



## EDITORIAL

### Farm Program and 81st Congress

The long range farm price support program enacted by the 80th Congress is going to be an issue in the 81st Congress.

The Truman administration and the farm organizations are divided on what should be done.

The Farm Bureau, Grange, National Council of Farm Co-operatives and Secretary Brannan of the U. S. Dep't of Agriculture favor a good trial of the Aiken-Hope Agr'l Act of 1948. It provides for price support at 90% of parity for wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco, rice, peanuts, hogs, chickens, eggs, milk, and butterfat, and 60 to 90% support for certain other crops, including potatoes and dry beans. In 1950 the Act applies flexible support to all commodities,—60 to 90% for the first mentioned crops, and 0 to 90% for the others, depending upon supply, etc.

These groups hold that a flexible price support program should not promote the production of surpluses and bring back government control of acreage and production.

On the other hand the cotton growing south and wheat producers of the northwest favor at least 90 percent of parity price support. They would expect a return to acreage and production controls by government. On this side at Washington will be the Farmers Union. Also, Senator Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma, and Rep. Harold Cooley of North Carolina, the new chairmen of the agricultural committees of the Senate and the House in Congress.

### This Was Foreseen Some Years Ago

Since the beginning of the record post-war harvest of 1948, farm prices have declined steadily from levels that were considerably above parity.

The one backstop for the decline is government price support at 90 per cent of parity. The parity price formula for agriculture and price support to make it effective were secured through the efforts of the American Farm Bureau. When and if farm prices reach 90% of parity, price support comes in.

What about the months and years ahead?

The Hope-Aiken long range farm act, passed by Congress last summer at the insistence of the Farm Bureau, continues for another year, through 1949, price support at 90 per cent of parity for the basic crops of wheat, corn, cotton, rice and tobacco. The 90 per cent of parity price support applies to many non-basic commodities, including hogs, milk, butterfat, chickens and eggs.

Starting January 1, 1950, the Hope-Aiken Act sets up a flexible schedule of price support, ranging from 60 to 90 per cent of parity for the basic crops and many non-basic crops. The 60 to 90 per cent support is designed to make production of surpluses unattractive.

The price declines that have taken place in farm prices are a warning of what could happen without parity prices for farm products and price support legislation. Farm prices were allowed to crash after the first World War.

### Farmers Must Invest in Their Co-ops

The trend of large farm co-operatives throughout the United States is to add manufacturing and ownership of sources of raw materials to the farm supplies service.

Their objectives are to do a better job for farmer members, to be sure of being able to operate at capacity, and to do the job for less money.

Pacific Supply Co-operative serves farmers in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, and put it this way: "We don't want to go out and buy 15 to 20 million additional gallons of petroleum products and pay a premium of \$250,000 to \$300,000. It would be far better to use that money in attempting to find our own crude oil."

So Pacific Supply Co-operative is going to its farmer membership for \$1,000,000 in preferred stock for the purpose of developing crude oil production and to build a needed phosphate fertilizer plant.

Here in Michigan we are proceeding in the same direction. We have built and are operating a modern fertilizer plant at Saginaw which is capable of producing 50,000 tons of mixed fertilizer annually. We have launched the Farmers Petroleum Co-operative, Inc., which distributed 15,000,000 gallons of liquid fuels alone in 1948 as the petroleum department of the Farm Bureau Services, Inc. The

### Typical Scene in 56 Counties During Farm Bureau Roll Call



Photo Courtesy Bay City Times

This scene has been or will have been repeated approximately 50,000 times during the annual membership roll call campaign. Above we see Henry Clark, Bad Axe farmer (left) paying his 1949 membership dues to Bruce Crumback, president of the Huron County Farm Bureau (center) and Curtis Hopson (right), roll call manager for the eastern half of Huron county. 148 volunteer workers made a house-to-house canvass in Huron county in an effort to sign up a Huron County Farm Bureau goal of 1,199 farmers for 1949. So far they have enrolled 1,082 members, which is 100% of the state goal for Huron county.

### MEMBERSHIP TOTAL NOW 60 PCT. OF 1949 GOAL

All of the 48 organized County Farm Bureaus are out on their membership drives for 1949. Ottawa and Kalamazoo were the last two counties to start their roll calls. Out in the state, over 5,500 volunteer workers are giving freely of their time to help their County Bureaus. The county goals are figured to a formula based on the number of commercial farmers and the number of Farm Bureau members in the county in 1948. The total of the county goals makes a goal for the state of 43,680 members.

Already, eight counties have reached their marks. Alpena county took the lead by getting 217% of their county goal, and they say they haven't stopped yet. Alpena was followed by Presque Isle, Otsego, Emmet, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Cheboygan, and Huron counties. Huron county is the largest county to report reaching their goal by signing over 1,082 Farm Bureau members. Curtis Hopson and Earl Kuhl, the roll call managers for Huron county, report that they have 148 volunteer workers in their county.

Other counties are nearing their goals, while many counties are just getting their roll calls well under way. At the present time, we have about 60% of our goal. Reports from the counties are increasing this percentage every day.

### PATRONS SAVE DURING WINTER OIL SALE

Many Farm Bureau patrons who have been farsighted in getting their Spring season's supply of petroleum products during Farm Bureau Services' winter oil sale have saved themselves dollars that may be used for other purposes.

The purpose of the sale, which is an annual event, is to spread out the business in the petroleum field by providing for spring oil requirements during the winter months.

Through quantity purchasing the cost of distribution is lowered considerably and the savings are passed on to the consumer at the point of sale. You get the same high quality oils that are handled the year around.

The sale continues during February, so if you have a few minutes, stop in at your local Farm Bureau dealer or Co-op association and let them tell you how much you can save by purchasing your oil needs now.

### Farm Machinery

If you're planning to buy a large and expensive farm machine, neighbors may be interested in joining with you on a cooperative basis in the purchase.

Farm Bureau members are working for farm prices that compare favorably with labor and industry.

## Insurance Company In Final Stages

### Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan Names Nile Vermillion As Its State Manager

It shouldn't be long now until the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan is authorized by the State of Michigan to start writing automobile insurance for members of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Nile Vermillion has been named manager of our insurance company. He came from Nebraska where he was ass't manager of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Insurance Co. He has been in Michigan since mid-January and is getting his organization in order.

Application was made some time ago to the proper state authorities for a license to operate. There is considerable to do in setting up an automobile insurance company in accordance with state requirements. for the Central Surety and Insurance Co. of Kansas City, Mo. In Nebraska he became ass't manager of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Insurance Company, and ass't manager of the Farmers Hospital Ass'n of Nebraska. During the war he served three years in the navy as a lieutenant. He was legal assistance and insurance officer, and had service as a communications officer aboard ship in the Pacific area.



NILE VERMILLION

We have found that even with things moving smoothly it takes quite a bit of time. But the end is in sight.

All persons who have indicated interest in purchasing some of the \$250,000 of surplus certificates of the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan have been sent a copy of the prospectus for the Company and a subscription agreement so that they may make their purchase. When the surplus certificates have been converted into cash, the Company has working capital. This should be completed very soon. Nearly 4,000 persons have made application for charter policies.

No one should cancel his present insurance now. When the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company is ready to give service, applicants for charter policies will be notified in such manner so that they can arrange for Farm Bureau insurance to take over without any gap in their protection.

Nile Vermillion was chosen as manager of our insurance company on the basis of his success in the automobile insurance field. He is a graduate of the law dept of the University of Missouri. He served as legal counsel for the Missouri Dep't of Insurance for 3 years, and later was chief of the claims dept.

### 40,000 MICHIGAN ACRES IRRIGATED; CROPS RESPOND

Michigan in 1948 had about 1,000 portable pipe irrigation systems irrigating some 40,000 acres. The increased crop returns due to irrigation were estimated at more than \$2,000,000. F. W. Peikert of the Michigan State college agr'l engineering dept made this statement at a Farmers' Week meeting the week of January 24.

Field corn yields were much higher under irrigation, Mr. Peikert said. In Van Buren county irrigated corn yielded 49 bushels per acre compared to 22 bushels when not irrigated. In Montcalm county sugar beets produced 15 tons per acre when irrigated as against 7 tons. Irrigated field beans produced as much as 25 bushels per acre as against 10 bushels to the acre when water was not applied.

### Mills Opens Unico West Coast Office

R. Wayne Mills, former manager of the United Co-operatives chemicals department, on January 10 opened the United Co-operatives west coast office at 1120 San Francisco bank building, 405 Montgomery Street, San Francisco. United's western members are the Washington Farmers Co-operative ass'n at Seattle and the Utah Poultry and Farmers Co-operative at Salt Lake City. United expects to make its services available to other farm co-operatives in Arizona, California, Oregon and Idaho. Mr. Mills was employed for many years by Farm Bureau Services, Inc., of Lansing, Michigan.

Use Farm Bureau Feeds.

### PETROLEUM CO-OP WOULD RAISE \$550,000 CAPITAL

On January 20 nearly 199 co-operative directors, managers and employees met in Lansing to review and discuss the progress of the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. Forty-three people selected from this group wrote the examination to sell the securities of the new organization. Upon receiving their licenses, they will supplement the force which had been licensed previously and assist in the campaign which will be held during February to raise an additional \$250,000. This will give the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative a total paid in capital of \$500,000 which is the minimum amount required in order to proceed on any one of a number of proposals which the organization has under consideration.

The supply picture has eased at least temporarily since the farmers, through their co-operative organizations, initiated this program of self-help. Whether or not Michigan farmers are to be assured of an adequate supply of petroleum products and at a reasonable cost is entirely dependent upon their willingness to finance their own organization. That farmer co-operative organizations and independent oil marketers are in a vulnerable position is a recognized fact in the oil industry.

On February 28, a group of independent oil men and co-operative leaders will get together in Kansas City for the purpose of discussing their mutual problems. The co-operatives will be headed by Howard Cowden, manager of Consumers Cooperative Association, and the independent group will be led by Gordon Duke, former chairman of National Oil Jobbers Council. Mr. Duke has been quoted as follows: "We have said to the farmer co-operatives, 'Help and guide us in finding a solution to some of our problems and we will be glad to reciprocate'."

The major concern of all farmers and co-operative leaders in Michigan at the present time should be adequate financing for a sound petroleum program.

### NMPC INSTITUTE AT GAYLORD FEB. 17-18

Farm Bureau people, school officials, extension and soil conservation leaders will attend the first institute sponsored by the Northern Michigan Agricultural Planning Committee at Gaylord, Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 17 and 18.

At the two day session the importance and the relationship of farm co-operatives, the right type of rural schools, soil conservation and extension for northern Michigan will be discussed.

Prominent speakers will introduce these subjects at general sessions. After that classes will be held for these agricultural leaders: presiding officers of local groups, secretaries, discussion leaders, Junior Farm Bureau leaders and counselors, and extension people.

The institute convenes at the Gaylord high school Monday, Feb. 17 at 11 a. m. J. F. Yaeger or Keith Tanner will speak on "The Importance and Necessity of a Sound Philosophy of Co-operation for Agriculture."

Monday evening Dr. Lee H. Thurston, sup't of public instruction, will speak on "The Right Kind of Philosophy for Rural Education in Northern Michigan." Tuesday afternoon Mrs. R. H. Musser of the Soil Conservation Service will speak on "The Importance of the Soil to Agriculture and Country Life."

The Northern Michigan Planning Committee was started two years ago by Farm Bureau leaders in northern Michigan. Its first success was the promotion of a regional agr'l extension office, which will have resident specialists in various forms of agr'l extension work to serve 21 counties north of the Mason-Arenac county lines.

