



Established January 12, 1923.

Entered as second class matter January 12, 1923, at the postoffice at Charlotte, Michigan, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Published monthly, first day, by Michigan Farm Bureau at its publication office at 114 E. Lovett St., Charlotte, Michigan.

Editorial and general offices, 4000 North Grand River Ave., Lansing, Michigan. Post Office Box 960. Telephone Lansing IVanhoe 7-5311 Ex. 571.

Send notices of change of address on Form 3575 or Form 3579 to Michigan Farm News editorial office at P. O. Box 960, Lansing 4, Michigan.

Subscription: 56 cents a year

Vol. 38 April 1, 1960 No. 4



PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU The purpose of this Association shall be the advancement of our members' interests educationally, legislatively and economically.

Michigan Farm Bureau

- President...W. W. Wightman Fenaville V. Pres. ...R. E. Smith, Fowlerville Sec'y...C. E. Prentice, Okemos DIRECTORS BY DISTRICTS 1-Max K. Hood...Paw Paw, R-1 2-Blaque Knirk...Quincy, R-1 3-Allen P. Rush...Lake Orion, R-1 4-Ellon R. Smith...Caledonia, R-1 5-Dale Duncel...Williamston, R-1 6-Ward G. Hodge...Shover, R-1 7-Thomas Hahn...Rodney, R-1 8-Kenneth Johnson...Freeland, R-2 9-Eugene Roberts...Lake City, R-1 10-Eugene DeMatio, W. Branch, R-3 11-Edmund Sager...Stephenson DIRECTORS AT LARGE Herbert Fierke...Saginaw, R-5 Robert E. Smith...Fowlerville, R-2 Walter Wightman...Fenaville, R-1 Representing WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU Mrs. Alex Kennedy...Posen, R-1 Representing FARM BUREAU YOUNG PEOPLE David Glel...Hillsdale, R-1

President's Column



MR. WIGHTMAN

In the April edition of the Farm Journal in the column headed "Now is the Time To": the first thing listed is "Be Glad." Meaning now is the time to be glad. This caught my eye today as I was looking the magazine over. Probably because of late I have been thinking over some of the things that we ought to be happy about. Sometimes we complain so much about farm surpluses, low prices, crop and livestock disease that we almost forget that there are a lot of things that we as farmers should be happy about. In the first place, I like farming, as most of us do I suspect or else we would not be doing it. There is always a thrill that goes with working with nature and watching the development of plant and animal life. There is only about one out of ten that have that privilege any more. That other ninety per cent don't even know what we are talking about when we talk about the lift we get just from walking through the fields and pastures watching the spring blossoms come out and the new...

born calves scamper through the lush grass to their mothers watching nearby. Then I got to thinking that I am glad that I can do my farming in America. I wouldn't want to have to do it in England, Poland, Italy, Russia, China or even Australia. Stanley Yankus can have that but I don't want it. I like it here. Then I began to have a feeling of gratitude that somebody thought enough of freedom that they were willing to make the sacrifices necessary to establish a form of government that would guarantee and safeguard the free enterprise system and all the freedoms that we enjoy so lavishly. After more thought I began to be grateful that the farmers of America have the ability to produce abundantly. We are feeding 170,000,000 people today here in our own country beside shipping some abroad to less fortunate countries. When we stop to think that the population of the United States is increasing at the rate of 3,500,000 people each year, our surpluses and abundance begins to have more significance. Suppose it became evident some fine day that we weren't going to be able to produce the food and fiber to feed and clothe this rapidly expanding population. Then we would have something to worry about. The American people won't be satisfied to go to bed hungry every night. Chaos and dissatisfaction would develop rapidly. I am not sure I would want to be around when that happens. When I think of the people in India, China, Russia and many other countries in the world, and when I remember that half the people of the world go to bed hungry every night, I am glad to live in the United States of America along with the rest of you good folks. It's definitely time to "Be Glad."

Bridge Region



CHARLES BURKETT of Charlevoix is Michigan Farm Bureau Regional Representative for the new Bridge Region, consisting of Chippewa and Mackinac-Luce, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, and Otsego County Farm Bureaus. Mr. Burkett came from Missaukee county where he was a member of a Farm Bureau family. He is a graduate of Kalamazoo College and has had two years in the army, ending his service as a first lieutenant.

650,000 Tons of Fertilizer Used John Schickluna, soil scientist at Michigan State University, estimates that Michigan farmers use about 650,000 tons of fertilizer yearly. This represents about \$50,000,000, making wise use of fertilizer an important management decision. Schoolcraft, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne.

