

Michigan Farm News

Vol. 33, No. 1

JANUARY 1, 1955

32nd Year

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Published Monthly

1,609,461 Families Members of Farm Bureau

Dairy Festival Time Feb. 10-19

February 10 to 19 will be Dairy Festival Time in Michigan to promote the consumption of all dairy products.

How effective this can be was shown in Madison, Wisconsin, May 7 to 15, 1954, when the newspapers and grocers cooperated in a tremendous advertising and sales promotion on dairy products. For the eight day period the Madison community consumed an extra 3,000,000 lbs. of milk in dairy products.

In Michigan the Farm Bureau, Grange, Michigan State College, Michigan Milk Producers Ass'n, Mid-West Producers Creameries and all parts of the dairy industry will take part in the promotion. So will newspapers, radio and television stations, grocers, restaurants and other groups.

Michigan State College has requested county agricultural committees to assist in promoting the festival.

The Farm Bureau is requesting the dairy committee and a member of the Women's Committee of each County Farm Bureau to serve on the County Dairy Festival committee. Members of the state Farm Bureau staff will assist at the state level.

The American Dairy Association has made available to Michigan newspapers and grocers some 16 newspaper pages of advertisements to promote the sale and use of dairy products during the festival. Appropriate material will be available for radio and television stations.

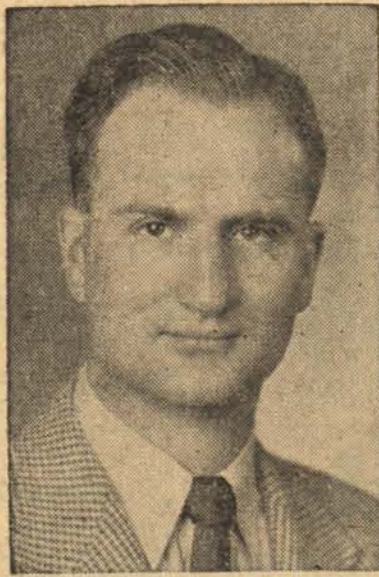
Farm Bureau Promotes

Keith A. Tanner and Norwood Eastman have been promoted to new responsibilities in the Michigan Farm Bureau organization, effective January 1. The promotions were announced December 28 by J. F. Yaeger, executive secretary.

Mr. Tanner has been promoted from Manager of the Member Service Division of MFB to be Manager of Operations for Farm Bureau Services, Inc. This is a new post in the cooperative farm supplies service of the Farm Bureau.



KEITH A. TANNER



NORWOOD EASTMAN

As Manager of Operations, Mr. Tanner will have over-all responsibility for accomplishing the annual manufacturing and sales goals of Farm Bureau Services. He will work with and assist the men in charge of three Farm Bureau Services operating divisions; Maynard Brownlee, manager of the Farm Supplies Division; Archie Moore, manager of the Farm Equipment Division; and John Saxon, acting manager of the Plant Food Manufacturing division.

"The principal reason for creating the new position of Manager of Operations for Farm Bureau Services," said Mr. Yaeger, "is to enable the executive secretary to devote his time to long-range planning and the correlation of activities of all the Farm Bureau companies."

"Up to this time the executive secretary for all Farm Bureau companies has also been manager of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Now the Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Services, Inc., the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., each have a manager who reports to the executive secretary."

Norwood Eastman, coordinator of the Organization Department and the Junior Farm Bureau Department of Michigan Farm Bureau, succeeds Mr. Tanner as manager of the Division of Mem-

ber Services for its organization of 63,000 farm families.

Mr. Tanner has been employed by Michigan Farm Bureau since 1939. He started as district membership representative in Genesee, Lapeer and Oakland counties. After 1 1/2 years he came into the state office as director of Community Farm Bureau groups and district representative for Eaton, Ingham and Shiawassee counties. After service in World War II, he became director of organization for Michigan Farm Bureau, and was promoted to director of field services, and in 1953 to manager of the member service division.

Mr. Eastman came to the Michigan Farm Bureau in August, 1950 as director of the Junior Farm Bureau. Before that he was active in Jr. FB in Tuscola county in the early 1940's. In 1945 he was county Farm Bureau organization director for Huron and Tuscola counties, and helped organize Community Farm Bureaus. In June, 1953, he was promoted to head the Organization and Junior Farm Bureau departments.

Milk

We consumed more than 12 billion quarts of milk last year. But many adults, as well as children, should drink more for a better diet.

Construction Ahead of Schedule



THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 27 they were laying face brick for the front of the Farm Bureau office building now under construction at 4,000 North Grand River avenue, which is US-16 west of Lansing. The concrete floors have been laid. All of the steel work is up and ready for roofing soon. The sidewalls of the 200 by 240 foot structure are up about halfway. Aluminum window frames are going in for walls that will be about two-thirds window space. Construction is well ahead of schedule. Unless there is some delay, the building should be ready for occupancy about April 1, 1955.

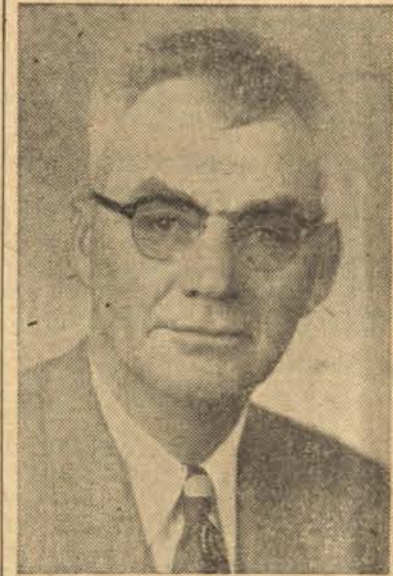
Everett Young to Work in Thailand

Everett J. Young, assistant secretary of the Michigan Ass'n of Farm Representatives, has received an appointment from the Foreign Operations Administration of the U. S. government as cooperative organization advisor to the government of Thailand. Mr. and Mrs. Young will leave for Bangkok January 1. Mr. Young will be on leave of absence from the Michigan Farm Bureau. He has been employed there since 1940. He is a graduate of Michigan State College and was at one time a field representative for the Farm Bureau in the south central area of the state.

Farmers Petroleum Set Record in '54

Earl Huntley, manager of the Farm Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., of Lansing told shareholders at the 6th annual meeting at Michigan State College Dec. 10 that their organization had set a new record in 1954 by distributing 28,202,664 gallons of automobile and tractor fuels to farmers.

On the year's operations, Mr. Huntley reported that the organization had returned \$149,000 in patronage dividends to patrons who are shareholders.



THOMAS KONIG, elected president of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., is engaged in general farming on 240 acres at Marne R-1, Ottawa county. He has been farming for 32 years and is a long time member of the Farm Bureau.

The farmer became a major customer for any petroleum company, said FPC president Ward G. Hodge of Snover. Since World War I, said Mr. Hodge, the number of farm tractors and trucks has increased 16 times as farm operations have become mechanized. Farm consumption of petroleum fuels is up nine times. Farmers are shifting rapidly to oil for heating their homes.

Farmers Petroleum Cooperative now has an interest in 175 producing wells in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, and owns or controls a daily production of about 1,200 barrels, Mr. Huntley said. This less than half the requirements of the business.

Shareholders were informed that in six years Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., has become one of the largest independent suppliers of petroleum products to Michigan farmers. Mr. Huntley said that farmers and their cooperative oil companies have \$965,000 invested in the company. Earnings of the Company for the six years total \$769,000.

Got Out Vote

R. B. McKinley of Grant, representing the Newwaygo County Farm Bureau, presented a set of books to the seventh grade pupils at the Grant school. The books were given for collecting the most "get out the vote" stickers during the recent election.

Discussion Topic On TV in January

"Farmers and the Social Security Program" the Community Farm Bureau discussion topic for January will be presented over these television stations. Jan. 5, WKAR-TV, Michigan State College, Channel 60 UHF, 8:30 p.m.; Jan. 12, WJMN-TV, Bay City, Channel 5, 1:00 p.m.; Jan. 22, WOOD-TV, Grand Rapids, 12:30 p.m.; Jan. 31, WPAG-TV, Ann Arbor, 7:00 p.m.

New Chemical Kills Cat Tails Easily

Want to get rid of those cat tails in your drainage ditches next summer? The job's easy with a new chemical called dalapon, according to a Michigan State College weed control specialist.

B. H. Grisby, who conducted extensive tests in the Thub last summer, recommends about 20 pounds of the chemical in 100 gallons of water for good control.

Elect Shuman President of AFBF

Charles B. Shuman of Sullivan, Illinois, was elected president of the American Farm Bureau at the 36th annual meeting at New York, Dec. 14-16.

Mr. Shuman succeeds Allan B. Kline of Vinton, Iowa as the head of the American Farm Bureau, which has a membership of 1,609,000 farm families.



CHARLES B. SHUMAN

Mr. Kline told the convention that he was resigning as president because his health had not been good of late. His doctor had informed him that he could not continue to carry the schedule required of the president of the American Farm Bureau. Mr. Shuman was elected unanimously to serve the one year remaining of Mr. Kline's term of office.

Charles B. Shuman is a grain and livestock farmer from central Illinois. He has served 9 years as president of the Illinois Farm Bureau of 201,000 members. He has been a member of the AFBF board of directors since 1945. He was president of his County Farm Bureau when elected to the Illinois Farm Bureau board in 1941.

Mr. Shuman farms about 200 acres and supervises the operation of tenants on another 550 acres. He has a commercial Angus herd.

