

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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"It is difficult to make a man miserable while he feels he is worthy of himself and claims kindred to the great God who made him . . .

"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it . . .

"What constitutes the bulwark of our own liberty and independence? It is not our frowning battlements, our bristling sea coasts, our army and our navy. These are not our reliance against tyranny. All of those may be turned against us without making us weaker for the struggle.

"Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us. Our defense is in the spirit which prized liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands everywhere. Destroy this spirit and you have planted the seeds of despotism at your own doors.

"Familiarize yourselves with the chains of bondage and you prepare your own limbs to wear them. Accustomed to trample on the rights of others, you have lost the genius of your own independence and become the fit subjects of the first cunning tyrant who rises among you . . ."

Abraham Lincoln

1966 MEMBERSHIP GOAL "IN SIGHT"

Membership in the Michigan Farm Bureau for 1966 is well on its way toward the 60,000 farm-family mark, as of February 1, according to reports received from all parts of the state by the Field Services Division.

Aided in many areas by better-than-usual winter weather, volunteer workers have shrugged off the twin handicap of a late fall and a substantial increase in membership dues, to sign up their neighbors in a demonstration of willingness to build, to operate and to finance a vigorous Farm Bureau.

At county offices all over Michigan, thousands of 1966 memberships have been pouring in at the new \$20 yearly rate, as farmers support the "new" Michigan Farm Bureau and the program of expanded services.

By mid-January the total of new members and renewals had topped the 50,000 mark with Baraga county reporting first to reach county goal. Baraga's victory maintained what has become an unbroken string of membership "firsts" in recent years for Upper Peninsula counties. Nearby Iron county was first to reach membership goal last year.

The announcement that the 1966 membership goal was in sight brought praise of volunteer workers from state officials who lauded those who "have given unselfishly of themselves to improve agriculture's future."

"My faith in the spirit of our members, in the spirit of our volunteer Roll-Call workers and in county leaders has been more than justified," Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton Smith said when told of mounting membership totals. "We have stressed the need for this kind of support at this critical period in our history, and it is heartening to see."

According to Glenn Sommerfeldt, Manager of the Field Services Division and the person responsible for coordinating the state-wide Roll-Call effort, the "official" membership drive ended January 31, with special clean up county campaigns to continue in those communities which for one reason or another were unable to conclude their work earlier.

Sommerfeldt praised the Roll-Call volunteers "who have laid this solid membership foundation upon which the new Farm Bureau programs will be built. It is apparent to everyone that Michigan farmers mean business when it comes to building a business-like farm organization," Sommerfeldt said.

The month of February has been tagged "program planning month" by Farm Bureau leaders who feel that the enthusiastic show of membership strength constitutes something of a mandate on the part of farmers for moving ahead on promised action-programs.

As a result, local program planning will be a chief topic at the annual "President's Conference" scheduled for the Camp Kett Leadership Training center near Cadillac, February 14-15.

In recent years County Executive Committee members and key leaders joined the presidents as Farm Bureau faced a period of self-examination prior to endorsing an expanded program and increased dues to finance it.

Now they will again work together in planning sessions aimed at placing meaningful programs into action in every county.

FREEDOM CONFERENCE

The former president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the director of Manned Space Flight Center Development for "NASA" are among outstanding persons scheduled for the 8th annual Freedom Conference.

Sponsored by the Community Programs department of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the two-day and evening conference will be held February 16-17 in the Student Center building at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant.

Allan Kline, who served as American Farm Bureau president from 1947 to 1954, will speak several times on the first day's program, followed in the evening by Captain Robert Freitag of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Manned Space Flight Center.

The conference is open to all rural people interested in citizenship understanding and activity.

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Editorial

INTO THE WORLD

Because they have taken pride in their independence, farmers have earned a reputation for isolation which they no longer deserve.

Few modern farmers seriously think that they can remain insulated from state, national and world-wide happenings — nor do they try.

A growing Farm Bureau membership, with its far-reaching county, state, national and international implications, is evidence that most Michigan farmers fully realize how directly involved they are in off-farm affairs.

The knowledge that through Farm Bureau they can reach into the world without need to leave their farms has obvious great appeal. With the production of one acre in four now sold "overseas," farm prices are especially sensitive to international affairs and pressures.

Farm boys are directly involved in the war in Vietnam. Farm programs become entangled in international politics and it is almost impossible to sort "farm" programs from foreign aid or defense matters.

All of these things have caused farmers to take a new look at farm programs in general and to ask if it would not be best to take the millions now spent in ineffectual crop control measures and use the money instead to "market food for freedom" throughout the world.

For years the world has marveled at the paradox that allowed one country, the rich United States, to actually spend money preventing food production at a time when few people have enough to eat. Resentment and bitter misunderstandings have resulted. They have not been helped by clumsy attempts to solve our surplus problems through dumping them on others, especially when little or no attempt is made to help others help themselves.

Without really intending to, farmers of the United States have found themselves in a position of world leadership, as the only people with obvious ability and know-how to fill the bread-baskets of the world.

Yet the paradox continues, for even as the American farmer distinguishes himself through tremendous production records, he has been rewarded with an unsatisfactory income through complicated government farm programs controlling production and fixing prices.

Now, he suggests, is a good time to break free of such limitations through a return to the free market approach and a demonstration to the world that a dynamic, private, competitive enterprise system is a major factor in allowing a more abundant life for all people.

Why not, farmers ask, launch a program of "Marketing Food for Freedom" with maximum producer freedom, minimum government involvement, full reliance on the market for prices, and with an expanding use of our productive resources in world affairs?

