

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE **ACTION** PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Vol. 44, No. 1

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1966

1966

FARM BUREAU

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

A NEW YEAR — '66



JOIN IN THE NEW FARM BUREAU

NEW MEMBER DRIVE!

RING IN THE NEW

FEBRUARY



"PRESIDENT'S" CONFERENCE

MARCH



BE SECURE — INSURE

APRIL



CERTIFIED FARM MARKETS

MAY



PRESS-RELATIONS TOURS

JUNE



SAFETY CLEAN-UP

JULY



CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR

AUGUST



FARM BUREAU EXHIBITS

SEPTEMBER



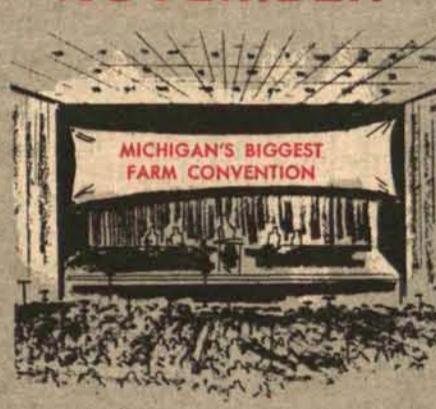
COMMUNITY GROUPS RENEW

OCTOBER



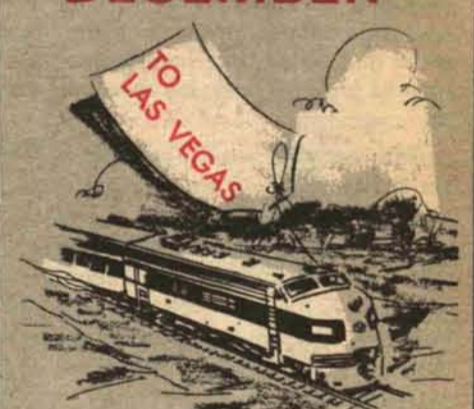
COUNTY ANNUALS

NOVEMBER



MICHIGAN ANNUAL

DECEMBER



A.F.B.F. ANNUAL

Policies Guide Action

Farm Bureau members have written an impressive calendar of work for the New Year. Each "page" of activity has first been outlined by official Farm Bureau policy resolution.

Most important of all projects is the annual membership Roll-Call drive now underway in all parts of Michigan. Aimed at a goal of "66000 members in '66" — the drive has been sparked by the vision of a new and revitalized Farm Bureau, with expanded local programs of importance to all Michigan farmers.

"We as citizens and as Farm Bureau members, are face to face with many problems that vitally concern our people and affect their lives right where they live

— in their home counties and communities," the delegates wrote in their 1966 policy statements.

Many new Farm Bureau programs of local significance will have their beginnings in February planning sessions as County Farm Bureau Presidents and Executive Committee members meet for a two-day programming workshop planned for Camp Kett, beginning Valentine's Day, February 14.

The Second Session of the 73rd Michigan State Legislature will provide opportunity this month for Michigan farmers to continue their drive toward tax reform and similar vital issues. "We commend those leaders of both political parties who made a sincere effort to develop a bipartisan tax

reform program in 1965, and thus carry out the commitments of both party platforms," the Farm Bureau resolution reads.

Farm Bureau members continue to insist that tax reform of a nature to provide significant tax relief on real property, be enacted," delegates wrote.

"Citizenship implies an understanding of our heritage — an understanding of and appreciation for, our system of government and enterprise," the 1966 Farm Bureau policies state.

February 16-17, this resolution will be activated in part through the convening of Farm Bureau's eighth annual Freedom Conference, scheduled for Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant.

RESOLUTIONS ISSUE

For the first time in recent years, all current policy resolutions of the Michigan Farm Bureau are included, word-for-word, in one issue of the Michigan Farm News. Included too, are policy recommendations made by Michigan farmers to the American Farm Bureau Federation, for consideration at the recent A.F.B.F. annual meeting in Chicago.

These policy resolutions begin on page 7, and are all included in a special center section of the paper, which may be removed as a unit for convenience. Included, too, are pictures taken as voting delegates deliberated policy statements.

Keep this issue for year-around reference, and to give needed background for local Farm Bureau action-programs. The Resolution-Section may be used as a handy membership tool in new-member campaigns.

IT'S ROLL-CALL TIME! JOIN THE NEW FARM BUREAU!

Editorial

FREELoadERS...

In presenting one of Farm Bureau's coveted awards for "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" to radio News Director Bob Runyon...

Particularly, we might add, when so many Americans seem to prefer to sit down and be carried.

Certainly nothing of recent date has drawn the line between the two types of citizenry so sharply as has the war in Viet Nam.

His editorial follows:

About the easiest thing to do when thinking about the Vietnamese war is to become confused.

However, one single, unalterable fact emerges — we are killing communists — communists bent on killing another small country.

Cunning, crafty, clever communists, using every weapon from brain-washed prisoners of war to peace demonstrations — terribly reminiscent of the same kind of thing that occurred before Hitler invaded Russia...

The communist pattern doesn't change and neither, tragically, does the Free World's. We all fumbled badly at the start of World War Two...

The U. S. State Department has admitted in a letter to Sixth District Congressman Charles E. Chamberlain, that about the only countries providing worthwhile assistance in the murderous little war are the Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Australia.

Contrast this with England which has sent six civilians and an English professor; Italy... a nine-man surgical team, Germany, 26 men, mainly technical and medical personnel...

All these are countries of the Free World, most of whom have received billions of dollars and thousands of men from America when they needed them.

The United States is not only fighting a dirty little war for the integrity of the South Vietnamese, but for the security of every nation, large or small, from the ceaseless attempts by the communists to repeat the barbarities which occurred in Tibet, Hungary, Cuba...

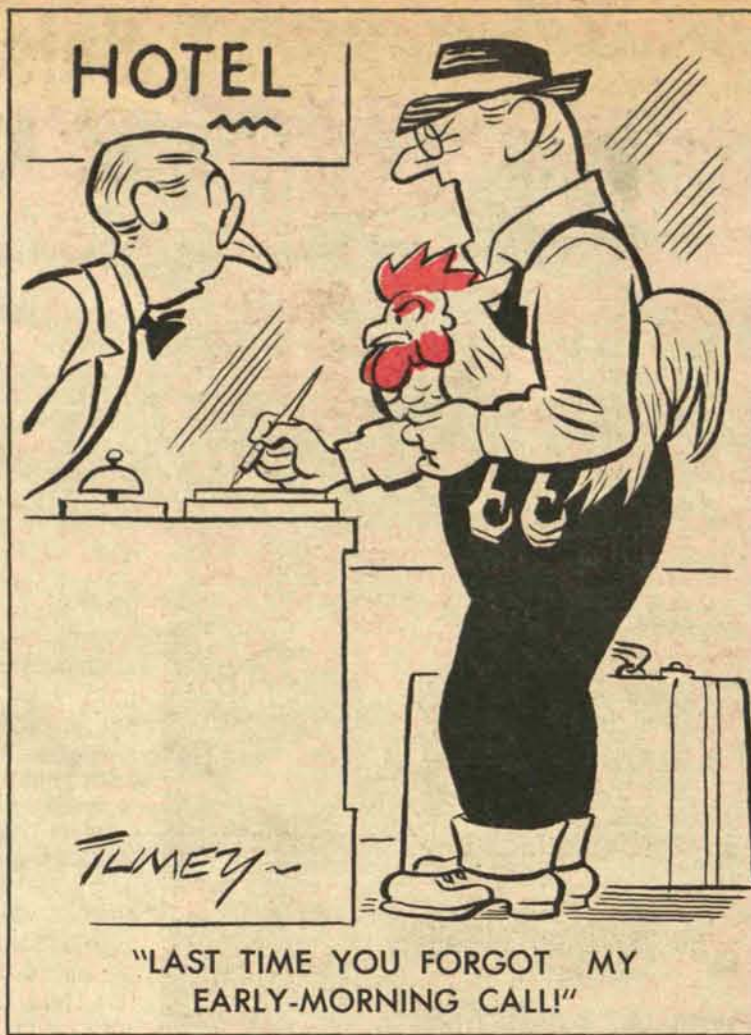
Now in Viet Nam... we are fighting virtually alone, for the Free World again, not to cheers, help and encouragement of those whom we defend...

Our men are dying for Freedom again — to a chorus of complaints and rounds of excuses from the World which would be in communist slavery if we had not stood, and did not stand, as the bulwark against enslavement.

And we continue to send billions of dollars in aid to these same countries to sustain them in their ingratitude.

This is insanity.

M.W.



President's Column SHOCKING ANSWERS

Sometimes when you ask a pointed question, you get a shocking answer. Occasionally I have asked Farm Bureau members whether they wrote their congressmen or legislators about a certain bill that vitally affects farmers.

So many members brush this question off as though it didn't matter. They "just didn't bother — got too busy" — or some such comment. That's the shocking answer.

