

## AFBF Asks Congress to Invoke 1949 Agr'l Act

### Sec'y Benson Said To AFBF Meeting:

Ezra T. Benson, Secretary of the U. S. Dep't of Agriculture, made this major farm policy address to the 35th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation at Chicago, December 16, 1953.

You are farmers—good farmers—or you wouldn't be here. I used to be a farmer myself. And in my present role I am 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 dropped.
2. Farm expenses have gone up.
3. The government has more cotton, wheat, butter and corn than it can wear or eat or feed.

Farm income has dropped from the peak it hit in February, 1951. Farm prices then were 113 percent of parity. By the time the new Administration took over, farm parity had dropped to 94. Today the parity is 90, although it has averaged about 93 during the year past.

**WHAT** about rising farm costs—the fact that you must pay your hired man more, that gasoline, feed, and machinery cost more? The index of prices paid by farmers for goods and services has dropped only 13 points from the record high reached in May, 1952. Prices received by farmers, however, have dropped 64 index points from their Korean War peaks. And most of that decline occurred during 1952. This puts agriculture right in the middle of a crushing cost-price squeeze.

Let's take a quick look at the matter of excessive stocks. You know the story as well as I:

**CORN:** 764 million bushels. Loans are now being made on millions of bushels from the 1953 crop. This points to a further build-up in government-owned corn.

**WHEAT:** We now have 425 million bushels in the hands of the Commodity Credit Corporation, acquired at a cost of approximately \$1,100,000,000. It is expected that at least that much more wheat will be placed under loan from the 1953 crop. Right now we have enough wheat in our stocks to meet the bread and cereal needs of 160 million Americans for a full year.

**DAIRY PRODUCTS:** We own more than 900 million pounds of butter, cheese and dried milk, acquired at a cost of \$333 million. The entire list of government-held surpluses is a long one. It adds up to more than 2½ billion dollars—twice what it was a year ago. It is probable that government loans on various farm commodities will total an additional 2½ billion dollars by the end of this month.

It costs the government \$465,000 a day just to pay the storage bill for these crops.

These overall problems of falling income, over-abundant supplies, pinching costs and loss of world markets, are ones this Administration inherited. They were on the back doorstep when we moved in the front door.

What are we going to do about it?

Considerable progress has been made along the road to recovery. I believe that 1953 has marked the turning point—in the right direction.

During the past year your Department of Agriculture has given farmers a better opportunity to take full advantage of price-support programs than ever before.

**HIGH PRICE** supports on food and fibre crops have been continued. In only two cases—cottonseed and flaxseed—have the support levels been lowered. And it was generally recognized that the adjustments were sound and necessary.

In the case of wheat, special who needed to finance the building or purchase of additional bins distress loans were made available to farmers over a wide area where available storage was inadequate and wheat was piling up on the ground.

Low-interest loans were made available by the Department of Agriculture in May to farmers and cribs. A special "use guarantee" program followed to encourage building of new commercial storage.

These incentives have made millions of bushels of additional storage space available. Under the use-guarantee provisions alone, more than 230 million bushels of storage capacity have been approved.

**FARMERS** were offered the opportunity to resell 1952 loan stocks of wheat, corn, and oats. This enabled them to earn a storage fee for holding grain on the farm a second year.

The Commodity Credit Corporation bought added storage bins with a capacity of 96 million bushels, so it could take prompt delivery of loan stocks.

During the first 10 months of the year, more than 106 million dollars of "Section 32" funds—special funds available from customs receipts—were used to bolster prices through direct purchase. Another 100 million dollars of these funds have been earmarked for similar use.

**THROUGH** the beef purchase program we have contracted for more than 243,000,000 pounds of beef to help stabilize the market for livestock men who were caught in a price-squeeze. Thus, more than 850,000 head of cattle were taken off the market.

We have sought broader outlets for our surpluses. To avert actual famine in the friendly Nation of Pakistan, this Administration made available 37 million bushels of our surplus wheat to that government as an outright gift.

In cooperation with the Nation's food industry, special campaigns have increased the annual consumption of beef to an all-time high of 75 pounds per person. Similar campaigns are under way for other farm products. These have helped to strengthen the domestic market.

Special efforts have been made to get surplus feed to farmers and ranchers in the drought areas to help save their foundation herds.

Even more important, in many respects, were steps taken to expand the foreign market for farm products. One such move was suggested by the American Farm Bureau Federation and approved by Congress. A total of \$175 millions has been earmarked for the purchase by friendly foreign nations of surplus farm commodities within the United States under this plan. Substantial sales have already been completed.

**THESE** are some of the things that have been done to help relieve the plight of the farmer. In working them out we have used every law on the books, every tool at the Department of Agriculture's command. We have even gone beyond the requirements of the law.

At the same time we have been working on an over-all program to help insure the farmer a fair share of the national income.

### Roll Call Now at 76% Of '54 Goal

**NORWOOD EASTMAN**  
Coordinator, MFB Organization Department

The Michigan Farm Bureau roll call for members for 1954 is over the three-quarters mark. The December 24 report from County Farm Bureaus totaled 46,749 memberships.

**THIS IS** 76% of the goal of 61,310. Last year at the same date the total was 41,118.

Cheboygan county won the membership trophy for reporting the highest percentage of its goal in the state office December 21. Cheboygan reported 268 members or 102% of its goal of 262. St. Joseph county was close behind with 101% of its goal of 1040. In third position came Bay with 95% of its goal of 1435. Three counties—Barry, Livingston and Alpena—reported more than 90% of goal.

**TROPHIES** for the three winners will be presented at the annual victory party in March. This is the December 24 picture:

COUNTY	GOAL	DEC 24	% OF GOAL
Cheboygan	262	268	102
St. Joseph	1,040	1,050	101
Sauquoit	1,969	1,972	100
Benzie	219	219	100
Livingston	1,188	1,182	99
Barry	1,681	1,627	97
Bay	1,435	1,358	95
Alpena	575	548	95
Huron	1,202	1,125	94
Alcona	329	311	92
N. W. Michigan	1,007	916	91
Montcalm	1,865	1,678	89
Ottawa	1,437	1,258	88
Kalamazoo	1,152	998	87
Ionia	1,227	1,065	86
Muskegon	1,983	1,698	85
Monroe	1,152	989	84
Berrien	2,275	1,858	82
Tuscola	1,738	1,428	82
Mecosta	751	614	82
Washtenaw	1,563	1,279	81
Clinton	1,536	1,246	81
Ingham	1,088	860	80
Ogemaw	359	288	80
Kalkaska	75	60	79
Aurum	440	329	77
Cass	301	234	78
Kent	1,422	1,093	76
Presque Isle	442	332	75
Missaukee	421	314	75
Iosco	203	153	75
Oshtemo	115	86	74
Alcona	2,022	1,494	74
Calhoun	1,474	1,074	73
Saginaw	2,122	1,527	72
Lenawee	1,429	1,065	74
Gratiot	1,408	1,016	72
Oscoda	641	459	71
Easton	1,338	958	71
Oceana	710	492	69
Charlevoix	356	247	69
Mason	1,021	701	68
Wayne	500	325	67
Gladwin	366	244	66
Emmet	281	187	66
St. Clair	1,231	864	65
Montmorency	178	116	65
Mason	612	394	64
Jackson	1,054	671	63
Newaygo	706	442	63
Lapeer	1,540	948	62
Genesee	1,289	789	61
Arenac	479	299	60
Oakland	1,043	625	59
Westford	250	141	56
Hillsdale	1,444	801	55
Clare	150	83	55
Shiawassee	1,066	578	54
Midland	564	285	54
Manistee	245	133	54
Van Buren	1,806	850	45
Isabella	1,144	480	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61,310</b>	<b>46,749</b>	<b>76%</b>

### Re-Elected President of AFBF



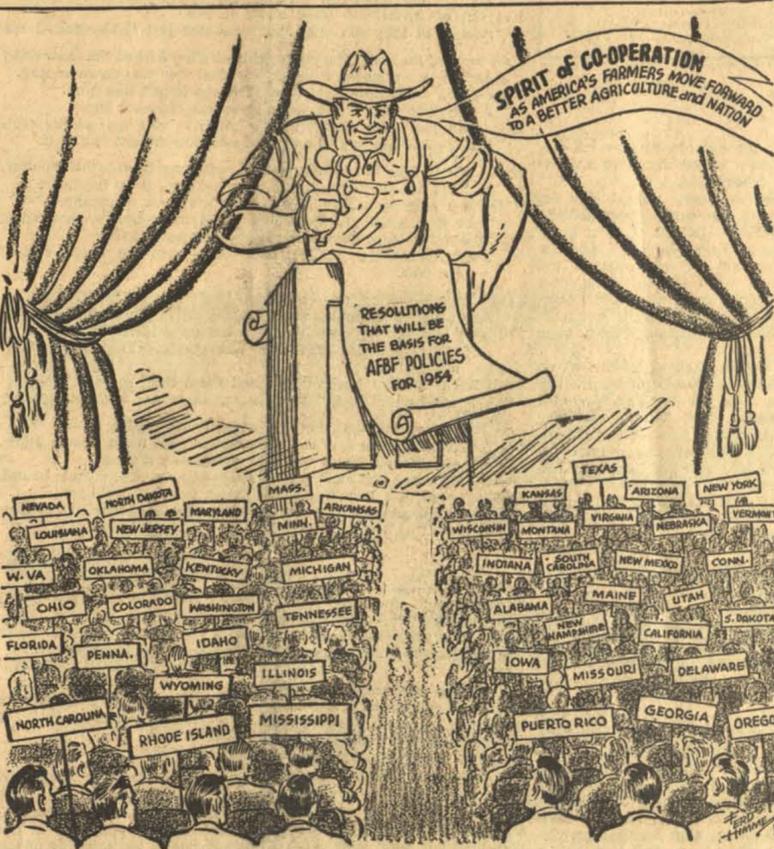
**ALLAN B. KLINE** of Vinson, Iowa, was re-elected president of the American Farm Bureau for two years at the 35th annual meeting at Chicago, December 14-17. Walter Randolph, AFBF director from Montgomery, Alabama, was elected vice-president.

"The purposes of the American Farm Bureau are clear," Mr. Kline said. "We seek a rising real income for farmers. We're interested in developing the sort of national and international policies which will contribute to higher income and better living. "We need an imaginative program to recapture and expand foreign markets for American farm products and at the same time drain off price-depressing surpluses."

### 1954 Dollar

Your 1954 dollar will go a little further than your 1953 dollar, predict Michigan State College agricultural economists, and careful buying will pay off.

### MOVING SPIRIT OF OUR CONVENTION....



### Greetings to Members

**CLARK L. BRODY**  
Executive Vice-President of the Michigan Farm Bureau

It is the day before Christmas. I have been reviewing the first draft of the opening chapters of a history of the Michigan Farm Bureau which the Board of Directors has asked me to write.

**RECALLING** the events in the life of the Michigan Farm Bureau brings to mind that for nearly 33 years it has been my great privilege to be associated with the farm folks who comprise the Farm Bureau membership.