At the same time, why not provide that the amount of needed commodities to be shipped under the program be established and announced far enough ahead so that farmers can plan accordingly?

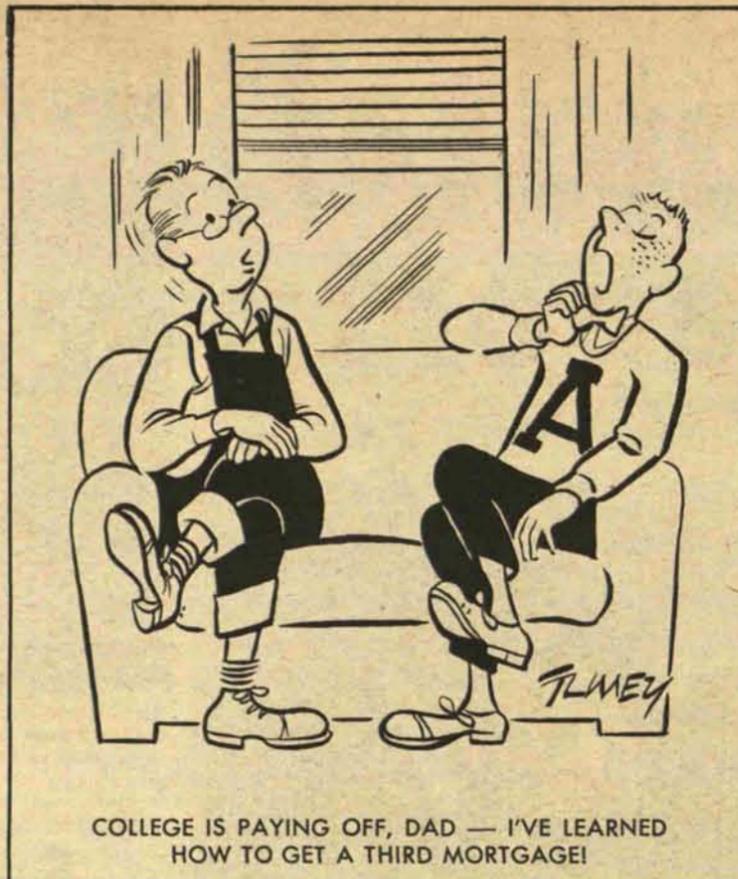
Then, couple this immediate help with technical assistance at a level consistent with each national current development to provide long-term growth and stability.

In official policy resolution at the recent American Farm Bureau annual meeting, farmers suggested that such a program could be adequately financed from funds now appropriated for price supports, for direct producer payments, and for "Public Law 480."

Since any excess farm products marked for export would be bought on the open market, farm prices would be strengthened greatly while at the same time farmers would be able to show the world a positive example of the tremendous productive capacity possible within the free-market framework, instead of the present negative program of compulsion, controls and unused surpluses.

Best of all, while the new approach would serve the interests of developing nations, it would also permit a phase-out of present out-moded price-support and adjustment programs here at home.

M.W.



TAXES AND MORTGAGES

All joking aside, the possibility of a second or third mortgage on the old homestead seems all too real on many Michigan farms — come tax time.

February 15th brings another of those tax-choice payment deadlines for farmers — "with payment to accompany forms as filed." In a way, it is unfortunate that many Michigan farmers will not have much to pay in federal income taxes this year, what with tornadoes, drought and excessive rainfall removing much of the income.

"Fixed" costs refuse to remain fixed, with farmers affected by nearly everything that happens in America including the New York transportation strike . . . the price of steel and the dumping of surplus wheat onto the market.

Property taxes hit now too, with statements received in December "due and payable" the first part of the new year, and in most counties, with a deadline before the end of February.

One difference — when income taxes are paid, they reflect an income high enough to warrant taxation. But property taxes must be paid out of "income" whether it exists or not. And in Michigan, according to Farm Bureau Legislative Counsel, Robert Smith, property taxes require around 14 per cent of total realized farm income, as compared to less than five per cent for non-farm people.

Small wonder farmers insist on tax reform!

And having less income to be taxed than do most other business people, farmers have a lot to gain by adoption of a statewide, broad-based tax on net income, WITH DEFINITE PROVISIONS TO LOWER TAXES ON PROPERTY.

Along with this proposal, which it itself would be a giant step forward toward equalization of the total tax burden, farmers ask for total repeal or "substantial reduction" of the present highly regressive taxes on farm personal property.

Delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting have made tax reform the number-one legislative issue and call upon the current session of the legislature to face up to this responsibility.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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President's Column

THE FARMER PAYS

Much of this issue of the *Farm News* is devoted to current legislative affairs tied to the opening of both our own Michigan Legislature and the "Second Session" of the 89th Congress in Washington.

This emphasis is proper, because nearly every action of these legislative bodies has a direct effect on farmers and on farm income.

Just the attitude of Congress alone can have serious effects on how government departments and agencies act toward agriculture, and how far some administrators feel free to go in writing directives. Many of these administrative decisions have the effect of law and usually it is the farmer who pays. Often these decisions go much further than Congress dared.

A recent example is the price of wheat and the sudden dips in market prices following an announcement by the Secretary of Agriculture that he intended to use the surplus wheat stored through the Commodity Credit Corporation to prevent further increases in the free market price.

Late in November, the United States Department of Agriculture confused the wheat market by announcing that government stocks of high-protein, bread-type wheat would be dumped onto the market. As could be expected, the market responded at once . . . downward!

Chicago December wheat stood at \$1.65¼ per bushel at the time of the announcement. It promptly fell 1¼¢ to an even \$1.64 the next day, November 23. On the 24th of November, the decline continued with wheat quoted another 2¢ lower at \$1.62; on November 26, it hit a low of \$1.59½ — for another substantial drop.

