

Michigan Farm News

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Cockshutt Buys National Farm Machinery Co-op

EDITORIAL

Farm Problem Coming Back?

Trouble is brewing on the farm, says the U. S. News & World Report. It may be President Eisenhower's big problem at home.

When Ezra Benson takes over January 20 as Secretary of the U. S. Dep't of Agriculture, he takes over a troubled farm situation.

Surpluses are showing up in the basic crops of wheat, corn, cotton, rice, tobacco and peanuts.

No help in controlling such surpluses will come from the Agricultural Act of 1952. It provides that the U. S. must support prices of all basic crops at not less than 90% of parity through the crop year of 1954.

The American Farm Bureau pointed out last year that mandatory price support at 90% of parity could encourage production for the support price, and thereby assure surpluses.

Grain prices and livestock prices have been falling.

Prices received by farmers are below parity on corn, wheat and peanuts. Government loans on those products are soaring.

Farm costs continue to rise.

It is to be expected that this situation will soon be a problem for the 83rd Congress.

AFBF on Price Supports for '53

The American Farm Bureau Federation adopted the following statement on price supports at its 34th annual convention at Seattle, December 9-11. Six thousand persons present represented a membership of 1,492,000 farm families in 48 states. The statement:

For many years we have been experimenting with various types of agricultural programs to protect farm prices against collapses, to dispose of surpluses, and to bring about needed adjustments in production.

We have supported flexible price supports and the modernized parity formula.

We believe that those proposals are sound. However, Congress has seen fit to delay their full application to the basic commodities (wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco, rice and peanuts) by extending provision for the use of the higher of the old or the new parity formulas in calculating parity prices. Also, by providing that the support level shall be 90 percent of parity for the next two years.

We recommend that the American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors make a comprehensive review of existing price support and production adjustment legislation to determine whether there is any change in approach that would better serve the following principles:

1. Farm price supports are an appropriate and necessary protection against unreasonable price declines. It is not, however, the responsibility of the government to guarantee profitable prices to any economic group.
2. In order to encourage high production per man in agriculture, the emphasis in farm programs should continue to be on adequate prices in the market place rather than on income subsidies. The problem is to provide reasonable price protection without going to the extreme of government price fixing.
3. Government payments to farmers are not a desirable substitute for price supports or a satisfactory means of bringing income into agriculture.
4. The cost of the program to the government should not be excessive.
5. The maintenance and improvement of our soil resources should be promoted.
6. Efficiency and the production of better quality products should be encouraged.
7. Emphasis must be given to the development of expanded markets on a firm basis and the importance of adjusting production to the real market demand.
8. Finally, opportunity for the individual farmer to adjust his operations to changing needs and conditions must be preserved.

Alcona Leads As 4 Counties Make Goal

Alcona and Montmorency County Farm Bureaus reached their membership goals for 1953 on December 5.

Alpena and Branch County Farm Bureaus reached their membership goals December 8.

Alcona County Farm Bureau was the first to report. It has made its membership goal every year since it was organized five years ago.

Montmorency County Farm Bureau has been first to make goal the past three years and was a close second for 1953.

Branch County Farm Bureau is one of the largest. It is quite a distinction to enroll 1685 families as Farm Bureau members in less than a week.



LEROY SANDS, roll call manager for Alcona county, reported 321 members or 101% of goal. "Fine cooperation, workers that knew the story of Farm Bureau well, good coverage, and people's interest in the Farm Bureau were responsible for our success," said Mr. Sands.

ERVIN FARRIER, roll call manager for Montmorency county, reported 170 members. Good planning enthusiasm and a desire to do the job quickly did it for Montmorency. (Photo of Mr. Farrier not available for this edition.)



ARTHUR HAGGERMAN, roll call manager for Branch county, reported 1685 members or 101% of goal. Mr. Haggerman said with confidence that the job could be done. Good cooperation from the members and service to members made the campaign a success.