It has caused me to scan the pictures on the wall of the office I have occupied for 32 Christmas seasons, and the faces of the past presidents in the board room. The pictures of the presidents and directors of the early 1920's bring memories of their struggles early in the life of the Michigan Farm Bureau to lay the foundation of the great organization we have today.

**NEARLY** all of them have long ago passed into the Great Beyond. The success of their efforts and those of the thousands of loyal Farm Bureau members over three decades of time constitutes living evidence that those pioneers in farm organization did not live in vain.

Likewise, in the present roll-call campaign, over 7500 men and women in 1265 communities in Michigan are carrying the torch, that was thrown to them by the membership teams of former years.

**THEY**, like their predecessors, are explaining the Farm Bureau program for better farm living

and effective farmer influence and service in the councils of the state and nation.

The reports coming to the state Farm Bureau office from the county Farm Bureaus and district organizations indicate a strong interest on the part of the members to renew their memberships for 1954. The work of the loyal community leaders is also bringing in many new names to be enrolled in the Farm Bureau family and joined with the more than a million and a half Farm Bureau members in the nation.



**THIS** voluntary action on the part of the membership roll-call teams in their township, county and district organizations exemplifies the strength and spirit of the Farm Bureau. It accounts for the growth and influence being demonstrated by over 60,000 farm families in 1265 community Farm Bureaus in 62 counties of Michigan.

This great effort and the member morale it is developing is very heartening to the state Farm Bureau staff. It makes them feel that their work involving many times long, late-at-night drives home is appreciated and worthwhile. The strong member interest being manifested indicates every assurance that the 1954 roll-call will be completed shortly after the first of the year with our full quota of 61,310 Farm Bureau members.

**ONLY** the members themselves can bring the roll-call to a successful conclusion. Theirs is the most important work in the Farm Bureau organization. Michigan Farm Bureau membership workers are making the maximum contribution for saving our free choice, private enterprise economy for the farm homes of our state and nation.

Farm Bureau members at the annual meeting last November enacted a strong program for the perpetuation of the freedom and many blessings we are enjoying this Christmastime.

**SIMILAR** action by the representatives of 48 state Farm Bureaus and Puerto Rico last week in Chicago makes the Farm Bureau a most powerful and constructive force for preserving the values in our nation that make life interesting and worthwhile.

Farm Bureau policies exemplify the ability and the faith of farm people that they can improve their lot and be a constructive influence for the national welfare.

I cherish the great privilege of wishing all our good people a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year.

### Farm Bureau Has 1,591,777 Members

Membership in the American Farm Bureau Federation reached an all-time high of 1,591,777 farm families for the fiscal year 1953, it was announced at the meeting of the Board of Directors in Chicago December 9.

The Illinois Agricultural Association led the parade with a total all-time-high membership of 200,015.

**THE** 1953 membership of the AFBF exceeded the 1952 membership by 99,495. This was a record increase for the past five-year period. Twenty-one states, including Michigan, reached 100 percent or more of their 1953

share of their two-million-member quotas.

The five high membership states for the year were: Illinois, 200,015; Iowa, 136,000; Indiana, 107,992; New York, 80,150; and Kentucky.

**MIDWEST** region continued to lead the rest of the nation in total number of members, with 801,395 for 1953.

### Heart Ass'n Debunks Myths

The American Heart Association asked every citizen to adopt this New Year's resolution: "Resolved, I will be guided by facts about heart disease, rather than fears and phobias".

Heading the list is the often-heard fallacy that "nothing can be done about heart disease." This is contrary to fact. Some forms of heart disease can be prevented, some can be cured. Your doctor can help almost all cases,

especially if diagnosed early."

Another boner is the notion that "most heart attacks are fatal." Untrue. After a heart attack, the majority recover to lead productive lives. They earn their living, often without changing jobs.

"Murmurs, chest pains and palpitations are sure signs of heart trouble." Countering fancy with fact, the Heart Association points out that these "symptoms" do not necessarily indicate heart trouble. Only your doctor can tell.

### India Exporting Wheat Flour

For the first time in 12 years, India is permitting the export of wheat flour. Several shipments of wheat flour have already been sent to Burma and the Persian Gulf areas. India hopes to regain pre-war wheat flour markets in Burma, Thailand, Hong Kong, and the Persian Gulf area.

### And 2 Yrs. to Cut Farm Surpluses

The American Farm Bureau at its 35th annual meeting at Chicago December 14-17 asked Congress to deal with the problems of farm price support and agricultural surpluses by:

1—Bring into effect the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1949. It provides price support at 75 to 90% of parity in accordance with the supply of the crop.

2—Allow farmers two years to reduce acreages in crops now in surplus and to get the surpluses down to normal.

3—Instruct the federal government to begin selling at home and all over the world the farm surpluses now on hand.

Last summer Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson asked the memberships of the Farm Bureau Grange and Farmers Union to discuss five major problems in the national farm program and to make recommendations for the future.

Above are the Farm Bureau's recommendations for Problem No. 1—"Farm Income Stability and Improvement," and Problem No. 2—"Production and Marketing Adjustments." The Farm Bureau held thousands of Farm Policy Development discussions in the 48 states; 2721 such meetings were held in Michigan.

At the AFBF annual meeting, 13 states, mostly in the cotton south, favored continuance of farm price support fixed at 90% of parity.

We present what we consider one of the best accounts of the debate on the farm price support resolution:

By **GEORGE THEIM**  
Farm Editor, Chicago Daily News

The nation's largest farm organization will ask Congress and the Republican administration next month to amend the farm program.

It will recommend a plan that puts less emphasis on high price supports and more on selling surplus crops at home and abroad.

The ultimate aim is to put more butter, dairy products and meats on consumer tables and less in cold storage warehouses.

**AMERICAN** Farm Bureau delegates asked Congress to restore the more moderate price props of the Agricultural Act of 1949.

Farmers would be given two years in which to cut acreage and get surpluses down to normal.

Then if they glut the market, government crop loans and price supports would drop to 75 percent instead of the current 90 percent parity figure.

**THE IMPORTANT** price support resolution was approved by an overwhelming majority after brief but sharp debate.

Harold Davis, Oklahoma delegate, moved to strike out the resolution ending 90 percent parity price supports now in effect at the end of 1954.

Davis sought to continue high-level props under farm prices regardless of surpluses. He got only a few scattered votes.

Earlier, Delegate Harry Lane of Lewisburg, Tenn., sought to extend mandatory high supports for major crops through the 1956 crop year. He spoke for his state delegation. This motion also was overwhelmingly defeated.

**HASSIL SCHENCK** of Indianapolis, president of the Indiana Farm Bureau Federation, defended the resolutions committee report.

"The point at issue," he said, "is whether you want the government to run your business with increasing controls from Washington, or whether we shall be free to run our own business."

Davis raked up low farm prices of the '30s to fortify his argument that farmers need government help to plan their production and economy like manufacturers of automobiles and tractors.

"When I had that good old free-choice system," he said, "wheat and cotton prices were so low I didn't care whether I planted or not."

Schenk retorted that the farmers' wartime prosperity was purchased with the blood of American boys.

He read off the comparatively low prices of 1940, after seven years of government farm programs, to support his point.

"Let's get a constructive program," he concluded, "that will work in these times when we are at peace."

to: End the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to determine when to submit acreage adjustment and marketing quotas to a farmer vote.

Ex-Secretary of Agriculture Brannan has been widely criticized for failing to impose acreage cuts a year ago.

Expand government and private salesmanship in disposing of farm surpluses both at home and abroad.

End the philosophy that it is the responsibility of government to guarantee profitable prices to any group.

Continue world co-operation for freedom and peace.

Remove barriers to international trade.

End monopoly that hurts employment and gouges the consumer.

Continue fiscal policies to maintain stable price levels with the dollar at about present value.

"**THE GOAL** we seek is a condition that will permit farmers to achieve full parity," the policy resolution asserted.

"Farmers have no illusions that their interests are adequately protected by price guarantees alone."

"They fully understand that the volume sold and the costs that must be paid are more important in obtaining parity than government support prices."

"Real farm income cannot be protected by policies which draw excessive resources into agriculture, create unmanageable surpluses, or cause artificial prices to be capitalized into land values."

"**THE HIGH** price support levels now in effect for basic crops (corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco, rice and peanuts) are a carry-over from programs designed to encourage production for World War II and the postwar rehabilitation period."

"Continuation of these wartime price support levels in a period of shrinking foreign demand, accompanied by purposeful delay in permitting farmers to use the machinery provided by Congress for them to bring supplies in line with demand, has created burdensome surpluses of some commodities," the resolution continued.

"The drastic nature of the controls now required to deal with this situation is creating further problems."

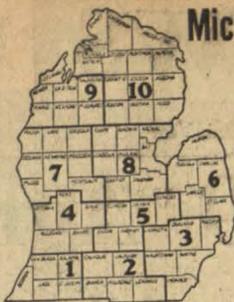
"**THE TIME** has come to review and improve existing programs so they may contribute to the solution of current problems."

### Short Courses

These short courses start Jan. 6 at Michigan State College: Commercial floriculture; elevator and farm supply; farm equipment service and sales; nursery and landscape management; and horseshoeing.

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Michigan Farm Bureau

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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.



The Chain Saw

Young Wilbur Hicks, Clem Hicks's boy, lives down the street a bit. We've known him since his new-born cry (and Marthy helped with it). His youth and strength are good to see. He's up and on his way. In fact, Wil typifies for me the farmer of today. His work is fully mechanized. He never owned a team. He raises crops untouched by hands—and that's no idle dream.

Will come to help his dad cut wood one day last January. And I must tell you what transpired; to wit, this commentary: He brought a chain-saw in the truck and he and Clem went out. To that old fence-row hickory that I told you once about. Just out of curiosity I went along to see. And what they did with that new saw just flabbergasted me. They yanked the cord. The motor whined. They kicked the snow away. And in two minutes, more or less, that tree was down to stumps. I guess you know how hickory is. The sap is just like gum. We used to carry kerosene to clean the cross-cut some. This chain-saw now, that Wilbur's got, just eats that sticky stuff. And no one has to pull and haul nor stop to pant and puff.

The outfit weighs 'bout fifty pounds, with maybe five horsepower. It trags the 'bout all one way and does it by the hour. It takes a man to handle it and there's a good off-chance. That if it binds the least wee bit it lands him on his pants. A fellow has to learn the tricks. It almost seemed to me they worked the job just backward—from the wrong end of the tree. They started sawing up the limbs, beginning at the tips. And dropped a hundred stove lengths off in just a hundred clips. Till presently the log remained, blocked up a little bit. And that they just sliced off like cheese. They made short work of it. With Wil a-holt the business end and Clem the handle thing—Why, talk about your 'singin' briar,' that briar could really sing. I pulled a cross-cut with my dad when I was twelve or so. And what he knew of cutting wood was all there was to know. The buzz-saw was a handy rig, with seven men around. But now you just can't get the help—the world is muscle bound. So I am glad that I have seen—and wish my dad could see. How Clem and Wilbur chain-sawed up the fence-row hickory tree.

