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## Farm Bureau's 1958 Goal is 70,610 Families

### EDITORIAL

#### For a Satisfactory Agriculture

CLARK L. BRODY  
Counsel for Public Affairs for Michigan Farm Bureau

My article this month is designed to point out some of the significant features of the policies adopted at the 38th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau at East Lansing, November 12 and 13.

I am doing so as an observer from the sidelines and not as one who participated in the proceedings.

I was unable to be present this year on account of having to undergo some major surgery that apparently gave no consideration to the fact that it was annual meeting time.

I have been granted the great privilege accorded to few other people of participating in every annual convention of the Michigan Farm Bureau since its inception in 1919. Having to forego meeting my many friends this year was a disappointing experience indeed.

Personal friendships, and causes, and projects for which we have struggled and attempted to serve over a long period of time become a part of one's very being. It has been so with the Farm Bureau and myself.

As this issue of the News goes to press, I am approaching a complete and satisfactory recovery. I am taking this occasion to express my sincere appreciation to my many Farm Bureau friends and associates in other walks of life for their encouraging and comforting messages and expressions of heartfelt interest.

The able and courageous manner in which the convention met the baffling issues of the times constituted a great lift.

I hope a few extracts from the resolutions, with my appraisal of their significance, will be of interest.

The nearly 700 delegates prefaced their statement on National Farm Policies with a strong affirmation of the basic purpose of the Michigan Farm Bureau and the course essential to its accomplishment:

"The Michigan Farm Bureau has steadfastly stood for farm policies that provide and perpetuate the maximum freedom of opportunity for farm people to apply their resourcefulness and industry to the advancement of agriculture and the attainment of a satisfactory standard of living.

"The Michigan Farm Bureau has unceasingly insisted on the minimum interference of government with the initiative and enterprise of farmers in the ownership and control of their land and equipment.

"It is for these reasons that the Michigan Farm Bureau has fought and will continue to fight for the full restoration of agricultural markets as the source of farm income, and to free the farmer from involuntary dependence upon politically determined price levels."

In stressing the restoration and retention of full control of their own farms, they recognized that the right of ownership of property or its control is fundamental to individual freedom. This great body of farm men and women showed they had the understanding and the courage to face the realities in the difficult farm situation when they said:

"We cannot become enthused about any trend which savors of selling our birthright of self-determination and free enterprise for a mess of pottage involving bureaucratic regimentation, restrictions, and a stringently controlled economy."

"Let us have the vision and courage not to delude ourselves with false hopes, but to carefully analyze the difficulties confronting us and the factors which brought those conditions upon us, and then to devise sound programs for remedying our economic disorders and prevent their recurrence."

The convention pledged the Michigan Farm Bureau to a hard driving effort to achieve a sound and satisfactory status for agriculture. The delegates urged a greatly expanded research program on both state and national levels. They said:

"We feel that the future economic position of agriculture will, to a large extent, depend on research in the production, and especially in the marketing and utilization of farm products. If only a small portion of the money spent on futile efforts to solve farm problems through acreage and production controls had been devoted to research in new uses and new markets, we believe agriculture would be in a much stronger position today.

"The efforts being made to discover new industrial uses for our various crops are most commendable and (Continued on Page 2)



Farm Bureau's 38th Annual Meeting November 12-13, 1957

### Drive for 7,500 New Members

Workers Want to Invite Every Farmer Who is Not Now a Member to Join And Share in the Benefits

Five thousand Farm Bureau Roll Call Workers will carry the invitation to Farm Bureau membership to farmers January 2 to 13.

The state goal is 70,610 family members.

Roll Call workers will devote themselves to two jobs in the coming campaign.

1—Securing new memberships.

2—Renewing the last of the old memberships.

More than 1,000 new memberships have been enrolled since August 31. This applies against the 7,500 or more new memberships expected to make a gain and to offset the small percentage of non-renewals each year.

Last year 80% of the old membership was renewed for 1957 through the renewal-by-mail campaign conducted in November and December by County Farm Bureau secretaries.

We urge every member to cooperate by mailing his dues to his County Farm Bureau secretary. The addresses were published in this paper October 1.

More than 18,000 renewals by mail were reported in mid-November, 1957.

The Michigan Farm Bureau is ahead for new members and for renewals of membership as compared to mid-November, 1956.

Training schools have been held for Roll Call managers and their assistants, and for the volunteer workers.

Roll Call managers will meet at Lansing December 30 for final preparations for the 1958 membership campaign.

The Michigan Farm Bureau goes into the 1958 Roll Call with most of the membership participating in services secured through membership in the Farm Bureau:

#### FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.

57,000 automobiles and trucks insured.  
12,000 farms insured for public liability.  
\$125,000,000 fire insurance for 14,000 members.  
\$124,000,000 wind insurance for 14,000 members.

#### FARM BUREAU LIFE INSURANCE CO.

\$72,000,000 life insurance for 23,000 policyholders.

#### BLUE CROSS - BLUE SHIELD

46,000 families enrolled for hospital-surgical payments through Farm Bureau.

Why do people join Farm Bureau? Because they receive information on the Farm Bureau program, — and, most important, — they get a personal invitation from someone to join. Most members explain that they joined because someone invited them to join.