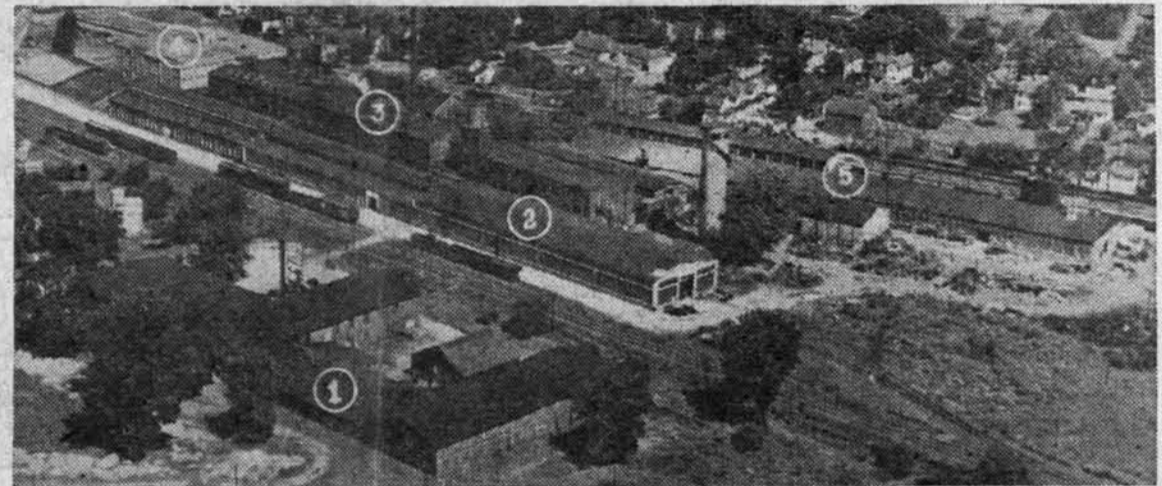
ARCHIE WIRGAU, roll call manager for Alpena county, reported 558 members. He thought their success was due to good planning, enthusiastic leaders, the training school for roll call managers, and an inspiring kick-off meeting for campaign workers.

Cockshutt Plant at Brantford, Ont.



This is the manufacturing plant of Cockshutt Farm Equipment Co. at Brantford, Ontario, about 120 miles east of Port Huron, Michigan. Here are 45 acres of machine shops, foundries, forge, welding, sheet metal, paint shops and other facilities for the building of tractors, combines and a complete line of farm machinery. Hay tools are built at Smith Falls, Ont.

Cockshutt Plant at Bellevue, Ohio



This is the Bellevue, Ohio, plant of Cockshutt Farm Equipment Company. From this factory comes the line of Co-op Black Hawk corn planters, tractor discs, lime sowers, manure spreaders, harrows, grain drills, etc. In the picture above we see (1) Engineering and experimental shop, (2) new forge shop and machine shop, (3) new modern assembly line building, (4) packing and shipping department, (5) new, completely automatic foundry.

Elect Roberts President of FB Services

Alfred Roberts of Pigeon was elected president of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., December 17, at the 23rd annual meeting of the stockholders of the farm supplies cooperative, serving some 50,000 farmers in Michigan. The meeting was at Kellogg Center, Michigan State college.

MR. ROBERTS is 44. He is manager of the Cooperative Elevator and Milling Company at Pigeon, Huron county. Mr. Roberts has been employed at Pigeon for 26 years. He has been a director of FBS for 9 years and was the vice-president. He succeeded Albert Shellenbarger who served for two years as president and continues on the board.

Marten Garn of Charlotte, Eaton county farmer and Farm Bureau leader, was elected vice-president.

J. F. YAEGER of East Lansing was re-engaged as executive secretary and treasurer of FB Services.

The stockholders re-elected all nine directors: Mr. Roberts and Mr. Garn; Thomas Berghouse of Falmouth; Paul Kaechele, Caledonia; Ivan Parsons, Grand Blanc; Carl Buskirk, Paw Paw; Ward Hodge, Snover; Blaque Knirk, Quincy; Albert Shellenbarger, Lake Odessa.