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

Moving Out of Cities

Michigan's population shows no sign of leveling off. In fact, there may be as many as a million and a half more people in the state by 1960. Michigan State College sociologists, J. Allan Beegle and J. F. Thaden, have reached that conclusion after a study of population changes in Michigan from 1940 to 1950. They published their findings in an MSC special bulletin. Back in 1940 rural birth rates were higher than in the urban population. The increasing migration of people from farm to city was believed to be the thing that would tend to level off the population. BUT that belief was proved unfounded. By 1950 the birth rate in cities was substantially greater than for rural areas. In 1940, people in the lower economic level of the rural population had the most children. But by 1950, those in the high income brackets were having the largest families. Other population changes in the decade which Beegle and Thaden term the most significant: 1—A GREAT movement of people from cities to the suburbs—far greater in number than people moving from rural areas to the cities. The vast increase in the rural population has led some experts to predict that by the year 2000 the southern portion of Michigan will be formed up of cities and suburbs and only a sliver of farms.

2—INDUSTRIAL expansion in the 40's attracted people from other states as well as from Michigan's rural areas. Between 1939 and 1947, the number of manufacturing establishments increased by 66 per cent and the number of production workers by 58 per cent. Only loss in population in the state came to the Upper Peninsula and the northern part of the Lower Peninsula. All areas to the south gained the metropolitan areas. Detroit increased its population by 257,000. The population of the state was increased by one-fifth in the past decade.

Community Farm Bureau Activities

MRS. MARJORIE GARDNER Dear Community Farm Bureau Members: December 1, the Community Farm Bureau records indicated that 1266 groups had submitted set-up sheets and were reporting minutes to the state office. Last year at this time 1130 groups were reported. The statistics on the attendance figure in October, however, are down from last year which seems to indicate that although we have more groups reporting, the participation on the part of the members is not as great. The Community Farm Bureau goal for 1954 on a state-wide basis is 1607 Community Farm Bureaus. With our present records showing a total of 1266 groups, this means that during the year 341 Community Farm Bureaus must be organized. To date 4 groups have disbanded which were meeting last year and 11 groups have been placed on probation for failure to submit set-up sheets by November 1. Fourteen new groups were recorded during the month as follows:

- Kalamazoo County — Onagin Community Farm Bureau Group, Mrs. Margaret Lutke, secretary. Calhoun—Albion III, Mrs. Rex Rosenau, Tekonsha, Mrs. Harry Brenner. Clinton—Clark-Chandler, Mrs. Betty Geisenhaver. Macomb—Centerline, Leo Wancour. Tuscola—Group 5, Mrs. Merrill Birdsall. Kent—Fruit Ridge, Mrs. Edmond May. Gladwin—Skunk Holler, Mrs. Mildred Fox.

Co-op Clinics Jan. 15 to 29

The January series of Co-op Clinics sponsored by the Michigan Ass'n of Farmer Cooperatives will include discussion of two subjects of vital interest to managers and directors of farm cooperatives: 1—The new business receipts tax, which will be discussed by Edwin E. Steffen, counsel for the MAFC. 2—Business insurance as a vital part of good management. Bernard Brown of the Farm Bureau's Farmers Insurance Agency will lead the discussion. FIRST returns on the business receipts tax is due at the end of January. Mr. Steffen will discuss what cooperatives must file and how. 15—Grand Rapids at Y.M.C.A. 19—Lansing at Y.M.C.A. 20—Big Rapids at Bowler restaurant. 21—Traverse City at Park Place hotel. 22—Bozette City at Dilworth hotel. 25—Bad Axe at Cole's Restaurant. 26—St. Louis at Park hotel. 27—Ypsilanti at White Gables Restaurant. 28—Lapeer at American Legion hall. 29—Coldwater at Grange hall. Buy Farm Bureau Feeds.

Why He Quit

Barry County Farm Bureau Barry Barcroft, Secretary Hastings, Michigan Dear Friend:

After due consideration I am writing to have you cancel my membership in the Farm Bureau on local, State and National levels. Having been associated with the organization for the past thirty years, I feel that it might be well to state some of my reasons. First, I do not wish to continue to help pay the expenses of promoting a national program which tends to depress farmers' prices and undermine their position in society by forcing them into a low income group. Unfortunately there has been no leadership of any stature in the National Farm Organization for some time. The paid propagandist that was brought into Michigan last fall and circulated among many county organizations at their annual meetings is just one example of the low grade of politics that dominate the organization. In the field of insurance on the State level my experience with farm automobile insurance as sponsored by Farm Bureau was not very satisfactory, having found it necessary to hire an attorney to collect my just damages from them. We have long since dropped the Blue Cross policies for several reasons: The continued raising of rates and the idiotic idea that you have to be a Farm Bureau member to carry such insurance. We have at present an insurance policy that covers the field adequately at a much lower cost and a great deal less nuisance. Furthermore, I am irrevocably opposed to the organization using such deceptive means of forcing people to join and hold their membership. Neither do I believe that businessmen and professional people should be signed up as members. The primary purpose of an organization of farmers should be to promote better markets and secure an adequate return for his products. Today the farmer must have cash money and plenty of it. To get it he must have a price comparable to other groups in the economic picture. By this I mean he should be able to live like other people which includes modern homes and good automobiles besides paying off the mortgage and taking a vacation. This is the kind of a situation that to my way of thinking constitutes True Freedom, and to get it he must have a price for his produce that will pay cost of production plus a profit. If this means 100 or 110% of Parity then that is what I am after. Recent figures indicate that farm indebtedness is steadily increasing and the spread between farmers' income and the prices paid by consumers is growing wider with farm costs going higher, while our Farm Organization people merrily chirp about Freedom and make absolutely no effort to investigate. If an investigation is started at any other source it is soon killed by the National Manufacturers Ass'n or the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and not a single word of protest from the Farm Bureau. These are just a few of the reasons why I have decided to keep my ten dollars and use it to help pay my farm operating expenses. I am sending a copy of this letter to Jack Yeager, and to E. E. Ungren of the Michigan Farm News, although I am sure they will not dare to print it in the paper. Sincerely yours, CARL A. BRODBECK Lake Odessa Dec. 7, 1953

Editor's Reply: Having known Mr. Brodbeck for nearly 30 years, we regret very much his decision to leave Farm Bureau.

In reply, we say this: That the Farm Bureau program in all fields, and its presentation by our employees, reflects the will of the majority of the membership. Is it approved generally? Perhaps the growth in membership is a fair measure. In the past ten years the membership in Michigan has grown from 20,539 to 59,287 families. The American Farm Bureau membership has grown from 687,499 to 1,591,777 families. E. E. UNGREN

Why Farm Bureau?

Membership in a Community Farm Bureau group can mean much to the family of today. The refund of the state gasoline tax for the volume used on the farm originated at a meeting of Burnside Community Farm Bureau in Lapeer county. There are many problems facing farmers today. Solutions for these problems can be found through group discussion. With the present day farming population continually dwindling, only through organization can this segment of our nation gain rightful recognition. Do you have a good idea for solving the surplus commodities problem? Discuss it in a Community Farm Bureau meeting. Ideas can be presented to the public with the active support of thousands of other farm families. This gives YOU the individual an important voice in farm policy. Benefits such as insurance on automobiles, life and hospitalization insurance can also be gained through Farm Bureau membership. These, however, are but a small part of the gains experienced by the Farm Bureau family. MRS. CHARLOTTE KRIPPENE North Branch Dec. 14, 1953

Mr. Deatrick

To the Editor: A few weeks ago the Detroit Free Press Sunday paper carried a column by Owen C. Deatrick, its Lansing correspondent, under the title "Farm Lobbyists Steer Michigan Lawmakers."

The tone of this "letter from Lansing" was sarcastic, insinuating to the city readers that the city readers that the Farm Bureau lobby in Lansing, although representing a minority of Michigan's voters, has a firm hold on State legislature; that the farmers dictate what laws shall pass, which should be rejected. Our Farm Bureau Discussion group of Clarkston, Michigan, feels it is deplorable that Mr. Deatrick in this way sets the urban population against the farmers. We all should strive to better the relationship between city folk and country people. Let's examine what Mr. Deatrick claims, and what it means: The resolutions of the Farm Bureau rule the lawmakers, he claims. The important question is "Why?" and not "Which resolutions." Because those resolutions may very well be also the policies of various other groups; they are certainly not exclusively agricultural in character. The only two answers to the "Why?" question can be the following: (1) because the Farm Bureau is so powerful that Michigan legislature has to heed its voice; (2) because the policies favored or voiced by Farm Bureau lobby are sensible, and just to most people of Michigan. If the first answer (1) would be the correct one, again there are only two possibilities: (a) Farm Bureau represents a large proportion of the Michigan vote; or (b) Farm Bureau holds a club over the head of the lawmakers. We know and Mr. Deatrick pointed out that Farm Bureau represents 59,287 families which means at the utmost twice that amount of votes; therefore (a) is out. As for (b): does the Farm Bureau threaten with strikes, the weapon used by other organizations to obtain their goals? Have you ever heard of a strike which would cut off all food supplies; no milk, no butter, no eggs, no grain, no produce, no beef, or pork, or lamb, or chicken? Therefore, (b) is out. Thus we have to conclude that the second answer to the question "Why?" (2) is the right one: that policies favored and voiced by Farm Bureau are sensible and just to most people of Michigan. What the Farm Bureau does do is discuss among its members all manner of problems, questions, policies, laws, state, national and international issues. These discussions lead to certain policies which the Farm Bureau lobby tries to follow in its recommendations or rejections. Mr. Stanley M. Powell also watches every proposed law for injustices or unfavorable features. Now for the definite policies which Mr. Deatrick mentioned: Of course, farmers wish to have local assessments. How would the city man feel if farmers were to judge the value of their property? Only local assessors are able to judge farm values properly. The Farm Bureau is in favor of an assessors' Manual in order to promote more uniform assessment of various classes of property throughout the state; better training of the assessors is another

recommended measure. The League of Women Voters is a very worthwhile organization, but primarily interested in urban problems. Township government is the only local government rural folks have, and many injustices would be inadvertently brought upon the rural population if the county would become the smallest unit. We don't think our suburban population will have any quarrel with the Farm Bureau viewpoint on school bus laws; their children benefit as much as farmers' children do by regulations which make for greater safety. City folks, as much as farmers, use the highways and are interested in proper maintenance of those roads; both groups of people will favor fines collected from illegal loads to be used for reparation of the roads those loads destroy. Certainly the speed limit question is not primarily an agricultural or rural one; the problem has been discussed in the light of known statistics, past experience and the desire to favor what is most beneficial to everybody. We hope that we have succeeded in taking the "sting" out of Mr. Deatrick's article. Farm people do not wish to antagonize city people; we need each other. Farm people do want to have their voice heard in all matters, especially if they concern their particular interests. Who else

would speak for the farmers if they didn't find out for themselves what they want, and make this known to the legislature? MRS. MAURICE OGDEN Secretary Farm Bureau Discussion Group Clarkston, Michigan Dec. 14, 1953