United is Testing Two-Ply Tires

United Cooperatives has on trial in Michigan and other states an experimental two-ply tire for automobiles. Farmers Petroleum Cooperative is in charge of the testing here. The new tire uses

the same amount of nylon for two-ply as is used in the 4-ply tire. It is believed that the two-ply tire will dissipate heat better than a four-ply tire, and will ride easier. MICHIGAN FARM NEWS April 1, 1960

Today in Farm Bureau

ROGER FOERCH Coordinator of Organization Department, MFB

As this issue goes to press, Spring has arrived, even though it may not look like it in some areas. This means that we probably haven't much time left to finish the membership campaign for 1960. As we closed our books for this month, membership stood at 69,538. This is 95.4% of goal, and leaves us 3,389 members short of our goal. I'm convinced that we can reach the Michigan Farm Bureau goal of 72,927 if we do one thing. Personally invite every eligible farmer this year. There is a very simple formula to remember — Michigan Farm Bureau will only have as many members as all the County Farm Bureaus put together. This is your organization. Eleven counties are over goal: 1. Iron 7. Charlevoix 2. Delta 8. Missaukee 3. Emmet 9. Marquette-Alger 4. Wexford 10. Chippewa 5. Montmorency 11. Mason 6. Benzie

There's still room on the "Top Ten Club. Those qualifying so far are: 1. Emmet 2. Wexford 3. Montmorency 4. Benzie 5. Charlevoix 6. Missaukee 7. Mason

ham, made special trips to Lansing to visit the Legislature and their Senators and Representatives. The trip from Ingham County was sponsored by the Women's Committee, and the delegation from Bay County was an award-winning Community Group.

Here is an activity that could be used to a greater advantage by more counties. I'm sure the Farm Bureau members and Legislators who attended benefited a great deal.

The second Freedom Conference was held March 15-16 at Lansing with an attendance of about 125. The main subjects for discussion were: (1) Inflation, which was ably handled by Allen Kline, past President of the American Farm Bureau Federation; and (2) Church—is it being used politically or is it being infiltrated? Our resource person for this was Dr. Alex St. Ivangi. The program also included Senator

This is not, and under no circumstances is it to be construed as an offering of these debentures for sale, or as a solicitation of offers to buy any such debentures. The offering is made only by the prospectus.

\$1,000,000

Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Series A Debentures—Issue of 1960 5½% Simple Interest—15 Years Maturity

The purpose of this issue is to provide additional working capital and to modernize facilities of Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

The issue and the Farm Bureau Services, Inc. are fully described in the prospectus dated February 11, 1960. The prospectus is the basis for all sales.

For copy of the prospectus, and a call by a licensed salesman, please fill in and mail the form below:

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

Please send copy of prospectus for Farm Bureau Services, Inc., 1960 Issue Series A Debentures and have a licensed salesman call.

Name Road P. O. Address County Phone No.

I Look Over My New Job in Farm Bureau

J. DELBERT WELLS Coordinator of Family Relations Did you ever wake up some morning on the farm and say to yourself, "I'm all caught up—I don't have anything to do today." I'm sure that you haven't, that is, after you become fully awake. Things never get "all caught up" on the farm or elsewhere. It's only because of the fact that we are sometimes half asleep that we don't know what needs to be done.

At present I'm a new guy in a job new to me and in a new bed. I do have the feeling that the

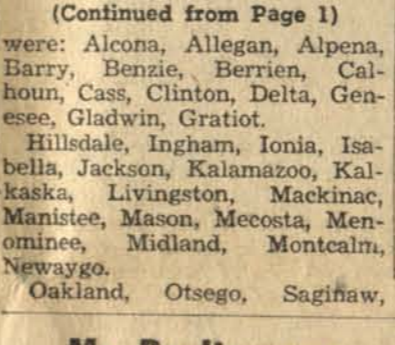


fellows who hired me figured that there is a day's work ahead. That I will soon find out. The title Coordinator of Family Relations sounds intriguing. Twenty-five years with one wife plus five kids should qualify me in this field. As I review the Community Group program, the Women's Program, and Young People's Program, they do remind me of my family. They all have some special interest, but they do work together for the good of the family organization. This seems to be the challenge of the job that lies ahead for me: To work at building a hard hitting program of concerted action through the Community Groups, Women and Young People's programs. This should be most interesting and challenging. Experience has taught that Farm Bureau cannot grow unless it is "local." Farm Bureau is people working together for their common good. This is the basis for a happy family, a successful church or lodge, and a successful form of

What to Do On Inflation?