Following is the list of County Farm Bureau, their 1958 membership goals, and their Roll Call Managers: (Continued on Page 8)

## What MFB Did at 38th Ann'l



President, MFB-YP

HILBERT SCHULZE was elected president of the Michigan Farm Bureau Young People at their 22nd annual meeting at Michigan State University Nov. 2. At the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting Nov. 12-13 he was elected to the board of directors as the representative of the Farm Bureau Young People.

Mr. Schulze is 23 and is farming in a partnership with his father, Adolph Schulze, on a dairy and crops farm near Pigeon, Huron county.

### FB Services Has Very Good Year in 1957

"Farm Bureau Services, Inc., has completed one of the most successful years of operation since our organization in 1929," said J. F. Yaeger, executive secretary, to 28th annual meeting of the stockholders at Michigan State University November 26.

"The volume of \$23,491,270, was an increase of \$1,678,000 over 1956. It represents the largest volume in the history of Farm Bureau Services.

"A net of \$457,000 stands as the second largest for any year in the history of the organization.

"More and more farmers continue to use and support their organization."

Maynard D. Brownlee, manager of operations, said that every department of the organization had an increase in business volume in 1957.

"Farm Bureau poultry feed tonnage increased 4%, remarkable when one considers that 40% of all our feed sales are poultry feeds, and the chick hatch was 24% below 1956.

"Farm Bureau fertilizers averaged 40% plant food as against 34.5% state average for all fertilizer sold. Our sales increased 9%."

Marten Garn of Charlotte was re-elected president, and Elton Smith of Caledonia was elected vice-president to succeed Ivan (Continued on Page 3)

The 38th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau at Michigan State University Nov. 12-13 brought together 695 voting delegates from 67 County Farm Bureaus. They represented a membership of 69,260 farm families.

This is a summary of what was done:

1—The delegates heard and approved the annual report of J. F. Yaeger, executive secretary, treasurer and general manager.

Mr. Yaeger said that membership is at an all time high of 69,260 farm families. 1957 was the 9th consecutive year of growth for the Farm Bureau membership and for all of the Farm Bureau service companies.

2—The Farm Bureau's resolutions observed that farmer's net income is the lowest since before World War II.

"The sound way to improve farm income is to support research for new markets, for new industrial uses for farm products, and for finding methods to lower the cost of production.

"If only a small portion of the money spent on futile efforts to solve farm problems through acreage and production controls had been devoted to research for new uses and new markets, we believe agriculture would be in a much stronger position today."

The Michigan Farm Bureau pledged itself to continue its work for greater flexibility and adaptability of federal farm price supports. The purpose is to help the farmer bring production into a reasonable balance with market demand and to promote domestic and foreign trade on a sound basis.

3—The delegates adopted resolutions of policy and program on Michigan's tax structure, milk price control legislation, school finance and many other matters of interest within the state. See page 6 for resolutions on state affairs.

4—Nine directors of a board of 16 were elected for two year terms, as follows:

- District 1—Max K. Hood of Paw Paw, re-elected.
- District 3—Allen F. Rush of Lake Orion, re-elected.
- District 5—Dale Duncel of Williamston, re-elected.
- District 7—Thomas E. Hahn of Rodney, re-elected.
- District 9—Elmer Warner of Traverse City, re-elected.
- District 11—Edmund Sager of Stephenson, re-elected.
- Director-at-large—Walter W. Wightman of Fennville, re-elected.

Women of Farm Bureau — Mrs. Alex Kennedy of Posen was elected to the MFB board of directors as the new president of Women of the Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Carleton Ball of Albion retired from the board. She had served the limit of two-terms as President of the Women of Farm Bureau.

Farm Bureau Young People—Hilbert Schulze of Pigeon, new president of Farm Bureau Young People, was elected to represent that group on the board. Mr. Schulze succeeds Dick Arnold of Plainwell.

The new board of directors organized at its meeting Nov. 21; re-elected Ward G. Hodge of Snover as president. Walter W. Wightman of Fennville was elected vice-president. He succeeds Blaque Knirk of Quincy.

The board re-engaged J. F. Yaeger of East Lansing as executive secretary, treasurer, and general manager.

#### New Ideas that Sell

### Best Remedy For Nation's Farm Markets

Senator Homer E. Capehart, Republican-Indiana, says there has been a farm problem since he was in his teens, except during periods of war.

There will be one, he said, as long as we approach the problem negatively, — such as acreage shrinking programs that do not curtail production.

"The only permanent solution of the farm problem of production and prices is a tremendous program of research to increase the industrial uses of farm products.

"Industry spends more than \$4 billion a year to create new consumer products, to improve old products and processes, and to improve raw material uses.

"Another \$4 billion goes for research for defense purposes and atomic developments.

"The federal government appropriation for agricultural uses research, including money for forestry and new crops, is a paltry \$16-415,000.

"Industry research has displaced many farm products formerly used in industry."

The President's Commission on Increased Uses of Agricultural Products, created as a result of efforts by Senator Capehart and Senator Curtis of Nebraska, said in its report:

"Synthetics have made great inroads on agriculture in fields that only a few years ago were regarded as natural monopolies of certain crops.

"Until about 1930 the only fibers used were from natural sources such as cotton, wool, flax, hemp, and silk. Soap was made from agricultural oils and fats.

"Adhesives came from starch, glue, and plant gum. Shoes and traveling bags were made almost wholly of leather. Paints were made from vegetable oils, alcohol from molasses and corn.