SERVICES stockholders amended their by-laws to provide that beginning in December 1953 at the next annual meeting, all directors must be farmers and be members of the Michigan Farm Bureau. For years 3 to 4 members of the board have been managers of farm cooperatives. They have served FBS well.

The intent of the amendment, said a stockholder, is to continue the program in all Michigan Farm Bureau companies whereby only farmer owners of the businesses shall be eligible for the policy making boards of directors. Farm cooperative managers supported the change.

FARM BUREAU SERVICES named Marten Garn and J. F. Yaeger as its directors on the board of United Co-operatives, Inc., at Alliance, Ohio. United is the source of motor oils, paints, steel and other farm supplies. Carl Buskirk and Boyd A. Ral-

ney of East Lansing will represent FB Services on the board of the Farm Bureau Milling Company at Chicago.

Legumes and 100 Bu. Corn

The claim has been made that plowing down a heavy crop of legumes could supply enough nitrogen for a 100-bushel corn crop. Elmer C. Rossman, Michigan State College corn specialist, agrees.

An acre of good legumes can take 150 pounds of nitrogen out of the air; when plowed under, the legumes make the nitrogen available to corn following in rotation.

FPC Names Hodge for Another Term

Ward Hodge of Snover was re-elected president of the Farmers' Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., December 18, at the close of the 4th annual meeting of stockholders at Kellogg Center, Michigan State college.

THOMAS KONING of Marne was elected vice-president of the farm cooperative engaged in the production of oil and distribution of petroleum products to farmers throughout the lower peninsula of Michigan.

The board of directors re-engaged J. F. Yaeger of E. Lansing as executive secretary and treasurer, and Earl Huntley of Dimondale as manager.

Kenneth Johnson of Freeland and Blaque Knirk of Quincy were elected to the board of directors. They succeeded Carl Buskirk of Paw Paw and Walter Wightman of Fennville, who retired from the board.

OTHER directors re-elected were: Mr. Hodge and Mr. Koning, Albert Shellenbarger of Lake Odessa, Marten Garn of Charlotte, William Bartz of St. Joseph, Fred King of Blissfield, Glenn Pridgen of Montgomery.

Petals

The original rose of history had five petals which is now known to gardeners as a single rose. Today some roses have as many as fifty petals per blossom.

F.B. Institute To Meet January 6-7

The Fourth Annual Michigan Farm Bureau Institute will be held at Kellogg Center on the Michigan State College campus on January 6 and 7. Approximately 375 county leaders are expected to attend. This year's theme is "Setting the Pace for '56." The Institute is designed to aid county Farm Bureau committees in planning and building a stronger county Farm Bureau program. Each county is urged to send its county president to the Institute and the chairmen of the following committees: membership, community Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau women, senior committee on Junior Farm Bureau, Blue Cross, resolutions, farm supply and legislative.

Institute will open with registration from 9:00-10:00 A. M. on Tuesday, January 6. The first general session at 10:00 A. M. will feature a panel of county presidents from the 1952 pace setting counties. Appearing will be the presidents from Berrien, Gladwin, Branch, St. Joseph, Huron, Ottawa, Otsego, Jackson, Mecosta, Arenac, Allegan, and Sanilac counties. The afternoon will be spent in the various committee workshops. Highlighting the Tuesday evening program will be an address by Dr. "Woody" Varner, Director of Extension at Michigan State College.

Most of the day on Wednesday, January 7, will be spent in workshop sessions. The program will conclude in the afternoon with a graduation ceremony for the Institute "students." A certificate of participation will be presented to each person who attends every one of his workshop periods. This session will feature Riley Arnold, Assistant Regional Organization Director for the Farm Bureau in the Southern Region. Mr. Arnold is widely known in Farm Bureau audiences for his simple philosophy and tremendous sense of humor.

The program should be interesting, educational and entertaining for all county Farm Bureau committee chairmen. Every county could get helpful hints in program building by sending a delegation. Reservations can be made by contacting your county Farm Bureau secretary.