(Continued from Page 1) were: Alcona, Allegan, Alpena, Barry, Benzie, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Delta, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot. Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Livingston, Mackinac, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Menominee, Midland, Montcalm, Newaygo. Oakland, Otsego, Saginaw,

Mr. Poultryman START 'EM RIGHT ... with Farm Bureau Chick Starter



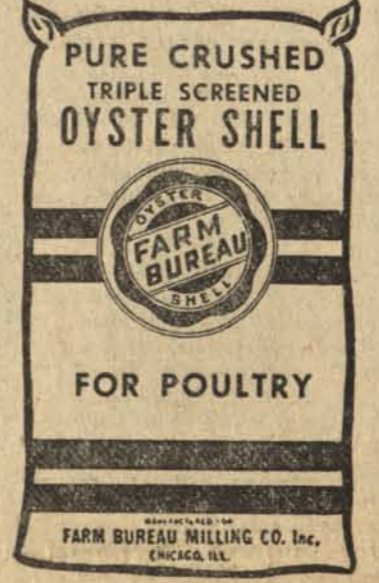
Our job in the future is to continue to pioneer and perfect the effectiveness of voluntary group action in meeting the challenges that we have ahead in America. As I become better acquainted here, the problems and approaches will come into sharper focus and we can continue to move ahead. It is a pleasure to work with Michigan Farm Bureau and to have Mrs. Marjorie Karker and Lester Bollwahn as my co-workers in this field.

FINISH 'EM RIGHT ... with Our Quality Layer Rations

Farm Bureau Precision Formulated Layer Rations are concentrated, properly balanced feeds, formulated by your cooperative to provide truly efficient laying rations for modern high-producing birds. Included in the line are specialized feeds for commercial egg production flocks and hatchery supply flocks, with a choice of either all-mash or mash-grain rations.

- Farm Bureau 20% Chick Starter Farm Bureau Mash-Grain Layer Farm Bureau All-Mash Layer Farm Bureau Cage Layer

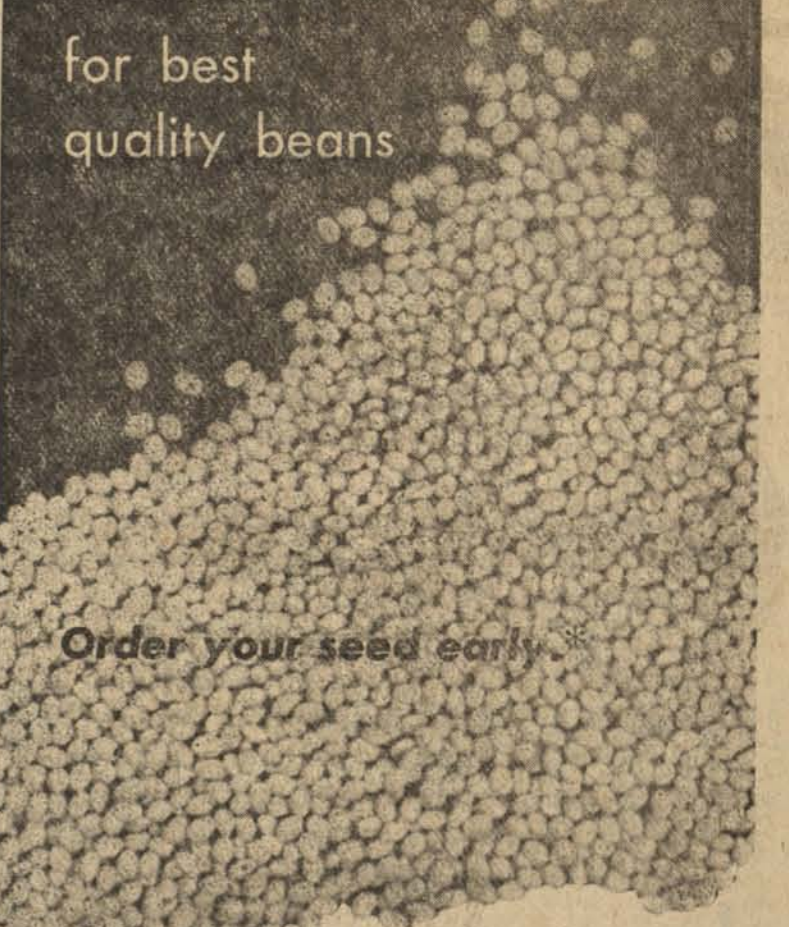
Quality FARM BUREAU Economy 4000 NORTH GRAND RIVER LANSING, MICHIGAN



DOGS (INCLUDING ME) REALLY GO FOR FARM BUREAU DOG FOOD All types and breeds of dogs are being raised on Farm Bureau "Premium" Dog Food with excellent results. This proves to their owners that Farm Bureau "Premium" is a dog food which "packs a punch" for dog growth and health. Kenna stock, farm dogs and home pets fed the Farm Bureau way show fine health and vigor, rapid growth and prime condition. Ask for your free sample TODAY!

See your Farm Bureau Feed Dealer for your FREE sample

MICHIGAN... top bean state in the nation depends on MICHIGAN CERTIFIED SEED for best quality beans



Order your seed early \*MICHELITE... Vine type plant... pulls and rakes easily... adapted to the total range of soils... good resistance to white mold when planted in wide spaced rows on infected soil. \*SANILAC... Bush type plant... very easy combining... excellent aeration with no reduction in yield by white mold.

Table with 4 columns: Variety, Bu. Acre, % Pick, Avg. Days Maturity. Rows: Michelite, Sanilac.