"But this condition was not to last. The chemical and petroleum industries foresaw the possibilities of research. Agriculture began to lose markets.

"Synthetic fibers, plastics, and detergents from new bases began to take over. The natural fibers lost 45% of their former markets. Synthetic detergents now represent two-thirds of the total household soaps.

"Ten years ago 80% of the inedible tallow and grease was used in making soap. Now it's 30%.

"Five years ago requirements for cattle hide leathers would not be met by domestic production. Imports were necessary. In 1955 cattle hides were in surplus in the United States.

"62% of all shoe soles worn in the United States today have materials other than leather in them.

"In the past 25 years agriculture often has been researched (Continued on Page 3)

## Officers for 1958



WARD G. HODGE, President of Snover, Sanilac county. Mr. Hodge is a dairy farmer with a herd of Ayrshires. He farms 400 acres. Wheat and beans are major crops. Director of MFB for 11 years. He was elected vice-president in 1953 and president in 1954. Mr. Hodge has been a member of Farm Bureau 20 years.



WALTER W. WIGHTMAN, Vice-President of Fennville, Allegan county. Farm operations are fruit and beef cattle on 210 acres. Director of MFB eight years. Chairman of state resolutions committee at three annual meetings. In 1956 elected a director of American Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau member 38 years.



# Paying Dues By Mail A Big Help

For the fourth year there is a uniform mail collection of dues by all County Farm Bureaus. Notices went out in November.

About 80% of the Farm Bureau members renewed their membership last year by mail. An even larger percentage is expected this year.

The mail collection process has saved the membership workers a great deal of time and effort and has allowed for a much greater emphasis on the new-member drive.

Save your neighbor one call. Mail your dues to your county secretary today!

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS  
December 1, 1957

## Awards Given at Farm Bureau's 38th Annual Meeting

# "For Distinguished Service to Agriculture"

## FB Services Has Very Good Year

(Continued from Page 1)

Parsons of Grand Blanc, who retired after many years' service.

Directors re-elected to represent Michigan Farm Bureau: Kenneth O. Johnson, Freeland; Blaque Knirk, Quincy; Elton Smith, Caledonia; Robert Smith, Fowlerville; Walter W. Wightman, Fennville.

Directors at large re-elected: Clyde Breinhing of Ypsilanti; Peter DeWeerd, Hudsonville; Marten Garn, Charlotte; Walter Harger of Stanwood was elected to succeed Mr. Parsons.

Four lanes are provided for traffic on Michigan's Mackinac Straits bridge. The 48-foot roadway has a small center mall two feet wide to separate opposing traffic. The two outer lanes are each 12 feet wide, and the two inner lanes are each 11 feet wide.



IVAN K. MAYSTEAD  
Osseo  
Leadership in Farmers' Milk Marketing Programs



ARTHUR J. INGOLD  
Blissfield  
Leadership in Farmers' Livestock Marketing Programs



FRED J. HARGER  
Big Rapids  
Builder of Operating Facilities for Farm Bureau Services



KEITH A. TANNER  
East Lansing  
Leadership in Building the Michigan Farm Bureau

## "Outstanding Service To Farm People"

"The Michigan Farm Bureau Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture is given in recognition of outstanding service in some field of work to advance the well being of farm people," said President Ward G. Hodge as he made the Awards to the following persons November 12 at the 38th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau:

**Ivan K. Maystead** of Osseo. Leadership in farmers' milk marketing programs. Former director of Michigan Milk Producers Ass'n for 21 years, president 1944-55. Helped organize American Dairy Ass'n of Michigan as self-help organization for increasing dairy products sales through advertising and other promotion in cooperation with national ADA. Director of ADA of Michigan 15 years, former president. Active in other dairy organizations, Michigan Agr'l Conference, member of committee that drafted Michigan Blue Print for Rural Progress.

**Arthur J. Ingold** of Blissfield. Leadership in farmers' livestock marketing programs. President of Michigan Livestock Exchange since 1947. Under his leadership the Exchange has made very substantial growth, developed new and better marketing and buying services. Established out-state markets and auctions at Battle Creek and St. Louis, with branches at other towns. Feeder buying service at Adrian. Active in livestock improvement organizations, Michigan Sugar Beet Growers Ass'n, Michigan 4-H Clubs Foundation.

**Fred J. Harger** of Big Rapids. Builder of men as managers and future managers, builder of operating facilities for Farm Bureau Services, Inc. 1928 to his retirement in 1952. Established first Farm Bureau Services branch elevator and farm supply store at Saginaw in 1928. Became supervisor for 10 branches in 13 elevators under management contracts in 1938. Supervised building at Saginaw in 1946 the Farm Bureau Services fertilizer mixing plant of 45,000 tons or more annual capacity, and the phosphate manufacturing plant, 25,000 tons annual capacity. Developed operating force to start plant. Director of fertilizer manufacturing 1947-52.

**Keith A. Tanner** of East Lansing. Posthumous award for leadership in Michigan Farm Bureau organization 1939-57. First director of Community Farm Bureaus. Lived to see them grow to more than 1,600 groups and the idea adopted by other state Farm Bureaus. Outstanding director of Farm Bureau membership work. Went on to become manager of operations for Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Passed away July 20, 1957.

