



MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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MICHIGAN SOYBEANS—AMONG THE BEST IN THE NATION HAVE BECOME A FAST-MOVING CROP IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

THE VERSATILE SOYBEAN — Michigan's fastest expanding crop. Of all states, Michigan has the highest per cent of soybean acreage-increase over the previous year. Not grown in commercial quantities until about 1924, it is expected that this year's drought-reduced crop will still reach last year's 8 million bushels. Soys have grown into the third most valuable U. S. farm crop and the major one without government acreage controls or price-depressing surplus. Increasing amounts are used for food, printing inks, paints and varnishes, gasoline additives and plastics.

THE MICHIGAN ELEVATOR EXCHANGE — Michigan's enterprising big grain and bean cooperative, handled an estimated one-fourth of last year's marketed soybeans in Michigan and looks forward to moving further into the market through new port terminal facilities on the Saginaw River. There M.E.E. has a direct outlet to rapidly expanding markets through the St. Lawrence Seaway. Although a majority of Michigan's soybeans now move into domestic markets, the Elevator Exchange anticipates that a larger portion of future market-expansion lies overseas, in European countries.

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Editorial

Men and Money . . .

Farm Bureau in Michigan has just gone through a period of healthy discussion. The organization cannot help but profit from it.

What is the future for agriculture in our state? What is the future for Farm Bureau? What kinds of programs do we need and how will we finance them? The results of this discussion are printed in detail on the adjoining page. . . .

Once when asked his opinion of what people were saying about his "Tin Lizzy" cars, Henry Ford is reported to have replied that he didn't care what people said about them as long as they talked about them.

In a way, this is true of Farm Bureau. An organization is in real danger when people no longer care, when no one is sufficiently stirred to have an opinion, when questions of importance are answered with a yawn.

No one can say that about Farm Bureau, or about the matter of an expanded program and increased dues. The voting delegates gave their unqualified endorsement to both, and it is to their credit that they did so only after examining the issue from all sides.

To many, it was not an easy decision to make. At the heart of the problem was the old question of balance between physical and financial strength. To some—"strength" in Farm Bureau is mainly a matter of membership numbers. The more Farm Bureau members, obviously, the more strength.

To others, finance is the key. They point to a dwindling list of potential farm-members and it becomes equally obvious to them that fewer farmers must put in more money to operate the same programs, leaving unanswered the question of any program expansion.

Now that the issue has been decided, it is not improper to examine both these assumptions, and in doing so, it becomes apparent that while both are right, neither alone is the answer.

An organization that is built on finance alone is a straw tiger. One built on long lists of easily secured names is no more substantial.

Members or finances of themselves are not enough. Together, in proper balance, these two forces provide a powerhouse of strength. Farm Bureau is strong because members and leaders have recognized the need for this delicate balance between physical and financial strength.

Farm Bureau is strong because farmers join "knowingly" in full realization that they ARE members and what this means. Conscious payment of substantial dues helps to make them aware of this fact.

Farmers are surrounded by examples of "paper" organizations deficient in both money and manpower. Some are well financed by money easily gained through checkoffs from commercial ventures. Others are built from "the top down" and have excellent organizational structures on the surface but without true membership foundations.

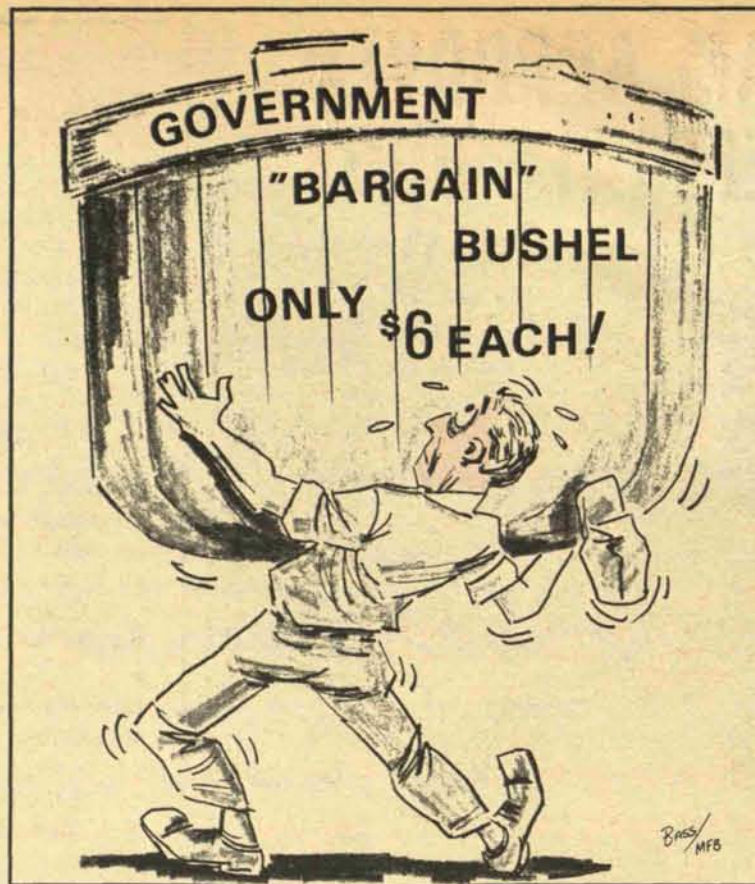
Money alone is a poor lobby. It talks, but not as loud as some might think, and sometimes it says wrong things. It can "buy" people to speak with its voice, but the voice is weak, for money alone is weakness.

If Farm Bureau had to pay for all of the things that must be done by volunteers, no sum of money, no matter how large, would be enough. Membership dues could be \$500 or \$1,000 per year and still the job would not get done.

Money can arm and stimulate. It can open markets, it can build cooperatives, and the tools of communication. It can mean representation in Lansing and Washington.

Membership and Money—and in proper balance—is the organizational answer. Voluntary membership with initiative and loyalty which money cannot buy, backed with finances as a tool to extend the work and brainpower of busy people who have farming to do, . . . the kind of people who believe in Farm Bureau and who are willing to guide and direct their organization in its fulfillment of their business.

M.W.



Bogus Bargain

By: Dan E. Reed

The "Emergency" Feed Grain Program pushed through Congress in 1961 has proved to be a bogus bargain, costing the government about \$6 per bushel for each bushel of reduction in grain-surplus carryover.

Such is shown in the report of Senator Allen Ellender (D-Louisiana), Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The Feed Grain Program has proven costly and ineffective because it seeks to control production by reducing acreage. Acreage is only one factor of production. Reduced acreage allotments have led to greater use of fertilizer, which has resulted in production increases.

An actual example of increased costs under the Feed Grain Program is provided by these actual figures covering a small farm in Wayne County. With 64 tillable acres, the farm was put under contract in the Conservation Reserve. The total payment, with 64 acres retired, was \$1,146. After the contract terminated, the farm was put under the Feed Grain Program. The diversion payment under the Feed Grain Program, with 25 acres retired, was \$1,216, leaving 39 acres available for soil depleting crops under the Feed Grain Program; this includes an 18-acre corn allotment. This type of program would be continued under the Administration-supported H.R. 9811.

The Administration's "omnibus" bill has been put together to include "something for everyone." It provides a four-year program for dairy, wool, feed grains, cotton and wheat, with the added cropland adjustment program.

Defeat of H.R. 9811 would permit consideration by Congress of the Farm Bureau program, including a sound and effective cropland adjustment program. Bills carrying the Farm Bureau proposal have been introduced by more than 40 members of the House and Senate, including distinguished members of both parties. Former Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson (D-New Mexico) has been one of the strong supporters of the Farm Bureau program.

Farm legislation should be considered on its own merits and should not be made a pawn in a vote trade.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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President's Column

Volunteer Leadership

Chore time is usually "thinkin' time." I go about my routine jobs with ideas running through my head. Lots of farmers do, I'm sure.

With a double job on my hands of running the farm and being Farm Bureau president, there's plenty to think about. It forces me to be a better manager these days.

Why did I accept this job as president? I asked myself that question while feeding the Guernseys. One thing was sure. I was asked to take it. It seemed like an awfully big responsibility, but I couldn't back away from it. I knew it wouldn't be a ticket for a ride on easy street.

Then, I also knew that Farm Bureau was going to be a mighty important thing in the coming years. So many things are challenging farmers these days that farmers will just have to have a strong and aggressive organization to tackle them. And the problems and needs of farmers will increase — not grow less.

I got to thinking about what it will take to make and keep Farm Bureau a real farmers' organization. It hit me strongest that we have to be sure that the leadership in Farm Bureau comes from real farmers — men and women who are working farms to earn the mainstay of their family living.

We have to ask ourselves the simple question, "If real farmers don't take the lead in our organization, who will?" There are two or three answers — non-farmers, hobby farmers or maybe nobody. If we don't get real farm leadership, agriculture is in trouble because we will leave our "show" for everybody else to run. Government, business and labor are all bidding for the position of being the leader of agriculture.

As Farm Bureau members, we ought to get deeply serious about picking our leaders. Members are always wanting their organization to "go places and do things." And they should be anxious for it to be efficient and successful in meeting the needs of people on the farm — tackling the problems of agriculture. No organization can do this without alert and aggressive leadership.

Where else can you find men and women like that except with those who have made a success of their own farm operation? A man who can't run a small show and run it well can't be expected to do a better job of running a big one. And we certainly don't need leaders who simply drag their heels when situations call for action.

Members ought to spend plenty of time and thought and effort to get the best farmers in our communities into leadership positions in agriculture and Farm Bureau. So often I see our members going about this in the wrong way. When a leadership position opens up, folks begin to ask, "Who'll take it?"

That's a negative approach for sure, when we ought to be asking, "Who is the best possible man for the job in our community and county — and how can we get him to take it?"

I see it this way. A dairyman like myself can't upgrade his herd by keeping any cow just because she gives milk. He has to pick the cows that can and do produce the most. It's the same with choosing our leaders to bring more effective action in Farm Bureau.

Real leadership positions should not be filled just to honor some member for long service. It may or may not fit the man for the job. And leadership is not simply a pose. The job doesn't go by mere guesswork, when it is done right. Problems and situations are constantly coming up that demand a lot of study, a close look at many facts that require a lot of careful analyzing to help you make the right decisions.

As a leader, it is up to you to see that Farm Bureau doesn't take a wrong fork in the road. You have to decide where the right road leads, and how you can get Farm Bureau to make the best progress possible. Believe me, leadership is no "snap job."

