**EDITORIAL**

*A New Force to Reckon With*

CLAREN L. BROGY

Counsel for Public Affairs for Michigan Farm Bureau

It seems important to call the attention of Michigan Farm Bureau members to a force that has been moving into some phases of agricultural production and distribution.

This new force is termed "integration." Integration is consolidation of control over one or more phases of the complete supply chain of a product, from production to consumer. It involves the control of marketing, processing, and distribution services involved in producing and moving the product from producer to consumer.

The present status of the broiler industry well exemplifies this growing practice.

Integration was originated in agriculture largely by major feed companies as a means of expanding the markets for their feeds. It has become common procedure for the feed manufacturers to furnish feed and chicks, and market the broilers under a contract which gives the producer no control of the marketing of the finished product.

Combined with this, the volume of broilers of the large operator gives him a powerful bargaining advantage in selling the broilers to the dressing plants. Thus it became little or no control for the small producer.

In all of this the farmer does not want to become little more than a hired man employed by the operator.

In some cases the poultry processor is the operator himself. In other instances, control is concentrated in the dressing plant operator.

These concentrated operations have put many of the small or specialized producers out of business. The small or specialized producer must make his margin from more limited operations. This will suffice to describe the nature of the business. The small or specialized producer must make his margin from more limited operations.

**Changes In Farm Bureau District Men**

**Right Now In Farm Bureau**

JERRY CORPIS

Committee, Organization Day

Chairman to the membership that the program has not yet had a fair trial.

Mr. Shuman said the law differs from Farm Bureau recommendations, and that its effectiveness has been reduced by the emphasis on one-year contracts and failure to include provisions to protect the use of Commodity Credit Corporation grain supplies as "pay as needed." Farm Bureau opposes any national farm legislation.

Federal Budget. Farm Bureau opposes efforts to reduce specific items in the budget. Income from this source is important to the financial operation of the national organization.

In the case of the Soil Conservation Service, the annual expenditure was $8 million. A reduction of $2 million, or 25 percent, of this budget will cause a reduction of $2 million, or 25 percent, of the effectiveness of efforts to stimulate the improvement of the soil. In the case of the extension service, the annual expenditure was $4 million. A reduction of $1 million, or 25 percent, of this budget will cause a reduction of $1 million, or 25 percent, of the effectiveness of efforts to stimulate the extension of education to the farm membership.

**HOUSE IN CONGRESS KILLS ACREAGE RESERVE**

The House of Congress on a close vote, killed the acreage reserve feature of the soil bank for 1958.

It is not expected that the Senate will favor this action.

Farm Bureau is continuing to support the soil bank program. Farm Bureau did recommend a reduction in the proposed budget level for the soil bank from $25,400,000 to $19,000,000.

**AFBF President Charles Shuman said the House**

**Michigan Farm Bureau**

**Saginaw County Farm Bureau, has been hired as Regional Director.**

**Walter Shields.**

In 1947, Walter Shields was elected Regional Director of Saginaw County Farm Bureau, and has served in this capacity since.

**West Michigan Region**

**Dr. Paul Miller, Director of Information**

Michigan Farm Bureau staff feels strongly that the farm membership is not expected that the Senate will concur in this provision.

**Legislative Jam In Closing Days**

50 Conference Committees Struggle for Agreement on many Bills While Lobbyists Wring Hands

STANLEY M. POWELL

Legislative Counsel, Michigan Farm Bureau

Bedlam and bickering reign supreme in the legislative halls as this report is written. Hordes of lobbyists are making final frantic efforts to influence the reports which are being formulated by about 50 Conference Committees which are trying to draft final provisions of the various bills.

When one branch of the Legislature amends a bill which has previously passed the other chamber and the Senate amends the bill to conform to that amendment, and then when the second chamber amends its amendment, the only hope for getting the bill passed is to refer it to a Conference Committee consisting of three Senators and three Representatives.

That is the sort of business in which the lawmakers devote their attention during the closing days of each legislative session.