MICHIGAN CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN BARLEY, CORN, FIELD BEANS, POTATOES, WHEAT, SOYBEANS

## "Raising my hogs on concrete saves me \$2,400 a year in feeding costs!"

Says ALVIN S. LEHMANN, Pleasant Plains, Illinois



Al Lehmann's Duross have won 15 Illinois State Fair championships. He is holder of the Premier Sire Award from the 1953 National Barrow Show and owns the first "Certified Meat Sire" of the Duross breed.

"Hogs that take it easy on concrete—instead of struggling in mud—gain faster and do it on less feed. And there's no feed lost, either."

"I grow 600 Duross a year on concrete—with a savings in feed that easily runs \$4.00 per hog. My hogs reach market weight 15 days sooner, so I beat the big run and get top prices. And concrete is so easy to work on and keep clean, I save a good hour a day on chores."

Put all these advantages together and it's easy to see why more and more progressive hog farmers use concrete every year.

### CLIP—MAIL TODAY

PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION  
2108 Michigan National Tower, Lansing 8, Mich.

A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete  
Please send free booklet, "Concrete Improvements for Hog Raising."  
Also send material on subjects I've listed:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ST. OR R. NO. \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

# Wheat is No. 1 Farm Problem

The American Farm Bureau has developed a new program to deal with the serious problems that have arisen under the present price support program for wheat.

## Farm Bureau is recommending the new plan to Congress.

Under the present price support and acreage program for wheat, we are producing much more wheat than the market will take. The greatest single stimulant to the situation is the production incentives of the price support program.

The Commodity Credit Corporation has \$3.4 billion tied up in 1.4 billion bushels of wheat in storage. The wheat situation is critical. It will get worse without corrective legislation.

Farm Bureau believes that any effective program for wheat must:

1. Eliminate the artificial production incentives of the present and former wheat programs.
2. Encourage greater use of wheat by allowing wheat prices to become more competitive with market prices of corn and other feed grains.
3. Minimize economic hardships on wheat producers.
4. Avoid shifting the burden of adjustment to producers of other farm commodities. Other programs offered do nothing about this situation.

The American Farm Bureau is recommending to Congress a new wheat program which would:

1. Eliminate all acreage allotments and marketing quotas, effective with the 1961 crop.

This would permit each wheat grower to determine for himself the acreage of wheat which would make the most efficient use of the land, labor, and machinery.

The traditional wheat grower would be free to produce wheat at what he considers to be his lowest possible unit cost of production.

2. Base the price supports for wheat on the support level for corn, with adjustments for difference in weight, feeding value, and buyer preference.

For most purposes wheat is a highly nutritive livestock feed that is worth slightly more than corn, pound for pound. Wheat is also heavier on a bushel basis. Therefore, adjustments for these differences normally would result in a support price for wheat that would be higher than the corn support.

For the 1961 crop the wheat price support would be no less than 120 percent of the corn price support.

This policy would (1) restore pricing of wheat to supply-demand conditions in the market place, and (2) expand the use of wheat for feed without subsidized or unfair competition for producers of corn and other feed grains.

3. Provide adequate protection for farmers from the competition of sales of wheat stocks acquired by the federal Commodity Credit Corporation. CCC now has over 1.4 billion bushels of wheat in storage, in inventory and under loan.

Under Farm Bureau's proposal, farmers would be protected by a provision that the CCC could not sell wheat for domestic use at less than 150% of the effective support price, plus reasonable carrying charges.

Future foreign sales from CCC wheat under Public Law 480 (Agricultural Trade Development Act) would be restricted to the 1957-58-59 average of such sales. There would be no limit on foreign donations of CCC wheat for

vide an incentive for increased production.

An expanded conservation reserve program would help much to encourage needed adjustments in production—but only if the effects of idling the land are not offset by price support levels that stimulate production.

The expansion in the conservation reserve would then come under two authorizations: 1. Expansion of the regular conservation reserve program. 2. The wheat bill.

As a general policy Farm Bureau recommends the extension of USDA's authority to enter into new conservation reserve contracts for three years—through 1963—with modest expansion in appropriations for this period.

The solution to the wheat problem is in the hands of Congress. There are plenty of "wrong solutions" including multiple price plans, tighter controls, ceilings on wheat loans, and direct payments.

What can we do about wheat? We can develop Congressional support for the sound program proposed by Farm Bureau. We should:

1. Get understanding of Farm Bureau's proposals on wheat and the soil bank, and the urgent

need for Congressional action on these proposals.

2. Write letters to our Representative and two Senators in Congress on the wheat problem and ask their support for the American Farm Bureau's proposal.

### FB Mutual Adds

## Innocent Victim Clause To All Policies

Special protection against the costs of bodily injuries caused by uninsured or hit-and-run motorists is being provided for all Farm Bureau Mutual auto policyholders.

