Spurred on by a year-end report of an all-time high in membership reached by the American Farm Bureau Federation, Michigan Roll-Call volunteers have more than passed the half-way mark toward their goal of 68,612 Farm Bureau members for 1965.

According to late membership reports tallied by the Field Services Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau, nearly 41,000 members have already been signed for 1965. Of this number almost 1,000 are new members.

Glen Sommerfeldt, Division Manager, reports that membership work appears to be well ahead of last year at this time with a steady 5% lead over last year maintained for most of the sign-up period.

Meanwhile the 60 Michigan delegates attending the 45th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Philadelphia, were inspired in mid-December by the resounding membership gains recorded in 38 of 49 states.

These gains raised the 1965 membership in the American Farm Bureau to 1,647,455, an all-time high, and a gain of 19,160 over last year.

Two of the most impressive gains were made by states bordering Michigan — Indiana and Illinois. The Hoosier Farm Bureau reached its membership quota and went on to record the largest numerical gain of any state, 4,422 families more than last year. Illinois also reached its membership quota and produced its seventh consecutive year of growth.

Such gains were termed "the one best answer" to critics of organized agriculture according to American Farm Bureau officials who called for renewed effort by all farmers in reaching an eventual two million member goal.

Determined Michigan membership volunteers are continuing these efforts and a variety of methods are being used to help shade the serious work with overtones of fun.

For example, Houghton County Farm Bureau leaders have offered "membership incentives ranging from cash awards to their best farm produce." County president Joe St. Amour has announced a cash "bounty" paid to workers for each new member secured. Not to be outdone, Roll-Call Manager Rudy Larson offers 50 pounds of his fine Upper Peninsula potatoes to any worker signing a new member.

Those who join have not been forgotten, for board member Harold Tikkanen will present each new member with a dozen fresh eggs!

In the Northeast region, Alpena, Alcona, Iosco and Cheboygan counties used the "turkey for Christmas" idea this year, in a promotion that brought a large turkey to each community group which scored a 100% membership renewal “plus two new members” — the turkey to be used by the group in a Christmas or New Year’s dinner meeting.

Four turkeys have been earned in both Alcona and Iosco — and contest results were not yet available in other areas.

Montcalm County, which has issued “first-to-reach-goal” challenge to the rest of Lower Michigan, reports 57% of goal reached, with 50 new members signed.

Other high-ranking counties include Traverse, now at 65% of goal, in the Saginaw Valley region, St. Clair with 86% in the Thumb, and Nestow with 70% in the Western region.

Cheboygan county appears to top the Northeasters region with 70.7% of goal, while Clare counties in Northwest Michigan at 70% holds the lead for that region.

Alfalfa county, at 66% of goal, appears to hold the advance position in the Southwest region while 67% for Wayne county places it in top position in the Southeast.

Membership "Roll-Call" Passes Half-Way Mark

Coming Events Calendar

Important Farm Bureau activities of weeks ahead in the New Year include:

**JANUARY 5-6-7** — Young Farmer Conference, Lansing.

**JANUARY 22-29** — February 5-12-19-26 (six consecutive Fridays) "Economic" Seminars for ten-county area near Olivet College.

**FEBRUARY 11-12** — Freedom Conference, featuring Dr. Walter Judd, at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant.

**MARCH 14-17** — Washington Legislative Air-Tour — flying trip to the Nation’s Capitol, sponsored by Farm Bureau Women.
Deadly Skid Reaction
By Robert Bunker

Skidding has become a serious problem on Michigan roads.

Skid-the reaction of the motorist's most frightening peril - treacherous skids that send automobiles swerving out of control and into trouble. Thousands of drivers follow the winter months experience this frightening sensation.

Drivers all too often jam on brakes in a skid condition instead of "pumping" them to bring the car to a quick, safe stop.

Interest in skid hazards has been whetted by recent discoveries that an automobile traveling at speeds of 50 to 60 miles an hour on wet pavement tends to "hydroplane" much the same as a water-skier as he skims the surface of the water, thus causing a loss of steering in the automobile.

The typical "dry road" skid starts when a motorists sees a stop sign or stalled vehicles just ahead and slams on his brakes in a panic stop. The wheels lock. The rear end breaks away in a tail-wagging skid. The tires get hot when their skid and begin laying down a slick trail of molten rubber.

When this happens, motorists instinctively do the right thing. They let up to a point, thus allowing the opportunity to steer their automobile.

There are a few basic fundamentals which can be followed by all good drivers to help reduce the skid tendency and still keep the car under control:

1. Never apply the brakes on a skid.
2. Disengage a clutch if the car has a standard transmission. If it has an automatic, leave it in drive but take your foot off the accelerator.
3. If the rear end starts to swing around, steer in the direction of the skid. Straighten the front wheels instantly, then when the swinging stops, counter-steer if the rear end starts to swing the other way.
4. In a front wheel skid, straighten the wheels if they are angled so they will roll instead of skid.

By making the drivers more aware of skids and how to cope with them, more people will be able to handle one of the great treacherous highway killers.

One of the latest devices is a mechanism to pump the car's brakes and consequently reduce the possibility of dangerous skids. This unit is looked into the automobile's transmission and can be attached to the car in a matter of a relatively short time with the simplest of tools.
Public indifference is the most dangerous roadblock to safety! That people "don't give a hang" about the mounting record of vehicle accidents, deaths and injuries was the most distressing problem faced by the Governor's Special Commission on Traffic Safety appointed in 1964. Representing Farm Bureau on this Commission were Nilo Vermillion, Administrative Vice President, Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, Marjorie Karker, and Mrs. Anton Hoort, Portland.