## Gives Rules For Safety in Night Driving

W. H. Boutell, president of the Michigan Trucking Association, urges drivers to acquaint themselves with ways to see and be seen, for safe night driving:

1. Check your lights before driving at night.
  2. Make sure that your windshield is completely clean.
  3. If you require glasses for safe driving, wear them!
  4. At the first sign of dusk, turn on your parking lights.
  5. If you must stop, pull completely off the road. Leave your lights on.
  6. Carry emergency equipment, such as flares and a flashlight.
- Watch beyond the vehicles ahead of you for obstacles and hazards that may show up in their headlights. Be prepared for danger. In that way, you will be able to avoid it safely.

The road to success has always been crowded with women pushing their husbands along.

## Right Now in Farm Bureau . . .

JERRY CORDREY  
Coordinator, Organization Dep't of MFB

We're entering the final stretch drive before the 1958 membership campaign.

First dues notices have been sent, and over 18,000 have already renewed. Also, over 1,000 new members have signed up for 1958. This is a total of 10,922 renewals more than mid-November, 1956, and 291 more new members.

All counties have selected Roll Call managers. Their names are listed on Page 8 of this paper.

Reminder notices of dues are being sent now to those who have not renewed.

Training meetings for workers will be held in all counties during December.

December 30 is the date when Roll Call Managers and wives will meet in Lansing for the state-wide kick-off. County kick-offs will be on January 2.

County and State annual meetings are over. The American Farm Bureau Federation Convention is at hand December 8 to 12. Over 200 Michigan folks will be attending. Many are going by bus tour which will leave Lansing at 10:00 a.m. December 8 and return on Wednesday, December 11. All of the Michigan folks will be staying at the Hamilton Hotel.

The Ninth Annual Michigan Farm Bureau Institute, which this year is designed for county directors is being held December 2 and 3 at the Civic Center in Lansing. Special emphasis is on the job of a director and officer of a County Farm Bureau.

**New Farm Supply Committees** will receive training and information at series of regional meetings during December. Representatives of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative will be at the meetings.

**Legislative and Resolutions Committees** will also get off to a good start in regional meetings during December. The Legislative Committee will discuss methods for policy execution, what to expect during 1958. The Resolutions Committee will discuss techniques of Policy Development and getting member participation in Policy Development.

**Community groups** are about all reorganized for 1958. Presently, we have 1,576 on record. Community training will be done in January. Emphasis will be placed on getting more information, and know-how to present groups.

**Farm Bureau Young People** annual meeting resulted in a new president. He is Hilbert Schulze from Huron county. Present membership is 336 paid in the state. Many more are paid but not reported yet.

**Women's Annual Meeting** gave us a new Women's chairman and vice-chairman. Mrs. Alex Kennedy from Alpena county was elected chairman. Mrs. Robert Weisberger of Ionia county was elected vice-chairman.

All Directors from the odd-numbered districts were returned to their positions on the Board. At the reorganization meeting, Ward Hodge was re-elected president. Walter Wightman was elected vice-president. They and Director Dale Dunckel are the Executive Committee of the board of directors.

**Regional Representatives** are involved in all of the above activities in addition to meeting with County Boards. It's a mighty busy time in Farm Bureau. The climax will come in January when the membership drive gets under way.

This job will require the efforts of all. Let's get the job done in a short time, and be about making use of the opportunity we've created to make agriculture a bet-

ter place in which to live.

Keep this thought in mind—"The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it."

## Carbon Tet Can Be a Killer

Carbon tetrachloride can be a killer.

According to the Michigan Department of Health carbon tetrachloride is so toxic that its vapors can cause serious poisoning even when inhaled at less than half the concentration at which its odor can be detected.

That is why a person can be poisoned by carbon tet without realizing the vapors are being inhaled.

The Department of Health warns that carbon tet should be used only when a satisfactory substitute isn't available and then only under carefully controlled conditions.

If you have any doubts or questions about this chemical, ask your local health department for advice before attempting to use it.

## Is Dream Come True

One year after the Brooklyn bridge was opened in 1883, people in Michigan started dreaming of a great suspension bridge to join the Upper and Lower Peninsulas across the Straits of Mackinac. Completion of the \$100,000,000 span between Mackinaw City and St. Ignace this November, 1957, marks the fulfillment of this dream.

It's a fellow's conceit that leads him to believe he can beat another man's game.

## Best Remedy for Farm Markets

(Continued from Page 1)

right out of its own national domains. Industry will continue to explore the unknown in search for new products and new uses for old products.

"Nothing is plainer in the economic pattern of today than that agriculture must compete in the areas of basic and applied scientific research. Agriculture should be enabled to compete as an equal in the contest for consumer acceptance. It is now losing by default."

## Play It Safe With Heating Equipment

FRANCIS BUST  
FB Mutual Insurance Co.

The winter months are the period when loss from fire is greatest. Fire losses rise from December through March.

Principal reasons for an increased number of fires during the winter are:

Heating equipment is in continuous use. Improper firing and the operation of faulty or hazardous heating equipment results in many fires.

Heavy firing and forcing of heating equipment can result in dangerous overheating.

Such overheating exposes combustible surfaces and materials to fire where clearances do not provide a clear margin of safety.

The value of thoroughly cleaning and over-hauling a heating system cannot be over-stressed.