A lot of bills come up in legislative halls, vital to farmers. Farm Bureau tries to get constructive action — according to instructions from members and delegates. But what do the lawmakers say? "The folks can't be much concerned about this matter. We just don't hear a thing from them!" That's another shocking answer.

Trying to get lawmakers to vote for good, sound legislation isn't a job for some solitary Farm Bureau sentinel. No matter whom he represents, he needs the backing of folks who are voters and the members of the organization.

A lot of decisions are being made that hit farmers right in a tender spot, on their farms, in their pocketbooks and in the living of their families.

It's mostly non-farm folks who are making these decisions. Many of them don't know the difference between a combine and a cooperative. Some of them will listen to farm people.

But if you don't tell them how you feel and think about legislative proposals, they are going to vote as they think best. They'll decide your affairs for themselves.

Farmers should know well enough by now that when you let things take this kind of turn, undesirable chickens come home to roost. A farmer that gets "too busy" to write or call about a bill finds his investment challenged by laws that limit his right to produce, add to taxes or hinder his marketing.

I can understand that part of the problem of being "busy" is keeping up with information about proposals or legislative bills. But that's where Farm Bureau fits in the picture.

Farm Bureau has men in Congress and the Legislature all the time, keeping track of developments. These men make legislative reports every month while Congress and the Legislature is at work. They are printed in the Michigan Farm News.

Members in the Community Farm Bureaus get a special advantage. I could wish that all members took part in these group programs. The group Minutemen get special reports in the mail.

And if a real crisis arises that needs immediate action, phone calls alert legislative committeemen and Minutemen asking for member action. If members don't respond with cards and letters, the lawmakers can say "we don't hear from your people."

Lots of people get concerned about Farm Bureau policies. They want this or that in the resolutions. But resolutions are no better than the results they get. And they get small results unless the members back them with action at the county and home level.

Most of us remember Davey Crockett for the fact that he died at the battle of the Alamo — or for killing a bear with a bowie knife. But Davey left us one familiar saying that we can do well to put in practice. He said:

"I leave this rule for others when I'm dead, Be always sure you're right — then go ahead."

But — do GO AHEAD. We need your action support in legislative affairs!

Elton R. Smith

FARM BUSINESSMEN
There was a time when a farmer could be picked out of any crowd. Not that he carried a live rooster under his arm into a hotel, or acted "bumpkinish" in other such obvious fashion...
Some store owners complained that they could smell a farmer the second he walked into the store, others learned to smell-out the farmer's money and found him an easy mark for nearly any scheme.
If there is any doubt whatsoever that all this has changed, one had only to attend the recent annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, in Chicago.
This world's largest convention of farmers was appropriately held in the Hilton hotel, — the world's largest.
It may have disappointed some Windy-City observers, but not a man wore overalls, manure-covered boots, or displayed the slightest outward sign of naivete as they went about convention business or mingled with the Chicago holiday crowds.
Without need to resort to outlandish make-up, the ghost-lipstick, the luminous green and purple eye-shades, and silly hairdos, the farm women were equally, or more chic, than their city counterparts.
The business sessions were extremely productive and businesslike. Arguments were friendly and few. Differences were worked out in agreeable compromise.
Only in one area did the farmers differ much from others. As usual, they got up earlier and worked harder.

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capitol report



IN AREA "CABINET" MEETINGS — members of county Legislative Committees discuss problems facing the current "Second Session" of the 73rd Michigan Legislature. Present at the Caledonia meeting were: (left to right) former Farm Bureau Legislative Counsel, Stanley Powell, now a member of the House of Representatives; Henry Baker, Ottawa; Ralph Moore, Barry; Marion Carlson, Kent; Francis Campau, Kent and Arthur Thede, Allegan.

Sales-Tax Exemption is Again Threatened

More than thirty years ago, Farm Bureau fought the sales tax battle and finally won a victory that saves several hundred dollars each year for most farmers. The battle was carried on through the courts and in the Legislature.

Farm Bureau insisted that farmers deserved the same consideration that industry was receiving, namely — exemption from the sales tax of all purchases used to produce a product. In the case of agriculture, this meant exemption from the sales tax of feeds, seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, machinery, equipment, repairs, gas and oil, and other items actually used in farm production.

Throughout the intervening thirty years or so, Farm Bureau has fought to maintain this hard-won gain. Many times there have been proposals in the Legislature to remove a part or all of the exemption. Such proposals usually come when the state is "hard up" and is looking for sources of revenue.

Now, another battlefield looms ahead. This time it takes the form of a threat of federal domination. Just before Congress adjourned, H.R. 11798 was introduced. It is a complex piece of legislation involving state taxation of interstate commerce through state income and sales taxes.

The part that should worry farmers is the proposal in the bill setting up a "model sales tax law" to be used by the states. Under such a law, farmers would be issued a "registration number"

which would permit the purchase of *only* "feeds, seeds, and fertilizers" without sales tax. This means that in Michigan, farm machinery, equipment and other production supplies would become taxable. Clarence Lock, Michigan Commissioner of Revenue, estimates that Michigan farmers would be saddled with \$12 million more in sales taxes!

The bill would permit a state legislature, if it saw fit, to permit other exemptions, but only through a complicated refund system. In this case, a farmer would have to submit a refund claim, with adequate proof, and then wait for approval of the claim and also the refund.

Governor Romney is also most concerned over the broad implications of H.R. 11798. On December 2, he called a meeting of ten individuals representing the various segments of the Michigan economy. The meeting was held in the Governor's Detroit offices. Farm Bureau's Legislative Counsel, Bob Smith, represented agriculture. Governor Romney asked for the opinions of those present, as he is taking the matter up with the Governors of other states.

The real overriding threat of H.R. 11798 is the eventual loss of state taxing rights.

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COMING EVENTS...

MSU FARMER'S WEEK SCHEDULE

A head-on look at what successful farming is going to be like in 1980 faces visitors to the 51st Farmers' Week program at Michigan State University, Jan. 31-Feb. 4, 1966.

The five-day program is packed with facts gathered by MSU agricultural scientists, leading farmers and agribusinessmen of Michigan who have spent two years projecting farming and business trends in the 15 years ahead.

"Rural Michigan, Now and in 1980" is the theme. Here's a thumb-nail sketch of the daily program:

Monday — Is traditionally Dairy Day. Dairy breed association meetings and luncheons with a dairy banquet for all visitors in the evening. "Dairy Research in Action" program will be held daily during the week at the MSU dairy farm with researchers and extension staff explaining results and trends.

The Michigan "Dairyman of the Year" award will be announced Monday evening, January 31, at the All-Breeds dairy banquet. Of much interest to dairymen, the award was presented in 1963 to Elton Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Tuesday — Morning and afternoon sessions by all major departments including: "Staying in Business and Making Money," and "The Farm Labor Problem," agricultural engineering; "Corn is King for a Day" agricultural engineering; "Prosper with Livestock," animal husbandry; "Sugar Beet Day," crops and soils.

Many livestock breed associations, Christmas tree growers, and

the Michigan Association of Rural Recreation Enterprises will hold annual meetings.

Wednesday — the schedule includes: "Price Determination and Bargaining and Farm Organizations," agricultural economics and sociology; "What's New in Farm Engineering," agricultural economics; "Big, Successful Livestock Operations," a report by three large operators from other states, animal husbandry; "Top Yields with Cash Crops," crops and soils; "Dairy Farm Labor," dairy; "Beekeeping," entomology; "Wildlife," fisheries and wildlife; "Maple Products Production," forestry; "Vegetable and Bedding Plant Clinic," department of horticulture.

Thursday — The final big day of the event will have these programs: "Economics in Action," and "Making Your Farm Business Competitive," agricultural economics; "Handling Livestock Wastes," agricultural engineering; "Livestock Marketing," animal husbandry; "Potatoes, General Crops and Weed Control," crops and soils; "Facts in Dairy Feeding," dairy; "Turkey Operations," poultry department.

Friday — Spotlighted on the last day will be conclusion of the flower show, the annual meeting of the American Dairy Association of Michigan, a program for rabbit breeders and a session on rural land use and zoning.

LEGISLATIVE SEMINARS

The 1966 Michigan Farm Bureau Legislative Seminars will be held at the Lansing YWCA, a half-block south of the capitol in Lansing. The seminars will bring together state and national affairs committees and other county leaders to meet with members of the Legislature and to attend sessions of the House and Senate.

The first seminar will be **February 8** for the **Southwest Region**, including the counties of Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw and Wayne.

February 9 — **Thumb Region** for Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, Sanilac, Tuscola and St. Clair.

February 10 — **Southwest Region** for Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren.

March 1 — **West Region** for Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa.

March 2 — **Saginaw Valley** — Arenac, Bay, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Midland, Saginaw and Shiawassee.

March 8 — **Northeast** — Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Presque Isle and Otsego; **Northwest** — Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, Northwest and Wexford; **Upper Peninsula** — Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Houghton, Iron, Mackinac-Luce, Marquette-Alger and Menominee.

