

El Salvador is the only Central American country fronting on both oceans. Some 300,000 pioneers made the overland trip to Pacific Coast, before the railroads were built.

250 Attend Van Buren's \$10 Plate Building Fund Dinner

Allan Kline on Our Times

Allan B. Kline, former president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, spoke to the Van Buren County Farm Bureau membership and guests the evening of April 18 on national problems of our time.

A \$10 a plate dinner was served at the Farm Bureau office building to raise funds to reduce the building debt. The event was a sell-out with 250 attending.

The dinner was prepared by the Woman's Committee of the County Farm Bureau and served by the young people. The food, flowers, decorations, and program throughout were eloquent testimony to the work done by the committees.

President Francis Finch welcomed the group. Earl Huntley of Farmers Petroleum was toastmaster. President Walter Wightman brought greetings from the Michigan Farm Bureau, and former MFB President Carl Buskirk introduced Mr. Kline who said:

Farm Problem

The fact is we have too much and that depresses prices. July 1 there will be \$10 billion of farm products in the hands of the government, for which the farmers have been paid.

The next time that changes hands the government will get paid.

The fact is that our rate of increase in the supply of farm products is faster than the rate of increase in demand, including what we give away.

How are we going to cope with it? Our answer is to adjust our agriculture to produce FOR the market instead of ahead of the market.

Part of the farm problem is political. You have to work with Congress on that.

Inflation

I don't know any country that has gone as far as we have in inflation that hasn't had serious trouble.

When wholesale prices, retail prices and wages continue to rise in a business recession, we're headed for trouble.

If people ever decide that the only future for the dollar is in speculation, we're in trouble.

All federal expenditures are from taxes. The billion dollars by which the budget fails to balance is inflationary. It calls for new money (bonds) that depreciates the old money.

The present Congress is inflationary. You can do something about it. You can write to your Congressman and say:

I can vote for you.
I am opposed to inflation.

Labor

We have long had the attitude that labor is weak and business is strong. We have said that labor should have a most favorable legislative climate.

We have now come to a great imbalance. Labor is Big Labor, politically and economically.

Labor can put enormous funds and thousands of paid workers into politics and just that.

The steel unions stopped production by a strike in the Korean war and deprived our nation of steel to the amount that Great Britain produces in a year.

We have in the United States a policy that the public interest comes first. We have the prin-

ciple of political freedom. The closed shop violates that.

How should we look at Big Labor?

It's a question of restraining power—not to be contrary to the interests of men or the union, but in the public interest. It's the exact counterpart of dealing with monopoly in business.

Politics

You have to get into politics to solve problems like these.

Politics is the art and practice of self-government.

It's more than just voting. You have to get into the caucuses. Take part! Some of you would have to become candidates for office.

You can't solve any great problem, you can't maintain the great principles of American government without taking part in politics.



Part of Farm Problem is Political

Council of Churches On Minimum Wages

The General Council of Churches, meeting in Hartford, Connecticut February 28, 1959, approved a resolution authorizing representatives of the Council to testify at hearings "in support of the principle of the extension of minimum wage legislation to include

groups not now covered." The Board has urged the extension of minimum wage legislation to migratory farm laborers and, in 1958, it favored the extension of minimum wage legislation to "other workers in agriculture."