Mrs. Euell Smith Is Kenny Therapist

Mrs. Euell Smith of Pontiac, known as the Farm Bureau Therapist, was honored at a dinner Dec. 1 and received her certificate as a Kenny Therapist. Members of the Sister Kenny hospital for polio patients at Farmington and members of the Farm Bureau Women's Committee attended ceremonies at Redford. Farm Bureau women's groups throughout Michigan contributed to Mrs. Smith's education as a physical therapist.

Farm Bureau Services' 25th Year Its Best

J. F. Yaeger, executive secretary of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., of Lansing, farm supplies cooperative, told representatives of 16,000 shareholders at the 25th annual meeting at Kellogg Center Dec. 9 that the organization distributed \$20,793,000 worth of farm supplies the past year.

Farm Bureau Services has had a tremendous growth in the past ten years, Mr. Yaeger said. In the last few years he said farmers have invested \$3,500,000 in the facilities and inventories of Farm Bureau fertilizer plants at Saginaw and Kalamazoo. The plant are supplying farmers with 100,000 tons of high analysis, granulated fertilizers a year. The Farm Bureau reported that its sale of field seeds reached an all time high of 7,000,000 pounds in 1954.



MARTEN GARN, re-elected president of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., is a dairy farmer and breeder of pure bred Yorkshire hogs at Charlots R-5, Eaton county. He farms 211 acres, and has been a member of the Farm Bureau for 22 years.

Maynard Brownlee, manager of the Farm Supply Division, said that sale of 46,000 tons of poultry and livestock feed concentrates set a new record. He explained that when farmers mixed the concentrate feeds with home grown grains, there would be a total of 200,000 tons of Farm Bureau formula feeds at the farm.

Archie Moore, manager of the farm equipment division, reported that Farm Bureau now has \$21,000,000 of tractors, farm machinery, and farm electrical equipment in service on Michigan farms.

Mr. Yaeger said that manufacturing operations of Farm Bureau Services now include fertilizer factories at Kalamazoo and Saginaw and a major feed mill at Hammond, Indiana, which is operated in partnership with other Farm Bureau supply organizations. The Farm Bureau Services field and garden seeds plant is at Lansing.

Two-hundred representatives of stockholders were informed that the distribution system of Farm Bureau Services is made up of 300 farmer cooperative elevators and other dealers.

Marten Garn of Charlotte was re-elected president, and Ivan Parsons of Grand Blanc was re-elected vice-president by the new board of directors.

Ren A. DeRuiter of McBain was elected to the board of directors to succeed Carl E. Buskirk, retired. These directors were re-elected: Peter H. DeWeerd of Hudsonville, Marten Garn, Charlotte; Ward G. Hodge, Snover; Phillip Holzhausen, Cornunna; Blaque Knirk, Quincy; Ivan Parsons, Grand Blanc; Albert Shellenbarger, Lake Odessa; Elton R. Smith, Caledonia.

Buy Farm Bureau Feed.

Michigan Honored At AFBF Meeting

Has Been First or Second Farm Bureau to Reach its Membership Goal for the Past Five Years

NORWOOD EASTMAN
Manager of Membership Service Division, MFB

The largest Farm Bureau membership in the history of the organization—1,609,461 families—was reported as the American Farm Bureau Federation ended its 1954 membership year on November 30.

The new record for the 48 states and Puerto Rico marks the 16th year of steady gain in numbers and effectiveness.

Having a leading role in this outstanding membership record was the Michigan Farm Bureau with 62,981 families. The second state to reach its AFB goal, 1954 marked the fifth consecutive year that Michigan has been honored for either being first or second in achieving this honor.

Fifteen other states were also honored for having reached the 1954 AFBF goal. They were Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Vermont, and Wyoming.

Michigan's thousands of volunteer workers should all feel a sense of accomplishment in this record. They are directly responsible for the splendid success of previous Roll Calls.

The present membership campaign offers Michigan's loyal workers an opportunity and a challenge to again be the first state in the nation to achieve AFBF goal. The prospects are there; the need for farm organization is greater today than ever before; the Farm Bureau program fills this need. Invite your neighbor to join today.

We're More than Half Way to 1955 Goal

The Michigan Farm Bureau Roll Call for 1955 is well over the half way mark. The December 20 report from the County Farm Bureaus totaled 37,638 memberships. This is 57% of the state goal of 65,918.

Of this total, 3,301 are new members. This is 32% of the state's new member goal of 10,258.

Berrien mailed the trophy for signing the highest number of new members during the first week of the drive. Berrien mailed 139 new memberships to the state office the first week.

Cheboygan county won the trophy for reporting the highest percentage of new member goal at the end of the first week. Cheboygan reported 42 new members or 210% of its goal. Benzie was in second place with 21 new members or 150% of its new member goal of 14. Close behind in third place came St. Joseph with 97% of its new member goal of 69. These four counties will receive trophies at the annual victory party in the spring.

Still to be decided are the races for the three trophies which go to the counties which report highest percentage of overall goal by January 15, as well as the three trophies which go to the three counties which receive the highest percentage of their 1954 members.

Oceana Groups Qualify for Group Life

Oceana County Farm Bureau qualified for Group Life Insurance on December 17 with nine community Farm Bureaus enrolling 303 members in the plan.

This brings the total enrollment in Farm Bureau's Group Life Plan to 957 members in its first year. Previously, Barry county had enrolled 654 members in the first attempt ever made to present group life insurance to rural people.

The Farm Bureau Group Life Plan originated with our Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. It is patterned after the group life insurance that is available to most people who work in industry. It offers \$1,000 of life insurance to members and their

spouses for \$11.00 per person per year. Three persons enrolled under the plan have died. Checks for \$1,000 have been paid to each of their families.

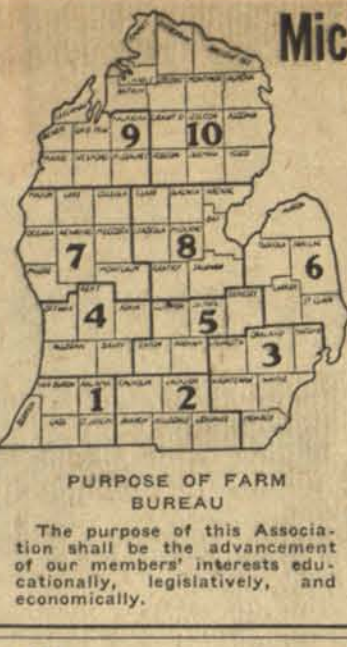
Master contracts are issued to County Farm Bureaus. The County Farm Bureau secretary then issues certificates of insurance to the member applicants.

To be eligible, members must belong to a Community Farm Bureau, be 60 years of age or less, be in reasonably good health, and be able to do their work regularly. At least 60% of those eligible must enroll in a Community Farm Bureau to qualify the group and enough groups must qualify to make the plan workable in the county.

Several other counties are considering offering the plan to their members.

You'll probably prevent a serious injury if you learn to lift with your legs instead of your back, points out an M.S.C. farm safety specialist.

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January 12, 1922, at the postoffice at
Charlotte, Michigan, under the Act
of March 3, 1879.



Michigan Farm Bureau
OFFICERS
President: W. G. Hodge, Snover
V-Pres.: Blaque Knirk, Quincy
Exec. V-Pres.: G. L. Brody, Lansing
Exec. Sec'y: J. F. Yaeger, Lansing



New Year Prayer
Dear God, from whose almighty hand we have the gift of days,
We are Thy tenants on the land and once again we raise
Our prayer of thanksgiving to Thee, in whom all goodness
dwells.

We thank Thee for the year just past. It was a prosperous one.
By Thy kind help we have amassed a wealth of work and sun.
We thank Thee, Lord, for beads of sweat instead of tears of gall.
Be ours the strength to labor yet, before the night shall fall.

Mr. Jay Quick, Star group, Zeeland.
Mrs. Henry Geurink, Tuttle group,
Jenison.
Presque Isle
Mr. Paul A. Claus, Hawks group,
Hawkes.



OFFICERS of the American Farm Bureau Federation for 1955
are: Walter L. Randolph (left) vice-president, of Montgomery,
Alabama; Mrs. Haven Smith, chairman of the AFBF Women's
Committee, of Chappell, Nebraska; Charles B. Shuman, president,
of Sullivan, Illinois.



Community Farm Bureaus

WESLEY S. HAWLEY
Coordinator of Community Farm Bureaus for MFB
Dear Community Farm Bureau Members:
It is our sincere wish that each of you, and your groups will have a
happy, interesting and prosperous year during 1955.

each month and set the pattern for
other Community groups.
Following is the list of the Certified
Award winning groups for
100% participation in 1953-54
and their group secretaries:

- List of community farm bureau members and their group secretaries, including names like Alexander Stephenson, Barton City, and Mrs. Bert LaForge, Curran group.

- List of farm bureau members and their group secretaries, including names like Mrs. Ethel Miller, Merritt group, and Mrs. Verl Whitteit, Riverside 1 group.

New Outlets For FBS Supplies
ELDEN SMITH
Coordinator, Farm Supply Relations
We welcome into the Farm Bureau family 29 new distributors of our products. They have placed their confidence in our organization.

CLASSIFIED ADS
Classified advertisements are cash with order at the following rates: 10 cents per word for one edition. Ads to appear in two or more editions take the rate of 8 cents per word edition.

