

## Legislature Goes into Last Month of Work

### Michigan Week May 15 to 21

Michigan is a state made great by its people and their vision for the future.

For the second time, May 15 to 21, the citizens will take a week to consider Michigan as a state and the things that make it great.

The Michigan Farm Bureau has joined with other groups to promote "This is Your Michigan," an educational program of exhibits, meetings, parades, posters, theatre showings, etc. Some 1460 Community Farm Bureaus will be supplied with Michigan week material for their meetings.

"I'm Glad I Live in Michigan" is the theme for 1955. The seven days of the week have been designated for these programs:

**Sunday, May 15 - Spiritual Foundations Day.** A day devoted by people of all faiths to the spiritual values of life and a study of the Michigan foundations of their faiths.

**Monday, May 16 - Exchange of Mayors Day.** An exchange of the heads of government of all Michigan cities and villages for the purpose of making Michigan communities better acquainted.

**Tuesday, May 17 - Michigan Hospitality Day.** To emphasize the natural friendliness of Michigan people and the part it plays in the state's great tourist industry.

**Wednesday, May 18 - Education Day.** Open house in schools and colleges throughout the state. At Lansing the convening of the Michigan "White House Conference" on education.

**Thursday, May 19 - Our Livelihood Day.** In each community, an examination of and reflection upon how the people of the community make their living.

**Friday, May 20 - Our Heritage Day.** The history of Michigan and an appraisal of the traditions, culture and resources that stand today as the heritage of this and future generations.

**Saturday, May 21 - New Frontiers Day.** A vigorous look forward into the promise and opportunities of the years ahead, and examination of the contribution Michigan people are making to a better tomorrow for America.

### Poultry Co-op is Open for Business

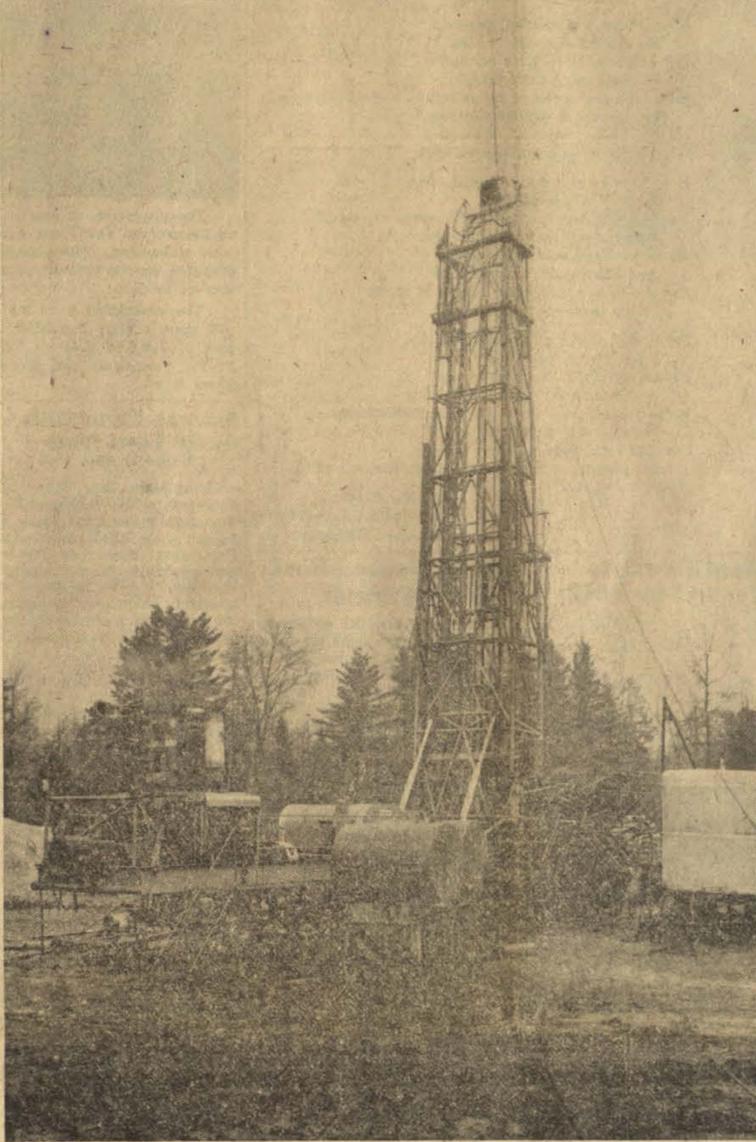
Wednesday, April 20th the Michigan Poultry Marketing Co-operative at Hemlock opened its doors to full operation, six days per week. The plant has been operating on a restricted basis only since the first of the year. The Co-operative operates the largest processing plant in Michigan and is the only one having Federal inspection of the dressed product.

At this time of year producers will need a market for their laying flocks, broiler production and turkey breeding flocks. The plant is now in position to accept any quantity offered. Producers can either sell their fowl outright or have them processed for them to sell. If you have fowl for sale or desire to use the processing facilities of the poultry plant call the Co-operative at Hemlock and make the necessary arrangements for delivery.

**Holland-Zeeland Area Interested.** Co-operative elevators, poultry producers-hatcheries, and turkey growers on the west side of the state are very much interested in the Hemlock plant. At a meeting held in Zeeland recently some forty farmers pledged their support to this marketing program. It is agreed that the live market outlet for poultry in Michigan is fast disappearing and is no longer the major marketing outlet.

The frozen processed product is being selected by the consumer in much greater volume than in the past. Refrigerated displays are now available in most retail outlets. The facilities of the plant at Hemlock are now available to any producer in Michigan. The management will be glad to quote buying prices on request.

**Investments Available.** In order to increase their working capital the Co-operative is offering a limited amount of investment stock to residents of Michigan. Such stock is sold only on the information contained in their printed prospectus. A copy of the prospectus can be had by writing B. P. Pattison, P. O. Box 960, 221 N. Cedar Street, Lansing.



40 DAYS AND NIGHTS were required for this massive piece of drilling equipment to complete the new oil well for Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. near Houghton Lake, Michigan. The total cost of the drilling operation alone was about \$40,000.

### Farmers Petroleum Strikes Oil in Roscommon County

Earl Huntley, manager of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., announced in mid-April that Farmers Petroleum Cooperative had brought in a new oil producing well in Roscommon county which will rank with the best, and may be better than any other well completed in that area.

April 18 the well was permitted to flow steady for eight hours. The total output in that period was 150 barrels of high grade crude. Since that time the production has been restricted to 100 barrels per 24 hour period.

The E. V. Hilliard Drilling Company of Mt. Pleasant did the drilling of the well with what is considered to be the most modern, up-to-date equipment in the state. The 5,200 foot well took 40 days to complete with a full crew of men working three shifts. Total cost of the completed project will run approximately \$80,000, according to Mr. Huntley.

Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. has eight other 40-acre locations to drill on in the immediate area. At present no plans



THIS IS the well which is flowing at a restricted rate of 100 barrels per day.

have been made as to when the next well will be started. However, the success of this well appears to lend encouragement to extended development in the area. If results continue to be encouraging a rather extensive drilling program is forecast.

Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., owns or has call on the oil from at least 180 other oil wells in Michigan and Illinois. This is part of a program established by FPC a few years ago to insure itself an adequate supply of petroleum products.

The new wild cat well in Roscommon county near Houghton Lake is the first oil producing well that FPC has drilled. The other 180 were all purchased after they were producing.

### Beef Steak Clubs

Steak-eating is a habit hundreds of years old. It was at the time of England's Queen Anne in the early 18th century that beef steak clubs were first organized. Members were the great men of the time.

### Price Support Decision Near In Congress

"It is probable that HR-12, a bill to restore mandatory, 90% parity rigid price supports for wheat, corn, cotton, rice and peanuts will be up for consideration in the House of Representatives of Congress the week of May 1," said C. L. Brody, executive vice-president in charge of public affairs for the Michigan Farm Bureau. Mr. Brody was in Washington in late April.

"This measure," said Mr. Brody, "would prevent flexible supports as provided by the Agr'l Act of 1954 from becoming effective. Efforts are being made by 90% of parity groups in both political parties and such organizations as the CIO to enact HR-12."

"The enactment of HR-12 would give the farmer and the U. S. Dept of Agriculture little if any opportunity to work out of the present surplus difficulties and to restore the farmer to control of his own business. At this time the USDA reports that it has 7 1/2 billion dollars tied up in farm products under price supports. This is an increase of 6 billion dollars since the low was reached in mid-1952."

"It is costing the government \$250 million annually or \$700,000 every day just to store the products it has purchased under the 90% of parity rigid supports. The very rapidly with which stocks have been built up in the past two years compels attention to the problem."

"We should remember that flexible price supports enacted last year were made effective January 1, 1955 on 1955 crops. Since 1955 production has not yet come to market, the flexible price support policy can in no way be held responsible for any decline in farm income."