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS
May 1, 1959 3

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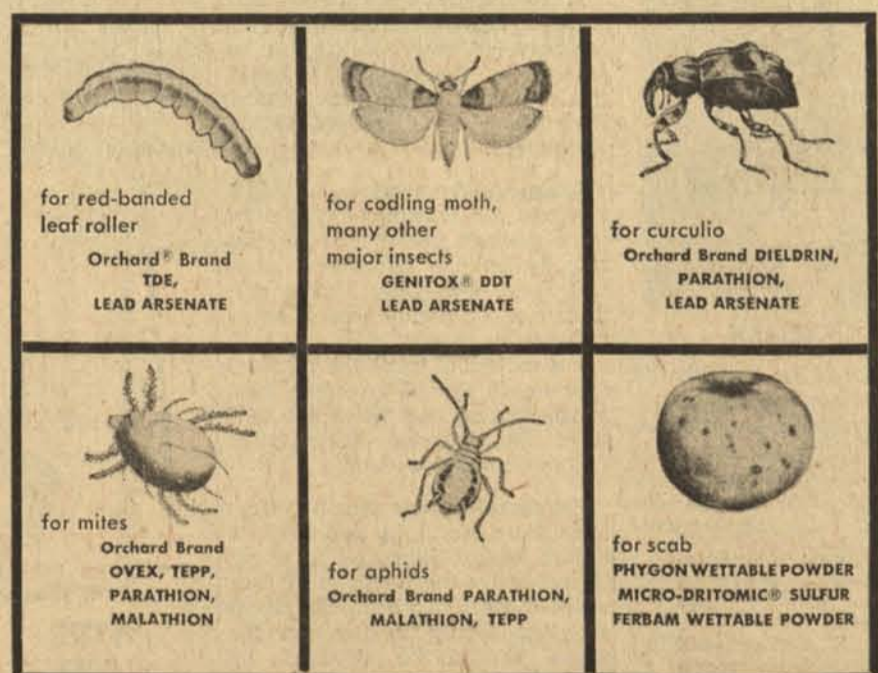


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Letters to the Editor

This Could Happen to You

A problem discussed at our Michigan Farm Bureau meeting at Bay City and one that is causing much concern and trouble for both the treacher and farmers is the construction of various pipelines and cables, and limited access highways across agricultural land.

In many cases they are so placed that it is impossible to install a proper system of tile drainage. Sometimes farmers sign contracts that the line will be placed low enough, and then that is not done.

Some pipelines are very good on this score; some are not. The treacher feel that the extra time and labor involved should not come out of their pocket. The farmer says it should not come out of his, so that leaves only one place for the buck to stop. We would like to arouse and in-

form every farmer so that he will not sign a contract for anything crossing his land that will interfere with the proper installation of a gravity drainage system, or if it does that the company involved will stand the expense of making corrections.

The Michigan Farm Treacher Ass'n suggests that before signing a contract, consult your county agricultural agent, or your Soil Conservation Office, or your local drainage contractor to determine the proper depth for whatever is being installed so as not to interfere with a future gravity system for drainage.

LEE J. TALLADAY,
Milan, Michigan.

April 14, 1959

Member of Washtenaw County Farm Bureau.

Favors Hunting Season on Quail

Editor:

I am in favor of Senate Bill 1046 for a hunting season on quail and have so informed the Legislature. I cannot understand why the Farm Bureau should oppose this bill.

I own that same farm now. I haven't seen a quail on the place in 10 years. I have asked some of the other farmers about quail and they don't seem to see any either. Did they just evaporate?

I believe that a limited amount of hunting and some infiltration of new blood by the Conservation Department will do more to restore quail than all the closed seasons will ever do.

M. P. DURKEE

Atlanta Montmorency County April 9, 1959

Iceland had no original inhabitants.

Deadlock in Financial Crisis

(Continued from page 1)
rest has bobbed up again. It is a new version of milk marketing control legislation. It is sponsored by labor unions and some parts of the dairy industry.

H. 429 would control production, processing, transportation, storage, distribution, and pricing of milk and cream. It sets up a five member milk commission to be appointed by the Governor.

There would be one farmer on the commission.

The commission would be authorized to establish marketing areas, set prices to farmers and in the distribution process. It would be difficult to harmonize the provisions of this bill with the resolution adopted by the Michigan Farm Bureau at its annual meeting, Nov. 11-12, 1958:

"We are opposed to any State milk marketing control bill which seeks to set prices or control production. We feel that such a bill would not be in the long-time interest of dairy farmers or consumers."

If you would like a copy of this bill, write to Stanley M. Powell, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Mich.

There will be a public hearing on this bill Tuesday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the House of Representatives at the State Capitol in Lansing.

Schools. The highly controversial proposals relative to school district organization are still pending in the House Committee on Education. They include H. 91 which provides for mandatory reorganization of school districts on a K-12 basis, and H. 191 which would permit consolidation at the high school level only without disturbing elementary schools.