Co-ops and Tractor Firms Gain by Deal

Effective December 10, 1952, Cockshutt Farm Equipment Company of Brantford, Ontario, became the owner of the National Farm Machinery Cooperative at Bellevue, Ohio, according to an announcement by J. F. Yaeger, executive secretary of Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

This step was under negotiation for several months. C. L. Brody of the Michigan Farm Bureau was chairman of the committee which negotiated the deal.

Cockshutt Farm Equipment Company, manufacturers of Co-op tractors and other Co-op equipment since 1945, is a fine engineering and manufacturing organization. It has taken over all engineering and manufacturing operations at Bellevue, Ohio.

Farm Bureau Services and 11 state and regional farm cooperatives which were in National Farm Machinery Co-op will devote themselves to distribution and servicing of the full line of Co-op Black Hawk farm equipment.

Co-op tractors, combines and other equipment will continue to be manufactured by Cockshutt at its plants at Brantford and Smith Falls, Ontario. Cockshutt is continuing the manufacture of the Co-op Black Hawk line of farm machinery at Bellevue, Ohio.

Founded in 1839, Cockshutt has grown to be the largest manufacturer of a complete line of farm equipment in Canada. It employs 4200 people Brantford and Smith Falls. Included is a large staff of engineers who work on production, testing, and improvement to keep pace with the new opportunities in agriculture.

The Cockshutt organization and farm cooperatives now join the group of major farm equipment manufacturers which have manufacturing and distribution facilities in both the United States and Canada. Some 1100 distributors serve Cockshutt in Canada.

Farm Bureau Services and 11 State and regional farm cooperatives serve several hundred thousand farmers in the United States. They have distributed more than \$128,000,000 of Co-op Tractors and Co-op Black Hawk farm equipment. They are well equipped for distributing and servicing farm equipment.

The Cockshutt Farm Equipment Company is a very strong organization financially. Its manufacturing plants at Brantford and Smith Falls, Ontario, and Bellevue, Ohio, are up-to-date and well equipped.

The new set-up with Cockshutt handling engineering and manufacturing operations and farm cooperatives in the United States handling distribution and service will assure the success of the cooperatives' farm equipment program.

Roll Call Goes On; 41,118 December 16

WESLEY S. HAWLEY
Director of Membership Acquisition

The Michigan Farm Bureau roll call for members for 1953 is near the three-quarters mark. The December 16 report from County Farm Bureaus totalled 41,118 family memberships as paid up for 1953.

This is 73% of the goal of 56,662. Efforts are being made by County Farm Bureau membership workers to reach the state goal by January 2.

For the past two years Michigan has been the first state Farm Bureau to reach its membership goal. Prospects are good for doing it again. Indiana Farm Bureau was the runner-up last year, and is trying hard to beat us in 1953.

January 15 Deadline for Blue Cross

Do you have Blue Cross through the Farm Bureau? Are your Farm Bureau dues for 1953 paid?

This is important, says Wesley S. Hawley, director of membership acquisition for the Farm Bureau.

According to the new County Service Agreement with County Farm Bureaus, a member's dues must be paid by January 15 in order to have his name on the Community Farm Bureau roster. This makes him eligible for Blue Cross hospital-surgical-medical service through an eligible group. The rule applies to both old and

new members of the Farm Bureau.

Kline Appoints Dale Foster to National Post

American Farm Bureau President Allan Kline has appointed Dale Foster of Berrien county as Michigan's representative to the National Rural Youth Committee. Dale was recommended to Mr. Kline by the Michigan Junior Farm Bureau Board. He will join delegates from twelve other states on the National Committee. This committee is the executive body of the American Farm Bureau's Youth Program.

Dale wins this high honor by virtue of a long and impressive Junior Farm Bureau record. During the past eight years.

Legislature Approves Two Farm Bureau Suggestions

Acts on Schools And Twp. Boards

STANLEY M. POWELL
MFB Legislative Counsel

MANY districts have been in the habit of securing advances on their state aid. Because of the depleted condition of the state's general fund it is now impossible to grant such advances except in relatively small amounts. Also, there is considerable uncertainty as to when the payments due the school districts in January, 1953 will actually be paid.