### Elkton Asks Lawmakers To Fight Oleo Drive

Strong demands that they fight to the utmost efforts of the oleo lobby to usurp the place of butter from the color standpoint, were made by the Elk Riverside Farm Bureau of Huron county, meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schuette this month. Strong letters were sent Senators Vandenberg and Ferguson and Rep. Jesse P. Wolcott, Jr., as well as to representatives in the Michigan legislature. The group also took steps to co-ordinate the activities of the various Farm Bureau groups in the Elkton Community District.

## Strong Demand for Farm Products in 1949

### Michigan State College Agr'l Economics Dep't Expects Farm Prices a Little Lower, And Costs to Go Up Some

"There will be a strong demand for farm products in 1949," Arthur Mauch of the Michigan State College agr'l economics dep't told one of the Farmers Week meetings January 27.

"Prices will be a little lower and costs a little higher. This does not mean, however, that farmers will be hard up. They have been well established the past few years, and a slight drop in income doesn't mean they are being plunged into a depression.

"Farmers can do three things about prospective reduced incomes," Dr. Mauch said. "First, they must spend wisely. But that is not to say that they must not spend at all. There is no better time to buy equipment than in 1949. If they wait until prices are at rock bottom, their incomes will be low, too.

"Second, farmers should feed generously. They should get their seed and fertilizer early because they are scarce. Fertilizer is relatively low in price. As seeding time approaches, it seems likely that the prices of forage crop seeds will advance.

"Third, farmers must watch long term commitments, and avoid borrowing too much on present incomes, because the future may see them in trouble with such obligations."

There is no general depression in sight, but if one comes, it will strike without warning. Dr. Mauch said that several factors will contribute to making a business recession less severe. They are: government spending, savings, social security and insurance, strong labor unions, and farm price supports.

Dr. Mauch began his discussion by saying that several assumptions were made. First, that there will be no war in 1949, that one must assume that crops will be normal, that the decline in private construction will be offset by government construction, that there will be fewer exports and more imports, and that the federal government budget will be about 45 billion dollars.

### PUSH STOCK SALE FOR SW MICHIGAN LIVESTOCK CO-OP

By B. P. PATTISON, Div. Commodity Relations

The board of directors of the South-West Michigan Livestock Cooperative Inc., and salesmen licensed to sell stock in this area, met at Kalamazoo, January 20, to discuss best methods to pursue in raising necessary finances to provide adequate marketing facilities.

About a year ago delegates from 8 southwestern counties met and organized the South-West Michigan Livestock Cooperative, Inc. with a board of directors of 9 men from the counties of southwestern Michigan.

Authorization has been secured for the sale of 10,000 shares of stock, having a par value of \$10 per share.

All men at the meeting agreed on an aggressive campaign to complete the job of selling the stock to producers during the month of February. Authorized salesmen are as follows: Cass county—James Reagan, Cassopolis, RFD; St. Joseph county—J. Herbert Kinsey, Centerville; Calhoun county—Eric Furu, Room 7, Town Hall, Marshall; Barry county—Dexter Beavers, Portland, R-1; Branch county—Mrs. Belle Newell, 30 W. Chicago St., Coldwater; Kalamazoo county—Date Kirklin, Kalamazoo, R-5; R. E. Hazel, Richland, R-1; Allegan county—James Boyce, Holland R-1 and Van Buren county—L. C. Ford, Berlamont.

This livestock marketing project is sponsored and promoted by Farm Bureau membership in the above counties and is deserving of the necessary financial support to provide marketing facilities. Why not contact the salesman in your county and offer your assistance?

The annual meeting of the South-West Michigan Livestock Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the County Center Building at the fairgrounds in Kalamazoo at 1 o'clock p. m., February 26. All men who buy stock prior to that date are eligible to vote at the annual meeting.

### Mice

Poisoning of mice is an effective way to reduce damage to fruit orchards by rodents say Michigan State college horticulturists.

All policies and programs of the Farm Bureau are written in community, county, state and national meetings.

### 7 Roll Call Workers Win Trip to Saginaw

Seven members of the Ashland Community Farm Bureau of New-aygo county were given a trip to Saginaw recently to inspect the new \$1,250,000 Farm Bureau Services' fertilizer plant as a reward for the best showing in the recent county-wide Farm Bureau membership drive.

The awards in the contest were made on points for members gain ed, members lost and memberships renewed. The men who went to Saginaw were Carl and Earl Robinson, Elver Clough, Harry Brink, Elmer McKinley, Robert J. Anderson and Joe Zerlaut, all of Ashland.

Mr. Zerlaut, 80 years old, is one of the most active members of the Community Farm Bureau, and is also a life member of the Ashland Grange.

### PRICE SUPPORTS SHOULD REFLECT SUPPLY DEMAND

City folks who believe that farmers and farm organizations are concerned with getting only higher and higher government support prices for food crops are entirely wrong, according to Carl E. Buskirk, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, in addressing members of the Jackson County Farm Bureau January 14.

Mr. Buskirk emphasized that price supports can be too high for the good of both the consumer and the producer. He pointed out that this view is reflected by resolutions adopted at the AFBF convention at Atlantic City last December. The convention, at that time, unanimously favored the flexible price support of the Hope-Aiken Act.

"The AFBF," he said, "has refused to endorse an effort to have the 81st Congress junk the flexible support bill in favor of straight 90% of parity supports."

Mr. Buskirk said that this means the Farm Bureau policy favors letting supply and demand play an important part in determining the price of food.

### Buying A Farm

Getting your money's worth in buying a farm is important. One of the first things to check is the productiveness of the soil.

Every Farm Bureau member has an opportunity to express himself and vote on policy resolutions.

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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

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Representing WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU: Mrs. U. S. Newell, Coldwater, R-2

Representing JUNIOR FARM BUREAU: Verland McLeod, Lyons



Saint Valentine

That holiday approaches when D. Cupid, bless his heart, Holds open season once again. He aims his jovial dart At young and old; at rich and poor. His name on every lip Proclaims how glad the world endures his marksmanship.

Dan Cupid, sign and symbol of the greatest force on earth, Has power to move the saddest soul to jollity and mirth. He makes affection glow afresh in hearts like yours and mine. No wonder all the world today salutes St. Valentine.

Oh, greed and hate are powerful, too; they rend the world apart; And ignorance and poverty can crush the human heart. But love it is that raises us to bliss and joy profound. And love it is, from age to age, that makes the world go round.

If men be black or white or brown; of any race or creed, Take love from out the hearts of them and they are hearts indeed. But be his color what it may; his fortunes gay or sad, With honest love inside his heart no man is really bad.

Then let us all together greet and truly celebrate The holiday that's sacred to the noblest human trait And let us welcome his approach in every aspect fine And with our hand upon our heart salute St. Valentine.

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

Farm Bureau members are working for farm prices that compare favorably with labor and industry. Many Congressmen rely on the Farm Bureau for accurate facts and figures pertaining to agriculture.

Community Farm Bureau Activities

By Mrs. Marjorie Gardner

STAR AWARDS: Gold Star—Crystal Lake, Oceana county, Mrs. Helen Gilliland, Sec'y. Silver Star—Gaines, Genesee county, Mrs. Gatha Wykes, Sec'y. CONGRATULATIONS

Berrien-Bedinger. Members of the Bedinger Community Farm Bureau were surprised by a group of carolers from the Junior Farm Bureau at their December meeting. A Christmas party with all the trimmings was held. The Juniors' thoughtfulness was appreciated very much, reports Secretary Mrs. C. M. Bedinger.

St. Joseph-North Lockport. Members are taking action to assist in getting electrical service for the Schock schoolhouse in their area. They propose that the school be placed on a Michigan Gas & Electric line which now runs only about half a mile from the school.

Van Buren-Lee. December marked the beginning of a new Community Farm Bureau in Van Buren county. They spent their time at their meeting organizing and discussing the Farm Bureau and its program.

Branch-Sherwood. Secretary, Mrs. Bennett, reports that the members of her group made out a list of prospective Farm Bureau members in their area and forwarded it to the County Farm Bureau Secretary so that they may receive the county paper and be contacted in the coming roll call.

Eaton-East Chester. Announcement was made at the December meeting by the Secretary, Mrs. Alton White, that their group had received a Certificate Award from the Michigan Farm Bureau for outstanding achievements during the past year.

Mecosta-Pogy. Members of this group held a Christmas tea. Seven carloads of people visited 11 different Farm Bureau homes and enjoyed treats and the different Christmas decorations at each stop. In all they traveled about 10 miles during the evening.

Saginaw-Thomas. Members heard an interesting discussion of publicity, its value and how to write it from a member of the Saginaw News editorial staff as a special feature of their December meeting, reports Secretary Mrs. Carl W. Miller.

Antrim-Torch Lake. Various members of the group were given specific responsibilities regarding their community problems. Each was named to look into a particular phase to see where it might be improved. They are as follows: Telephone facilities, Paul Hejtle; all weather farm to market roads, Lennie Haller; rural electrification, Bruce Bergendorf; dump grounds, Frank Hooper; fire protection, Berrien Crawford; township parks, John Campbell.

Montmorency-Briley. A new group was added to this newly formed Montmorency County Farm Bureau during the month of December. The meeting consisted of the election of officers and a discussion of the Farm Bureau, its history and benefits, reports newly elected secretary, Mrs. Isabelle Briley.

Montmorency-North Branch. Newly signed members of the Farm Bureau also held their organization meeting of the newly formed North Branch Community Farm Bureau in December. Mrs. Paul Bahke was named as secretary, and Amos Basel as discussion leader.

Ogemaw-Neal. Secretary Mrs. Alma Frahm reports the organization of a new Community Farm Bureau in the new County Farm Bureau of Ogemaw during the month of December. Devere Borden was elected as discussion leader and Cecil Graber as chairman.

Presque Isle-Swan River. Members of the Swan River Community Farm Bureau are saving their old copies of the Michigan Farm News to be distributed to prospective Farm Bureau members in their area during their Roll Call.

Ingham-Onondaga. We will hold our next meeting Feb. 24 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Townsend. Edna Dekett, sec'y.

Buy Farm Bureau Seeds.

on the question, "Are Hard Times Ahead for Farmers?" Charles Rhodes, chairman, presided at the business meeting. Community singing was led by Mrs. Chum Dossion. A potluck luncheon preceded the meeting.

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 1)

Petroleum Co-operative is interested in acquiring or developing crude oil production and refining services.

Both the Services and the Petroleum Co-operative are inviting Farm Bureau members, farmer patrons and farmers co-operatives to invest in their securities.

What's going on in other states? Farmer members of the Co-operative Grange League Federation of New York have bought \$6,133,000 of two preferred stock issues. Southern States Co-operative at Richmond, Va., has sold \$7,887,200 in 4% preferred to finance oil refining operations. Indiana Farm Bureau Co-operative Ass'n has sold \$3,409,700 of its 4% preferred shares to finance oil production and distribution facilities. Farmers Union Central Exchange of St. Paul is offering its farmer members \$3,000,000 in 3% preferred for oil refining expansion. The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Co-operative has sold \$1,209,250 of 4% preferred stock and certificates of indebtedness to farmer patrons. Co-operator patrons of the Consumers Co-operative Ass'n of Kansas City own \$5,494,796 of its 4% preferred stock. They also have the largest co-operative oil business in the nation, with oil production, refineries and a tremendous distribution system. CCA service and performance has encouraged that investment.

A Slip of the Tongue, Perhaps

When the Detroit Free Press is disappointed in the legislature—which is quite often—it is likely to mention that the legislature is dominated by the rural members, meaning that we have too many of them.