Proposals The Commission drafted 29 recommendations. Among them, it recommended that:
1. Our Michigan State Police and other enforcement agencies are seriously underrated and inadequate in traffic enforcement and control. The Michigan State Police force should be expanded up to national standards.
2. That police agencies should include use of devices, such as radar, for the detection of violations. Almost all current enforcement of traffic violations is being committed.
3. That Michigan have more uniform traffic regulations and give special attention to controlling and limiting speed through roadways.
4. That the Highway Code be considered by the Legislature at its 1965 session. You may want to talk them over with your Legislators. But do not be a "roadblock." Death on the highway is the time of known road hazards even if it required an increase in gas and weight taxes to do it.
5. That all new drivers be required to take driver education instruction with longer training periods than are given at present.
6. That all motor vehicles be inspected for safety at regular intervals by state-authorized or state-operated inspection stations.
7. That a stepped-up program of public information regarding the traffic situation and its records be pursued, including all media of communication on a maximum basis.
8. That such proposals will be considered by the Legislature at its 1965 session. You may want to talk them over with your Legislators. But don't be a "roadblock." Death on the highway is the time of known road hazards even if it required an increase in gas and weight taxes to do it.
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Accident Tolls Boost Auto Insurance Rates

The increasing volume and expense of Michigan's traffic accidents will necessitate a rate adjustment for auto policyholders of the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, according to N. L. Vermillion, Administrative Vice President. "The increase becomes effective January 1st, 1965."

The dollar amount of each policyholder's rate adjustment will depend on driver classification.

"Farm Bureau Companies, like insurance companies throughout Michigan, have encountered increasing auto claim expenses during recent years," Vermillion stated. "This accounts for the increased pressures on insurance companies, and the resulting costs — medical care, repairing damaged vehicles, and liability judgments — are increasing at a rapid rate.

Premium rates are determined by the driver's classification, which is based on factors such as age, sex, vehicle usage, geographical location, and type of street. When the dollar amount of claims paid in a certain classification increases, the rate must be adjusted to maintain protection for all policyholders. The classification system, for example, is growing faster than that of urban areas.

In addition to uninsured motorists and property damage, Michigan's 1964 traffic accidents caused a financial loss which has been estimated at $300,000,000, the insurance officers continued. This is an increase of $40,000,000 or about 12 per cent over 1963.

"In spite of rising expenses, the Farm Bureau Insurance companies are committed to maintaining the most comprehensive coverage available while maintaining the lowest possible premium rates.

Policyholders were urged to contact their Farm Bureau agent to discuss changes in their insurance rates. The 210 members of the agency force through-out Michigan can answer specific inquiries and gladly make any desired coverage changes.

Pinpoint Blame In pinpointing the responsibility for Michigan's rising accident record, the Farm Bureau's Public Relations Department recommended the formation of County Farm Bureau Safety Committees to help halt that disastrous trend.

The disastrous accident record on the rural roads in the past two years, N. L. Vermillion, Farm Bureau delegates at the convention in November. They recommended the formation of County Farm Bureau Safety Committees to tackle the problem at the home level.

The delegates gave support in their action to the recommendations of the Governor's Commission regarding the regulation of drunk drivers, conditions for the licensing of drivers, and the removal of known road hazards. They called upon farmers to use the utmost care and caution in the operation of slow-moving farm vehicles on the roads and highways so as to avoid the necessity of laws which could be more drastic than necessary for the farmers.
Policy "Briefing" Planned

Michigan Congressmen are meeting with the National Agricultural Committees of their County to open the opening of the first session of the 89th Congress on January 6.

The State's delegation is composed of 12 Democrats and 7 Republicans. Seven of the 12 Democratic Congressmen will be "freshmen" serving their first term.

In familiarizing themselves with Farm Bureau policies, the Congressmen are hearing the report of decisions hammered out at the American Farm Bureau Federation convention held at Philadelphia December 7-10, 1964.

The meetings were scheduled in late December so that the Congressmen could have the advantage of the most recent thinking of farmers.

At the Philadelphia convention the National Farm Bureau laid out a plan to prepare the nation for such a situation in which prices above which would be vigorously rejected by wheat growers on May 21, 1963.

In order to clear the state for new legislation, delegates would eliminate the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture for wheat marketing laws. The allotment retirement program and the wheat certificate plan now called for under existing law. This would enable each farmer to decide for himself which crops he should produce, and whether of high price supports. The National Farm Bureau program, applying only to wheat, would be per- mission program calling for Congress to pass a two-year extension of the present Wheat Act.

U.S. mill consumption of apparel wool has continued to decline while the consumption of wool-like synthetics has increased, according to the Director of the American Wool Textile Industry. This year was one of our most successful years ever. The increase in sales was a full 50% per hundredweight on sales made just prior to Christmas, bringing them to the $4.00 mark. This is a price considered "in line" with earlier MACMA suggested prices.

Michigan processing apple growers look upon the price increase as direct proof of the value of their Farm Bureau membership and of MACMA's ability to deal with processors in matters of price and other terms of trade.

For the first time in modern memory, the price of a bumper crop of Processing Apples has increased as the year progressed. This is exactly opposite of farmer trends where a bumper crop usually spelled low prices, drifting toward prices still lower.

The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) this week reported a further substantial increase in price for Spy and other preferred varieties out of storage. The increase in Spy was a full 50% per hundredweight on sales made just prior to Christmas, bringing them to the $4.00 mark. This is a price considered "in line" with earlier MACMA suggested prices.

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An affiliate of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the MACMA organization is one of the newer "economic services" in Farm Business.
QUESTION: What do you feel is the most important single thing you have gained from your Russian experience?

RUTH: The fact that it truly was a person-to-person experience. We wondered if Russians have the same opportunity to observe us as we did in visiting them. Our question was answered as we came back on the plane from Brussels, for we discovered 25 Russian farmers coming to Ohio, to gain impressions of farming there.

I feel that it is through such people-to-people programs that we will eventually solve the world peace situation. Everywhere we went, people in the schools, those one met in the streets—all said they wanted peace, "we want to be friends with the United States."

QUESTION: Wonder if they mean the same things as we do when they use the word "Peace?"

WILBUR: I don't know. Since Khrushchev is gone—it is my opinion that the people of Russia will be worse off than before. At least the people of the towns felt that they were treated much better under Khrushchev than under Stalin.

QUESTION: What was your impression of Moscow?

WILBUR: We stayed at the big Leninsred Hotel. That night we were just wandering around and ended up finally at the train depot across the street from the hotel. We discovered hundreds of people waiting to get somewhere. Most were poorly dressed, many clutched a few tomatoes, a few apples, or watermelons. Many were stretched out, sleeping, surrounded by their possessions.

QUESTION: How were people on the street dressed?