Plant Diseases

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's 1953 yearbook on "Plant Diseases" may be obtained— for \$2.50—from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or by writing your congressman. E. E. UNGREN

Depreciation

Some farmers head off machinery replacement woes by setting aside U. S. savings bonds equal to machinery depreciation each year. Buy Farm Bureau Feeds.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified advertisements are cash with order at the following rates: 8 cents per word for one edition. Ads to appear in two or more editions take the rate of 6 cents per word edition. These rates based on guarantee of 50,000 or more subscribers. They are members of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

- LIVESTOCK: MILKING SHORTHORNS—We won Premier Breeder award at the recent 1953 Michigan State Fair, our 10th in 11 years. Take a short cut to success by heading your herd with a young bull from Ingleside Farm. Write or visit Stanley M. Powell, Ionia, R-1, Michigan. (19-11-578). SHROPSHIRE RAMS—Good selection of well-grown, typy registered yearlings. Write or visit Stanley M. Powell, Ingleside Farm, R-1, Ionia, Mich. (11-41-206). CORRIEDALE SHEEP: Does your flock shear 10 lbs. or more of long staple wool? If not, ask your sheep shearer about using a Corriedale ram in that part of your flock you save your replacement ewes from George E. Mikesehl, Charlotte, R-4, Michigan. (3-11-408). FOR SALE—40 head of Yorkshire bred sows and gilts. Due to farrow any time after Feb. 1. Outstanding type and production. Herd has won several grand champions at State Fair. Average sow production in herd 8 1/2 pigs per litter. Martin Garr & Sons, Charlotte R-5, Michigan. (1-11-409).
- BABY CHICKS: TOWNLINE WHITE LEGHORNS, U. S. Record of Performance. Full-orn Clean, 26 weeks under R.O.P. and progeny testing program. Bred for steady improvement of body size, better layers, longer laying life, blazer eggs. Order direct from breeding source. Also our Strain Cross No. 20, two inbred strains of Leghorns crossed at regular chick prices. Layers of white eggs. U. S. R.O.P. White Rocks, for meat and eggs. New Hampshire, Reds, Minorca-Lechons. Most of our customers order Townline stock every year because they're profitable. Reliable service. Real breeding farm quality. Send for our Free Catalog Today! Townline Poultry Farm, Box F, Zeeland, Michigan. (12-31-958).
- WOMEN: PINKING SHEARS, Only \$1.95 postpaid. Chromium plated, precision made. Manufacturer's Christmas overstock. Guaranteed \$7.95 value or money refunded. Order by mail. Lincoln Surplus Sales, 1704 West Farwell Ave., Chicago 26, Illinois. (13-21-906).
- MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS: ORDERS placed in January for King Evaporators for the 1954 syrup season will be delivered promptly. Be sure for 1954. Place your orders now for a new King Evaporator, or for needed repairs. Send for catalog and prices. Sugar Bush Supplies Co., PO Box 1197, Lansing, Michigan. (Located on M-43 at 4109 West Saginaw road, just west of Lansing and Waverly golf course.)
- MACHINERY: NEW AIR COMPRESSOR: Tractor or Jeep, Power Take-Off operated. Capacity 3 cubic feet. Fully guaranteed \$36.50. Shipped prepaid. Cash with order. A. E. Sully Company, Box 503, Danville, Illinois. (1-21-229).
- WOMEN: EMBROIDER STAMPED LINENS: Buy direct from manufacturer and save. Send for FREE catalog. MERRILL REE, Dept. 431, 22 West 21st St., New York 10, N. Y. (61-21-249).
- AGENTS: RUN A SPARE-TIME Greeting Card and Gift Shop at home. Show friends samples of our new 1954 All-Occasion Greeting Cards and Gifts. Take their orders and earn up to 100% profit. No experience necessary. Costs nothing to try. Write today for samples on approval. Resal Greetings, Dept. 26, Ferndale, Michigan. (3-11-1-52).
- TRACTOR PARTS: HEADLIGHTS FOR NEW and Used Tractor Parts, Tires, Tools, Accessories. Free 1954 catalog. Guaranteed merchandise. Low prices. Prompt Service. Arms Tractor Supply Company, 1041 No. 14th St., Lincoln, Nebraska. (1-21-258).
- STEEL ROOFING: "Proof of the pudding is in the eating" and the proof of a roof's actual worth is in its weather wearing ability. Tru-Seal weather resisting Seal of Quality is the steel coated identification. Datasheet approaching advanced roofing with this seal are assured of a known specification. Write for free information and the name of your nearest dealer. Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Steel Department, 221 North Cedar Street, Box 950, Lansing, Michigan. (1-11-612).

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There's no substitute for experience! Your STATE MUTUAL man is well qualified to recommend the exact amount and type of fire, wind, and extended coverage you need. We call it "protection made to order". Because he has the complete picture and can furnish complete non-assessable insurance he can offer you the lowest-cost coverage consistent with good protection.

POLICY COMPANY AGENT PREMIUM

State Mutual Insurance Company 702 Church Street Flint 3, Mich. S. B. DINGMAN, Pres. H. K. RISK, Sec'y. State Mutual favors Every Fifth Farm in Michigan... Ask Your Neighbor!

Right start for pigs boosts farm profits

Getting pigs off to a good start helps put money in the farmer's pocket, say swine specialists at Michigan State College Agriculture Experiment Station. A good start means feeding the sow properly before she farrows. It means raising the pigs on clean ground to protect them from parasites, anemia and contagious diseases. It means castrating when the pigs are still nursing, creep feeding, the use of antibiotics, and vaccination at six to ten weeks to prevent cholera—the No. 1 killer of swine. For further information, call your county agricultural agent.



Telephones grow in value Michigan Bell's expansion and improvement program has meant a steady improvement in telephone service for farmers. Most farmers served by Michigan Bell now can call neighboring towns without a toll charge, but during the war such service was available to only three per cent of our customers. What's more, three out of four rural establishments have telephones now, compared with about half in 1945. So today telephoning takes the place of many a trip to town or around the neighborhood, and your telephone is more valuable than ever.

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

# FB Life Has \$1,000 Group Plan for Members

## Community Group Will Be the Unit

The Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company announced 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 county 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 its members \$1,000 of life insurance at wholesale rates. The same insurance coverage purchased as an individual would cost from \$13 to \$50 per thousand according to the age of the person.

"Seventy 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 office 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 S. Hawley, coordinator of Community Farm Bureau activities, will represent the Michigan Farm Bureau.

The next step in Barry county will be to take the plan to all 33 Community Farm Bureau groups for explanation to the membership.

### Appointed to Farm Credit Board



CLARK L. BRODY

President Eisenhower on December 8 appointed Clark L. Brody of Lansing, Michigan, to the Federal Farm Credit Board. Mr. Brody is one of 12 board members named by the President to supervise the operation of the farm credit system as provided in the Farm Credit Act of 1953.

MR. BRODY will represent the 7th or the St. Paul District. It includes the states of Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin. His term is for one year. The others were appointed for periods of two to six years.

The general purpose of the Farm Credit Administration system is to provide a complete credit system for agriculture by making long-term and short-term credit available to farmers and their cooperatives.

IN THE reorganization of the federal government agencies in 1953, Congress made the Farm Credit Administration an independent organization. It had been attached to the U. S. Dept of Agriculture since 1939.

The cooperative farm loan system of the FCA includes 12 Federal Land Banks and 1,145 National Farm Loan Ass'ns; 12 Production Credit Corporations and 499 Production Credit Ass'ns; 12 Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, and 13 Banks for Cooperatives.

Last year farmers and their cooperatives borrowed more than two billion dollars from Farm Credit Administration agencies.

### January 15 Deadline for Insurance

Do you have Blue Cross through the Farm Bureau? Do you have Farm Bureau automobile or farm liability insurance? Are your Farm Bureau dues for 1954 paid?

THIS IS IMPORTANT, says Norwood Eastman, coordinator of the membership department for the Farm Bureau.

According to the 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.

January 15 is also the deadline date for membership dues for those members wishing to keep their Farm Bureau automobile or farm liability insurance in force.

### Solution Pays Big Dividends

Treating tomato, cauliflower and celery plants with concentrated fertilizer solution at the time of setting out pays big dividends in yields from early varieties, according to tests at Michigan State College.

Bruises hide an average 40-cents-per-animal loss in the cattle market.

### Would List Prospective FBS Investors

B. P. PATTISON  
Finance Promotion Division

From time to time holders of Farm Bureau Services Series "A" 5% debentures find it necessary to request payment in cash prior to the redemption period stated on the debenture.

The policy of management is to consider each request on its merits where it is apparent that there are circumstances of hardship beyond the control of the individual.

NO MORE Series "A" debentures are available for investment at this time. Undoubtedly, they are

people in the state who would be willing to invest if the opportunity presented itself. We would appreciate therefore knowing who these people are so that we might develop a so-called waiting list of investors. This will afford a two-way service by assisting distressed debenture holders and providing investment for those interested.

If you are interested in this program, will you kindly send me your name and address and some indication of the amount of investment you might make. We will be more than glad to act as a clearing house to effect the transfer. All transactions will be held confidential and your cooperation will be very much appreciated. Who will head the list?

Pastures that were well-fertilized and limed as needed suffered least from last summer's drought.

### 2721 Mich. Farm Policy Meetings

During August, September and October our Community Farm Bureaus held 2,721 farm policy development meetings with a total attendance of 59,138 persons. The recommendations developed in these meetings were expressed in County Farm Bureau resolutions and Michigan Farm Bureau resolutions sent to the American Farm Bureau annual meeting at Chicago December 15-17.

### Debeaking Chickens

Debeaking chickens may be necessary to prevent cannibalism in the flock, say Michigan State College poultry specialists. About one-half or slightly more of the length of the upper mandible is removed. That makes the chickens unable to grasp feathers or tissue but does not impair their ability to eat.

Buy Farm Bureau Seeds.

### King Evaporators For 1954 Boiling Season



### ORDER NOW!

In order to get delivery of King Maple Syrup Evaporators with either Copper or English Tin pans for the 1954 Pure Maple Syrup season, we must have your order now. Metal to make King Evaporators is special and takes months to get delivery to our factory. Order now and be sure. SUGAR BUSH SUPPLIES CO. P.O. Box 1107, Lansing, Michigan. Located on M-43 at 4109 West Saginaw Road, just west of Lansing and Waverly golf course.



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

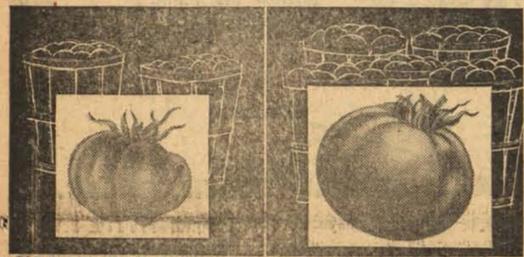
We look ahead with optimism and determination to further expand services whenever Farm Bureau members and cooperators request it and proof of their desire is testified to by their willingness to finance and use the facilities.