March 10 — **West Central** — Clare, Isabella, Mason, Mecosta, Newaygo, Oceana and Osceola.

BLUE CROSS-SHIELD PLANS SPECIAL COVERAGE

Medicare Benefits Still Six Months Away

If you are 65 or older, your hospital and doctor services will not be covered by Medicare until July 1, 1966. Be sure to keep yourself and your dependents protected against the cost of unexpected illness or accident by continuing your Blue Cross and Blue Shield Farm Bureau Group enrollment.

If you have read over the Medicare benefits, you've probably noticed that there are hospital and doctor services which are not covered. There are also co-payment and deductible features in Medicare which you will have to pay "out-of-pocket."

Blue Cross and Blue Shield are now planning "special" coverages which will be available to Farm Bureau members. These "special" coverages will be offered at the lowest possible cost and will help pay for the "out-of-pocket" expenses required under Medicare.

In addition, these special coverages will extend Medicare benefits to at least the high level of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverages now available to those enrolled in the Farm Bureau group. However, the high-level "special" coverages will probably be available only in groups.

The combination of Medicare and Blue Cross-Blue Shield "special" coverages should result in Farm Bureau members having the finest health care protection at the lowest cost.

In the meantime, here's what you should do:

1. Be sure to keep your Blue Cross and Blue Shield Farm Bureau Group coverage. You'll need this valuable protection between now and July and you'll want to make certain any dependents under 65 continue to have full-group coverage after Medicare goes into effect.

2. Be sure you have the complete Medicare coverage. Almost anyone 65 or over and receiving Social Security is automatically covered for the hospital insurance portion of Medicare but you must sign up for the voluntary medical insurance portion (doctor benefits). Make sure you sign and return your application for voluntary medical insurance immediately. The deadline is March 31, 1966.

3. Even if you're not now receiving Social Security benefits, you're probably still eligible for Medicare if you're 65 or older. Check with your local Social Security office.

4. Watch for the offering of "special" Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverages for Farm Bureau members next spring. Your County Secretary will have full details.

Note: To maintain your Blue Cross-Blue Shield group eligibility, your Farm Bureau membership must be paid by January 15.

TWO IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

1. Keep your Blue Cross and Blue Shield protection by renewing your Farm Bureau membership by the January 15 deadline.

Group protection with Blue Cross and Blue Shield is one of the values of Farm Bureau membership. You receive a higher level protection at lower rates than would be available to you on an individual basis.

But Blue Cross and Blue Shield cannot continue your group protection into 1966 unless you renew your Farm Bureau membership. So, act today.

2. Even if you are 65 and eligible for Medicare, keep your Blue Cross and Blue Shield protection.

We can't urge you too strongly to hold onto your present Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage, because Medicare does not go into effect until next July.

Meanwhile, if you have never been covered by Social Security, you should register with the nearest Social Security District office to qualify for Hospital Insurance benefits under Medicare.


But remember, Medicare won't cover everything. Blue Cross and Blue Shield will offer special coverage to fill the gaps.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield are now developing programs to supplement Medicare—and your Farm Bureau will keep you advised on these new programs.

By all means, keep in touch with your County Secretary for up-to-date information about Medicare and Blue Cross and Blue Shield.


BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD GO WITH FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP. CAN YOU AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT THEM?

MICHIGAN  BLUE CROSS AND  BLUE SHIELD



FARM BUREAU WOMEN

working, not waiting




FARM BUREAU LADIES IN CHICAGO — attending the American Farm Bureau annual meeting included: (from right, front row) Miss Jean Sparks, Mrs. James Sparks, Agnes Gregarek (secretary of the National Association of Extension Home Economists and Home Economist in Cass, Berrien and Van Buren counties), Mrs. Buel Boyd, Mrs. Arthur Koch, Charlotte Conklin, Audrey Quisenberry, Bertha Parsons, Florence Carpenter and Joan Green. Back row, from left: Lida Dunning and Celestine Healey.

Women Adopt '66 Work Program

"On This We Build for '66" was the theme of the American Farm Bureau Women's annual conference held on December 13 in Chicago. Mrs. William Wilkie, Arkansas, vice chairman of the Women's Committee, was chairman of this panel discussion, and was assisted by other members of the national committee.

Mrs. Leslie Lamb, New York, emphasized the importance of building for good government; Mrs. Chester Smith, Oklahoma, discussed public information; Mrs. Victor Haflich, Kansas talked on the subject of education, and Mrs. Van Ness Wallentine, Utah, encouraged Farm Bureau Women to share their values of freedom in an international relations program.

"Each of us has the responsibility to open the door of opportunity that is right in front of us," was the advice given by Mrs. Haven Smith, AFBF Women's Committee chairman, in her annual address. She listed these "Measures of Progress" for all women in Farm Bureau:

(1) Am I working at the local level, in my community, right where I am? (2) Do I really un-

derstand the basic issue that faces my country today — Was Thomas Jefferson's philosophy right, that government that governs least governs best? or is government action the best solution to human problems?

(3) Do I do hard, solid thinking of my own, or am I ready to blindly swallow glib assertions? (4) Do I make a real effort to develop understanding and a closer working relationship with my urban friends?

(5) Do I consistently take an active part in my government, through the political party of my own choice? (6) Do I make a real effort to strengthen my Church and the spiritual life of my community?

Mrs. Smith repeated a warning

to Farm Bureau Women from Plutarch 2,000 years ago: "The real destroyer of the liberties of people is he who spreads among them bounties, donations and benefits."

At the business meeting, the women delegates from the state Farm Bureaus of the nation adopted a program of work for 1966 which emphasizes the importance of involving all Farm Bureau members in their activities.

They urged a strong county program, studying and discussing issues of concern to farm families, and developing and training leaders. They re-emphasized the importance of good government and listed such activities as understanding and taking part in the political party of their choice.

Farm Bureau Women will work at getting better understanding by its members as well as non-farm people on matters of real interest to them through projects of mutual concern with other organizations, promoting tours of state Legislatures and Congress, tours of farms, and seeing that their story is effectively told.

They also encourage their members to participate in the church of their choice, in school activities, become informed on international policies and work with international groups, as well as working on such projects as safety and health.

The delegates nominated to the American Farm Bureau board of directors, representatives to serve on the national women's committee. Mrs. Chester Smith, Oklahoma, was their selection to serve another two-year term, and Mrs. J. S. Van Wert of Iowa was nominated to represent the Midwest Region.

Michigan Farm Bureau Women who served as delegates to this year's annual meeting were: Mrs. Wm. Scramlin, Holly, state chairman; Mrs. Clare Carpenter, Cass City, vice-chairman; Mrs. Cleve Lockhart, Pickford; Mrs. Francis Campau, Ada, and Mrs. B. H. Baker, Merrill.

"TALK UP" MICHIGAN

Michigan Week in 1966 is destined to involve all eight million citizens of the state, reports Mrs. Clare Carpenter, vice-chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women.

Inspired to know their state better, to take greater pride in its accomplishments and to work together in organized action for the progress of the state, these Michigan people will highlight programs and projects during Michigan Week, May 15-21, 1966.

Mrs. Carpenter, along with representatives of 30 key women's organizations, pledged to become Minutemen at a working meeting, November 18, at the Rackham Memorial Building in Detroit.

"Take a minute to talk up Michigan" is the commitment of these Michigan Minutemen — when they meet people from outside the state, either here or while traveling in other parts of the

country or the world.

Mrs. James Quinn of Rogers City, president of the Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs, will lead the program and Paul Penfield, advertising director for the Detroit Edison Company, is general chairman for Michigan Week activities.

A newly-developed honor program recognizes those who do outstanding work as salesmen for Michigan. Three types of citations will be awarded to individuals for distinguished performance and achievement in selling Michigan and its advantages. They are: an "Association Citation," a "County Citation," and a "Governor's Citation."

The 1965 awards will be presented early in 1966, and from these winners will be selected the 100 individuals to receive the Governor's Citation, to be awarded for the first time during Michigan Week.

Christmas Brightened for "Forgotten" Ones

Christmastime is family time — a time of giving, a time of closeness and love. Christmastime is a gaily-decorated tree, the smell of cookies baking in the oven, the aura of excitement that prevails throughout the household, the air of expectancy, created by some mysterious spirit, that spreads like a contagious disease infecting children and grown-ups alike.

There are some, however, who though they experience the same expectancy, never realize for what they await, never know the joy of that expectation fulfilled. These are the "forgotten ones." They live in nursing homes, hospitals and institutions, forgotten and neglected by their families, their friends too busy with joyous family gatherings to spare a thought, a gesture of compassion.

There will be a Christmas dinner, of course, and music, and decorations, and the cheery greetings from nurses and attendants who do their best to make this just a little different from the others.

But there is something especially tragic about a Christmas without at least one brightly-colored package to open. It matters little what the package contains. It's the joy of receiving, the excitement of opening it, the fun of proudly showing it to the others, that really counts. It means "someone cares."