"The board of directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau has sent a strong statement to Congress and the Agricultural Committees of both the House and Senate to urge defeat of HR-12."

"President Ward G. Hodge has written Michigan members of Congress asking their help in permitting flexible farm price supports to become effective."

"Most important now is prompt action by Farm Bureau members in writing to your Congressman and to both Senator Charles E. Potter and Senator Patrick V. McNamara your views on HR-12. Washington addresses are: Senators—Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. Representatives—House Office Building, Washington, D. C."

majority of farmers in his district are opposed to continuing rigid price supports.

### Hayworth Says He Will Vote No

Rep. Don Hayworth (D) of the 6th Congressional district has stated that he will oppose passage of the HR-12. Mr. Hayworth said he is convinced that the

### Visits Farms in New Zealand

Mr. O. G. Barrett of Morenci, president of the Lenawee County Farm Bureau, was one of 34 mid-western farmers who spent nearly a month in New Zealand, and a few days in Australia the early part of this year.

The Federated Farmers of New Zealand invited a delegation from the American Farm Bureau to visit them and to study the agriculture of New Zealand, particularly their live stock and pasture programs.

Mr. Barrett said their reception in Australia and New Zealand was most cordial. They like the people from the States, as they put it. U. S. soldiers in Australia and New Zealand in World War II were good ambassadors for everyone who has followed them.

Farmers and their agricultural organizations and schools went all out to show their guests their type of agriculture and to entertain them. Farmers were interested very much in how we do things in the United States. They came long distances to group meetings, and to call upon friends who were entertaining a visitor from the United States.

Travel across the Pacific was by plane. The first stop was Sydney, Australia. Mr. Barrett and the others went by bus to Canberra—the new capital—and on to Melbourne and Adelaide, on the southeastern coast.

"A trip like that," said Mr. Barrett, "is like starting from Wash-

ington, D. C., down the Atlantic coast to Florida and to New Orleans."

Much of the Australian country was rolling to hilly. There was little farm activity as we know it. No corn. Much of the land is sown to rye grass.

"In New Zealand," said Mr. Barrett, "we were in about the same latitude as central Indiana to the lower peninsula of Michigan. The country has a fine climate. Showers come often. It's not as hot as we have it in summer, nor are the winters so cold."

"Farms in New Zealand are large. They are almost wholly sown to rye grass and Dutch white clover. A little corn is grown for fodder, but none for grain. Their grass is of such quality and yield that one acre will support a cow throughout the year."

"There is considerable fertilization of pastures done by plane. They spread about 200 pounds of superphosphate per acre and 2 to 5 ounces of molybdenum, which they consider most important. Sometimes they add a little of cobalt and copper compounds to their fertilizer."

"Agriculture is the main industry in New Zealand. The main sources of national income are (1) mutton and wool (2) butter and cheese (3) beef and (4) timber—in that order."

"We observed that the New

### Several Farm Bills Await Final Vote

If You are Interested in Bill Now Pending, This is the Time to Make Your Views Known at Lansing

STANLEY M. POWELL  
Legislative Counsel of Michigan Farm Bureau

Time is running out in the Michigan legislature. The Senators and Representatives are working frantically to clean up the business of the session by June 3. I am not guaranteeing that they will meet that deadline. If they aren't able to reach final agreement on new highway construction funds, the budget, and a tax program by that self-imposed deadline, they may find it necessary to extend their deliberations.

The final weeks of any session are always rather of a madhouse, and it looks as though this would be a little worse than usual. As the adjournment deadline approaches, the pressure on everyone involved increases. The daily calendars lengthen and the tempo of committee work and lobbying is stepped-up. Some cherished bills die unceremoniously. Occasionally measures of dubious merit slip through with scant consideration. All in all, it is a time when we should be on guard and keeping close track of the progress of bills which are valuable or detrimental to our interests.

What the budget bills are going to total, no one knows. The general prediction is that they will require revenue of \$20 million or \$25 million more than would be produced from existing tax sources. The budget as presented to the legislature by Governor Williams was \$46 million out of balance.

Well attended hearings have been held on the Governor's corporation income tax proposal, H-255, and on the bill which would increase the rate of the business activities tax, H-416. This latter bill would raise the rate on adjusted receipts of public utilities from 1 mill to 2 mills, and on other business from 4 mills to 7 mills. Such a substantial increase is bound to stir up serious opposition. However, it appears that many business interests would prefer even that to a 5% levy on income.

Michigan State College. Generally speaking, progress in line with the Farm Bureau's legislative program has been slower than usual during the current session. Surviving considerable controversy, the bill to change the name of Michigan State College to Michigan State University of Agriculture and Applied Science was finally approved by both branches of the Legislature by top-heavy votes and has received executive approval. It will become fully operative on July 1. The Michigan Farm Bureau vigorously supported the name change.

Tractors. During the past month, no progress has been made on H-19 which contains the provision legalizing the hauling of 2 wagons behind a farm tractor. This passed the House unanimously but has been kept bottled up in the Senate committee on highways.

During the past week, each branch of the legislature concentrated on getting its own bills out of its own committees. April 29 was the final date for reporting bills from committee in the house in which they were introduced, except tax and appropriation measures. A series of further deadlines has been established to speed up and make more orderly the completion of the work of the session.

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(Continued on page 2)

Zealand farmer gets more production per acre than we do, but less money for it. Where we in the United States may get \$16 for



O. G. BARRETT  
a lamb, they get about \$10. If we get about \$35 for a hog, their return is around \$15. We sell beef for twice as much as they do. "We observed also that the farmers in New Zealand are doing all right. We may get twice as many dollars for our work, but we also worry twice as much as they do. "New Zealand has what we would consider a great deal of government in business. There's socialized medicine. Doctors are

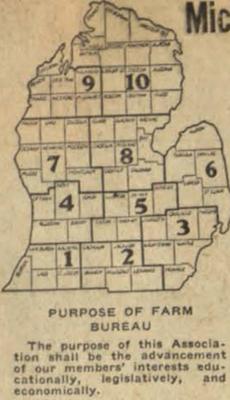
employed by the state. While we were there the government ruled that the baking industry should charge no more than six pence for a pound loaf of bread. The bakers complained, and then discontinued both the slicing and wrapping of bread.

"We saw plenty of small trucks on the highways, but no big trucks with trailers such as we have here. The New Zealand government has ruled that any freight shipped more than 30 miles must go by rail."

The trip of 30,000 miles was handled by the travel service of the Indiana Farm Bureau. Twenty-two of the 34 persons in the tour were from Indiana. Mr. Barrett was county agricultural agent in Mason county in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Then he became agricultural agent for Cook county, Illinois, for 18 years.

Cook county contains the city of Chicago and some 4,000 farms. At one time the Farm Bureau membership was small, but today there are about 6,000 members of the Farm Bureau in Cook county. Mr. Barrett says the Farm Bureau automobile insurance in Illinois has been largely responsible for the great growth in membership. Owners, tenants and hired men are members. Often several members of a family have individual Farm Bureau memberships in order to qualify for the Farm Bureau's automobile insurance.

Michigan Farm News
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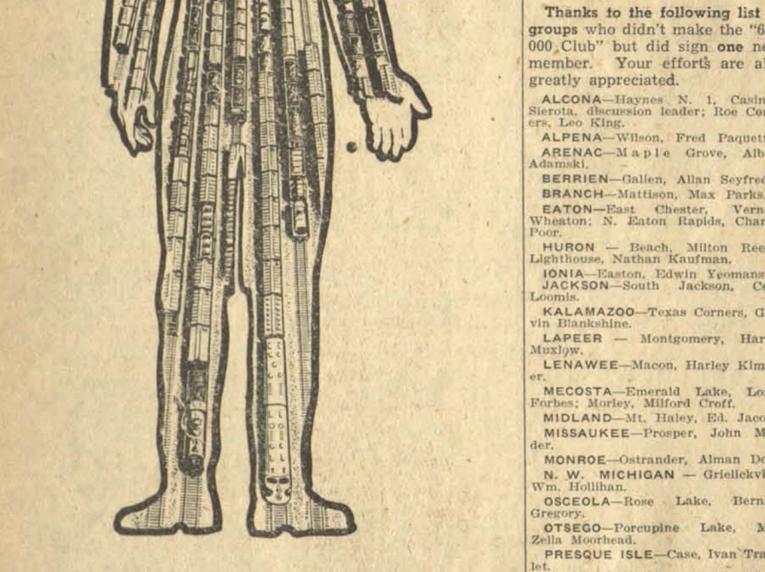
Michigan Farm Bureau
OFFICERS
President - W. G. Hodge, Snover
V. Pres. - Elague Knirk, Quincy
Exec. V. Pres. - C. L. Brody, Lansing
Exec. Sec'y - J. P. Yeager, Lansing

Community Farm Bureaus

CLARE L. MCGHAN
Coordinator of Community Farm Bureaus for MFB
Dear Community Farm Bureau Members:
Michigan Week, May 15-21, is designed to boost our state by knowing it better.