The Farm Bureau recommended a special session for emergency

legislation to authorize school boards to have increased borrowing authority against anticipated State Aid.

SHORTLY after the Governor had decided to call the special session of the legislature, a letter was sent to each member of the Legislature over the signature of J. F. Yaeger, executive secretary of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

This letter outlined the problem, quoted the resolution adopted by the Farm Bureau delegates and ended with this appeal: "We therefore urge that you give this subject your very careful consideration and hope that you will see your way clear to support legislation substantially in harmony with the foregoing resolution when you meet in special session on December 18."

TOWNSHIPS having a population of 5,000 or over 3,000 or more registered electors may, if they wish to do so, elect four trustees and thus have a seven-member township board.

Four members of that Board constitute a quorum.

As a companion bill the legislature enacted another measure reducing to one the number of

Justices of the Peace to be elected at each biennial spring election. As the terms of justices are for four years this would mean that there will be two justices per township. Because of the supreme court decision mentioned above, justices are not permitted to serve on a township board.

The supreme court decision had resulted in a very serious problem in many townships, particularly in those having seven-member boards or where one of the officials had died or had become incapacitated. Because the deadline is fast approaching for filing petitions for running at primary

elections which are held in many townships, settlement of this problem at the special session was urgent.

Farm Bureau Helps Review Election Laws

Michigan Farm Bureau is represented by Dan Reed of its legislative staff on the Election Study

Commission appointed by Governor Williams.

The group will study state election laws and procedures and will endeavor to suggest improvements.

BOTH 1952 and 1950 elections for governor wound up in photo finishes which involve expensive recounts and keep state government marking time until the outcome is certain.

In 1950 correction of errors in counting, certifying and reporting brought a change of some 4,000 votes and seated Democrat Williams instead of Republican Kelly as had first been announced. While

this error was less than one vote per precinct, there was considerable concern throughout the state.

The 1952 election has given Williams an apparent lead of over 8,000 votes. This is being challenged by the Republican candidate Alger. All precincts will be recounted except those where voting machines were in use.

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THE BILL to meet this situation passed both the House and Senate unanimously. It authorizes any school district to pledge state appropriations allocated to that district as any form of State Aid and to borrow through local banks an amount not to exceed 70% of the undistributed balance of the state aid not yet paid to the district.

Such notes shall bear interest at not more than 4% per annum and shall be due and payable on or before September 1, 1953. They shall not be renewable except that if the total state aid due any district is not paid to the district by September 1, 1953 the notes may be renewable but shall be paid within ten days following the receipt of the final payment from the state.

Thus the school will not be penalized by the current shortage in the State's General Fund. All that they will be out of pocket will be the interest paid and the bother of complying with the rather detailed provisions of this new legislation.

THE SECOND emergency problem settled by the legislature in line with Farm Bureau resolutions had to do with membership on township boards.

The resolution relative to state affairs adopted by Michigan Farm Bureau delegates last November, read as follows:

"The recent decision of the state supreme court, barring justices of the peace from service on the township boards, has created a serious problem. We urge that the legislature take immediate steps to increase the board membership to the former number by providing for election of trustees, or by some other legal method."

The Legislature provided that in townships having a five-member Board, two trustees would be elected in addition to the super-

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0-20-0	10-10-10	3-18-9
0-20-20	4-12-24	6-24-12
0-10-30	4-16-16	5-20-20

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It was your loyal support and patronage that made possible everything that has been done by us as your organization this past year.

To all of you, may the New Year bring every promise of good health and happiness . . . and leave you with each promise richly fulfilled.

May each month be a milestone in your steady forward march to better things through your Farm Bureau organizations.

May 1953 prove one of the brightest pages in your memory book . . . because of what it did for you . . . your loved ones . . . your country . . . your world!

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State Fire Regulations & Rural School Districts

Community Farm Bureau Discussion Topic for January

Background Material for Program in January by Our Community Farm Bureau Discussion Groups

DONALD D. KINSEY
Director of Research and Information

Is the State Fire Marshal trying to force consolidation in our school districts? The question was put in my lap.