- Various classified advertisements including 'LIVESTOCK', 'WHITE LEGHORNS', 'DAIRY, POULTRY EQUIPMENT', 'SALESMEN WANTED', 'OFFICE DESKS', 'MAPLE SYRUP SUPPLIES', 'COON HOUNDS', 'WOMEN', 'EMPHROIDER STAMPED LINENS', 'EARN EXTRA MONEY', 'TRACTOR PARTS'.

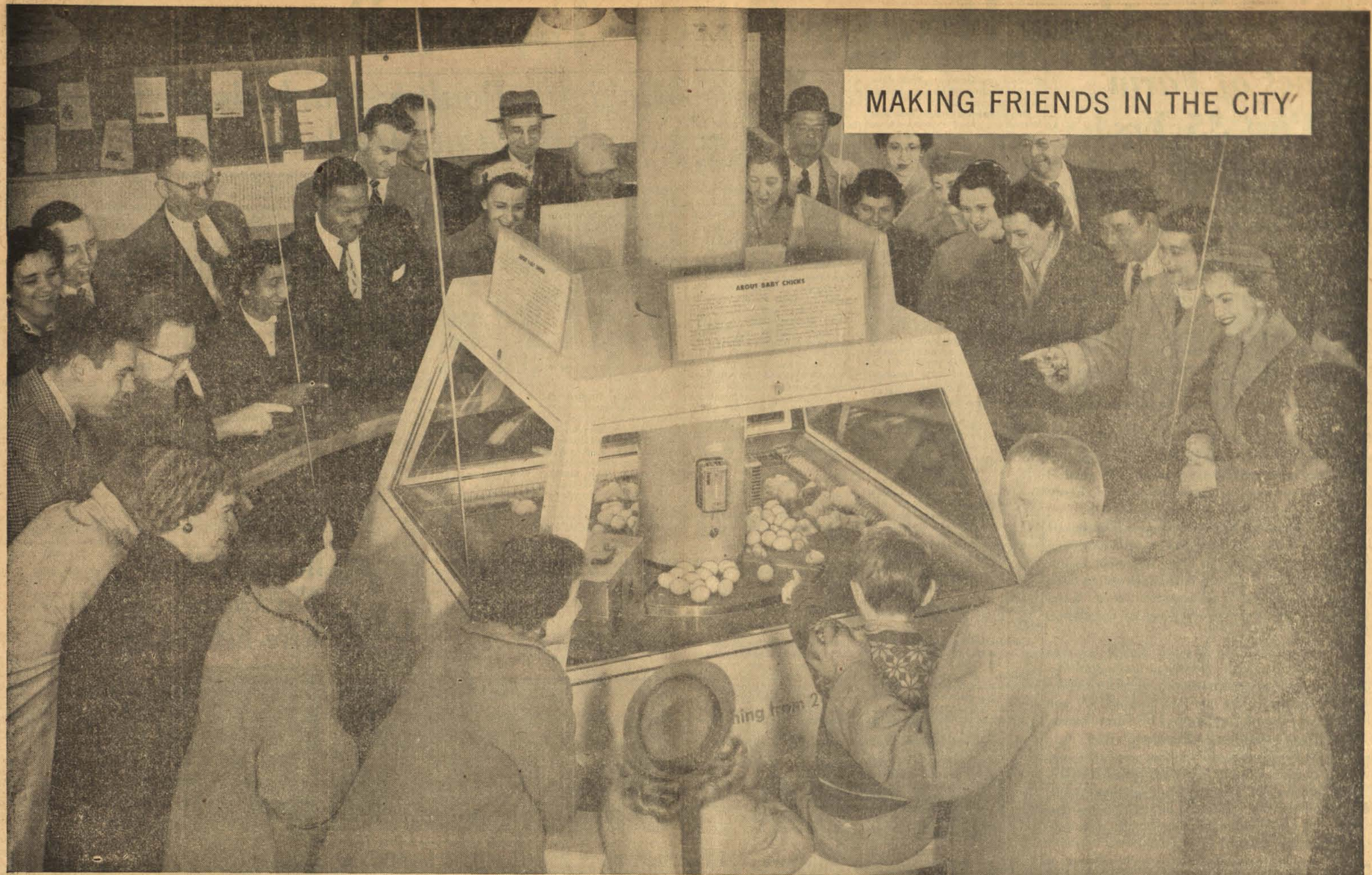
Farmers Petroleum Set Record in '54
(Continued from Page 1)
lected vice-president by the new board of directors.

FARM FACTS from MICHIGAN BELL
MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE centennial 1855-1955
M.S.C. Serves Every Township
Turn the Miles into Smiles
A dream took shape 100 years ago: A college to teach agriculture as a science, to assist farmers, to serve many people instead of a few.

CONCRETE DAIRY IMPROVEMENTS can help increase production of quality milk
Consider the time saved in barn chores when you have a concrete paved barnyard and sanitary floors in the dairy barn. It is easy to see where concrete dairy improvements help reduce the cost of producing quality milk.

KILL Power Failure WITH YOUR TRACTOR
Why wait for a power failure? Protect your farm and family NOW with this low cost stand-by generator. Operates from battery or 220 volt engine, complete with approved safety switch.

WIND POWER
LOWEST IN COST 20 YEAR WARRANTY
WRITE FOR FREE FOLDER TODAY!
NEWTON, IOWA



MAKING FRIENDS IN THE CITY

Baby chicks hatch every day in full view of thousands of visitors, in the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. It's one of many interesting features of Swift's dramatic exhibit FOOD FOR LIFE.

FOOD FOR LIFE...Takes City People to the Farm

Here's the new way of taking folks "out to the farm" . . . to show them the important part that farms and farmers play in their lives.

Actually, it doesn't take city folks to a real farm. Instead, they see Swift's exhibit—FOOD FOR LIFE. We've called it FOOD FOR LIFE because it tells about the business you and we are in.

The story begins with the soil—it ends with healthy, happy, and well-fed people. All sorts of moving and "talking" displays

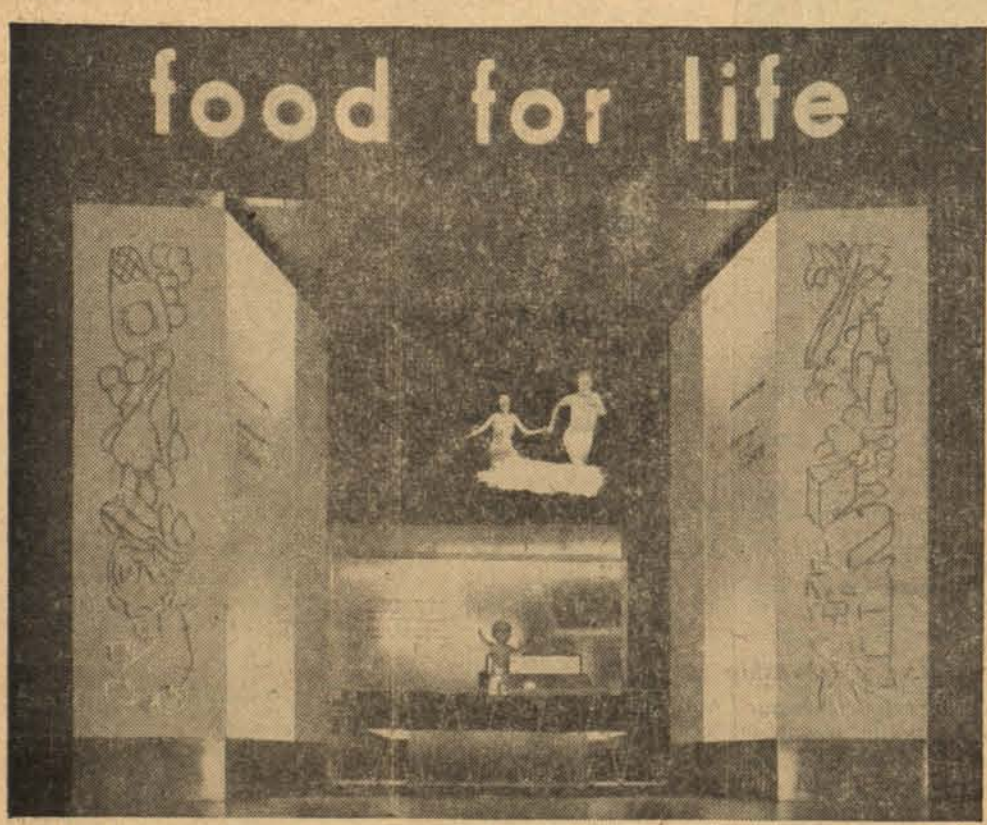
drive home mighty important facts about the complicated job of producing food which many folks "take for granted."

For both the farm and city consumer, FOOD FOR LIFE stresses right eating and good nutrition. After all, when people know more about right eating they will be better buyers of the foods that contribute to health, strength and longer life. And, this will create a bigger demand for your products.

We think this is a good way to make friends in the city—for

farmers and ranchers and meat packers. We would like you to see it, too. Whenever you are in Chicago, stop in at the Museum of Science and Industry—visit FOOD FOR LIFE. We believe you'll like it.

SWIFT & COMPANY
UNION STOCK YARDS, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Each day more than 5,000 visitors from all over the country see this dramatic story of farming, food, and right eating.



The story begins here—with the soil, and how farmers must care for it to produce the food for the people of America.



Animals always fascinate city people. Many are genuinely amazed at the scientific know-how that farmers must have.

NUTRITION IS OUR BUSINESS

This is the House That Farm Bureau Built

Product of Farm Life Past 35 Yrs.