Throughout the state on Christmas Day, many "forgotten ones" were remembered. They were remembered by the generous, compassionate, giving women of the County Farm Bureaus who gave of themselves, their time, their material blessings. They cared about the "forgotten ones" and

because they did, Christmas took on an added meaning for both the givers and the receivers.

In Chippewa County, the Farm Bureau Women contributed gifts to the Long-Term Medicare Unit of Mackinac Straits Memorial Hospital.

The Tuscola Women gave their support to the county school for retarded children.

In Lapeer County, Farm Bureau Women presented gifts of candy to patients of the Suncrest Home.

The Retarded Children's Association was the recipient of gifts from the Saginaw County Farm Bureau Women.

The Jackson Women presented gifts to the Ganton Nursing Home and the Florence Crittenden Home.

These are just a few examples of the generosity of Farm Bureau Women's Committees throughout the state as they shared their holiday blessing with those less fortunate than themselves.

And if the stars atop their brightly-colored trees took on an added glow, if the carols sounded more beautiful, and "Merry Christmas" greetings rang with more sincerity — it's because the true spirit of the Blessed Holiday rested within their giving hearts.



WIVES OF MFB BOARD MEMBERS — gather around the table following the Michigan Breakfast in Chicago at the American Farm Bureau annual meeting. From the left, they are: Mrs. Ward Hodge, Mrs. Eugene Roberts, Mrs. Harvey Leuenberger, Mrs. Wilbur Smith, Mrs. Elton Smith, Mrs. Kenneth Bull, Mrs. Dean Pridgeon, Mrs. Walter Frahm and Mrs. Francis Finch.



VISITING AT THE CONVENTION — were these Michigan ladies. They are (front row, left to right): JoAnne Erickson, Mrs. Lloyd Hill, Janet Hill, Mrs. Margaret Muir, Mrs. Elmer Miller, Mrs. Wayne Erickson and Mrs. A. Lutz. In the back row, from the left, are: Kay Siegrist, Mrs. Robert Kartes, Mrs. Robert Comstock, Mrs. Francis Campau and Mrs. Hugh White.



Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Miller, Jr. of Eaton county are sold on the value of Farm Bureau. Enthusiastic about the complete policy resolutions contained in this issue of the FARM NEWS, Ed is certain that every farmer can easily find "at least a dozen issues of personal importance," and well-worth the price of membership.

Ed says, "Study the resolutions, learn what is behind each farm issue. Be prepared to help Farm Bureau move ahead in your community and county when the call goes out. Best of all, show and explain Farm Bureau resolutions to new-member prospects. Show them how the organization works for them. Give them a chance to join a real action-organization."

YOUR PERSONAL COPY OF THE RESOLUTIONS!

FARM BUREAU: The *Action* Organization!

JOIN THE NEW FARM BUREAU



1966 STATE POLICY RESOLUTIONS

COMPLETE TEXT IN THIS ISSUE

This page and the seven which follow are part of a special center section to the FARM NEWS — containing a word-for-word account of the 1966 Michigan Farm Bureau policy resolutions, plus Michigan recommendations to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

As your record of where Farm Bureau stands on more than 100 vital issues, this issue of the FARM NEWS is an excellent guide for reference during the current second session of the 73rd Michigan Legislature.

You may wish to keep the issue intact for year-long handy reference, or pull out this center section for greater convenience. Another idea: why not use this copy to review Farm Bureau programs with prospective members?

FOREWORD

Farm Bureau is a voluntary organization of farm families united to study and analyze the problems that confront them in their daily living, thereby allowing them to formulate programs to effect for farmers economic equality, educational opportunity and social advancement.

Today, the Michigan Farm Bureau, 65,713 family members strong, stands respected among the citizenry of the State as a voice speaking for farm people in community, state and national affairs. It provides programs for people of all ages. Its Community and County Farm Bureaus enable the individual to become an active participant in the affairs of the organization. Each may share in the directing of policies and programs.

Over the years, the farmer members have studied their problems and have formulated action in the interest of agriculture and our entire economy. They have founded and established affiliated companies to provide for their needs, such as Farm Bureau Services; Farmers Petroleum Cooperative; Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company; Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company; Community Service Insurance Company, and Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association. THIS IS FARM BUREAU IN ACTION!

Agriculture in Michigan is a dynamic force for good in the economy of our State, second only to the auto industry. It is a changing agriculture, always looking for new methods to produce an ever-abundant food supply.

Assembled in this, the 46th Annual Meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau, it is fitting that we, as delegates, take stock of current conditions and problems and give concern to the future of our industry and to the preservation of the American Way of Life.

We should continue to advocate such programs and adopt such policies as will contribute to the prosperity of agriculture and of farm families. Some must be new roads we travel—programs and policies we have never before considered.

A changing agriculture needs a changing Farm Bureau organization to help mold its future. Let us find the needs of this new-day agriculture. Let us inventory and evaluate these needs. And let us take the action necessary to meet the needs of 1966—yes, 1970, and prepare for 1980 and beyond! Let us do this on a foundation of wisdom—a study of the present, in the light of the past, projected into the future.

There is great Power in the People when we work together toward a common goal. Our policies must be clearly stated so as to point the direction for our Farm Bureau. But they should not be so restrictive in wording that we cannot reach our objectives.

Let us have a flexible organization—one that is able to meet changing needs. Let's loosen what's too tight—and tighten what's too loose!

Let us proceed, then, in consideration of these resolutions, with a prayer on our lips to our Almighty God that He give us the wisdom to do that which is right and just, not only for ourselves, as individuals and members of the Michigan Farm Bureau, but also for all peoples of this State and Nation.

By Gerald Waldeck, Chairman
1965 Resolutions Committee



MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU POLICY IS BASED ON RESOLUTIONS —

- Discussed in 1,373 Community Farm Bureaus
 - Drafted by 71 County Farm Bureau Resolutions Committees
 - Approved by members in 71 County Farm Bureau annual meetings
 - Digested by 18-member State Resolutions Committee, composed of one member from each of the eleven districts, plus three representatives of the Farm Bureau Women, one from the Michigan Farm Bureau Young People and three members at large
 - Determined at State Annual Convention by voting delegates from County Farm Bureaus—one delegate for each one hundred members
- Members of the Public Affairs Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau spend much time at the State Capitol where they attend all sessions of the Legislature. They work with the legislators, public officials, and other groups in behalf of the Farm Bureau's legislative program.



IN A BACK-STAGE SESSION — Resolutions Committee Chairman Gerald Waldeck (standing) explains a new interpretation of an issue which voting delegates have asked the committee to study further and to clarify. Sitting nearby is Legislative Counsel Dan Reed. The 18-member committee (see list of names of those who served on page 14) met in many impromptu sessions throughout the annual meeting. The resolutions which follow on these pages are the result of many hours of county and state committee work.

PART I—POLICIES ON STATE AFFAIRS APPRECIATION

Major Farm Bureau policies enacted into law this year include:

1. Unified statewide meat inspection and slaughterhouse licensing
2. Unified statewide dairy inspection
3. Marketing program enabling legislation
4. Bean Commission
5. Egg law amendments
6. Potato Act amendments
7. Swine import requirements
8. Improvements in laws covering regulations and sale of liming materials, commercial feeds, fertilizers and seeds
9. Interstate insect pest compact
10. Water well drillers filing and licensing

We commend the Governor and the Legislature for cooperating and making effective these and other programs, which we have been seeking and which are important to agriculture and to our economy.

APPORTIONMENT OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

The Michigan Supreme Court is to be congratulated on its recent decision requiring the Apportionment Commission to review our State's legislative districting.

We are indebted to the Michigan citizens who carried this case to the court for review.

The present plan was developed without regard to the requirements of our Constitution, which provides that districts shall be compact, contiguous and as nearly square as possible and shall follow city, township and county boundaries. Its gerrymandering resulted in districts of all shapes and sizes, including one which is more than 200 miles long and less than six miles wide in three different places. Counties with small populations are split into two or three sections and joined to different districts.

While the Michigan Court decision does not undo the action of the U. S. Supreme Court in requiring districting by population, it does give an opportunity for reason to prevail in the creation of a plan that recognizes boundaries of established political units of government and orderly arrangement.

We urge that the Apportionment Commission take immediate action.

COUNTY HOME RULE

The new Constitution permits counties to adopt "home rule" charters in much the same manner provided for cities. The legislature must implement this provision through enabling legislation. The Constitution also grants charter counties power to levy other than property taxes.

However, legislation proposed thus far allows for increasing the present property tax limitation by five to ten mills to finance charter counties. We recommend "home rule counties" be

- Restricted to the property tax limitations provided in the Constitution.
- Permitted to levy non-property taxes, including income taxes.

SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The level of crime in this country has reached an alarming height. It is obvious that there is a lack of respect for law and law enforcement agencies by many segments of our society.