N. L. Vermillion, Administrative Vice-President for Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, said the coverage called Innocent Victim protection has been added to all Farm Bureau Mutual auto policies.

It provides up to \$10,000 for bodily injuries, illness, loss of time, and other damages resulting from bodily injuries which

the insured would be legally entitled to recover from the offending motorist if he is financially irresponsible.

The innocent victim coverage protects the insured person named in the policy, his wife, children living in his home, and other persons riding in the insured automobile.

The protection extends to insured persons riding in any other car, or if struck by an uninsured vehicle while walking or riding a bicycle on the highway.

"We consider this a major addition to our auto policy," Mr. Vermillion said. "It safeguards our policyholders against irresponsible motorists who may cause them bodily injury, and leave them to shoulder serious expense."

## Invite 4-H Members to Visit Co-ops

The Cooperative Extension Service and the Michigan Ass'n of Farmer Cooperatives are inviting the leaders of 5,000 4-H Clubs to have their members learn more about cooperatives this spring and summer.

They are suggesting a tour of a nearby cooperative. A folder

which contains a description and plans for the project has been mailed to each 4-H Club leader.

The folder suggests that the 4-H club members might devote three meetings to the project:

- 1—Select a cooperative business in the community, contact the manager for a tour date, and plan the tour.
- 2—The day of the tour, it is suggested that the group ask a set of prepared questions which will enable the management to describe the cooperative and the services it provides. Who owns it, and sets the policies. Who manages it. How the business is financed, and how the savings are distributed to patrons.
- 3—After the tour, have a club meeting to review what was seen and heard and talked about on the tour of a cooperative business.

## Farm Bureau Services Branch at Cass City

Farm Bureau Services, Inc., purchased the Law Feed & Supply store at Cass City, Tuscola county, March 1. It is now known as the Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Cass City Branch. Clinton Law, former owner, who handled Farm Bureau supplies in his business, will continue as manager. He has been a member of Farm Bureau for a long time.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS  
April 1, 1960

## PARTNERS for GREATER PROFITS!

## FARM BUREAU PLANT FOOD and MICHIGAN CERTIFIED SEEDS

Farmer after farmer in Michigan has found out that Farm Bureau Plant Food and Farm Bureau Seed are their natural partners for profit. Thanks to your patronage, and that of your neighbors, Farm Bureau's fertilizer and seed departments have set the pace within the industry, year after year. Every product sold by Farm Bureau has been formulated, grown and processed to meet your requirements. Farm Bureau Services' manufacturing and processing plants are located to give you every advantage in prompt, economical shipping. Dealers throughout the state are just about within a stone's throw of your farming operation. Every phase of Farm Bureau's fertilizer and seed departments has been geared with you, and your profits, in mind. Buy where you see the familiar red, white and blue emblem . . . it is your guide to quality coupled with economy.

## If You are Interested in Getting a Good Corn Crop this Year . . .

1. Test your soil to find out what it lacks.
2. Use land that has been properly drained.
3. Use correct rotation and crop sequence.
4. Keep your tillage down to a minimum.
5. Plant Farm Bureau's Michigan Certified Hybrid Seed Corn.
6. Watch your planting rate and stick to it.
7. Use adequate fertilizer of the proper analysis.
8. Place the fertilizer to the side and below the seed.

Today you need higher yields for increased profits. That's why it is all the more important that you feed your crops properly. With Farm Bureau Plant Foods you can be sure.

If you're like most farmers in Michigan, high fixed costs are your biggest problem. Stop in at your nearby Farm Bureau dealer and let him show you how Farm Bureau Plant Foods are formulated to give maximum yields. With these maximum yields you can lick high fixed costs and allow yourself maximum profits.

## Farm Bureau's Michigan Certified Hybrid Seed Corn

Today more than ever before you've got to be sure your corn crop gives you the largest profit return you can get. You can be sure of getting this highest yield of quality corn by planting hybrids that were developed and produced in Michigan for Michigan farmers and Michigan conditions.

Your local Agricultural Agent or Farm Bureau dealer will aid you in selecting one of the hybrids that is best suited to your soil and local conditions. Either one will show you how to produce more corn profits by planting Michigan Certified Hybrid Seed Corn.

### If you want:

- GREATER YIELDS
- LESS MOISTURE
- LESS STALK LODGING
- EXTRA PROFITS PER ACRE

then plant Farm Bureau's Michigan Certified Hybrid Seed Corn on your farm. The M.S.U. Extension Folder F-67 (Revised) will give you all of the facts. Pick up a copy at any Farm Bureau dealership and see for yourself!

## TEST YOUR SOIL FIRST!

Test your soil first to find out which analysis of Farm Bureau Granular Plant Food it needs. Do this when your ground is not frozen or too wet.  
Ask your Farm Bureau Dealer for Free Soil Sample Bags.