DONALD D. KINSEY
Coordinator of Education and Research for MFB

This is the second of a series of articles that will appear in the Michigan Farm News during the next few months. Their purpose is to develop a better understanding of the Farm Bureau.

Our Farm Bureau house was not built in a day. At this writing we are in the fourth decade of its construction and building is still in progress. For a building of this type, complete plans could not be made in advance. The plans had to be altered occasionally to meet changes in the course of history.

During these thirty-five years are to be found the successes and mistakes that normally go into the building of a house. Some of the foundations proved strong and firm. In other cases there were rooms that had to be torn down or reframed so as to be strong enough to weather economic storms.

The newly-born Farm Bureau in the 1920's had a large task before it. To be effective it must gain the recognition of other economic groups and political parties. Business and labor organizations were already powerful.

But farmers lacked an effectively-organized spokesman. Neither of the major political parties was willing to recognize farm problems as being important to our general economy. It was very difficult to get an audience before state or national political committees. When farm people did get a hearing their pleas fell on relatively deaf ears.

In the latter part of the 20's this picture began to change. It became evident to national leaders that agriculture had led a collapse in the economy by sharply falling farm incomes. For the first time in 1927 and 1928 Congress passed bills sponsored by Farm Bureau, only to have them vetoed by the President.

In 1929 the President signed the first important agricultural bill to aid the farmer. It was the Federal Agricultural Marketing Act. It was not a solution to farm problems, but it was a step in the direction of growing strength. And it afforded a basis out of which more constructive programs could be developed.

Some sharp contrasts developed in the decade of the 1930's. The nation recognized the importance of agriculture as a major factor in our economic health. Other groups became concerned over the farmer's problem. And Farm Bureau leaders found it easier to get support for the development of a needed farm program.

Congressional committees opened their doors and listened. The Federal Agricultural Marketing Act was followed by the establishment of the AAA program in 1933. Rigid supports on farm prices at 52% of parity were established.

The object was mainly to adjust production so as to maintain a firm market price at profitable levels. These supports were to be paid out of a processing tax, but the plan was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1936.

Under Farm Bureau sponsorship Congress then enacted the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, and large Congressional appropriations became necessary to carry the program.

Because the crop control features of this Act were without force, a new AAA measure was enacted in 1938 to replace the 1936 program. Within the 1938 measure was the first provision

for flexible price supports on basic crops. These supports were to range from 52% to 75% of parity in relation to the degree of surplus of the supported crop. This Act crowned Farm Bureau's second decade.

The 40's were a war decade. The extremely high demand upon agriculture for its products kept farm prices high. Supports on the basic crops rarely had to be used at all. Prices stayed above support levels. In fact, farm prices rose by leaps and bounds. Under the needs of the war a new use for support prices emerged. Federal funds were used to increase production rather than to reduce it. Talk was about "incentive and compensatory" payments rather than production control payments. One marked effect of this philosophy was to change the public attitude from one of sympathy for the farmer to one of envy for his prosperity.

As a result of the changing public attitude, the farmers again had to put up a serious battle to receive consideration for their program in Congress. Opposition groups began to stand against farmers' organizations. Other economic groups now wanted a "say" in how the farm program should be set up.

floor to protect him against dangerous decline of income. It was to be an uphill fight. In the political battle that now shaped up, sound economics were forgotten. Congress and the Government bureaus pushed toward a larger farm control empire, or sought to carry votes by increasing the "give-away" program in anticipation of the next election.

There was little need for the support program itself before the 1950's. The coming of the Korean war, too, in 1950, kept farm prices up for a couple of years and avoided a showdown with the farmer on real production controls.

Farm Bureau membership grew constantly under the fight it was waging over this issue of high supports. The issue emerged into the clear as one between a free enterprise capitalist system and one of state socialism in the early 50's.

Farmers are businessmen who own their property and work their lands to earn a profit. For generations they have planned and produced according to their own free decisions. The threat to this freedom by a system that began to say the "Profit Motive" was evil — a socialist system that would police their production — caused many to return to Farm Bureau as a means of fighting this danger.

But the government bureaus had become powerful and Congress was weak and controls came inevitably. High rigid price controls were continued into 1953 — in peacetime — for the Korean armistice had been signed.

The incentive payments helped to create a bumper crop of wheat in 1953 and staggering surpluses developed. It became necessary to invoke the control laws to cut production on wheat. Farmers were asked to vote to accept or reject marketing quotas for their 1954 crops.

Surpluses and the loss of export markets had begun to drop farm prices seriously in 1953. The government held a tremendous surplus that could be turned loose on the market at any time. It was a potential threat to the free market price. Farmers were "over a barrel." Rejection of the marketing quota meant a drop in support levels to 50% of parity — a disaster price. In the face of falling farm prices they voted for the quotas.

In the year of 1954 the complications of the control program began to appear. The extent of the controls over production on a farm are broader than most persons realized. Rules requiring "cross-compliance" became part of the law. They begin to put their finger on the farmer's total production.

Allotments on all supported crops must be conformed to in order to collect the supports on the critical crop. Penalties must be paid for overproduction, even if the farmer plans to feed the excess to his livestock. And all farmers are subject to the quotas and controls whether they choose to be or not.

Thus with the first real encroachment of the control program over their farm operations, Farm Bureau people faced a problem of growing proportions. Secretary Benson's decision in December that "cross-compliance" could be dropped for 1955 was a welcome relief on the issues surpluses and crop control.

Membership
Membership History. Growth in the membership of the Michigan Farm Bureau has been a product of a number of things since its beginning in 1919. As we have pointed out, without a doubt the major farm issues have had much to do with it in the later years. In the early years, however, there were ups and downs.

During the early 20's less than two-thirds of the eligible counties were affiliated with the state organization. And a "false start" was made to build a large membership. It was an age of "big promoters," so some were hired to help in the job. They promised more than they could deliver.

The large membership signed for the first year rapidly dwindled away. Actually the membership average of the first five years totaled around 24,000 families.

Farm Bureau had yet to build a strong program. It had rather few legislative accomplishments to support a needed prestige. It had few services. And farm prices began to fall. In the later half of the decade of the 20's membership fell with them. The average was around 12,400 families.

Depression years were hard years for the farmers and hard for membership as well. In spite of the fact that the farmer needed his organization more than ever, only a few hardy souls hung on and kept the Farm Bureau alive. The membership average for the first five years of

the 30's was a mere 2,950 families with a low in 1933 of only 1,542. It should not be assumed that the program was at a standstill during this time. Even before the 30's departments for serving membership had been developed by the Michigan Farm Bureau. At the very outset in 1919, the members had established their state board of directors, and administrative staff, a membership department, a records department, a publicity dept and a legislative dept.

In 1920, they set up a Seed Department, and in 1922 a Feed Department. These were expanded in 1925 to become the Seed Service and the Supply Service. Then in 1929 these services were merged and incorporated to form the Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

1926 saw the Michigan Farm Bureau become a state agency for the State Farm Mutual Insurance Company with an Insurance Department to direct the work. But actual member-participation programs were as yet to appear.

The membership picture showed some improvement in the last half of the 30's. And a number of new programs appeared on the horizon. Membership averaged about 7200 families in these five years. A Farm Machinery Dept was formed.

The Community Farm Bureau program was started in 1936. This program laid the groundwork for one of the best member-participation programs in the country. It has gained the respect of adult educators everywhere, and has been copied by other state Farm Bureaus.

The early 1940's began a period of rapid growth and expansion in membership and programs. The war brought better farm prices. New participation programs and member services were developed. The average membership from 1940 to 1944 was 16,300 with the numbers increasing rapidly. 1942 saw the Blue Cross hospitalization plan offered to members through Community Farm Bureau groups. In 1943 the Farm Bureau helped to organize the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives.

From 1945 to 1949 the growth continued at a goodly pace. The five year average was 40,600 families. A peak was reached in 1947 at 48,100 with a temporary drop in 1948 due to an increase in dues from \$5 to \$10. The dues increase was to provide for an expanded program.

Numerous programs and services were developed during the last half of the 1940's. 1945 saw the beginning of the program for the Farm Bureau Women, the Research and Information Department, the Commodity Relations Department, and the Legal Division.

In 1946 construction was started on the first fertilizer factory in Saginaw. The Personnel Dept was also organized that year.

1949 marked the incorporation of the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., and the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan. The automobile insurance program brought an immediate drop in rates to farmers by all companies in the southern peninsula of Michigan.

Continued growth of the membership program during the early 1950's in spite of dropping farm prices indicates the growing health of the organization and the worth of its services to the farmer. The five year average is about 52,500 families with a peak reached in 1954 of 62,981 families. Membership goals have been reached in record time during this period.

New programs developed during this period include the formation of a new Farm Supply Department in 1950, the Life Insurance Company in 1951, the building of a second fertilizer plant at Kalamazoo in 1953, and the beginning of new programs in Fire Insurance and Group Life Insurance in 1954.

During this period also the Farm Bureau has been instrumental in promoting the financing and organization of livestock auction yards at Battle Creek and St. Louis, Michigan. Similar aids to farmers in organizing marketing programs are under way in other parts of the state at the present time.