It is disturbing, that in many instances police are hindered from doing a proper job. Courts have made it nearly impossible to apprehend, bring to trial and obtain convictions in many types of crimes. At the same time, many civilian review boards have been created which tend to bring pressure upon law enforcement agencies on behalf of special groups.

We urge that all citizens support law enforcement agencies, particularly at the local level.

KEEP LOCAL GOVERNMENT LOCAL

We reaffirm our belief in the fundamental principles of democracy. We believe our system of local government should be strengthened and improved, and that participation by the citizens in local government is essential to maintain sound government. Therefore, we urge every citizen to take an active part in the operation of his local government.

TAX REFORM

We commend those leaders of both political parties who made a sincere effort to develop a bipartisan tax reform program in 1965, and thus carry out the commitments of both party platforms.

Individuals and organization leaders testifying at public hearings held throughout the state gave strong support to the need for tax reform.

Farm Bureau resolutions have been concerned with tax reform in Michigan since 1958. At that time the Conlin Tax Study called attention to Michigan's inequitable tax structure.

In 1962 Farm Bureau initiated a study on the effect of the tax structure on farmers. The study revealed that, at that time, property was paying 47% of all state and local taxes, and from 1950 to 1961 real estate taxes had risen from 4.9% of farmers' income to 12.4%.

In 1963 U.S.D.A. reported that taxes on farm real estate had risen another 7.3% in the previous year. Also, a 13-state study revealed that Michigan had the greatest percent of property tax increase in the ten-year period of 1951-1961.

Now, in 1965, a new study made by Kansas State University shows that since 1950 Michigan farm property taxes per acre have risen far more rapidly than in other midwestern states. The raise in Michigan is 242% compared to Illinois with 113%, Wisconsin 75%, Iowa 84% and a U. S. average of 107%.

A 1965 study by the Michigan Citizens Research Council reveals that urban families with annual incomes of \$4500 to \$18,000 pay from a high of 4.1% to a low of 2.9% of their incomes on real estate taxes. Compare this to the average of 13.6% of farmer income required to pay farm real estate taxes. When taxes on farm personal property are added, the property tax burden becomes an average 15% of income! In addition, farm families pay all other taxes, including many business taxes such as the Business Activities Tax.

We call attention to the fact that no end is in sight for the continued rise in real and personal property taxation unless the Michigan tax structure is modernized. Twentieth century programs can no longer be financed with 19th century concepts of taxation. A century or more ago, property was a good measure of wealth and the ability to pay, but this is no longer true.

While some important progress has been made toward tax reform, meaningful reform must result in a balanced tax structure.

We, therefore, support the following major objectives of true tax reform to ensure greater equity of taxation to individuals and business:

- Repeal of the business activities tax and the intangibles tax.
- Repeal or substantial reduction of the personal property tax.
- Significant tax relief on real property.
- New sources of revenue for local units of government. We believe this should include the use of the income tax by the county rather than cities.
- Cities should not be allowed to pre-empt the use of the income tax.
- Improved assessment and equalization procedures.
- Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built.

CEMENT the Rock Built to Prescription

NEW ADVANCES ADD TO ANCIENT ART

The making of "cement" of some sort is an ancient art. Ancient civilizations used clay as a cement, bound with straw, reeds or hair. The Hebrews complained when the Pharaoh required that they "make bricks without straw."

Even before 2500 B.C., the Egyptians had discovered a paste mixture of limestone and gypsum that would "harden into rock." It was a form of mortar.

Khufu, king of Egypt, built the great pyramid of Giza in that era. But, during his reign, thieves broke into his mother's tomb and rifled the contents. So a secret, underground crypt was dug for 100 feet down into solid rock. This crypt lay undiscovered for more than 4400 years.

In 1925 A.D., scientists of a Harvard University expedition were working the area around the great pyramids. A *photographer's tripod accidentally chipped a piece of mortar from the rock floor of the plain. Thus was located the trap door that led down to the queen-mother's tomb. Mortar sealed the entrance slab in place.*

That ancient mortar had few of the virtues of modern portland cement, which was not discovered until 125 years ago by an English bricklayer. It was named "portland" because the hardened product had the color and texture of the rock from a quarry on the Isle of Portland. *The word "portland" has never been a brand name. It is a type.*

The new portland cement had a much-desired capacity. It is "hydraulic"—it will harden under water. It is also harder and stronger than the ancient mortars or plasters of the early days.

Portland cement was originally shipped to America from England after the Civil War. It was not manufactured in this country until the 1870's.

Michigan pioneered in the use of portland cement as a paving material. The first mile of concrete highway in the world was a stretch on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park. The first concrete city streets in the nation were laid in Calumet, Michigan, Upper Peninsula, in 1906. Some of them still carry traffic.

Michigan is the fourth largest producer of portland cement. The world's largest mill—The Huron Portland Cement Company—is at Alpena. This company quarries the vast limestone ledges of the area. *These ledges extend far under the Straits of Mackinaw to the fascinating natural monuments of the Pictured Rocks at Munising.*

Special ingredients and processing are required to create a cement that will harden under water. The cement is a blend of calcium, silica, alumina and iron. These are mixed in certain proportions and "burned."

Limestone is the main source of calcium, although marl or oyster shells can be used. Clay, shale, bauxite iron ore or slag from the steel mills are sources

of other ingredients. The materials are heated to glowing temperatures in rotating kilns—some more than 500 feet long. The "burning" causes chemical changes in the ingredients. The crushed materials are then ground to a powder with granules having 1/25,000th of an inch in fineness. The addition of water starts another chemical reaction—the "setting" process. Concrete will continue to harden for years.

Modern portland cements are made like a prescription. Various formulas are used to fit the use to which the cement is put. More portland cement is used in modern construction than all other building materials combined. Portland cement has a history of constant improvement. Research to find new properties and new uses never ceases.

One of the largest users of this cement in the United States is agriculture. *There is practically no limit to the forms into which concrete can be molded. It is a plastic rock of a billion uses. The portland cement industry does not wait for change to reveal a new use. It creates new forms and new formulas to help advance agriculture and the modern world.*

New structures, like new machinery, advance the efficiency of modern farming. Farms profit by new lay-outs, working units, sanitary and drainage facilities. Agricultural marketing and processing facilities grow in services and facilities.

The new Michigan Elevator Exchange grain terminal on the Saginaw River is the largest agricultural cement project in Michigan—thirty-six giant storage silos, each 120 feet high. They were erected as units by a "continuous-pour" system. There is never a joint nor a crack.

The portland cement industry has sought to be of maximum



AN ENGLISH BRICKLAYER DISCOVERED "PORTLAND" 125 YEARS AGO

service to the farmers and to agriculture. The Portland Cement Association established a \$10 million farm research laboratory near Chicago in 1950. Its research has continued to develop advanced plans to aid the farmer to improve his working layout.

The Michigan office of the Portland Cement Association is at 900 Stoddard Building, Lansing, Michigan. It will provide the farmer with working sketches on "how to build" modern farm facilities of practically any sort. Farmers have but to ask and they will receive helpful ideas.

The Michigan Farm News rises to a point of appreciation. The Portland Cement Association has "talked to farmers" through the pages of our paper almost continuously since April of 1923! *The ads are not of the ordinary sort. They contain up-to-date ideas for farm units. The reader can clip the ad and receive new building ideas merely by mailing it.*

This Association employs a full-time agricultural field engineer to assist farmers and County Extension Agents with all manner of building problems. He is Philip Meilock, a Farm Bureau member, and son of a former member of the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Take note of some interesting parallels between the Portland Cement Association and the Farm Bureau. Both are voluntary, non-profit organizations. Both are financed through voluntary contributions of their members.

Membership in the Portland Cement Association spans 180 cement plants in the United States and Canada. But the Association is not in business—it sells no cement, as such.

Rather it is organized to help people make better and more profitable uses of concrete. It offers farmers a wealth of "know-how and show-how."

Farmers may profit by keeping an eye on the ads of the Portland Cement Association in this paper. Good ideas are often worth a fortune—and often cost nearly that. But the Association will give the farmer its best ideas with a smile and a "Thank you, no extra charge."

