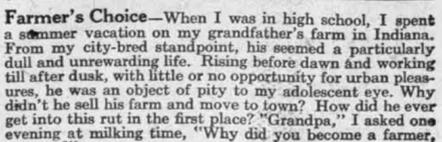
On the average, 44 out of every 100 pigs farrowed in the U. S. A. die before market time, according to North Dakota State College of Agriculture. Of these, 27 are dead at birth or die during the first ten days because they are weak, chilled, crushed, crippled or infected with disease at birth. Much of this loss can be prevented by proper care, as follows:

Balance the sow's ration. In addition to the mineral mixture, a sow should receive ground alfalfa hay or other green leafy hay up to 20% of the ration. Provide protein supplement of animal source, such as skim milk, or meat or bone meal. To prevent hairless pigs, feed iodine, in stabilized form, in the salt or mineral.

The sow should be given plenty of exercise and should be outside each day. She will get additional exercise if fed some distance from her quarters. Have a comfortable and clean farrowing pen with guard rails and an electric brooder, where possible. Wash the sow's udder with soap and water and remove all mud and dirt before she is put in the farrowing pen. Have a man on hand at farrowing time. A little attention at this time will save many pigs.

Prevent anemia by feeding a mineral containing iron and by supplying clean dirt to the young pigs. Keep young pigs off ground utilized by pigs the preceding year. Start creep feeding pigs a balanced ration at two weeks.

OUR CITY COUSIN



Farmer's Choice—When I was in high school, I spent a summer vacation on my grandfather's farm in Indiana. From my city-bred standpoint, he seemed a particularly dull and unworldly life. Rising before dawn and working till after dusk, with little or no opportunity for urban pleasures, he was an object of pity to my adolescent eye. Why didn't he sell his farm and move to town? How did he ever get into this rut in the first place? "Grandpa," I asked one evening at milking time, "Why did you become a farmer, anyway?"

He paused a moment, leaned back on his stool and looked slowly around the barn—at the livestock, at the huge hayrack in the east corner, at the farm tools, at the broad beams that supported the roof. What he saw seemed to reassure him, and I shan't forget his answer: "Just lucky, I guess."

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NUTRITION IS OUR BUSINESS—AND YOURS

Right eating adds life to your years—and years to your life