Sec'y Benson Said to AFBF Meeting:

Eve T. Benson, Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, urged farmers to avoid many farm problems in the 1954 session meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation at Chicago.

You see farmers—good farmers—or you wouldn’t be reading this good farm advice by yourself. And I’m in present role is still dealing with many of the same problems I had as a farmer.

Here briefly is the situation we face today:

1. Farm income has gone up.
2. Farm expenses have gone up.
3. The government has more cotton, wheat, butter and corn as it can wear or eat or feed. Farm income has dropped from the peak it hit in February, 1951. Farm prices then were 113 per cent of parity. By the time the new Administration took over, farm prices were down to 94. Today the parity is 90, although it has averaged 93 during the year past.

Here is the news—first the fact that you must pay your taxes this year, and pay them high.

Second, the fact that you will be paying your taxes next year, and they will be high.

Third, the fact that you will be paying your taxes the year after next, and they will be high. The increase in tax rates is but a small step in the total tax increase that will come.

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The Chain Saw
Young Wilbur Hicks, Clem Hicks's boy, lives down the street a bit.

The Chain Saw has been invented, he swears, and it will do a man's work in one-third the time.

It raises crows unheeded by birds—so that's no dream, for Wilbur swears he had it alive.

And just to tell them what happened, he told me yesterday.

To old Sam Bly, next door hickory that I told you about once.

And what they did with that saw.

They kicked the saw away.

And in two minutes more, less that the saw was down.

And the day I had to do the sawing.

The way it just was.


Community Farm Bureau Activities

HARROW GARDENS
Dear Community Farm Bureau,

December 1, the Community Farm Bureau records indicate that 1953 groups had submitted 25 million shots and 300 million minutes to the state office. Last year, these figures were 20 million shots and 200 million minutes.

The statistics on the number of farm bureau members in Michigan show that the Farm Bureau is growing steadily each year.

The Community Farm Bureau for good on a statewide basis. The group will consist of 1953 of the 234 groups that were being considered.

The offices of the Michigan Farm Bureau of 1953 have shown that the group can be considered the best of the group for the year ending December 31, 1953.

The Community Farm Bureau of 1953 has been named the Community Farm Bureau of the Year.

Editor's Reply: Mr. Deatrick is a friendly person, I think we should have more of his kind in our Party.

We know and Mr. Deatrick is a member of the Farm Bureau group, as we have found out for ourselves.

We hope that Mr. Deatrick will be able to keep his office open.

The Farm Bureau is a very worthwhile organization, but primarily interested in urban problems.

Michigan Farm Bureau.

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Michigan Farm Bureau.
Community Group Will Be the Unit

The Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company anno
ounced December 31 that it will offer Farm Bureau members in Community Groups $1,000 in group life insurance to the husband, or the wife of a Farm Bureau member, or both, at $11 per thousand.

"Barry county has been chosen as the pilot community to start a new program designed especially for Farm Bureau people who are members of a Community Farm Bureau," said William Conley, manager of the Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

"If this plan is as successful as we anticipate it will be, the program will be taken to Community Groups in other County Farm Bureaus as rapidly as possible.

"This is a plan to provide Farm Bureau people with $1,000 of life insurance as a service from Farm Bureau, and at a price they could get nowhere else.

"The Farm Bureau Community Group makes it possible for us to offer their members $1,000 of life insurance at wholesale rates. The same insurance coverage purchased as an individual would cost from $15 to $30 per thousand according to the age of the person.

"Solvency per cent of the members of a Community Farm Bureau group must participate in order to qualify the group. There will be no medical examination. The upper age limit will be age 60, and the insured may carry the insurance until age 65. The plan is limited to Farm Bureau members in good standing, and who are members of a Community Farm Bureau group.

The Chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and discussion leader of each of 33 Barry County Farm Bureau community groups will meet at the Farm Bureau offices in Hastings at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 6, to get full information regarding the plan.

J. Burton Richards will represent the Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, and Wesley H. Hawley, coordinator of Community Farm Bureau activities, will represent the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Appointed to Farm Credit Board

Brian has hired an average of 30 members situated in the public market.

As we look ahead to 1954 we must face the fact that general economic conditions may be difficult.