Your group may want to have roll call by each one present giving a reason why they like Michigan or some fact about Michigan. The recreation leader can have fun with the group on a questionnaire concerning Michigan.

ANTRIM COUNTY - Jordan, Richard Dennis, discussion leader.
BARRY - Northwest Assyrria, Farrel Jenkins.
BERRIEN - Bedinger, Clarence Stover; Berrien Center, Mrs. Rita Clark; Boyer, Mrs. Nelson Dukeshier; South Oronoko, Mrs. Wm. Pajel.



The Secret of Uncle Sam's Expandable Arteries

This month the following counties are leading in the organization of new groups:
1-Berrien county with nine new groups. 2-Monroe county with eight groups. Tied for third with six new groups are Eaton, Macomb and Washtenaw.

Association of American Railroads
Transportation Building, Washington 6, D. C.

HIRAM and MARTHA

Punctuality
The people I know are peculiar,
And I am no different from them.
We all have our characteristics,
Including our good neighbor, Clem.

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

Farm Bureau Office Building Is Nearing Completion



The plasterers, carpenters, electricians and painters are now putting their finishing touches on the modern new Farm Bureau office building at 4000 North Grand River Avenue on US-16 west of Lansing.

Several Farm Bills Await Final Vote
Chain Store Tax. Many bills endorsed by the Michigan Farm Bureau have been passed by the branch of the legislature in which they were introduced...

Meat Increase Needed by 1962

If the U. S. population continues to increase by 7,000 persons per day, we will need 3 1/2 million more cattle, 2 1/2 million more sheep and 9 million more pigs to supply the market in 1962, says the USDA.

Alvin Hansen Best Young Farmer

Alvin Hansen, 34, of Stanton was judged Michigan's most outstanding young farmer by the Michigan Junior Chamber of Commerce at Lansing, April 23.

Watches Wanted

Any condition. Also broken jewelry, spectacles, dental gold, diamond, sapphire, cash sent promptly. Mail articles. Satisfaction guaranteed. Love's, Holland Bldg., St. Louis 1, Missouri.

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.



School Code

Before passing the new 305 page school code, the Senate inserted an amendment which would put an end to closed school districts.

Constitutional Convention

It appears that H-35, providing for placing on the ballot the question of calling a constitutional convention, and H-36, requiring approval of school houses by the State fire marshal and state health department, will both die in the Senate.

Meat Can Be Frozen Again

Scientific research indicates that frozen meat does not become more perishable after thawing than fresh meat and that refreezing meat does not materially affect its quality.

Livestock

The House has approved H-358, embodying general revisions of the law relative to bonding live stock buyers and dealers. There were only three votes against this bill in the House...

Veterinary Medicine

In consideration of S-1172, regulating the practice of veterinary medicine, the Senate adopted suitable exemptions for farmers who might help their neighbors in the dehorning of cattle and ordinary animal castration, except castration of horses.

School Buses

The Senate has on its calendar, S-1266 which would require traffic to stop both ways for school buses loading or unloading pupils, except on divided highways carrying 4 or more lanes of traffic.

Apple Tax

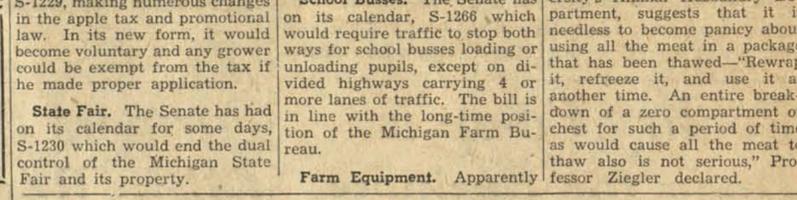
The Senate passed S-1229, making numerous changes in the apple tax and promotional law. In its new form, it would become voluntary and any grower could be exempt from the tax if he made proper application.

Farm Equipment

Apparently

Good Silage Test

Here's the way to know when chopped hay is ready to be put into the silo: Michigan State College farm crops specialists advise the "squeeze test."



FARM FACTS from MICHIGAN BELL

Where Do You Store Your Honey?
Michigan State College home economists say to keep extracted and comb honey in covered containers in a dry place at room temperature.

Owe Someone a Letter?
Do you find it difficult to find enough time to write that overdue letter to Mary and John or Mother and Dad? It's downright embarrassing after too much time has gone by.

FLORIDA FARMERS enjoy happier living. Get the facts! Send today for free illustrated booklet that gives information on every type of farming in Florida. Discover Florida's many factors for profit-long growing seasons, multiple crop production, diversification, expanding local markets.

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

# This is the House that Farm Bureau Built

## The High-Analysis Fertilizer Program

DONALD D. KINSEY  
Coordinator of Education and Research for MFB

The early days in which our Farm Bureau House was founded were different ones for the farmer. The agricultural depression of the 1920's was developing. Farm prices were dropping.

Farmers had need of increasing their production and of finding all means of reducing costs. Commercial fertilizers were beginning to find extended use, but they were relatively high in price. It was a problem that the Farm Bureau could go to work to solve.

In the early 1920's the Farm Bureau Purchasing Department began to obtain commercial fertilizers from manufacturing sources outside the state. Farm Bureau dropped the prices to the farmer. Acid phosphate that was costing the farmer \$32 a ton was put on the market by Farm Bureau at \$24. The average reduction for mixed fertilizers ran from \$3.00 to \$5.00 a ton. Competing companies started a price war, but the net result was cheaper fertilizers to the farmer.

One of the problems that helped to keep the farmer's fertilizer costs high was the low plant food value in the mixes. There was too much sand or other ballast in the bags. Farmers paid for bagging this material and for freight and handling charges.

Farm Bureau's viewpoint on this problem crystallized in 1947, when the Michigan Farm Bureau passed a resolution saying: "Much of the cost of a ton of fertilizer is in fixed charges consisting in manufacturing, overhead, sales and transportation, whether consisting of high or low analysis. We urge the manufacturers of fertilizer to adopt a policy of producing only high analysis containing a minimum of 30 plant food units per ton. We further urge the Farm Bureau services in their fertilizer program to manufacture high analysis fertilizer with the same plant food requirements."

It took considerable money invested by farmer cooperatives and farmers to put the fertilizer factory into existence. Before that producing companies could cancel their contracts to keep analyses low and profits high.

The high analysis policy made sense. In 1947, when the resolution was passed, all fertilizers in Michigan totalled only 330,000 tons per year. By 1953 this had grown to a yearly use of 600,000 tons. Again, in 1947 the average percentage of plant food for the state was only 23%. The pace set by Farm Bureau raised the general state percentage for all companies to 29.5% in 1953.

The following table reveals the Farm Bureau plant food percentages produced in the operating years of the Saginaw fertilizer factory to 1954.

Year	Average percentage of plant food
1948-49	32.21%
1949-50	32.89%
1950-51	34.56%
1951-52	33.02%
1952-53	34.61%
1953-54	35.7%

This picture means more than appears on the surface. It means real savings to Michigan farmers, both in increased analyses, and in the fact that other companies have raised their analyses to meet our competition. A fair comparative figure for the 1954 year would show the approximate analyses for all fertilizers in the state to be near a 3-12-12. Farm Bureau averages run at about an average 4-16-16.

Comparisons are always interesting. Let us take the ton average of plant food per ton for 1953. It was 29.5%. Compare it to the Farm Bureau average for the same year—it was 34.6%.

With a total state tonnage for that year of 630,000 tons as a base let us suppose that it had all been delivered at the Farm Bureau average of 34.6% plant food. In this case it would have meant a saving to the farmers in bags and freight of \$719,196.

Another turn of the figures is also interesting. Farm Bureau's tonnage in 1953 was 57,652 tons. If Farm Bureau had distributed this at the actual state average figure of 29.5% plant food it would have cost the farmers \$76,000 more for freight and bags. These are the differences between bagging actual plant food and mere ballast!

The Saginaw factory began production in the spring of 1948. Almost a million dollars in securities were purchased by farmers to build the plant. In spite of the problems of short supply on raw materials, the tonnage production record at Saginaw has been impressive, as follows:

Year	Fertilizer Production Record	Sales of 20% Super-phosphate
1948	12,817 tons	3,902 tons
1949	38,000	5,000
1950	47,000	6,000

been going on for sixteen years. Some companies have been using the process for four years with good results.

Granulation is not an iron-clad guarantee that there will be no more hardening, but it helps greatly in controlling moisture and the temperatures under which the reaction takes place. Granulation results in a more uniform fertilizer.

With this in mind, the Farm Bureau installed the granulation process equipment in the new plant at Kalamazoo. The Saginaw plant was converted to the process shortly thereafter.