January 15 the Free Press remarked editorially that it doubted that Governor Williams could raise the taxes to finance his program. Why?

Said the Free Press, "Not with a Republican legislature, dominated by a rural bloc, which certainly has no spendthrift tendencies."

90 Million Live on 1% of the Land

The United States may be one of the world's most populous nations and the most heavily industrialized as well, but it is still essentially a land of wide open spaces.

Though the country's population has been growing at a record rate and is rapidly approaching the 150 million mark, some 90 million people, or more than three-fifths of the total population, live on less than one per cent of the nation's land area. Only 15 million of 1905 million acres of land area in the United States is occupied by towns and cities of more than 1000 population.

Even in the industrialized East, the population density is more apparent than real. In the four states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey, the urban sections comprise only from 8 to 15 per cent of their land areas. In most states the urban areas total less than one per cent.

Somewhat over 400 million acres are used for crop raising, a figure that has not changed appreciably for several decades. Nearly half of that cropland is located in the nine states in the corn belt and the northern plains states.

More than four-fifths of our total land area is used in agriculture, either for raising crops or for grazing livestock. The remaining fifth includes the non-farm forests, the parks, game refuges, highways, railroads, military reservations, the deserts and rocky regions, and the urban areas.

St. Louis Co-op Creamery Annual

Members of St. Louis Co-operative Creamery Co. gathered in the high school gymnasium at St. Louis Saturday, February 5, for their annual meeting.

Manager Fred Walker reported business activities of the firm during 1948. The annual report said the average producer price for the 1948 business year was \$3.94 per hundred pounds of 3.5 milk and 86c per pound of butterfat, contained in farm-separated cream. This was the highest average price ever paid by the St. Louis plant.

J. F. Yeager, managing director of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives, spoke on "Your Co-operative is Your Most Valuable Farming Tool."

Wheeler Farm Bureau Discusses Finances

Farmers should expect a gradual decline in farm prices rather than a sudden drop, and a sound price support program will benefit farmers during the leveling off period. These were the conclusions reached by the Wheeler Community Farm Bureau of Gratiot county at their annual meeting.

Looking Ahead

JANUARY 1949 STATEMENT OF MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE AGR'L ECONOMICS DEPT

Inflation has reached a peak! Or has it? Well, anyway, inflationary pressures are less than they were at mid-year. Prices of industrial products are showing considerable stability, with declines in a few lines. Farm products prices continue to decline. Employment is high and industrial production in November maintained its October post-war peak.

There is no general depression in sight. But there is rough going ahead for some industries. Already there have been lay-offs in the following lines: household appliances, watches, jewelry, leather, wearing apparel, furniture, building materials, railroads, and even automobiles. In the manufacturing industries, the average work week is below 40 hours for the first time since 1940.

The dollar will buy more in 1949—particularly of food and clothing. Consumers in general will get a break. White-collar workers and fixed-income folks will gain. Farmers will lose. Business will have tougher sledding. The position of labor is questionable. Shorter hours may bring less income even if wages go higher. But lower prices will mean high purchasing power—for those employed.

Don't write off the chances for more inflation in 1949. Watch Congress! If they go all out for an increased spending program, many non-farm prices will go up.

Classified Ads

Classified advertisements are cash with order at the following rates: 5 cents per word for one edition. Ads to appear in two or more editions take the rate of 4 cents per word per edition.

Classified Ads section containing various listings: FARM MACHINERY (Stewart Shearing Machines, Motor, Oil starting compressor), VETERINARY REMEDIES (Man For Mastitis, Penicillin, Sulfanilamide), LIVE STOCK (MILKING SHORTHORN BULLS, HOLSTEIN HEIFERS), CORRIEDALE AND SUPOLK sheep, WOOL GROWERS, MAPLE SYRUP, BULBS, PLANTS, SEEDS, MAPLE SYRUP CANNS, COTTON BAGS, FREE NEW BOOK!

Governor Suggests Corporate Tax Boost

Principal Matters Before Legislature Deal With Securing New Money to Finance State Government and Highways

By STANLEY M. POWELL

Money matters seem to provide the principal headaches for the Michigan lawmakers as the legislative session goes into its second month. Governor G. Mennen Williams has made three personal appearances before the legislature. January 6 he submitted his general message. A week later he presented his budget and financial recommendations. At that time he pointed out that the state was already operating in the red. He predicted a 21-million-dollar operating deficit for the current fiscal year and a 61-million-dollar operating deficit for the next fiscal year.

Governor Williams said that this would not be due to his program of social legislation, or to waste, or extravagance, or to any unnecessary capital expenditures but to the fact that governmental costs have gone up along with everything else. He also stressed that sales tax diversion leaves the state with only 22c out of each dollar of sales tax revenue. He asserted that it was his firm conviction that the only solution of Michigan's financial difficulties would be additional taxation.

State Finances. On February 2nd the Governor again appeared before the senators and representatives assembled in joint session and once more analyzed the state's financial situation. He pointed out that the state's main source of revenue at the present time is consumer taxes, such as the sales tax, cigarette tax and revenue from the state liquor monopoly and from beer and wine taxes and licenses. He stated: "The poorer a citizen is, the greater proportion of his income he is likely to pay to the state. A tax system relying almost exclusively on consumer taxes is manifestly unfair." He asserted that 4 out of every 5 tax dollars which the state collects is derived from taxes on consumers and said that Michigan can be truly described as a "soak the consumer" state.

The governor suggested a variety of ways in which additional revenue could be provided, but recommended a tax on net corporate income at the rate of 4%. He suggested that the present corporate franchise tax be eliminated. He stated that this procedure would increase state revenues by from \$57 to \$81 million which would approximately offset the deficit which he had anticipated for next year.

It is altogether too soon to make any prediction as to whether or not the legislature will show any disposition to carry out the Governor's recommendation. There is a natural and commendable desire on their part to see how close they can come to balancing the budget without imposing any new taxes.

Highway Finances. The other big money problem before the lawmakers is as to how to finance Michigan highways, roads and streets. A legislative study committee has agreed with the Highway Study Committee of the Michigan Good Roads Federation that present revenues are inadequate to keep our highway system in proper shape to handle the increasing traffic load. Both study groups are in practical agreement that very substantial amounts of additional revenue are needed.

Last week a series of seven bills was introduced simultaneously in the Senate and in the House to carry out the detailed recommendations of the Highway Study Committee. They would raise the gas tax rate to 4.3c per gallon, boost the weight tax on passenger cars from 35c to 50c per 100 weight and increase commercial vehicle licenses by approximately 1/3.

These measures would completely revamp our present system of classifying highways, roads and streets and would make drastic changes in the administration and control of highway matters. They would place all weight and gas tax revenues in one fund and provide for distributing the money on a totally new basis. Townships

would be made financially responsible for 50% of the cost of improving and maintaining what would be known as county local roads. The financial liability of a township would be limited by what it receives in total state aid plus what additional revenue it could raise without exceeding the 15-mill limitation.

That some increase in the gas tax rate will be made by the present legislature seems to be regarded as a foregone conclusion. Whether the rate will be 4c, 4.3c, 4.5c or 5c no one can say as yet. Whether there will be an increase in the weight tax rate and, if so, whether it will include passenger cars or only commercial vehicles, remains to be seen. The formula for distributing the revenue is, of course, very controversial.

Colored Oleo. On February 2nd the House approved the initiatory proposal to permit the sale of colored oleo in Michigan. This has been brought before the legislature by initiatory petitions circulated in grocery stores and meat markets last fall. This is the first time that this procedure has been used in Michigan.

The legislature had 40 days in which to enact the proposal without amendment. If it failed to do so within that time or rejected it, the question would automatically appear on the April election ballot. If adopted by the voters at that time, it would become a sort of stop law which could not be altered, by the legislature at any future time but could only be changed by vote of the people. Naturally, members of the legislature did not look with favor upon that possibility and preferred to adopt the proposal in the form submitted. Then it would become an ordinary law.

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State Mutual FIRE INSURANCE CO. A Limited Number SAP BUCKETS AND COVERS. Now in stock. Make Sure. Take delivery of your needs NOW! Sugar Bush Supplies Co., PO Box 1107, Lansing, Mich.

Rural Tele-news. THESE NUMBERS PLEASE - In 1948, Michigan Bell made great strides in bringing more and better telephone service to the rural areas it serves. Last year, 23,000 more telephones were installed, 10,800 miles of wire were strung, in addition to many miles of buried wire and cable, and 23,000 new telephone poles were set.

# GOV. WILLIAMS SAYS NOW IS THE RIGHT TIME

"The 'seal of quality' idea for promoting the sale of top quality farm products from Michigan farms has no hope of success unless it has general public acceptance from farmer-producers as well as consumers," Governor G. Mennen Williams told members of the Michigan Agricultural Conference at their meeting the middle of January.

"The job can't be done by simply cracking down on violators. It must have most of the people behind it," the Governor declared.

In his recent message to the opening session of the 1949 legislature, the new governor recommended the house and senate consider some sort of label or tag to designate the superior output from Michigan farms. He urged a revision of the state grades and standards to provide for such high quality products and for power to be given to the state department of



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CONCRETE is sturdy—economical. Its initial cost is low and there's practically no maintenance expense.

Concrete is fireproof, rotproof and vermin-proof. It lasts a lifetime.

Plan to build of long-lasting, storm-resistant concrete now. Write for the free illustrated booklet on permanent farm construction.

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Olds Tower Bldg., Lansing 8, Mich.

A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete... through scientific research and engineering field work

agriculture to enforce the new laws. The authorship of the "seal of quality" idea for promoting sales of superior farm products was disclaimed by Governor Williams, pointing out that others have suggested the idea before. He did say, however, that he considered his roll in sponsoring it as that of "just getting it across at the right time."

His address featured a banquet program concluding the one-day meeting attended by representatives of Michigan's more than 50 diversified agricultural interests who organized a year ago as an agricultural conference body to express farm policies on a united front.

## FEED RATIOS ARE FAVORABLE

Product feed ratios continue favorable, said the Michigan State college farm economics dept. in January. It said that in December each pound of milk would buy 5.05 pounds of dairy ration of feed, hay, and silage. This was 40 per cent more than could have been purchased a year ago. Butterfat would buy no more than a year earlier. Most outstanding—each pound of chicken would buy 10 1/2 pounds of feed, or 78% more than a year ago. The egg-feed ratio was less favorable than in November, but was more favorable than a year earlier. The hog-corn ratio was 15.8, which is considered very favorable.

### Good Business

Clipping cows to remove the long hair on the flanks, udder, underline, tail and rear legs of dairy animal is an inexpensive step toward producing clean, wholesome milk according to Dr. Earl Weaver, head of the Michigan State college dairy department.

### Plant Farm Bureau seeds.



This is not, and is under no circumstances to be construed as, an offering of this stock for sale, as a solicitation of offers to buy any such stock. The offering is made only by the Prospectus.

## 100,000 Shares Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. Class "A" Common Stock

\$10.00 per Share - - - (Non-assessable)  
Maximum annual dividend limited to 5%, non-cumulative, as earned and declared.

## 80,000 Shares Class "C" Common Stock

\$1.00 per Share - - - (Non-assessable)  
Voting Stock - - - No Dividend Rights

Class A Common Stock is being offered to farmers and farmers' co-operative associations. The shares are issued in amounts of \$10 or any multiple thereof. The minimum purchase has been set at \$50.

Class C Common Stock is voting stock issued at the par value of \$1.00 per share with the provision that each shareholder, with the exception of Michigan Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Services, Inc., may hold only one share.