School Aid. Another big battle

relative to public education will be enacted in S. 1003 intended to assure public schools that they will receive their full amount of State aid for the current year.

No one can predict how much drain this bill will impose on the State's already depleted general fund. It is estimated that it will be in the neighborhood of \$27 million.

There is no assurance as to when the schools will get this money, but at least they can look forward with confidence that they will receive it eventually.



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And concrete masonry can't burn—that's the best kind of fire insurance. It won't rust or rot, reduces upkeep and repair work. A concrete masonry feed room is the answer to the rat problem. Concrete keeps them out for good.

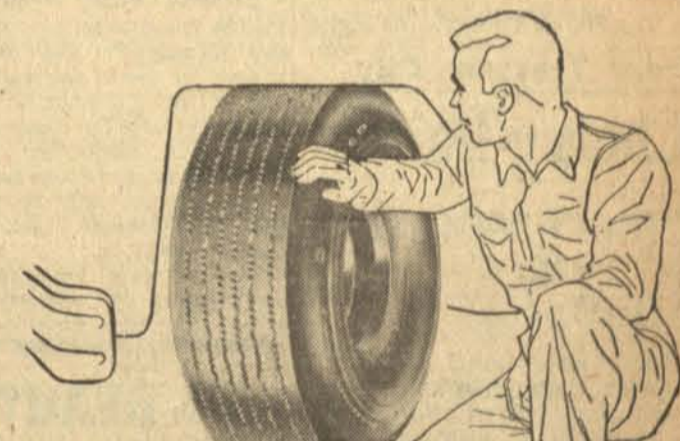
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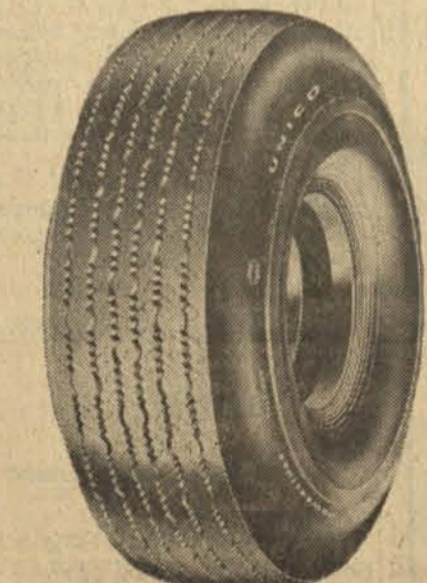
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Expanded Program Possible for Farm Bureau

Community Farm Bureau Discussion Topic for May

Background Material for Program in May by our 1654 Community Farm Bureau Discussion Groups

DONALD D. KINSEY

Coordinator of Education and Research

NOTE—One of the original purposes when Community Farm Bureaus were first developed was "to provide means of getting information to our members." Our topic for May is an informational report to the membership. We are reporting action taken and plans being made to expand and improve the Farm Bureau program.

This is the twentieth century. It is an era of rapid growth and development in science, business and in history when no organization can "stand pat" and expect to serve its members.

More changes have taken place in agriculture and in the modes of living within the past 30 years than in all the rest of recorded history. New developments appear on the scene almost constantly. With changes come problems. Modern man looks to the future—and plans.

Last October, our Community Farm Bureaus discussed the future of Farm Bureau programs. Since then, some important decisions have been made. The most important one was made by the Farm Bureau delegates in February.

Since 1954 resolutions adopted at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meetings have called for strengthening the public relations work of the Farm Bureau.

During 1957 meetings of County Farm Bureau leaders were held throughout Michigan. County leaders were asked to name the most pressing tasks to be undertaken by their organization. Two areas of action appeared at the top of their lists. They were—Public Relations for farmers and Farm Bureau—and stronger Commodity Marketing Programs.

Resolutions of the Farm Bureau delegates in recent years have pointed the way toward these areas of action. The delegates have said:

(1958) "Many of our County Farm Bureaus have yet to develop an effective public relations program. In many cases only a small fraction of the possible newsworthy information is reaching the public press and radio.

"With farm people decreasing in numbers and with our farm problems becoming ever more complex, our relations with our members and with other public groups are of great importance.

