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EDITORIAL
These Farmers Point the Way
CLARE L. BRODY
Counsel for Public Affairs for Michigan Farm Bureau

The rapidity with which change has come about in agriculture has greatly increased the difficulty of making adjustments in the face of change. Advancing technology and mechanization have made customary farm procedures obsolete.

Traditional pursuits and living conditions of farm people have been revolutionized in the course of a comparatively few years.

Michigan farm people have been making progress in adapting their lives and operations to the changes taking place.

A strong majority of them want opportunity to accomplish the rearrangements required on a "do-it-yourself" basis without being hampered by government interference. This is shown by contacts with County and Community Farm Bureaus.

What are some of the ways they are adapting to keep pace with these developments in rural affairs? Some light on the answer can be gained by reference to the Farm Management records reported to Michigan State University.

Professor John Doneth advises that the reports of the top one-fourth of 300 southern Michigan farms for 1952 show from a fair to good labor income; those of the second one-fourth range from a small to fair labor income; and approximately one-fourth of the 300 report no return at all.

Prof. Doneth reports that the farmers who are making progress are anticipating changes and profit from the new and greater opportunities revealed by scientific developments, mechanization, and good management; that they have accomplished these results in spite of an increase in average earnings amounting to over $3,000 per farm in the two-year period of 1955 to 1957 on the same 300 farms.

"They have been alert to changing market conditions, and their farm-operating areas range from $45 to $65 per acre. Both large and small acreage farms are in the successful list. They have expanded their output either by adding more acres or by operating their existing facilities more intensely.

"The reward for good management is substantial on both small and large farms but is considerably greater on the large farms ... the penalty for your adjustment is much greater on the larger units."

The methods and initiative practiced by successful farmers in the upper group point the way that must be followed if a satisfactory income entirely from farm operations to be realized.

These adjustments have been particularly difficult for many small farmers. Many have not changed or have been unable to meet these exacting conditions for a satisfactory livelihood from farm operations alone.

They, too, have availed themselves of new opportunities and are supplementing their farm returns by other means.

The 1954 census shows that 55,000 Michigan farmers were engaged in off-the-farm employment for 100 days or more per year. This was 40% of all Michigan farmers reporting. That number has probably increased since that time.

This is proving reasonably satisfactory in many instances. Many small urban industries should be encouraged in urban rural centers. This is one of the most important means of relieving the increasing underemployment in agriculture.

In a later article I hope to discuss other steps to enable rural developments to keep step with the fast changes taking place. It is of great importance that a constructive and comprehensive program be given serious attention.

Otherwise, the tendency is to resort to political action to solve the problem and not to maintain the status quo that could be won. Paternalistic programs through political interference are not the answer. They stifle individual initiative and defeat progress.

The highest type of courageous and sincere leadership [Continued on Page 3]

MFB Board Commends Austin L. Pino

J. F. Yaeger Presents MFB Commendation

NOTICE

Regarding Blue Cross Register Billing

Effective July 1, August 1, and September 1, many thousands of Farm Bureau members who are subscribers to Blue Cross Blue Shield and through your Farm Bureau office, will begin to receive a letter of announcement from your County Farm Bureau secretary.

1—Register Billing. When your County Farm Bureau goes on register billing by Blue Cross Blue Shield, subscribers will receive a letter of announcement from your County Farm Bureau secretary.

2—Your Billing will be forwarded to you from the Detroit office of Blue Cross Blue Shield about five days after the due date.

3—Payment must be sent to the Detroit office of Blue Cross Blue Shield.

If you do not receive your billing, and others you know have theirs, contact your County Farm Bureau secretary at once.

4—Benefits Remain Same. Register billing changes collection procedures only. It does not change rates, benefits, or procedures for subscribing members in making contract changes, or requesting information on contract coverage.

5—Contract Changes. Make all requests for service changes in your contract to your Blue Cross Blue Shield chairman, or your County Farm Bureau secretary. This is most important.

Do not send anything to Detroit except your payment.

Why They Call It Permenebu Group

The Permenebu Group of Michigan Farm Bureau is a new marketing cooperative for creameries in Franklin, Washtenaw and Lenawee counties, which represents dairy farmers in those counties for the first time.

Michigan Farm Bureau has long received inquiries from farmers in southern Michigan concerning marketing cooperative for creameries in those counties.

Announcement of the formation of the Permenebu Group was made by members of the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors at their annual meeting at Detroit. The formation of this milk marketing cooperative has been under discussion for many years.

The original purpose of the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors in the formation of this milk cooperative was to enable farmers to market their milk to creameries in a way that would provide them with better prices and more dependable markets for their milk.

The Milk Marketing Cooperative Committee of the Michigan Farm Bureau has been working with the Michigan State Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other agencies to develop a milk marketing cooperative for creameries in southern Michigan.