Class A Common Stock and the Class C Common stock and the Farmers Petroleum Co-operative, Inc., are described fully in the Prospectus dated June 4, 1948. The Prospectus is the basis of information for all sales.

The Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., began operations January 1, 1949. It has acquired the complete distribution system and petroleum distribution business of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., petroleum department which was established in 1928. The dollar volume for the petroleum department for the year ending August 31, 1948 was \$2,882,954.43.

FARMERS PETROLEUM COOPERATIVE, INC.  
PO Box 960, 221 N. Cedar St., Lansing, Michigan

For a copy of the Prospectus, and a call by a licensed salesman, please fill in and mail the request form in this advertisement.

FARMERS PETROLEUM COOPERATIVE, INC.  
PO Box 960, 221 N. Cedar St., Lansing, Michigan

Please send copy of Prospectus for Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., Class A Common Stock and Class C Common Stock, and have a licensed salesman call.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ RFD No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office \_\_\_\_\_

# If I Were to Buy a Farm...

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

A short time ago I was asked a question that I could not answer off hand — "If you were to buy a farm for a home these days, just what kind of a farm would you look for?" It set me to thinking, and now I wonder if there is any ideal farm for sale! There seem to be drawbacks connected with most every place, no matter how pleasing it may look to the casual passerby.

In the first place I would hesitate to buy a farm unless I had capital enough to make a real substantial down payment after I had it adequately stocked and equipped. In days gone by, a man would attempt to operate a farm with meager tools and a limited supply of livestock with the hope that he might accumulate more as time went on, and consequently he was working against odds for many years. Neither he nor his family really lived.

I would aim to find a farm with a minimum of wasteland, for it would be taxed too, and there's no income from it. It would prove to be a liability to the rest of the farm.

I would want a set of buildings that were in good condition or easily altered to meet the requirements of adequate housing for family and farm use as well as for convenience and comfort. One can never buy just what he prefers, but I would surely give thought to the cost of repairing and alterations needed; for when added to the original price of the place, it might make it inflated beyond reason.

I would aim to select a farm that would fit the type of farming I expected to do. A person shouldn't buy dairy buildings if one dislikes the dairy business, or horse barns if one is a tractor farmer.

When we speak about rural areas, we usually include within them such services as school and church advantages, recreation, organizations, clubs, health and library facilities, natural resources and the people there and their standards of living. These elements all tend to make up a community, and when we see a rundown community, we at once know some of these elements are lacking.

We may have some of the very best people in the world in a rural community, but if the soil is poor and unproductive, swampy or other natural drawbacks, those folks cannot attain the standard of living that, by right, should be theirs. Many an energetic farmer with no capital has spent a whole lifetime trying to build up a poor, rundown farm. We admire his grit and his energy, but regret his short-sightedness in making a selection. Perhaps it is the old homestead and he hates to part with it. It may have filled the bill at one time, but farming, like all other things, has changed and sentiment does not offset unnecessary hard work and being deprived of the comforts of life.

I'd want to be assured of an abundance of good, pure water.

## No physical examination... No health statement...

Protect yourself and your family against the rising cost of hospital care.

HOSPITAL bills are higher today—advanced medical techniques require costly drugs and equipment. But Blue Cross Hospital Plan pays hospital bills in full for a wide range of service benefits while a bed patient in any one of 163 participating hospitals. In addition Blue Cross Surgical and Medical-Surgical Plans provide stated amounts for operations, your doctor's hospital visits.

Blue Cross is available to Farm Bureau members without physical examination, or health statement. See your Blue Cross secretary for complete details.



THE BLUE CROSS PLAN IS YOUR TICKET TO WORRY-FREE RECOVERY

The Blue Cross Plans are non-profit and are sponsored by the Michigan Hospital Association and the Michigan State Medical Society

BLUE CROSS  
Michigan Hospital Service • Michigan Medical Service  
234 State Street, Detroit 26  
PROTECTION THAT'S PRICELESS

There's nothing more discouraging than to be short of water both for household and farm use. I'd want to know that there was a good outlet for all necessary farm drainage.

Accessibility to good market facilities is no small item to be considered. In these modern times, it would only be smart to see to it that the farm in question is easily accessible to electric and telephone service, with mail delivery direct to the door, with some type of an improved highway system and also public transportation within reasonable distance.

School facilities would mean much to me if I had a growing family. Educational advantages always reflect on the value of any property intended for a home.

I'd want shade in the yard and an orchard, for it takes years to grow shade trees and bearing fruit trees. Small fruit is a different matter for it can be quickly brought into production. I'd want timber of some sort that would supply the odd demands for farm use as well as serve as a safeguard against a fuel shortage when needed.

I'd look for the quick-sand bottoms, the white clay spots, the stones and the stumps, the sink holes and the sand dunes, the quack grass and the mustard.

I'd discount a farm if the house was back in the center of the farm, even if it was on a good building spot, for most women want a house by the side of the road so as to see the friendly folks when they go by.

I'd want to know the tax rate and the bonded indebtedness of the area. I'd want to know what fire protection I could expect.

If the advantages outnumbered the drawbacks and the price was right, I would not hesitate about buying; but if the price had risen beyond the normal value, I'd postpone the deal. I'd rent a farm or work for some commercial concern until prices had settled. An inflated dollar, if saved, will go much further when prices have tumbled to a normal par. On the other hand, a debt acquired these days may also be greatly increased if and when the tumble comes.

"Watch your step" is a good motto to follow at anytime, but more so when prices are out of line with values.

Good land, coupled with a determination to win, has made many a farmer happy for it represents the results of his toil and his management over a period of years.

Use Farm Bureau Feeds.

## Agriculture Act of 1948, Support Levels

Commodity	1949	Percentage of Parity	
		1950 and after	1949
Cotton	90	60 to 90	90
Corn	90	60 to 90	90
Wheat	90	60 to 90	90
Tobacco	90	90	90
Rice	90	60 to 90	90
Peanuts	90	60 to 90	90
Hogs	90	0 to 90	90
Eggs	90	0 to 90	90
Chickens	90	0 to 90	90
Milk, butterfat	90	0 to 90	90
Turkeys	60 to 90	0 to 90	90
Soybeans for oil	60 to 90	0 to 90	90
Peanuts for oil	60 to 90	0 to 90	90
Dry beans, some varieties	60 to 90	0 to 90	90
Dry peas, some varieties	60 to 90	0 to 90	90
Potatoes (white)	60 to 90	60 to 90	90
Sweet potatoes	60 to 90	0 to 90	90
Flaxseed for oil	60 up to the 1948 support level	0 to 90	90
Wool	Same as 1948	60 to 90	90
Others	Discretionary	0 to 90	90

Note: For the 6 basic commodities the supports given for 1949 are in effect if producers have not disapproved marketing quotas. They all apply through the marketing season to June 30, 1950.

For 1950 the support levels of the 6 basic commodities depend on the level of supply, and if producers disapprove marketing quotas, the support is 50% of parity.—U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

## James Curtis Elected Sec'y of Allegan Co.

James Curtis has been elected to succeed James Boyce as secretary-treasurer of the Allegan County Farm Bureau. Mr. Boyce was recently elected treasurer of Allegan county, and felt that he should resign from his position held in the Allegan County Farm Bureau.

During his four years of service in the County Farm Bureau, the organization has grown to twice its size in membership. It has 7 community groups.

A farm record book will help show the strengths and weaknesses of the farm business.

## CO-OP COUNCIL ASKS INQUIRY INTO NTEA

A. J. McFadden of Santa Ana, California, walnut and citrus grower was elected president of National Council of Farmer Cooperatives at its 20th Annual Convention at Memphis, Tennessee, January 3-6. C. N. Silcox of Ithaca, New York, was elected first vice-president; and James H. Lemmon, of Lemmon, South Dakota, was elected second vice-president; with John H. Davis, of Washington, D. C., re-elected executive secretary.

The Council asked for a full disclosure of the operations of the National Tax Equality Association and the National Associated Businessmen Inc. which have been attacking the cooperatives.

Among the important resolutions adopted by the Council was the statement that: "Because agricultural production doesn't rapidly respond to price changes as does production in most industries, a policy of price supports for farm products against price collapse, is not class legislation but a program designed to encourage producers in supplying adequate production to the consuming public at reasonable levels." The mechanics of the price support program should be adapted to specific needs of each commodity, the Council declared.

## Berrien Youth Bldg. Fund Receives \$25

The Three Oaks Community Farm Bureau voted to give \$25 to the Junior Farm Bureau Berrien youth fair building fund at their January meeting held at the Spring Creek Community Hall.

Thomas Payne, county director, led the group discussion on, "Why We Should Support the Farm Bureau." A potluck dinner preceded the business meeting.

## Dairyland Creamery Annual Meeting

Interesting anecdotes about methods used by Korean farmers were told members of Dairyland Cooperative Creamery Co. at the annual meeting in late January, at Carson City.

More than 500 enjoyed fish dinners in the Methodist and Congregational churches of Carson City, then heard William A. Rex, Seymour, Ind., tell about the ancestral spirits which Korean farmers think plague them. Mr. Rex also showed color movies of native Korean farmers plowing rice fields with harnessed beef cattle bulls, with implements which are a hundred or more years old, because they are fearful if they discard these crude tools, the spirits of their ancestors will bring ill fortune upon them.

Directors elected for three-year terms are Fred Wilson, Carson City and Henry Tabor, Hubbardston. Manager Fred Walker reported in detail upon business of the Dairyland Co-operative Creamery for the past year.

## Artman Resigns As Berrien Co. C. O. D.

J. M. Artman of Lakeside announced his retirement from the position of secretary and county organization director of the Berrien County Farm Bureau at the annual meeting, the second week of January.

The announcement was made on orders of his physician. Mr. Artman, however, said that he would continue to carry out the duties of his office until a full-time secretary had been secured.

Robert Krieger of Bainbridge was named to a second term as president of the County Farm Bureau. Harry Nye of St. Joseph was re-elected vice-president and Thomas Payne of Galien was returned as the third member of the executive committee.

Farm Bureau members are working for equal educational opportunities.

# Sold to Swift for \$1,883,823,473.00



## Quick Facts on Swift's Business in 1948

Total Sales \$2,361,114,041

Swift's average sales dollar was spent as follows:

For Livestock & Other Agricultural Products	79.8 cts.
For Employees' Wages & Salaries	9.6 cts.
For Supplies	4.0 cts.
For Transportation	2.0 cts.
For Taxes	1.5 cts.
For Other Business Expenses	1.9 cts.
Total spent out of each average dollar	98.8 cts.
Remaining as Earnings for Swift	1.2 cts.
Total	100 cents



O. R. Johnson

## Management's Role in Modern Farming

by O. R. Johnson  
University of Missouri, Columbia

Better farm management can give startling results. If managed as well as the best 20% of the farms are managed, output of the average acre could be doubled. In most areas the output of pasture land could be increased three or four times. Our cleverest feeders get 60% more out of their feed than do average feeders. Production per cow, sow or hen could be increased 50% to 100% if animals and methods as good as those used by the top 20% of our farmers were employed by all farmers.

There are two ways of achieving higher production per acre without increasing costs. The most practical method is to raise the level of management efficiency without increasing present working forces per farm. The other method is for the farm family, with modern power and machinery, to farm more acres. This second method has obvious limitations. For there would not be enough acres to go around without eliminating many farm families. Do we want larger farm units and reduced farm population? Many think not.

However, many farmers are now faced with adopting either one or the other of the above methods. Farmers must meet today's high operating costs and still maintain living standards without forcing prices beyond the reach of the average consumer. Consumers cannot be expected to support, indefinitely, inefficient farm output by paying the high prices such inefficiency demands.