RUTH: I would say that just going along the street in Moscow, one would think they were on any street in America. People were well dressed and they combed their hair about the same way as we do. However, the peasants are another matter. Although their clothing appears clean, they dress more as if they would like to be seen as the same as we are. In Moscow they are not well-dressed. Women have long, shapeless and coarse dresses, shoes are flat and of the wrong color. They have perm-sets—we asked the manager what he did before coming to the farm. He said that he had been a clerk in a city office, yet now three years later, here he was managing this farm.

I would say that the Russian farm machinery is the next major defect within their system. We never saw any out in the fields. They always said that it was "busy out in the field," but we did see any out in the field other than a few pieces that didn't seem workable. The machinery we did see had not been taken care of.

The next thing that is wrong with Russian Agriculture, and they admitted this, is that they do not have the chemical fertilizers which they need.

But the fourth and most important thing wrong with Russian farming is the lack of initiative caused by their system.

PRIVATE-ENTERPRISE CORN is lush and well tended. By comparison "Government corn" is weedy and stunted. Wilbur Smith stands in a shoulder-high one-acre field granted to Peasants by government decree. Russian farmers love attention and care on these private plots.
Freedom, Economic Forums

Working Together — In planning a pilot program for "Building a better economy" are Farm Bureau leaders from ten south Michigan counties. Meeting at Olivet College, they planned with college and Michigan Farm Bureau Officials, a seminar on national economics for farm leaders. Counties participating are: Branch, Ingham, Hillsdale, Ionia, Jackson, Calhoun, Eaton, Kalamazoo, Barry and Clinton.

Freedom and Economics, two areas of prime concern to Michigan farmers, will be examined in a series of conferences scheduled by the Family Program Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau for January and February. Included will be the annual Farm Bureau Freedom Conference, to again be held at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, February 11-12.

The seminar on economics will be conducted in six consecutive weekly sessions beginning January 22, at Olivet, as a joint project of the Michigan Farm Bureau and Olivet College.

FREEDOM FORUM

According to J. Delbert Wells, Manager of the Family Program Division, Dr. Walter Judd, famed expert on the Far East and former Michigan Congressman, will be featured on the Freedom Conference program. Judd served as a mission to China and is the former chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

A second major topic of the Freedom Conference is titled: "What follows state reapportionment by Court Decree?" Many states are in positions similar to Michigan, in that they will be legislatively reapportioned by court decree on a strictly population basis.

Leaders well-versed in Constitutional Government warn that this is the first step toward a complete change away from our Constitutional Republic. "What to expect next?" and "how fast will it come?" are questions to be studied.

Group sessions are planned again this year to discuss how a political party operates and local opportunities to work within a political party. Four discussion groups are planned to include: (1) present or township work; (2) what your county party chairman does; (3) proper voting procedures — machine, paper, Massachusetts ballots; (4) Party structure and recent changes in party law.

The Freedom Conference is open to the public. Every County Farm Bureau is urged to send a substantial delegation.

ECONOMIC, AREA

Discussions centering around our American private-enterprise system will be featured on the six-section "Seminar on Economics" scheduled for Olivet College later this month.

A "pilots' program currently limited to residents in the ten county area surrounding the college, the seminar has gone ahead at creating a better understanding of our capitalistic system, and to help rural leaders become more eloquent in its defense.

Meeting on six consecutive Fridays, starting January 22, the sessions will center on such topics as: (1) money, (2) banks, (3) investment companies. Following this will be discussion of the part played by the iron, steel, and petroleum industries as representative of our basic resources.

Later in the series there will be discussions on Farm Bureau's program of economic services and on distribution services such as retailing and credit.

The final session will deal with government policy as it affects business, price and costs.

Success of this pilot project will tie into plans to expand the program into other areas of the state.

Rural Electric Report...

By Jim Porter

"Top O' Michigan" Rural Electric Company

Most readers are familiar with cooperative type enterprises, but few are aware of the unique aspects of rural electric co-ops — their problems and handicaps.

There are facts which have been forgotten, taken for granted, or never known, which should be set forth concerning the manufacture (generation), wholesaling (transmission) and retailing (distribution) of electrical energy.

To begin, electrical energy cannot be economically or efficiently packaged, processed, concentrated, or otherwise stored for future use. Rather it is generated, transmitted, and distributed to the point of use instantly — at the rate of 186,000 miles per second.

I think you'll agree, that is prompt service.

Electric cooperatives which generate and transmit energy are commonly known as "G & T" Cooperatives. There are two such co-ops in Michigan.

The second, more common type are distribution or retailing cooperatives. Thirteen of these serve their 96,000 member-users in our state.

The assets of a distribution co-op consist of wires, poles, transformers, rolling stock, specialized labor force, funds, buildings, land and equipment necessary for delivering, recording, and billing of energy, plus the construction of new facilities, as well as maintaining the existing delivery system.

Electric co-ops have no "inventories" of Kilowatt hours, thus, their function is to supply energy on demand to a member-user at any time, day or night, 365 days a year, on a cooperative basis.

This demand is limited only by the need of each member-user, generally requiring no advance notice or ordering. A flick of a switch and a light bulb glows, or a multiple horsepower motor labors uncomplainingly.

The cost to build and maintain any electric distribution system in relation to its revenue is greater than in any other industry. This presents financial problems in not only initial construction, but maintenance also. This further complicates the difficult task of rural electrification.

Electric cooperatives are neither government owned, nor controlled. They are NOT tax exempt. NOT failures, but distressingly successful. NOT Communitarian-socialistic, but are FREE enterprises. Not outmoded — needlessly, but a vital, necessary electric force.

Non-political — a kilowatt couldn't care less about Republican and Democratic differences.

Smith Sets Example

By Norman A. Brown

Coordinator of Student Programs
Michigan State University

People interested in the future of Michigan agriculture could well take note of the example set by Michigan Farm Bureau president, Elton Smith.

Smith, an outstanding Kent County dairyman, has been responsible for guiding one of Michigan State University's outstanding students into a career in agriculture. Jerry Good, a dairy major in the Michigan State University College of Agriculture, gives Smith much credit for encouraging him to attend Michigan State University.