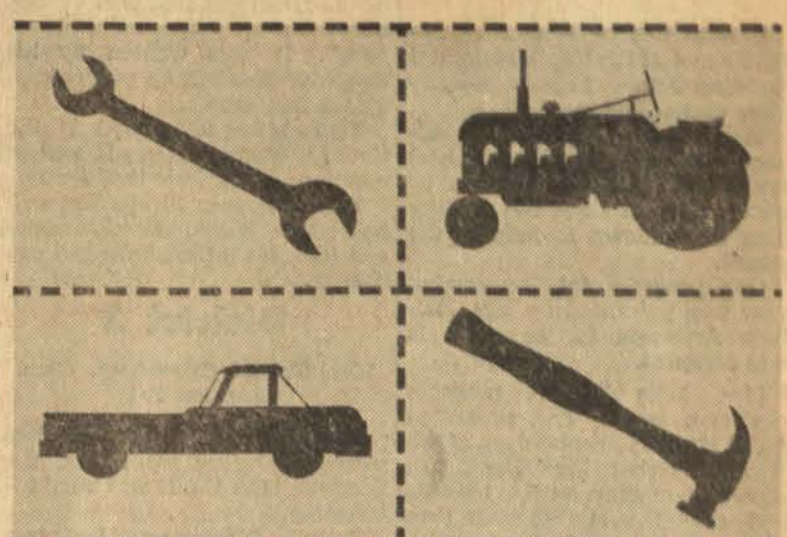
Now that heating equipment is in full use we should not allow accumulation of combustible materials near furnaces, smoke pipes or chimneys.

Waste that is to be burned should be placed in closed metal containers until disposed of.

Never pile ashes on or near combustible surfaces. Metal con-

timizers for ashes should be used. Never use paper cartons, wooden boxes or baskets as ash containers. Extra precaution on your part during the coming months may save your home.

Which farm tool is the most important?



PCA FARM LOANS

**CREDIT** is the key tool to your farm's successful operation.

Credit is a farmer's most used, and too often, least understood tool. Production Credit Associations are farmer-owned and farmer-operated to make the tool of reasonable, dependable credit available to all qualified farmers.

PCA is a farm credit cooperative. When you borrow you become a member . . . and a stockholder in an expanding, successful business. You will profit tomorrow by using PCA today.

**PRODUCTION CREDIT Associations of Michigan**

Credit life insurance available for your protection. For further information call your local P C A — 46 offices in Michigan.

**FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.**  
Finance Promotion Division  
P. O. Box 960, 4000 N. Grand River, Lansing, Michigan

I am interested in further information on the sale of debentures for capital purposes. Please send a copy of Prospectus for Farm Bureau Services "A" 5% Debentures, and have a licensed salesman call.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ RFD No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Road \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

**PROTECT YOUR LIVESTOCK AGAINST TRACE MINERAL DEFICIENCY DISEASES**

...AND MAKE MORE MILK, MEAT, WOOL PROFITS!

**HARDY TRACE MINERAL SALT** supplies all five vital Trace Minerals livestock need—Cobalt, Iodine, Iron, Manganese and Copper. Ask your dealer for it today! Or, write for HARDY'S FREE, money-saving Complete New Choice Mineral Feeding Plan!

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# Buy Your Fertilizer Now!

- ### Buy Farm Bureau Fertilizer BECAUSE:
1. Farm Bureau Granulated stores well.
  2. Farm Bureau gives an early storage discount.
  3. Farm Bureau's quality is uniform.
  4. Farm Bureau's plants are well stocked.
  5. It pays to do business with yourself.

The items above are just a few of the advantages of buying the Farm Bureau way. When you buy Farm Bureau, you're not only buying good material—you're putting money into your own pocket. It's your trading with Farm Bureau that builds facilities and makes technical progress possible.