I think that finding and putting real leadership to work is one of the most important keys to a successful Farm Bureau future. Let's all work harder at shaping this key.

Elton Smith

EXPANDED PROGRAM APPROVED —BY VOTING-DELEGATE BODY



THE DELEGATE BODY AND GUESTS—nearly 1,000 strong, as seen from the stage of Michigan State University auditorium, display their county banners. In the foreground are members of the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors. The picture was taken as the group awaited the outcome of a roll-call vote on an expanded program and new finances.

With an incredibly high attendance of 663 accredited delegates present out of a possible 682, the Special Session of the Michigan Farm Bureau was called to order by president Elton Smith, Monday, August 16.

The fact that only 19 seats were vacant during the height of summertime work, is an indication of the importance county Farm Bureau leaders placed on the meeting, which came as the climax of a long series of district and county "Farm Bureau of the Future" meetings.

The issue before the group and the reason for the special-called meeting was a Board recommendation for "intensified and expanded program to meet present and future needs" and a change in the "finance" section of the bylaws which would increase membership dues from \$12 to \$20 yearly.

In his opening remarks, Smith said that the meeting came as the climax to a very great deal of work, study and self-examination. "For many months we have been concerned about Farm Bureau's future and how our organization can continue to meet present challenges while still preparing for new demands to be made on it."

Smith stated that most farmers will pay "just about anything to get what they want." He said that \$20 or \$25 per year is "not the problem some think it is, if it is hitched to the kind of Farm Bureau that farmers say they want."

At the close of his remarks, Smith called upon two other members of the Michigan Farm Bureau Executive Committee, Vice-President Dean Pridgeon,

and "Third-Member" David Morris. Both men spoke to the delegate body, Morris discussing the future of agriculture, as predicted by University studies, and Pridgeon outlining the present and projected financial conditions of both county and state Farm Bureaus.

Morris said that "Project '80" studies show that only one-half the farms operating in 1959 will be in existence in 1980. The decline will be mainly in farms grossing less than \$10,000 in sales. "Farm size will be up 50% and marketing costs will increase 1½ times," he said. "Net farm income will be up over 50%."

Pridgeon noted that one major new cost for which Farm Bureau leaders must plan is the increase in American Farm Bureau Federation dues. At the last annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pridgeon explained, the voting delegates approved a bylaw change to raise the present \$1 per-member dues to \$1.25 in the coming year and to \$1.50 in 1968.

"This will mean that based on present membership, we will have to pay about another \$17,000

next year and \$34,000 more than we now pay in 1968 . . ."

In concluding his remarks, Pridgeon said that the Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau has recommended an expanded Farm Bureau program in the counties, and through them in the Michigan Farm Bureau, "to meet the needs of today's highly efficient, fast-changing agriculture."

"To finance these expanded programs, the Board calls for an adjustment in membership dues to \$20—with three of these additional dollars to remain in the county Farm Bureau . . ." he said.

At this point the meeting was declared open to delegate action, with Robert Zeeb, Clinton county, moving that the Board recommendation be accepted and the bylaws of the Michigan Farm Bureau amended to reflect the dues change. (See "What the Delegates Said" in an adjoining column.)

Although there was considerable debate on the question, and a roll-call vote taken on an amendment to set dues at the \$16 mark, the amendment lost by a wide margin as did another amendment to set dues at \$25 per year.

Without pause for noon-time lunch, the delegates continued to work until an hour later, when another roll-call vote showed the proposal for an expanded program and \$20 yearly dues effective in 1966, had passed by a majority of 71% of all votes cast.



A PART OF TUSCOLA'S DELEGATION—(from left) Mr. and Mrs. Clare Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Ford Boyne and Rinard Knoblet, listen intently as Michigan Farm Bureau president, Elton Smith, outlines alternatives which farm leaders face in the near future in building and maintaining their organization.

What the Delegates Said:

It may have been significant that the person who made the motion later approved by the Voting Delegate Body of the Michigan Farm Bureau at the August 16 Special Meeting, was one of Michigan's most enterprising young farmers.

Robert Zeeb (32) of Bath—Clinton county, who in 1963 was selected as Michigan's most Outstanding Young Farmer by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, presented the key motion in these words: "I move that the program of the Michigan Farm Bureau be expanded as recommended by the Board of Directors, and that dues be raised from \$12 to \$20—with \$5 of the increase to go to the Michigan Farm Bureau, and \$3 to the counties.

"I further move that the bylaws of the Michigan Farm Bureau be amended to reflect this change."

It was this motion which the Delegate Body approved after considering a number of alternatives, including an amendment for \$16 dues and one for dues of \$25.

The final roll-call vote, taken county-by-county, found 449 of the 630 delegates who voted on the action, casting "yes" ballots for the expanded program and the increase in dues.



THE "TELLER COMMITTEE"—(standing) Robert Reece, Clinton county, Wm. Hazenbank, Mason county and Carl Heisler, Calhoun, certify the tally of delegate votes on the crucial question of further expansion of Farm Bureau's program. Seated are machine operators Carl Kentner and Allegra Clark.

"Mr. Average" Delegate

The "average" voting delegate taking part in the special session of the Michigan Farm Bureau is a man, a farm owner—fifty years of age, who drove 110 miles to come to the meeting.

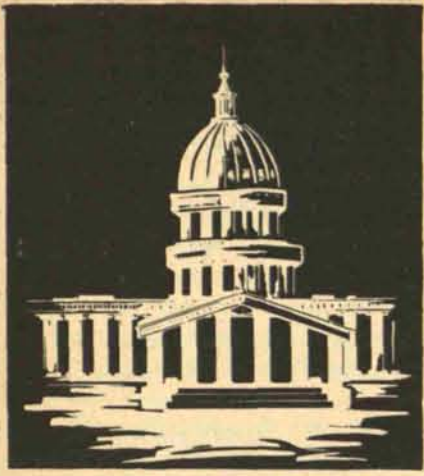
According to preliminary tabulations of delegate "profile" sheets filled out at the meeting, this average delegate has finished high school, but has not attended college. He farms 220 acres, and has gross sales in the \$10,000 to \$30,000 bracket. He is active in both his church and his local political party.

This "typical" delegate is vastly concerned about legislative problems and he feels that much more work needs to be done in this area. He is upset about present market trends and feels that his farm organization must represent him more fully in the marketplace.

This "Mr. Average" lists "public information" as another area of chief concern and places this ahead of many of his local problems. He is greatly concerned about the farming future and about farm young people. He wants them to have advantages of citizenship training and to be considered more in Farm Bureau programming and planning.

Although there is no such thing as an "average" voting delegate, the Executive Committee of the Michigan Farm Bureau felt that the special delegate session was of sufficient historic interest to attempt compiling a composite picture of the delegate body.

Although only partially tabulated as the FARM NEWS went to press, the sheets which each person filled in, show wide variation between farm size and farmer-income. Farms listed were as small as under 20 acres (truck crops) and as large as 1,000 acres. Gross sales ranged from below \$5,000 to between \$50,000 and \$100,000 yearly.



capitol report

OUR TAX OBJECTIVE — PROPERTY RELIEF

Of all groups, farmers have the best case for demanding tax reform. Farm Bureau delegates have asked that taxes be made more equitable for farm people.

The tax burden is heavily stacked against farmers. Michigan's tax "take" represents about 10% of total personal incomes. But farmers are paying more than this in property taxes, alone — plus other taxes as well.

Foremost among the moves sought by Farm Bureau is the substantial relief from taxes on real property and the repeal or substantial reduction of personal property taxes.

Farm Bureau delegates have called for the repeal of the business activities tax and the intangibles tax. They ask for improvement of the methods of assessment and equalization of tax burdens. They favor the assessment and taxation of new property during the year in which it is built.

They ask for greater equalization in the distribution of state-aid funds for schools.

They would approve a state-wide, flat rate income tax on net incomes if such taxes were used definitely to lower taxes on property. Communities should not find it necessary to exceed the constitutional tax limitation.

Local governments should be allowed new sources of tax revenue, other than property. Taxes on incomes might be used. But, if so, the counties should have priority in their use. The cities should not be allowed to establish a monopoly over this form of tax, as many of them have moved to do.

Farm Bureau delegates protest the practice where cities are allowed to impose income taxes on people living outside their limits. Such taxing fails to consider that these non-residents have the tax burden of their own communities to support. City income taxes mean double taxation for them.



REP. JAMES H. STARR (D., Lansing), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Tax Reform, conducted the tax hearings held in Lansing, Flint, Pontiac, Port Huron, Saginaw, Grand Rapids and Muskegon.

ENERGETIC CHAIRMAN

Rep. Starr is one of the "first termers" in the House serving the 57th district in the city of Lansing. He is rapidly emerging as a dedicated and courageous public servant. He is young (34) and a practicing lawyer. He also served three years in the Attorney General's office.

He has shown responsible leadership in the effort to modernize Michigan's tax structure by developing the "Starr Fiscal Reform Program" which provides for reduction of property taxes with particular consideration for farm personal property.

In addition to the important Taxation Committee, he is a member of the Judiciary and City Corporations committees and is Chairman of the Capitol and Public Buildings Committee.

TAX HEARINGS! Farm Bureau Was There!

A subcommittee of the House Taxation Committee headed by Representative Starr, D., Lansing, has held recent hearings in Lansing, Flint, Pontiac, Port Huron, Saginaw, Grand Rapids and Muskegon.

Farm Bureau Legislative Counsel, Bob Smith was present and testified at each hearing. As usual, Farm Bureau was the only organization to speak for farmers. Many County Farm Bureau leaders took time from their farming operations to attend and testify.

The hearings began with a two-day hearing in Lansing. Smith appeared both days and explained in detail Farm Bureau's tax reform program. Ingham county Farm Bureau member and leader, George Fogle, testified on the practical tax problems facing farmers. He told of his experience at a school meeting which was considering another tax increase. One member of the committee could see no reason why it should not be passed because "after all, it would only cost him \$30.00 a year" but, George pointed

out that as a farmer, his added tax would be \$300.

At the Flint hearing, nationally recognized tax expert, Dr. Harvey Brazer, called the Michigan tax structure "one of the worst in the country." He said that while the property tax has reached its limit "property tax relief is very complex to attain." He said that all Michigan taxes were presently taking an average of 7% of family income. Bob Smith pointed out in his testimony that the property tax alone is taking an average of 14.5% of farmers in-

come not to mention all the other taxes paid by farmers.

Five County Farm Bureau leaders testified at the Pontiac meeting. One speaker representing another organization said that the average man in Oakland county now earns \$8,000 and pays \$200 in county and school taxes.