Good, a city boy, worked on the Smith dairy farm during high school. Smith provided the boy with a dairy calf and encouraged him to join a 4-H Club and study vocational agriculture in high school. Upon graduating from Caledonia High School, he wasn't sure about furthering his education. Smith brought the young man to the Michigan State University campus and introduced him to faculty members in the dairy department.

Young Good has earned all of his expenses through working summers and during the school year. In his junior year he was awarded a Dairy Memorial Scholarship which provides tuition and this has been his only outside help.

Good gets up each morning at 1:45 a.m. and works till 6:45 a.m. milking the cows at the Michigan State University dairy research barn before going off to his first class. Other sleep is worked in between classes and in the evenings. That is, when he isn't busy with campus activities such as the Dairy Club. Jerry served this student club as vice president last year and is now president.

Put unproductive acres back to work with low-cost concrete drain tile

By Nan Poole

Draining waterlogged land lets you plant earlier, increases yields. In fact, concrete tile— with its low first cost— can pay for itself in the first year in profits from higher crop production.

Installation is simple — and fast. Uniform in shape and thickness, with straight cut ends, concrete tile are easily aligned for maximum shape and thickness, with straight cut ends, concrete's high strength and durability provide years of trouble-free service.

Concrete tile are manufactured and designed for local soil and weather conditions. Get maximum production from your croplands by instilling concrete drain tile. See your local concrete drain tile manufacturer or tiling contractor. He will be glad to give you estimates on the tiling job you have in mind and suggest the best tile size to use.

Portland Cement Association

920 Standard Building, Lansing, Michigan 48933
An organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete.
Dairymen attending the annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau took active part in debate concerning a proposed resolution that called for a share of Class I milk sales to be allotted each producer, based on his production history. The voting delegate body took no action on the resolution other than to encourage study of the proposed legislative actions and asked for a vigorous educational program to inform Farm Bureau members of the proposals, "including the so-called Class I Base Program."

This article is the first in a series aimed at carrying out this policy.

By Don Moore, Manager
Market Development Division

Much attention in recent years has been focused on dairy markets. Several government programs have been proposed, but the only one found generally acceptable by Congress and to farmers has been a support price maintained through purchase by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The thinking is that the dairyman should be less anxious to produce excess milk and more anxious to produce milk for the following year. For example, Michigan's average production for a Federal Order market a share of Class I (bottled milk) sales based on his production history. The thinking is that the dairyman should be less anxious to produce excess milk and more anxious to produce milk for the following year.

The aim of the plan is to guarantee a milk producer in a Federal Order market a share of the Class I (bottled milk) sales based on his production history. The thinking is that the dairyman should be less anxious to produce excess milk and more anxious to produce milk for the following year.

In these articles I shall try to discuss some of the background for the interest in such a plan, some reasons favorable to it, some reasons unfavorable to it and probable alternatives.

BACKGROUND

The base-excess plan for marketing milk was devised many years ago to help balance milk production throughout the year. Prior to the widespread establishment of Federal Milk Orders, some variations to the base-excess plan were in use. All had the goal of eliminating the spring flush and fall "drought."

As is well understood by those who market their milk under a base-excess plan, the base period is set during the months of low production. The average daily delivery during this period becomes the "premium" price milk for the following year.

In Southern Michigan, the present base is calculated as average daily production of the 5 months, August through December. A 122 day minimum and 153 day maximum is used in the calculation. Because of every-other-day pick up, 154 days may be used in some cases. Bases run from February to February.

Production statistics show that seasonal peaks and lows have been pretty well leveled out. When the Southern Michigan market is compared to markets which do not have a base-excess plan, it can be seen how well the goal has been accomplished. For example, Michigan's variation runs approximately 8% from high to low. In contrast, New York with a seasonal premium of $1.00 during the low production months, runs about 25%. However, some other markets have an extremely favorable balance of production.

While base-excess plans have done well at balancing production throughout the year, they have not done so well at holding down the production of unneeded milk within the market. The effectiveness of the base-excess plan depends on placing a premium on production during the base farming months. In so doing it has created a situation which is commonly known as the "base race."

Producers are put in the position of competing against each other — and themselves to constantly increase their base in order to maintain their share of the higher priced milk. The amount of money available to pay for base milk depends upon the amount of milk sold as Class I within the market. After the total value of Class I and II milk is computed, then this amount must be allocated to base milk and excess milk in the market. Excess milk assigns the value of Class II. The balance of the fund can then be used for base milk.

As Class I sales increase, more money is available, but as the base percentage increases, more and more base milk must go into Class II — the same as though it were excess. Consequently, the base price decreases.

The question becomes — to what extent does the base-excess plan contribute to the increase in supply in the market? And would the old seasonal production pattern return if the plan were discontinued?

INFORMATION MEETING TO BE HELD

A meeting to discuss the Dairymen's Class I Base proposal will be held under Farm Bureau sponsorship, the evening of January 28. The meeting will be strictly informational with ample time for questions. No attempt will be made to promote or dissuade thinking regarding the plan. A panel of University people who have no commitment for or against the Class I Base will take part in the discussion.

Farmers interested in learning what the Class I Base plan really is, and what its possibilities and limitations are, should plan to attend this session. County Farm Bureau dairy committees are particularly urged to be present.

Date: January 28
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: 109 Anthony Hall, Michigan State University

When your spring operating needs outrun your checking account, see the manager of your cooperative where supplies for your farm are sold. He can tell you how to say "Charge It" and save money at the same time. The answer: a PCA-Farm Supply Line of Credit.

All you have to do is fill out the application at your cooperative. Production Credit is cooperative with you and your co-op manager, and a PCA fieldman will visit your farm to complete the details quickly. On approval, you can buy your spring, summer and fall needs as your situation demands.

Repayment schedules to your co-op are planned to fit your farm income. And you'll find simple interest on the unpaid balance will lower your costs ... enable your co-op to give you better service.

Talk to the manager of your cooperative this week. It's the way responsible farm operators say "Charge It" and still keep their supply cooperatives on a very competitive business basis.
A Time For Giving!

By Donna Wilber

Christmas is a time for giving, a time for receiving, a time for that warm inner-glow as we play the role first performed by the shepherds and wise men hundreds of years ago at a lonely manger in Bethlehem.