Farmers have been in a squeeze between declining income and rising expenses. This situation is a challenge to them and to the Farm Bureau as an organization serving farmers.

This challenge we meet with confidence and pledge ourselves to do our best to improve services to the Farm Bureau member and co-op patron and to develop new and worthwhile services whenever there is an opportunity to do so.

Through the cooperation of the Farm Bureau membership, farmer cooperatives, and their patrons in subscribing capital to Farm Bureau Services the past year, we are greeting 1954 with our second Farm Bureau fertilizer plant. It is being built at Kalamazoo and will have a capacity of 40,000 tons of high analysis, granulated plant foods annually.

Our Farm Bureau Insurance Service is greeting 1954 with a new group life insurance service to Farm Bureau members at a rate so low that it isn't approached elsewhere. The plan is described in this edition of the Michigan Farm News.

Farmers Cooperation, Inc., in the closing weeks of 1953 secured new sources of crude petroleum making possible expanded services to patrons in 1954.

We look ahead with optimism and determination to further expand services whenever Farm Bureau members and cooperators request it and proof of their desire is testified to by their willingness to finance and use the facilities.

The future is in our hands and will be whatever we make it.

May the New Year be one of good health and happiness for all and a fulfillment of your wishes for your family... your country... your world.

J. F. YAEGER
Executive Secretary & Treasurer

C. L. BRODY
Executive Vice President
FARM BUREAU INSTITUTE at MSC 5-6

**District Vote On Soil Men In January**

Farmers in 48 of Michigan's other counties will go to the polls during January to choose men to serve on the Farm Bureau’s 1964 soil conservation committees.

The meetings will be held in the offices of each of the county Farm Bureau associations. Each county board of directors will designate the men to serve on the committee that will be elected.

Soil conservation is the process of improving and extending the soil and water resources in order to assure the maximum productivity of the land. Farmers are encouraged to participate in the work of the soil conservation committees in order to help promote sound practices in their own area.

**To Build Stronger County Program**

The Fifth Annual Michigan Farm Bureau Institute for County Farm Bureau Presidents and committee chairmen will be held at Kegel Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, January 5 and 6.

The Institute is designed to aid county Farm Bureau committees in planning and building a stronger county program. Each county has been urged to send to the institute its president and chairman of the following committees: Membership, Community Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Services Committee, Junior Farm Bureau, Blue Cross, Resolutions, Farm Supplies, Legislative and Publicity. About 400 county leaders are expected for the pre-institute seminar which will open 9 to 10 a.m. with a registration of those attending. Keith Tanner, manager of the MFB Member Service Division, will present the purpose of the Institute.

The afternoon will be devoted to workshop sessions for the nine groups for the purpose of discussing County Farm Bureau problems, membership, legislative matters, and public relations, etc., and for the exchange of successful methods for doing the work.

**SOIL-CMENT today's biggest value for light-traffic roads**

SOIL-CMENT makes new County roads go farther, because about 85 per cent. of the required material is usually ready to sell on the site. It's easy to transform high-maintenance cross-dirt, graveled from stone roads into strong, long-lasting pavement. Good for 40 years of all-weather service with soil-cement.

The first soil-cement road, built in 1953, is still going strong. Excellent service. Soil-cement's superior value and durability for light-traffic use is thoroughly demonstrated by thousands of miles of such pavement now in use.

**PORTLAND CEMENT**

The Portland Cement Association is the voice of the industry in the area of civil engineering. As such, the Association is concerned with the development of sound design criteria by professional engineers, standards and specifications for the use of concrete and masonry materials, and the establishment of fair and competitive construction contracts for the proper use of concrete.

The Association works closely with the engineering profession and with governmental agencies in the development of sound design criteria and specifications for the use of concrete and masonry materials. The Association also provides a forum for the discussion of construction problems and for the exchange of ideas among engineers, architects, contractors, and others concerned with the design and construction of concrete and masonry structures.