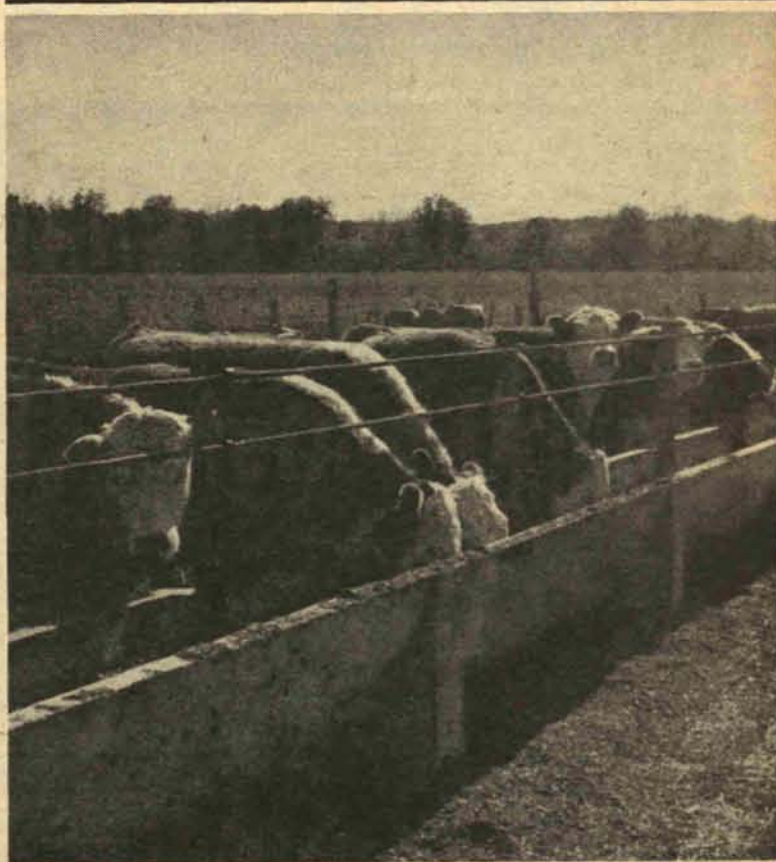
If you are thinking of putting in a new type of working unit on your farm, just try them and see. The address is clearly given in their ad.

For economy and convenience, concrete makes the perfect feed bunk. Here's durability to withstand the roughest treatment from cattle and equipment—lifetime service with little upkeep—easy adaptation to automatic feeding systems.

Precast concrete feed bunks are designed locally, for local conditions. They can be easily moved if you change your feedlot layout.

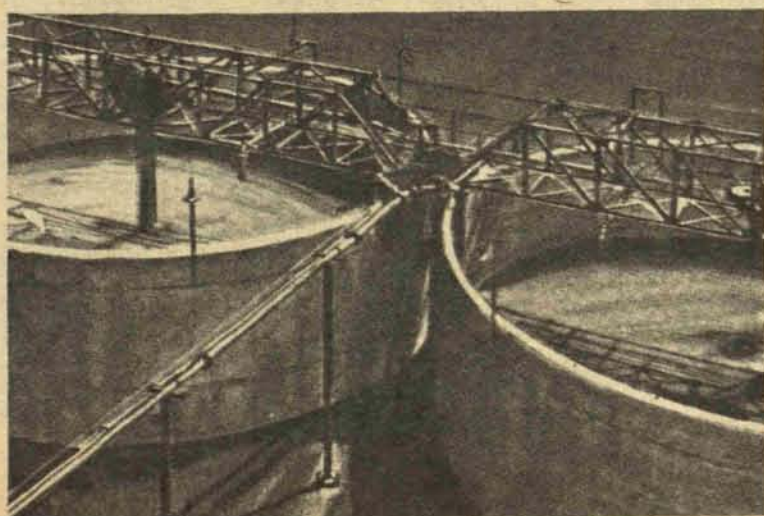
Ask your local concrete products producer for details. Write for free copy of "Concrete Improvements for Cattle Feedlots."

Save time and money with
**PRECAST
CONCRETE
FEED BUNKS**



PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION

900 Stoddard Bldg., Lansing, Michigan 48933
An organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete,
made possible by the financial support of most competing cement
manufacturers in the United States and Canada



"SLURRY" IS MIXED IN WET-CEMENT PROCESS

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION AROUND MICHIGAN

IMPRESSIVE PRESS COVERAGE



TELEVISION CAMERAS ROLL — at a press conference held by Senator Everett Dirksen following his appearance at the American Farm Bureau Convention in Chicago. Filming for Farm Bureau is Charles Bailey (foreground) of the Michigan staff. Network crews from NBC, CBS and UPI work nearby. Directly back of Bailey is Michigan Farm Bureau board member, David Morris.

THE QUEEN—IN "LIVING COLOR!"



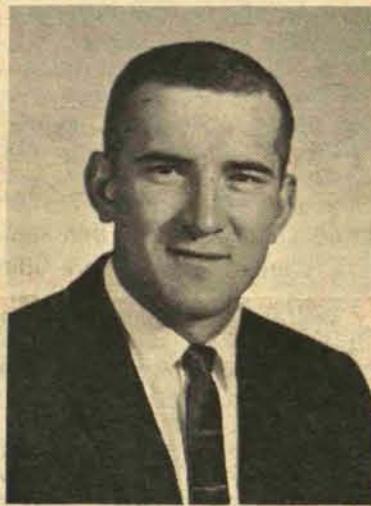
MICHIGAN'S FARM BUREAU QUEEN — pert Janet Hill, obviously enjoyed herself in a relaxed personal appearance on a popular WGN-TV (channel 9, Chicago) telecast in color, during the American Farm Bureau convention. Miss Hill presented program host Orion Samuelson with three bright red apples (on table) from the Bull Orchards, Bailey, Michigan.

LAPER BEGINS BUILDING



GROUND HAS BEEN BROKEN — for the new Lapeer county Farm Bureau building, going up on Mayfield Road just off M24 north of Lapeer. The brick structure will be 32 x 44 and feature a "Membership" office, Farm Bureau Insurance office, full basement and rental space. President Robert Gleason reports a May 1 completion date. Paul Friedenstab wields the ground-breaking shovel.

HARRY A. FOSTER



NEW EMPLOYEE — The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, MACMA, announces the January 1 appointment of Harry A. Foster to head the new "Contract Vegetable Crops" division, according to MACMA Manager, Robert Braden. Foster has been serving as Livingston County 4-H Extension Agent.

MICHIGAN IN CHICAGO



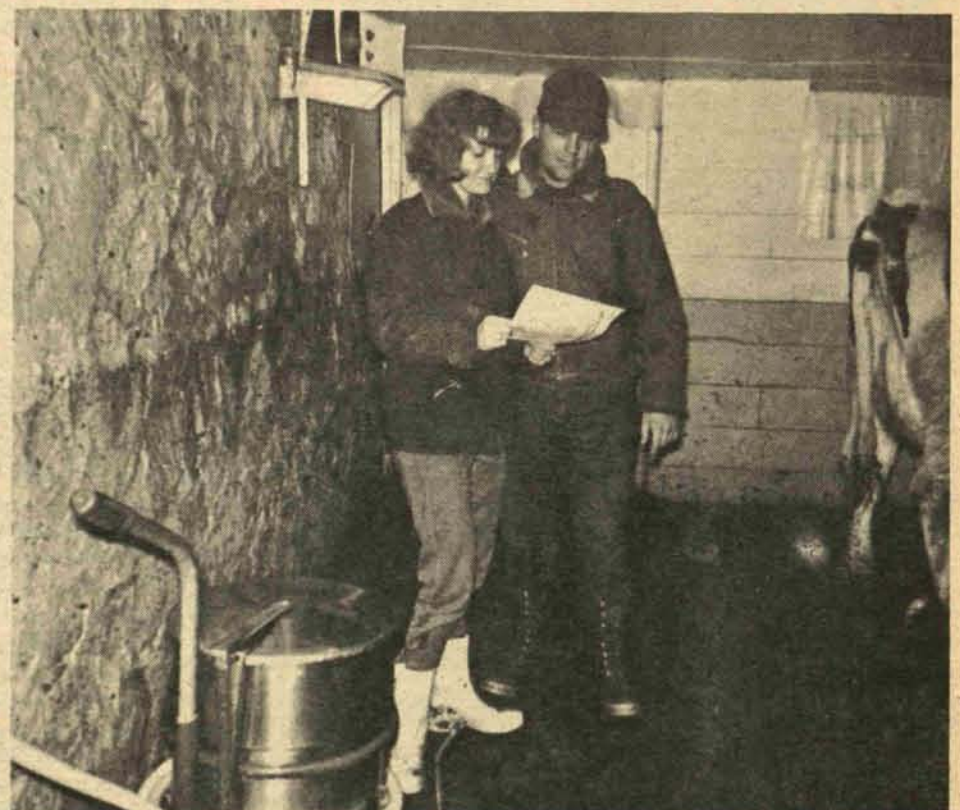
COPIES OF CONVENTION TALKS — catch the eye of this Michigan group attending the American Farm Bureau convention in Chicago. They are: (near the table, front to back) Talent Find winner, JoAnne Erickson, her Mother, Mrs. Wayne Erickson; "Miss Farm Bureau" — Janet Hill, and Mrs. Gerald Green. Back row, from the front: Kay Siegrist and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kartes.

WHEN FARM LEADERS MEET . . .



THE TOP OFFICERS — of the Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan Milk Producers Association, are pictured in informal session following a joint meeting in East Lansing. Left to right, (back to camera) Clarence Prentice, Secretary-Manager, Michigan Farm Bureau; Jack Barnes, Secretary, MMPA; Dean Pridgeon, Vice President, Michigan Farm Bureau; Elton Smith, Farm Bureau President; Mrs. Wm. Scramlin, MFB Women's Chairman; Glen Lake, President, MMPA and Harold Blaylock, Vice President MMPA.