This true spirit of Christmas was evidenced throughout the state as Farm Bureau people again participated in their annual holiday projects. In Alpena County, members of the Women's Committee, representing 29 groups, each gave $1.00 toward a gift for the 42 retarded children at the Pied Piper School.

For the fifth consecutive year, Alpena County's Silver City community group has sent a Christmas gift box to their adopted children at the Pied Piper School. When the mothers, nurses, their teacher and two of the children came to pick up the packages, the shoe boxes were overflowing and some had to be returned. After the children opened the boxes, the women went through the contents which included a variety of things such as the Shiawassee County Committee, which donates regular operation.

Livingston County, Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee, which donates regular operation.

The Calhoun County Farm Bureau Women showed the true spirit of Christmas by contribut- ing to CARE. Their December meeting speaker was Dr. Charles Swan, sociology professor at Albion College. Dr. Swan spoke on Africa and its contributions and influence on the progress of the world. He pointed out that all men are of one race — the human race.

The children, who are trainable, but not educable, brought along Christmas centerpieces, jewelry, plaques and handpainted pillow cases which they had made. The school is supported through the sale of these gifts, also from United Fund and parents of the children. Organizations such as the Shiawassee County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, which donates regularly, help keep the school in operation.

In Livingston County, community groups have made donations of gifts and money to the Howell State Hospital.

The Neinas County Women met in December for a luncheon featuring holiday dishes. Mrs. Doris Shapier, Home Extension Agent, was special guest. The women were intrigued with her demonstration of how familiar objects in the home could be turned into unusual and attractive centerpieces.

Mrs. Shapier spoke briefly on the human resources program. Just as agriculture has changed its face in the last few years, she said, changes in life will be occurring even more rapidly in the future. She explained that today's children will make up a large part of tomorrow's labor force, and asked, "What of their preparation?" Discussion groups are being formed to bring these problems before the people, she said.

For the third year, the Oakland County Farm Bureau Women have chosen the county Medical Care Facility to be the recipient of their Christmas gifts — this year a much-needed flexible walker for the physical therapy department. The ladies also provided the facility with Christmas records for their new phonograph.

When the Lapeer County Farm Bureau Women gathered for their annual Christmas party complete with roast turkey and all the trimmings, they took a collection to buy easily for the Suncrest Hospital.

This has been an annual project of the Lapeer Women for the past 15 years. The cooky is used in nuts for the toys at the hospital for elderly folks. These have been just a few examples. In almost every county, Farm Bureau Women's Committee's spread joy to those less fortunate than they. And because they cared, the true spirit of Christmas was theirs.

WASHINGTON AIR TOUR, MARCH 14-17

The sixth annual Washington Legislative Air Tour, sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women, has been set for March 14-17. Cost — $105.57 for air transportation, three nights at the James Willard Hotel, several meals, tips, etc. For more details, write to: Farm Bureau Travel Service, Information Division, 4000 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing.

Six Michigan Farm Bureau Women represented their state at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Philadelphia, December 7-10. They were your state chairman, Mrs. Jerold Topliff, and four district chairmen — Mrs. Vernese Wheaton, Mrs. George Southworth, Mrs. Earl Morehouse and Mrs. Earl Hendricks.

Our voting delegates dinner was held at the Sheraton Hotel with state Farm Bureau presidents as special guests. Each state chairman gave a one-minute report on an important project undertaken by the women during the past year. Michigan reported on the 20th birthday celebration and the new scholarship program.

At the women's annual conference, members of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee presented a panel, "We, the People." This was a discussion of women's projects against the background of our American heritage, much of which centers in Philadelphia. Mrs. Henen Smith, chairman of the American Farm Bureau Women, chose as the title of her annual report, "Where to? — What next?" She mentioned great decisions in our country's history and the actions of women following them.

We all have great responsibilities at the present time accepting our duties as citizens, she said, and stressed how effective we should be in our church "action" groups where citizenship, civic reform and policy-making are concerned.

Lester Miller was re-elected chairman of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee and Mrs. Wm. Wilkie of Oakland was selected as the new vice-chairman.

Other important action included the presentation of the 1965 work program for Farm Bureau Women. Michigan will now incorporate parts of this total program into their own, as will other states, providing national-wide effectiveness.

The Michigan Women's delegation spent half a day sight-seeing in Philadelphia, viewing many historic places such as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

We could not help but feel greatly challenged as we visited the sites which mark the birth of American freedom.
Report Solid Membership GAINS!

A big membership gain for 1964 was reflected in the general tone of quiet optimism evident throughout the 46th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau in Philadelphia, December 7-10.

At the same time that states announced reaching their membership goals, the American Farm Bureau tallied an all-time membership high of 1,647,455. This is an increase of over 19,000 farm families who decided that the "Farm Bureau way" is the right way. Thirty-eight of the forty-nine units of the American Farm Bureau Federation showed membership gains over 1963; some reported gains in every organized county. As Secretary-Treasurer Roger Fleming pointed out in his annual report, this increase came in the face of continuing declining numbers of farmers and declining farm profits.

Fleming also stated that the cost-price situation continues to get too little serious attention from the very lawmakers in Washington who are responsible for much of it. Although the gross income of farmers has increased by nearly one-fourth since 1947, he said that net farm income has dropped from $7.5 billion dollars to $12.5 billion in 1963.

"Farm Bureau must improve its relations with others, both inside and outside of agriculture," he added. "We will need to learn how to communicate our policies and programs with regard to food and fiber, especially to the urban people of this country. We need to let them know we are on their side — that there is no inevitable conflict between the welfare of producers and consumers, instead we have a common stake in a food and fiber producing industry that is both productive and free."

In his annual report to the delegates, American Farm Bureau president Charles B. Shuman asserted that government payments have only partially offset tremendous losses suffered by the producers of wheat, feed grains, cotton and other crops as a result of the government's price-depressing surplus disposal operations. He said that "with the Administration's payment program going full blast, net farm income continues to drop and family farms are being squeezed out of agriculture at a rapid rate."

"If the new Administration means what it says about making the market price system work, it will find that Farm Bureau will cooperate to the fullest extent."