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PLOWING UNDER...

to expand telephone service

Bell Telephone Laboratories created this special "telephone plow," and the special wire it uses, to bring telephone service to outlying farms fast and economically. Cost-cutting wire treatment is automatically applied through the plow blade into the bottom of each farm which the plow digs as it goes.

Telephone people know that a farm is one of the most important pieces of equipment. There is no need to use in the ground. It is run, maintained, orders feed and supplies, keeps in touch with the market and with family and friends—all without taking time away from his farm.

Michigan Bell Telephone Company
July 20-26 National Farm Safety Week

President Eisenhower has proclaimed July 20-26 as National Farm Safety Week. The theme is: "When You Work for Safety — Safety Works for You."

"Most accidents occur each year in farm homes, while the number of farm accidents is hard to determine because of the nature of the campaign to promote safety in the home and on the farm. Too many accidents are caused by farm injuries among farm people. There has been a definite decrease in the number of farm accidents. It can be illustrated by the fact that, "When You Work for Safety — Safety Works for You."

Dairy Heifer Sale

June 26 will be the date of the second dairy heifer sale at the Michigan State University Dairy Cattle Research Station at East Lansing. This sale will provide an opportunity for breeders of purebred and commercial dairy cattle to reduce their herds in a planned way and for breeders to acquire additional young stock. The sale will be held in the yard of the Station at a time suitable to the bidder. A limited number of heifers will be available and those interested in attending the sale should contact Dr. D. M. Mosher, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, before the sale date. 

Steel Summer Weeds are Practical in Michigan

Long Rotations

For many years the recommendation has been to cultivate weeds with a long rotation of crops. This practice has been followed in the past, but it is now being recognized that the use of a rotation of crops is more effective in controlling weeds than the use of a single crop. The cultivation of a rotation of crops will help to reduce the cost of weed control on the farm.

See Your Local Farm Bureau Dealer

HAIL INSURANCE
On Farm and Garden Cropes

Farm Bureau's two convenient fertilizer mixing plants will allow farmers to get a "whopping" 2nd hay crop if you FERTILIZE NOW!

Letters

Donald D. Kinsey
Education & Research
Midwest Farmers Bureau

The Jackson County Farm Bureau sent out the following letter of appreciation to the permanent offices of the Farm Bureau:

"Dear Sirs:

We wish to thank you for your efforts to promote agriculture and to make the farmers of our county aware of the importance of their work.

Sincerely yours,

The Jackson County Farm Bureau"

Farm Bureau in Upper Peninsula

Great Ideas Have A Common Purpose

On November 15, 1937, a great idea became a reality when the first farm bureau was established over the newly completed bridge. Now, and for years to come, it will serve as the bridge between the people of the two "pleasant peninsulas."
Activities of Women of Michigan Farm Bureau

District 1
Mrs. Alma J. Frens, Chairman

District 2
Mrs. Dorothy Frey, President

Mrs. Margaret Hase, Secretary

Transylvania County Women's Committee represented by Mrs. Elvin Drodt.

Mrs. church and Young People held a joint program at the Transylvania County Courthouse Building June 12. A program of various activities was planned for this event. It was decided to allow for the growth of new interest in the Farm Bureau through the joint program.

Leelanau County Farm Bureau Women's Committee by Mrs. Elizabeth F. Jones, State Committee Chair. The committee is planning for their yearly meeting with their plans for their meeting. The date is set for July 28.

Women who have a strong interest in the Farm Bureau may join the committee. For more information contact Mrs. Jones at (906) 326-3262.

State Advisory Council Plans

This year we have arranged a new event called the "State Advisory Council". This event is designed to give the Women of Michigan Farm Bureau an opportunity to present their ideas and projects to the State Advisory Council. The council will then review these ideas and make recommendations for implementation.

Meetings will be held in various locations throughout the state, providing a platform for local women to share their experiences and ideas with the council.

The council will incorporate these suggestions into their plans and work towards the betterment of the Farm Bureau and its members.

We hope to see an active participation of all Women of Michigan Farm Bureau in this exciting new event.

The Home Flower Garden

Work to Do in the Garden in July

July is a time for planting and cultivating your gardens. Here are some tasks you can do in the garden in July:

- **Weeding:** Keep the weeds under control by removing them regularly. This will help ensure the healthy growth of your plants.
- **Fertilizing:** Apply a balanced fertilizer to encourage strong root growth.
- **Pruning:** Prune any plants that are diseased or damaged to promote healthy growth.
- **Irrigation:** Water your plants adequately to keep them healthy and encourage proper growth.
- **Supporting:** Provide support for tall plants to prevent them from toppling over.
- **Mulching:** Apply mulch around the base of your plants to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

Now is the time to get started on these tasks to ensure a successful summer garden.