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

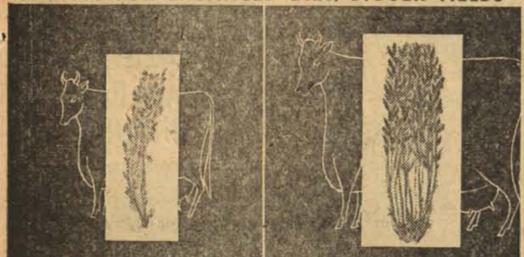
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SIDE BY SIDE TESTS PROVE POTASH ESSENTIAL—



A MUST FOR BALANCED DIET, BIGGER YIELDS



NOW, MORE THAN EVER  
**POTASH**  
makes a difference to you

Your Profit Picture. In a period of rising costs, more efficient use of land, labor and machinery is a must. Producing more for less is the key to present and future profits. That's why Potash is so essential. Used liberally, Potash LOWERS YOUR UNIT COSTS OF PRODUCTION, saves on labor, helps you earn higher profits per acre.

Your Yield Story. Even with Potash consumption tripling in the past ten years, farm experts still say not enough is being used. More Potash is needed if present yields are to be increased or even maintained. Be sure you consult your agricultural adviser for correct amounts for your land. But remember, more Potash means more profits.

Send for this Free Booklet. This Plant Food Utilization Booklet shows how your crops remove valuable plant foods from the soil... helps you better understand your fertilizer needs. For your copy, write to address below.

Symbol for bigger yields... bigger profits

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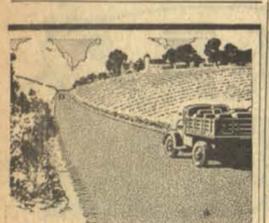
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# Farm Bureau Institute at MSC January 5-6

## District Vote On Soil Men In January

Farmers in 63 of Michigan's 83 counties will go to the polls during January to choose the men and policies they want for the safeguarding of their lands. Annual meetings will be conducted in 68 of the state's 70 soil conservation districts.

Polls and meeting halls are set up in schools, churches and other buildings, notes W. S. Harrison, Michigan State College extension soil conservationist and assistant secretary of the State Soil Conservation Committee.



## SOIL-CEMENT today's biggest value for light-traffic roads

SOIL-CEMENT makes taxpayers' dollars go farther because about 85 per cent of the required material is usually native soil on the site. It's easy to transform high-maintenance cost dirt, gravel or stone roads into strong, long-lasting pavement good for years of all-weather service with soil-cement.

The first soil-cement road, built in 1935, is still giving excellent service. Soil-cement's superior value and durability for light-traffic paving is thoroughly demonstrated and established by thousands of miles of such pavement now in use.

## PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION

Olds Tower Bldg., Lansing 8, Mich.  
A national organization to improve and extend the uses of portland cement and concrete... through scientific research and engineering field work.

## To Build Stronger County Program

The Fifth Annual Michigan Farm Bureau Institute for County Farm Bureau presidents and committee chairmen will be held at Kellogg Center, Michigan State College, January 5 and 6.

The Institute program 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 chairmen of the following committees: Membership, Community Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Women, Senior Committee on Junior Farm Bureau, Blue Cross, Resolutions, Farm Supplies, Legislative and Publicity. About 400 county leaders are expected for the Institute.

January 5—The Institute 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.

Charles Marshall, president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau, will speak to the first general assembly session of all presidents and committee chairmen.

The afternoon will be devoted to work shop sessions for the nine groups for the purpose of discussing County Farm Bureau programs in publicity, legislation, membership, etc., and for the exchange of successful methods for doing the work.

**EVENING.** At the evening general assembly "We Saw Farm Bureau at Work on Farm Policy" will be presented by County Farm Bureau people who won the AFBF Award trip to Washington in 1953.

Jack Lynn, legislative director of the Washington office of AFBF, will speak on Farm Bureau's role in national legislation.

Announcement will be made of the County Farm Bureau people who have won the American Farm Bureau Award for membership work and the visit to the AFBF in Washington in 1954.

**JAN. 6—**"Reviewing some Effective County Programs" will be presented at the morning general assembly by a panel of County Committee Chairmen.

Work shop sessions will precede the final general assembly in the afternoon when J. F. Yaeger, executive secretary of the Michigan Farm Bureau, will address the group.

Following are the workshops to be conducted at the Institute and the discussion leader and recording secretary for each:

**Presidents**—Keith Tanner, discussion leader; Don Kilpatrick, sec'y.

**Public Relations**—Donald Kinsey and Clare McGhan.

**Membership**—Norwood Eastman and Carl Kentner.

**Community Farm Bureau**—Wesley Hawley and Wayne Hoyt.

**Women's Activities**—Mrs. Marjorie Karker.

**Junior Farm Bureau**—James Reilly, Vern Thalmann and Jerry Cordrey.

**Farm Supply**—Fred Reimer and Charles Mumford.

**Resolutions**—Stanley Powell and Roger Foerch.

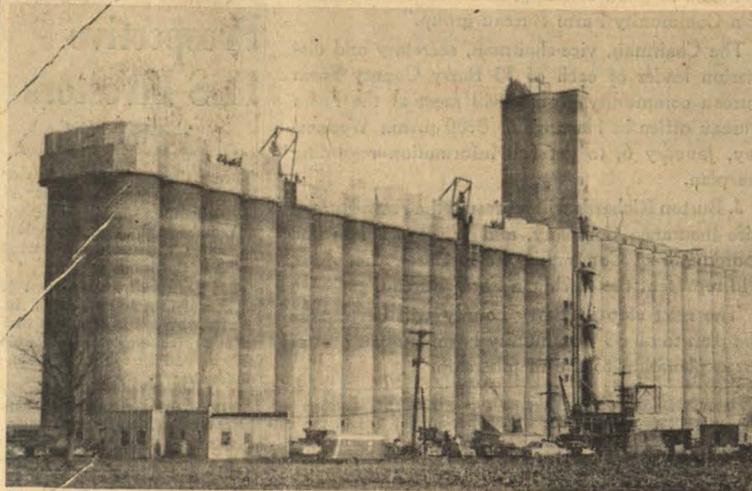
**Legislation**—Dan Reed and Elden Smith.

## Frances Pidd in AFBF Talk Meet

Frances Pidd, Washtenaw county Junior Farm Bureau member, represented Michigan in the National Rural Youth Talk Meet at Chicago December 14 as a part of the program of the American Farm Bureau Convention. She spoke on the topic, "Self Government is My Responsibility." Miss Pidd competed with young people from 27 other states. Eugene Dewnsnak of Utah was the winner.

Miss Pidd had won the State Talk Meet at the Michigan Junior convention. She competed against winners from nine districts.

## Add 1,000,000 Bushels of Storage



SHOWN ABOVE is the Michigan Elevator Exchange grain terminal near Ottawa Lake, Monroe county, as it looks today with the completion of 28 new concrete silos with a capacity of 1,000,000 bushels. This additional space, located to the left of the towering headhouse, will make the total capacity 1,800,000 bushels, making it the largest terminal elevator in Michigan. Even more significant is the fact that this terminal is the only terminal in Michigan owned by farmers. An estimated 50,000 farmers own the 135 local cooperative elevators which make up the membership of the Michigan Elevator Exchange. The 28 new silos were poured in 8 days and 6 hours, between December 3 and 11. The new unit will be completed and ready for use by wheat harvest next summer.

## Sec'y Benson Said to AFBF

(Continued from Page 1)

**FIRST** reason I have for saying farm programs will not support farm income is because history shows they never have.

Sixteen centuries ago, the Romans wrote the most comprehensive price fixing laws in history. Prices were set on 700 different items. Penalty was death for those who broke the law. Many died, but the law itself was soon repealed as a failure.

Yes, but that's ancient history, you say. We're smarter today. I hope we're smarter.

**BUT** let's take the last 30 years. Most of you can remember after the first World War when we tried to control prices through organized marketing. We tried to stabilize farm income through the Farm Board of 1929. We know that these well-meaning laws did not stop farm prices from going down.

Then the Democrats took over. Since 1933 they have literally thrown the law book at the farm problem. But all of this farm legislation has not stabilized farm income!

Do you remember what hogs sold for in 1939? That was after 5 years of farm programs and legislation to raise prices. Hogs that year sold for an average of 6 1/4 cents a pound. Corn was only 57 cents a bushel. Cattle brought 7 cents. Hogs were actually 61 percent higher in 1930 than they were in 1940.

Some may contend that costs were also lower before the war. That is true, but keep this in mind: Prior to the outbreak of World War II—after seven years of all-out price support effort—farm prices were only 78 percent of parity.

**BUT** HOGS are higher than a nickel a pound today. Farm prices have gone up. So have all other prices. But, it was WAR—not government farm programs that raised farm prices after 1940. WAR, and inflation that comes with war, caused the general price level to go up.

After World War II, we gave away large quantities of food to hungry millions abroad. And then in 1950, the Korean War again gave farm prices another sharp boost.

**Now, just as farm programs did not raise farm income—neither did farm programs prevent farm income from dropping when prices started down in 1951.**

Instead of seeking a new approach to a new problem, the government attempted to hold up farm prices with laws born of war-time necessity.

**THAT** is how the 90 percent of parity supports, which had been designed to stimulate urgently-needed production, were turned around in an effort to prop up farm income.

But these supports did not do the job, as you well know. That's why I say farm programs alone cannot guarantee your farm income.

**YOU** hog raisers know what happened to hogs last year. They were selling for 16 cents a pound a year ago—only 77 percent of parity. There was some agitation for hog supports then. But Secretary Brannan at that time did not think supports were feasible. At least, he didn't put them into effect. Perhaps because of the dismal failure of attempts to support live hog prices in the 1940's.

What did farmers do when they knew there would be no price

supports?

You know what you did. You bred 12 percent fewer sows for spring farrow this year—5 percent fewer sows for fall farrow. And hog prices bounced back quickly. Some of you sold hogs here in Chicago this week for \$24.00.

**DOESN'T** this make a pretty good argument that supply and demand will solve a particular farm problem faster than government possibly can?

That's why we are cross-examining our present farm program—to search out the weak spots so they can be strengthened. As most of you well know from personal experience, we're heading for acreage controls on cotton, wheat, and possibly corn—our three biggest crops. The idea behind it is that by setting acreage controls, we'd restrict supplies and thus raise farm income.

What are the facts?

**FACT NO. 1:** Acreage controls do not always reduce supplies. In many instances production actually goes up.

A farm editor from Kansas told me last week that he thought you Kansas farmers could reduce acreage 30 percent, and still raise as big a wheat crop as before. You could do it with more fertilizer and summer fallow.

You Corn Belt farmers know what can be done by pouring the fertilizer on corn—you've made 100-bushel corn land out of what grew 50 bushels before.

