Editorial

What Shall We Recommend?

In Michigan and throughout the United States, members of the Farm Bureau are beginning an examination of national farming legislation.

This will result in the American Farm Bureau making recommendations to the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture in December.

We have been advised by Secretary Benson that Congress will be looking to farmers for advice when it takes a new look at the overall farm program next year.

Some farm laws are due to expire. New legislation may be different to do a better job of meeting the requirements of agriculture. Farm Bureau wants to make sure that any new programs or revisions of programs now in force are sound and satisfactory.

The process of developing Farm Bureau policy is as simple as it is sound. Our membership meets in community groups. They study the facts and the suggestions for dealing with decisions for both local and international problems. The report is debated by the members. The resolutions receiving a majority vote are adopted, prepared, or revived in the meetings of the states.

Resolutions dealing with state, national aid and international problems are sent to the state Farm Bureau meeting in December. From there, the resolutions go to the American Farm Bureau meeting in December. Delegates from all the state Farm Bureau conventions determine which matters will be brought to the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

The Farm Bureau has fought for years the repeated attempts of non-farm groups and government agencies to speak for farmers. The voice of agriculture should come from farmers.

Thus, it was with a sense of appreciation and responsibility that the Farm Bureau received a request from Secretary of Agriculture Benson to let him know in December what 1,600,000 families in the nation are doing.
Old Graveyard

Brock in Neighbor Ricks' monument is a little meaner laurel, but it stands as a reminder of the past. Overlooking several acres of the lawn ground by the road and a few scattered homes, and has

been a symbol of quiet reflection where once it stood. But to me it means something else. Once I remember seeing a little girl about the same age as myself, standing at some distance from the monument and looking at it for a minute. Then she turned and walked away, without a word. I have since learned that she had been visiting her grandmother's grave, which was nearby, and that this was her way of saying goodbye. 

Why August and September? Because your opinions must be available for your county Farm Bureau annual meeting. The opinions must become part of resolutions. Time is short for this. August and September are the only months left before the October annual meetings and the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in November.

Majors are important. Attendance is necessary to speak. If farm organizations are to speak for farmers, sound reasons call for a majority attendance — and this is true at local meetings and to the county annual meeting.

Leaders and members of Farm Bureau are called upon to assure the State Farm Bureau a sufficient voting attendance to these meetings during the coming months.

Write Your Congressman!

We have heard members of Congress and of the state legislature emphasize the importance of the mail they receive from their constituents. They have assured us that mail is magic.

Thurman Stengel of Nashville, Tennessee, puts it this way:

"If the people of the United States, employ certain individuals to run our government for us, "The party platform is by no means a complete guide. It is our duty and our responsibility as employees of the government staff, to not only see that they carry out the terms of the platform on which they were elected, but to give them additional incentive to meet various expectations of us.

"It is a poor employer who hires a man, gives him no attention whatever, and then fire him because he is not doing a good job. Therefore, write your Congressman!"

The right of petition, the responsibility of writing to your Congressman, is something that no one else can do. It is something that you must do."

Michigan at Farm Women's World Meeting

The 184 meeting of the Associate Country Women of the World was held at Toledo August 7-8.

Adults Select Meals Lacking in Calcium

If you want good protein, you need calcium. If you want a strong body you need calcium. For the propelling of the heart and for the clothing of the bones you need calcium... Several Michigan leaders were on hand last week to see Mrs. Dorothy Jones, Sec. 

CALCIMIL, with pharmaceuticals and labeled as "Cymalase" is rapidly becoming a household word as it affects your posture. Too many women and men have calcium in the bones of the home is not "installed" in the bones of the body. It is a storage of calcium takes place when the young adult is between the ages of 18 and 25.

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What Should We Do About Farm Price Laws?

Benson's questions

Community Farm Bureaus and All Members Urged to Consider Two Major Problems in August

Donald O. Kinsten

Coordinator of Research and Education

Michigan Farm News

In June Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson invited the members of the American Farm Bureau, the Grange and the Seventy-Fourth Congress to consider proposals concerning the national farm program for farm prices and farm income. Benson said that rapidly changing conditions make it necessary to reexamine the entire field of public policy relating to agriculture.

Farm prices continue down. Price support fixed at 90% of parity for basic crops is held responsible for the present tremendous surplus and 1953 production of wheat. USDA has ordered an acreage allotment and a 90% of parity for basic crops is held responsible for the relatively good crop. Similar action is expected for cotton and corn. Through county, state and national resolutions to USDA there is little that can be done except purchase of surpluses and maybe an increase in the current marketing quota for the 1954 crop. Similar action is expected for cotton and corn.

Secretary Benson has asked members of the three farm organizations to examine the recommendations through county, state and national resolutions to USDA and Congress concerning these five major farm problems:

1. Farm Income Stabilization and Improvement
3. Conservation and Improvement of Farm Resources.
5. Trade and Commerce, need of foreign markets.

We present in this edition the American Farm Bureau material and questions and discuss them in our opinion columns in the next issue of the paper. Save your Michigan Farm News for reference.