Highlights of every convention are the special interest meetings, where specialists from many areas of agriculture discuss opportunities open to farmers. Robert Braden, representing MACMA, the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, appeared at both the Or- ganization and the Fruits and Vegetables conferences to report the success of the Michigan Farm Bureau in the area of apple marketing. Basic to the success of any program, he said, is the need for it and a willingness by the producers to utilize it.

"In Michigan," he reported, "we have been able to help only because we have merited the confidence of the producer and the respect of the buyer." He said that nearly two million baskets of apples will move this year through MACMA to processors, and that the industry shows signs of recording one of its biggest years.

Among outside speakers appearing was Senator Allen Ellender, chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee. Noting that the new compensatory payment program for cotton is proving very expensive and ineffective, he called on Farm Bureau to "join hands with the members of Congress and others in providing agriculture with a sound and realistic program that will benefit all mankind."

Senator George Aiken, ranking Republican on the Senate Agricultural Committee, drew applause from the delegates when he called on Congress to submit the matter of legislative apportionment to the people for a vote. He called for "a fight to the finish" on this constitutional issue.

Voting delegates late in the session reiterated their support for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing to states the right to apportion one house of their legislature on the basis of factors other than population. They also called for a revision in the method for the selection of presidential electors. In the area of governmental programs, they requested programs "whereby farmers may earn and get a high per-family real income in a manner which will preserve freedom and opportunity."
Detroit Junior Livestock Show...

A Farm Bureau family membership isn't really a requirement to enter the Detroit Junior Livestock Show, although a look at the "Winner's Circle" made it appear that way. All top honors at the 35th annual show, December 7-10th, went to 4-H youths from Farm Bureau families.

Dennis Good, 13, Charlotte, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Good, won grand champion honors with his 953-pound Angus steer. The steer, named "Count," won over 239 other entries exhibited by 4-H Club members from throughout lower Michigan. This was Dennis' fourth attempt to win grand champion honors in the Detroit show.

A pair of cousins, Philip and Gloria Schmiege of Chesaning, took top honors in the sheep show. Philip, 16, son of Mrs. Wilna Schmiege, exhibited the grand champion lamb, a 102 pound Hampshire which sold to Food Fair for $4.75 per pound.

Cousin Gloria, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Schmiege, exhibited the grand champion pen of Hampshire lambs.

Richard Wooden, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wooden, Cassopolis, walked off with top honors in the swine show. His grand champion barrow, a 220 pound Hampshire, was purchased for a record $4.00 per pound by the Crown Packing Co. of Detroit. Richard also exhibited the grand champion pen of barrows.

Other winners were: JoAnn McCulla, Ann Arbor, reserve grand champion pen of barrows; Judy Seber, Fowlerville, reserve grand champion pen of lambs; Roderick Smith, Otisville, grand champion carcass lamb; Marlene Girbach, Saline, grand champion hog carcass; and Bruce Chamberlain, reserve grand champion steer carcass.

Also: Linda McCoy, Grand Blanc, reserve grand champion steer; James Myers, Stockbridge, reserve grand champion carcass lamb, and Kathy Johnson, Flint, grand champion steer carcass.

A total of 240 steers, 119 lambs and 118 hogs were shown at the annual show sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service of Michigan State University and the Detroit Junior Livestock Society.

"THANK YOU!"
— those words best describe our appreciation of your support to Farmer's Petroleum Cooperative this past year.

1965
— will bring still greater expansion of F.P.C. savings and services because of your continued support. These savings, this service, will be explained early in 1965 at an exciting series of POWER FARMING programs.

POWER FARMING
— with Farm Bureau, will indeed be the big news of the big New Year. Prizes, luncheon, entertainment and impressive POWER FARMING demonstrations are all included.

SEE YOU THERE
— watch for announcements, or ask at your local County Farm Bureau office for program details.

"F.P.C." — provides FarmPOWER, Cooperatively

FARMERS PETROLEUM COOPERATIVE, INC.

New Year's Greetings
Migrant Problems Studied!

"Throughout our travels with the migrants, we were very pleased with the results," Dr. Myrtle Reul told Michigan farmers attending the Farm Labor Management Workshop at Michigan State University recently.

Dr. Reul, a Social Studies Professor at Michigan State University, spent most of her sabbatical leave in a study of migrant farm workers in the United States.

During much of the time they traveled from farm to farm throughout the United States from Florida, Texas, California, Washington, Oregon and back into Wisconsin and Michigan. Part of the year was spent traveling with the seasonal farm workers and working in the fields and crops.

Dr. Reul offered the farmers attending the management workshop a number of very practical suggestions as to improvements which might be made to make the efforts of the workers more effective.

She highlighted her comments by pointing out that very often workers and their employers failed to communicate. The worker often does not understand, perhaps because of language problems, what is expected of him.

The farmer, said Dr. Reul, could improve the quality and quantity of the work turned out by his workers through a short training course. This could include examples and actual demonstrations of what should be accomplished and the best way of doing the work. Also, the establishment of confidence between the employer and the employee is important, said Dr. Reul.

As a specific problem, Dr. Reul pointed to the lack of toilet facilities in or near fields, which were sometimes as much as a mile across. She urged that growers consider providing portable, or temporary, toilet facilities.

"I didn't find any complaint anywhere on the wages paid in Michigan," Dr. Reul reported, and I believe that Michigan can continue to attract migrant workers even though the competition will be greater next year." Dr. Reul was referring to the termination of the Mexican labor law, 79, and the increased competition for domestic farm workers which will put pressure on all users of migrant labor even though they may not have used Mexican Nationals in the past.

Questioned on her observations in Michigan farm housing, Dr. Reul said that Michigan housing lacks the opportunity for family privacy but has some of the best as well as some very poor housing.

When asked whether she favored a voluntary educational approach to improve housing, or legislation to provide minimum housing standards, Dr. Reul said voluntary progress is ideal but may be too slow. "We need minimum standards of housing, safety and health. We also need inspection."

The Farm Labor Management Workshop was arranged under the direction of Dr. Dan Sturt, of the Department of Agricultural Economics, in cooperation with the Continuing Education Service of M.S.U. The two-day workshop attracted nearly 100 seasonal farm labor users.

MIGRANT POLICY

Voting delegates to the recent annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation passed a comprehensive resolution dealing with migrant labor housing. They pointed out that substantial progress has been made in most areas as the result of substantial expense to farmers.