After hearing this, Elroy Scott, President, Oakland county Farm Bureau, said that he "would like to be that average man." He said his income was \$3,000 with a \$900 property tax! Paul Friedenstab testified that "in the last few years, the property tax on his 114 acre farm had risen 150%. School taxes are up 320% and his income down 40%."

Allen Rush, Macomb county, and former State Farm Bureau director, gave a detailed explanation of Farm Bureau's tax program including the particularly serious tax problems of farmers living near metropolitan areas such as assessment of land at its potential value rather than at its agricultural value and other problems created by rapidly increasing population due to urbanization.

Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Foster were present and Mrs. Foster testified on problems of education and the tax load carried by property.

In Port Huron, St. Clair county Farm Bureau President, Merle Hazelton, along with Robert Wilson and William Dobbyn, gave further testimony on the need for tax reform now with particular relief for real and personal property.

At this meeting Bob Smith read into the record a letter from Farm Bureau member Reid Sisson of Lapeer county in which he stated that "in that county farmers pay approximately 43% of the taxes but they make up only 20% of the population and receive about 15% of the income." Bob Wilson said "net income is a more equitable tax base than net worth."

State Farm Bureau director Harvey Leuenberger, Andrew Oldeck, Arthur Burridge, Elmer Frahm, and William Hogan represented Farm Bureau at the Saginaw hearing. Director Leuenberger told the committee of the tax impact on farmers in that area. He said that taxes average \$7.00 to \$10.00 per acre and were bound to go higher because of the increased services, such as schools, required by the rapid residential development outside of the city.

He said that some of the best land in the U.S. is rapidly disappearing. He pointed out that the time may not be far distant when the loss of this food production may be needed by our expanding population.

In Grand Rapids, Gerald Waldeck, Kent county Farm Bureau President said that in some areas taxes have become so high that farmers have moved out and left

a "no-man's land" that is "idle and weed covered." He said that "wages in industry continue to rise, yet those with increasing incomes are paying less of the cost of schools and other services in relation to their income."

He said that "we are not opposed to paying taxes but we believe every citizen expects to support schools and other government services through a fair and equitable tax structure."

In Muskegon, Neil Mohr and Dick Kennedy spoke for the Ottawa county Farm Bureau. They told of the special study Ottawa county Farm Bureau has made on the tax structure and said that that county is in a "squeeze" between two metropolitan areas.

It was heartening to note that all these county leaders were willing to take valuable time from the harvest of their crops to present the views of Farm Bureau members.

FALL SESSION PRAISED

The board of directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau has praised Michigan Legislators who agreed to return to Lansing for a Fall Session devoted primarily to tax reform.

In a Board Statement they wrote: "We believe it both wise and essential that taxation committees give proper interim study to the many tax reform measures introduced during the session. Only in this manner can a responsible program be developed."

Elsewhere in their statement they say: "Progress and fiscal solvency cannot continue under Michigan's present antiquated tax structure. Local government, especially, can no longer survive and flourish by depending on a single source of revenue — the property tax.

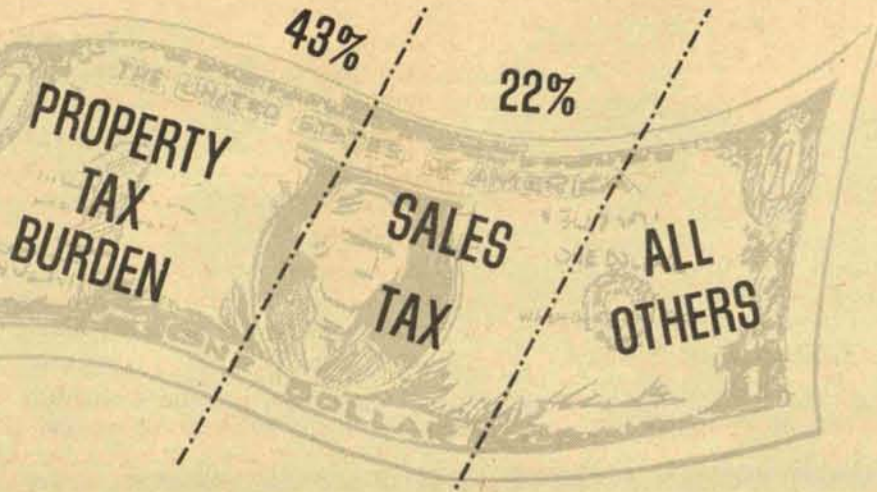
"Farmers in particular, find themselves in the unenviable position of paying a greater portion of their income on property tax than most other groups pay on all state and local taxes combined.

"We call attention to the fact that no end is in sight for the continued rise of real and personal property taxation. . . ." the farm leaders concluded.



KENT COUNTY FARM BUREAU President and dairy farmer, Gerald Waldeck, leaves the Civic Center in Grand Rapids where he told lawmakers that "Farmers with no increase in income, pay ever increasing shares of governmental costs."

THE GOAL: TAX BALANCE!



LET'S BALANCE THE TAX DOLLAR!

What do Farm Bureau members mean when they say: "our tax structure is out of balance" . . . "too great a share of the tax dollar is loaded on property" . . . "farmers pay an unfair portion of their incomes on property taxes" . . . "unlike a century ago property no longer represents ability to pay"?

Perhaps a simple example will illustrate the kind of inequities that exist in Michigan's tax structure.

Assume two individuals, Mr. A and Mr. B, have \$50,000 to invest. Mr. A invests his \$50,000 in interest bearing stock yielding 5% a year or \$2,500. Under Michigan tax laws he would be liable for the intangibles tax which in this case would be 3½% of the \$2,500 or \$87, less a tax credit of \$20, which makes Mr. A's tax \$67.

Now assume the other person, Mr. B, decides to invest his \$50,000 in some kind of property, real or personal, to create a job for himself or for someone else. He immediately becomes liable for the property tax whether he has a return on his money or not.

His property assessment, as equalized, would be \$25,000. Presently the average property tax rate in Michigan is 37.6 mills. This means Mr. B's tax would be \$940. Compare taxes: Mr. A—\$67, Mr. B—\$940!

To carry the example further, suppose Mr. A's stocks did not return any interest. He would still pay a tax but it would be cut to \$50. Mr. B would still pay \$940.

Some will argue that in the case of land, values are rising rapidly. But so are the values of other forms of wealth such as stocks. Then, too, there are such things as "stock splits." It should also be remembered that in the case of personal property, such as machinery, values depreciate rapidly. Of course, assessments would change too, but the relationship would be the same.

One extremely important point is that Mr. A's tax rate has not changed in 25 years or more. But, the tax rate on Mr. B's property rises about every year.

Mr. A's \$50,000 investment is taxed primarily on net income, while Mr. B's \$50,000 investment is taxed on net worth.

This is only one example of the imbalance of Michigan's tax structure.

Farm Bureau's goal is to balance the tax structure . . . simple to state but most complex to attain.



OTTAWA FARM BUREAU leader Cornelius Mohr testified in Muskegon "Repeal business activities and farm personal taxes." "Give substantial tax relief to real estate."

Call for TAX ACTION!

SMITH URGES TAX REFORM—NOW!

Through letter and telegram, Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton Smith has remained in close contact with state political leaders, urging their support of tax reform. Examples follow:

Mackinac Island, Michigan Governor George Romney

We congratulate you and the legislative leaders who have gathered to discuss further plans for tax reform. We believe that tax reform should not be confused with a tax increase. Present general fund balance should not be considered an excuse to postpone needed reform and property tax relief. We support action now to give greater equity to our tax program and keep Michigan's economy strong.

Elton R. Smith, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

A wire similar to that sent Romney went also to the Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee:

Mr. Zolton Ferency, Chairman Democratic State Central Committee

Our state needs tax reform now. We cannot afford to wait until another financial crisis brings payless paydays and fiscal irresponsibility. Michigan Farm Bureau, with nearly 70,000 farm family members, supports your efforts to secure consideration and action by the Legislature this year.

Elton R. Smith, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

ROMNEY AND FERENCY REPLY

In acknowledging President Smith's wire, Governor Romney said "I appreciate knowing that you share with me in concern for maintaining Michigan's fiscal integrity."

Mr. Elton R. Smith, President Michigan Farm Bureau

Dear Mr. Smith:

Your recent wire indicating Farm Bureau support for fiscal reform is indeed heartening.

I am particularly grateful for your support and for your efforts in this area.

Sincerely,
Zolton A. Ferency

Sweat and Tears OVER TAXES

FARMERS FIGHT CONSTANT BATTLE

A fight to rid farmers of a crushing burden of property taxes was an early event in Farm Bureau history. The fight in 1923, bitterly pursued, brought the gasoline tax to replace the farm taxes on roads and highways which threatened to confiscate many Michigan farms.

In 1933, the growing burden on property was relieved by the sales tax and the 15 mill limit on property tax.

With that relief accomplished, taxes were bearable on farm property for awhile. But by the early 1950s, urban expansions brought rising demands for community facilities and services. Farms in the districts and surrounding townships again knew the pinch of rising property taxes.

The Conlin Tax Study of 1958 showed that taxes were going badly out of balance — and against farm property owners. Farm Bureau resolutions each year called for tax reform to bring about a more equitable distribution of tax burdens among the taxpayers of Michigan communities.

By 1962, property taxes generally had reached the point where they represented 47 per cent of all state and local tax revenues. School taxes had multiplied nearly five times since 1948.

And farmers were getting the heaviest shock of the burden. Each year saw more and more of the net income from the farm being eaten away by property taxes. In 1950, such taxes took only 4.9% of farmers' incomes. By 1961, it was 12.3%. By 1964, it was 13.3% of net incomes from Michigan farms. But if the taxes on farm personal property are added, this figure becomes a tax amounting to 14.5% of net farm incomes in Michigan!

Michigan State University tax studies continued to picture this rise in farm taxes over a 15-year period. These studies gave sound support and good reason for repeated requests for tax reform pictured in Farm Bureau resolutions throughout these years.

In 1962, the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors began a study of the farm tax situation at the request of the delegates from the counties. The aim of the study was to find ways and means to relieve the rising burden of property taxes which threaten to overwhelm farmers for a second time.

The problem of finding sources that could be taxed for local revenues — to replace property taxes — was, and is, not an easy one. As the years advanced, the federal government advances its monopoly over the tax dollar of the citizenry. By 1963, Washington was taking 87 per cent of the total tax dollar. Centralization of taxing power was a way of centralizing government. And the end is not yet.