I decided that one of the things I should do in all fairness was to put the question to the State Fire Marshal himself. So I stepped into his office. His reception was cordial, and he didn't seem surprised at the question.

"A lot of folks have been thinking that," he said. But why should I want to close the district schools? I was brought up in a rural district school!

"But I have to look at the facts, and it is my responsibility to see that the conditions are safe for the children.

"Let's look at some facts. There were 96 school fires in 1951. There have been four explosions in one-room schools in the past 12 months. We have been lucky that there were no fatalities in these cases.

"We had an oil explosion in one school—and again we were lucky! The heating plant was in a separate furnace room.

"JUST OVER a year ago, one child was killed and 17 were put in the hospital by a school explosion and fire. If the exploding heater had been in the school-room itself, it would have killed all the children.

"Whether the districts consolidate or not is the people's business. The safety of the children should be everybody's business. But it is mine especially, and I am only trying to apply the spirit of the law to this problem. We should not continue unsafe conditions in our crowded school-rooms."

WELL, the State Fire Marshal seemed very sincere in his views. It would seem, that the issue lies more in the protest of various school districts over the expense required to revamp the buildings so as to pass inspection.

The regulation as passed by the State Fire Marshal states that henceforth no new heating equipment, to replace worn out heating equipment, can be installed in the school room. It must be put into a separate heater room that has a one-hour fire-resistant rating.

THIS ROOM must be separated from the rest of the building by a self-closing fire door and frame. In cases where fuel heaters are already installed in school rooms, and are found to be defective, an order is to be issued to remove the heater from the classroom to a separate fire-resistant room.

There is no such thing as a routine inspection of schools over the state. But inspection of a school can be initiated upon the request of any interested person. If new construction is to take place, then inspection is required.

DURING the past year, 385 to 400 district schools have been in the process of remodeling. The normal deterioration of their heating equipment would mean that about 50 to 75 district schools per year would have to install separate heating rooms and new equipment, according to the State Department of Public Instruction.

The Michigan School Building Law states that a heating plant may not be located under any portion of a new school building. So the regulation is not a decision of the State Fire Marshal.

THE PURPOSE of these laws is to provide for maximum safety to the children from the hazards of fire.

But the installations required are expensive! How many school districts would have difficulty or be unable to finance the required installation? I can't answer that question. I wondered if that is really the issue? Or do we just dislike regulations that force us to do things in our home districts? You can answer that set of questions. I don't really know.

THERE ARE more rural schools of four rooms or less in the southern than in the northern

counties. Draw a line across the southern peninsula from Mason to Arenac counties and the richer agricultural counties are south of this line. The timberland and tourist areas are north of it, with less agricultural land.

South of the Mason-Arenac counties, 68% of the small district schools (four rooms or less) have stoves in the classrooms; only 32% have a central heating system. In this area 56% of the rural pupils are in schoolrooms containing a stove. These are just facts from the record.

NORTH of this line 59% of the small district schools have a stove in the schoolroom, while 41% have a central heating system, and 52% of the rural pupils are in a schoolroom containing a stove.

In the state as a whole, the totals show that 67% of the schools of four rooms or less have a stove in the classrooms. This includes 1,965 such schools. 971 are "centrally heated."

THE INTENT of this article is to raise questions and stir ideas. The writer takes no position on the issue - nor on consolidation.

The decision to consolidate or not is a matter for the local citizens of an area to decide.

If one were actually opposed to reorganization or consolidation, it seems that the improvement and expansion of the school plant would be a strong barrier against pressures to consolidate.

CONSOLIDATION is never forced on any district or area under our Michigan school philosophy. Hence, the State Fire Marshal cannot force consolidation.

Another consideration seems apparent. If the present space heaters in the schoolrooms are kept in top repair and condition so as to stand inspection, there is no reason why the school district should have to change.

THE LAW does not say these heating systems cannot be repaired. It says that "if they are found to be defective," they must be removed and cannot be replaced within the schoolroom.