Increases in demand for fertilizers had forced the Saginaw factory to operate far beyond its rated capacity after 1951. For this reason it was decided to build a second plant at Kalamazoo. This plant was financed by farmer-purchased securities in 1953. It produced its first ton of fertilizer early in 1954.

Farmers now have an investment of nearly \$3,500,000 in these two plants and their inventories. The operating overhead of each plant continues whether or not they are producing.

Fertilizer prices and savings cannot be assured unless the plants are operating at, or near, capacity, and above the base cost level. Nor can the savings gained by setting high-analysis standards be protected unless farmers and producers make full use of the production of these factories.

Farmers build, own, and control the policies of these plants. In a business so owned and controlled it is inevitable that the main object of interest must be the continued welfare and service to the farmer himself.

**Wright E. Wiley**  
Wright E. Wiley of Richland R-1, former president of Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau and a supporter of the Farm Bureau program for many years, passed away March 26.

Mr. Wiley's service as a director and president ended in the early 1940's. He continued his activities, serving as Roll Call manager in 1945 and 1946, and as Roll Call quarter man a number of years. He was captain for Richland Township for the 1955 membership campaign. He was Community Group Director in 1946.

When the first Community Farm Bureau groups were organized in Kalamazoo county, Mr. Wiley was a member of the Gull Prairie, the first group. He helped with the first issue of the County Farm Bureau paper, the Broadcast.

Mr. Wiley was also a member of the Fair Board, Mountour Grange, was a 4-H club leader, and active in the work of the Artificial Breeders Ass'n. He had served as a member of the Richland school board. He is survived by Mrs. Wiley, four sons and two daughters.

**CORNERED BEEF**  
"Cornered" beef is really a misnomer. This popular meat item received its name from the salt originally used in curing it. The salt came in small hard grains similar in appearance to pepper corns.

## Opportunities At MFB for Clerical Help

The Personnel Office of the Michigan Farm Bureau says that from time to time there are opportunities for office workers at the Farm Bureau offices at Lansing.

Interested persons are invited to write or call for applications for these positions: Stenographers and secretaries, typists, accounting clerks, bookkeepers, key punch operators, insurance office workers, file clerks.

The Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, and the Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company will soon be moving into a new one-floor office building being completed at 4000 North Grand River avenue on US-16, just west of Lansing. Some 250 persons will work in that office. It will provide good working conditions and modern office equipment.

The Farm Bureau offices operate on a 40 hour, five day week. The Farm Bureau makes group Blue Cross insurance and group life insurance available to employees. There are annual vacations, a retirement plan and other features which make the Farm Bureau a pleasant place to work. Whenever possible promotions are made from within the organization.

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

## Promoted to Membership Post



**JERRY CORDREY** will join the Michigan Farm Bureau Member Service Division at Lansing, May 2, as Coordinator of Membership Acquisition.

Mr. Cordrey will be responsible for development and implementing a membership acquisition program which will build the Michigan Farm Bureau to 70,000 farm families by 1956. He will work closely with the county membership committees and the county Roll Call managers.

Born at Hillsdale, Mr. Cordrey had his schooling there and was graduated from Hillsdale College in 1919. He was a member of the Junior Farm Bureau in 1946, and asst. Roll Call manager for Hillsdale County Farm Bureau in 1948 and 1949. He has had two years service in the navy.

Since 1951, Mr. Cordrey has been regional membership representative for the West Central Region of Kent, Mason, Mecosta,

Montcalm, Muskegon, Newago, Oceana, Osceola, and Ottawa County Farm Bureaus.

## Rep. Bentley And CIO on Farm Prices

Congressman Alvin M. Bentley of Cossos has made public a reply he sent to August Scholle and Barney Hopkins, president and secretary of the Michigan CIO Council.

The Congressman's reply was in response to a letter from the Council to all Michigan Congressmen urging their support for H. R. 12, a bill providing a return to high rigid price supports for basic agricultural commodities. Mr. Bentley's letter:

Mr. August Scholle, President Michigan CIO Council Detroit, Michigan Dear Mr. Scholle:

I have received the communication from yourself and Mr. Hopkins, addressed to all Michigan Congressmen, and supporting H. R. 12, which sets up price support programs for the basic commodities, wheat and dairy products.

I regret that I am unable to share your thinking in this respect. There is no one who more firmly believes in a healthy farm economy than I do, but I am convinced that the provisions of H. R. 12 will only hurt our farmers by continuing to increase production of surplus commodities with the necessity of continuing the present burdensome acreage restrictions.

Further, it is an undeniable fact that the present high price supports under which we are still

operating have seriously hampered the movement of our agricultural production into domestic and export markets.

I am unable to understand from where critics of the flexible support plan can draw their arguments since this plan has not even been given a chance to prove its worth. As you know, it does not come into operation until the 1955 crops. I intend, therefore, to vote against H. R. 12 and in support of the present legislation which is now on the books.

I might point out that the drop in farm income is a matter of very real concern. I might also point out that the drop in farm income has occurred under the present high price support program, fixed at 90 per cent of parity, for which you are, in effect, urging an extension. I think the question should appropriately be raised as to whether your organization is more interested in farm income or cheap food.

Sincerely yours,  
Alvin M. Bentley, M. C.

## Second REA Repays Full Loan

"Paid in Full!" This message was received by members of the Gowie, Iowa REA. A small electric coop, serving about 200 members, the Gowie Association paid off its loan from the government 28 years before the due date. The Henry County, Indiana, REA paid its loan in full in 1953 to become the first in the nation to retire its full debt.

## Safe Tractor

Make your tractor road-worthy before you travel the highways with it. MSC engineers suggest checking vision, lighting, flags, reflector tape, steering apparatus and brakes.

Buy Farm Bureau See!

## New Man in West Central Region

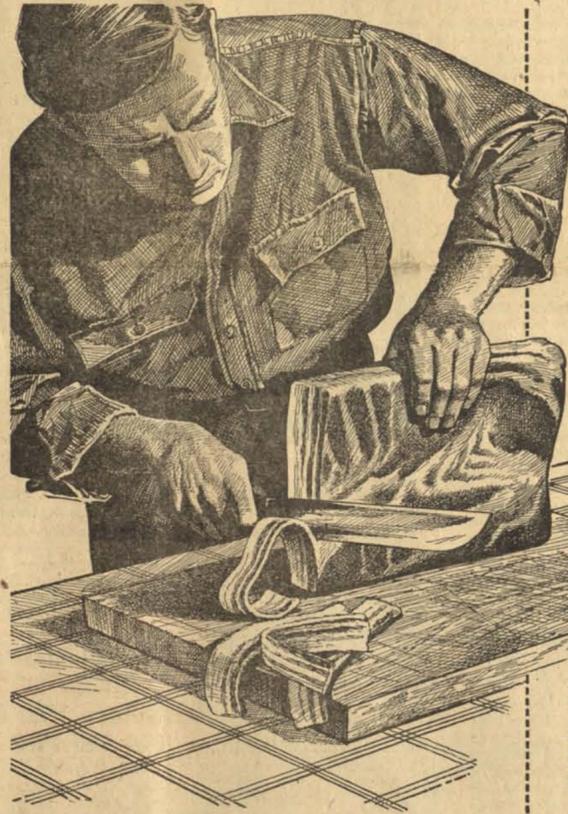


**RALPH OLTHOUSE** became regional membership representative for the West Central Region April 18. This includes Kent, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, and Ottawa counties.

Mr. Olthouse has farmed all his life on the family farm in Kent county near Caledonia except for two years in the army air force. His Farm Bureau record includes service in Junior Farm Bureau, Community Farm Bureau, and county board member. He has also served as a board member of the Caledonia Co-op Elevator for three years.

He was educated in Caledonia high school, Rockhurst College in Kansas City, and Veterans' Training in Agriculture.

Twenty-six per cent of the fire loss on farms is from barn fires, according to David G. Steinicke, MSC extension safety specialist.



## Price spread can help you

Convenient foods require extra services but expand the market for agricultural products.

Today, about 21% of all married women have full-time jobs outside their homes. Another 5% have part-time work. There is not much time for "Do-it-yourself" in their kitchens. They, and millions of other consumers, are willing to pay for the extra services required to provide the convenient products that will save time and work.

To meet the requirements of millions of busy homemakers, Swift & Company produces a wide variety of "convenience" products. There are hundreds of these items, in which all or a great part of the preparation

has been done. They are in food stores everywhere—no doubt your family uses them, along with "convenience" products from other lines of the food industry.

The cost of the additional services increases the spread between what you get for agricultural products and what the housewife pays for food. Farmers and ranchers generally benefit, even though the price spread is greater. New and more convenient items stimulate the demand for meat and other livestock products... helping to bring to you greater total returns.



Tom Glaze

## How do you buy your bacon?

Remember what a job it was, slicing bacon from a slab? Risky, it was, and quite a contrast to the packaged bacon we buy at the store today. (Packaged bacon is handy, even if some of us do like thicker than most consumers!)