But the local taxes mounted on top of this federal tax grab. Much of the federal money returned had to be matched if local governments or state governments were to get it. And this to the local pressure from schools, streets and roads, sewers and lighting systems, welfare loads and water taxes. It was trouble and trouble again.

The rising federal tax take did nothing to halt the rise in property taxes. In fact, they went up and up again. And Michigan had the greatest percentage of increase in property taxes during the period from 1951 to 1961 of any state in the nation, with no end in sight.

Little wonder that Farm Bureau resolutions repeatedly, year after year, continued to call for tax reform in Michigan. Property is no longer a good measure of the ability to pay taxes — especially farm property.

Some aspects of these resolutions have seen fulfillment. The passage of the new Constitution limits the assessments to 50%, rather than 100% of the value. It also permits only property owners to vote on millage increases above the 15 mill limit for periods of more than 5 years and on the issuance of bonds.

Graduated income taxes were prohibited by the Constitution. And the state equalized value was required to be shown on tax statements to property owners. All came with Farm Bureau support.

The delegates in 1965 overwhelmingly approved a total tax reform program including a "state-wide broad-based flat rate tax on net income" as a means to raise sufficient revenue to relieve property taxes and achieve an equitable and balanced tax structure.

ORCHARD INTO FAIRWAYS —GOLF TO BE NEW CROP!

ENTERPRISING FARMER LOOKS TO CHANGE

Some farmers are afraid of change. Not so Jerome Jorissen. Jerome and his vivacious wife, Mary, have spent a lifetime meeting and controlling change and are now looking forward to at least one more major change before settling back to enjoy the fruit of their hard work.

And "fruit" is a good word around Hillcrest Farms, where Jerome has lately decided to plant a different crop on part of his rolling acres south of Ludington — golf balls.

If things go well, before many months, local golfers will tee off from under one of three impressively huge and old apple trees, and pursue their game down fairways that play through part of the pear orchard.

Jerome is not alone among farmers in recognizing a new development in the use of farm land. The golfing public has "exploded" like the population. One hundred percent more golfers seek the fairways today than ten years ago. Existing courses find them "piled up at the first tee — waiting for a turn." Farm acres converted to golf courses have been paying well on a per acre basis. And Jerome's acres lie in a promising location.

Not that this is planned to happen right away. First a cup-like pond that has nearly dried in recent years must be dredged and filled with an estimated one-million gallons of water; the carefully saved weathered lumber from an old barn is to be turned into a Clubhouse and its remaining rafter-beams will become a bridge over a small ravine to add to both the beauty and hazards of the envisioned golf course.

In the process, some of the older, but still bearing, cherry trees will be removed and the fairways laid out in 130 acres of what are now orchard and alfalfa-covered gently rolling hills.

The first nine holes are projected for opening in 1967, with the full 18-hole course to follow. Meanwhile, between work on the new project, hard work continues in the orchard and on the sorting table.

Anyone who has grown apples, peaches, pears and cherries for today's highly competitive fresh fruit market, knows what hard work is all about. The Jorissen's have built an attractive fruit stand on busy Highway 31, three miles south of Ludington, where fruit, native honey and homemade preserves are offered.

"I work all through the month of May to make enough jam and

jelly to meet the demand in July and August," Mrs. Jorissen said. Later cider will be another popular item in the stand.

Helping at every spare moment is son Eugene and his wife, both of whom teach school at Utica. Daughter Joan, age 16, has spent the summer in The Netherlands, as a participant in the "Youth for Understanding" program.

An older daughter, Phyllis, now Mrs. Donald Harden of East Lansing, was Michigan Apple Queen in 1954.

In spite of the heavy work schedule that grows to frantic proportions when the peak fruit season arrives, the Jorissen's have always found time for Farm Bureau. This is all the more amazing when one considers that Jerome is now serving his third term as Mason County Clerk and is frequently found knee-deep in other civic responsibilities.

For example, he serves as chairman of the United Fund Drive and the Salvation Army Board. He is superintendent of the rural Evangelical United Brethren Church Sunday School, where Mrs. Jorissen presently teaches the 11 and 12 year olds.

In between he serves as chairman of the Mason County Farm Bureau legislative committee and as discussion topic leader for his Lakeshore Pioneers Community Group. "Most folks around here are Farm Bureau members," he concedes.

It is not uncommon that opinions of the group are reported direct to the Michigan Farm Bureau, where since 1963, he has served on the important statewide Discussion Topic Committee. In addition, on one occasion, Jerome served as delegate to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting.

What is the attraction that draws him to Farm Bureau? "It is the interest Farm Bureau has in preserving my independence as boss of my own acres," Jerome replies. "Above all, I want to be independent. All farmers do. I must be independent if I am to have the ability to change. How else could I work toward such drastic change as putting in a golf course where orchards used to be?"



GENTLY ROLLING HILLS — fruit trees and natural "hazards" appear ideal for a proposed 130-acre golf course planned by Jerome Jorissen on his orchard-acreage five miles south of Ludington. Jorissen feels the ability to change is all-important to today's farm operator and that Farm Bureau has helped to preserve this farming right.

TOPICS FOR FALL AND WINTER

For more than 25 years, a committee of Farm Bureau members has chosen topics for Community Farm Bureau discussion from a list of suggestions made by the Groups.

Recently the committee met to select topic titles for the coming six months. The topics picked are no longer placed on a rigid schedule by the committee, which feels they may be made more timely if related to the development of current events.

In spite of the fact that Congress is astir over the national farm program, the committee decided that the Administration's farm program should be a discussion topic at an early date.

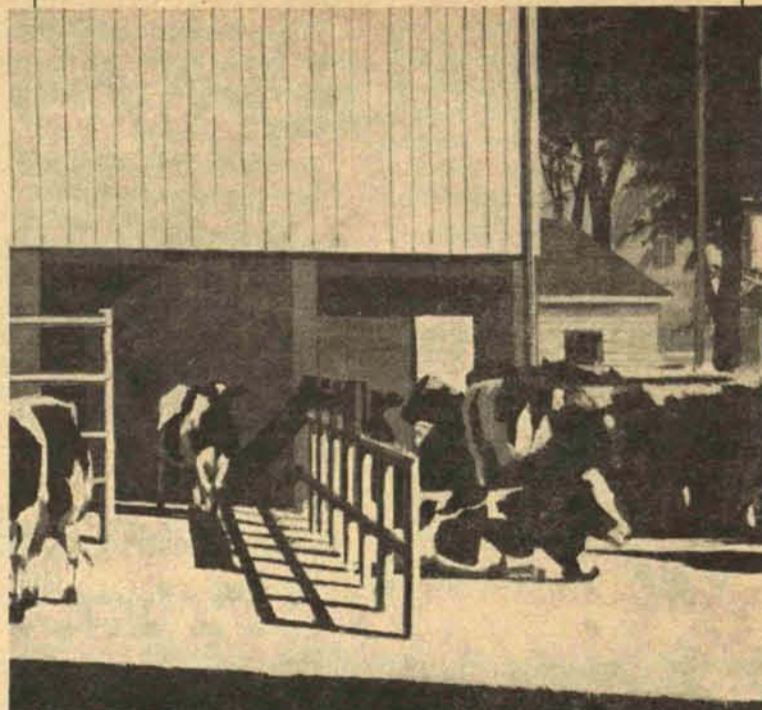
Other topics on the "docket" for coming months include: "Future programs and past achievements of Farm Bureau," "Avenues to property tax relief," "Developments in Farm Labor," "The Farm Bureau safety program" and "Will MACMA serve farm producers in general?"

The state-wide Discussion Topic Committee was recently made a "regular" committee of the State Farm Bureau board, with appointments to seats on the committee made by the board and with the committee working in an advisory capacity to the board directors.



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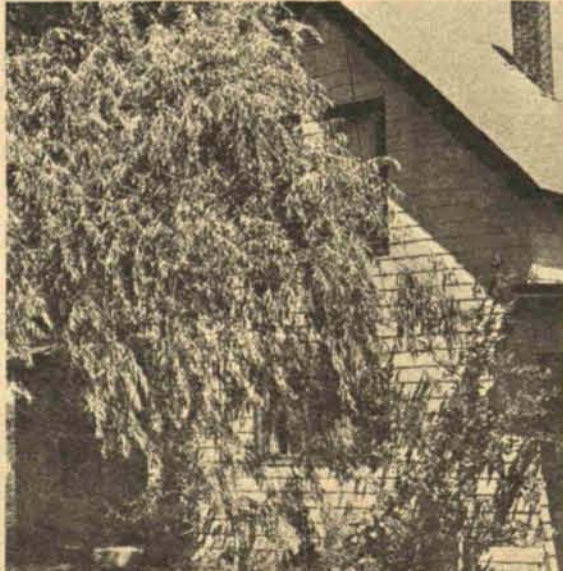
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MOM AND DAD JORISSEN are joined by daughter-in-law as flashing fingers sort cherries that are washed, popped into the cooler, and later bagged for the steady stream of customers stopping at the modern roadside stand.



PICTURESQUE SETTING — is provided the Jorissen home by the weeping willow in front and the neatly kept orchards surrounding the home from back and sides.

THE LAST CHECK GOES IN . . .

Leon Monroe, Treasurer of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, places the last of nearly \$200,000 in dividend and interest checks in the mailbag for delivery to farmer-investors. Carl Heisler, President of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative (right), assists Lee and the mail-courier in seeing that the valuable sacks move out on schedule. The eight bags of checks were the result of recent Board actions of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.



EIGHT MAILBAGS FILLED WITH CHECKS

IS YOUR NAME ON ONE OF THEM?

It might well be, if you are a patron of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative. Checks totalling nearly \$200,000 in dividends and interest have been, or will be, mailed soon by Farmers Petroleum to stockholders and members. This money represents an added saving to all patrons on purchases of fuel, tires, batteries and lubricants.

Most importantly, it represents the kind of results farmers can expect when they work together — cooperatively.


PATRON-INVESTORS WILL GET:

- \$60,350 in dividends on all outstanding 5% "Class A" stock.
- \$120,000 in cash redemption of all outstanding "Class A" stock, due in the next two years.
- \$110,000 in interest to all 5% and 6% debenture holders.
- \$23,000 to be paid in November, as a special 3% dividend on all outstanding deferred patronage refunds issued in prior years where total amount held is \$10 or more.