QUESTIONS

1. Do you make regular and careful inspections of the heating equipment in your district school?
2. What objections, if any, do you have to the law requiring a separate heating room for new heating equipment installations
3. If your school district is not consolidated, would it be unable

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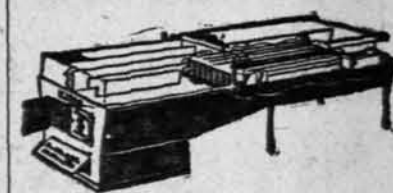
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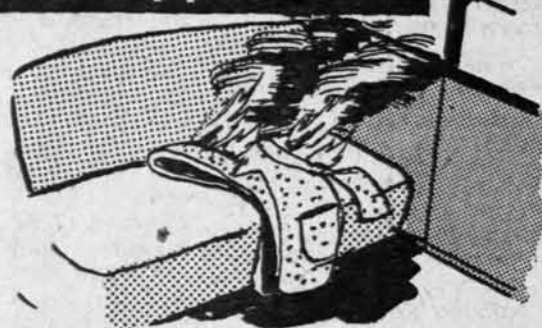
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WINDSTORM insurance can now be made a part of your State Mutual policy. It's no longer necessary to buy a separate policy to protect your buildings from windstorm damage. If you so desire, State Mutual gives you this protection along with your fire protection in a "one-policy" package.

HAIL damage to your buildings can also be covered by State Mutual's new "one-policy" package. This protection goes right along with the windstorm coverage mentioned above.

Remember, your State Mutual Policy is non-assessable a feature which makes it completely acceptable as collateral at banks or other loaning agencies. And there are no membership fees for new members.

State Mutual FIRE INSURANCE CO.

702 Church St. Flint 3, Michigan
E. B. DINGMAN, President E. E. FISK, Secretary

"State Mutual Serves Every Fifth Farm in Michigan—Ask Your Neighbors!"

Dry Hay Sharpens Appetites of Dairy Cows

Many Michigan dairy farmers complain that their cows won't eat liberal amounts of grass silage day after day. This can be a bothersome problem in winter when farmers want to feed heavily on silage to keep ahead of freezing, or in summer's hot weather to avoid spoiling. According to Extension Dairymen at Michigan State College, the problem can be solved quite simply. A small amount of dry hay—about five pounds—will sharpen the cows' appetites for the silage. The hay can be offered any time, between night and evening feedings of silage, for instance. For help in solving dairy problems, call your county agricultural agent.



"Lightweights" solve a heavy problem

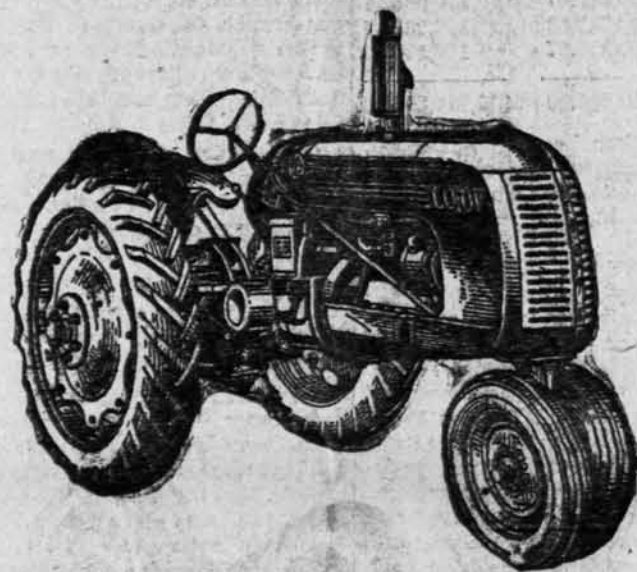
These are clamps used on the outside of a building to hold a telephone wire in place as it stretches from a nearby pole. Those on the left are newly designed aluminum clamps; the other is made of copper. Three aluminum models weigh about as much as a single copper one. But lightness is not the biggest benefit in these aluminum clamps. By replacing copper with aluminum they stretch the supply of copper. Copper is vital to defense production, and it's also needed to extend and improve telephone service. By substitutions like this, the telephone company helps national defense and at the same time brings good service to farmers at reasonable cost.