## Swift & Company

UNION STOCK YARDS, CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS

Nutrition is our business—and yours

Because your business of farming and ranching is so closely related to our business of meat packing, we believe you are interested in an accounting of Swift & Company's operations in 1948. On this page we tell you how much money we received, how we spent this money, and how much we earned for services performed.

The past year was reasonably profitable to both producers and Swift & Company. That's the way it should be in America. A fair profit to producers means better living and insures a sound program on farms and ranches. A fair profit to



Wm. B. Traynor

business in cities and towns helps maintain purchasing power and markets for the products which you and Swift have to sell.

In 1948, Swift & Company paid nearly two billion dollars for agricultural products. We processed and distributed nationwide this output of your land and labor... cattle, calves, hogs, lambs, dairy and poultry products, soybeans, cottonseed, peanuts and other products of agriculture. For these we paid out 79.8 cents from each dollar we received from the sale of our products.

## HOW THE DOLLAR WAS DIVIDED

In America a business is operated to serve the public, and to earn a profit for its owners. In 1948, Swift earned \$27,889,210 net profit. That was an average of 1.2 cents out of each dollar we

received from the sale of our products. Who got the balance of 98.8 cents? It went to people who work directly in the livestock-meat industry, to additional thousands in other businesses.



1. The major cost of meat packing is the purchase of livestock and other agricultural products. Swift paid \$1,883,823,473 to farmers and ranchers last year. You, the producers, received 79.8 cents out of each average dollar we took in from sales.



2. Swift & Company employs 73,000 men and women to provide the services producers, retailers and consumers demand. The employees look to their company for regular, gainful employment. They earned \$226,154,019 in wages and salaries in 1948... or 9.6 cents of each average sales dollar.



3. Supplies of all kinds—sugar, salt, spices, containers, fuel, electricity cost us \$94,809,928. These supplies are furnished by other businesses. Our purchases from them created work and wages for many more Americans. This took 4 cents of our average sales dollar.



4. Transportation charges are a necessary item of expense, and a large one, too. Meats are moved an average of 1,000 miles from farm and ranch to market. During 1948, in distributing our products to cities, towns and villages, Swift & Company spent \$46,702,457 for transportation by rail and motor. This amounted to 2.0 cents of each average dollar of sales income.



5. Government expenses—fire and police protection, national defense, roads, social security, public education, etc.—are all paid out of taxes. Swift's tax bill for the year was \$35,220,291. The Federal Government and each of the 48 states collected some of this amount. And taxes were paid in hundreds of municipalities where our plants and properties are located. Federal, state and local taxes took 1.5 cents of our average sales dollar.



6. More than 200,000 retail store operators look to Swift for a regular supply of meats and other Swift products. We help build retailers' trade by developing nationwide consumer markets. Our research laboratories and test kitchens also help create consumer demand. Depreciation, interest and other expenses common to every business, add to this total. All these cost \$46,514,663 or 1.9 cents of the average dollar of sales.

That's the story of the division of Swift's average dollar received from sales. Of that dollar, 98.8 cents went to other people or businesses. The 1.2 cents left is our return for processing, marketing and distributing meats and other products for millions of American families. Out of this return—or net earnings—our 64,000 shareholders, men and women who invested their savings in the Company, received dividends which took 7/10 of a cent of the average sales dollar. The balance of 1/2 cent was retained to provide for future needs of the Company.

Wm. B. Traynor  
Vice President and Treasurer  
Swift & Company

# Michigan Farmers Are Part Owners of United Co-ops

## Unico Serves Farmers In 39 States

Through Farm Bureau Services, Inc., approximately 95,000 farmers of Michigan are part owners of the facilities and services of United Co-operatives, Inc.

United Co-ops is a national agricultural manufacturing and wholesale co-operative organization which is serving in addition to Farm Bureau Services, sixteen other leading farm supply co-operatives in the United States and Puerto Rico. Besides serving these seventeen stockholder member organizations, United Co-operatives distributes some farm products to fifteen other farm, state or regional co-operatives.

United is the outgrowth of the Farm Bureau Oil Company which began in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1930. From the basic start as an oil co-operative, it gradually added many other farm supply products. The present name of United Co-operatives, Inc., was adopted in 1936.

United does not distribute feeds, seeds, fertilizers or farm implements but has concentrated on the manufacture and procurement of other farm supply lines which were requested by member organizations.

Farm Bureau Services, Inc., of Michigan joined with the Ohio and Indiana Farm Bureaus in organizing the Farm Bureau Oil Company in 1930. As it has developed into United Co-operatives, the Farm Bureau Services has had an important part in the building. Clark L. Brody, executive secretary of the Michigan Farm Bureau and Services, was president of the United for four years. Just recently, Boyd A. Rainey of FBS was elected secretary of United. Mr. Rainey and J. F. Yaeger are directors representing Services on the United board.

United Co-operatives has maintained its status of an agricultural co-operative, operating within the statutes of the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922 and of the Agricultural Marketing Act of the state of Indiana where it is incorporated. Its refunds have been paid to members and non-members, cash to non-members and either cash or stock to members, as determined by the board of directors.

**Two Definite Operating Policies.** First: United does not handle any farm supply commodity just to be in business. It must show an economic advantage for its ultimate farmer patrons, in quality, service or price, or a combination of all three.

Second: Quality is of major importance. The actual cash savings which United can realize for members will always be small. It can



## FEEDS and FEEDINGS

UNITED WE ARE STRONG — DIVIDED WE ARE WRONG!

### POULTRY

Looks like there are lots more chicks being ordered this spring. May not be enough breeder flocks, properly fed, to lay all the eggs necessary to produce good chicks for prospective purchasers, if YOU want GOOD chicks, order now from a reputable Hatchery.

Good chicks bred for production and stamina and raised and managed right will grow into hens that will make money for the owner, if properly fed.

Don't crowd your chicks. Crowding promotes cannibalism, featherpecking, and piling up. Have brooder thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Try out the heating element and thermostat. Have warm water and a little chick scratch ready when chicks arrive then feed an all-mash chick starter. If you have used Mermash 16%, you know there is no better starter and grower for your pullets. Feed it straight for 8 to 10 weeks — then add medium scratch, gradually increasing amount. Separate cockerels as soon as they can be told. Feed Hi-N-R-G Broiler Mash or Mermash 18% to get faster growth on these birds.

Mermash 18% and 20% should be fed like Mermash 16% but begin fine scratch grain at 4 to 6 weeks with the 18% Mermash, and right from the start on the 20% Mermash for the pullets. Leave Cockerels on all-mash until 10 to 12 weeks or change to Broiler Mash.

Mermashes grow chicks BETTER — and usually cheaper.

### DAIRY

The finest market for milk we've ever known. All the babies born in the last 9 years — plus their fathers who learned to drink milk while in the Army — are demanding milk. Lower grain prices plus continued culling of inefficient cows should lower your costs and help you hold your market. Milkmaker 34% allows you to use more grain in your mixtures, supplies all the Trace minerals and 12,000,000 units Vitamin D in every ton. Feed 1/4 lb. of Farm Bureau Dry Cow Fitting Ration a day to furnish all the Vitamins "A" & "D" needed for healthy, vigorous calves from cows yet to freshen.

### HOGS

Porkmaker 35% will make you as fine a feed as you can buy when mixed with corn, oats, and a little midds for a pig and sow feed. Such a formula (about 20% protein) will put more pigs into the feeding lot and give more prospect for profit.

BUY OPEN FORMULA - MERMASHES - MILKMAKERS - PORKMAKER AT YOUR LOCAL FARM BUREAU FEED DEALER

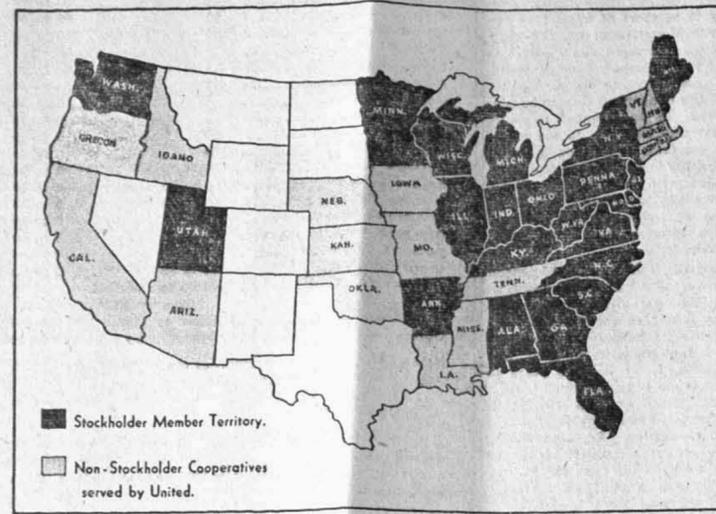
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

Feed Department

221 N. Cedar Street

Lansing, Michigan

## Stockholder Members of United Co-ops, Inc.



This map shows the states where United Co-operatives serve local farm co-operatives and their farmer members. Seventeen state and regional co-operatives which are stockholders of United serve the states shown in black. They serve 1,303,200 farmers from a total of 3,647 local farm co-operatives. The stockholder members of United Co-operatives are:

- Indiana Farm Bureau Co-op. Assn., Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Farm Bureau Co-op Assn., Columbus, Ohio.
- Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Lansing, Michigan.
- Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Co-op. Assn., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
- Co-op G. L. F. Farm Supplies, Inc. Ithaca, New York.
- Illinois Farm Supply Company, Chicago, Illinois.
- The Cotton Producers Association, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Farmers Cooperative Exchange, Raleigh, North Carolina.
- Southern States Cooperative, Inc., Richmond, Virginia.
- Washington Co-op. Farmers Assn., Seattle, Washington.
- Fox River Valley Co-op. Wholesale, Appleton, Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin Co-op. Farm Supply Co., Madison, Wisconsin.
- Utah Poultry & Farmers Co-op. Assn., Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Maine Potato Growers, Inc., Presque Isle, Maine.
- Minnesota Farm Bureau Service Co., St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Arkansas Farm Bureau Co-operative, Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Cafeteros de Puerto Rico, Ponce, Puerto Rico.

they are accepted for distribution. Farm supplies that are procured from outside suppliers must meet quality specifications. The past history of co-operative organizations clearly indicates that quality can definitely be raised and controlled to the advantage of the farmer patrons who own their own farm supply organizations. United's main offices are located at 243 East Main Street, Alliance, Ohio. Merritt H. Crouch is general manager. F. B. Taber is Assistant to the general manager. The main offices include the farm supply departments, accounting, billing, commodity information and traffic departments. United's complete personnel, located at Alliance, Ravenna, Ithaca, Indianapolis, Warren, Philadelphia and

San Francisco totals 172 persons. Departmental Supply Groups. United's operations can be divided into two farm supply groups, namely, manufacturing and outside supplier procurement. A modern, complete paint manufacturing plant is located at Alliance, Ohio. A barn equipment plant, which manufactures stalls, stanchions and special penwork is located at Ravenna, Ohio. United operates two oil blending plants. One is located at Warren, Pa., and the other at Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition to these manufacturing and formulating facilities, United has five farm supply procurement departments. These are Steel and Asphalt Roofing, Farm Hardware, Farm Electrical, Farm Chemical and a Miscellaneous Department which distributes seed inoculant, binder and baler twines. United's farm supply departments and the products distributed by each are as follows:

**Paint Department.** This department manufactures and distributes a complete line of house and barn paints, stains, enamels, interior finishes, implement enamels, asphalt roof coatings, varnishes, shellacs, interior water paints and cement paints. Many miscellaneous painter's supplies are also distributed such as turpentine, putty, paint brushes, scrapers, putty knives, sandpaper, glass cutters, paint and varnish removers. Complete spray paint outfits and accessories are also made available through this department.