They said that the cooperation of workers in the proper use and care of facilities should be encouraged and that state Farm Bureaus should support the enactment of state laws relating to housing standards.

Charlevoix County Farm Leader Retires

"BEST WISHES for a happy retirement" was the message that went with a set of luggage presented to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Willis by Charlevoix Co-op board of directors president George Smith. Willis retired as manager of the co-op after 37 years of service in that position.

Fred Willis, well-known Charlevoix area farm leader, has retired from his position as manager of the Charlevoix Farm Bureau Cooperative. He had been manager of the co-op since 1928, and still serves as the county Farm Bureau secretary.

Active in farming all his life, he has some firm ideas regarding today's agriculture, which he voiced recently in an interview with the Charlevoix Courier. "Farmers would be far better off if they didn't get so much on the government and didn't allow Washington so much authority over their business," he said.

He recalls agriculture's "hey-day" to be the 1920's when farming was the most important segment of the county's economy. Although he has watched the number of farmers in Charlevoix County decline over the years, he still believes there is a good future in agriculture. Willis feels that those farmers who work hard and keep pace with modern trends will continue to prosper.

The Charlevoix Co-op board of directors presented Fred and his wife with a set of luggage at a retirement party in their honor.
AGRICULTURE IN ACTION AROUND MICHIGAN

CURRIER AND IVES CHARM

"THE ROAD—WINTER"—said to be the most popular of all Currier and Ives prints, depicts leisure time serenity often associated with winter during the early 19th Century.

MICHIGAN BEANS IN PARIS

MICHIGAN NAVY BEANS, in tomato sauce, are a hit in the U.S. exhibit at the "Salon International de l'Alimentation" in Paris. From the left is E.O. Crawford, representing the Michigan bean industry, American film star Jane Seberg and Jacques Gauthier, representing a French firm of bean and pea importers.

HELPFUL FRIEND

RATS ARE NOT ALL BAD,—some are your best friends. They help fight cancer and other diseases through laboratory research, reports the American Cancer Society. They say, "to cure more, give more."

ONE-HORSE HEAT

A "ONE HORSEPOWER" farm thermostat has been developed by Honeywell to control heating systems in horse and dairy barns. "Scamper," the horse in our picture, is only rated as a "Quarter-Horse."

FARMERS PETROLEUM PRIZE

THE TOM KOPACZEWSKI FAMILY, of Standish, pose with a 15-foot Unico Deepfreeze, won in state-wide competition from among thousands of entries in a Farmers Petroleum "Redi-Grip" tire promotion. Ben Sommers, Arenac and Bay county FPC Sales Representative helped deliver the prize.

STYLE SHOW FUN

FARM BUREAU WOMEN of District V modeled original designs at a fall hat and style show. Shown are: Belle of the Ball—Mrs. Richard Gurns, Eaton; Tullula Toast—Mrs. Marvin Tiedeman, Genesee; Naive Nellie—Mrs. Raymond Mayers, Clinton; Flirt, the cow-girl—Mrs. Clarence Work, Clinton; Sweet Sue—Mrs. Lida Dunning, Eaton, and Tillie Twist—Mrs. Mert Byington, Shiawassee. Clever narration by state chairman, Maurine Scamlin, added much fun to the program.
Farm Bureau members were well represented at a series of public hearings held by a special Interim Legislative Committee studying the tax property and its effect. Legislative Counsel, Bob Smith, arranged for Farm Bureau leaders from six counties to testify at the hearings.

In Detroit Ralph Bursh (Wayne), this year's chairman of the state resolution committee, told the Legislators that taxes on his 200 acre farm are now in excess of $32. He rests additional land at no more than the owners have to pay in taxes. Ralph also represented parts of State Farm Bureau's state resolutions on tax reform passed by the delegates at our November Annual Meeting.

Mrs. Robert Tefft (Washtenaw) was among those who offered testimony on the need for better land use planning pointing out that large tracts of highly productive farm land are being used for suburban developments without the growth which has been necessary for recreational needs. This also resulted in excessive assessments on the remaining farms.

Allen Bush (Macomb) testified that the average Michigan farmer knows approximately as much about state wide income on property tax alone, as three times that paid by property in excess of $500. He said that his school taxes are now three times higher than they were when he and state aid for his school has dropped from 60% to less than 50%

Frank Smith (Monroe) said he and his two brothers operate a vegetable farm of 400 acres of income with 400 acres in excess of $400. He said that his school taxes now reach 1000 dollars annually. He said that his school taxes are now three times higher than they were when he and state aid for his school has dropped from 60% to less than 50%

George Fogle (Kalamazoo) said that property taxes must be lowered and a state aid for school tax be one of the most equitable means of achieving a balanced tax structure.

Farm Bureau member, Niles Hagelshaw, also appeared at this meeting for the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau. He said that he recently toured the Communist countries in Europe and it was his observation that control of agriculture was first achieved by confiscatory property taxation. He told how the property tax is affecting his own farm. He said that when he opposed an end of income, he now believes it is the most equitable means of paying the necessary costs of government. Ownership of property is no longer an accurate measure of wealth or ability to pay.

Legislative Counsel, Bob Smith, testified at the Lansing hearing and explained in some detail Farm Bureau's tax reform recommendations for action.

Others appearing at these hearings were, for the most part, city, county, and school officials, and representatives of urban groups. It must be noted that, as usual, Farm Bureau was the only spokesman for farmers!
FOURTEEN

Prepared by the Education and Research Department, Michigan Farm Bureau

Why a statewide, flat-rate income tax? You should examine "THE WHY." Farm Bureau delegates gave the nod to such a tax for the third straight year at the November convention. Tied to their approval was the provision that such revenues be used to relieve farm property taxes.

Here is the picture. It is important to get it clearly in focus. Center your sights on the cold, hard facts of the tax situation facing farmers.

In 1959, farmers of Michigan paid $115 million in property taxes. This was 45% of their net incomes, figured before taxes. By 1963, real and personal property took $44.4 million of the farmers' net incomes in taxes — 13.3%. This is two to three times the shock to income faced by any other group.

The direction is still up. Taxes on farm property have risen at a rate of 5½% per year recently. Since 1948, property taxes for schools have multiplied almost 3 times.