## AFBF Turns Away From Cuban Sugar

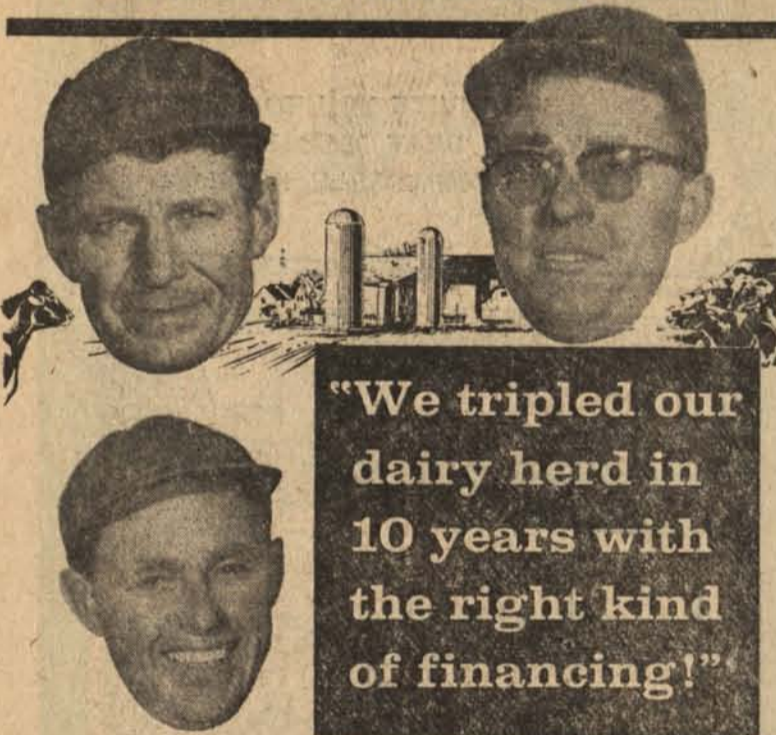
Directors of the American Farm Bureau on March 17 recommended that Cuba no longer be given preferential treatment under the U. S. Sugar Act.

The Board of Directors recommended a four-year extension of the Sugar Act with amendments aimed at developing dependable sources of sugar supply domestically and in friendly sugar-producing countries. The amendments would:

1. Provide the President authority for one year, subject to Congressional renewal, to make emergency adjustments in foreign quotas as necessary to protect the interest of the United States.
2. Provide for increases in the basic quotas for mainland areas of 150,000 tons for beet sugar and 50,000 tons for cane.
3. Assure maintenance of Puerto Rico's present position under the Act with respect to basic quotas and growth.
4. Stabilize Cuba's quota at no more than the present level so long as present conditions prevail.

## SUCCESSFUL FARM BUSINESS

A SERIES OF CASE HISTORIES BASED ON PCA FINANCING



"We tripled our dairy herd in 10 years with the right kind of financing!"

And, this "right kind of financing," together with this mighty good on-the-farm management, has put Clarence Korth and his sons, LuVerne and Mervin, into a good-sized, profitable dairy business. Here's the story from Clarence Korth, successful Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, businessman-farmer:

"Back in 1949 we moved onto a 240-acre farm with 36 cows. One of our immediate goals was to get the kind of financing that would best help us to enlarge our operations and to make use of our own labor supply. For it we turned to our local Production Credit Association in Juneau.

"Since then I guess we've borrowed enough money from PCA to set a fellow up in business! (10-year total nearly \$120,000). And it's been the right kind of borrowing—the kind of financing, and financial service that has been planned for us, for our problems.

"Today we own 480 acres and rent another hundred. With a 113-cow herd we market about 1½ million pounds of milk annually.

"We've increased, expanded, and we're doing pretty good—and we'll give a lot of credit to our PCA!"

Yes, more and more successful farmers are giving more and more credit to their Production Credit Associations for helping them along the road to a successful business.

Find out for yourself about PCA's important "one stop" financial service, and low-cost "farmer-planned" loans.



**PRODUCTION CREDIT Associations of Michigan**

For information call your local PCA representative or write Production Credit Assn., Box 5163, N. Lansing Station, Lansing, Mich.



Always shop where you see this emblem; it is your guide to quality coupled with economy.

**FARM BUREAU SERVICES**









# Do Our Local Governments Pay Their Way?

## Community Farm Bureau Discussion Topic for April

Background Material for Programs in April by Our  
1,573 Community Farm Bureau Discussion Groups

DONALD D. KINSEY  
Coordinator of Education and Research

Our April topic involves a close examination of local government operations and the degree to which local people finance them. It is a topic of greatest importance to local people. It has a lot to do with the future of farmers.

Farm Bureau delegates have said, "Farmers are citizens of their communities, their state and nation." What happens to government has a lot to do with the future of farming. If for no other reason than heavy taxation farmers should be serious students of local government as well as all other levels of government operation.