Rills are in conference in the legislative halls, seeking to wind up their work before adjournment. The bills which have been passed by both houses and which require further action are: the federal bill to aid the school districts of the state, which has already been passed by the Senate and is now awaiting action in the House; the federal bill to aid the rural schools which was also passed by the Senate and is pending in the House; and the federal bill to aid the rural schools which was passed by the Senate and is now pending in the House.

The Michigan Farm Bureau has just submitted an amendment to the federal bill to aid the rural schools which was passed by the Senate and is now pending in the House. The amendment is designed to provide for the payment of the cost of providing adequate supplies for the rural schools.

The amendment has been transmitted to the Senate, where it is now pending.

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GOLD Star Award
April
Delia County, Delta 426 Community Farm Bureau Grandaddy Elmer Bitter, Secretary.
SILVER Star Award
Alger County, Alger 426 Community Farm Bureau Gil Algus, Chairman.
Manistique County, Manistique 426 Community Farm Bureau chicken Mary Grudzinski, Secretary.

Take Restrictions Off Small Farms
To be fair to all farmers, I would like to see take all restrictions off the small 10 or 15 acre farms, letting them grow as large as their ability permits. That is their risk and their investment should be helped in every way. 

In the larger farms, 20 acre and larger, I would favor restrictions to show the growth of the new crops and plan for larger farms.

Conditions have been about the same for last year. Some things have been better, but in general the conditions have been poor. Next year will be a better year and some will do well.

Farm Bureau is using every means in seeking to improve the situation. 

In conclusion I want to say that the entire Farm Bureau organization is working for the betterment of the farmers.

This is the time when we should study the Farm Bureau program and how we can work for better results.

There is a great need for cooperation and unity in the Farm Bureau organization.
Farmers Petroleum is Growing Fast

Earl Huntley, manager of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., has announced a reorganization into five departments to keep pace with the growth in business.

Mr. Huntley said FPC sales are up 15% this year. Direct distribution to farmers, to dealer outlets, the FPC transportation fleet and other parts of the business are expanding steadily.

"All this progress is gratifying," said Mr. Huntley. "We now have distribution to farmers in nearly every county in the lower peninsula. Prospects are good for paying substantial patronage dividends this year.

Farmers Petroleum Cooperative has an estimated 1,600,000 barrels of crude oil on hand, which is enough to last several years, according to Edwin, producing manager. Exxon, producing manager, said there are 700,000 acres held in conservation units. Average production is good and drilling continues.

Mr. Huntley said Farmers Petroleum Cooperative wants to own 55% or more of its daily requirements of crude oil. Patrons are good for paying substantial patronage dividends this year."}

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**June's Best Buys are Dairy Foods!**

Enjoy these bright ideas for snacks, desserts and lunches

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**ERSH SAVORS A LA MODE WITH LOF CREAM SYRUP**

Just the thing when company drops in—or a dessert for the family. They're so easy. You start with frozen Winkines waffles—white, orange or fudge—add plenty of Veal's Ice Cream and top generously with LoF Cream Syrup.

**BROWN SUGAR PIE MADE WITH CORN AND BROWN SUGAR MIX**

Two together until stiff one-2-oz. carton whipping cream. Stir in one 6-oz. can crescent roll dough, 2 tbsp. sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla, 1 tsp. grated orange rind. Pour into 2-filled pie crusts. Bake 20 min. at 375°F. Serve with whipped cream.

**HOMEMADE BISQUE MADE WITH CORN**

Three 6-oz. cans corn, 1 cup diced ham, 1 cup diced chicken, 1 cup diced fish. Heat in saucepan until well mixed. Serve with rice or bread.

**INDIVIDUAL LEMON CAKE MADE WITH CORN SYRUP**

It's lemony and eat easy. It's moist and fine. Perfect for a last minute treat.

**THE FLAVOR OF REAL BUTTER MADE WITH CORN**

Fresh tender apples at top of cream. Fresh tender apples at top of cream. Fresh tender apples at top of cream. Fresh tender apples at top of cream. Fresh tender apples at top of cream. Fresh tender apples at top of cream.

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**FERTILIZER DEPT.**

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC. LANSING
Activities of Women of Michigan Farm Bureau

District 1
Mrs. Fred Foster, Chairman

Benton County Women's Committee met on May 14 with Mrs. John Foster, chairman, opening the meeting. Cook and co-chairman, as usual, were greeted with smiles. Then, from the floor, Mrs. Foster said, "I want to welcome the women of the Benton County Women's Committee to the meeting."