The Michigan Legislature has shruggeu the farmer's problem aside, for the most part. At the special session in November, the effort at tax reform was scuttled. It became jammed on the rocks of party politics, with one party fearing another might be able to claim credit for progress.

Xe'ober, the effort at tax reform was scuttled. Problems and poUc
cannot be solved, rather than allowing it to fall. —

During the regular session of 1964, a little progress was made. During the special session in November, the effort at tax reform was scuttled. It became jammed on the rocks of party politics, with one party fearing another might be able to claim credit for progress.

A century ago, property was a fair indication of ability to pay. This is no longer so. Incomes have little relation to property ownership today. Persons not owning property often realize more income than those who do. Maintenance costs on property have soared.

AND — UP THEY G0!

Unless alternatives are found, property taxes must increase at a startling rate. Schools face a future of expansion forced by the coming of more and more children. The need grows for special education programs for children with various kinds of handicaps. We must broaden educational opportunities for employment training for youth who have dropped out of school and who wander the streets looking for jobs that do not exist, for enticed people. Such educational programs are costly — but welfare programs are more costly.

SOME WOULD INCREASE LOAD

While Farm Bureau delegates propose ways of relieving property tax burdens, some legislators talk of things that would boost them. As it now stands, 3½% of the $4 state sales tax goes to schools and local governments. But some legislators claim that local governments do not need what they are getting, and propose to knock off the 3½% and keep it at the state level.

There is also growing talk about the need for more highway funds. The Municipal League wants more highway monies for cities and for the state. To get it, county shares would have to be trimmed. Some also propose that counties take over more of the responsibility for local roads. All would mean more taxes on rural property. Road taxes on property would be a step back to the 1920's for farmers.

Another added burden. Counties must bear the costs of the new mental health programs. Do these things mean much concern for relieving rural people of the heavy burden already being carried in property taxes?

A TASTE OF "MAJORITY RULE" 

The meaning of reapportionment, control of the Legislature by city majorities, should begin to become clear from action being taken. Problems and poUc
cannot be solved, rather than allowing it to fall. —

The original proposal to allow non-residents who worked in the city to pay the same tax rate as residents for their property.

Farm Bureau delegates opposed the passage of the law permitting Michigan lawmakers to force farmers back to an era when tax sales on farms were a common event. Over thirty years ago, Farm Bureau was instrumental in reducing tax burdens on property by the removal of the State property tax.

Later, it worked to pass the 13½ mill limitation of the old constitution. It seems to many legislators that such taxes from property, and recently to reduce the assessment level from 100% to 50% of market value, as residential or industrial property — for so long as no im
corporation is in the offing.

TAXES CANT DESTROY FARMS

Inconsiderate action by Michigan lawmakers can force farmers back to an era when tax sales on farms were a common event. Over thirty years ago, Farm Bureau was instrumental in reducing tax burdens on property by the removal of the State property tax.

Later, it worked to pass the 13½ mill limitation of the old constitution. It seems to many legislators that such taxes from property, and recently to reduce the assessment level from 100% to 50% of market value, as residential or industrial property — for so long as no im
corporation is in the offing.

FARMERS CANNOT REST SECURE IN ANY TAX ISSUE. THE SEEKING OF NEW REVENUE GOES ON CONSTANTLY IN THE LEGISLATURE. THE IDEAS OF REMOVING THE FARMERS' SALE TAX EXEMPTION ON FARM MACHINERY AND PRODUCTION SUPPLIES IS OFTEN DISCUSSED.

Many legislators do not look at the records of farm costs and farm incomes. The dropping farm prices have hit them. They represent urban people. Their first concern is to meet the problems and create ad

DISCUSSION EXERCISE

It is suggested that your group put together a case to present to your State legislators to show the need for relief in farm property taxes.
It would be difficult to find a phase of farming where there has been greater progress than in poultry and livestock nutrition. Your Farm Bureau research and manufacturing facilities have been the leaders in this field. Working unceasingly, probing, checking and rechecking, the men in the Farm Bureau research farms have made it possible for you to get the gains you want and the profits you deserve.

This research pays off at Farm Bureau Services' plants, where feed manufacturing is a precise science of blending top quality grains, vitamin supplements, minerals and minute quantities of antibiotics in modern facilities where quality control is the key word.

Two modern feed plants have Precision Formulators which are so accurate that as little as 6 ounces of an ingredient can be thoroughly mixed into a ton of feed. Modern laboratories maintain a continuous check on the quality and mixture of all Farm Bureau feeds. It's no wonder that farmers look to Farm Bureau Services for the finest and most profitable feeds.
## MICHIGAN'S 1964 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS*

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*Estimated

Will you help us curb the tragic death and destruction which haunt Michigan's highways? Will you help us slow or halt the staggering financial losses — which both you and I must bear?

Why should you be concerned? Because it is really you and me — the policyholders — who pay the constantly increasing costs of traffic accidents. Even though your insurance company pays the claims, it has to pass the expense right back to you — in the form of higher premiums. Here are some of the reasons why rates continue to climb:

1. Higher accident rates
2. Rising repair costs and medical expenses
3. Record number of cars on the roads
4. Padded repair bills and excessive liability awards

Farm Bureau’s Auto rates are carefully determined for each driver classification with factors such as age, vehicle use, sex, geographical location and type of vehicle, according to the latest claims cost statistics. Presently, the accident rate in rural Michigan is increasing faster than in some urban areas.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

I urge you to read and give serious consideration to the recommendations made by Governor Romney's Special Commission on Traffic Safety. These recommendations, developed by 219 Michigan residents representing a broad cross-section of occupational interests and geographical locations, deal with proposed improvements of our State's accident prevention programs through legislative and administrative action.

Discuss the importance of careful driving with your entire family. Surveys have determined that most people don't believe a serious accident can happen to them. If you should be involved in an accident, insist on honesty for all parties concerned in the handling of damage bills. When a fraudulent claim is collected, policyholders pay the bill.

Thanks for your help.

Administrative Vice President  
Farm Bureau Insurance Group

**Farm Bureau INSURANCE Group**

Farm Bureau Mutual · Farm Bureau Life · Community Service, LANSING