Public Relations

"We recommend that every County Farm Bureau study its public relations program carefully and take steps to increase the scope of the program so as to take full advantage of such media as member newspapers and newsletters, radio, television, the public press and planned meetings with other civic and social groups."

County leaders have been saying, "We really ought to be doing much more in the area of using the newspapers, radio, etc., at the state level. See how much use is being made by other groups in talking about the farmer and agriculture!"

Commodity Marketing

To keep pace with commodity marketing programs, Farm Bu-

reau delegates have said:

(1956) "Increased specialization continues at a rapid rate. This has resulted in many farmers marketing only one or two commodities, which means that each commodity is becoming of increasing importance to the individual farmer.

"This type of production means new approaches in marketing. There is greater demand for cooperative action. Farm Bureau, as a general farm organization, realizes it must lead the way in coordinating marketing programs and policies.

"We suggest an expanded commodity program and a closer relationship with present commodity groups. In some instances this may even mean the organization of new marketing groups."

(Note: Since the passing of the last resolution Michigan Farm Bureau has continued to give aid to the Michigan Asparagus Growers in developing a bargaining association and product promotion program.

A new quality egg marketing program will get started this summer on the west side of the state. Other programs over the state may follow when this one becomes well established.)

How to Provide New Services

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors faced a number of problems in 1957. If the Michigan Farm Bureau was to render new and needed services to farmers, how could they be paid for?

Inflation—the rising cost of living for everyone — was putting Farm Bureau in the "red." Present staff people were not trained for the new jobs, and in some cases were already carrying two programs of activity.

Any added programs would spread staff efforts so thin that programs would have the force of a tack hammer where a good sledge hammer is needed. What to do?

State Study Committee Acts

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board asked that a State Study Committee of members be formed. They were asked to make recommendations. This Committee put in seven days of study during 1957-58. They looked over the problems in detail. Finally they agreed on certain steps to be taken. The Community Groups saw their recommendations last October. The delegates saw them again in February.

The MFB Board of Directors was not hasty. It wished to take no action until the membership had been given a chance to look over the Committee recommendations. So the Directors said, "Take these recommendations to the members first." Two steps were taken to comply with the action of the Board.

1. Meetings were held in the County Farm Bureaus to explain the problems and recommendations to County Farm Bureau leaders. In some counties two meetings were arranged for this purpose.

2. The matter was included as

Discussion Topics

The State Discussion Topic Committee has established the following series of topics for the coming months:

- May What Future Developments in the Farm Bureau Program are Now Possible?
- Jun. Needed . . . A Powerful Push in Citizenship.
- Jul. Are We Doing Well in Welfare Progress in Michigan?
- Aug. What Can Farmers Hope to Gain by Being Organized as a Labor Union?

Attend your Community Farm Bureau each month and discuss these interesting subjects. Read background material in the Michigan Farm News.

a topic for discussion by the Community Farm Bureaus — and the results of these discussions were summarized for examination by the state Board of Directors.

Special Meeting of Board of Delegates

Any change regarding dues to finance the programs required a change in the state by-laws. A special meeting of the county delegates was set for February 11th, but — "Old Man Weather" got tough!

The delegates finally got together on February 24th. They decided to increase the state dues to \$12.00 — a \$2.00 increase. The additional \$2.00 was to be used to finance programs of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

The delegate's decision was made with the idea that this small increase in dues would keep membership numbers at a high level. Membership goals could "hold up" and no farmer would be by-passed because of a large dues increase.

County Farm Bureaus would be prompted to carry on a strong membership campaign. If they faced a loss of membership they would have a problem of their own. They would lack funds to operate their own programs. Thus it was settled.

What About The Program?

What would this \$2.00 increase permit in the way of programs as recommended by the State Committee and the delegates in former years?

The Michigan Farm Bureau management decided that County Farm Bureau Presidents ought to help answer that question. A meeting of the Presidents was called at Gull Lake, Michigan on March 12 and 13, 1959.

The Presidents recommended an aggressive program. The ideas that jelled out of this meeting said, "We should do as much as we can for as long as we can." We can tackle some new efforts for about three years — then we will have to take a new look at the financial situation.