1. Farm Income Stability

The Effect of Parity, Price Supports and Surpluses Upon Farm Income

Sources of income. The income farmers receive from the sales of their products is affected by the prices they sell the amount they sell and the price they receive. Thus the farmer has two jobs to do: to grow a crop and to produce it, and to get a share of the national income which he earns. Each farmer has a great deal to do with the price he receives. He affects it through acreage planted, varieties grown, and practices followed in growing and selling production affects used, the extent to which feed and roughage are conserved into livestock products, and other factors.

Influence of Government. Government can also affect the position of output, research, education, outlook information, credit assistance, soil conservation programs, reclamation projects, and finally, through production controls, such as acreage allotments and marketing quotas.

Factors affecting prices. Farm prices are affected by the amount that is available for sale, the ability and willingness of domestic and foreign customers to buy, the efficiency and competitiveness of our marketing system, government price support programs, and the values of loans that are indicated by the position of the general price level.

What is left to spend. Cash farm income is important, but the thing that really matters is the "net spendable income," which is left after paying production expenses and taxes and what we can buy with our "net." That is real income.

Experiences with parity prices. For many years, we have been experimenting with government price support and production control programs as a means of solving farm price problems. These programs really got their start in the depression years of the 1930's. Support levels were low at first, but even during World War II, they continued to be increased. When World War II came along, surplus production decreased and support prices were increased to 90 to 95% of parity to stimulate production. (Parity prices are the prices necessary to give a unit of farm production, such as a bushel of wheat, the same purchasing power as it had in a historic base period). Parity is a price calculated to give farmers a fair exchange on the proceeds of their products against the cost of the things they buy.

Cause of good prices—1943-52. Price supports have not been responsible for the relatively good prices farmers have enjoyed in recent years. Farm prices averaged 113 per cent of parity for the 10 years, 1943-52, although few commodities had supports above 90 per cent and many had no supports at all. Farm prices have been high, because of the great demand stimulated by heavy government spending for national defense and wartime aid, production at a high level and foreign demand declining, price support programs are becoming more important than ever before for farm income stability.

Issues and consequences. The level at which prices are to be supported, the commodities to be supported, and the methods to be used in making programs effective have been matters of controversy in recent years.

High level price supports encourage production and discourage consumption and exports. In varying degrees, it follows that the higher the support level, the greater the control necessary to make it effective without heavy costs.

How? And what happens? Price support is made effective by government loans or purchases. Export subsidies have been used to bridge the gap between domestic support prices and lower world market prices. Dividends have been used to pay farmers the difference between the support price and world market prices. Compensatory payments have been mandated as a substitute for price supports. Under this proposal, the government would pay farmers a given amount of the difference between the support price and world market prices. If the guaranteed price was high enough to encourage production, such a proposal would make farmers dependent upon annual appropriations from the government for their income.

Under a basic or purchase price support program, the surplus of a commodity above what can be sold at the support price tends to accumulate in the hands of the government. This raises farm income when the government is building up stocks, but it cuts income when the government sells from its stockpile. Even when held off the market, surplus stocks exert a downward pressure on prices and tend to prevent the market price of food from going above the support level.

Producers control, such as the marketing quotas which have been announced for the 1924 wheat crop, present many difficulties. Reducing production to get a higher price does not necessarily mean more income, for incomes depend upon volume prices, less taxes and expenses. The level taken out of the market by the production of a controlled crop creates a problem.

The free use of "diverted acres" could result in creating surpluses of other commodities.

For these reasons and many more, we need to plan farm prices and production programs carefully, to be sure that they are consistent with our long-range objective of a high real farm income for every farmer.

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AFBF Foreign Trade Promotion Becomes Law

Starts With Sales of Agril's Surplus
The main ideas of the American Farm Bureau's foreign trade promotion became law in mid-July when Congress adopted a plan for selling surplus goods of American farm products.

*President Eisenhower signed the Mutual Security Act of 1953 after both the Senate and House had added a provision which contained the AFBF program in an amendment.*

The amendment provides that not less than $100 million of MSA funds shall be used to buy surplus agricultural commodities in the U.S.

The law provides that the President is authorized to enter into agreements with friendly countries for the sale of these supplies, and to accept currencies in payment. It is one of the keystones of the Farm Bureau program.

President Rusk of Georgia, who this year has been chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, has been the leader of the AFBF program.

The AFBF program is not only to dispose of surplus commodities, but also to secure a permanent market for our agricultural products in the mutual security countries. This will make a real contribution to the mutual security program.

This program is not only a great public service, but it is also a greatly needed foreign policy. The AFBF program is a great way to help our country and our people.
How Farm Bureau Fared in 1953 Legislature

**Good on 32 Bills, Lost on 13**

By STANLEY M. POWELL

Legislative Counsel for Michigan Farm Bureau

We have felt that Farm Bureau members would like to have a condensed report as to what the 1953 legislature did and did not do regarding bills in which Farm Bureau was interested. In the following report you will see:

10 bills favored by Michigan Farm Bureau were passed by the legislature. They have been approved by the Governor and are law.