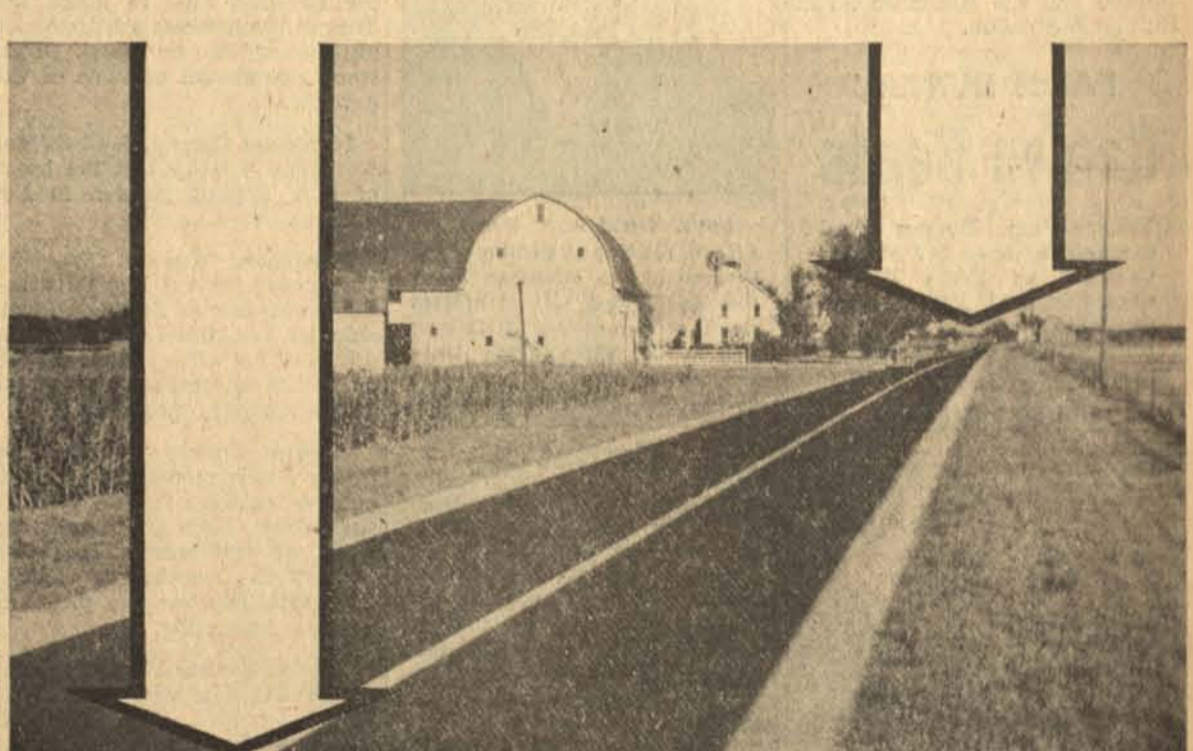
Buying your Farm Bureau fertilizer now isn't too early. Bag-setting is minimized since Farm Bureau is packed in an 80 pound bag with asphalt liner to prevent moisture seepage.

Don't forget Farm Bureau Bulk . . . dollar for dollar it's your best buy in Michigan.

Shop where you see this emblem. It is your guide to quality products for more profitable farming.

**FERTILIZER DEPARTMENT FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.**

# FREE!



## An extra mile in every ten...with durable ASPHALT construction

A comparison of competitive bids for paving a famous new turnpike\* shows that Asphalt construction, when compared with rigid types, actually gives a bonus of one "free" mile out of every 10 constructed.

Nor is this great saving unusual for Asphalt construction. New roads \*Oklahoma's Turner Turnpike

might get even a bigger bonus because . . .

**Construction Costs Up 4% . . . And Rising**

Just since the passage of the new Federal-Aid Highway Act, construction costs have risen 4%. Which means that high economy Asphalt construction is even more important than ever.

Because modern Asphalt pavement costs far less to build, it makes possible more miles of wider roads for less money. They're faster to build . . . rugged, durable, long-lasting . . . cost no more to maintain . . . low in future taxes.

**Comfortable. Safe. Skid-Resistant**

No one needs to tell you how easy and comfortable Asphalt highways are to drive on. Safe, too . . . because their textured surface makes them skid-resistant in all kinds of weather. Safe . . . because they are glare-absorbent . . . with lane markings that are easy to see day or night.

So speak out for modern Asphalt construction to get those extra miles of durable highway at no extra cost.

**THE ASPHALT INSTITUTE.** The Nell House, Columbus 15, Ohio

Ribbons of velvet smoothness. MODERN ASPHALT HIGHWAYS





# Farm Bureau's Resolutions on State Affairs

## They Outline the Program for 1958

We present the resolutions on state affairs adopted at the 38th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau at East Lansing, Nov. 12-13, 1957. The resolutions are Farm Bureau policy and program for 1958.

Resolutions were adopted also on national affairs. These become recommendations to the American Farm Bureau resolutions committee and to the voting delegates representing Michigan at the AFBF convention to be held at Chicago Dec. 8-12.

The resolutions approved by the AFBF convention become Michigan Farm Bureau's policy on national matters.

We expect that the text of the national resolutions adopted by the American Farm Bureau will appear in your copy of the Nation's Agriculture January 1.

Another section of the MFB resolutions deals with resolutions for the good of the Michigan Farm Bureau organization. The News will publish them soon. Here are the resolutions adopted on State Affairs:

### Agricultural Research

The future economic position of agriculture will depend on research in the production, marketing and utilization of farm products.

If only a small portion of the money spent on futile efforts to solve farm problems through acreage and production controls had been devoted to research in new uses and new markets, we believe agriculture would be in a much stronger position today.

The efforts being made to discover new industrial uses for our various crops are most commendable and should be continued and expanded.

The Regional Research Laboratories of the U. S. Department of Agriculture are rendering a valuable contribution in areas of general interest. However, there are many problems which pertain to Michigan only on which our State Experiment Station should be carrying on a broader program of research.

We need new and improved varieties of many fruits and vegetables which will withstand handling, storage, and freezing, and be more acceptable from the consumer's standpoint. Research in these fields benefits consumers equally with producers.

There is also an urgent need for an augmented program of research in the field of food technology. The processing and handling of foods is fully as important as their production.

We need to strengthen our work in agricultural chemistry and in packaging and merchandising our farm products.

The great variety of the agricultural products grown in Michigan increases the need for a broadened program of agricultural experimentation.

We shall favor an expanded

to the end that this study may result in placing Michigan's fiscal affairs on a sound and equitable basis.

We believe that the following observations may be of assistance to the Committee:

**1. Property tax** has exceeded its ability to raise revenue equitably.

**2. The taxpayer base** should be kept broad and should include all citizens. Studies should include use of the income tax in connection with the sales tax to reflect the ability of the citizens to pay.