QUEEN HELPS WITH CHORES . . .



TWO YEARS AGO — Miss Pauline Baird reigned as Eaton county's first Farm Bureau Queen. Now, as Mrs. Tarry Edington, she joins her husband in doing farm chores. The young couple enjoy the distinction of having been first to join Farm Bureau in Eaton county for the 1966 year. They became acquainted through 4-H Clubwork. Both have a love for farm and rural life. In the winter of 1963-64, Tarry took a year out of college to participate in the International Youth Exchange Program, spending six months in Thailand.

"COURTING" FAIR PLAY IN FARM TAX MATTERS

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! It's time to call the "Court of Fair Play" to order. It is the case of the crushing burden of farm taxation versus public indifference.

THE EVIDENCE . . .

A Michigan Research Council Study of 1965 shows that urban property owners with annual incomes ranging from \$4,500 to \$18,000 pay from a high of 4.1% to a low of 2.9% of their incomes in real estate taxes. Almost nothing on personal property.

Farmers also pay all other taxes levied on non-farm people — the sales tax on family living and real estate supplies, the business activities tax, gasoline taxes for highway use, and numerous others.

The personal property tax hits farmers hard and discriminates against them seriously. Farmers have to invest heavily in machinery, livestock and feeds to make farming earn a family living.

It makes little sense when a \$6,000 automobile for a business executive pays a tax of less than \$20 while a \$6,000 tractor pays a tax of nearly \$100. Many farm machines are used only a short time each year, yet are heavily taxed. The automobile gets constant use.

The meager exemption of \$1,000 on farm personal property was set over 30 years ago. It is no longer related to rising farm investments. They are ten times what they were when this exemption was set. Non-farm personal property has been almost entirely freed from taxation. Industry gets exemptions from such taxes on dies and jigs.

These inequities deserve attention. The case of injustice in Michigan taxing practices deserves action.

Platforms of both political parties in Michigan called for tax reforms in 1965. The fight for action went on during the year — and bogged down.

The disturbing thing is one of the reasons why the effort stalled. Credit should go to some legislators of both parties for seeing the problem clear and doing what they could to see it through. *But, too many did not.*

A number of legislators took the view that tax reform is not necessary, unless more revenue is being sought. The Michigan General Fund enjoyed a surplus. So some legislators waved the matter aside with a casual "What's the hurry?"

Farmers know what the hurry is. The shoe pinches tighter with every passing tax bill. They could wish that the shoe were on some feet with people who are in a position to relieve the pressure. But there is little pinch in the urban property tax picture, comparatively.

What is needed is a change in the TAXING SYSTEM so as to spread the tax load more fairly. And there is a need for recognition that property cannot continue to bear the expanding costs of local government programs.

Failure to recognize this need causes voters to reject appeals for millage increases. Local governments are prompted to turn to the federal government for help. As this move advances, authority shifts to Washington, and local governments decline.

Taxes on Michigan farm property, both real and personal, have set a runaway pace in Michigan. *Farmers are being taxed on such property at a heavier rate than any other group of property holders in the state, or, for that matter, in the nation. Studies bear out this point.*

Kansas State University made a study of farm tax rates in the midwest during 1965. The study shows that, since 1950, Michigan farm property taxes per acre have risen far more rapidly than in other midwestern states.

The per-acre tax on Michigan farms rose 242% in that period. In Illinois the rise was only 113%, in Wisconsin 75%, in Iowa 84% and the average for all farm land in the nation was only 107%.

Further evidence shows the extent of injustice and inequity in the property tax burden on Michigan farmers. They pay 13.6% of their net family incomes in real estate taxes. Add taxes on personal property and the farmer tax take totals 15% of their family incomes — net before taxes.

SOLUTIONS FOR THE CASE

Michigan Farm Bureau delegates have called for tax reform since 1958. In 1966, they passed resolutions outlining necessary steps to be taken. They point out that twentieth century programs cannot be financed through nineteenth century tax approaches. They appeal for MEANINGFUL tax reforms, such as:

1. Repeal of the business activities tax and intangibles tax.
2. Repeal or substantial reduction of the personal property tax.
3. Significant tax relief on real estate.
4. New sources of revenue for local units of government.

"We believe," said the delegates, "that this should include the use of the income tax by the counties rather than cities. Cities should not be allowed to take over the use of the income tax. Such practice would freeze other local units of government out in obtaining revenues from sources other than property."

It is an upsetting move in the struggle to equalize tax loads and available funds for local units of government.

"The state should not allow local units of government to tax the incomes of non-residents who work within city limits." When this is done, non-residents face double taxation in two communities.

They have to support the districts where they reside and where programs are a growing need. If the city pre-empts the income tax, property is left to bear all the burden.

5. Improve assessment and equalization methods.

6. Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built. Realistically tax residents of trailer homes so that they support the schools where their children attend on some basis of equality with regular home owners.

7. Continue to improve the formulas for State School Aid to assure greater equalization.

8. Establish a broad-based tax on net incomes with definite provisions to lower taxes on property. *No other form of tax would have enough taxable base behind it to provide the needed money to ease the burden on property.* It should not be necessary to exceed the constitutional property tax limit.

It would be possible to limit the amount of property tax to a certain percent of a homeowners income to avoid overburdening low income owners.

9. Assess agricultural land as farming land while it is being used for the purpose, rather than in terms of its possible sale value.

Farm Bureau will continue to work for these objectives. Gaining them will involve a lot of work and will call for maximum support by Farm Bureau members. Farmers must "get through" to legislators to gain the understanding of where the TRUE problem lies.

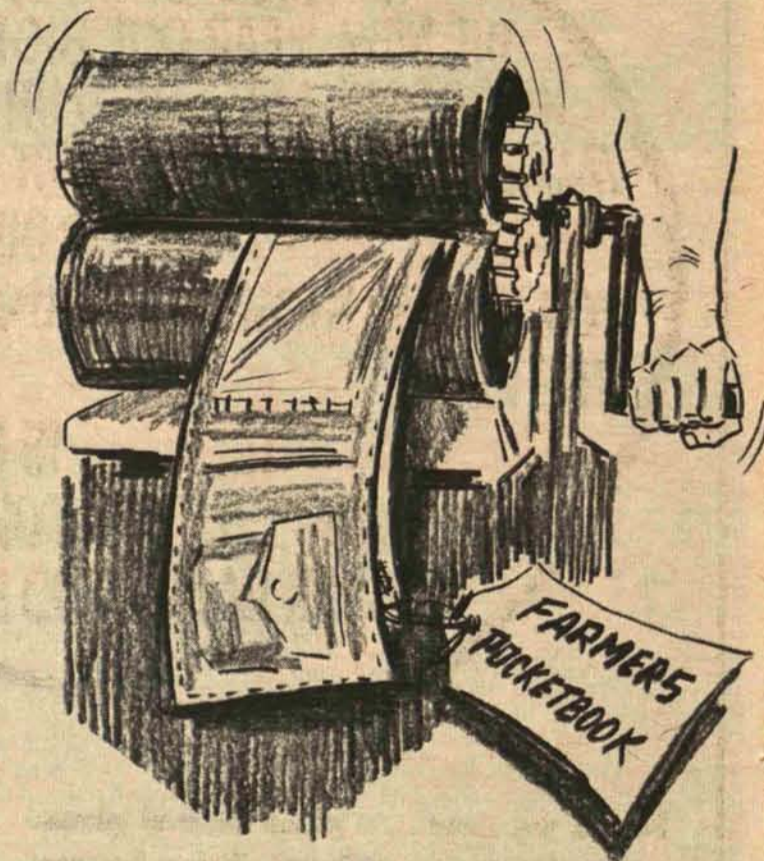
It may be a hurdle not easily jumped. *With many people a tax is fair as long as it is paid by someone else.*

DISCUSSION TOPIC

PREPARED BY THE
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU



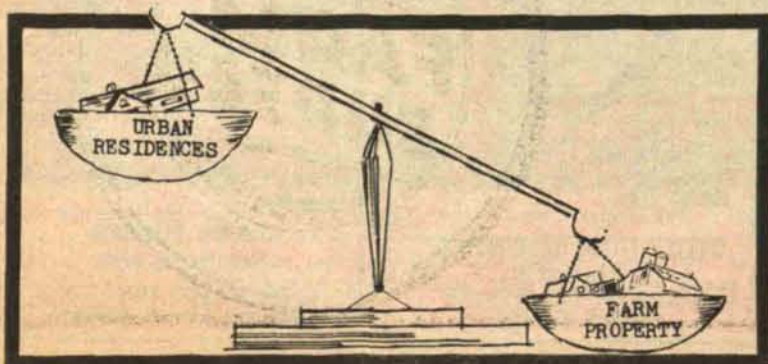
"ONE FROM YOU—AND THREE FROM YOU."