**FACT NO. 2:** What will you plant on the idle acres? Large-scale acreage control creates a new large-size problem.

**FACT NO. 3** is this: Even if acreage controls do reduce supplies, that does not mean it will raise your farm income.

Price per bushel isn't enough. It's price times volume that makes farm income.

I was interested recently in the observations of Melvin Gehlbach, an Illinois farmer, who gave the House Agricultural Committee these four indictments of our present grain support program:

1. High price supports on feed grains encourage farmers to raise corn to sell to the government rather than to feed to livestock.

2. High support prices have led to even greater acreages of soil-depleting crops.

3. Support prices have helped the farmer most who needs the help least. And supports have hardly helped the little farmer at all.

4. Since 85 percent of all feed grains go into livestock, Mr. Gehlbach said we are really robbing Peter to pay Paul.

**ANOTHER** of my farmer friends told me the other day that he was not happy with the present program. He said: "I'm afraid we are digging a grave of controls for ourselves. Maybe we are prolonging the day when we'll have to face the facts. BUT labor is protected. Industry has its tariffs—so why shouldn't the farmers get theirs?"

I agree, farmers do need some sort of program to put them on a par. Farming is very diverse and hazardous. Farmers don't have collective bargaining except to a limited extent through their own organizations. But that's just part of the story.

**IF UNIONS** price their labor too

productive soil. We have the tools. We have the science and education to give us know-how. We have the freedom to inspire men to achieve.

And I say to you that we must also have the agricultural statesmanship to match—if we are to continue our progress.

## WHAT SHALL THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT BE?

I believe we've been led to expect too much of government. I think we've been led by a blind faith that government can do more for us than we can do for ourselves. It has been suggested that with a little hocus pocus the Secretary could assume that there's still an emergency and therefore permit higher acreage of crops already in excess reserve.

**NEXT YEAR,** Congress will write a farm program. This program may not be dramatically new—nor revolutionary. It will, we hope, root out the bad points, strengthen the weaknesses.

Even if desirable, we can't change our present programs too abruptly. It must be a gradual adjustment. It's the direction we go from here that is most important.

The Department of Agriculture will administer the program which Congress writes. In the meantime, we are getting our own house in order. We have already reorganized the Department to serve you better. We will continuously analyze every operation of our Department—cutting costs and increasing service.

(Continued on Page 5)

**PURE CRUSHED TRIPLE SCREENED OYSTER SHELL**  
FOR POULTRY  
FARM BUREAU MILLING CO., Inc.  
CHICAGO, ILL.

This boy will call on you soon. He's selling Guaranteed Farm Bureau Garden Seed, to help finance his F.F.A. Chapter's project.

**FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.**  
GARDEN SEED DEPARTMENT  
221 N. Cedar St. Lansing 4, Michigan

## FARM BUREAU INSURANCE



## IS PREFERRED PROTECTION

By far the biggest name in automobile insurance to Farm Bureau members is the name of their own organization, the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan.

More member families carry Farm Bureau auto insurance than carry all other kinds of auto insurance combined.

For your farm vehicles there is no better protection than Farm Bureau insurance.

The cost is low.

The service you receive as a policy-holder is the very best.

There are special advantages in your Farm Bureau insurance policy. Your Farm Bureau Insurance Agent will be glad to give you the details without obligation to you. If you do not know his name, any Farm Bureau office or store will explain how you can reach him.

**LIFE INSURANCE THE FIP PROTECTED SAVINGS PLAN**  
**AUTO AND TRUCK INSURANCE FARM LIABILITY INSURANCE**

**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE**  
507 South Grand Ave. Lansing 4, Michigan



## THE NEW YEAR

The writer was at the Kick-Off Banquet of the Huron County Farm Bureau on November 30. It was a thrill to see the scores of men and women, all of them young in spirit and belief, ready to go out and help their county build a stronger Farm Bureau.

## ALL OVER THE STATE

All over the state such meetings were held—not all on the same day but on some chosen day. The race is on! These followers of the Golden Rule will call on friends and neighbors, to tell the story of progress, strength, and satisfaction that comes with the greater membership in the Farm Bureau. Membership is built through such efforts.

These good prospects that were visited, have been told of the work the women do in the County Farm Bureau—of the Junior Farm Bureau and the excellent job it does—of the growth in organizational knowledge and interest that the Community Farm Bureaus bring to the county members.

They have been told of their own Farm Bureau Life and Auto Insurance—of Blue Cross—of the so vital legislative program to give protection to agriculture—of the Petroleum Co-operative and Farm Equipment.

You new members are cordially invited to buy Farm Bureau feed for poultry, hogs, cows, or cattle. No better feed is made. These feeds are open formula—highly fortified—rich in vital factors. They get results—and they are yours for "VALUE-IN-USE" on your farm—day after day.

Let's strengthen the Team that belongs to us.

P. S. Your new 'Farm Bureau Complete Calf Ration' (for heifers until they go on the herd ration) and 'Dry 'N Freshening Feed' for your dry cows are available to your F. B. feed dealer. Ask him.

## Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

Feed Department 221 N. Cedar Street Lansing, Michigan

# Powell & Reed Reply to Attack on Twp. Gov't

## And Reference to Mich. Farm Bur.

Mr. Warren Zaiss, Editor  
Inside Michigan Magazine  
944 Free Press Building  
Detroit, Michigan  
Dear Mr. Zaiss:

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

In using material which was provided for Michigan Farm Bureau members to aid them in discussing trends in taxes and township government, you neglected to carry the statement which preceded these discussion aids and which is as follows:

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

Without this preface, you have listed the discussion aids as bearing the stamp of approval of the nearly 60,000 family-members of Michigan Farm Bureau. These were points to be considered in the discussions, and were not the conclusions reached at those community meetings. This certainly is a violation of the ethics of editorial prerogatives.

Let's look at some of the errors and half-truths included in your article:

**1. A STATEMENT** is made that, "There is no longer an excuse for tolerating the expensive, selfish and politics-ridden township form of government." It is a question in the minds of rural people whether township governments are more expensive, more selfish or more politically involved than any other units of government in Michigan, be they cities, villages, counties or the state itself.

**2.** The article refers to payments to townships made under the requirements of the tax diversion amendment passed in 1947 (the amendment was adopted in 1946). You point out that Michigan "pays out \$6.13 in cash for each resident of every township in Michigan as a direct form of state aid."

You neglected to point out that Michigan also distributes \$13.03 to cities for each resident and \$10.77 to villages for each resident. These figures are all taken from the same table in the Michigan State Aid Survey of 1953 which you quote as a source of information in your article.

**3. THE POINT** is made that under the present sales tax diversion formula, townships receive the per capita payment of \$6.13 for all "wards of the state who happen to be in residence at places like prisons, hospitals, asylums, reformatories and children's homes."

You failed to mention that cities and villages in which such institutions are located have received the same per capita payments. Rural people have been among the most critical of these provisions.

The 1952-53 per capita payment under the sales tax diversion formula was \$6.82. This amount was received by each city, village and township according to the population listed in the 1950 census.

**4.** Several specific examples of questionable use of township funds are cited. These are isolated and extreme cases and similar expenditures are found not only in townships. Supporters of local self-government are opposed to misuse of public funds wherever found.

**5. THE ARTICLE** says that, "You, who are one of the 67% of Michigan's population residing in cities and urban areas, pay your local property taxes and the farmers' too. . . . You, the city dweller, pay the township politicians, the constables and the others, and pay \$6.15 beside to every resident of every township. You never heard of any of these people and they never did anything for you, but your tax money keeps their township going." The errors in the preceding quotation are evident. According to the above-mentioned State Aid Survey table, the total per capita State Aid to townships was \$6.12.

**6.** The article claims that 67% of Michigan people live in the cities and that they, "together with their industries, pay 95% of all the taxes raised in Michigan" and that the 33% living in townships pay about 5%. The source of these figures is not quoted and we would be interested to know how you have arrived at the conclusion.

IT IS sometimes stated that cities pay the major part of the sales tax. Farmers are heavy purchasers of taxable items of capital outlay, such as roofing, fencing, building materials, automobiles and many other items, as well as the usual household supplies. Few of these purchases are made in rural townships. A farmer does his buying in cities and villages for the simple reason that stores are located there. His sales tax payments represent a substantial part of city and village collections.

**7. SEVERAL** paragraphs are devoted to showing that the township is a one-man show. "The only important figure in the township is the Supervisor who is usually chairman of the township board. . . . He runs a one-man show, contrasting sharply with the village council where everyone has a chance to speak up for what he wants." Members of township boards, I am sure, will take issue with you on this question of expression.

**8.** Nearly a column is devoted to a comparison between "property tax" and "school tax." In the first place, school taxes are property taxes and anyone qualified to discuss this question should not erroneously indicate that school taxes are other than property taxes. Property taxes also include township tax, county tax, drain tax and other levies. In 1950, the article states, only one dollar in property tax was collected for each eleven dollars of school tax. As presented, the figure means nothing.

**9. IT IS** pointed out that "no matter how rich a township becomes, the state literally forces extra tax money down its official gullet." Examination of the reports of 1,233 of the 1,266 townships in Michigan made by the Municipal Finance Commission of the 1951-52 township returns show that townships spent nearly \$20,000,000 during the year and carried over a balance of nearly \$17,000,000. This would indicate that townships have considerably less than one year's normal expenditure of funds on hand. The following figures compiled by the Municipal Finance Commission also show that the balance carried over from year to year is rather stable, instead of growing by leaps and bounds as you indicate:

Year	Balance on Hand at Close of Year (Cash & Investments)	Expenditures
1948-49	\$13,969,195	\$14,476,491
1949-50	13,922,937	16,937,555
1950-51	14,417,081	17,639,216
1951-52	16,728,679	19,688,408

IT SHOULD be mentioned that before sales tax diversion payments began, a number of townships in Michigan had amassed large balances due largely to severance tax payments. These were townships in which were located oil fields and mineral deposits. Many of these balances are carried forward and are still reflected in the totals.

Frequently townships build reserves to carry out projects which are beyond the possibilities of a single year's income. This may be for the purpose of building a community hall, purchasing fire equipment, building roads or

rendering other services. These dedicated funds show as unexpended balances.

**PART** of the reason for townships carrying cash balances is simply because rural people have not learned the many "advantages" of living beyond their incomes. Balanced budgets and reasonable reserves are still regarded as assets in Michigan's rural areas.

The burden of the article indicates that "Inside Michigan" feels that state tax moneys should be diverted to local units of government on the basis of "need." Rural people believe that it is difficult to distinguish between "needs" and "desires." A new city auditorium or swimming pool or township hall or fire equipment may be a "need" or a "desire," as the individual looks at it.

**THE SALES TAX** fund is collected from Michigan citizens on an equal-contribution basis. To place this money in a large "pie" which is then divided into very unequal portions for distribution violates a principle of fair play.

Where sales tax money is used to finance local government, it can well be considered a local tax which, for convenience sake, is collected through a state agency.

**CERTAINLY**, such tax money should not be paid back to local government on the basis of city residents as first-class citizens, village residents as second-class citizens and township residents as third-class citizens.