Membership Growth in Michigan Farm Bureau

Year	Membership (Organized)
1919	9,351
1920	47,500
1921	21,358
1922	28,642
1923	23,897
1924	23,000
1925	22,749
1926	10,114
1927	8,788
1928	11,355
1929	9,351
1930	5,419
1931	3,705
1932	1,896
1933	1,542
1934	2,367

Michigan Poultry Marketing Cooperative at Hemlock

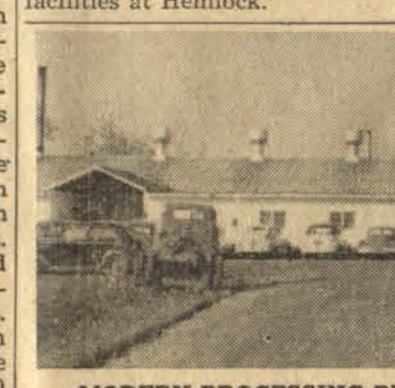
B. P. PATTISON

The Commodity Departments of the Michigan Farm Bureau has given considerable help in the organization of the Michigan Poultry Marketing Cooperative at Hemlock, Saginaw county, in the hope of developing a better marketing program for the poultry producers of the state.

The idea came from resolutions presented to the delegate body of the Michigan Farm Bureau membership requesting that the Farm Bureau, Michigan State College and the Department of Agriculture give some assistance in developing a better market for poultry producers.

The Farm Bureau called a meeting of poultry producers from several counties, representatives of the Michigan State College and the Department of Agriculture on July 16 to discuss the ways and means of assisting poultrymen. This meeting was followed by a state-wide meeting of 100 poultrymen at St. Louis July 29.

The possibilities of acquiring processing facilities for live poultry was discussed with Mr. Grant Hess of St. Louis who owned such processing plant at Hemlock, Michigan. A committee was appointed to develop a proposition with Mr. Hess for the purchase of these facilities and this committee reported back to a second state-wide meeting held at St. Louis on August 13 and were at that time authorized to proceed with the purchase of the facilities at Hemlock.



MODERN PROCESSING PLANT of Michigan Poultry Marketing Cooperative at Hemlock. A recent addition to the facilities is a \$75,000 blast freezer which will freeze 100,000 pounds of poultry daily to 45 below zero.

It was apparent that if any help was to be given to the turkey producers, we would have to act quickly. Accordingly 18 farmers agreed to advance \$75,000—the money to be used for the immediate installation of a large blast freezer having a daily capacity to freeze 100,000 lbs. of poultry products to a temperature of 45 degrees below 0. The 18 incorporators held a meeting and elected a board of directors and set up the organization of the Michigan Poultry Marketing Cooperative, Inc.

Members of the board of directors are: Marshall Michaels, Alma; Bernar Burke, Branch; Grant Gingrich, Barryton; Luther Klager, Bridgewater; John Chilson, Mason; Maurice Lee, Deckerville; Milton Thayer, Deckerville; Kenneth Jenkins, Attica; and Max Gray, Lake.

The board of directors elected Marshall Michaels president, Max Hess vice-president, Roy Bortels treasurer, and B. P. Pattison secretary. The directors signed the agreement with Grant Hess of Hemlock to purchase his processing facilities and authorized



DRESSED TURKEYS on the line and on the way to the packaging station and blast freezer.

Gray vice-president, Roy Bortels treasurer, and B. P. Pattison secretary. The directors signed the agreement with Grant Hess of Hemlock to purchase his processing facilities and authorized

1935	3,782
1936	7,522
1937	8,173
1938	9,779
1939	6,780
1940	7,420
1941	9,780
1942	14,840
1943	20,539
1944	29,027
1945	38,079
1946	45,108
1947	48,100
1948	34,382
1949	36,878
1950	41,922
1951	47,768
1952	53,356
1953	56,662
1954	62,981

the installation of the large freezer. The corporation assumed possession of the plant on October 1 and has operated it since that time.

Processing operations since the first of October were mostly confined to turkeys, since the production in the state was in surplus and the outlook for marketing not favorable. The Cooperative in starting so quickly was confronted with many obstacles, one of which was the lack of freezing facilities which placed a very definite limit on the amount of live products that could be processed daily.

Since the installation of the blast freezer about the middle of November, the plant has been in a position to expand its operations and turn out an excellent product. Some 2,000,000 pounds of turkey meat in addition to some broilers and fowl has been processed and sold as frozen products. His amount of turkeys taken off the live market has had a stabilizing influence on the price of turkeys to all producers regardless of how or where they were sold in the state.

It is admitted that the cooperative has rendered a remarkable service particularly to the turkey industry while operating under some adverse conditions as to time and equipment. The frozen product has been of a high quality and has enjoyed an excellent acceptance on the market. Net returns to the producers have been better than anticipated.



EZRA T. BENSON

Looking Ahead in Plant Operations. With turkey marketing problems somewhat out of the way for this season, the processing facilities are now available for broiler, fryers and farm flock producers. They are confronted with marketing problems just as serious as were those of the turkey producers. It has been extremely difficult to find a live market for broilers and fryers and also farm flocks that have outlived their usefulness for egg production.

Buyers of live poultry are not available and processing plants in larger cities are going out of business. To improve this market situation, it is obvious that large numbers of poultry must be diverted into frozen channels.

The poultry processing plant facilities at Hemlock now cooperatively owned by the farmer producers are in position to render a valuable marketing service. The facilities formerly owned by

provide working capital that will permit the cooperative to purchase live products for processing. Producers of broilers, fryers, turkey growers, farm flock and hatchery owners will be contacted throughout the state.

Membership is invited from all sources in Michigan interested in providing a better market for all poultry products. It is apparent that the next few months will be extremely difficult for the poultry industry from the marketing standpoint. Development of additional marketing channels are therefore a must with present production.

Buyers of live poultry in the state are becoming less in number as the months go by. Producers who plan on staying in the business we believe should give serious thought toward developing a better market. Livestock producers have financed their own marketing facilities. We believe the poultry producers can be depended upon to do likewise when they fully appreciate the program and operations of the marketing cooperative at Hemlock.

Benson Tells Why Controls Were Relaxed



EZRA T. BENSON

At the American Farm Bureau's 36th annual meeting at New York Dec. 14-16, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson predicted a good year ahead for agriculture and the nation as a whole. He explained how crop controls were relaxed for 1955. Mr. Benson said:

"Last spring before Congress adopted the basis for a sound farm support program, there seemed to be a possibility that rigid, high price supports might continue for the 1955 crops. Rigid price supports must be accompanied by rigid controls. Accordingly, we announced the intention to require cross compliance with a total acreage allotment as conditions necessary for price support.

"Had it been necessary to put

them into effect, they would have been the strictest controls ever imposed on our farm people. "By September changed circumstances made it possible to eliminate the total acreage allotment requirement from the 1955 program.

"Congress had passed the Agr'l Act of 1954, moving toward price flexibility and greater freedom of operation. "Congress had also enacted the Trade Development Act which gave us new opportunity to move our accumulated surplus farm commodities into consumption abroad.

"In addition, a spreading drought which at its peak embraced 949 counties in 13 states not only reduced this year's crop yields, but also made it imperative that farmers in the stricken areas be given every opportunity to make a recovery.

"This combination of events enabled us to eliminate the total acreage controls. "Simultaneously with the relaxing of restrictions, I announced the 1955 level of price support for oats, barley, rye and grain sorghums at 70 per cent of parity. Price support for various of these grains has fluctuated between 35 and 85 per cent of parity during the past 15 years.

"Seventy per cent of parity will be approximately the same as the price support for corn in the non-commercial areas.

"The greater price flexibility permitted by this action will be of help to hard pressed dairymen and poultrymen who buy those feeds. "In 1954 producers of feed grain increased their production by 10-million acres.

"It is clear that farmers desire to hold production of feed grains at a high level in 1955. It is necessary to set price supports at a level which while giving effective support, will also permit the great bulk of these feed crops to move into use.

"As we adjust our price supports realistically, it is possible to relax our controls. At 70 per cent of parity for feed grains, the Commodity Credit Corporation will support the market rather than become the market.

"For the year ahead, I believe the outlook is generally good—both for agriculture and the Nation. Business activity is at the highest level in our history. This assures continuing strong demand for the products of our farms. Agricultural products are likely to be somewhat higher."

Farmer's Future Is Up to Him

Dr. Kenneth Hood of the AFBF told an audience of over 500 Shiawassee county farmers at Oshosso high school October 28, that "Where We Go From Here in Agriculture Depends on You." Dr. Hood challenged the farmer to work through his extension program and Farm Bureau organization for a self-help program. If good markets are provided through research and export, the price support will take care of itself.

Everyone knows of the success of a man — but few know his struggles to win it.

IT PAYS TO CONSULT A Professional



Just as you depend on your veterinarian to protect the health of your animals, you can depend on your State Mutual Agent to protect your property. Insurance is your State Mutual agent's profession. He can recommend the right insurance protection for your farm, and he's backed by a company with 47 years of experience and assets of over one and a quarter million dollars.

State Mutual "All-in-One" Protection Plan is non-assessable. It provides protection against loss from explosion, riot, smoke damage, stock killed on highway or railroad track, and damage by vehicles... at no extra cost. When fire strikes you want prompt settlement in full. Contact your local State Mutual agent or write us direct. One day's delay can cost a lifetime of work.

State Mutual INSURANCE COMPANY
FLINT, MICHIGAN
702 Church Street
E. R. DINGMAN, Pres. H. K. FISK, Sec'y

Don't Delay!
MAIL
YOUR FARM BUREAU DUES
Today

Farm Bureau Members: Have you paid your membership dues for 1955? Remember your County Farm Bureau Secretary must have your dues by January 15, 1955, to protect your Blue Cross service, your Community Farm Bureau Group roster status, and Farm Bureau membership qualification for Farm Bureau automobile, farm liability, and fire insurance.