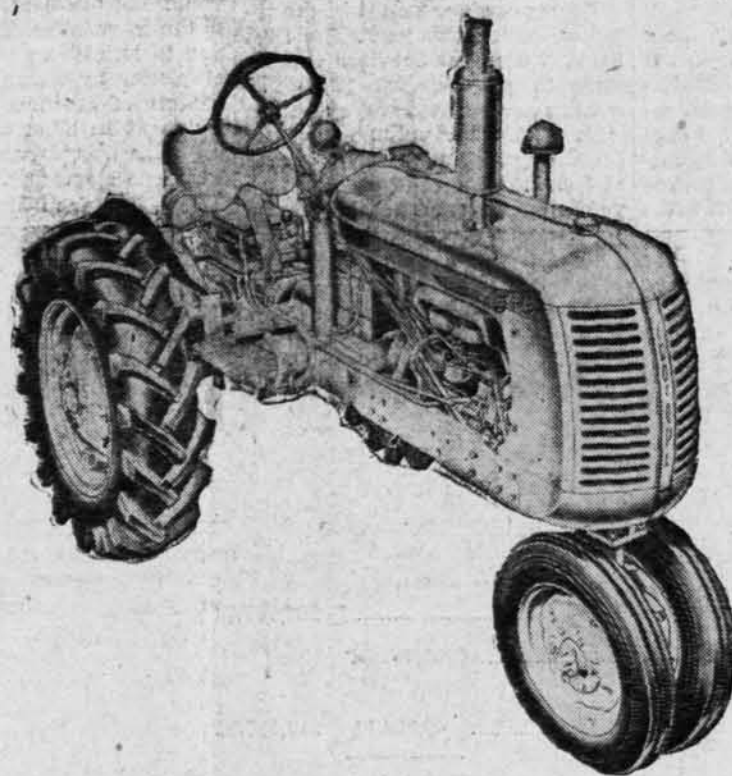
MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

Power Galore With Co-op

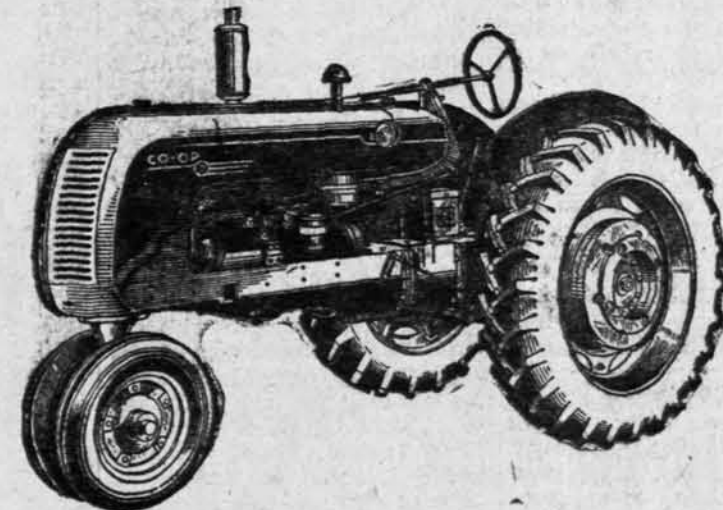
CO-OP E-3



CO-OP E-2



CO-OP E-4



No other 2 plow tractor can match the power-speed, efficiency, economy and adaptability of the new CO-OP E-2. But don't take our word for it. Test drive, power drive the new E-2 yourself. You'll like the way it delivers power where and when you want it.

The Co-op E-4 is a tractor for extra jobs. It is a mighty machine with amazing farming capacity. Powered by an efficient, economical 6-cylinder gas or diesel engine. New sliding spur gear transmission with 6 forward and two reverse speeds. It offers new comforts and conveniences; push button starter, handy grouped controls, comfortable, adjustable seat. Also available: independent pulley drive, separate control live power take-off; powerful hydraulic lift system.

Manufactured by The Cockshutt Farm Equipment Company
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