As was expected, the THREAT of government dumping action is what really mattered, for the total of high-protein wheat released on the market by the government only amounted to 90,000 bushels, and wheat slowly climbed upward again.

Then, on December 15, as delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting gathered in Chicago, the United States Department of Agriculture announced it would dump wheat of all grades from government stocks!

Realizing what this would again do to the market, the delegates expressed their outrage in a resolution from the floor, condemning the action. They said: "We, the voting delegates of the 47th annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation, deplore and condemn the action of the Secretary of Agriculture in wrecking the price of wheat through the dumping of government-held stocks of the commodity."

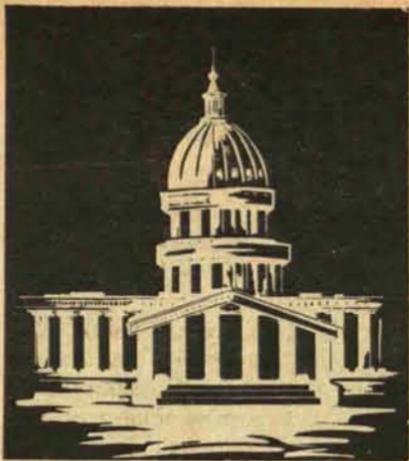
But the damage had been done, the farmers paid. Chicago December wheat stood at \$1.70½ at a time of the new announcement. On the 16th of December, it had plunged to \$1.62¾ — for a drop of around eight cents per bushel.

"Farmers must not be forced to compete with the Commodity Credit Corporation for markets!" This is a resolution with which all farmers can agree. The original purpose of the Commodity Credit Corporation was to provide smooth, orderly marketing throughout the year and to protect the farmer from sudden price declines at market time.

The original intent has been largely forgotten, and farmers now find themselves subject to price manipulation through an agency formed to prevent this from happening! To stop this, Farm Bureau members ask that release of Commodity Credit Corporation wheat stocks be not made at less than 125 per cent of the loan rate, plus carrying charges.

Was concern for the consumer and a possible increase in the cost of bread the reason why wheat was dumped? Most experts disagree. According to Ed Powell, Manager of Grain Merchandising for the Michigan Elevator Exchange, "A major issue is getting farmer compliance with government farm programs. If wheat prices rise to a satisfactory level, compliance will be low and farmers will raise wheat without taking part in the government's cash payment program."

Elton Smith



capitol report



MFB DAIRY COMMITTEE MEMBERS — Ray Kucharek, Francis Brackel, Ed Reithel and Frank McCalla — examine new plastic gallon milk bottle. This new container has recently been introduced in several markets. The Michigan Supreme Court has recently approved use of the gallon-sized milk container.



THE SUBJECT IS TAX REFORM and everyone is concerned. Legislative Counsel Robert E. Smith explains some of the complexities of Michigan's tax structure. To the right of Smith, facing the camera, are John and Lovell Kain of Saginaw county. Back to camera are (left to right): John Wessel and Carl McCormick, St. Clair county; Herbert Hemmes, Emmet county, and Don Solomon, Barry county.

Seminar Series

Michigan Farm Bureau leaders are offered an excellent chance to become better acquainted with both the legislative processes and with those persons representing them in Lansing, through another in the highly popular series of Legislative Seminars.

Sponsored by the Public Affairs Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the seminars are held by regions with the day-long meetings arranged to coincide with the early part of the current "second session" of the 73rd Michigan legislature.

Each seminar will be held in the YWCA building a scant half-block from the state Capitol building in Lansing. A get-acquainted time with coffee and rolls will welcome the travelers at 9:30 with reports of the Farm Bureau legislative programs following.

Acting as hosts for the meetings will be Michigan Farm Bureau Legislative Counsels Dan Reed and Robert Smith. At a noon luncheon, members of the legislature from the involved districts will be the guests of their constituents and will have a chance to visit before all leave for the Capitol and attendance at regular sessions of the House and Senate.

A long list of issues considered highly important to farmers will make this year's seminar-series more notable than ever before, according to Reed. "Chief among these is the matter of tax reform and the apparent reluctance on the part of many members of the legislature to face their responsibilities in this area during an election year."

The fact that 1966 is an election year also helps to underscore the importance of these seminars, Reed indicated. He added, "An important part of the 'new look' in Farm Bureau must be supplied by concerned county leaders who build programs based on local issues."

He indicated that every member of each State Affairs committee is expected to attend the seminars and that National Affairs committee-members are strongly urged to take part.

SCHEDULE 1966 LEGISLATIVE SEMINARS

- February 8 (Tuesday) SOUTHEAST REGION — (Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw, Wayne)
- February 9 (Wednesday) THUMB REGION — (Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, Sanilac, Tuscola, St. Clair)
- February 10 (Thursday) SOUTHWEST REGION — (Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Van Buren)
- March 1 (Tuesday) WEST REGION — (Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Ottawa)
- March 2 (Wednesday) SAGINAW VALLEY — (Arenac, Bay, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Midland, Saginaw, Shiawassee)
- March 8 (Tuesday) NORTHEAST REGION — (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Presque Isle, Otsego)
- NORTHWEST REGION — (Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, Northwest, Wexford)
- UPPER PENINSULA REGION — Baraga, Chippewa Delta, Houghton, Iron, Mackinac, Luce, Marquette, Alger, Menominee)
- March 10 (Thursday) WEST CENTRAL REGION — Clare, Isabella, Mecosta, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola)

1966—"Year of the Voter!"

The year 1966 is an election year — farmers had best not forget this fact for surely politicians won't!