Resolutions on State & Farm Bureau Affairs

They Outline the Program of Work

(Continued from Michigan Farm News For Dec. 1, 1954)

We are presenting in our December and January editions the full text of resolutions on State and Farm Bureau affairs, as adopted by the voting delegates at the 35th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau at East Lansing, November 11-12, 1954.

These resolutions become Michigan Farm Bureau policy. In this edition we are completing the presentation of resolutions on State affairs, and are publishing the resolutions dealing with our Michigan Farm Bureau as an organization.

Resolutions adopted by the MFB convention with respect to national and international matters became recommendations to the American Farm Bureau convention at New York city December 14-16. Resolutions adopted there by delegates from all the states become Michigan Farm Bureau's policy on national and international issues. The text of the AFBF resolutions will appear in the January or February edition of the Nation's Agriculture.

State Affairs

Soil Conservation and Soil Conservation Districts. Responsibility for land use and improvement thereof belongs to all citizens, urban as well as rural. The well-being of all is dependent on conserving our soil. The annual increase of population places a definite responsibility on agriculture and the nation to safeguard our needed future food production facilities. Intelligent use of land and conservation thereof by not only individual farmer-owners and farm renters, but by urban population as well, cannot be stressed too much.

The 72 Soil Conservation Districts now organized are efficiently governed and controlled by volunteer farmers and are effective units of soil-saving activity. We recommend use of our established government agencies in obtaining supervisory help to bring about real soil conservation.

We also recommend that the Legislature increase the appropriation for the Soil Conservation districts by the amount of \$250 per district, the same to be matched by local funds, which would provide a part-time assistant.

Gypsy Moth, Dutch Elm Disease and Oak Wilt Control Programs. We support needed State appropriations for activities to eradicate Gypsy Moth, Dutch Elm Disease, and Oak Wilt.

Commodity Promotion. We favor the promotion of agricultural commodities by commodity groups whereby a commodity group, as necessary, organizes itself so as to carry out a program of advertising, promotion and information which will assist in the solving of commodity marketing problems without relying upon government assistance. Recognizing the success with which the promotional efforts on some agricultural commodities have met, we further recommend that agricultural commodity groups re-evaluate their programs in the light of this experience and that the Michigan farmer take a realistic approach to this whole problem of advertising, promotion and information as a marketing tool.

Multiple-Fortified Milk. We re-

new our 1953 position relative to multiple-fortified milk. We commend the Legislature for passing, during its 1954 session, H. 210 limiting such fortification to the ingredients and the amounts thereof recommended by the Michigan Department of Health, the Michigan State Medical Society and leading nutritionists at Michigan colleges and universities, namely 400 units of Vitamin D per quart, and that addition, plus 2,000 units of Vitamin A per quart, in fortified skimmed milk.

We deplore the executive veto which prevented this constructive legislation from becoming a law.

We note with satisfaction that the Michigan Department of Agriculture has recently revised its regulations defining fortified milk so as to eliminate the addition of iodine and to reduce the amounts of some of the other vitamins and minerals below the requirements set forth in its former regulations.

Gallon Milk Container. We feel that every means should be used to increase the use of milk. Studies are now under way in Wisconsin and Minnesota which should give information, not now available, on the effect of the gallon container on the quantity of milk used. We recommend that the use of this container in Michigan not be legalized at this time, and that a report be made to the 1955 Michigan Farm Bureau Resolutions Committee.

Michigan Farm Bureau Policy is Based on Resolutions

- Discussed in 1,364 Community Farm Bureaus.
 - Drafted by 63 County Farm Bureau Resolutions Committees.
 - Approved by members in 63 County Farm Bureau annual meetings.
 - Digested by 16-member State Resolutions Committee, composed of one member from each of the ten districts, plus three representatives of the Farm Bureau Women and three members at large.
 - Determined at State Annual Convention by voting delegates from County Farm Bureaus—one delegate for each one hundred members.
- Farm Bureau's Voice is the Voice of the Member.

Promotion of Use of Dairy Products. We endorse the promotional work of the American Dairy Association and encourage every dairy farmer to support this self-help program through the year-around monthly set-aside of two cents per hundred pounds of milk or 1/2 cent per pound of butterfat.

We recommend that milk be served at farm meetings and banquets and that Farm Bureau members encourage improvements in milk merchandising.

We believe in production for use, not for Government storage and will encourage use of milk and dairy surpluses for school lunches and domestic and foreign-aid programs that will not interfere with normal marketing.

Minimum Butterfat Content of Milk. The present state legal minimum for butterfat in milk sold to consumers in Michigan is 3%. It is estimated, however, that 90% of the milk sold in Michigan contains 3.5% or more. In order to insure consumers a higher quality product, we urge that the legal state minimum be set at 3.5% butterfat in all milk sold.

Bang's Disease and T. B. in Cattle. Bang's disease and T. B. in cattle are costly to farmers and



OFFICERS AND STAFF MEMBERS of the Michigan Junior Farm Bureau for 1955 are shown in this picture. Front row, left to right: Shirley Estelle, Gaylord, secretary-treasurer; Paul Leipprand, Pigeon, president; Lois Schmidt, Berrien Springs, historian. Standing, left to right: Dick Root, East Lansing, field representative; Hilbert Schulze, Pigeon, camp chairman; Douglas Sanford, Allen, 2nd vice-president; Dick Arnold Plainwell, 1st vice-president; Norwood Eastman, East Lansing, coordinator of organization, Michigan Farm Bureau.

a menace to human health. Further T.B. is showing a slight increase in Michigan.

We will support adequate appropriations to carry out control programs, including:

1. More frequent testing. We would urge an annual test as soon as practicable.
2. Use of the so-called Bang's "Ring Test" twice a year.
3. Marketing of reactors directly to slaughter houses, rather than through regular sales markets.

Financial Responsibility of Buyers of Livestock and Dairy Products. We commend Michigan lawmakers for their action in setting up an Interim Committee to study means by which farmers can be given some assurance of the financial responsibility of commercial buyers of dairy products.

We favor action to require a bond or other evidence of financial responsibility as a prerequisite to the obtaining of a license to buy livestock and dairy products commercially.

Cooperative Livestock Marketing. We are encouraged at progress which has been made in Michigan Cooperative Livestock Marketing. We realize that there are areas that are not adequately served, particularly in the northern part of the state. We ask the continued cooperation of the Michigan Livestock Exchange in providing such needed services.

Labeling Poultry. We recommend that all dressed poultry sold be labeled to classify it as to whether it is a broiler, fryer, roaster or stewing fowl.

Removal and Disposal of Abandoned Orchards and Vineyards. Inasmuch as there are many diseased and abandoned orchards and vineyards, we recommend that the program of condemning diseased and abandoned orchards and vineyards for removal and disposal be expedited, and that the cost of this removal and disposal be paid by the owner of said orchard and vineyard.

Revision of Apple Act. We support the action of Michigan apple growers in their efforts to revise the Baldwin Apple Act under which the promotional activities of the Michigan Apple Industry function. In the light of current economic conditions, this act needs to have certain basic changes. Principal changes needed are: Redistricting of the state in line with changing apple production and staggering of the terms of members of the Commission in order that all terms do not expire at the same time.

Bean Promotional Program. We ask that the board of directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau make a study looking forward to the introduction of a bill in a future session of the Michigan Legislature declaring it to be the public policy of the State of Michigan to promote the consumption and sale of dry edible beans grown in Michigan: (1) by providing for research and publicity, advertising, and an informational and sales program to increase consumption and improve efficiency of production; (2) by levying an assessment on dry edible beans and providing for its collection; (3) by creating a bean commission and vesting in it the administration of the act and providing for the powers, duties and authority of said commission.

Our Farm Bureau Membership. The same challenge, "Who shall speak for farmers?", is still before agriculture. Groups, other than farmers, have many plans for agriculture. Farmers are and will undoubtedly remain a minority group in America. Individuals in any group can never expect to cope with this world of bigness. Through our state and national

Farm Bureaus we have attained a voice at the conference table on matters of interest to the farmers of our country. If we allow this voice to diminish instead of growing we can expect failure.

Farm Bureau has progressed with good strides in building strength of membership and participation of that membership in the affairs of the organization. The American Farm Bureau Federation, which has reached a membership of nearly 1,600,000 in 1954, has maintained a strong influence in high places because of policies originating at the grass-roots level. In Michigan our membership has reached 62,981. We can not expect a great decrease of issues and challenges. We, therefore, must ever be alert and progressive.

We look forward to reaching our goal of 66,000 farm families in 1955 as Michigan's share of the two-million member A.F.B.F. goal. Attainment of this goal is necessary if farmers are to protect their best interests and help preserve the free enterprise system in America.

Community Farm Bureaus. Michigan is one of the earliest states to adopt a Community Farm Bureau program. Its value has received wide recognition from neighboring states. Each member should be well educated on the basic theory that his participation in the affairs of the organization is welcomed and needed.

To fulfill these objectives we need to encourage more activity in our community groups by:

1. Organizing more groups to service more members.
2. Plan to issue special invitations to non-attending members.
3. Encourage and aid a dependable Community Farm Bureau Committee in every county.

American Farm Bureau Women. The Michigan Farm Bureau Women are concerned that the designation, "Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau Federation," implies that they are a separate organization or auxiliary. They wish to be an integral part of the Farm Bureau. Therefore we urge the American Farm Bureau to make such structural changes as are necessary to provide that the women's affiliation would be "American Farm Bureau Women" rather than "Associated Women."