22 bills which were favored by Michigan Farm Bureau were not passed by the legislature.

12 bills which we favored were not passed. These were all as specifically recommended by us.

1 bill we opposed was passed by the legislature. (This was the new "adjusted receipts" tax.)

We think the Farm Bureau program was quite successful in the 1953 legislature. It could not have been accomplished without the active assistance of the legislative Minute Men of each of the 1200 Community Farm Bureaus, and the Legislative committees of the County Farm Bureaus.

**BILLS FAVORCED by Michigan Farm Bureau**

AUGUST 1, 1953

To: Farm Bureau members. 1953, at 282, 25th St., St. Louis, Mo. 10.

**Creepettes, the sweeter pellet to use for creep meal—and you'll have a better feed because 48% carries linseed meal—and you'll have a better feed because 48% carries linseed meal. Poultrymen kept their heads and protected these better egg prices by only slightly increasing their prospective hen number. This will help prevent disaster of a herd's top production that makes for winter needs. It does a great job in the feeding lot for steers of all ages, too.**

**HARDY'S COMPLETE MINERAL PLAN**

Calcium, Phosphorus, Salt, and the other minerals needed for successful laying.

**One of the finest opportunities you can find is the FIP Jr. Leadership Training Camp at 25; by the Junior Farm Bureau men and recreation leaders are the direction of chairman Robert Walter Wightman of Fennville, Michigan Farm Bureau, Jr. leadership training committee.**

**The second leadership training camp will be held at the YMCA camp at Lake George near Fenton in October.**

**To Discuss Our Changing Food Supply**

The meeting has been called at 25; by the Junior Farm Bureau men and recreation leaders are the direction of chairman Robert Walter Wightman of Fennville, Michigan Farm Bureau, Jr. leadership training committee.**

**THE PROGRAM will be held at the YMCA camp at Lake George near Fenton in October.**

Buy Farm Bureau Feeds,...
What Should We Do About Farm Price Laws?

MFB Starts on Benson’s Questions

(Continued from Page 3)

ment Act of 1938, as amended and supplemented by the 1940 and 1946 acts, requires fixed and non-fixed supports at 90% of parity on "basics" unless producers vote against marketing quotas. Some other provisions are:

**Basic Commodities** (corn, wheat, cotton, rice, tobacco, peanuts, etc.) Supports are mandatory unless producers have approved marketing quotas. Under permanent provisions, direct support programs but they are a part of the Sugar Act and similar programs. These are not allowed to be voluntary. These programs include the following:

- **Acreage Allotments.** (Limits on acreage to be planted, and Secretary of Agriculture has authority to require payments to producers for failure to plant acreage allotted.)
- **Marketing Quotas.** (Limits on amount per period.)
- **Quota levels.** Long-staple cotton, 108% of parity; peanuts, 60 to 90%; tobacco, 100% of parity; cotton, 100% of parity; sugar beets, 100% of parity; and so on.
- **Tax credits.** Tax credits for excess production.
- **Compliance.** Compliance with acreage allotments as a condition for government payments.

**Conversion of this method to a program that basically requires support but which may be optional is not an emergency need.**

**What is the role of the present law?**

1. Do we have a basic production capacity that is needed?
2. Should there be more emphasis on improving diets through general nutrition or through specific crops?
3. Do we want to increase the percentage of our production that supports the subsistence of our people?

**In the changing situation, what are the implications of the recently adopted policy of the farm bureau?**

- **Peanuts.** Supports, 60 to 90%.
- **Wheat.** Supports, 90%.
- **Corn.** Supports, 80%.
- **Sugar.** Supports, 60%.
- **Honey.** Supports, 60 to 90%.
- **Wool.** Supports, 60 to 90%.
- **Cotton.** Supports, 90%.
- **Tobacco.** Supports, 100%.

**Methods of Support. Commodity Credit Corporation.**

1. **Internal standards.**
   - Production and marketing quotas to be high or low but not both.
   - All farmers to be given equal treatment.
   - Production and marketing programs to be made available to all farmers without discrimination.

2. **External standards.**
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**TO ESTABLISH a system for the support of agriculture and to perpetuate the initiative and support of our 59,000 Michigan Farm Bureau Members.**

**The Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau requests County and Community Farm Bureau organizations to develop their discussion leaders as "Policy Development Champions." For the Discussion of these Questions.**

**Future Programs.** After reviewing present law and present conditions, the Michigan Farm Bureau will then be able to make recommendations for consideration by the delegates at the state annual meeting in November, 1954.

**Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors.**

Lansing, Michigan July 22, 1953.

Will Operate Fruit Stands at State Fair

Michigan Junior Farm Bureau youth are filling an important niche in a program that high school students and their leaders have been planning all year.

The Michigan Junior Farm Bureau is the County Junior Farm Bureau organization that is closely associated with the Michigan State Fair this year. All members from the county groups of the Junior Farm Bureau organizations in the state will be high participating in the Michigan State Fair this year. All members from the county groups of the Junior Farm Bureau organizations in the state will be high participating in the Michigan State Fair this year.

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