This would be the effect if the Michigan State Aid Survey recommendation is followed. This survey from which you quote recommends sales tax distribution to local government on the following basis:

\$9.00 per capita to cities  
\$4.00 per capita to villages  
\$1.00 per capita to townships

**SUCH** a diversion of tax money would encourage spend-thrift government and discourage economy in operation. It would penalize the provident unit of government simply because it did not over-spend its income.

You ask whether the payments to townships are not subsidies and you question Webster's definition. The definition of subsidy is, "A gift of money or property made by one person to another by way of financial aid."

**IN VIEW** of the above-mentioned distribution of State Aid of \$13.03 per capita to cities, \$10.77 to villages and \$6.13 per capita to townships, it seems as though a subsidy is involved and that township residents are helping to pay that subsidy.

Such tactics as you have used in misrepresenting the position of Michigan Farm Bureau can only add to the confusion and misunderstanding of Michigan's tax problem. It might be fair to point out that Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State Grange and the State Association of Supervisors were the three organizations which spear-headed the fight to prevent the adoption of the sales tax diversion amendment which you are currently criticizing.

**WE HOPE** these facts may be of assistance in any further material which you may prepare. We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about possible improvements in local self-government and more efficient use of state-collected funds.

Sincerely yours,  
**MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU**  
(Signed)  
**STANLEY M. POWELL**  
Legislative Counsel  
**DAN E. REED**  
Ass't Legislative Counsel

**Canada Best Customer For U.S.**  
Canada imports from the United States nearly 20% of all of our trade with the outside world. Not only did Canadians purchase nearly 3 billion dollars worth of our products in 1952, but they bought \$629 million worth more of goods than the United States bought from them.

To continue to be our best customer, they must sell goods in America. And this applies to agricultural products. In 1952 Canada imported from the United States \$381 million worth of our farm products. They shipped to us \$348 million dollars worth. Every dollar which they collected was more than matched by what they spent in American markets.

As a matter of self-interest, both of our countries must continue to do all they can to move goods over our international boundaries. Trade Agreements must be kept favorable to both.

Canada has not required any form of American loans with which to buy American agricultural goods. They bought them with dollars earned and created in their own economy.

## Legislature Convenes January 13

**STANLEY M. POWELL**  
Legislative Counsel for MFB  
The Michigan legislature will convene for the 1954 session at Lansing on Wednesday, January 13. This is the second time in Michigan history that a regular session of state legislature has been held in an even-numbered year. Until 1952 the legislative sessions were held only in the odd-numbered years. Special sessions were held at the call of the Governor and could consider only matters submitted by him.

**SINCE** adoption of the sales tax diversion constitutional amendment, it has been necessary for the legislature to meet annually to fix the amount of the state aid appropriation for public schools.

Also, the state's financial situation has been so acute and baffling that the legislature has been adopting appropriation bills for only one year.

Those are some of the reasons why the people voted to amend the Michigan Constitution so that the legislature would hold a regular session annually, beginning in 1952.

**AT THE** 1951 session, the lawmakers decided that when they met in even-numbered years they could rush things along and compress their deliberations into a shorter period of time than that involved for a regular session in an odd-numbered year.

In the session during an even-numbered year there are the same members in the Senate and House who served the year before. They have the same seats and committee assignments.

Under rules adopted during the 1951 session, members are permitted to prepare bills in advance and they are referred to the appropriate committee by the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House and printed so that they are ready for consideration as soon as the session gets under way.

**TO INSURE** that the session during 1954 will be a relatively short one, the lawmakers have adopted a schedule to hurry along the consideration of bills. The session opens at noon, January 13. From then until February 10 bills will be introduced and started through the legislative process. Any bill introduced after February 10 will not be printed. That means that there will be no chance of its enactment.

During the 21 days beginning February 11 and ending March 3, Senate committees will consider Senate bills and House committees will take up House bills. Any bill not reported from committee by March 3 will be dead. During the seven days beginning March 4 and ending March 10, no bills will be reported from committees. During that week the Senate must dispose of all Senate bills and the House must dispose of all House bills.

**DURING** the two weeks beginning March 11 and ending March 24 committees must report out bills previously passed by the other branch of the Legislature or those bills will be dead. All of this schedule leads up to completing the main part of the session on April 9. The lawmakers will then recess for thirty-four days and return to Lansing to wind up the session on May 13 and 14. That will give them a chance to act on any veto messages and take up any other appropriate final business.

**A STUDY** of the foregoing schedule shows that the lawmakers will be in session a little less than three months.

That means that in the promotion of the program adopted by the voting delegates at the annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau last November we must all get busy without delay. This applies especially to members of County Farm Bureau Legislative Committees and to Farm Bureau Minutemen.

**HOWEVER**, each member of the Farm Bureau has a very definite influence and responsibility. All of us should give careful consideration to legislative issues and keep our lawmakers currently informed as to how we feel regarding these matters. That is the appropriate and effective way to get our resolutions translated into definite accomplishments.

**Keep Out of Debt**  
Farmers who are established and solvent are advised by Michigan State College agricultural economists to keep out of debt, modernize homes where needed and protect their properties with insurance.

Buy Farm Bureau Feed.

## "NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A WOMAN"



**WESLEY S. HAWLEY**  
Coordinator Community Farm Bureau Activities

Fortunately, we have in Farm Bureau a family organization. We work on important matters such as citizenship, international relations, public relations, and community betterment as well as many other things. Women have the same interest in all phases of Farm Bureau activities as any member of the family.

In Farm Bureau the women have been taking a very active part in their community, county, state and national Farm Bureaus. Their influence is very far reaching in building a well balanced, closely knit organization.

Women, it is very important that you continue to your knitting in Farm Bureau. There is much to be done. The need is great for more Community Farm Bureaus and for greater participation, if we are to have a real grass roots Farm Bureau.

## President of FB Services



**MARTEN GARN** was elected president of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., at the 24th annual meeting at Michigan State College, December 2. Ivan Parsons of Grand Blanc was elected vice-president.

These farmers and Farm Bureau members were elected directors for their first term: Peter H. DeWeerd of Hudsonville, Phillip Holzhausen of Corunna, and Elton R. Smith of Caledonia. Ivan Parsons of Grand Blanc was re-elected to the board of directors.

**FOUR** farmers and Farm Bureau members were re-elected to represent Michigan Farm Bureau on the Services board: Carl E. Buskirk of Paw Paw; Ward Hodge of Snover, Blaque Knirk of Quincy, and Albert Shellenbarger of Lake Odessa.

Directors of all Farm Bureau companies are now farmers, by actions taken at recent annual meetings. Three co-operative ass'n managers retired from the FB Services board December 2 with the thanks of the shareholders for their long and able service. They are: Thomas Berg-hove of Cadillac, 24 years' service, formerly manager of Falmouth Cooperative Co., now manager of Michigan Potato Growers Exchange; Alfred Roberts of Pigeon, 10 years' service, manager of Cooperative Elevator Co. at Pigeon; Paul Kaechele of Caledonia, 4 years' service, manager of Caledonia Farmers Elevator Company.

**MARTEN GARN** has one of the best herds of Yorkshire hogs in Michigan. He farms near Charlotte, Eaton county. Mr. Garn started in Farm Bureau 20 years ago as one of the first members of Junior Farm Bureau. He is a director of Michigan Farm Bureau and president of the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.

**IVAN PARSONS** is engaged in dairying and general farming near Grand Blanc, Genesee county. He has been a member of the Farm Bureau since 1919. He has been a director of Grand Blanc Coop for 36 years and is its president.

**J. F. YAEGER**, executive secretary, told representatives of 16,000 shareholders at the annual meeting that their organization distributed \$20,060,900 worth of farm supplies for the year ending August 31.

Several thousand of FB Services nearly 50,000 patrons invested close to a million dollars in Service securities in 1953 to finance the fertilizer plant now building at Kalamazoo. At the same time, FB Services retired several years in advance of the retirement date some \$996,000 of securities issued in 1948 to build the fertilizer manufacturing plant at Saginaw.

## President of Petroleum Co-op



**WARD G. HODGE** of Snover, Sanilac county, was re-elected president of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., at the fifth annual meeting at Michigan State College, December 3. Thomas Koning of Marne, Ottawa county, was elected vice-president.

Rex Talladay of Milan was elected to the board of directors.

**OTHER** farmers and Farm Bureau members re-elected to the board are: William Bartz of St. Joseph, Thomas Koning of Marne, Fred King of Blissfield.

Nominated by the Farm Bureau and re-elected to the board: Blaque Knirk of Quincy, Ward G. Hodge of Snover, Kenneth Johnson of Freeland, Marten Garn of Charlotte, Russell Hazel was nominated by the Michigan Farm Bureau and elected to the board.

We shall strengthen soil conservation. We hope in the years ahead that we not only conserve the soil, but improve it through proper land use.

**PRODUCTION** is only half the job. We must market our products. I pledge to you we will use every resource in cooperation with industry to find new markets for farm products, to recapture, insofar as possible, overseas markets we have lost.

Your future prosperity, I believe, is going to depend largely on two things:

**FIRST**, how good a job you do on your own farm.

**SECOND**, I believe your farm income will be high only if the Nation as a whole is prosperous.

Agricultural economists assure me that this fact has been true for the last 150 years. That, in general, periods of rising prices have been periods of prosperity, and periods of falling prices have been periods of agricultural distress.

**THEREFORE**, I say to you that the farmer's prosperity is much more bound up with the government's fiscal program than it is with any farm program we write.

On that score, President Eisenhower has asked me personally to pass on to you what he has said again and again in our Cabinet meetings: That this Administration will do everything possible, take every measure, use every tool at its command to help maintain our national income at stable levels.

1954 will be a year of decision for agriculture. The eyes of the Nation are sharply focused on the farm problem.

As the Nation's largest general farm organization, the American Farm Bureau Federation has a great stake in this fight. But mere numbers are not enough in any battle. Now is the time for every one of you to stand up and be counted—to make known clearly and unmistakably your views on farm policy.

**THE QUESTION** of who speaks for the farmers has created more than one argument. But it must be obvious that no one can speak for farmers unless farmers first speak for themselves. There could be no better sounding board than this convention for the expression of grassroots thinking on our agricultural problems.

I challenge you to make the most of this opportunity. All possible assistance you can give in this crisis is needed—now.

You may be assured that fundamental basic principles, never selfish political expediency, will guide us. Never will I knowingly do anything or recommend any policy which is contrary to your interests. At the same time, any farm program must be in the best interests of the Nation, as well as the farmer.

Great decisions lie ahead. Let us approach them with intelligence—let us approach them in the spirit of men who value freedom and recognize the responsibilities that go with it.

The best time to remove diseased poultry from a flock is now.

"FIP" says:

A MAN NEVER APPRECIATES ASHES UNTIL HE SLIPS ON THE ICE!