Sliced, packaged bacon is only one of a long list of convenient products that are now available. All of them have been developed to **SELL FOOD** by meeting the consumer's needs and wishes.

## Examples of products with "built-in services" are:

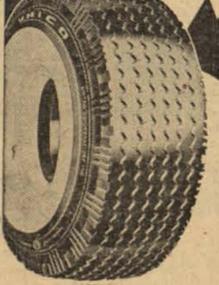
- Fully cooked, skinless, boneless, rolled hams
- Dozens of luncheon meats—Brown & Serve Sausage
- Meat pies, chicken pies, stuffed turkeys—ready for the oven
- Specially prepared meats for babies
- Frozen fried chicken—ready to serve after heating
- Canned hamburgers and frankfurters... ideal for picnics.



1955, our Centennial year, emphasizes how Swift is looking ahead to its second century of serving farmers and ranchers even better. 1955 also reflects the progress and experience of 100 years of operation—since the time G. F. Swift bought a heifer, dressed it and sold the meat, starting the business that is now Swift & Company.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT  
**SWIFT & COMPANY**  
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- \* Super Cordura Carcass for protection against impact... blowouts
  - \* "Double Guard" Rimlock for positive air seal
  - \* Costs no more than a regular tire and tube

For the smoothest, quietest ride your life you can't beat these new UNICO tubeless tires. They give f-l-e-x-i-b-i-l-e strength where you need it thus promoting greater protection against blowouts. In addition you get greater mileage and more positive traction. Stop in and look them over.

Distributed Through Your Local Cooperative by  
**Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc.**  
Box 960 Lansing 4, Michigan

# Activities of Women of Michigan Farm Bureau

## District 5

Mrs. Harold Nye, Chairman  
Olivet

Eaton county has organized five new community groups since the first of the year. This brings the total to 44 groups. The Women's Committee officers are: Mrs. Amos Haigh, chairman; Mrs. Alfred Almy, vice-chairman; Mrs. R. D. Twitchell, sec'y-treas.; Mrs. Floyd Walker, legislative chm.; Mrs. Oril Gillespie, safety chm.; Mrs. Edmund Miller, Jr., publicity chm.; and Mrs. Allen Lehr, citizenship chm.

At the January meeting of the group, a lively Phillips 66 discussion took place regarding the women's program for the coming year. Using the summaries from this discussion, the executive committee with Mrs. Almy as program chairman, outlined the year's activities.

Program booklets containing the entire list of meetings, names and addresses of all Activity Women in the County, names of special committees, list of officers and their duties, rules, and names of Past County Women's Chairmen were prepared by the Committee for each Activity Woman.

Regular monthly meetings of the Eaton County Women's Committee are held the first Tuesday evening of the month. The place is usually the new Farm Bureau office. The ladies of this county are very proud of their new office and have taken great pleasure in helping to furnish it. They purchased an American flag and standard; also contributed money for the Venetian blinds for the windows.

In February, the guest speaker was Mr. Stanley Powell, who spoke on legislative bills of interest to farm people and explained how Farm Bureau members could help get legislation passed or voted down. He told of the people who work for us at the state and national level and what a lot of influence they can have when we all support them by letting them know our position on legislative questions. This was a very successful meeting, with a large crowd present including many of the ladies' husbands. A lively question and answer session followed Mr. Powell's talk.

March brought another big meeting. It seems, all you have to tell Farm Bureau women is "Marge Karker will be with us" and you get a big gathering. Or, perhaps, it was because the women heard that there was to be a very personable young man present, by the name of Ray DeWitt. Ray is the new regional representative in District 5. Everyone was very much inspired by the talks given by this well informed pair of Farm Bureau staff members.

J. Kenneth Richards, program

## SWEET POTATO PLANTS

Porto Ricans 500-\$1.50 1,000-\$2.50  
Nancy Halls 500-\$1.50 1,000-\$2.50  
Bunch Yams 500-\$1.00 1,000-\$1.50  
Good Plants—Quick Shipment—  
Full Count

Fred Stoker, Dresden, Tennessee

## Smart TV Covers



Easy to crochet this lovely cover for any size TV set—in your favorite pineapple design.

Crochet Pattern 891: Directions for TV cover, 25 inches in No. 30 cotton; smaller size in No. 50; larger in bedspread cotton. Four would make 50-inch cloth. Send 25 cents (in coins) for this pattern to Michigan Farm News, 263, Needlecraft Service, P. O. Box 162, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, N. Y. Add 5 cents for EACH pattern for 1st class mailing. An additional 25 cents will bring Needlecraft Catalog.

director for WKAR Radio and television, was the guest speaker for the April meeting of the Eaton County women. His talk was most informative and the group learned that it was pretty much up to us, as listeners and viewers, what kind of programs we hear and watch these days. He invited those present to tour WKAR at any time and see just how programming is carried out. Most important of all is that the public either commend or disapprove of programs as they are now being presented. Only in this way can the executives and directors of the stations know what we like and want.

Genesee County Women's Committee continues to hold its meetings in the homes of members. We have enjoyed some very instructive and interesting programs.

At one meeting the soil conservation program became a tour in which we saw new types of drainage, tile, hedge fences, corn production, etc. We had a soil judging contest like the 4-H boys have.

This year our county tried out a new program called Facts, Fun and Food Night. It replaced our victory banquet when the membership goal was reached. Suggested by Ray DeWitt, regional representative, and very successful. For the 250 who came we presented entertainment in charge of Sheldon Latourette. The food was served by the Women's Committee.

At our April meeting, Mrs. Marian Kottke of the extension office at Flint presented a good program on farm marketing.

A Michigan meeting will be conducted in May with interesting facts about Michigan developed by members of the committee.

We had the good fortune to have the 4-H leader from Finland present her work and pictures at one meeting. At another a young man who had been stationed at Vienna, Austria spoke and showed us slides on the life, architecture and scenery of Austria. We have an annual auction to raise money for our projects.—Mrs. Ernest Brown.

## District 7

Mrs. Dale Root, Chairman  
Barryton

Mason County Farm Bureau Women's Committee was pleased to have as its guests Mrs. Root, the district chairman, and Mrs. Ernest Frieberg of Big Rapids at the regular meeting and last of the dinners with the board of directors.

Preliminary plans were discussed for a special event in May and for the spring meeting of District 7 at Six Lakes April 6. All but one of the eight community groups were represented at the meeting.

## District 8

Mrs. Clare Williams, Chairman  
St. Louis

Farm Bureau Women's Committees in District 8 have been enjoying a variety of programs. Mrs. Marjorie Karker, coordinator of Women's Activities, told the Isabella county group in February about Tsuru Nakatani, the Japanese student at M.S.C. who is being sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau Women and also gave them timely information about Farm Bureau and membership.

In Isabella county at the March meeting the ladies entertained their husbands. Mrs. Clare Williams, District 8 chairman, showed slides of the two day tour of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative Inc. petroleum facilities and the Saginaw fertilizer plant made by State Advisory Council last summer. She stressed the fact that leaded gasoline is poisonous and should not be used to wash the hands as the lead is accumulative in the body, and may become

## Distr. 7 - Osceola Makes Dressings



WOMEN'S COMMITTEE members of the Osceola County Farm Bureau received instruction at a recent meeting in the making of cancer dressings. Instruction was given by Mrs. Fred Johnson, county FB secretary. Mrs. Pearl Edwards, county health nurse, showed a film on cancer detection. The committee has volunteered to solicit the rural areas for cancer funds.



MISS TSURU NAKATANI of Tokyo, Japan, was the guest of Farm Bureau Women of St. Joseph county for a week in March. With her at a meeting in Centreville is Mrs. Don Pierce (left), county chairman, and Mrs. Byron Eley, district chairman, both of Constantine. At the right is Mrs. Marjorie Karker of Lansing, state coordinator of women's activities.

very harmful. Hands should be washed immediately with soap and water whenever they have been in contact with leaded gasoline.

The same talk by Mrs. Williams was given to the Saginaw county Women's Committee in February and both groups were told of the operations of the fertilizer plant at Saginaw. Saginaw county ladies bought material and made dresses which were given to the Salvation Army to give to needy children at Eastertide.

Many counties in District 8 are very active in the cancer program. Bay County Women's Committee wrapped 323 dozen cancer bandages after their business meeting in March.

In Midland county at the April meeting the overall aspects of cancer were discussed by Mr. Ned S. Arbury and Roy Kirk of Midland. They pointed out that cancer is the nation's greatest killer next to heart disease and urged annual examinations for every man, woman and child. Other counties have had programs on cancer and wrap bandages.

Midland County Ladies heard Mrs. Marjorie Leifer of the Midland Daily News speak at their March meeting on what makes interesting news, and how to write it for publication. She spoke on "Getting Your News in the Paper."