Mr. Chapman

When the plant becomes established, the plants will produce a stunning display of blossoms. It is a wonderful time to enjoy the beauty of nature.

Mr. Chapman

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Program

Chairman, Mrs. Alex Kennedy

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Program is dedicated to providing educational opportunities for women in the agricultural community. This includes a variety of programs and workshops designed to enhance knowledge and skills.

Meetings are held regularly to discuss topics related to agriculture, rural life, and community issues. The programs aim to empower women to become active participants in the Farm Bureau and make a positive impact in their communities.

Join us for our upcoming meetings to learn more about the benefits of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Program and how you can get involved.

White exterior paint is perfect for your home, barns, buildings

Here's a lead-free exterior white paint that brings you maximum beauty and protection. 100% will make your home, barns, buildings, fences and other wood surfaces white and new today.

STANDS UP IN ROUGH WEATHER

With UNI-ROCKET electric fence controller

Features:
- **Compact Design:** Ideal for use in small spaces or tight corners.
- **Low Power Consumption:** Operates on a single battery for extended use.
- **Easy Installation:** Simply mount on a wall or post for convenient placement.
- **Weather-Resistant:** Designed to withstand harsh outdoor conditions.

For more information, visit our website or contact your local retailer.

Meet the Country Fair's Judge

Meet the judge at your local fair to gain insight into their selection criteria and learn how to judge correctly. This is a valuable opportunity to share knowledge and enhance the fair experience for all participants.

The municipal Fair's judge is ready to share their expertise. Attend the judge's seminar to learn how to evaluate various categories and ensure a fair judging process.

Meet with the judge to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. It's an excellent opportunity to learn from their experience and improve your judging skills.

Meet the State's Best

The State's Best competition is a prestigious event showcasing the best of the region. Join us as we meet with the top winners and learn about their successes. This is a chance to network with others in the agricultural community and gain valuable insights.

Meet with the winners to hear their stories and learn what contributed to their success. It's an inspiring experience to meet with the best in the state and be inspired by their achievements.

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How Much Meat Does Baby Eat?

The baby boom has increased the demand for meat in the United States. The National Farmers Union reported a 35 million pound increase in meat production this year. This is the highest increase in meat production since 1950. The increase is due to the increased demand for meat as more families have more children. The increase in meat production is expected to continue as the baby boom continues.
Michigan Problems About Water Are Growing

Community Farm Bureau Discussion Topic for July

Background Material for Program in July by Miss H. A. Keeler of the Community Farm Bureau Discussion Group.

DONALD D. KINSEY
Coordinator of Education and Research

Michigan has 11,037 inland lakes, 36,500 miles of streams, and 3,121 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. This seems like a vast source of water supply... until eternity.

The trouble—the water is not always where it is needed. This is what it is all about. Some enjoy constant and abundant supplies. They do not realize that water may be scarce only a short distance away.

Michigan’s population now totals over 7,340,000. Each person averages the use of about 1,500 gallons of water per day. Some of this is used in making the goods he consumes. The term “free as water” is rapidly passing out of date.

Causes of the Problem. Cities are spreading rapidly in Michigan. Resort and recreational demands are increasing. Industries use vast quantities of water in the manufacture of goods. Use of water on the farm is increasing rapidly. Irrigation of crops, home gardens and golf courses puts a heavy drain on water supplies.

This growing competition prompts more frequent challenges against such uses of water as may exceed domestic needs. Court cases increase. Setting down rules and regulations is one method, but it also involves much time and money. The water must be saved, to be used when it will do the job that is needed. The dilemma is not new.

Farmers Need Water Rights Law

A frequent complaint heard from farmers has been the lack of adequate political action on water rights matters. A water rights law is badly needed in Michigan in order to meet the demands for savings bonds, said Mr. Cote' (left) state sales director Michigan Farm Bureau. Michigan's Water Resources Commission which has

Much Young Farm and Social Security

Many young farm and social security. As of July 1, 1958, the average Social Security retirement payment is $600. This is a substantial increase in the amount of money available to farm retirees. The increase is due to the fact that the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security taxation is now $6,000.

Farm Bureau Life

Farm Bureau Life Insurance

Increased Return On Your Investment

Effective July 1, 1958, dividends on most Farm Bureau Life policies are increased. The increased dividends apply to Farm Bureau Life policies in force on any new contracts written after July 1, 1958.

Also effective July 1—interest paid on dividends left on deposit is increased from 2½% to 3%. And money from matured policies (death benefits and retirement funds) left with the company to provide income benefits will be credited with interest at the new rate of 3%. This increased dividend is made possible by the increased savings received by Farm Bureau Life by Michigan farm families last year and during the past five previous years in business— an acceptance that has made Farm Bureau Life the fastest growing life insurance company in Michigan.