Just as the Chinese title their years "The year of the snake" or the "year of the horse" — we could well call this the "Year of the Voter" in Michigan. It is a year of opportunity and farmers might ask, what can we expect?

A good question, but first let us look back a year. Last year the Michigan Legislature, to its everlasting credit, passed and the Governor signed, a good deal of farm legislation.

Farm Bureau supported all of it and also helped develop most of it.

Statewide meat inspection, uniform dairy inspection, Bean Commission, marketing enabling legislation, amendments to the egg law, Potato Act amendment,

swine import requirements, government reorganization, "green to grain," etc., etc. are only a few of the important new programs.

However, it should be remembered that all of those programs represent the kind of progress that came for every citizen of the state. Not only will they help farmers to maintain and expand markets, but they are of equal importance to the entire Michigan economy.

For instance, while the livestock and dairy farmer can rejoice over the elimination of expensive and stifling duplication and economic barriers, so can MRS. HOUSEWIFE rejoice that she will be assured an ample supply of high quality food.

Even in this great industrial state, many well-informed legislative leaders recognize agriculture is still the basic industry, and somewhere along the line

creates nearly 30% of Michigan's jobs! Nationally, the figure is even higher.

There was also other good Farm Bureau supported farm legislation including improvements in laws covering regulations and sale of liming materials, commercial feeds, fertilizers and seeds.

This is the good side of the coin, there is another side that is not so good even though it could have been worse. The 1964 Legislature passed a Minimum Wage Law applying to farmer employers, and the 1965 Legislature passed several other labor bills that will place a severe economic burden on many farmers.

The most burdensome of these laws is the Workmen's Compensation Act, which will take effect May 1, 1966, unless this Legislature sees fit to modify it.

Taxes also continue to be of top priority in Farm Bureau's Legislative efforts this year.

Legislative Counsels Dan Reed and Robert Smith have made it plain that they consider it high time for the new legislature to deal with tax reform. They have told members of the Legislature of farmers' growing impatience with the "obvious reluctance" shown by many legislative leaders to face the tax issue in an election year.

In television newsfilms, used on a majority of Michigan stations on two separate occasions, the Farm Bureau spokesman said: "Farmers pay nearly four times more of their net income in property taxes than do most other taxpayers. Both political parties have given support to tax reform as major party planks."

"Michigan farmers insist that the legislature take up tax reform at an early date to correct the many obvious inequities. . . ."



STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS committeemen of District 4 County Farm Bureaus meet with Dan E. Reed, MFB Legislative Counsel, in local church facilities at Caledonia to review policies adopted by delegates at the recent Michigan Farm Bureau convention.

"TOTAL MICHIGAN PROGRESS"—Romney

Says State Set to Soar into Sixties

A review of the Governor's message by Legislative Counsel Robert Smith

In his annual "State of the State" message to the Legislature, Governor Romney said that Michigan is well on the way to making this decade the "Soaring Sixties." He then summarized the progress that has been made in the first five years of this decade.

Michigan, as a state, is in the midst of an unprecedented boom. "Personal income is up 36.5% since 1960. Industrial expansion has reached an all-time high. Annual average unemployment is down from 6.7% to 3.5%. Employment is up 300,000 to a record of over 3,000,000. State government has moved from a deficit of \$64 million in 1960 to a surplus of \$136 million in 1965."

Yet during these five years state support to local schools has been increased by 67%; higher education by 70%; mental health 31% and many other programs have been enacted or expanded.

Much of the new Constitution is being implemented and reorganization of state government is nearing completion.

Governor Romney went on to draw a blueprint for "Total Michigan Progress" that should: (1) stimulate and encourage greater personal, family and private institutional effort; (2) improve and strengthen local government; (3) improve the quality and scope of existing state activities; (4) utilize existing federal programs. He said: "Each is important and, to be fully effective, inseparable."

The Governor proposed a comprehensive list of recommendations for consideration during this session of the Legislature. Those of particular interest to Farm Bureau members include general proposals on:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

It was pointed out that three-fourths of Michigan's nearly eight million citizens live in just ten metropolitan areas and this number will continue to grow. State aid to local governments is soaring. Fifty-five percent of total state income (including some federal money) now goes back to local governmental bodies and

services. This has risen 21% in the past three years, to an annual level of \$837 million!

The Governor renewed his request for an Office of Local Government and recommended further that action on county home rule be taken this year and that a boundary commission to resolve annexation disputes be established.

He asked that cities be granted additional taxing powers, including certain excise taxes and a land transfer tax once the federal tax in this field is ended (cities can now levy income taxes).

AGRICULTURE

Governor Romney said that he will ask for funds to carry out the full-scale meat and milk inspection programs passed last year and also funds to increase research to strengthen Michigan's agricultural position. He recognized the serious shortage of farm labor resulting in the loss of over one-third of the pickle crop last year plus the serious losses suffered by growers of other crops. He said that steps need to be taken by federal officials to assure sufficient seasonal labor.

International trade was mentioned, including the fact that Michigan now exports \$1.5 billion of industrial and farm products annually.

BUDGET

The Governor's over-all budget will be "well in excess of \$900 million." "Built-in costs" of continuing current levels of service and meeting new programs adopted last year will require an added \$96 million (The general fund budget passed in 1965 was \$820 million and in 1964, \$694 million). However, the savings resulting from efficiency recommendations of the Task Force on Expenditure Management now total about \$3,000,000 a year.