Several county committees entertained their husbands at this time of year. Arenac county entertained their husbands in February and movies were shown on the life of beaver and birds. Also one on cancer was shown.

Graziot County Women's Committee held a husbands night in March. The main feature of the program was a talk by Professor Jim Hayes from MSC. The nutritional value of milk and the 16 minerals it contains were explained.

Clare county Farm Bureau Women were given a report of the National Farm Bureau Convention held in New York City last December by Mrs. Williams who was a delegate of Michigan Farm Bureau Women.

Gladwin County Farm Bureau Women's committee were charming hostesses for the spring District meeting on April 13th at the



THESE LADIES MADE THE PLANS for the 11th annual Farm Bureau Women's camp at Twin Lakes near Traverse City June 7-9. Members of the Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau Women's camp committee are, left to right: Mrs. John Eitzen of Cedar, publicity chairman; Mrs. Warren Heimforth of Traverse City, camp director; Miss Sylvia Lautner of Cedar, program chairman; Mrs. Oliver Tompkins of Traverse City, recreation director.

Sportsman Club. At this meeting new district officers were elected as follows. Mrs. Martin Stockmeyer of Saginaw county, District 8 chairman; Mrs. Walter Chaffin of Isabella county, vice-chairman; Mrs. Gleason Halliwell of Gladwin county is 2nd vice-chairman. These officers will take over their duties at the fall District meeting in October.

## Speakers for Women's Twin Lake Camps

Several of the speakers for the 11th annual camp for Farm Bureau women at Twin Lakes, Traverse City, June 7-9 have been announced by Mrs. John Eitzen of Cedar. She is publicity chairman for the camp.

The Rev. Gerald Bowen, pastor of the Northport and Suttons Bay Congregational churches, will give the opening address. The camp theme is "The American Christian and His Country."

Senator Edward Hutchinson of Fenville will speak Tuesday, June 7 on "The American Christian in Politics."

Mrs. Louise Carpenter, coordinator for foreign students at Michigan State College, will speak Tuesday evening on "An American Christian Views Asiatic Religions."

Dr. B. B. Bushong of Traverse City will discuss rheumatic fever. Dr. Bushong has made a study of rheumatic fever and has done graduate work in that field of medicine.

Mrs. Raymond Sayre of Iowa, former international president of the Associated County Women of the World, will speak on a subject to be announced later.

Miss Tsuru Nakatani of Tokyo, villages in the county were introduced.

## Women of Dist. 1 Hear About Japan

MRS. DONALD PIERCE

Miss Tsuru Nakatani, of Tokyo, Japan, a student at Michigan State College, was a guest of the Women of St. Joseph County during her spring vacation, March 24th to 31st.

Miss Nakatani came to the college on a Fulbright Scholarship, is being sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women of Michigan. Much interest is being shown in her welfare by the women of District 7 who so cordially entertained her.

Van Buren County Farm Bureau Women had an opportunity to meet Miss Nakatani at a tea given in her honor by Mrs. Carl Buskirk. Tsuru was accompanied by Mrs. Don Pierce, chairman of St. Joseph County Women, who had brought her from East Lansing.

St. Joseph women invited the ladies of Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau to join them in a guest-day program on a Friday afternoon. About 100 persons heard Tsuru tell about the educational system in Japan and her plans to return to rural Japan to assist in adult education when her schooling in this country has been completed.

Another guest was Mrs. Marjorie Karker who talked to the women about the jobs they have to do and about current legislation important to farm people.

On Sunday morning Tsuru attended Centreville Methodist church where she spoke in Sunday school about religion in Japan, and in church service gave the Lord's prayer in Japanese.

Sunday evening the County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Representatives and husbands, as guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Pierce met and talked with Tsuru. She prepared and helped serve several Japanese dishes for a lovely buffet supper. Tsuru wore a beautiful Japanese kimono and showed the guests how in her native country the people sit on the floor and eat with chop sticks. Colored slides were shown of her homeland, some describing the Japanese drama, some the beautiful architecture and some of flower arrangements for which the Japanese people are well known. Tsuru sang three songs in her native tongue.

Cass county members invited Mrs. Bryon Eley, District 1 chairman, Miss Nakatani, and Mrs. Pierce to a luncheon. At the meeting following the luncheon Tsuru gave an interesting account of life in Japan.

Berrien county was visited by Miss Nakatani when she, Mrs. Pierce, and Mrs. John Walter, chairman of their Women's Committee, gave a 15 minute broadcast over WHFB radio station, Benton Harbor, and then attended a tea at the youth Memorial Building.

The next day Tsuru toured St.

Joseph county with Miss Van Riper, county home demonstration agent. They made a radio recording which was given the following day over station WSTR at Sturgis.

While in St. Joseph county, Tsuru was a luncheon or dinner guest of the Alton Alexanders, the Harry Oxenders, the Ned Trattles, the Byron Eleys and Mrs. Roy Newton. When visiting in these homes she met many of the rural young people of the county.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to have Tsuru in our district for a week and truly we feel she is an ambassador of good will.

## Add New Baby to Blue Cross Roll

First, be sure you add a newborn child to the family's Blue Cross-Blue Shield contract within 30 days of birth.

Easiest way is to go to your Blue Cross-Blue Shield community group secretary. She will give you the proper form and help you fill it out.

Take care of it promptly because if you fail to add the child within the 30-day period, you'll have to wait until the next Farm Bureau re-enrollment period.

## Sundress



It's so flattering with flared skirt, scalloped neckline, its own brief-sleeved, collared bolero. No. 2712 is cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40. Size 16; Dress and Bolero, 4 7/8 yards, 29-inches. Send 35c in coin (no stamps, please) for Pattern, with your Name, Address, style, number and size. Address: Pattern Bureau, Michigan Farm News, Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, N. Y. For first class mail, include an extra 5 cents per pattern. NOW! Just out, the Spring-Summer FASHION WORLD illustrating IN COLOR scores of delightfully wearable fashions for every size and occasion. Sew these practical designs for the season ahead. Order your copy now. Price 25 cents.

## Adult Education Ass'n to Meet

Changes in labor, business, agriculture, communities, and family living will be discussed at the 1st annual conference of the Adult Education Association of Michigan on May 13-14, 1955. C. L. Brody, executive vice-president of Michigan Farm Bureau, will speak for agriculture.

Meeting at the Rackham Building, Detroit, the conference will elect officers and directors at a short business session. Members and non-members are welcome to attend. Registration information can be obtained from your County Farm Bureau Secretary.

Careful management in livestock feeding this year may mean the difference between profit and loss, M.S.C. ag economists believe.

## Distr. 9 - Benzie's Rural-Urban Banquet



MRS. GLENN ROBOTHAM (left), Mrs. Bertha Nugent, and Mrs. Hermie Rockwell of the Benzie County Farm Bureau Women's Committee in District 9 say the turkey is ready. The women of Benzie CoFB served turkey April 5 when Farm Bureau members entertained urban guests at the 5th annual rural-urban banquet at Benzonia high school. Jim Hayes of MSC spoke. Presidents of the

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# Like a Farmers' Tour to Europe?



SEVENTY-ONE IOWA FARMERS are shown as they were about to board a plane to cross the Atlantic ocean. They were members of the Iowa Farmers Tour to Europe conducted last September by the American Tourist Bureau. Ralph Anderson, tour leader, said everyone came home well pleased with the accommodations and the general accomplishments of the tour. Another Iowa Farmers tour is being considered for this fall, probably to South America.

## 11 Nations To be Visited In 35 Days

"Let's Take a Trip to Europe" is the title of an article in the April edition of the American Farm Bureau's magazine, The Nation's Agriculture.

Editor Herbert Hall has introduced a travel section to encourage U. S. farmers to visit other nations and to become acquainted with their agriculture and their farmers. Mr. Hall said, "We hope our new travel section will thus contribute to a greater mutual understanding between the farmers of this and other countries."

The article "Let's Take a Trip to Europe" is written by Jack Wiersma of the American Tourist Bureau. It is a preview of four American Farmers Tours to eleven countries in Europe the late summer and early fall of 1955.

The 35-day tours will visit England, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy, Monte Carlo, France, Luxembourg, and Belgium. Farm Bureau people from Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan, will be tour leaders. In Europe the Tourist Bureau will provide guides to direct the party and to attend to all details for transportation, baggage, transfers, customs inspections, lodgings, etc.

The groups will assemble at a New York hotel for departure August 27, September 10, September 24, and October 3. Transportation overseas and return will be by the Belgian airlines. In Europe most travel will be by bus. Trips by boat include crossing of the English Channel, and the journey on the Rhine river from Cologne to Frankfurt.

## Farmers' Tours to Europe



THIS IS THE ROUTE that the American Farmers Tours will take on a 35 days' visit to eleven countries late this summer and early fall. The time will be divided between sight-seeing in the cities and countryside of Europe, and visits to farms and with farm leaders in the several countries.

information, see American Farmers' Tours advertisement of the American Tourist Bureau in this edition. Ward G. Hodge of Snover, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, will be the leader of the tour scheduled to leave New York City, October 3.