Junior Farm Bureau. We realize that a strong Farm Bureau must constantly be developing new leaders. To do this, many counties have a Junior Farm Bureau dedicated to leadership training. These Junior groups have contributed many present-day leaders to their County Farm Bureaus.

In view of the above, we recommend that every county develop a Junior Farm Bureau as part of its county program.

Citizenship. We dedicate our Farm Bureau to encouragement of good citizenship and recognition of our American heritage.

We urge County and Community Farm Bureaus to use the Pledge of Allegiance at meetings and to properly display our flag.

Good citizens are informed voters. Farm Bureau members should participate in all elections and in the affairs of the political parties of their choosing.

As Michigan becomes continually more industrialized, rural people need to use every opportunity to express themselves. Our Part in Civil Defense. We recommend that the Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau establish a Committee on Civil Defense, the purpose of which will be to work with the duly constituted civil defense authorities of the state and of local government and with other departments of government concerned with civil defense so as to assure the maximum protection of the Farm Bureau membership and other farmers against all forms of enemy attack, includ-

ing fire, chemical, biological and germ warfare as it may be applied to humans, animals, crops, or through bombing or other forms of enemy attack, such as sabotage, which would disrupt necessary transportation facilities, power and other supply necessary for the operation of the agricultural industry.

Public Relations. We realize the importance of a public relations program to our organization and recommend that County Farm Bureau Boards of Directors encourage and stimulate the County Public Relations Committees to increase their efforts to bring a closer working relationship in the rural-urban areas.

We suggest that Farm Bureau Women and Junior Farm Bureau continue their fine efforts in public relations.

Safety Program. We recommend that all departments of Michigan Farm Bureau and its subsidiary companies cooperate in the promotion of safety education on the farms, in the home and on the highway in such ways as to make that safety program most effective for our organization and the farm people.

Blue Cross-Blue Shield. The use and abuse of Blue Cross-Blue Shield service is reflected in the premium rates thereof and as they have been increasing in the past and may rise still further in the future, we recommend that the Michigan Farm Bureau, working in cooperation with Blue Cross representatives, evolve a policy based on the deductible idea.

We feel that adoption of this type of plan will reduce misuse of the service and keep rates down to a minimum.

Membership Understanding of Agricultural Programs. We recommend that the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors make a study of all agricultural programs and agencies of U.S.D.A. and institute an educational program in the County Farm Bureaus to assist the membership in cooperating to carry out such programs.

Proposed Amendment to By-Laws. We recommend that the By-Laws of the Michigan Farm Bureau be amended to read as follows:

Article IV—Section 3, Class II. Full-time employees and persons who were full-time employees of this association or of its subsidiaries or affiliated companies, or of County Farm Bureaus at the time of their retirement, may become Associate members by making application, and if accepted by the Board of Directors upon execution of the membership agreement, will be entitled to the rights of membership, excepting the right to vote.

Commendation of MFB Staff. We, the delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, desire to take this opportunity to express to the management and staff of the Michigan Farm Bureau our commendation for the capable and efficient organization now performing the work which has made our Community Farm Bureaus, legislative and other activities what other state Farm Bureaus consider to be models. They come here to study our work.

Teamwork being the theme of this convention, we face the future with the satisfaction that our state staff will help us in the solution of our problems.

Further, we desire to commend the entire staff of our Public Affairs Division for its vigorous action in bringing our views to the attention of Congress, our Legislature, and to national and state officials.

Reaffirmation. We reaffirm the resolutions adopted at previous annual meetings that are now in force, except insofar as they are modified or supplemented by the resolutions adopted at this annual

meeting.
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
District
5—Geo. Fogle, Chairman, Mason
1—Lee Bakeman, Dowagiac
2—Mrs. Ruth Day, Clark Lake
3—Wayne Sober, Webberville
4—Hilb't Holleman, Byron Center
6—Frank Merriman, Dockerville
7—Carl Anderson, Brunswick
8—Herbert Schmidt, Bay City
10—Willard Wilson, Traverse City
10—Arthur McIntyre, Harrisville
MFB Women
Mrs. Martin Stockmeyer, Reese
Mrs. Alex Kennedy, Posen
Mrs. Leon Dunning, Delton
At large
James P. Mielock, Whitmore
Gleason E. Halliwell, Gladwin
Alb't Shellenbarger, Lake Odessa

Farm Bureau Women Elect New President

Mrs. Haven Smith of Chappell, Nebraska, was elected president of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee at the 20th annual meeting of this group at the American Farm Bureau convention in New York, Dec. 14-16.

Mrs. Smith succeeds Mrs. Charles M. DeShazo of Virginia. Mrs. Smith had been vice-president. Mrs. Ernest Nedeau of Meredith, New Hampshire, was elected vice-president.

The American Farm Bureau convention voted to change the status of the women's organization from an auxiliary organization to a committee of the AFBF. Formerly called the Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau, the group will be known hereafter as the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women at their annual meeting in November joined with Farm Bureau women in other states in recommending the change of name. The title Associated Women implied that the women's activities were carried on as a separate organization within the Farm Bureau. The title Women's

Committee of Farm Bureau shows the true relationship.

H-Bomb Calls for Rural Area Help

Dan Reed of the Michigan Farm Bureau legislative dept. attended a meeting of a Federal Civilian Defense leaders at Battle Creek recently where this was said:

"The hydrogen bomb tests have out-moded shelters in cities for protection. We must think in terms of total evacuation of a probable target area. Farm and rural homes offer the most emergency housing. A farm family might find 50 persons assigned to them to care for the first few days. Radio-active dust from an H-bomb explosion may continue for days and cover hundreds of miles."

AT AFBF CONVENTION

Michigan's delegation was "at home" in the McAlpin Hotel. Convention headquarters were at the New Yorker. "The New Yorker? Just 2 blocks west," the man said! "Have you seen these Manhattan blocks? Each one is 3 blocks long!"

Beltsville turkeys, the small white breed of birds, get plump and meaty while they are still young. These birds are practically free from pinfeathers, too.

PURE CRUSHED TRIPLE SCREENED OYSTER SHELL FOR POULTRY

MADE BY THE FARM BUREAU MILLING CO., INC. CHICAGO, ILL.

to thousands of dollars. At the 1954 MFB annual meeting, 43 resolutions were adopted on state issues likely to come before the legislature.

A woman tries to reform her husband during the first year of married life—after that she tries to keep him from getting worse.



Mrs. Ruth Bennett

Detroit housewife says, "We can't afford to be without Blue Cross-Blue Shield!"

"Two years ago my husband and I had a terrible automobile accident in Pennsylvania," says Mrs. Bennett. "I went to the hospital with two broken legs and a fractured hip. Lucky for us we had the Blue Cross Comprehensive Contract and Blue Shield. My Blue Cross Comprehensive Contract covered my whole hospital bill for 120 days—and, a year later, paid another big bill for 103 days resulting from the same accident! Blue Shield paid a big part of my doctor bill, too. Just that one accident would have cost us \$8,700 if we hadn't had the Blue Cross Comprehensive Contract and Blue Shield!"

With 1 in 3 families facing hospital bills within a year, can you afford to be without protection like this? Over 8 million Michigan people have Blue Cross-Blue Shield. Probably some of your close friends have it. Ask them if they don't agree: there's no finer protection against hospital and doctor bills at any price!

It's easy to find out how you can enjoy low-cost Blue Cross-Blue Shield group enrollment. A company with as few as 5 employees may qualify as a group. Contact your nearest Blue Cross-Blue Shield office, County Farm Bureau Secretary, or Grange.

Sure You're Protected, But... Is Your Insurance Up-To-Date?



If your insurance was bought five years ago - or even two or three years ago - there's a good chance it's now out-of-date.

Are you Planning to help your sons get started in farming? And what about your daughters' share? Is your insurance program planned so that it will help them?

Keeping your insurance adjusted to your needs at all times is as important as keeping your machinery in working order and your buildings in good repair.

What about inheritance taxes? Has your property increased in value so that inheritance assessments will be higher? Will your insurance take care of these costs?

Talk to your Farm Bureau Insurance Representative about your entire insurance program. There's no obligation, and he has been trained to help you keep your insurance up-to-date.

For Instance . . .

- What is your property worth today—your land, your buildings, your equipment, your livestock? Does your insurance cover it adequately?
- Life Insurance
- Fire Insurance
- Auto & Truck Insurance
- Farm Liability Insurance

The FIP Protected Saving Plan

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE CO.

507 S. Grand Ave. Lansing, Michigan

Don't Delay!

MAIL YOUR FARM BUREAU DUES Today

Farm Bureau Members: Have you paid your membership dues for 1955? Remember your County Farm Bureau Secretary must have your dues by January 15, 1955, to protect your Blue Cross service, your Community Farm Bureau Group roster status, and Farm Bureau membership qualification for Farm Bureau automobile, farm liability, and fire insurance.

Farmers and the Social Security Program

Community Farm Bureau Discussion Topic for January

Background Material for Program in January by 1364 Community Farm Bureau Discussion Groups

DONALD D. KINSEY
Coordinator of Education and Research for MFB

Congress acted. Farm operators are now included under the Social Security law. Many farmers do not seem to realize as yet that this program is compulsory—that they must pay the tax. They cannot choose to stay out of the program.