What is the deer situation in western Michigan? Rep. Eugene Cater (D.-Ludington) at right, discusses feed supplies, crop damage and car-deer accidents with Mason County farmers Don Villadson and William Hasenbank, III. Both men are township supervisors. Hasenbank is also a member of the Board of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative. Farm Bureau is urging legislation to permit the increasing number of deer-car accidents to be considered in regulations covering special deer seasons. At present, only crop damage and food supplies may be considered by the Conservation Department.

TAXES AND TAX REFORM

The 1966-67 budget requirements can be met without new taxes. However, the proposed budget will dip heavily into the expected \$125 million surplus. Governor Romney strongly pointed out that our tax structure is unjust and the need for tax reform remains. He urged the Legislature to adopt the "reform elements" of the bipartisan tax program developed last year.

EDUCATION

While, because of the new state aid act passed last year, the state is again providing more than 50% of local school operating costs, the budget will recommend further substantial increases again this year. (Last year's resulted in significant indirect relief on property taxes. Two and one-half mills as a state average and there

have been reports of six mills or more.)

Other areas of the "state of the state" address included recommendations on: Water Pollution, including research and tax exemption on waste water treatment facilities; Crime and Delinquency with a "computerized" Law Information Network and changes in the handling of juveniles; Family Strengthening through amendment of the marriage, divorce and child custody statutes; Traffic Safety, including implied consent for testing drinking drivers, mandatory auto inspection and improvements in licensing and driver education; Veterans, revision of the veterans homestead tax exemption law; Jobs, Training and Housing; Mental Health; Senior Citizens; Health Services with licensing of all health facilities; Consumer Protection through a new Uniform Food Law; Labor; Parks, Recreation and Tourism;

Governmental Reform; Unclassified Salaries; Elections; Upper Peninsula and the removal of the tolls from the Mackinac Bridge; Planning for the Future — proposals were made for studies of certain problems and statutory status of certain Governor's Commissions, including the one on Migrant Labor.

Governor Romney concluded his message by saying in part that "local government must be kept alive and vital or meaningful self-government will perish . . . Our task is to enable local governments to make the changes that will keep them from . . . excessive dependence and therefore control from Lansing or Washington.

"And with faith in God and our inspired American principles, may we lay the foundations needed to achieve Total Michigan Progress."



TELEVISION NEWS-FILM — used on Michigan stations to tell the story of needed tax reform, are examined by Legislative Counsel Dan Reed. Released by the Information Division to all Michigan television stations, the films featured Reed and Associate Counsel, Robert Smith.



AMONG FARMERS — on the roster of the 110-member House of Representatives is Rep. James Folks (R.-Horton) a member of the committee on General Taxation. He represents parts of Calhoun, Jackson and Lenawee counties.



While hopes for true tax reform are not bright for the 1966 session of the Michigan Legislature, there will be strong Farm Bureau efforts to secure further property tax relief. In the Capitol Rotunda, Bob Smith (back to camera), MFB Legislative Counsel, discusses possibilities for relieving the burden on farm personal property with Rep. George Montgomery (D.-Detroit) Chairman of the Committee on General Taxation, and Rep. Ray Wurzel (R.-St. Clair County).

The New Congress And Section 14-B

By: Legislative Counsel
Dan E. Reed

No more important issue faces Congress than the bill which would repeal Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Strongly supported by labor leaders — and mistakenly supported by some church groups, including the National Council of Churches — repeal of this section would abolish the right of the voters of a state to decide whether or not workers could be forced to pay dues to an organization in order to hold a job.

The great majority of Americans believe that union membership should be voluntary — not compulsory. Newspaper polls, public opinion surveys and Congressional polls all indicate that Americans want Section 14(b) retained. Liberal and conservative press alike support retention of 14(b).

On few issues as controversial as 14(b) repeal has so much unanimity been seen in editorial position. The liberal Washington Post says — "We do not think, moreover, that a convincing case for repeal has yet been made." And the Chicago Tribune has taken strong positions in support of retaining Section 14(b) and defeating the repealer bill.

It is expected that the debate on the bill will tie up the Senate for at least a month before Majority Leader Mansfield will attempt to limit debate through a cloture vote. Senator Dirksen vowed at the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago that the bill would receive extensive consideration and debate. He received resounding applause at the Chicago meeting for his determined effort to defeat this blow at a basic freedom.

While both Michigan Senators McNamara and Hart have announced themselves in support of repeal, many citizens and voters may want to let the Senators know how they feel about this issue.

Other farm-interest issues facing Congress, in addition to those affecting the Vietnam situation, include:

Minimum Wage

An increase in the minimum wage rates and expansion of coverage to include agriculture and other presently exempt employment. The proposed increase in the hourly rate would go from the present \$1.25 to \$1.75. The bill has been favorably reported by Congressman Adam Clayton Powell's House Committee on Education and Labor and is ready for floor action.

Uniform State Sales Tax

This proposal would provide for federal collection of state sales tax revenue. States would enact uniform tax levies and exemptions. Such a measure would be costly to Michigan farmers through the loss of present exemptions on many production supplies.

Unemployment Compensation

The House Ways and Means Committee has already held hearings on drastic new provisions under the federal-state unemployment compensation system. For the first time, agriculture would be subject to unemployment compensation requirements. The measure would also give union leaders a federally-controlled jobless pay system. Under the measure only employers of large numbers of farm workers would be involved. However, it is expected that, once started, requirements would be reduced to provide coverage for all, or practically all, farm employees.



Most farm legislation is handled by committees chaired by Rep. Floyd Mattheussen (at left) and Senator Roger Johnson. Mattheussen (D.-Benton Harbor) is Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and Johnson (D.-Marshall) chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture. The two men, seated in Senator Johnson's office, are discussing a bill affecting Michigan's grape industry.



ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDING is important to Michigan citizens. There is a difference between gross sales and profits. U. S. consumers pay less than 19 per cent of their income for food and less than half goes to the farmer. Michigan Farm Bureau supports the Michigan Council on Economic Education in seeking to provide a better economic understanding in elementary and secondary schools. Pictured is Dr. Theral T. Herrick, Executive Director, discussing MCEE's program with MFB President Elton Smith and Secretary-Manager Clarence Prentice.

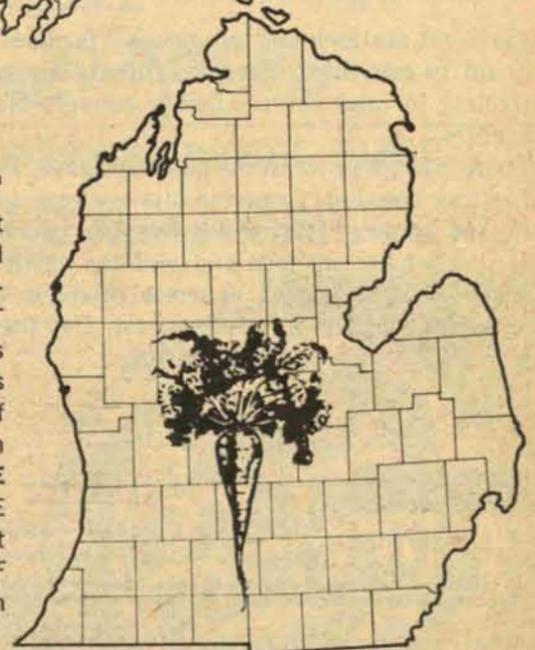


AS BUSY AS EVER — that's Stanley Powell, long-time Legislative Counsel for the Michigan Farm Bureau and now a member of the State Legislature where he serves in the House. A member of the House Agricultural Committee, Powell continues his effective support of Michigan Agriculture. — Herb Schmidt Photo



PARTNERS IN GROWTH...

Michigan, one of the world's greatest industrial areas is also an agricultural leader. A fine example of industry-agriculture cooperation is the MICHIGAN BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY. Progressive farmers and efficient industrial food processors provide consumers with a product of which it can truly be said: None Finer in All The World... MICHIGAN MADE PURE SUGAR. Remember MICHIGAN MADE PURE SUGAR when you shop. Ask for it by name... PIONEER or BIG CHIEF SUGAR, grown, processed, and sold in Michigan.



BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY OF MICHIGAN

LOCKWOOD PRAISED FOR SERVICE



Senator Emil Lockwood (right), St. Louis, received a citation for "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" from Elton Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau. The award was made at the annual legislative dinner given by the Michigan Agricultural Conference, at Michigan State University to honor members of the legislature. Lockwood's central Michigan district includes several counties of Michigan's most productive farming areas.

CITED TO AG "HALL OF FAME"



BLAQUE KNIRK



STANLEY SHERMAN



LESTER ALLEN

A trio of well-known Farm Bureau leaders were named to Michigan State University's "Agricultural Hall of Fame" during annual Farmers' Week in February.

The three recipients of the "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" awards were: J. Stanley Sherman, manager, Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services, Inc.; Blaue Knirk, former Michigan Farm Bureau Vice President and Lester Allen, past president of the Gratiot County Farm Bureau.

The citations are made annually at Farmers' Week to men who have demonstrated outstanding leadership for Michigan agriculture. A special plaque is presented to each recipient and portraits of those honored are hung in Agricultural Hall, campus headquarters for MSU's College of Agriculture.

Sherman has been general manager of Michigan Elevator Exchange since 1960, and has played

a leading role in the state's grain marketing field. His career with MEE began in 1945 when he became "Patron Relations Manager" after many years of service with Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Nationally prominent in grain marketing, his efforts have added millions of dollars for both farmers and grain marketing firms of the state.

A former Vice President of the Michigan Farm Bureau and director on the board, Knirk also

served on the boards of Farm Bureau Services, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative and as President of the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company.

Allen is a Gratiot County livestock farmer who also serves in the state legislature from Michigan's 88th district. He operates an 800-acre farm and is known as one of the most efficient farm managers in the state. The farmer legislator feeds out more than 300 cattle and maintains a 70-80 Angus breeding herd.

Active in many community and state activities, he is a past president of the Ithaca Rotary Club, Gratiot County Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation District. He is a director on the board of the Bank of Alma and also serves as a director for the regional Bank for Cooperatives, St. Paul.

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"It's a surprise for the wife."

"Rush me some feed!"

"The chicks won't eat, Doc."