**Barn Equipment & Wood Products.** This department manufactures stalls and stanchions for calves, cows and bulls and cattle pens and special penwork to meet individual patron needs. Many miscellaneous items such as cast iron and aluminum water bowls, calf mats, milk stools, hay tracks, carrier forks, slings, rope pulleys, litter carriers and track, ensilage trucks, barn door hinges, latches, overhead hardware, ventilators and louvers for gable walls are either manufactured or procured. Under the wood products division of this department, laminated wood rafters of gothic design for economical construction of clear span farm buildings are procured and distributed.

**Petroleum** — This department blends and distributes Bureau Premium, Unico and Heavy Duty motor oils. Also miscellaneous oils such as Separator, Machine, Cylinder, Floor and Household oils. Gear lubricants include Unico gear tubes and E. P. Hypoid Gear tubes. Greases include cup, gun, axle and Heavy Duty chassis grease and miscellaneous greases such as Water Pump, Bearing, Hi-speed bearing and Universal Joint grease. Anti-freeze, tire chains grease. Anti-freeze, tire chains grease. Batteries are also distributed by this department and a complete line of Unico high quality tires for passenger cars, trucks, tractors and farm implements.

**Steel & Asphalt Roofing**—This department procures and distributes two types of galvanized steel roofing, namely, Unico Seal (2 oz. coated) Seal of Quality (non-siphoning) and 1-1/4 inch corrugated, together with eave troughs, down spouts and ridge-roof accessories. Aluminum roofing with the same Unico non-siphoning feature and aluminum roofing accessories are also distributed by this department.

Asphalt products such as roof and shingle asphalt roofing, roofing felts, building and silo papers come under this department, as well as cotton insulation, field and poultry fence, poultry netting, steel fence posts, barb wire, nails, staples, steel and brass pipe fittings, steel and aluminum pipe.

**Farm Hardware.**—This department procures items from a long list of suppliers. Space does not permit listing the hundreds of products made available through this department, but the main heads are as follows:

**Poultry Equipment** — The new line of Unico poultry feeders and fountains meet the highest quality specifications. They are electric welded with no soldered seams and are hot dipped galvanized. Brooders, metal nests and many other quality poultry supplies come under this heading.

**Dairyware**, with a complete line of milk cans, pails, kettles, cream cans, wash tanks, strainers and milk filter discs, is also included. Sprayers and dusters of all types for all uses.

**Farm and garden tools**, such as forks, rakes, shovels, scoops, spades, wheelbarrows, snaths and scythes. Farm maintenance tools include all carpenter, mechanic and plumb-er tools.

**Outdoor stock equipment**, such as stock tanks, hog feeders, troughs, hog fountains and tank heaters. The additional miscellaneous

items include woven and rubber belting, tarpaulins, plastic window material, rubber garden hose, hand and power lawn mowers — and the list is growing continually.

**Farm Electrical Equipment.** This is one of United's more recent departments, having been set up in August, 1946.

At present, this department procures and distributes Unico-Carrier farm freezers in a 30 and 15 cubic foot size. These two freezers are especially designed to meet farm food storage needs. A Unico 6.2 cubic foot farm freezer and milk coolers are also distributed.

Recently, a complete line of high quality water system equipment was added, including shallow and deep well water systems, cellar drainers, pump to tank fittings, galvanized tanks and other pump accessories.

This department also distributes electric gas and oil water heaters, electric fan controllers and the Sylvania line of light bulbs, fluorescent lights and heat lamps.

New products are constantly being added to this department.

**Farm Chemicals.** This department with an office in Philadelphia, procures a complete line of agricultural insecticides and fungicides, such as lead and calcium arsenate, lime-sulphur solutions, copper sulphate, nicotine sulphate, spray lime, rotenone dusts and new DDT products for insect pest control. In addition to this line, the Farm Chemical Department supplies members with raw materials for dust-mixing operations in each member's territory. This department also purchases all the toxic ingredients that go into the complete line of Unico fly sprays.

**Miscellaneous.** This department handles two commodities: twines and legume seed inoculants.

Straw twines are purchased on a contract basis and are furnished under the Unico trademark. Binder twines for small grains and corn, as well as baler twines for hay and straw used with automatic-tying pick-up type balers, are handled. Quality is high and is checked regularly by impartial tests, other than those of the manufacturers. Tensile strength and uniformity tests are made.

Unico Legume Inoculants are purchased from one of the most reputable and best known manufacturers. These inoculants are growths of helpful bacteria. They are developed and processed under the most rigid laboratory and plant conditions.

## Shelby Members To Display The Flag

Each member of the Shelby Community Farm Bureau received a 3x5 American flag with standard, which is to be flown on all special holidays, according to Mr. N. J. Fox, who made the presentation at their meeting in January. Obtaining the flags was a project of the group in the 1948 Farm-to-Prosper contest, and a letter of thanks was voted to Muir Dickie, who made the purchase of the flags. The meeting was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Amil Johnson. Mrs. George Chapin directed the discussion on "Farm Marketing." The next meeting will be held February 21 at the George Chapin home.

Use Farm Bureau Feeds.

This is not, and is under no circumstances to be construed as, an offering of these Debentures for sale, or as a solicitation of offers to buy any such Debentures. The offering is made only by the Prospectus.

## \$350,000 Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Series "A" Debentures

4% Simple Interest (Non-assessable)

The Series A Debentures are being offered to farmers and to farmers co-operative associations for the purpose of increasing the operating capital of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. They are issued in amounts of \$10 or any multiple thereof. The minimum purchase has been set at \$50. The Series A Debentures and Farm Bureau Services, Inc., are described fully in the prospectus dated May 15, 1948. The Prospectus is the basis of information for all sales.

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC. 221 North Cedar St., Lansing, Mich.

For Copy of the Prospectus, please fill in and mail the request form below.

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC. PO Box 960, 221 N. Cedar St., Lansing Michigan

Please send me a copy of the Prospectus for Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Series A Debentures.

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 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ RFD NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post Office \_\_\_\_\_

## CENTRAL STOCK YARDS STARTS SECURITIES SALE

By B. P. PATTISON, Dir. F. B. Commodity Relations

The board of directors of the Central Michigan Livestock Yards Cooperative, Inc., and men licensed to sell stock in this area, met at St. Louis, January 14. At this meeting it was agreed that an intensive stock selling campaign to raise the necessary funds for a livestock market would be carried on during February.

About a year ago, farmers in the area indicated their desire for a cooperative livestock marketing program, and accordingly, an organization known as the Central Michigan Livestock Yards Cooperative, Inc., was set up with authority to sell \$100,000 in stock. Several thousand dollars have been subscribed to date and with aggressive effort on the part of everyone interested, it is hoped the balance of stock can be sold in February.

Those licensed to sell are: Gratiot county—Lester Allen, Ithaca; Carleton V. Tracy, Ithaca; and Howard L. Krick, St. Louis; Isabella county—Athold Johnston, Rosebush; Clinton county—Maurice Gove, St. Johns; Ionia county—Mark Westbrook, Ionia; Saginaw county—Matthew Borsenk, Brant; Midland county—Floyd C. Woodcock; Montcalm county—Harry V. Johnson, Carson City; Osceola county—Russell McLachlan, Ewart and Mecosta county—Orville Miller, Big Rapids.

The livestock marketing project is being promoted by Farm Bureau membership in the above counties and deserves the financial support of all livestock producers in providing the marketing facilities needed.

The first annual meeting of the Central Michigan Livestock Yards Cooperative, Inc., will be held at Muscott's Hall in Ithaca at 1 o'clock p. m., February 10. All those who have purchased stock prior to that date are eligible to vote at the annual meeting.

## Acre Yields Up

Yields per acre for United States in 1948—composite of all crops—are more than half again the 1923 to 1932 average according to Michigan State college agricultural economists.

## FARM PROOF THAT LEGUMES INCREASE YIELDS

Proof that soil building legumes contribute to increased yields of crops comes from L. M. Turk, soils research scientist at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.

On the Forcken farm in Saginaw county, an experiment set up by MSC staff members has used alfalfa, sweet clover and red clover to help increase crop yields.

Seven different crop rotations, all including sugar beets are being studied. All the rotations except one include a soil building legume crop. Where no legume has been grown, corn yields have been about twelve bushels an acre below fields where the rotation included alfalfa just before the corn.

In 1948, corn yields were 23 bushels per acre in the rotation containing no soil building legume, 47 where corn follows sweet clover, green manure, and 53 where corn follows one year of alfalfa.

The tests point out that alfalfa in the rotation has caused higher yields than has sweet clover or red clover. One year of alfalfa in a five year rotation has given as good results as two years.

## 200 Attend Genesee Annual Meeting

A talk on "Fundamentals of Organization" by C. W. (Will) Otto, manager of the Lansing Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the annual meeting program of the Genesee County Farm Bureau Tuesday, January 25, at Goodrich. Roy Traynor, Grand Blanc, was elected chairman, succeeding Eugene Kurtz of Davison who was named vice-chairman.

Plant Farm Bureau Seeds.

## LOOK for Rupture Help

Try a Brooks Patent... Rupture appliance. This marvelous invention for most forms of reducible rupture is guaranteed to bring you heavenly comfort and security, day and night, at work and in play, or it costs you NOTHING! Thousands happy. Light, neat-fitting. No hard pads or springs. For men, women, and children. Durable, cheap. Sent on trial to prove it. Not sold in stores. Beware of imitations. Write for Free Book on Rupture, no-risk trial order plan, and Proof of Results. Ready for you NOW! BROOKS APPLIANCE CO., 145 State St., Marshall, W. Va.

**Valley Lea**

**YOU CAN'T BEAT STEADY INCOME!**

Farming is a business I would recommend to any man, providing he plans for 'steady income'... he can make taxes, home improvements, buy equipment and pay other 'big' expenses at harvest time; but he also must have year-around income... I am considered a prosperous farmer, but it would be mighty difficult, except for the steady check from my nearby cooperative creamery of **The Mid-West Group**, where I ship my daily herd production... I always am paid the highest possible price at time of sale, and in addition, get my proportionate share of savings from the business.

**Mid-West Producers' Creameries, Inc.**  
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<b>MICHIGAN</b> Coldwater—Coldwater Dairy Company Constantine—Constantine Coop. Cr. Co. Carson City—Dairyland Coop. Cr. Co. Elsie—Elsie Cooperative Creamery Co. East Jordan—Jordan Valley Coop. Cr. Co. Fremont—Fremont Coop. Cr. Co. Grand Rapids—Grand Rapids Cooperative Creamery Co. Muskegon—Muskegon Farmers' Coop. Creamery Assn. Niles—Producers Cooperative Dairy St. Louis—St. Louis Coop. Cr. Co.	<b>INDIANA</b> Columbus—Farmers Marketing Assn. Crawfordsville—Farmers Coop. Cr. Co. Kokomo—Producers' Creamery Marion—Producers' Creamery Middlebury—Middlebury Coop. Cr. Co. Orleans—Producers Dairy Mark. Assn. Romington—Farmers' Cooperative Cr. Washburn—Producers' Creamery	<b>TENNESSEE</b> Gallatin—Sumner Co. Coop. Cr. Assn. Murfreesboro—Butterfield County Nolensville—Nolensville Cooperative Creamery Association, Inc.	<b>OHIO</b> Dayton—Miami Valley Cooperative Milk Producers' Association, Inc. Springfield—Miami Valley Cooperative Milk Producers' Association, Inc. Greenville—Farmers' Cooperative Dairy	<b>ILLINOIS</b> Pana—Equity Union Cr. & Produce Co. Paris—Equity Union Cr. & Produce Co.
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Every member-producer shipping to a creamery of the Mid-West Group is assured a market for his milk and cream, every day of every year and in addition he always will get the highest possible price consistent with current selling prices of the finished dairy product.