UNFAIR TAXES ARE WRINGING IT OUT . . .

QUESTIONS

1. Where does your state senator and representative stand on this problem?
2. What can your group do to help clarify his views regarding the effect of property taxation on farmers?
3. Do assessing practices in your district compare favorably for farm land as compared to residential properties in towns or cities?



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS...

YOUNG-FARMER PROGRAM BEGINS YEAR OF ACTION

In what might be termed a "cross-country" cooperative educational program, the Michigan Farm Bureau joins affiliate services in a three-day "Young-Farmer" training session and field trip, January 4-5-6.

Included in the program will be a tour of an oil refinery, a visit to the Saginaw Grain Terminal complex and a stop at the Brighton egg-packaging plant of Farm Bureau Services. Upward of 50 young farm couples are expected to take part in the Farm Bureau orientation program and tour.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SEMINARS

Later in the month, two Local Government seminars will begin the first of six sessions each. One seminar will start at Ferris State College, Big Rapids, January 20.

Cooperating with the Community Programs department in all sessions of the series is Dr. John Taylor, head of the Ferris department of Social Sciences. Seminar dates include January 27, February 3-10-24 and March 3.

Running concurrently will be a similar local government study program using the facilities of Delta College, Bay City, beginning January 21. Cooperating with Farm Bureau will be Dr. Robert Stuart, Director of the Division of Continuing Education for Delta College.

Dates include January 28, February 4-11-18-25. Both programs are open to Farm Bureau leaders and members interested in strengthening themselves in all phases of local government.

LIVESTOCK MARKETING TOUR

Farm Bureau members are welcome to take part in a Livestock Marketing Tour to the Chicago area, February 8-9-10. Designed to provide an opportunity for members to see important parts of the "marketing channel" in operation, the tour will be by bus, with two overnight stops.

Included are visits to the Swift Company plant at Rochelle, Illinois; the National Livestock Producers Association and Union Stockyards, Chicago.

Other features include a visit to a supermarket carcass-cutting facility and to the general offices of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Reservations may be made through the Market Development Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

CO. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS CONFERENCE

Dates of February 14-15 have been set for the annual conference of top county Farm Bureau officers, at Camp Kett in northern Michigan.

Formerly called the "County President's Conference" and



ROBERT F. FREITAG
N.A.S.A. DIRECTOR OF
MANNED SPACE FLIGHT

limited to such officers, the scope of the two-day and one evening session has been broadened in recent years to include all members of the county Executive Committee.

"Local programming" will be the theme central to all planning and workshop sessions. A well-known American Farm Bureau official will speak on the evening program.

"FREEDOM" CONFERENCE

The Director of Manned Space Flight within the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, D.C. — Robert F. Freitag, will be featured speaker at the eighth annual Freedom Conference, scheduled February 16-17.

To be again held at Central

Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, the two-day and one evening conference begins with an 8:30 a.m. registration.

Freitag's responsibilities in our space program include overall development and management of the Kennedy Space Center, Cape Kennedy, Florida; the Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston and the Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama.

Besides Freitag, other nationally known speakers include former American Farm Bureau Federation president, Allan B. Kline and former Michigan Congressman, August Johansen.

The areas of Civil Rights and the work of the House Committee on Un-American Activities will be covered by Johansen, while Kline is expected to examine the "Historical basis of Freedom" as well as "Gains and losses made through national farm programs."

As in the past, the conference program is open to all Farm Bureau members and friends. Reservation blanks are in the hands of County Farm Bureau secretaries.

WASHINGTON AIR TOUR

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women will sponsor their seventh annual Washington Air Tour, March 13-16, 1966. The tour offers an opportunity for farm leaders to visit the nation's capitol and gain a greater knowledge of our legislative process.

Headquarters for the three-day stay will again be the historic Willard Hotel. Visits will be ar-

TELEVISION TELLS THE STORY

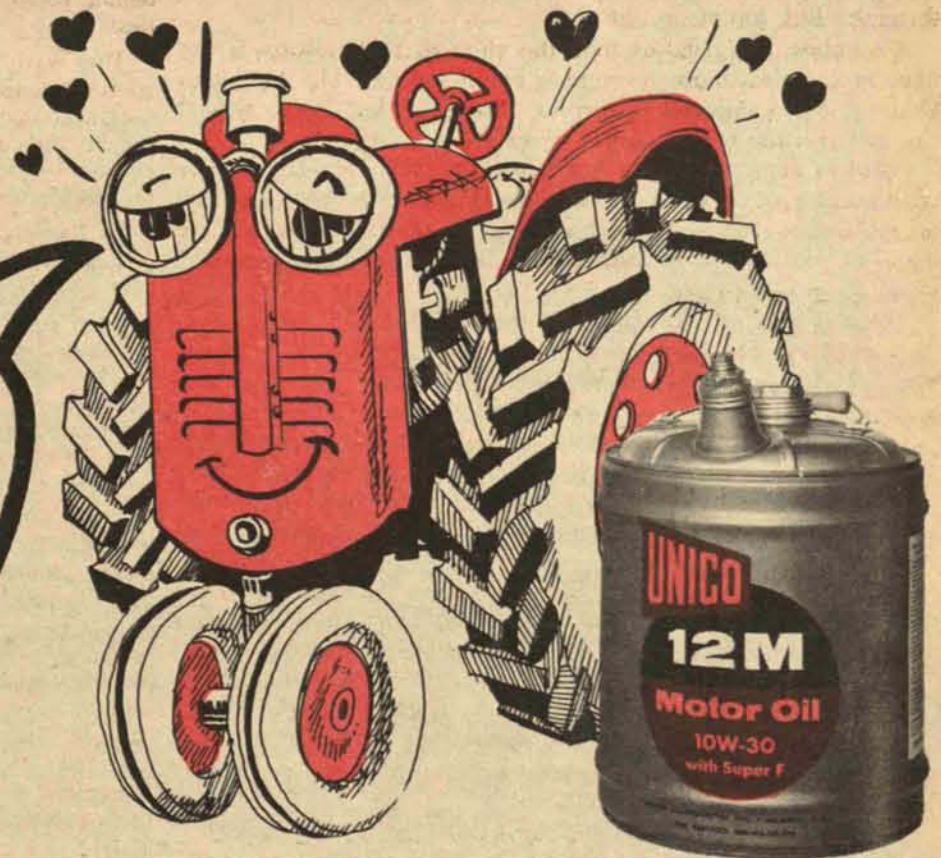
Farm leaders in the northern half of Michigan, all in the viewing areas of television stations WWTV at Cadillac (Channel 9) and WWUP-TV at Sault Ste. Marie (Channel 10), are venturing into television advertising during the month of January to promote the Farm Bureau Roll-Call campaign.

Sharing the costs on a per-member basis, the counties have purchased a month-long series of one-minute spots in prime evening time, scheduled for 6:30 between local and national newscasts. Featured in the membership "commercials" are Michigan Farm Bureau president Elton Smith, Legislative Counsel Dan Reed, board member David Morris and American Farm Bureau staff member Ward Cooper.

Among counties participating are: Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Iosco, Kalkaska, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, N. W. Michigan, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Otsego, Presque Isle and Wexford.

anged with American Farm Bureau Federation Washington office staff members, and with Michigan Congressmen and Representatives. Sightseeing tours are planned for one full day and will include the White House.

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Mr. Russel H. Moore, CLU — Farm Bureau's Family Financial Planning and Business Continuation Consultant. Mr. Moore received his Masters Degree from the University of Michigan in 1932 and served as a faculty member of Michigan State University's Insurance Department from 1950 to 1963. During his 14-year association with the Farm Bureau Insurance Group, he has assisted in planning more than \$50,000,000 worth of farm estates in Michigan.



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It has taken a lifetime, perhaps longer, to build your farm. It is a major investment of dollars and sweat. It is probably your most valuable asset. But what will happen tomorrow? Will the farm remain in your family? Or will it be split-up to meet immediate financial obligations which arise from a death or disability?

You can guarantee the future for your family and farm — through Farm Bureau Life's Family Financial Planning Service. Here is what it can do for you:

1. **Your Family Farm** — Provide ideas for "keeping your farm in the family" — and creating an equitable inheritance for children who do not stay on the farm.
2. **Estate Transfer** — Provide ideas to help you reduce the high costs of transferring your estate to family members — including reduction or elimination of Federal Estate Tax, Michigan Inheritance Tax and Probate and Transfer costs.
3. **Social Security** — Provide ideas to help you qualify for Social Security benefits when you elect to receive them.
4. **Partnership** — Provide ideas for partnership continuation agreements — to protect your operation in case of a partner's retirement, death or disability.

Interested? Contact your local Farm Bureau Agent. He'll arrange an appointment with our consultant, Mr. Russel H. Moore, CLU, who will work with you and your attorney to develop a sound family financial program.

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