FARMERS PETROLEUM

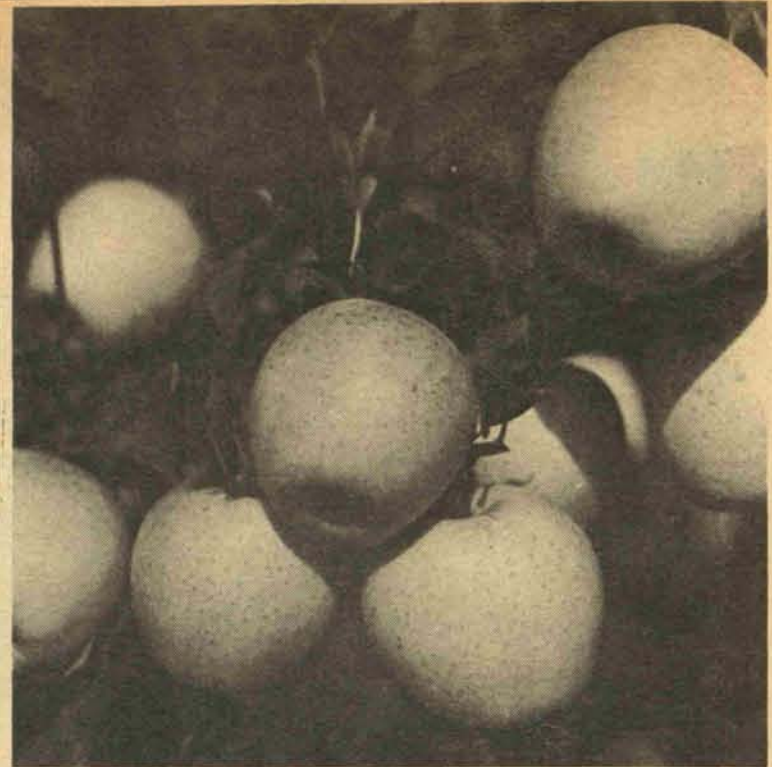
4000 N. GRAND RIVER / LANSING, MICHIGAN





FARM BUREAU WOMEN

working, not waiting

MICHIGAN "FLAVORBEST" APPLES will be the main ingredient of recipes submitted by the Hillsdale County Farm Bureau Women in the new cookbook which will be ready for distribution in October. Nearly every Women's Committee throughout the state will contribute their talents toward this new project, which is aimed at promoting Michigan and its products.



AMERICAN DAIRY PRINCESS—Susanne Bradford—stopped at Farm Bureau Center in Lansing on her recent tour of Michigan. Miss Bradford, of Tallahassee, Florida, took time from her busy schedule of appearances to serve a "milk break" to members of the Farm Bureau Women's "Public Information and Understanding Committee." The lovely princess is shown with Miss Helen Atwood, Coordinator of Women's Activities, and Mrs. Wm Scramlin, state chairman.

"FLAVORBEST" Apples —in New Recipe Book

Farm Bureau Women throughout the state are busy testing and choosing recipes in their selected commodity categories for the cookbook which is slated for October release.

The attractive cookbook will contain recipes featuring Strawberries from Alpena, tomatoes from Bay, peppers from Monroe, carrots from Osceola, fish from Marquette-Alger, "Flavorbest" apples from Hillsdale, etc. — new and unique methods of using nearly every Michigan-grown product.

Some of the county Women's Committees are using "fun-methods" of choosing recipes to appear in the cookbook. For example, in Eaton County, designated to submit various ways of using cornmeal, the women used their annual garden party as the scene for judging their best recipes.

The Eaton Women brought desserts, main dishes and breads, which were taste-tested and then rated by the attending 85 guests, who found this type of voting almost impossible without returning to the buffet table several times before making their final decision.

Recipes submitted by the counties will be chosen and categorized by Mrs. Jerold Topliff, Editor-in-Chief of the cookbook designed to promote Michigan and its products, as well as the culinary abilities of the Farm Bureau Women.

MARKETING — "A Family Affair" To Be Feature of Fall Meetings

Dates have been set for the 1965 Fall district meetings, according to Miss Helen Atwood, coordinator of Women's Activities, who urges that all Farm Bureau Women make a special effort to attend these important sessions in their area.

Highlight of each meeting will be a presentation by Larry Ewing, marketing specialist for the Michigan Farm Bureau, who will talk about what the farm woman needs to know that her city sister doesn't!

In other words, "Marketing is a Family Affair," and the Farm Bureau Women's interest in this important phase of farm living has increased in recent years with the realization that effective marketing is the key to farmers' net income.

"Marketing may seem like a strange topic for women," Ewing says, "but since it directly affects the standard of living for their families, it's really a subject they want to know more about. The women, along with other leaders, have determined that new and improved marketing programs are needed to secure higher net income, and should play a larger role in Farm Bureau activities of the future."

"As partners in their farming operation, women need to know and understand the problems of the market place and how to adapt marketing techniques in order to realize an adequate income for their families.

"Farmers must change their system of marketing to match the corresponding change that is taking place in the buying, processing and retailing of agricultural commodities," Ewing explains.

"Contract production is growing and it is estimated that over half of all agricultural commodities will be produced under contract by 1975. Price and other

contract terms will need to be negotiated through organized efforts if producers are to build their selling power to match the buying power of the large food corporations."

Ewing will give a progress report on what Farm Bureau has done in the field of marketing and outline some of the new areas of activity, as he presents the benefits of group selling and its vital importance to the farm family.

Other program features vary by districts, but will traditionally follow the pattern of combined fun and facts to make it a pleasurable and profitable day for all who attend.

Women are urged to enter district meeting dates on their activity calendars now. Time and place may be obtained from county or district chairmen.

District	Date
1	Oct. 29
2	Oct. 12
3	Oct. 14
4	Oct. 20
5	Oct. 18
6	Sept. 28-29
7	Oct. 6
8	Oct. 13
9	Oct. 1
10W	Oct. 27
10E	Oct. 28

NEW RULES FOR "QUEEN" CONTEST

New rules have been established for the "Miss Farm Bureau" contest, allowing entrants to be either single or married girls, and with the age-requirements raised so that contestants must be at least 18 years of age November 10, and not have passed her 31st birthday by that date.

The more liberalized rules will allow more girls to enter the contest and provide judges with a harder-than-usual job of selecting the girl who will reign for a year.

Contestants must be Farm Bureau members, and if less than 21 years of age, her parents must belong to Farm Bureau. All entries must be approved by the county Farm Bureau, and only one contestant may represent a county at the state contest, Wednesday, November 10, at Kellogg Center, Michigan State University.

Deadline for entries at the Michigan Farm Bureau office is November 1, and both a photograph and short autobiographical sketch must accompany the entry form.

The winner will be crowned at the Annual Meeting Banquet held in the Lansing Civic Center, following the main address given by American Farm Bureau Federation president, Charles Shuman. Judging will include points for naturalness and poise, natural beauty, charm and personality and public speaking ability.

"New Look" Set for Annual Meeting

The Farm Bureau Women's state chairman fills many roles, and one of the most challenging for Mrs. Wm. Scramlin has been as chairman of the 1965 Annual Meeting Committee.

This has been a particularly demanding assignment this year as the committee works toward a "new look" in the annual meeting. Together with staff committee chairman, J. Delbert Wells, Mrs. Scramlin has helped to set the pattern for more emphasis on the public image of Farm Bureau.

"I think the big thing this year is our decision to go 'all out' for the convention banquet on Wednesday night, November 10. It will be open to everyone and the more — the better. We hope counties will bring in buses of people and that city people, too, will come and hear American Farm Bureau president, Charles Shuman. We would like to have 2,000-3,000 people there," said Mrs. Scramlin.

The big convention banquet will be held at the Lansing Civic Center to facilitate the large crowd, with a welcome issued by city mayor, Max Murningham. The crowning of the 1965 Michigan Farm Bureau queen will be one of the highlights of the evening. Mrs. Scramlin reports that the committee expects some 50 county entries for this year's queen contest.

Awards for Outstanding Service to Agriculture will also be presented on the Wednesday evening program.

"Our committee hopes that the delegates and guests at this year's annual meeting will be pleased with the changes we have made and that the public image of our organization will be improved as the result of our efforts," Mrs. Scramlin said.

"WHAT DO WE GET FOR OUR MONEY?"



Charles J. Davis, President, ADA of Michigan and Mrs. Davis. (picture insert) Mr. Davis and his son-in-law, partner, Gary Coltrider.

DAIRY PRODUCT SALES ARE UP

As operators of a family partnership dairy farm, we are interested in increased sales of our product. It's logical for dairymen to ask themselves, "What do we get for our money in ADA?" As your president, I'm aware of the program activities and its accomplishments. **The job is getting done . . .** per capita consumption is increasing, this means more sales and consequently, more money in our pockets.

ADA PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN DEVELOPING SALES INCREASES

Fluid Milk — The 1965 U.S.D.A. report shows an **8-lb. per-capita increase** in fluid milk consumption in Michigan for 1964 . . . the top

state in the nation. Higher utilization means higher average prices for dairy farmers.

Sour Cream — Michigan consumption has increased **46 percent** in the past five years compared to a national average of 19 percent.

Cheese — Consumption has risen approximately 2 lbs. per person, 25 percent in the last few years.

THREE OUT OF FOUR DAIRY FARMERS SUPPORT ADA

Starting this month there will be a statewide membership recontact program, asking non-members to sincerely consider supporting this dairy-farmer total selling program. Greater participation will allow our program to be even more effective. Let's all speak up for dairy products.

Why don't you write me?

- about . . . what you think of the current program.
- . . . how you believe the program can be improved.
- . . . any questions you may have about ADA.

c/o CHARLIE DAVIS
President
ADA of Michigan
P. O. Box 161
Onondaga, Michigan



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american dairy association
of MICHIGAN

Voting Delegates Will Return - November 9-11

Some years are like that — it seems that one "annual meeting" is barely over before the next one is announced.

Understandably, this could be the attitude of voting delegates and guests when they consider that the regular annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau will be called for November 9-10-11 — returning them to the auditorium of Michigan State University for the second time in three months.

However, this will be the "regular" annual meeting, containing the policy resolutions sessions dealing with a hundred or more important issues, not as in the "special" called meeting which dealt primarily with one subject.

And there is a fresh, new look to this year's meeting, with a number of innovations announced by Mrs. Maurine Scramlin, who serves as Board Committee chairman for the meeting, and J. Delbert Wells, Staff Committee chairman.

Included is a move to the huge Lansing Civic Center for the main banquet; an open-session of the resolutions committee one evening, and a number of new evening dinner programs.

American Farm Bureau president, Charles B. Shuman, has confirmed his attendance. Popular speaker T. C. Peterson, director of the Program Development Division of the American Farm Bureau Federation, has been obtained for one of the dinners.