But you'll always appreciate the comfortable feeling you'll get from your FIP Savings Plan. FIP is the easy way to set money aside. It combines real savings with a program offering protection, dividends, coupons that can be clipped and cashed, and other valuable features. Discuss this Farm Bureau program for Farm Bureau families with your Farm Bureau Insurance Agent today.

FARM BUREAU Life INSURANCE

507 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE • LANSING, MICHIGAN

# Tax Problems Due to Publicly Owned Lands

## Community Farm Bureau Discussion Topic For January

DONALD D. KINSEY  
Coordinator of Education and Research

The early days of Michigan—  
The homestead days—the careless days!  
The days of axe and saw and plow—  
They cleared the "dirt-cheap" land, till now  
We still find fields where waves no grain,  
Nor even forest evergreen has yet returned  
To Michigan!

The fallen house, the slanting shed,  
The apple tree, so gnarled and dead—  
These are the signs of tortured land  
Not long to stay  
In Michigan!

God put his beauty in the land.  
Again let noble forests stand  
And dew-wet grasses gently blow  
Where idle lies the prairie sand  
In Michigan!

Yet may our learning, bright and new,  
Turn sand and dune to fertile field!  
New farms may flourish 'mid the dew  
And shadow of the pines,  
With golden yield,  
In Michigan!

**Landscapes and Taxes.** "Sure Mister we've got a tax predicament here in our township—and the law has got us over a barrel! Some other townships, a lot like us, are getting a better break in terms of the money they get to help run their local affairs. I'm not just bellyaching! It's a fact.

"Let's look at the map of the township, and you will see what I mean. We've got four district schools that are struggling along. They average only eleven pupils. Folks hereabouts like those schools. They want to keep them. They kind of bind the neighbors together, and seem a bit like home to the folks.

"There's one school down here on the south road. Only three farms left in that neighborhood. Land's just fair, but the folks are making it produce up to snuff.

"Over here in the northwest is another. Four families in that neighborhood. Biggest school we've got. Thirteen kids!

"The one here in the center talks about closing. Only nine kids there—and three more farms along the road, two south of the school and one west.

"Then we have a cluster of small farms—four of them—over here toward northwest. This school is small, but about average for the township.

"That begins to tell the story. The rest of the land is state-owned. This is near marginal land around here and folks had a rough time back in the thirties. Now, lots of townships in Michigan have state-owned land. But they usually get a better break. Folks north of Towlne 16 get 10c an acre regularly from the state to help support local operations.

"But, we are south of Towlne 16, and we come under a different part of the law. Our law was written in 1946, and it sure doesn't treat everybody alike! It just happens that a lot of the land in this township was purchased by the state in that distaster year of 1934.

"IF YOU will look up the law, you will see that it says that all the lands that the state purchased in this area after 1933 can be taxed only at a severe reduction for some of us. I'll show you what I mean.

"The value of our land around here—land that the state got—had to go down on the assessment rolls at its worst level in history. The law reads that such state land must be valued on the basis of the average value of the five years just before it was taken over. And you can't ever change that value!

"NOW, those five years just before 1934 sure put a crimp in the value of the land here. I guess there weren't five poorer years in the century! So the tax base on this land was set awfully low to begin with.

"But the law bites still deeper for us, because that land can be taxed to the state at only half the rate for other land in the township. This means that nearly seventy percent of the land in our township just isn't helping to pay its way! And the folks who live on the rest of the land have to bear the lion's share of the tax load."

**STATE TAX** payments are not in balance. The complaint made by our speaker may not be typical of your township. The hardship or the benefit of Act No. 5, of the Public Acts of 1946 to various local townships and school districts gives a picture that differs mightily. Under this Act the state paid many times its former 10c per acre on some of the high-value recreational lands near Detroit. At the same time it paid less than the original 10c an acre on many of the less valuable game lands.

The element of unfairness in the law is the practice of freezing the value of the land on the basis of the five years before it was purchased. This hits some areas hard

## Discussion Topics

They were chosen by your State Discussion Topic Committee from the results of the questionnaires returned by the Community Farm Bureaus.

**Jan.** The Problem of Publicly-Owned Lands and Local Taxation.

**Feb.** Our Community Farm Bureaus and the Service-to-Member Program.

**Mar.** A State Plan to Regulate the Financing of Drainage Projects Within and Between Counties?

Be sure to read your discussion topic articles on this page of the Michigan Farm News. Attend your Community Group Meetings!

"SOME of our County Farm Bureau resolutions asked that all state properties be taxed for local purposes at the same rate as private property in the area.

I wonder if we really would want this? It might be a bad bargain, at that! The state has to get its income out of the people. It owns numerous big buildings in our cities, where property values are high. It has offices, state hospitals, colleges and universities, etc. They cut into the lands that could otherwise bring tax revenues to the cities. Should they be taxable at the same rate as other similar lands and properties within the cities? Where would we draw the line—or who would draw it? We might think a little on that one!

FROM a broad point of view, the idea of the state paying local taxes can have value only to help equalize the tax load for areas where state-ownership creates a hardship on a locality. Otherwise it is like taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another—except that we have to add bookkeeping costs.

The individual that gets a rather "thin" deal in the matter is the township treasurer. The state pays no collection fees, so the treasurer has to do this work "for free."

SOME points on the "plus side." In some cases the taxes paid by the state are actually higher than would be justified by the true value of the land. North of Towlne 16, the 10c an acre is sometimes higher than the actual tax rate on privately-owned land. Where that is true, local folks like it.

While assessing land at only 50% of its valuation (as it done South of Towlne 16) and this is less than 100%, economists point out that no state is compelled to make payments to local units. Willingness to pay at all is a generous gesture, from this point of view. It is an effort to overcome local handicaps created by state possession of the land.

Some of the state-owned recreation areas in southern Michigan, while paying a reduced local tax, do bring many tourists into the areas. Tourists spend dollars

that fatten local incomes. This usually benefits the entire area.

FEDERAL Lands are different. Michigan has national forests. The government has public buildings in most every community. The federal government pays no share of the local tax load directly. The only concession to local treasuries is a payment of 25% of any sales of timber or of surface minerals—sand, gravel, marl, etc. that may be made off such land. Local governments do get that 25% share. Most of the federal lands are not productive agricultural lands, however, in the sense of being proper for cultivation. They are mainly forested areas.

### Questions:

1. Do you think that some change should be made in Act No. 5 of the Public Acts of 1946 so as to overcome some of the unfairness in it? If so, what should these changes be?

2. What local tax problems are created by the presence of publicly-owned lands in your area?

## Petrol. Co-op A Big Fellow In 5 Years

Earl Huntley, manager of the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative Inc., told shareholders at the 5th annual meeting at Michigan State College, December 3, that their organization distributed 26,579,000 gallons of automobile and tractor fuels to farmers the past year.

THROUGH recent purchases of oil wells in Illinois and Indiana the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative now has an interest in 200 oil wells in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois. The organization owns or controls a daily production of about 1,800 barrels of crude oil.

Mr. Huntley said that Farmers Petroleum Cooperative had paid in cash \$119,000 in patronage dividends to patrons who are shareholders for the year ending August 31.

In five years Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, a Farm Bureau company, has become one of the largest independent suppliers of petroleum products to Michigan farmers. They have over \$800,000 invested in the company. Shareholder patrons have received in five years \$370,000 in patronage dividends in cash, and \$102,000 in stock dividends.

Attending the annual meeting were the representatives of 61 farmers oil companies and quite a group of individual shareholders.

## Cheboygan is First



JACK SAVELLA of Cheboygan was delighted to learn that Cheboygan County Farm Bureau was first to make its goal in the Michigan Farm Bureau's 1954 Roll Call for members. "The captains and workers deserve the credit," said Roll Call Manager Savella, a transplanted Finnlander from Hancock. He farmed in Oakland county until 1937 when he bought 620 acres in Cheboygan county. Now he has 180 acres of general farming and timber.

Mr. Savella and his wife are partners in a rustic furniture manufacturing business in Cheboygan. Mrs. Savella, formerly Nora Tucker of Sandusky, Sanilac county, was active in the Cheboygan Roll Call and keeps an eye on Farm Bureau activities in her home county.

## 39th Farmers Week at MSC February 1-5

Thousands of Michigan farm folks will "go to college" at the 39th annual Farmers' Week at Michigan State College February 1 to 5.

They will "take over" classrooms and stadium, dining halls and laboratories, auditoriums and farm buildings. It's the annual MSC "open house" for farmers and homemakers. The programs will offer many things for the entire family.

Information will be given on production—from dairy barn ventilation to wilt problems in mint, on new developments—like bulk milk handling, and on prices, government programs and human relationships.

**SPEAKERS** on the program will include these and others:

Dean of Agriculture J. O. Christianson of the University of Minnesota, at Dairy Day, on Monday, Feb. 1.

Dr. William Alexander, Oklahoma City pastor and one of the most popular young people's speakers in the nation, on Tuesday, February 2.

John Davis of Washington, D. C., assistant secretary of agriculture, on Wednesday, Feb. 3.

Dr. John A. Hannah, M.S.C. president and assistant secretary of defense, on Thursday, Feb. 4.

Dr. L. E. Casida, University of Wisconsin geneticist, on Friday, February 5.

There will be luncheons and banquets each day. Many organizations will conduct annual meetings in conjunction with Michigan's biggest rural life event—Farmers' Week.

### Young Farmers

Young farmers getting started are advised by Michigan State College agricultural economists that any farm short on land, livestock, machinery and credit will have a rough time in the period ahead.

Buy Farm Bureau Feed.

## PX Meetings Set for Legislation

DAN REED

Ass't Legislative Counsel "The debating is over. Farm Bureau members have spoken through resolutions. The job now is to put our full weight behind the policies established," said Jack Lynn, legislative director, following adjournment of the AFBF convention at Chicago on December 17.

THE MICHIGAN Farm Bureau Institute scheduled for Kellogg Center on the MSC campus at East Lansing, will be the kickoff on Michigan's program. Mr. Lynn will speak at the evening session on January 5 and will meet Wednesday morning, January 6, with chairmen of county legislative committees.

To gear the whole Michigan Farm Bureau legislative team into action, a series of district meetings are planned for January 25-26 as follows:

District 1.....	January 26
District 2.....	January 26
District 3.....	January 25
District 4.....	January 25
District 5.....	January 25
District 6.....	January 26
District 7.....	January 25
District 8.....	January 26
District 9.....	January 26
District 10.....	January 25

**COUNTY** legislative committees will then have the responsibility of bringing the nearly 1,300 Minutemen into active participation through county meetings to be held about February 1.

Legislative Seminars are also planned to bring the members of the county legislative committees to Lansing for a day to get an up-to-the-minute view on state and national legislation and to attend a session of the legislature.

Wednesday, January 13 the 1954 session of the Michigan legislature will convene.

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Here's full 3-4 plow capacity... with 40.1 hp at drawbar, 45.6 at belt. Same design, construction and features as the "50". Same choice of gasoline or Diesel overhead-valve engine. Designed right—built right—priced right. See and try a "40" for top 3-4 plow efficiency and economy.

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