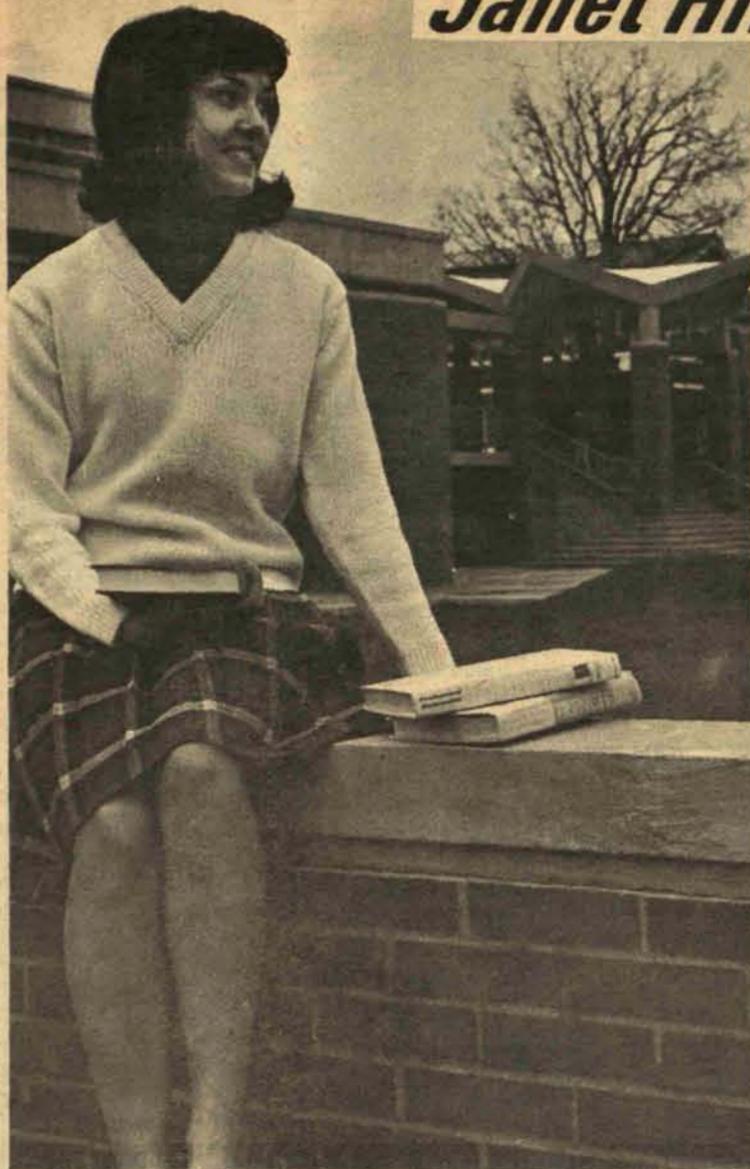
How many ways the phone helps out around the farm!
And how little it costs!

Michigan Bell
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Janet Hill - FAIREST OF THE FAIR "Queen" Loves College

FARMERS IN WASHINGTON



MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU QUEEN — Pretty Janet Hill, takes a break between classes at Alma College, where she is a freshman. Her duties representing Michigan farmers has taken her to many important events, including the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau in Chicago. There, Janet's natural poise was a big asset before newspaper and television cameras. "Tomboy" Janet finds studying in the quiet library of Alma College a far cry from her usual activities on the farm where tractor driving is a favorite job.

Fairest of the Michigan Farm Bureau's youth this year is a young lady who feels as much at home on Alma College's 46-acre modern campus as on her father's 450-acre Vermontville area farm.

Janet Hill, named Farm Bureau "Queen" at the state convention in November, is a girl who is aware of the value of education — so aware, in fact, that she plans to make it her lifetime work.

"I've always wanted to be a teacher," she says. "I love kids." Janet, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd H. Hill of 2146 Ionia Rd., Vermontville, wants to become an elementary teacher, specializing in helping handicapped children.

But Janet doesn't think that books are just for teachers. She believes that college is especially important for farm youth. "Farming has become specialized," she contends, "and now demands such a wide knowledge of various chemicals and complicated machinery that college training is imperative."

She adds that "our horizons have been broadened" so that "for many farm youths the ties with the farm will be loosened and, consequently, they need a college education to prepare them for careers in other fields."

Janet herself has been a college student for only a few months but thinks that college life is great. "I love it," she says.

At Alma she's taking French, mathematics and Heritage of Western Man. She also spends

two hours a week in physical education classes and is a writer for the college newspaper, the Almanian.

Janet likes the comparative smallness of Alma College which has only a thousand students. "Coming from a small high school, it's not such a big jump," she says. "You have a chance to know most of the kids. You don't feel that you're a minute part of a big whole."

She heard about Alma from a neighbor and decided to visit the campus. "It was so friendly," she exclaims. "That's what clinched it!"

Janet's friends at Alma were thinking of her during the competition with 24 other girls for the state title at Lansing. A telegram from the girls in her dormitory, Newberry Hall, arrived just after she was crowned in the Lansing Civic Center.

"I wasn't even crying until I got that telegram," Janet says. "I surely felt funny receiving it in front of 1,500 people."

Her duties as Farm Bureau Queen may make Janet's freshman year at Alma quite a busy one, but she doesn't mind. She has already handled her first big assignment with characteristic calmness—representing Michigan farmers at the American Farm Bureau Convention in Chicago, with speeches to make, a lengthy personal appearance on color-television, a stage appearance and posing for cameramen from the Chicago newspapers.

Elton R. Smith, president, Farm Bureau Services, Inc., acted as voting delegate to the 37th annual meeting of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives held in Washington, D.C., January 18-20.

He, along with Eugene Roberts and John Converse, members of the executive committee, and M. D. Brownlee, general manager, represented Farm Bureau Services, Inc. at the national meeting.

The council is a nationwide organization of farmers' marketing and purchasing cooperatives and state organizations of cooperatives, of which Farm Bureau Services is a member. The council represents some 5,700 farmer cooperatives in all parts of the nation and Puerto Rico, having a combined farm membership of nearly three million.