### AFBF Advises On Sweet Cherry Tariff

Mrs. Robert Seaberg, secretary of Archie Community Farm Bureau of Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau, Traverse City R-1, presents this letter from John C. Lynn of the American Farm Bureau regarding the effect of a possible tariff reduction on sweet cherries under reciprocal trade agreements with other nations. Mr. Lynn said:

"If this occurred the second year of the Bill's operation the total maximum reduction would be 10%; if during the third year 5%. The present duty on cherries is 7 cents per pound plus 10% of their value. The maximum reduction would make the duty 6 cents plus 8.5% of their value. This reduction would only be possible if: (1) The Trade Agreements Committee placed cherries on their product list; (2) The committee for Reciprocity Information recommended that cherries be retained on the list; (3) The Tariff Commission found the 'peril point' to be less than this duty; (4) a particular trade agreement included this reduction and (5) all of this occurred during the first year of the Bill's operation. However if this reduction did happen, any interested party could petition the Tariff Commission for relief from imports. If the Tariff Commission found the imports had increased so as to cause or threaten serious injury, the President could stop the concession or impose quotas if necessary to protect our cherry industry. 'The enactment of this bill will not automatically cause a 15% reduction in duties on sweet cherries—quite the contrary is true. It provides many safeguards for such a sensitive industry as the cherry industry.'

### Exemption of Farm-Used Gas Is Issue

DAN E. REED  
Congress is showing increased interest in the exemption of farm-used gasoline from the federal 2 cents tax. A number of bills have been introduced to provide such exemption but so far no hearings are planned by the House Ways and Means Committee.

"The federal motor fuel tax should be terminated, leaving this source of revenue available to the states," said delegates at the AFBF convention in New York last December. "Federal motor fuel taxes originally were adopted to provide general revenue for the federal government. The concept has gradually developed, however, that all funds acquired by the federal government from this source should be devoted to highway construction. This concept was crystallized by the enactment of the Federal Aid to Highways Act of 1954 which set the amount of federal appropriations for highways at the estimated level of federal motor fuel tax collections. For all practical purposes these taxes have become a user tax. There is, therefore, no longer and justification for collecting the federal gasoline tax on gasoline used for non-highway purposes. Until the federal gasoline tax is discontinued, we strongly urge the enactment of legislation to exempt gasoline used for non-highway purposes from federal taxation." Rep. Jere Cooper, Tenn., is chairman of the House ways and means committee, where a bill to change tax laws must be considered. Rep. John Dingell of Detroit is the only member of the committee from Michigan.



Photo—British Travel Ass'n London policeman helping a visitor in Parliament Square. Big Ben in the background.

The tours, including first class hotels, fine foods, and the best transportation and guides will cost \$1285 per person from New York City round trip. For further

## Let's Take a Trip to Europe

### Travel with the AMERICAN FARMERS TOURS

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Please rush more information on the MICHIGAN AMERICAN FARMERS TOUR leaving New York October 8, 1955.

Other AMERICAN FARMERS TOURS to Europe, leaving:  
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 Europe  South America  Holy Land  
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We would leave about.....

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Photo—The British Travel Ass'n south bank of the river Thames, with Westminster Bridge in the right background.

JOIN the Special Michigan AMERICAN FARMERS TOUR to Europe leaving New York October 8, 1955.

- Your tour leader will be Ward G. Hodge, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau.
- Meet farm representatives of other countries.
- Fly SABENA AIRLINES to Europe.
- Visit 11 European countries.
- Stay at first class hotels.
- Inclusive 35-day tour, round trip from New York, only \$1285.00

## Nearly 65,000 FB Members

1955 membership in the Michigan Farm Bureau stood at 64,764 families on April 26. This represents an increase of 1883 members over 1954. It is 98% of the state goal of 65,918.

Twenty-two counties are over goal with Livingston (127%), Cheboygan (126%) and Bay (124%) still leading the way. Others over goal in percentage order are Tuscola, Benzie, Alcona, Montmorency, St. Joseph, Branch, Monroe, Washtenaw, Berrien, Van Buren, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Saginaw, Genesee, Alpena, Presque Isle, Sanilac, Calhoun, and LaPeer.

Regional standings are: Northeastern 102%, East Central 102%, Southwestern 100%, Thumb 100%, Southeastern 99%, Central 97%, Northwestern 94%, West Central 88%.

Our slowness in acquiring the final 2% has cost Michigan the chance to be the first state to reach AFBF goal. Both Mississippi and Indiana have reached this figure. Only 1 of a percentage point separates Michigan and Wyoming in the race for third

## Delta Has Upper Peninsula's 1st Farm Bureau Committee



THIS IS THE DELTA COUNTY FARM Bureau Committee now engaged in organizing the Delta County Farm Bureau, which will be the first in the Upper Peninsula. Front row, left to right: Mrs. George Williamson of Rapid River; Mrs. Clarence Sundquist of Escanaba, sec'y-treas.; Clayton Ford, Cornell, chairman; Edwin Bergman, Bark River, vice-chairman. Back row, left to right: Clarence Sundquist, Mrs. Edwin Bergman; Harold Woodard, Cornell; Mrs. Howard Schire, Cornell; George Williamson, Mrs. Harold Woodard; Wesley Hawley, Escanaba; Mrs. Clayton Ford. Mrs. Wesley Hawley, Howard Schire.

place. Contact that neighbor who has not joined. Make Michigan the next state to report goal!

## Giving Away Food Isn't Easy

"Outlook", published by the National Council of Churches, puts its finger on one of the difficulties in the use of U.S.-owned food supplies to feed hungry people around the world. In the April, 1955 issue, the editors say, "The disposition of Congress to give away huge supplies of food has become embarrassing to some of our allies who have food producers wanting to sell in world markets. Apparent-

ly a great government must be careful when trying to feed the destitute abroad.

**OVERLOAD SPRINGS**  
\$9.95 For cars and Per Pair trucks. Front Postpaid and rear. Given 2000 lb. size 2000 lbs. extra \$11.95 capacity for all 1/2, 3/4 and 1 ton trucks; 600 to 1,000 lbs. extra for all cars. Equally installed, guaranteed. State make, model. Dealers wanted. BRINKMAN MANUFACTURING CO. 2315 Clay Dept. 16-B Topeka, Kan.



DELTA COUNTY Farm Bureau Organization Committee members visit with Roger Fleming of Washington, Secretary of the American Farm Bureau, Mr. Fleming spoke at Michigan State College April 26. Left to right in the picture: Wesley S. Hawley, MFB Coordinator for UP, Clarence Sundquist, Mrs. George Williamson, Clayton Ford, Mrs. Howard Schire, and Mr. Fleming. The Delta group visited MFB headquarters at Lansing April 26-27 to become better acquainted with the Farm Bureau program.

## No More "Silage Stink"!

Just treat your grass silage with STA-FRESH Sodium Bisulfite and you can keep it fresh, green, sweet-smelling! Yes—with STA-FRESH you can get rid of "silage stink" that often contaminates milk, gets into your clothes and smells up your home. But that's not all STA-FRESH does—  
**Makes Silage More Nutritious!** STA-FRESH treated grass silage is more nutritious, more appetizing to your cattle, too.  
Feeding tests show cattle eat up to four times more STA-FRESH-treated silage when given a choice between it and ordinary silage. Sugar and carotene content in STA-FRESH silage is much higher, too!  
**Economical . . . Easy to Use!** Leading agricultural experts recommend STA-FRESH. Thousands of enthusiastic farmers are using it successfully. STA-FRESH Sodium Bisulfite comes in convenient powder form packed in 80-pound bags. It is amazingly easy and inexpensive to use. Just apply 8 pounds per ton of silage when you ensile your grass crops in upright or trench silo!  
**See Your Dealer Today!** Ask him for special STA-FRESH booklet telling how to make your own applicator!

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For a more profitable yield of highest quality CHAMPIONSHIP beans this year, follow Clarence Diener's lead when selecting your seed.

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# We Have a New Look in the ASC Program

## Community Farm Bureau Discussion Topic for May

Background Material for Program in May by 1460 Community Farm Bureau Discussion Groups  
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When new styles appear on the scene, they express the ideas and imagination of certain artists. So it is with our present program of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation. This program is the New Look in national farm adjustment policies. Who developed the design for this New Look?

The answer is both striking and clear! Farm Bureau delegates from all 48 states and Puerto Rico designed it. They shaped it in their national conventions over a number of years. The ASC regulations of today come closest to expressing the resolutions of the Farm Bureau delegates of any program we have seen since World War II.

If Farm Bureau people are to have a national farm program that reflects their voice, the members should support and cooperate in the present ASC Program to the fullest extent.