Kalamazoo County Women also held their monthly meeting on May 10. At the meeting, women discussed various topics related to farming and agricultural issues. Mrs. Foster said, "I hope you all enjoyed the meeting and that we can continue to work together to improve our farming community."

District 2

Mrs. Charles Johnson, Chairman

Dr. Harris of the Inland-Michigan Women's Committee presented a talk on the importance of maintaining a healthy diet. She emphasized the role of fresh fruits and vegetables in a balanced diet. Mrs. Foster said, "Thank you for your presentation, Dr. Harris. It was very informative and helpful."
not one that calls for new laws or government regulation, except possibly in restricting unfair trade practices. The Farm Bureau membership and program become all important in meeting the changes that integration and related developments may bring.

Your're Hurry By Uninsured Driver

FB Mutual's New Coverage Pays You

Insurance

GRANGE LEAGUE FM

The protection extends to injuries, illness, loss of time and other damages resulting from uninsured automobiles. The protection, called "Innovative Victim Insurance," was described by W. S. Hendricks, senior vice-president of the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan, at a meeting of the Grange League Federation of Ithaca, N. Y., in a statement addressed to its members:

"The great victory has been expressed by the board of directors of the Grange League Federation of Ithaca, N. Y., in a statement addressed to its members:"

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State and Local Equalization of Assessments

Community Farm Bureau Discussion Topic for June

Background Material for Program in June by 1636 Community Farm Bureau Discussion Groups

Decisions

It makes good sense for the farmer to try to preserve the power of his local government. But sometimes it means sticking up for his rights as a citizen as well as a taxpayer. The point is illustrated by the key role that the County Board of Equalization plays in determining property values.

Why Attempt to Equalize?

DORAKIL, D. KEMERY
Coordinator of Economics and Research

Why attempt to equalize assessments on property for taxing purposes, either at the county or state level? The aim is to try to give fair and equal treatment to all taxpayers in bearing the costs of public services. It seems clearly unfair that some individuals or some areas should be required to carry much more burden for public services than others — unless it is also clear that certain areas lack the wealth to provide necessary programs for themselves.

The purpose of gaining a fair measure of equality in tax burdens on property is provided for in our Michigan State Constitution.

Article X, Section 3, states that "The Legislature shall provide for a uniform rate of taxation, ... and taxes shall be levied on such property as shall be prescribed by law."

Section 7 then states further that, "all assessments hereafter authorized shall be on property at its true cash value."

If property had been assessed at its true cash value in all areas, many of the present conflicts over assessing authority would have been avoided.

Disagreements arise over the equalization. And, it must be pointed out that a true cash assessment would not necessarily mean high property taxes.

Powers to establish local millage rates to vote higher millage still rest with local authorities and local people.

No more property taxes need to be collected than are needed to pay the current property needs of the local school and county government operations.

Local people still have the privilege of protecting themselves from too high a tax rate on property over their local school board officials.

Wide Difference in Assessments

The tables of property assessed under current practices has resulted in the property in the same area being assessed in different locations for different types of services, both public and private. Where one county, for example, may assess a property at $10,000, the tax rate may be only 2%, the next county may be equalizing at 5%.

Some have asked, "Why worry about differences?" The point is that since the sales tax was passed back to local government until 1953, the state has had authorized funds from property taxes.

Before that time equalization of nearly $5 million was of great importance. Some communities bring together their shares of property taxes in proportion to the equalized value held in the state; but now it is history could be expected that, at that point, they might be right.

Before 1953, the voters amended the constitution so that if 32 counties equalized their values at less than 50% of the state equalized level, the state equalized level would be raised to equalize on an equal cash basis. Other counties equalized as high as 80% of the state equalized level.

If there were no state equalization in the picture, the need for equalization would be greatly reduced for doing a good job of setting their evaluations.

They proceed (because the county must do so) to pull their total value of $10,000 out of their grand list, allowing for a higher tax rate in the state to equalize at its true cash value.

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