November 9, the opening day of the three-day convention, will begin with a forenoon business meeting and the President's report, followed by afternoon programs dealing with special interest areas. These will include Farm Bureau Women, Farm Bureau Young People and a number of Commodity programs.

The evening has been arranged in an unusual manner, with each of the special interest groups invited to attend a special dinner session, following which those interested in the policy resolutions are invited to an "Open Session" of the Resolutions Committee, scheduled for 8:00 p.m.

Scheduled are dinners for Farm Bureau Women, Commodity Groups, Young Farmers, and County Presidents.

Most exclusive of the events will be the "Executive's Banquet" and program, where by invitation only, County Farm Bureau presidents and State Board Members will attend.

The move to the spacious Civic Center for the big Convention Banquet, Wednesday night, November 10, will allow many more people to attend than formerly. County Farm Bureaus will be encouraged to organize bus-loads of members for the event, where American Farm Bureau president Charles Shuman is scheduled to speak.

Farm Bureau's "Queen" candidates will be presented and the girl who will represent the Michigan Farm Bureau for the new year will be crowned.

The near 3,000 seating capacity in the Civic Center auditorium is such that for the first time it will be possible to invite Lansing area business and civic leaders to attend the dinner, or to hear the program from excellent balcony seats.

Again, awards will be made to the two most outstanding counties in the state, Farm Bureaus with well-rounded programs sparked by active committees.

Besides President Shuman, other dignitaries scheduled to appear at various times on the program include Dr. John Hannah, president of Michigan State University, Lansing Mayor Max Murningham and Michigan Governor George Romney.

CERTIFICATE SALES WELL UNDERWAY

The sale of 6% Surplus Certificates to finance an expanded program of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan is well underway, according to N. L. Vermillion, Administrative Vice President. The certificates were offered to members throughout the state beginning early in August.

The Surplus Certificates, paying 6% interest, are being offered by those members of the Farm Bureau Insurance Group Agency force who are also licensed securities salesmen. The issue is limited to \$1,000,000.

Mr. Vermillion concluded that any member interested in the investment opportunity would be able to obtain a prospectus by contacting their local Farm Bureau Insurance Agency Office or the Home Office at 4000 North Grand River, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

FARMERS PETROLEUM

Dividends and Refunds To "F.P.C." Patrons

The Board of Directors of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative has approved a schedule of year-end actions which will place nearly \$200,000 in dividend and interest checks in the hands of farmer-investors.

According to Farmers Petroleum president, Carl Heisler, the schedule of actions include:

Mailing of \$60,350 in dividends on all outstanding 5% "Class A" stock, on September 1. On that same date: Mailing of \$110,000 in interest to all 5% and 6% debenture holders and; redemption for cash of all outstanding "Class A" stock, amounting to \$120,000 — and which is due in the next two years.

A November 1 mailing is planned for \$23,000 in the form of a special 3% dividend on all outstanding deferred patronage refunds issued in prior years — where the total amount held is \$10 or more.

Scheduled too is a December payment of the balance of savings (after payment of dividends and federal taxes) in the form of patronage refunds. These are to be paid in a ratio of 30% cash and 70% in deferred patronage refunds.

Also announced was the November 30 date for the annual meeting of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, at which time detailed reports of the past year's activities will be given. All stockholders and Farm Bureau members interested in their petroleum program should attend, according to President Heisler. In the week following the meeting, it is the intention of F.P.C. management to distribute patronage refunds to all members.



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SUNSET RED ALKYD RESIN ENAMEL is double baked; first for enamel, again after crest is applied. You buy two Co-op products, paint and enamel.

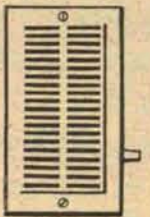
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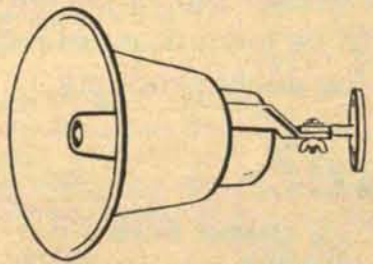
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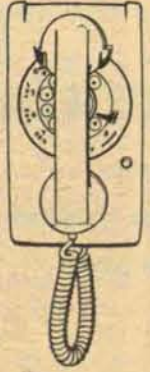
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Four times you'll be glad you have Farm Interphone:

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3.  When you're in the yard, and an important call comes in. Stay with the chores, mister —this powerful two-way loudspeaker will bring you every word loud and clear. Ruggedly built for use in outdoor locations.

4.  When every minute counts. An extension phone in your barn or other work area is one of the greatest time-savers ever invented. No more running to take or make calls in your house.

All this equipment, plus your regular home phone, is included in Farm Interphone service. For low rates and other information, just call our Business Office—or ask your Telephone Man.

Michigan Bell 
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Season on Quail Set

For the first time in many years, quail will become legal game in Michigan for a five-day season, November 11-15, 1965.

With opposition from Farm Bureau and Legislators representing many of the counties involved in the open season, the Legislature pushed through a bill authorizing the Conservation Commission to open a season in specified counties. Fifteen counties in the southern portion of Michigan are included: St. Joseph, Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe, Wayne, Washtenaw, Jackson, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Eaton, Ingham, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair.

As the 1965 hunting season approaches, farm owners should call for assistance from local conservation clubs in case of trespass problems. Michigan United Conservation Clubs have promised their co-operation in controlling the hunter who fails to "ask the farmer first."

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For bigger yields and better quality in 1966 . . . plant Michigan Certified Seed Wheat grown from foundation seed that is both field and laboratory inspected. Select . . .

AVON white, beardless, brown chaff, strong white straw, soft, good yield record.

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Solid Experience Gained In Citizenship Training



"THE IMPORTANCE OF A POLITICAL PARTY"—is the subject for this animated group conference at the Young People's Citizenship Seminar, held in mid-July at Camp Kett leadership training center. In these informal groups the students learned about important elements of political party organization, about primaries, rallies and conventions.

CAPACITY ATTENDANCE

Those who think all youngsters of today are irresponsible and without serious thought for the future, need only observe Farm Bureau Young People at work in their "Citizenship Seminar" to reverse that opinion.

Again a capacity group of 137 High School Juniors and Seniors from 65 counties in Michigan, gave ample demonstration that they are preparing themselves for full membership in the adult community—perhaps better armed to defend and explain our system of representative self-government than most of their parents.

True, those invited to attend the seminar, held at Camp Kett in Mid-July, are often the "cream" of their class, two or three top youngsters from each county, recruited by the county Citizenship Committee, in cooperation with the Board of Directors and frequently with the aid of local school authorities.

Proof of the faith others have in the youngsters and the future they represent is the \$50 in "tuition" which sponsors must pay for each student's attendance at camp. Local business firms, civic clubs and similar groups are sponsors—as in some cases are

County Farm Bureaus. Occasionally a county Farm Bureau Women's Committee acts as the sponsoring agency.

Mrs. Haven Smith, farm wife from Chappell, Nebraska, and Chairman of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee, spoke to the youngsters at one session. Later, in a radio broadcast, she confessed to being "tremendously impressed"—and had high praise for the seminar program.

"We have nothing to compare with the Citizenship Seminar in Nebraska or in most other Farm Bureau states," she said, adding "I only wish that I had such an opportunity to learn about my responsibilities as an American citizen 30 years ago—when I needed the help most . . ."

Re-emphasizing the purposes of the seminar, conference coordinator J. Delbert Wells feels that Farm Bureau has an obligation to help young people understand and appreciate the principles underlying our American system of representative government and private enterprise.

"We should help train them toward filling their obligations as American citizens," Wells says.

It is his opinion that in most cases the public schools do a good job of explaining our American heritages and the American sys-

tem. However the effectiveness of this "in-school" training depends on both the teachers and students. Too often other academic studies take priority over the student's interest and attention. "We can provide a climate through this type of seminar—wherein the main focus is on citizenship responsibility," Wells feels.

"Based on this idea of specialized study and action projects to provide citizenship experience, the Michigan Farm Bureau can supplement the work of the public school system in a very effective manner," he concludes.

Again, this year's conference featured studies of American political and economic systems. Much discussion was held by the youthful participants concerning fundamental values underlying these systems.

Students were divided into two political parties for an exciting mock election, county rally and county convention. Some of the youngsters went "all out" to assure election or support for their "party"—giving solid experience in political training.

No requirements were made for the students as follow-up measures other than the encouragement gained at the seminar to use their own initiative in fulfilling roles as worthwhile citizens.



"MY NAME IS SMITH, AND I AM A CANDIDATE"—reports Joseph Smith of Alpena, as he presents himself as a candidate and outlines his "party" platform. Smith worked many hours preparing his speech and campaign literature, as part of a mock election campaign. "Spontaneous" demonstrations were part of the exciting exercise in citizenship.

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION AROUND MICHIGAN

IONIA CAFETERIA



STATE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHAIRMAN — Raymond Kucharek, (left) dons the Chef's hat to take his turn in the Farm Bureau Young People's cafeteria, serving what appears to be an endless line of hungry visitors to the recent Ionia Free Fair. If anything, this year's record crowd was larger than usual.

50 YEARS OLD!



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION — of the Pigeon Farmers' Cooperative, was celebrated recently with a band, exhibits, carnival, parade and tons of fine barbeque. The town and area turned out en-masse to pay tribute to this important cooperative enterprise.

BERRIEN OFFICE



"HOME" FOR FARM BUREAU — in Berrien county, is this ultra-modern building near the edge of Berrien Springs. Containing a shining kitchen, meeting hall, offices and dining area, the building has become a popular community center.