Public Relations

Following are the points of the three year program as finally approved by the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors:

1. Beginning with 1960, we shall expand work in public relations. A specialist in this work will be employed. His work will include aid to County Farm Bureaus for public relations work and publicity in the local areas, contracts with newspapers, radio and television stations to gain better cooperation and to furnish them with information.

He will be asked to aid County Farm Bureaus in preparing displays for public occasions, or to prepare posters, charts, etc., which tell the needed stories of agriculture and Farm Bureau.

He can aid County Farm Bureaus in developing radio programs, — in getting station cooperation, training local people. He can help local leaders in programs cooperating with other public groups.

Commodity Marketing

Michigan Farm Bureau should employ another man to aid in developing broader programs of commodity marketing.

This man will make it possible to intensify efforts. With a three man Commodity Department, one man can work on field crop problems, another in livestock and poultry work, and a third with fruit and vegetable marketing activities.

With specialists of this sort, closer assistance will be possible for all County Commodity Committees. Work can be stepped up in marketing information. More active relations with existing marketing organizations will be possible. Policy work to determine problems and positions on

commodity marketing will be made more effective.

Where counties desire such help and can finance it, the recommendation is that the Michigan Farm Bureau pay one-third, and the participating county (or counties) pay two-thirds of the costs.

Test counties may be tried on this plan in the near future. Some have indicated an interest in this form of help. Similar plans are now operating in the Farm Bureaus of Iowa, Illinois and Ohio.

(2) Help for smaller counties will be provided by adding to the regional field staff. The present field staff has more counties per man than was true ten years ago. With eleven counties added and one new district (Upper Peninsula) we have one less regional field man than in 1949.

With fewer counties to work, a field man can give more direct aid to county committees in program development. This is important. The County Farm Bureau is the real keystone of effective programs to serve their membership. If the County Farm Bureau program is weak, the whole organization is short of its possible mark.

Need is Still There

Farm Bureau was born in 1919. Farmers organized it because it was needed to solve pressing problems of that day. They said, "We want this organization in order to do together what we have not the strength to do by working alone." The effort has paid.

The problems of farmers today are, if anything, more pressing than they were back in those days. In fact, they are more and more complicated and threatening to the farmer's future.

The farm tools of 1919 are no longer adequate to do the job. We must have modern tools in Farm Bureau, too, to meet the

increasing demands and problems of 1959.

Questions

1. What are the most pressing farm problems facing the members? What programs of the County Farm Bureau are helping to solve them?
2. What things might be done to improve the Farm Bureau programs?
3. Are there areas besides public relations and commodity marketing which, in your opinion, should be given new emphasis?

Dr. Coohon Warns Against Rabies

Four animal rabies cases were reported in Michigan in the first five weeks of 1959. The Michigan Department of Health has urged all dog owners and some cat owners to have their animals vaccinated against rabies.

Dr. Donald B. Coohon, State Health Dep't veterinarian, said, "If we don't immunize our pets, we are unnecessarily risking our own lives because there's always the chance that rabies will jump from wildlife to pets and then to ourselves."

Cats that need protection most are those in suburban or rural areas where there is a chance of exposure to skunks or other wild animals that can transmit rabies.

Two-Dozen Egg Cartons Appeal

Lansing area consumers like the idea of "cheaper by two dozen" selling of eggs, according to a study made by Carl Hoyt of the short course department of Michigan State University.

Hoyt found that 55 per cent of the eggs sold in a five weeks period in the cooperating Schmid's super markets were in two-dozen cartons. The two-dozen units sold for three cents less than two one-dozen cartons.

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GOOD NEWS! for Farm Bureau Policyholders...

Farm Bureau Mutual's Board of Directors have declared a 10% auto dividend. The dividend will be paid on all auto policies whose premiums fall due between June 1, 1959 and November 30, 1959.

This dividend, saving Farm Bureau auto policyholders \$175,000 in six months, is another example of the advantages you enjoy with your own company. If you are not insured with Farm Bureau . . . contact your local Farm Bureau agent today. Get the best for less.

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