\* \* \*

**Jam and Pickle.** For the past three years, Michigan's financial "jam" has been national news. Publications have not said so much about the real "pickle" in which local government units have been plunged.

For local governments, this plunge into the financial "pickle barrel" is a serious one. Local government leaders have been worried—in one way or another—about the ways and means of climbing out of this barrel. Their worries are well-founded.

**Suggestions for the abandonment of part or all of the local government system** seem to come frequently these days. A House Bill in the 1960 Legislature suggests that we should do away with the County Board of Supervisors. At a Michigan Teachers' Institute this past winter, one speaker declared that all school districts should be combined into one vast Federal school district.

**That idea is not new.** In 1952, the head of a Federal agency proposed the same thing—and asked that he be placed at the head of the Federal school district.

The argument of such people says that local governments are

tion to Lansing and Washington. Resistance in the past has been strong to keep local government authority in the hands of the home folks. Yet, quite a few local people still think it proper and safe to appeal for more "aid" from State and Federal Sources.

### Ingredients of The Pickle

Changes in our American society are having much to do with the predicament in which local governments and school districts are finding themselves. We should examine a few developments, since any real chance of preserving the full powers of our local government will depend upon the way in which people meet the challenges.

### No. 1 — The Changing Viewpoint

We must put down as of primary importance the trend of public opinion which accepts the view that local government operations may be financed by larger government units.

This doctrine, as it grows in the minds of citizens, is in itself a major element of the problem. It is a doctrine of defeatism. It says, "We can no longer solve our own problems. We cannot take care of ourselves. Someone else must do it for us."

### No. 2 — Our Growing Population

Our communities have experienced a tremendous explosion of population. Birth rates have set all-time records. Residents are overflowing the boundaries of our cities. More and more rural areas are becoming urbanized.

The result? Demands for local programs and services are increasing, more schools — more roads — better fire and police protection. Suburban sewage systems are sadly inadequate to meet the needs of many areas and are creating serious health problems. Some community water systems cannot meet minimum needs.

### Ingredient No. 3, Local Taxes

Local taxes have become a

## Discussion Topics

These topics were chosen by your State Discussion Topic Committee from the results of the ballots returned by Community Farm Bureaus . . . and the requests of the delegates at the MFB annual meeting.

- Apr. Spotting State-Supported Local Programs.
- May Working Effectively in a Political Party.
- Jun. Urban Annexation Laws Can Hit Farmers.
- Jul. How to Pay for Farm Product Promotion?
- Aug. Community Groups Vital to Farm Bureau.

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

serious problem. All the above demands boost the need of local governments for more money with which to provide the community developments and services.

But this need for much money places a heavy strain on a select group of local people, — the property owners.

About the only thing that local governments have left that is taxable is real estate and personal property. Already the overload of taxes on property owners has become so great that many are hard put to pay them. And the end is not in sight,—not by any means!

Farmers in areas of suburban expansion are being hit especially hard by property taxes. Farm land is often assessed on the basis of its probable sale value as suburban lots,—even before it is platted for that purpose.

Rising taxes often make it impossible to pay the tax bills and still earn a living from the farm.

In setting 1959 policies, the Michigan Farm Bureau delegates said, "In many cases farmers are having to bear the brunt of tax loads to improve suburbanized property into which our expanding populations are moving. Valuations on farm land increase when there is no real prospect for suburban plating in the near future and when the farm land should continue to be operated as agricul-

tural land . . .

"We hold that taxing programs should not be so geared in Michigan as to force our Michigan farmers out of the opportunity to continue a profitable farming operation and a reasonable standard of living for our families."

### Property Taxes Have Some Faults

Support of local government by taxing property does not spread the local tax burden on a sound basis. Property taxes are not related to any real ability to pay. The tax has no relation to the earning power of the property and this point hits farmers hard.

Retired people on small incomes who own their homes are taxed for programs which do not serve them. Young families on good incomes and who rent, well, it is hard to say how much they contribute to the property tax through rents.

But the main load falls on those who own their own homes for the most part. Some who receive many local services may pay little or no tax. Others who pay the tax may receive fewer benefits from local programs.

### No. 4 — Local Taxable Wealth

One of the most serious problems of local government is based on the fact that some lo-

cal areas lack enough taxable wealth to provide needed services by taxing property. Others are well-fixed.

Some less wealthy local units are being overrun with new residents from the wealthy industrial areas.

Workers move out "to low tax districts." Demands mount for schools, streets, sewers, and what not. This has been a growing problem in many Michigan local governments.

It has provided what is, perhaps, the strongest argument for the need of state-aid. The Michigan Legislature has recognized this point by passing laws which adjust the deductible millage in relation to the gross allowance per pupil for school-aid purposes. Without such an adjustment, many of the less wealthy districts could not provide adequate schools for their resident children.

Here is a move which, to a degree, attempts to "equalize financing according to need." The present formula falls short of any actual equalization, but it does aim in that direction.