"SPUD" DAY



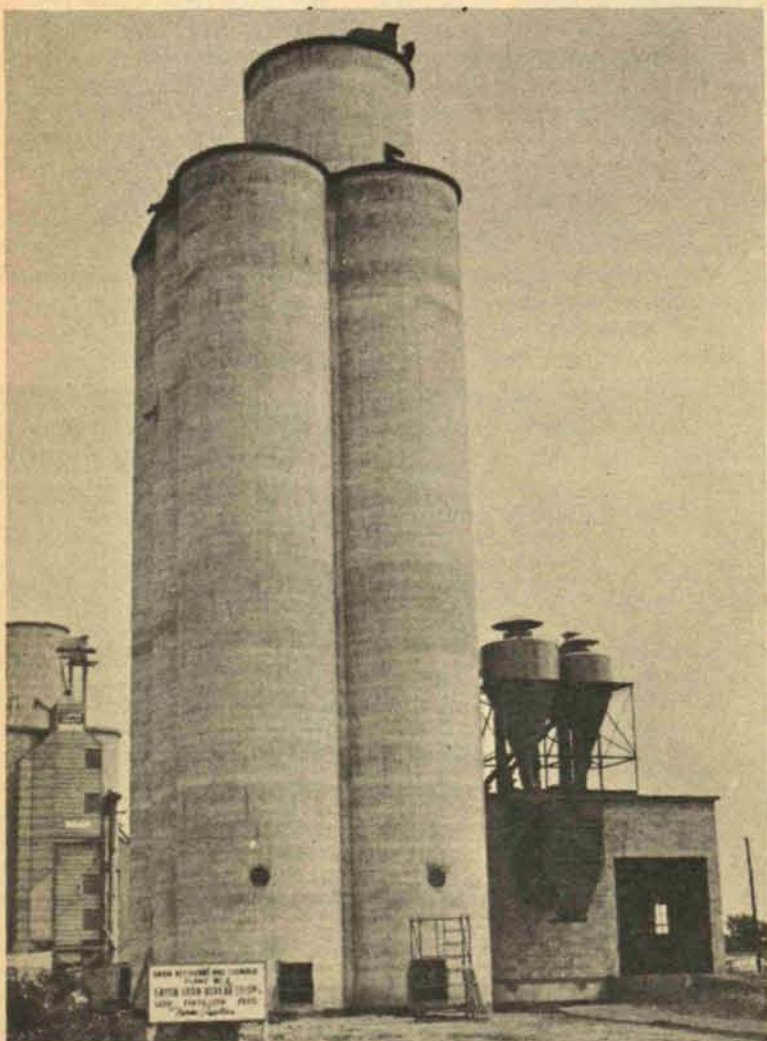
GOOD POTATOES — are the specialty of Ferris Christiansen of McBride. His Montcalm county farm will be featured in Michigan's "Spudtacular" Wednesday, Sept. 8. Public invited.

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN



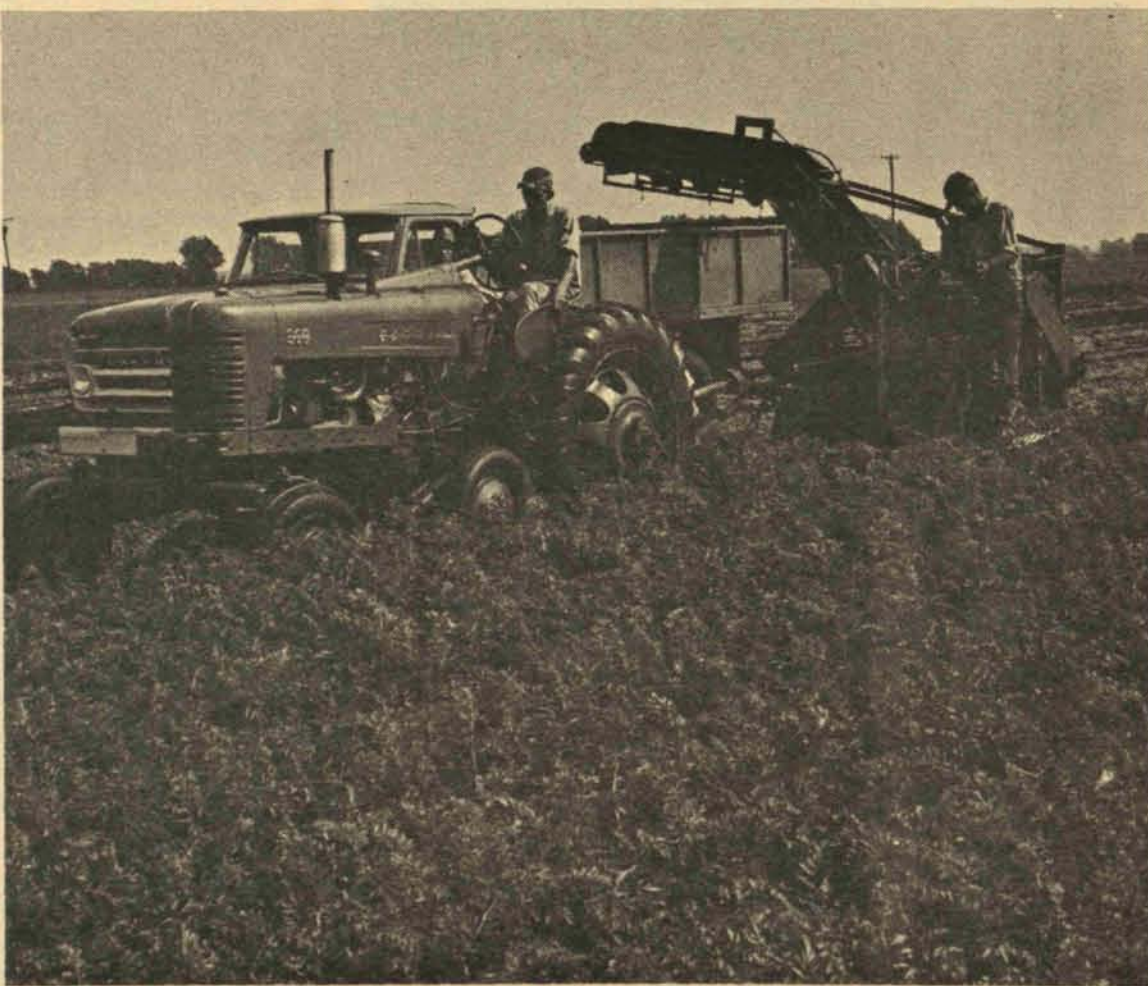
UNIFIED SERVICE-CENTER — that's the description of facilities of the Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau in Traverse City. The county Farm Bureaus of Leelenau and Grand Traverse share space with affiliate companies — Farmer's Petroleum, Farm Bureau Insurance and Farm Bureau Services.

NAVY-BEAN ELEVATOR



THE EATON FARM BUREAU COOPERATIVE — at Charlotte, has just completed this new navy-bean elevator. This plant has a capacity of 80,000 bushels of storage. Fred Long, Cooperative Manager, reports they can handle up to 3,000 bushels of product per hour. In the background is the grain plant containing another 15,000 bushels of grain storage area.

GOLDEN HARVEST



LIFTING, TOPPING AND LOADING — tons of golden carrots in one continuous operation, this automated carrot harvester uses no hand labor in doing the work of over 50 men per day. Required only are a tractor, a machine operator and a truck driver. The Grant, Michigan, muckland area produces over 2,000 acres of carrots yearly, with modern handling of the golden crop one feature of Michigan's first CARROT DAY held in mid-August.

ONE LULU OF A LUAU!

To paraphrase an old sales slogan—"When better Hawaiian Luau's are held, the Montcalm County Farm Bureau will hold them." Complete with orchids!

Wanting to do something different for their county-wide meeting, the Montcalm county Farm Bureau President, Herman Rader, and the board of directors decided to plan a Luau, complete with roasted pig and all trimmings.

Imaginative Mrs. James Quisenberry was named food chairman. She and her committee

members outdid themselves in providing tropical decorations, exotic foods and "grass" skirted hostesses.

As guests arrived they were greeted with real orchids for the ladies and the customary flowerlei and welcome kiss for the men. They were next led into the dining hall of Six Lakes School and an atmosphere of tropical foliage and festive food. Soft Hawaiian music filled the room and tables groaned under platters of food.

Guests were urged to select from huge bowls of fruit and vegetable salads, platters of fish, pork tidbits boiled in grape leaves, Hawaiian style, Hawaiian pudding and many other dishes.

The grass skirted hostesses kept urging everyone to "try a little of this"—or "have you sampled that?"—to the point that if a few heads nodded later when Michigan Farm Bureau president, Elton Smith, spoke—the reason was too much food rather than lack of interest.



FOOD, HAWAIIAN STYLE—served to an estimated 400 persons by the Montcalm County Farm Bureau, was the center of attraction at a recent "Luau". In addition to the more common dishes were such Pacific delicacies as Waikiki beans, pork roasted in grape leaves and the largest bowl of salad east of Honolulu.

\$10,000,000 Invested —By Central Farmers

Through Farm Bureau Services' membership in the "Central Farmer's Fertilizer Company" of Chicago, Michigan farmers will share in expected savings on the cost of future nitrogen products to be stored in two new, huge 30,000-ton anhydrous ammonia tanks.

To be constructed on a site near Pine Bend, Minnesota, the tanks will be filled by economical barge transportation down the Mississippi river. The tanks represent a step in a construction program which will place a series of river terminals for ammonia storage on the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio rivers, at an estimated total cost of ten million dollars.

Pine Bend is on the Mississippi river, just south of St. Paul, and near a fertilizer plant owned by Northwest Cooperative Mills, Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota.

The two 30,000-ton tanks will store anhydrous ammonia at a temperature of -28 degrees. Facilities for loading tank cars and trucks will be included in the development which is scheduled to be completed by June, 1966.

Central Farmers will barge ammonia from an anhydrous plant to be built at Donaldsonville, Louisiana, on the Mississippi river, to the new terminal. Located near Baton Rouge, the new plant will have a 1,000 ton daily capacity.

The new system of river storage terminals will be an important link in serving the growing demand of Midwest farmers for nitrogen fertilizer.

Central Farmers, with main offices in nearby Chicago, is an international cooperative, owned by 24 regional cooperatives, Farm Bureau Services of Michigan among them. It serves farmers throughout the United States and Canada.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: 25 words for \$2.00 each edition. Additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word. NON-MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 20th of the month.

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8 FARM EQUIPMENT

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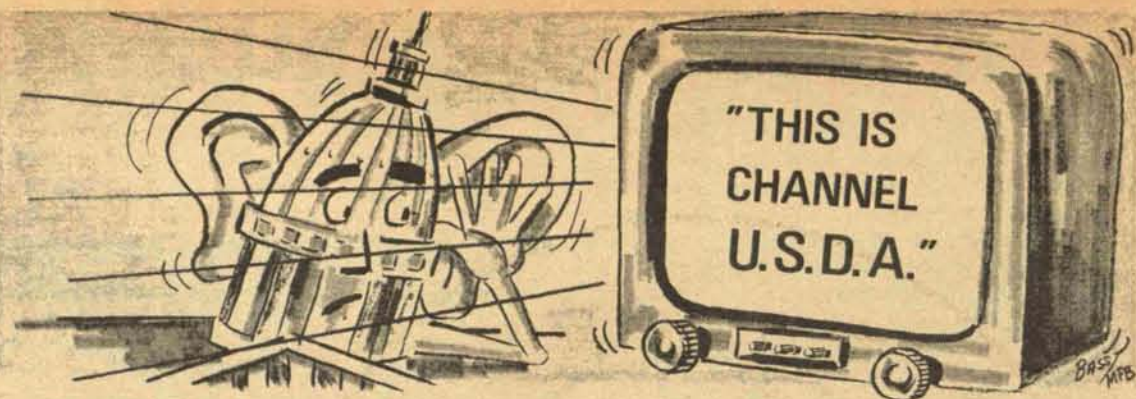
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DISCUSSION TOPIC



PREPARED BY THE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT, MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

LATE REPORT . . .