**3. Land should continue** to be taxed as farm land as long as it remains in that use. Taxing farm land on the basis of its potential value for subdivisions creates "no-man's land" areas of weeds and brush and is not in the best interest of the State.

### Board of Equalization

The State Board of Equalization is composed of the three members of the State Tax Commission and two members appointed by the Governor, one of whom should have special knowledge of rural and one of urban assessment practices and valuations.

Thus, the three members of the State Tax Commission are in a position to pass upon and approve, as members of the State Board of Equalization, the valuations which they, as members of the State Tax Commission, have recommended.

We urge that the law be amended to increase the membership on the State Board of Equalization to seven, with two active farmer's and two urban representatives appointed by the Governor.

### Property Assessment

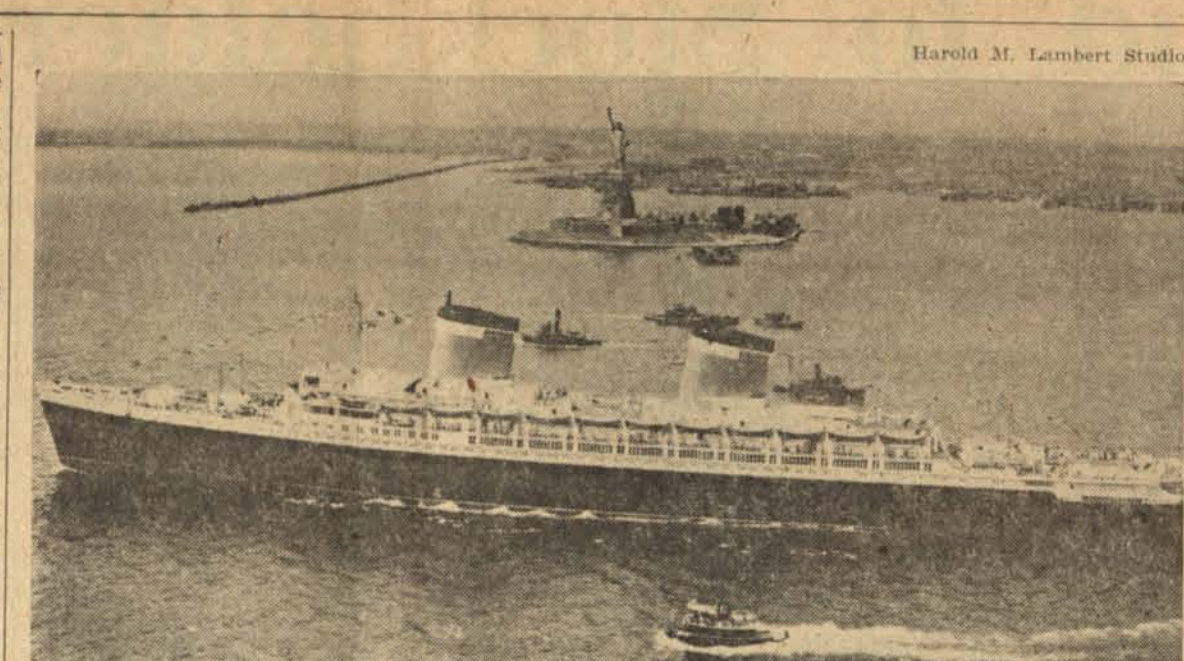
Assessment of all property in a township should continue to be a function of the township supervisor. In certain counties hiring specialists to assist supervisors in assessing specialized types of property, such as factories or utilities, would seem to be a wise policy which would be of value to the supervisor without encroaching on local government.

### State Constitution

Our State constitution is the foundation of our State government. Desirable changes can be made by the methods provided therein and during its nearly 50 years more than a hundred amendments have been proposed. About half of these met with approval by the voters and were adopted.

In accordance with one of the provisions of this basic document, the question of convening a constitutional convention to draft an entirely new constitution for Michigan will be submitted to the voters at the November 1958 election.

Holding such a convention and the expense of conducting the election at which the new constitution which it would draft would be submitted would constitute a substantial tax burden. Meanwhile, Michigan citizens and in-



SS United States Outward Bound, Past Statue of Liberty

dustries would be confused and worried as to what might be involved.

**Under the method** of gradual amendment which has been followed during the past years, each issue receives proper consideration. This seems to us to be a more intelligent way of dealing with the situation than to submit to the voters an entirely new constitution which would undoubtedly contain a mixture of both desirable and undesirable provisions so that it would be difficult for the voters to decide as to whether or not its adoption would represent real progress.

### Seats in Legislature

In 1952, the Michigan Farm Bureau was a leader in the campaign which defeated a proposal to hand control of both houses of the Michigan Legislature to the voting majorities in 4 of Michigan's 83 counties. At the same time, we successfully promoted a plan for balanced representation in the Legislature, with the House apportioned on population and the Senate on area and population.

Patterned after our Federal system, this plan is now giving all Michigan citizens the most effective representative government possible in our metropolitan state. We will vigorously oppose all attempts to apportion representation in the State Senate on a strictly population basis, or other efforts to place the control of Michigan's Legislature in the hands of a few counties.

### Pay For Voting Time

We resolve that it is a basic duty of every citizen of our state and nation to exercise his right to vote. Therefore, we are opposed to legislation to force employers to give time off with pay to employees to exercise their voting privileges.