The Long-Range Position of the Delegates. Beginning with the AAA of 1933, Farm Bureau delegates developed the following policy principles:

1. They recognized the need of a system of price supports on farm products as a protection against disastrous collapse of farm prices.
2. From the first, they insisted that the level of these supports should not mean outright guarantee by the government of the full level of farm incomes. They realized that such a guarantee meant the loss of their rights to operate their farms as free and independent citizens.
3. They recognized that when price supports resulted in overstocks of farm products, limitations on cropping would be necessary to prevent growing surpluses.
4. They consistently supported a program in which supports would be lowered as surpluses began to build up. They knew that this reduction of surplus stocks would allow the market demand to catch up with supply, and prices would rise when this happened.
5. They recognized that price would be, and should be, largely a matter of demand in the market place, and not a mere matter of government price-fixing.
6. They realized that production for mere storage was a false approach to sound incomes and any real security in agriculture.
7. They insisted that a maximum control of the whole program be administered by farmers, themselves, at the home level — rather than by regulations power-imposed from above by government agency officials.
8. They called for maximum economy in the program, knowing that the costs would have to be subtracted from their gains through taxes.

**A Period of Power Politics.** Until 1954, little of this delegate program was seen. Year by year Congress insisted upon by-passing the flexible price support provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1949. The rigid 90% subsidy program was substituted.

Surpluses of basic supported products piled up in government warehouses. Commodity Credit Corporation investments have reached a level of over seven billion dollars. \$3,200,000,000 of this is in loans. \$4,200,000,000 is in CCC inventories. These overstocks are still growing. Storage costs are over \$700,000 per day.

These vast surpluses have hung over the farm market like a cloud. America priced itself out of foreign markets and exports fell off. Russia took over much of our lost world market. Farm prices at home began to fall in spite of the presence of the 90% supports.

ers. The new ASC regulations provide for this difference.

**Need for Local Support.** The new ASC program has not been well understood by a number of farm people. Some continued to back away from it as they had from the older program.

The success of any program in which the farmer has a real voice depends upon the active support of the people in the local elections. It calls for their cooperation in respecting the necessary controls upon surplus crops. Without reasonable controls of this sort no support program can long endure. Farm Bureau people originally asked for a support program.

Committeemen under the program before 1954 spent their time doing routine field work, applying the regulations that had been handed down from government administrative offices. The new ASC committees, elected by the home folks, as before, now act in policy-making roles. That is what the Farm Bureau delegates asked for!

**Farm Bureau People Have Responsibility.** In a few communities Farm Bureau people have been resisting a part in the ASC program because they find little change in the local administration. Very likely this is the result of the fact that the people did not study their program before the ASC committee elections. And they failed to elect leadership in the county that would give them a true representation of local agricultural interests.

If local administration of the program underwent no changes, local people should not complain if they let the election take its course. They have a new opportunity at self-rule. The result in a few cases is that the old committeemen stayed in the saddle and some of these worked to put the new program in a poor light—for purely political reasons.

If we expect improvements in a program that rests upon the decisions of the people, we, as a people, have to take part when the decisions are being made. This means taking part in the election of the committees, nominating the proper candidates, and helping to determine local policies.

**Voting in Elections.** Substantially every farmer in a community has a right to vote in the committee elections. Even a minor who is supervising a farm operation can vote, if he is taking part in a conservation or ASC project on his farm.

Thus there is plenty of opportunity for the farmers to have a voice in the program. The County Election Board is made up of the County Agricultural Agent, the heads of the Soil Conservation Service and the Farm Home Administration, plus the presidents of the general farm organizations in the county. These men select election boards for each community in the county. The Community Election Boards are made up of three farmers who are not ASC Committeemen at the time.

The Community Election Board serves as a nominating committee for the local election. Nominations may be made also by petitions of local farmers.

Farmers elect the Community ASC Committee at a regular election date, set by the state committee. Three members and two

alternates are elected to the community committee. The community chairman serves as a delegate to the county convention. The vice-chairman is an alternate delegate.

At the county convention the delegates elect three members of the County ASC Committee and two alternates. This committee then hires an office manager. County committeemen can now do only a limited number of days of paid work per year. They are not field workers. Their role lies mainly in policy-making.

**We need the best-thinking farmers in the county on these county committees.** It is not a mere "snap-job" for someone who wants to be on a payroll. Capable leaders are needed who give sound administration to the local program. These cannot be chosen unless the people do a good job of electing them.

If farmers are to have a good price-support program—as they have requested—they must take a personal interest in the program. They must know the program well enough to judge when to use it to best advantage in their farming operations, or when they may not need it. They should know both the support program and the conservation program as they apply to their farm planning.

**Farm programs are here.** They will either contain a measure of home-control, or they will be rigidly government-controlled. Farmers will decide this with their degree of interest in the elections and in the policy-making programs at the home level.

### Questions

These will be handled on a special questionnaire sent to the Discussion Leader.

### Waldo E. Phillips Seriously Injured



**WALDO E. PHILLIPS** of DeCatur, president of the Michigan Elevator Exchange and chairman of the Michigan Ass'n of Farmer Cooperatives, is a patient at Lee Memorial hospital at Dowagiac. He was injured seriously April 4 in an automobile collision at a highway intersection not far from his home. A report from the hospital April 26 said that Mr. Phillips was doing better. Mr. Phillips was president of the Michigan Farm Bureau 1923-24 and again in 1935. He served on the board of directors for 20 years between 1921 and 1947 when he retired from the board.

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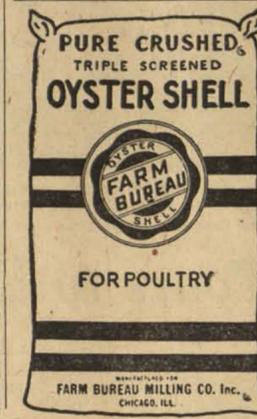
## Milk Prices Now Averaging 82-84% Parity

DAN E. REED

Dairying is returning to a sounder position with milk prices now showing returns running between 82-84% of parity. Dairymen point to these facts:

1. Dairy cow numbers are down.
  2. Milk consumption increased 9 pounds per capita last year.
  3. Butter use has shown the first upturn in years.
  4. Government purchases of dairy products are down.
  5. Between 2 and 3 million new Americans each year provide an increasing market.
- Farm leaders point out that the

increase of support price from 75% to 80% of parity is proposed in H. R. 12, now before Congress, would have little effect with prices now averaging near the 84% figure.



## Dairymen call STA-FRESH Best for Sweet, Green Silage!

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"My STA-FRESH sweet silage came out so green and sweet-smelling as the day I put it up."  
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Yes, dairymen across the country are talking about STA-FRESH Sodium Bisulfite—the low-cost, easy-to-use powder that keeps silage fresh and full of good food value. Here are some of the reasons STA-FRESH has earned such enthusiasm:  
**1. MAKES BETTER GRASS SILAGE.** By keeping silage fresh, STA-FRESH not only eliminates the "stink" of ordinary silage but helps the silage retain more food value. That means STA-FRESH silage is better for your cows.  
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## Insurance is important in successful farming



## "WE'RE GLAD TO UNLOAD OUR RISK"

How do you go about building a rewarding career in farming?

One answer to this question is being supplied by two young brothers, Earl E. and Ralph B. Gensley, of Washtenaw County. They began their independent farming just five years ago, and today they operate 125 acres of their own land, rent and farm another 383 acres, and are negotiating for still further property.

Their dairy herd numbers about 42 head of cattle, and there are about 100 head in their beef herd. They also have about 220 hogs.

Hard work, energy, planning and know-how are some of the elements that enter into their success, and wise insurance planning is another element. Each of the brothers has life and farm liability insurance through the Farm Bureau, and their three cars and two trucks also are Farm Bureau insured.

"There are enough risks in farming without carrying any yourself that you don't have to carry," says Ralph. "We are glad to unload as many of our risks as we can onto Farm Bureau insurance. It doesn't make sense to gamble everything you own on a hope that you won't have trouble."

"For the money," Earl adds, "we've found that Farm Bureau insurance does the biggest job."



Ralph B. (left) and Earl E. Gensley

Earl E. and Ralph B. Gensley have a good bit in common in addition to their joint farming activities. Born in Washtenaw County's Lodi Township, they are both married, and each has a daughter. Both, needless to say, are also members of the Farm Bureau.

Ralph's daughter is now three years old, and Earl's daughter is one year old. The brothers look upon life insurance as an essential protection for their families as well as an important foundation for sound farming.

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## Discussion Topics

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

- May The New Look in our A. S. C. Program.
- Jun. Problems Relating to Closed School Districts.
- Jul. Doing a Good Job in Junior Farm Bureau Recruitment.
- Aug. Truck Overload Fines and Their Uses.

Be sure to read your discussion article in the Michigan Farm News. Attend your Community Farm Bureau meetings.