Michigan's Congressional delegation split 10-9 on passage of the Administration's catch-all farm bill which passed the House of Representatives August 19, by a vote of 221-172.

Congressmen Billie Farnam (D) of Drayton Plains, Oakland County, and Lucien Nedzi (D) representing part of Detroit and up-river communities, joined the seven Michigan Republican Congressmen in opposing the bill.

Congressmen Weston Vivian, 2nd District, including Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe and Washtenaw Counties, and Paul H. Todd, Jr., 3rd District, representing Barry, Calhoun, Eaton, Kalamazoo and Clinton Counties, joined eight other Michigan Democrats in supporting the bill, which was vigorously opposed by Farm Bureau.

The Administration was defeated in its effort to levy a bread tax which would have resulted in a direct increase in the price of bread. The more acceptable political compromise shifts the same wheat program costs to taxpayers instead of directly to the consumers.

As passed by the House, the bill continues government control type programs, with the Secretary of Agriculture having authority to develop broad rules and regulations. The Secretary also can continue to dump government-stored grain on the market to drive down free market prices and force farmers into his "voluntary" program.

One objective was reached by the Administration—there will be no wheat referendum in which farmers can vote. In the 1963 wheat referendum, Michigan wheat farmers voted 4-1 against the Administration's program.

Farm Bills Bring New Problems

Farmers were hopeful for a turn toward freedom as Congress opened last spring. President Johnson had said, "Our objective must be for the farmer to get improved income out of the marketplace. Farmers want freedom to grow and prosper, to operate competitively and profitably in our economic system."

In January, Kermit Gordon, then Director of the Budget, criticized the waste and conflicting elements of the farm program in the Saturday Review Magazine. Gordon declared that smaller farmers benefitted little from the subsidies with 80% of the assistance going to farmers having incomes over \$9,500 and the rest spread thinly among many small producers.

But in mid-July, when the House Agriculture Committee reported out a 1965 version of the farm bill, the scenery had changed drastically. The bill had all the binding features of the 1964 law, but adds new problems and extends the powers of the Secretary of Agriculture according to his wish.

His wish—yes! for he declared before the House Committee he must have the right to dump wheat and feed grains on the market at low prices to keep his programs effective. They might otherwise die out!

The House bill (H.R. 9811) calls for an extension of the strict

control programs for another four years. This is a move to permanence—programs are forced deeper and become harder to escape.

The House bill may be amended before this goes to print—but what did it contain?

Wheat: Certificates continued, but the price to be paid by millers is upped—from 75¢ to \$1.25. No more export certificates. Since millers and bakers operate on relatively small margins, consumers pick up the costs in the products that use flour. It becomes a \$625 million per year tax on bakery products. Anti-poverty?

Poor people eat more wheat products than the well-to-do.

Yet, almost at the same time, Congress removed excise taxes on mink coats, pinball machines, horse and dog racing and sundry other luxuries!

The House Committee expressed anxiety to reduce the costs of the wheat program. The costs could be passed along to the millers—from the millers to the bakers—then to the retailers—who pass them to the consumers. This will boost the cost-of-living index. That means automatic increases in wages for labor. Higher wages contract demands.

The House bill, as reported out, would give the wheat growers certificates, but now for the "projected yield" on allotted acreage rather than the "normal yield" of last year's law. The number of certificates would be determined by the Secretary from a calculation of domestic needs for food wheat—no set number per farmer. More left to the Secretary's discretion.

THE FARM PROGRAM—ONWARD AND LEFTWARD

Much the same "wheat certificate" plan which in 1963 farmers turned down in nation-wide referendum by a vote of nearly four to one, is the heart of the Administration's "new" farm program.

Only this time farmers were not given a chance to express their opinions of the measure. Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture have seen to that. Under present law, the Secretary must set the date for another referendum unless Congress intervened by postponing the deadline or passing new "permanent" legislation to replace the temporary wheat program.

Obviously shaken by the results of the last referendum and unwilling to face another, Congress quickly approved the postponement.

Meanwhile the House-Committee approved farm program contains the same controversial wheat certificate plan to which farmers strenuously object, and which grants grower-certificates based on "projected yield" on allotted acreage. Again, the Secretary of Agriculture is given a free hand to decide which portion of the national wheat crop will go for food, for feed, or "foreign"—world trade.

Much is made about the program being "voluntary"—a Washington word often used whenever a control program faces opposition.

Farmers could receive loans or purchase payments for their non-certificate wheat based on world prices and the feed value of the wheat. But "non-cooperators" would take the depressed price created by the dumping of CCC supplies on the market. The bill would still allow the Secretary to dump wheat at 105% of the support price plus carrying charges.

Future grower allotments would be based on the allotment of the preceding year, rather than on the 5 to 10 year averages used in the past. Growers could divert up to 50% of their allotment for payments, rather than the present 20%.

Feed Grains? More of the same.

Small efforts to chop down costs here. Senator Ellender, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, says that government stocks of feed grains have cost the government \$6 per bushel before they move out into market. Support incentives have

caused farmers to boost yields, even on reduced acreage allotments. A record crop in 1963. Drought cut back the 1964 crop. But another record crop in prospect for 1965. More CCC stocks to hang over the market.

Abundant and low-priced feed grains can get the livestock industry into trouble. Poultry, too. More animals and birds fed. Prices dropping. But a segment of agriculture in trouble is an invitation to launch another control program. Well, "O.K. by the boys in Washington." Isn't that what they are shooting for?

What about dairy? The Administration-program would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to propose Class I base quotas for producers of limited marketing areas, subject to approval in a producer referendum. A favorable vote would put all milk producers in the area under quotas.

Such quotas would be marketing permits for a definite QUANTITY of milk—not a percentage of a dairyman's total output. Non-quota milk would sell at manufacturing prices.

Many problems here. Limits on fluid sales—yet costs of production and fixed costs rising. Dairy men could not expand production to meet them. There would be pressures for better prices, fixed on fluid milk under the order. Incomes would depend on "the grace of the government."

New dairy farmers and "hardship cases" would get first call on any increase in market demand. Quotas could be transferred—perhaps be sold. The Secretary of Agriculture would control all transfers and sales of quotas.

Who could buy them? Farmers would have to have good incomes to afford them. Young farmers? From where would the money come? Corporation farms could take them over, if the Secretary approved their purchases.

Cotton? Whoops! you Michigan soybean growers, don't shut off your interest here. What happens in cotton diverted acreage hits you directly.

Cotton farmers can grow soybeans. They may be able to sell their cotton allotments and go into soybeans full tilt. They could take over the production

—or wreck the northern market for soys. There are real problems in cotton. The features of the 1965 farm bill are too extended to cover here. But it's worth a watchful eye!

Wool growers of the western states can grow little else on their poor land. The wool provision discriminates against them heavily. "Sliding Scale" payments strongly favor farmers who produce small wool crops and penalize the grower who must depend on wool for a living.

Farmers who produce small batches of wool usually have incomes from other farm crops—wool is a sideline. Yet, the new bill continues to penalize the full-scale wool grower.

The Cropland Retirement provision becomes a sheerly meaningless compromise measure. It provides for longer-term land retirement contracts, set by the Secretary for up to 10 years. The U.S.D.A. would share the costs of conservation projects on the farm.

Payments would be increased if the owner allowed the public to use the land for recreational purposes, or for wildlife refuges, etc.

But the high-incentive support payments in the various programs set up in the rest of the bill would discourage farmers from retiring land under this provision. Few would participate.

Farm Bureau proposed the Cropland Adjustment measure—but not in combination with the other features of the present farm bill. Farm Bureau had proposed the removal of allotments, more limitation on the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture, especially in the matter of dumping government stocks on the market to depress prices.

Farm Bureau proposed price supports on wheat and feed grains set on the basis of world market prices of the past three years and with attention to the use to be made of the products.

But Congress pushed aside the Farm Bureau bill sponsored by Senators of both parties. The Congressional ear is more tuned to the voice that comes from the big building down the street which bears the large caption: "U.S. Department of Agriculture."

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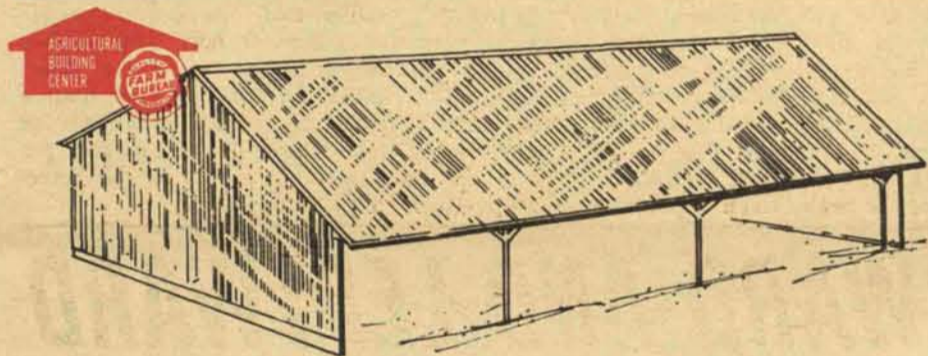
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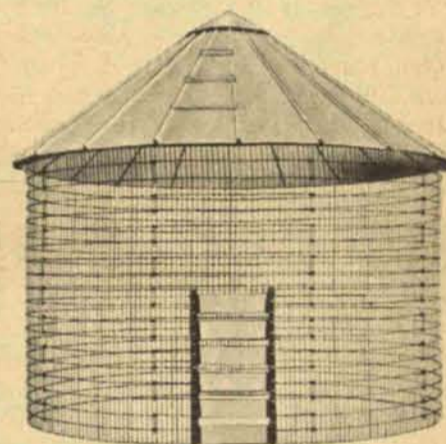
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