Farm Bureau delegates over the years had taken a position opposing this law as a compulsory affair. At the 1954 annual meeting—after the law had been passed—they were no less positive in stating their position on the matter. On November 12 they passed the following resolution without a dissenting vote:

"Compulsory Social Security for farmers and other self-employed groups is the road to socialism.

"No self-employed person should be forced to pay into a Federal fund which promises either to make him a ward of the Government in his old age, or from which he will never derive benefit.

"If farmers, who have been the bulwark of our democracy, are forced into compulsory Social Security, then every other self-employed group will soon be brought under the program.

"We recommend that the American Farm Bureau work aggressively to remove the compulsory features of Social Security in regard to self-employed people."

This was a substitute resolution submitted from the floor. The delegates rejected a more mildly-stated position in passing this one. They wanted to be very positive in their stand.

The Social Security bill was pushed through Congress at the last moment before adjournment. It was something of a surprise move. The House bill had included farm operators, but the Senate bill had held some reservations about it. The Senate originally reported out the bill without coverage for farmers. The bill was later changed in conference to include farmers. But the Senators did succeed in raising the amount that a

person could earn before losing his retirement benefits. This was increased to \$1200. Farm incomes are not like a factory paycheck, and some brow wrinkling may be done to figure out where the line exists.

Farm operators are included, but a farm owner who rents his farm for cash or on shares is not. There may be borderline cases here that will create confusion. A person will not have to pay, however, unless he is eligible to draw payments when his proper date arrives.

The farmer pays at the rate of 3% on his net farm income—gross income minus all expenses. This 3% is to be in effect until 1970. Then a raise is figured into the percentage. The cost of the program is expected to increase. The net income figure can be used that is found on the income tax form 1040F that the farmer fills out each year.

Farm operators who have a gross income of \$1800 or less per year, may divide this gross figure in half and pay on that figure rather than on actual net income, if they choose. If you had \$1800 gross income and half of it figures out as less than the actual net income found by subtracting expenses, you can pay the Social Security tax on the smaller figure.

To be eligible at all, a farmer has to have a gross income from farming of at least \$800—then he could say that \$400 was net, and pay on that amount. \$400 net is the minimum allowable income in the program. On the \$400 the farmer would pay \$12 a year. He might not owe any Federal income tax, but still have to pay on Social Security.

The maximum amount on which a farmer would pay is a net income of \$4,200. This would cost him up to \$126 a year as Social Security tax.

A change was made in the law also relating to coverage for farm hands. The rate remains the same—at least until 1970 (2% from the farm hand on wages paid to him, 2% from the employing

your study. It was written for you.

Those who hope for great benefits, from Social Security should not set their hopes too high. Farm Bureau folks over the years have raised some pointed objections to the program that would bear some thought.

Delegates' objections point out that this is a socialization or nationalization of the insurance business. The government comes into unfair competition with the annuity programs of private insurance companies.

While the subscriber decides whether or not he will insure with the private company, the government, on the other hand, gives him no choice. He must insure.

By this measure, the government has taken over potential customers that the private companies might otherwise gain. Private companies cannot use force in getting subscribers.

Incentive for capable older persons is cut off. If the older person works and earns more than a meagre wage, in spite of the fact that he has paid his share over the years, his government benefits are cut off. He takes care, therefore, to be rather unproductive of income to protect his government allowance. When he gets close to the allowed \$1200 of earnings, he walks off the job. Yet his allowable income is miserably small. He can earn \$1200 a year plus a small monthly allowance. Let's assume that it averages \$78.50 a month in government checks. His total allowable annual income would then be around \$2100 a year, if he works up to the maximum allowed limit. At today's prices and rents he might not stay too fat on it.



Mr. Thomas DiGaetano

Detroit butcher says, "My family would be hard-pressed if we didn't have Blue Cross-Blue Shield!"

"It's when you need Blue Cross-Blue Shield that you find out what wonderful protection it really is," says Mr. DiGaetano. "We needed it this summer. My wife was taken to the hospital unexpectedly . . . she was there for 83 days. It cost almost \$2,200 just for the hospital part, and our Blue Cross Comprehensive Contract covered every bit of it. Blue Shield paid \$277 to our doctor. My family would be hard-pressed if it weren't for Blue Cross-Blue Shield."

Will your family be the one in three that will have a hospital bill within a year? If so, how would you pay it? Wouldn't you be a lot better off with the kind of protection that saved over \$2,450 for Mr. DiGaetano's family? That kind is the Blue Cross Comprehensive Contract and Blue Shield!

It's easy to find out how you can enjoy Blue Cross - Blue Shield group protection for hospital and doctor bills. A company with as few as 5 employees may qualify as a group. Contact your nearest Blue Cross - Blue Shield office, County Farm Bureau Secretary, or Grange.

Don't Delay!

MAIL

YOUR FARM BUREAU DUES

Today

Farm Bureau Members: Have you paid your membership dues for 1955? Remember your County Farm Bureau Secretary must have your dues by January 15, 1955, to protect your Blue Cross service, your Community Farm Bureau group roster status, and Farm Bureau membership qualification for Farm Bureau automobile, farm liability, and fire insurance.

Then there are some folks who have paid for it over the years, but who have a bit of pride in themselves even in their old age. Suppose one works and earns for himself \$1500 without help from the government. He has had some ambition. The government took his Social Security payments, but he is penalized for being too ambitious. He gets a reduced monthly government check.

Farm Bureau folks have protested against a program that takes from the individual his worthy incentive and ambition to do. With a private insurance program for which he has paid over the years, he can work as much as he pleases and find life interesting—it has nothing to do with his payments being lost. And there are those folks who would rather die with their boots on than to decline in a world of daily uselessness.

QUESTIONS
1. Does every member understand that he can get aid in his study of his Social Security Program by getting Extension Bulletin No. F189?

2. What parts of the Social Security Program do you find it hardest to understand?

3. Do the members know that they can get an application for a Special Security number by applying at their post office?

174 at AFBF Meet From Michigan

Michigan Farm Bureau was well represented at the American Farm Bureau convention in New York City Dec. 12-16 when 174 members made the trip. Michigan was one of 16 states to be honored for having exceeded its 1954 quota of the AFBF goal of 2,000,000 members.

Irrigation
An irrigation system has nearly as many uses as a farm tractor, claim Michigan State College agricultural engineers.

Courtesy is a coin that will pass at par in any nation.

John Sexon Actg. Mgr. of Plant Food Div.

John Sexon has been appointed acting manager of the Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Plant Food Manufacturing Division while Adolph E. Ecklund, manager, is on leave of absence due to illness. The appointment was made by J. F. Yaeger, executive secretary of FBS.

Mr. Sexon has been superintendent of the FBS plant food manufacturing plant at Saginaw. He came to the plant in 1948 as a foreman and later was promoted to ass't superintendent, and superintendent.

He is a graduate of Purdue university, the school of agronomy, in 1942. He served in the armed forces from graduation until 1946. For the next two years he was agricultural official

of the U. S. military government in Germany. He was recommended to Farm Bureau Services by Dr. George Scareth of the American Farm Research Ass'n.

The Farm Bureau Creed

"I have united with these friends and neighbors to enjoy a social hour, to study our common problems, to support through the Farm Bureau the organized effort which is essential to the welfare and prosperity of agriculture to the end that such cooperation may provide a comfortable living for my family, education for my children, and independence for my old age."

Travel

When you are packing sweaters for travel, fold in the sleeves and roll the sweaters to prevent ridges. They take less space this way, too, advise clothing specialists at Michigan State College.

Use the present to plan your future or you won't have one.

Mexican Students Visit in Kalamazoo

Through the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau Women's Committee nine young women and two young men students from Mexico City were entertained for a day at the farms of these members: the Lawrence Rhoda's, Schoolcraft; Harland Bennett's, Fulton; Muir Osborn's and Arch Thompson's, Scott; Fred Henson's, Richland; Fred Geschwendt's, Walter VanAntwerp's and Carl Bacon's of Kalamazoo. The students are in Kalamazoo for a month. The Farm Bureau folks were invited to visit them in Mexico City.

Correct It

Farm drivers are responsible for more than their share of auto and truck accidents, point out safety specialists.

Best Concrete

To get the best concrete, keep it damp for five to seven days after you pour it, advise MSC agricultural engineers.



Thirty-five years ago Farm Bureau leaders and agricultural agents met at what was then Michigan Agricultural College and organized Michigan Farm Bureau.

They had two primary objectives: First, an organization that might effectively speak for farmers in the State Legislature and at the Nation's Capitol, as well as at the community and county level. Second, the organization of several "SERVICES."

Today we can point to considerable progress in this respect. Most of it within the last six years. Today we talk of the "FARM BUREAU PACKAGE."

In this is included legislative activities, women's activities, youth programs, community groups, Blue Cross services, various insurance services, petroleum services, and general farm supplies services.

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

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

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

J. F. YAEGER

Executive Secretary & Treasurer

C. L. BRODY

Executive Vice President

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU	FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.	FARMERS PETROLEUM COOPERATIVE, INC.	FARM BUREAU INSURANCE COMPANIES
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Manager Member Service Division	Manager of Operations	Manager	Farm Bureau Life Insurance Co.
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Coordinator of Commodity Relations	Acting Manager Fertilizer Manufacturing Division		Sup't Policyholder Service
			Joseph Richard
			Sup't of Claims
			Max Crosier
			Tabulating Superintendent
			Ivan Allison, Francis Bust, Glenn Walters
			Agency Supervisors

Discussion Topics

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

- Jan. Farmers and the Social Security Program
- Feb. The Uses of Farm Commercial License Plates