Local school districts have found, however, that where there is centralized financing, some degree of policy control over local affairs is sacrificed.

Local officials worry because they can see the total loss of local control — if the situation reaches the extreme. And some folks today are saying that we should go all the way.

### Ingredient No. 5, Tax Monopoly

What can local governments tax, except real estate and personal property? Where can they turn? Federal and State governments have "covered the tax waterfront." They have created for themselves a taxing monopoly.

The central governments are constantly probing to find new sources of wealth to tap. Local governments are getting less than 5% of the total tax dollar by direct local taxation. Citizens are giving a real big chunk of their time working for government. (Almost 5 months out of the year.)

### New Local Taxes?

Certain kinds of taxes are hard to collect at the local level without creating serious problems. For example:

1. Could local governments tax payrolls? They might but, would it work? Many wage earners might live outside of the taxing area. If taxed on their pay, they would be paying taxes both where they live and again where they work. They would be supporting two local governments. This would stir up a nice tempes-  
tent!

2. A local income tax? Suppose that the community next door doesn't levy an income tax, but you do. You are inviting people to live and work somewhere else where the air is freer (of taxes). And folks move to get away from taxes. That is why some of them move out of the cities. Income taxes would not be inviting to local business and industries, either.

3. What about a local sales tax? Well a low rate local sales tax might not do too much damage—if it were low enough. But it would take a change in the Constitution to permit it.

Local governments in Illinois are permitted by law to vote a local sales tax of one-half cent. The tax is collected by the State and returned to the local government, if it has been voted through.

But dangers exist. Local business can lose trade. Purchasers can go somewhere else to do their shopping. Unless all local governments passed the tax it could damage the business in a taxing area.

### A Head Tax?

To lighten the load on property taxes, some people have suggested a local "head tax" to support the schools. Others protest that such a tax would destroy our system of "free public schools." They argue that such a tax would place a major burden on parents with large families who can least afford to pay this sort of tax.

Property owners counter with the point that "if you think that schools come free, just own

property!" You can find arguments for and against every sort of tax you can mention. The only sure thing is that there will be taxes — and more of them — as long as government services are needed.

### Where to Turn?

The question as to where local governments can turn for money plows up many other questions. Can local governments confidently expect State government and the Federal government to finance their rapidly-growing needs?

The State? Michigan is broke! Budget experts talk about a deficit of \$120 million for 1960.

The Federal government? Some seem to think that its resources are endless. But the annual budget is running around \$80 billion, and the Federal debt is now up to \$290 billion. A nation living on excessive debt is living dangerously. One way or another, people have to pay their own way.

### Questions for Local Folks

At what level of government can local programs be best ad-  
(Continued on Page 6)

### Farm-City Week Planning for 1960

Farm-City Week 1960 will be November 18 to 24.

The National Farm-City Committee has asked the board of trustees of Kiwanis International to accept a request to serve as coordinating agency for 1960. Kiwanis has filled this role, through its Chicago office, for the last five years.

The 1960 Committee Chairman is Robert D. McMillen, Corn Industries Research Foundation, of Washington, D. C. McMillen was elected at the annual meeting of the Farm-City group at Chicago last month. He succeeds Roy Battles, Assistant to the Master of the National Grange. Vice-Presidents for 1960 are C. Maurice Wieting, Ohio Farm Bureau, and Howard C. Tuttle, of Ford, Tractor Division, Birmingham, Michigan.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS  
8 April 1, 1960

# MORE SAVINGS

AVAILABLE  
APRIL  
**1**

# NEW COVERAGES

## for FARM BUREAU MEMBERS!



### 10% Auto Dividend

Additional savings in the form of a dividend credit to special safe driver classes. (Applies to autos with no male operators under age 25.) The dividends will be credited on renewal premiums due from April 1, thru September 30, 1960 — representing a savings of \$150,000 to policyholders.



### Lower Auto Liability Rates

Bodily Injury and Property Damage rates have been reduced 10 per cent on full time farmer passenger cars and pick-ups with no male operators under age 25. This reduction in rates will appear on renewal premiums due on and after April 1, 1960.



### New Extension of Coverage

Damage caused by collision with deer will be paid under comprehensive coverage effective April 1, 1960. Formerly, damage caused by deer was paid under collision coverage, subject to policyholders paying the deductible amount.



### New Fire and Wind Rates

Effective April 1, 1960, Fire and Extended Coverage rates on pole buildings have been reduced 40 per cent. Wind rates on concrete and metal silos have also been reduced.

GET THE BEST FOR LESS. SEE YOUR LOCAL FARM BUREAU INSURANCE AGENT. DO IT TODAY!

# FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

AUTO • FIRE • LIFE • FARM LIABILITY • HOMEOWNERS • CARGO • INLAND MARINE

4000 North Grand River Avenue, Lansing 4, Michigan