# STRAUB'S RECORD MAKING HERD HAS BEEN SOLD

By R. H. ADDY, Feed Dep't., FB Services

Many years ago (in the '30's) Doan Straub, a Holstein breeder at Galk, Berrien county, began to feed Milkmaker to balance his corn and oats. Results were good. Mr. Straub was a practical working farmer and dairyman. His herd won state and national leadership for average production in D. H. I. A. work.

Then came the depression. Milk prices were low. Soybean oil meal came on the market. It was priced below value because it had to compete with established protein concentrates like cottonseed and linseed meal. Soybean meal is a good feed and it was recommended to Mr. Straub. He replaced Milkmaker with soybean oil meal along in 1935. The years went by. In 1941 Mr. Straub went back to his protein concentrate. His remark when he dropped soybean meal as the source of protein was to the effect that he had come to believe that heavy producing cows milked heavier, for longer periods and with less trouble, if they were fed a combination of protein concentrate, like Farm Bureau Milkmaker, instead of any single protein.

Time moves on. After dairying for over 30 years the Straubs de-

clined to take things a little easier so on October 30, 1948 their herd was sold at auction. Most of the animals were bought by neighbors, which is a compliment to the Straubs.

The Holstein Fieldman reports the sale like this, "The Doan Straub herd sold well. It has received wide publicity because of the phenomenal average of 529.2 lbs. of fat from 14,181 lbs. of 3.7% milk. It leads all herds (for 12-year period listed in Vol. 4 of the Official Green Book)." Here's how they sold:

- 30 females, over 3 mos.—\$18,440, average \$614.66.
- 11 calves, under 3 mos.—\$2,295, average, \$208.63.
- 2 bulls, \$2,900, average, \$1,450.00.

## BAY FB LEADERS DISCUSS CITY'S AGR'L COURSES

Officials of the Bay County Farm Bureau and the Bay City public schools met recently to discuss possible agricultural courses to be made available in the city's high schools.

The school officials, at this meeting, reported that courses in agriculture were available, but that there had been a decided lack of interest on the part of the students.

John Ziegler, president of the Bay County Farm Bureau, suggested, and the school officials have agreed, to draw up an outline of the ag courses offered by the school for distribution to the parents and to farm groups for their information and study.

Mr. Ziegler said that he hoped this would serve as one way of creating an interest in that field for young people.

George Eisenman, vice-president, and Mrs. Howard Davis, chairman of the women's committee, also represented the County Farm Bureau at the meeting.

Samuel R. Guard, editor of the Breeders' Gazette told a Farmers' Week audience that no farm animal will return a higher rate of profit percentage than sheep. A Michigan farmer, said Mr. Guard, can buy a good ewe at the stockyards, breed her to a good ram, and within less than a year sell the lamb and the ewe's fleece for quite a bit more than he invested originally in the ewe.

## Buskirk Confers With Jackson Co. Farm Bureau Officers



Newly elected officers of the Jackson County Farm Bureau are shown above conferring with Carl E. Buskirk, Paw Paw, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau following the annual meeting of the county organization. Mr. Buskirk gave an eye-witness report on the conditions in Europe as he saw them. Seated from left to right, are Mrs. Lorenzo Mann, chairman of women's activities; Mr. Buskirk, and Mrs. Fred Day, Jackson county president. Standing at the left, Dwain Dancer, Junior Farm Bureau chairman, and Roy Hatt, county vice-chairman.

## TIME TO APPLY FOR BLUE CROSS

If additional literature or application cards are needed for the current Blue Cross re-enrollment being held in many Farm Bureau groups, they may be obtained from the Blue Cross district office which serves the group, according to Austin L. Pino, Blue Cross rural enrollment manager.

"In most counties, enrollment material has already been obtained by the group," Mr. Pino said, "and new membership roster forms and an explanation of how to use them have been sent to the County Blue Cross secretaries for distribution to the local group Blue Cross secretaries."

"As this is the first time that the new definition of Farm Bureau members has been used in connection with Blue Cross work, local secretaries may want to contact their own organization secretary when questions arise."

"The 19 and 20-year-old children of Farm Bureau members," he explained, "must apply for Blue Cross in their own names."

New applications and payments for Blue Cross must go to the county Blue Cross secretary in time to allow her a few days to complete reports, Mr. Pino pointed out. Reports must be received by the Blue Cross district office before April first.

Effective date for new applications in old groups will be May first for all services other than maternity, which has a nine-month waiting period.

Buy Farm Bureau Seeds.

## Chances are 1 in 10 you will face rising hospital costs this year!

**BLUE CROSS** — Michigan's most widely-used health care plans—your best possible protection against the mounting cost of hospital care.

PROTECT yourself now against rising hospital charges through Blue Cross. Blue Cross pays hospital bills (no cash limit for a wide range of service benefits when you are a bed patient in any one of 163 participating hospitals) . . . Blue Cross Medical-Surgical Plan pays stated amounts for operations . . . pays stated amounts for hospital visits by your doctor . . . at a cost of only pennies a day!

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## BLUE CROSS

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PROTECTION THAT'S PRICELESS!

## What Is the Farm Bureau Worth?

(Editorial in the Clinton County Republican News, St. Johns)

That question is being asked frequently in Clinton county this week as the annual membership drive gets under way. It is a question that those conducting the membership drive like to have asked. Because no organization can continue to grow year after year without its members getting value received.

Probably no volunteer solicitor would tell any prospect, "Join the Farm Bureau and you'll receive dollar for dollar benefit on your farm, you'll get better prices for what you sell."

The benefits don't always stack up that way. There are such things as intangible values. The intangible values in Farm Bureau memberships, like the intangible values in other organizations, often outweigh the tangible values.

The same holds true with an education. There are people who profess to believe that because a man or woman has been graduated from a university that he or she should receive more money than another who does not have a degree. A real education should teach a man or woman how to live a useful life. It is not and should not be a guarantee of riches.

The value of Community Farm Bureau gatherings, the information gleaned by Farm Bureau leaders and reported to members, the cooperation between farmers engaged in Farm Bureau projects—those are the intangible values and those are the important values.

One tangible benefit is group hospitalization insurance. Scores of Clinton county farm families now have the security of that type of insurance. That's one of the tangible values of cooperation.

Through the Farm Bureau, individual farmers can join in protecting their interests in matters before the state legislature and the Congress. In these days of organized activities and endeavors, where business management and labor are organized into effective groups, the farmer must have a responsible and responsive organization to represent him.

What is the Farm Bureau worth? To some farmers who might not put anything into a membership it might not be worth a dime. To other farmers who want to take part in an organization established by and operated by farmers, the value of a membership is beyond price.

## Governor Williams Suggests Corporate Tax Boost

(continued from page 2) law which could be amended by the legislature at any future time. Most dairy interests seem to feel that, after taking everything into consideration, that was probably the least objectionable of all possible ways of dealing with the situation.

There is a chance that the Senators will look upon the matter differently and decide that they would prefer to run the risk of submitting the question to a general election. It is a very awkward situation from the standpoint of the dairy industry. Farm folks should not be too critical of the vote of their representatives on this issue because the various circumstances involved made it a very complicated and confusing situation.

Thus far well over 200 bills and several proposed constitutional amendments have been introduced. Many of them have direct bearing on farmers and rural interests. The Michigan Farm Bureau will watch them closely and keep the members informed on the more important developments.

Community Farm Bureaus provide a closer linkage between the member and his county, state and national organization.

Community Farm Bureaus give members a greater voice in determining policies.

## STATE MUTUAL FIRE IN STRONG POSITION

H. K. Fisk was re-elected secretary of the State Mutual Fire Insurance Company at the annual meeting held at the company's office, 702 Church St., Flint, on January 20. Mr. Fisk has been in the company's employ since 1912, and secretary-manager since 1931.

The financial report read at the annual meeting of policyholders showed a premium income for 1948 of \$678,297.77 and other income of \$89,327.39. The company has assets of \$738,741.55 of which \$600,000 are in U. S. government bonds. There was a gain in surplus to policyholders of \$120,532.11 making a total of \$379,298.54.

The company has insurance in force of \$181,142,340 which represents a net gain of \$12,355,240 in 1948.

Other officers and directors are: E. R. Dingman, Bellevue, Michigan, president; Harry Day, Lowell, treasurer; and directors: W. V. Burras, Lowell; F. E. Jones, Flint; W. R. Kirk, Caro; and C. G. Watterson, Grand Rapids.

Over 800 Community Groups meet monthly to discuss problems and to write program and policy resolutions.

## DOESN'T LOOK TOO BAD FOR FEEDERS

By R. H. ADDY, Manager Feed Dep't., Farm Bureau Services

We refer to the prospects for profit from livestock feeding during the next year. Leaving out entirely the fact that livestock farming is better for the farm's welfare than cash cropping, we can look at some factors.

The very important factor of good management comes first. If money is to be made from poultry, hogs or cows in 1949, the quality of management used must be better than was needed in the war years—especially as it looks now toward the end of the year.

What does management mean? Well, with poultry it means buying good, healthy chicks of producing ancestry—not buying so many that the brooder will be crowded (not over one chick for each 1/2 square foot). Have brooder cleaned and disinfected and warm when chicks arrive. Follow feeding rules the MSC poultry department advises—plan some pasture for the pullets—don't neglect pullets—cull pullet flock and place in disinfected laying house when ready to lay. See that there are enough feeders, waterers and nests for flock which should not be crowded (3 to 4 square feet per hen). Plan 13 hour day for hens—pellets or calf manna at noon (2 lbs. per 100 hens). These are just some of management items for a poultry flock, but these and others followed are what make profits.

Let's look at price possibilities. For poultry we have the best feed—egg and poultry feed rations are the best they have been for some years. Fewer poultry than a year ago and fewer than for 6 or 7 years. Storage supplies of eggs and poultry are light, stocks of frozen eggs are 25% less than a year ago. Poultry holdings (other than turkeys) on December 1st were 122,000,000 lbs. against 281,000,000 lbs. a year earlier. Stocks of turkeys were 40,000,000 lbs. less than last year and 28,000,000 under the 5-year average.

Cost of poultry feed is easily 25% under last year, so even with egg prices going down some, there still is profit in production and feeding ratios will probably continue favorable. Government support prices will act as a barrier in preventing egg prices from going much below the average level in 1948.

All these favorable factors can't replace good management and there are factors on the liability side too. First, don't go into poultry unless you are equipped to raise them; and don't go into it too heavily. Second, buying power isn't going to be as lush as it has been. Third, there is an expansion tendency over the country and more chicks and turkeys will be raised; but good chicks, well fed and well managed are a sure source of profit. Fourth, egg prices will probably be lower this spring—and next fall, but feed prices also will be lower this spring and if we have good crops this summer feed prices will be reasonable this fall.

Start chicks early either for pullets or cockerels to sell. Feed present flock well to get eggs plentiful-

ly while feed ratio is good. If there is a Federal-State grading station within driving distance, plan to use it. Learn to market better quality eggs. A flock of good hens—properly fed and well managed—will make you money.

Let's consider cows. There has been a tremendous increase in population since 1940. Besides that, many men back from the army are milk drinkers. The dairymen have been smart. There are fewer cows than since about 1930. Many of them were sold for beef. Fewer but better cows are kept. People will want milk to drink possibly at a lower price than the peak, but feed prices are already down 25% since a year ago, but may be lower yet which will give a better feeding ratio than we've had for a long time.