### Michigan State Fair

We were greatly pleased when the Legislature in 1956 passed a bill placing the Michigan State Fair and its property under a year-round unified control. There seems now to be little doubt that the Fair will continue to be conducted at its present location for many years to come.

It has been a long time since there have been any new buildings constructed at the State Fair Grounds. Among the accumulated needs is replacing the Home Arts building which was condemned and demolished a few years ago by order of the State Fire Marshal. Women exhibit their handiwork in several scattered locations around the Fair Grounds. There should be an adequate Home Arts building which would provide facilities for the exhibits and the cooking school.

We urge the Legislature to adopt a definite program of capital improvement at the State Fair Grounds, beginning with the Home Arts building and then taking care of facilities for the Junior Show, including a livestock barn, educational exhibits building, dormitories for boys and girls, and a cafeteria.

### Labeling Food Products

We urge that the Michigan law relative to the labeling of food products be clarified by the Legislature so that there will be no question as to the authority of the Michigan Department of Agriculture to require labeling which will not be confusing or misleading, and which will fully safeguard the interests of the consuming public.

### Dep't of Agriculture

Many laws which the Michigan Department of Agriculture is responsible for enforcing require the Director of Agriculture to hold official hearings. In some cases the law requires the hearings to be held in the county where the licensee resides. There have been cases where important witnesses have failed to appear.

### Vocational Agriculture

We are gratified at the progress which has been made in recent years in the development of the Vocational Agricultural Education Program in Michigan high schools, and for the very worthwhile program which is being carried on through the 243 Future Farmers of America chapters in our state.

### Upper Peninsula

We urge the Department of Agriculture to make a study of the feasibility of establishing a testing laboratory in the Upper Peninsula, or of ways of providing more adequate laboratory testing services.

### Air Pollution

The air in industrial areas has come in for its share of study and discussion during the past few years. Several states have adopted laws which establish tolerances which must be met regarding air pollution.

We feel that every consideration should be given so that these tolerances will not be so narrow that they will inhibit industries from operating in our state. Tolerances should be based on the amount of harmful material emitted into the air rather than on size of particle or visible materials. Any proposed air pollution legislation should be carefully reviewed by the Michigan Department of Health in the light of its effect upon health and its enforceability.

### Weather Bureau

We recognize the need for, and do approve, the Weather Bureau Station at Benton Harbor, which is of great service to the farmers in the southwest area of the state in many ways, such as warning the farmers when frost is approaching, and aiding the spray program.

### Narcotics Control

We recommend imposition of a more severe penalty on persons convicted of peddling narcotics.

### Financing Schools

For citizens generally and farmers in particular, financing the operation of public schools and making capital improvements which needed involve tremendous financial problems. The local support for public education now depends entirely on the revenue from the general property tax.

Conditions are now such that the assessed valuation behind each pupil is no longer a fair measure of ability to support the functions of government, such as education. It seems inevitable that some new source of revenue on the local, county, or state level, must be found to provide essential public services, including the school system, without unfair and confiscatory property taxation.

One suggestion which seems worthy of further sympathetic study is that industrial property might be assessed at large and the revenue therefrom distributed to the several school districts on the basis of the state aid formula.

### House Trailers

We commend the Legislature for its action during the 1957 session increasing the monthly tax on house trailers in trailer parks from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per month, the added 50 cents to go to the local school.

We feel that in general the tax revenue from house trailers within and outside of trailer parks is substantially below the levy borne by householders and farmers.

We recommend that the law be revised to provide more equitable taxation between home property and trailers, and also between various classes or sizes of trailers.

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guarding traffic and school buses. The present law states, in one paragraph, that a vehicle shall not pass a school bus when stopped to receive or discharge passengers. In a succeeding paragraph, the law states that the vehicle shall stop 10 feet behind the bus and the driver shall then "proceed with caution."

### Our Highway Laws

Michigan's law relative to highways, roads and streets are a sad hodgepodge of accumulated overlapping and conflicting statutes. We approve the recommendations of the Michigan Good Roads Federation that the Legislature at its 1958 session should repeal all obsolete and conflicting sections.

Then the 1959 Legislature should codify the remaining statutes relative to highways, so that we would have one uniform and understandable law dealing with these matters.

### Highway Administration

We urge that the head of the Local Government Division of the State Highway Department be given deputy status.

If the State Highway Department were to take over the maintenance of its trunklines it would be necessary for the State to expend millions of dollars in needless outlay for construction of maintenance garages and for the

purchase of a large amount of costly equipment, duplicating that of the County Road Commissions. We recommend that County Road Commissions should continue to maintain the state trunk line mileage within their borders on a contractual basis where ever they are rendering satisfactory service.

### Financial Responsibility

We recommend a stricter enforcement of our present driver licensing law and our present financial responsibility law.

We further recommend that the public become informed about Innocent Victim coverage provided by insurance companies.

### Uniform Traffic Code

We encourage the continuation of the trend toward uniform traffic signals and highway markings throughout the Nation.

### Yield Right-of-Way

We favor more widespread use of "Yield Right of Way" signs in place of "Stop" signs on corners where you can see clearly both ways.

MFB Resolutions on State Affairs Will be continued in our January 1 edition.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS  
December 1, 1957



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