**The Michigan Farm Bureau Institute is a great opportunity for farmers to improve their knowledge and skills in various areas of Farm Bureau operations. The meetings provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences among members, as well as a chance to learn from outside experts. The Institute covers topics such as membership, legislative matters, and public relations, etc., and for the exchange of successful methods for doing the work.**

**The Soil Conservation movement aims to improve and extend the soil and water resources in order to assure the maximum productivity of the land. Farmers are encouraged to participate in the work of the soil conservation committees in order to help promote sound practices in their own area.**

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**A farm editor from Kansas told one out and you could really tell him some things.**

**I agree, farmers do need some help with their problems.**

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And Reference to Mich. Farm Bar.

Mr. Warren Zales, Editor
Inside Michigan Magazine
944 N. Saginaw
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Zales:

In the September issue of Inside Michigan entitled, "The Farmer in the Dell" so many inaccuracies in addition to the very unfair and deceptive references to Michigan Farm Bureau that we feel some corrections are required.

In using material which was provided for Michigan Farm Bureau the Farm Bureau failed in their effort to limit the amount of taxes in townships and township government in some materials for the November 1953 Michigan Farm Bureau Bulletin.

To those interested in keeping township government, it is well to be familiar with the viewpoints that are developed against it. The following statements are not necessarily the viewpoint of the writer nor of Michigan Farm Bureau.

To the renter of the errors and half-truths included in your article:

1. **A STATMENT** is made that "Michigan Farm Bureau and its organizations do not support the taxing of property to raise funds for state government." An article in the September 1953 Michigan Farm Bureau Bulletin states: "Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliated organizations have supported the taxing of property to raise funds for state government." It is a question in the minds of many Michiganders whether township government and any other kind of government is needed or required to do the same work that is carried on by the state or county governments, or local governments.

2. **A COMMENT** is made that "The Michigan Farm Bureau's position is that no state or national government has the right to tax the people for the purpose of building a well balanced farm program." This comment is incorrect.

3. **A QUOTE** is given from page 9 of the November 1953 Michigan Farm Bureau Bulletin which says: "The Michigan Farm Bureau position is that the Federal government has no right to tax the people for the purpose of building a well balanced farm program." This statement is incorrect.

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The following statements are not necessarily the viewpoint of the writer nor of Michigan Farm Bureau. But you all will appreciate the comforting feeling you'll get from your FIP Seveys Plan. FIP is the easy way to set money aside. It combines real savings with a program offering dividends, coupons that can be clipped and cashed, and other special features. Discuss this Farm Bureau service with your Farm Bureau Families with your Farm Bureau Insurance Agent today.

**Big Farm Bureau Feed.**
Tax Problems Due to Publicly Owned Lands

Community Farm Bureau Discussion Topic For January

DONALD D. KEMBRE Coordinator of Research and Research

The early days of Michigan—The homestead days—the curious days
The homestead days are over...

Three years later—The state purchased or low point seems scarcely fair

It's a fact.

A BIG FELLOW

Low cost—Complete coverage

Fire and windstorm insurance

Get a free estimate today

In one policy

You can rely on FREMONT MUTUAL

Michigan folks have...for 77 years

The FREMONT MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1876

HAB eTHem ALL

Big tractors powered for big jobs and smaller ones for speed and economy on life work—all with those years-ahead features that make farming easier, more profitable.

Cockshutt offers farmers four basic tractors in 26 different models. And each model is designed for the job it's supposed to do. So whether you need a complete range of power and economy—choose the model that fits your needs.

Here in one of these 26 new Cockshutt models for your choice is a tractor designed for the job it's supposed to do. And each model is designed for the job it's supposed to do. So whether you need a complete range of power and economy—choose the model that fits your needs.

For more information call or write:

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

FARM EQUIPMENT WHOLESALE DIVISION

3000 N. Grand River Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48906

And have a Cockshutt demonstration on your own farm when the farm talk will speak for themselves.

Why not arrange your demonstration tomorrow...? Call your Dealer... right now if field conditions permit.

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JACK SAVELLA of Cheboygan is the first in the northwest to move on the assessment you will see that it says that all the level for various townships in Michigan have state-owned land.

And shadow of the pines,

New farms may flourish 'mid the dew

In Michigan!

Again let noble forests stand

God put his beauty in the land.

We still find fields where waves no grain,

The homestead days—the curious days

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