Know what each cow does, and feed to get maximum efficient production from her by good roughage—plentiful pasture, a well fed (Vitamins A & D) dry period. Use a good feed like Milkmaker 24% with its trace minerals and Vitamin D to balance up corn, oats and barley. Continue to cull inefficient producers while beef prices are still fair, but feed good cows well.

The hog raiser is sitting pretty good. Sure, there will be a bigger pig crop this spring. Market price may be down, but with corn where it is—with the chance to develop a pasture program to help lower costs—with not too much red meat in sight for the country—with our commitments to the Marshall Plan

in mind—we believe earnestly that the good, smart operator, who feeds liberally of the best rations and manages his operations well, will clean up a nice profit over 1949 as a whole whether he has poultry, turkeys, cows or hogs. Let's do a good job while so many factors over which we have little or no control are in our favor.

## Ten Dairy Herd Testers Win Awards

Ten dairy herd improvement association testers were honored at Michigan State College during Farmers' Week, Tuesday, January 25, for outstanding accomplishments in 1948 in working with Michigan dairymen.

Wesley Mahaffey, of Marlette and president of the Michigan Artificial Breeders' Co-operative made the presentation of awards in behalf of his organization which sponsored the event. Men honored included: John Gough, Sanilac county; Hugo Klvi, Gogebie; Otto Mallory, Livingston; Elmer Watson, Jackson; Robert Witte, Ingham; Charles Matz, Shiawassee; Willard Bontrager, Oscoda; Glenn Mills, Oakland; Sam McKown, Lenawee and Don Shoenberg, LaPeer.

1949 FREE CATALOG describing all kinds of vegetable plants. Tells how to plant, spray and care for the garden. Write for your copy today. P. D. FULWOOD Co., Tifton, Ga.

## OPPORTUNITIES For Young Men...

Wanted—Young men 18 to 26 years old to learn co-operative elevator work. Good salary with excellent opportunities for advancement. Must be a high school graduate with farm background preferred.

Willingness for hard work and study assures advancement. A six-month training course in elevator, feed and farm supply business at MSC with pay awarded those showing managerial aptitudes.

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For **30** Years

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**CHIEF PETOSKEY**  
CERTIFIED SEED  
POTATOES

MICHIGAN POTATO GROWERS EXCHANGE  
CADILLAC, MICHIGAN  
100 LBS. NET WT.

**Michigan Potato Growers Exchange**  
CADILLAC, MICH.

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ONE PRICE Sale

Look at These Savings on

Unico Bureau Premium Motor Oil

78c	83c	Per Gal. In 30 Gal. Lots
PER GALLON In 55 Gal. Lots	85c	Per Gal. In 5 Gal. Lots

These prices are only for this special sale. It's your opportunity to stock up on your spring and summer motor oil requirements and make tremendous savings.

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**FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OP, Inc.**

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**Grandpa...**

**..what big "EARS" you have!**

YES sir, sonny—BIG EARS it is . . . I plant Michigan Certified Hybrids adapted to my particular farm. This seed produces Big Ears, but with unusually Deep Kernels and Small Cobs. That means more corn in my bins.

When buying seed for next year's planting, ask your dealer for . . .

**MICHIGAN CERTIFIED HYBRIDS**

MICHIGAN CERTIFIED-HYBRID SEED CORN PRODUCERS

# Are the Schools Doing the Job?

Background Material for Discussion this Month by Our Community Farm Bureau Discussion Groups

By NORMAN K. WAGGONER, Research and Education

What kind of a school do we want in this community? What services do we feel the school in this community should offer? What training do you feel the school should offer to the youth in this community? What leadership experiences do you feel the school should offer in this community? Usually the attitudes developed during youth stay with one throughout life. Does the school have a responsibility here? Is the school in this community adequately serving the children, the older youth, the adults, or all three? Every businessman and many farmers take inventory once a year to determine what they have on hand, what progress they have made during the year, and what would be best to follow during the coming year. We put a lot of money into our schools. The kind of a community in which we live is certainly influenced by the kind of a school we have. It might be well for us to take inventory of our schools, too.

We know that we have made great advances in the production of farm and industrial products. The medical profession has made great advances in improving the health of our nation. We have modernized our farming operations. Any farmer who does not keep up with modern developments can not long remain farming successfully. Have our schools kept pace with advancements? Or, are some of our schools still operating much as they were 10, 20, or 30 years ago?

Eighty years ago, 3 out of 4 high school graduates went on to college; while, in 1940, only 1 in 10 went on to college. Today, only 1 person in 25 is a college graduate. What is our school system doing for the other 24? There is need that the training offered in high schools today be one which recognizes the fact that not all of those enrolled will go on to college, and that some training and opportunities be available to that large majority who never will go on to college. It is for this reason that we might say it is extremely unfortunate that vocational training is available to only 1 in 5 youths in Michigan.

Figures have shown that only 57% of the farm youth of high school age are in high school as compared with 70% of the urban youth in this same age group. When they grow to adulthood, this large number of rural youth may be at a disadvantage in competing with their urban cousins for employment.

The quality of the school is influenced in no small measure by an adequately trained teacher. The difficulty in Michigan, in recent years, has been to get and hold such personnel. The average salary of Michigan teachers in 1946 was \$2,300. When we consider that the average earnings of wage earners in Michigan industries that same year was \$2,472 and that a comparable situation was found throughout the country, it is not at all surprising that our nation lost 350,000 qualified teachers in the past six years to more attractive employment. This seems serious and, if we desire to have the best in schools for our children, this is one situation which we can not allow to continue.

Many of the school districts in Michigan were laid out years ago when travel was more difficult, and at a time when farms were smaller and more numerous. At that time, likely many of the districts probably were adequate. Much has happened in the intervening years and now, with fewer farms and improvements in our transportation, some of the districts do not have the necessary valuation, nor do they have a sufficient number of students in attendance to make a satisfactory school possible.

On the one hand, we may have a school which is inadequately financed because there just is not sufficient valuation on which to raise the necessary finances to provide the kind of schooling to which the children are entitled. We have, as in some cases, schools where the enrollment is too small to provide much incentive for the students.

On the other hand, there are several instances, particularly in the small village schools which are handicapped by limited finance on the one hand and a large number of students in proportion to facilities on the other. These crowded conditions with limited facilities, of course, do not lend themselves to the best in an educational opportunity, and the training and experience offered these children is certainly limited.

We might look at our school district and ask ourselves these four questions:

- 1—Is our school district large enough to supply adequate funds to operate the kind of a school we would like to have our children attend?
- 2—It is large enough to supply enrollment in the high school to warrant an adequate choice of subjects?
- 3—Are the people of this community represented on the board of education of the high school which our children attend?
- 4—Are the people of this school district keenly and sincerely inter-

## OHIO FB HAS THREE NEW OIL WELLS

The Ohio Farm Bureau Co-operative Association and its subsidiary company, the Producers Pipe Line Company, are the owners of three new producing oil wells. The co-op wells are in Franklin county, Illinois. One of them is producing 890 barrels a day. The crude oil is being produced for co-op refinery at Louisville, Kentucky.

The co-op owned organization has additional acreage in the vicinity where the drilling operations are being completed. Additional crude oil is thus being made available to assure the farmers an adequate supply of gasoline for their ever-expanding demands, according to Wayne Shidaker, assistant to the general manager of the Farm Bureau Co-operative Association.

152 persons were killed during November 1948 as the result of highway-railway grade crossing accidents.

## BRAKE PREDICTS NO NEW TAXES DURING 1949

In addressing 150 members attending the annual meeting of the Berrien County Farm Bureau, D. Hale Brake, state treasurer, predicted that the legislature would not enact any taxes for a year at least.

Even though the proposed state budget for the next fiscal year will be about 60 million dollars more than the estimated revenue, he said he believed that the legislature will trust that state income will exceed the \$229,000,000 estimated revenue next year. However, Mr. Brake, was not very optimistic of increased revenue through present sources.

The state treasurer indicated that he felt the legislature would be forced to act the following year by either approving new taxes or to eliminate some 40 to 50 million dollars worth of present state services. Because of strong pressure groups, he suggested that there would be little possibility of services being reduced leaving the only course to collect new taxes.

The hen that finds ice instead of water in the drinking fountain will not have the moisture in her body that is required to produce eggs, MSC poultry specialists advise.

## Why ORGANIZED action is so important-



What a farmer receives for his labors today is more dependent on what is done in Washington on Tariffs, Price Supports, Farm Research, Foreign Trade Policies, Farm Credit, etc. than upon his skill as an agricultural producer.

age of more than 13 million acres during the last five years.

The Farm Bureau is owned, controlled and financed by farmers.

## MICHIGAN BEAN GROWERS HEAR DR. SCARSETH

Speaking to Michigan's bean growers at a Farmers' Week session, January 26, Dr. George D. Scarseth, director of the American Farm Research Ass'n asked "Do northern farmers, like those in Michigan, get enough daylight on their late planted spring crops for good maturity?"

"The southern farmer has an advantage from his longer growing season; however, the northern farmer does not lose as much sugar from his plants through respiration. The hotter the weather, the faster is the rate of respiration both day and night," Dr. Scarseth commented.

He suggested that northern farmers must make the best use of long daylight which is so valuable.

"Can the farmer get his crop planted earlier, and take advantage of earlier spring sunshine if he uses more chemical nitrogen?" he asked.

"There are many questions on our minds as to how we might better take advantage of seasonal and biological practices in growing our crops. We need to get back of our experiment station scientists to work out the answer to such questions."

## Farmers Guests Of Marshall Rotary Club

Farm Bureau members of Calhoun county were among the farmer guests of the Marshall Rotary Club at the club's annual rural-urban dinner meeting, the first part of January.

John Converse, of Burlington, president of the Calhoun County Farm Bureau, explained the functions of the Farm Bureau.

Representatives of the Grange, the Soil Conservation Department, the 4-H Club and the Artificial Breeders' Association explained the functions of their organizations.

C. V. Ballard of the Extension Department, Michigan State College, gave an overall picture of the work of rural organizations in the state.

This type of a meeting is an annual event of the Marshall Rotary Club, and attracts considerable interest. It is an excellent way of exchanging views.

## Townsend Chairman Otsego Farm Bureau

The Otsego County Farm Bureau board of directors elected Allen Townsend chairman of the organization for the coming year. Other officers elected were Clifton Lyons, vice-chairman; Arthur Estelle, junior counselor; Harold Barding, community chairman; Mrs. Estelle, secretary; and Anthony Gruszynski, executive chairman.

## YAEGER DISCUSSES FARM BUREAU'S NEW LOOK

More than 100 members of five western Huron County Farm Bureau groups heard Jack Yaeger, assistant executive secretary of the Michigan Farm Bureau, describe the Farm Bureau's new look. In discussing the growth of Farm Bureau, he pointed out that the organization starts at the grass roots; 1,325,000 members in the nation can now speak with authority. He said that it is the largest farm organization in history.

Mr. Yaeger pointed out that farmers are a minority group consisting of 12% of population in Michigan, and the only way that the farmer's voice can be heard in Lansing and Washington is through a strong organization.

He informed the members that it is their job to get the big story of the Farm Bureau before the farmers in their area.

After a discussion period, motion pictures were shown. Community singing was led by Mrs. Karl Oehmke. A potluck lunch was served.

The five participating groups of the county were: Western Huron Happy Home, Green Acres, Kilmanagh and the Friendly Neighbors.

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