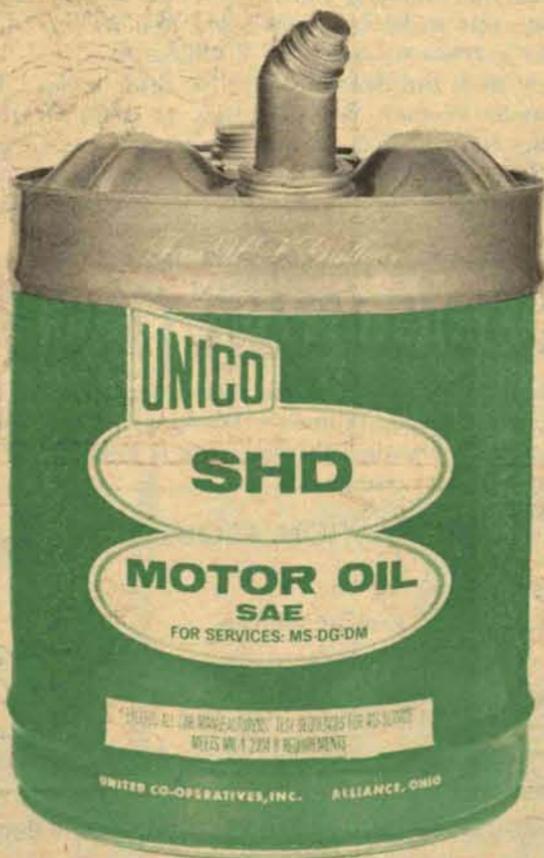
"Because of the necessity for farmers to gain more strength in the markets in which they buy and sell, the meeting was designed to give special attention to sound growth of farmer cooperatives," Smith said. "At the same time, ways were considered to develop better means of tailoring agricultural commodities to fit the specific needs of particular markets, obtain farm supplies and services, and more effectively use credit facilities."

In view of the increasing interest in use of farm products as an instrument of U. S. foreign policy, discussions also focused on expansion of exports of both farm products and production supplies and also on government aid programs aimed at economic development abroad.

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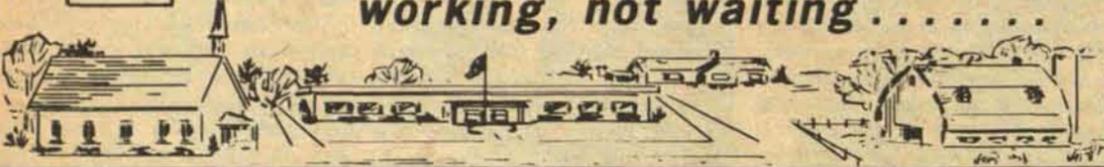
FARMERS PETROLEUM

4000 North Grand River Ave., Lansing, Michigan



FARM BUREAU WOMEN

working, not waiting




IRISH HOSPITALITY was extended to the American delegates of the Associated Country Women of the World at their triennial meeting in Dublin, where they were entertained by U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, Raymond Guest. Shown with Mr. Guest are Mrs. August Baumann (left), chairman of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Women, and Mrs. Wm. Scramlin, Michigan Farm Bureau Women's chairman.



THE 1966 FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S STATE COMMITTEE took a break from their two-day work schedule, January 10-11, to pose for their "official" photograph. From left to right are: Mrs. Earl Morehouse, Dist. 1; Mrs. Lavern Kramer, Dist. 2; Mrs. Clayton Anderson, Dist. 3; Mrs. Francis Campau, Dist. 4; Mrs. Earl Marquardt, representing Mrs. Verness Wheaton, Dist. 5; Mrs. George Southworth, Dist. 6; Mrs. Wm. Scramlin, Chairman; Mrs. Clare Carpenter, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Arthur Muir, Dist. 7; Mrs. B. H. Baker, Dist. 8; Mrs. Earl Hendricks, Dist. 9; Mrs. Richard Wieland, Dist. 10W; Mrs. Eugene DeMatio, Dist. 10E, Third Member; Mrs. Robert Baccus, Dist. 11W, and Mrs. Cleve Lockhart, Dist. 11E.

"...to include all women"

"... We recommend that efforts be made to include all women of Farm Bureau families in activities, projects and programs and that the Farm Bureau Women continue to relate their efforts to the furthering of the total program of the Farm Bureau at local, county, and state levels."

This policy statement was adopted by the delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in November, 1965, and served as a base for the Women's Program Planning Committee as they presented a slate of suggestions to the state and county Farm Bureaus for action programs in 1966.

The program suggestions as presented were later accepted by the state Farm Bureau Women's Committee and adopted by the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors.

The Farm Bureau Women's role in Organization, Good Government, Information and Special Projects were studied and suggested activities were presented for each of these categories.

The committee urged the Farm Bureau Women to know their organization and its affiliates, promote activities that will get more members involved, encourage county boards to appoint women to other Farm Bureau committees, surface and train leaders by providing workshops and informational materials, and encourage young farmer activities.

For their role in Good Government, the committee suggested several projects and activities in the areas of political action, legislative action and citizenship, including the Freedom Conference, Young People's Citizenship Seminar and political education programs.

"Since only about 7% of our population produces the foods and fibers needed to support the whole population, it is necessary that we have the understanding

and support of non-farm people on those issues vital to the future of farming," the committee said as they urged greater effort in the area of information.

Among the projects and activities suggested for this area were: "Speakers' Bureau," exchange tours between county and state Farm Bureaus, and meetings for new Farm Bureau members. Work with the public included press relations meetings, rural-urban activities, cooperation with other organizations on projects of mutual concern, and Youthpower.

Special projects for 1966 will involve church and religious life, traffic safety, health, commodity promotion, and the Associated Country Women of the World.

In presenting the 1966 "program of work," the committee said, "We hope each County Farm Bureau Women's Committee will find these recommendations challenging and helpful in providing for individual participation, for strengthening the County Farm Bureau programs and for satisfying the needs of the Farm Bureau Women."

Members of the Program Planning Committee were: Mrs. Clare Carpenter, Chr., Cass City; Mrs. Robert Burandt, St. Joseph; Mrs. Leslie Olney, Quincy; Mrs. Lawrence Koppelman, Ottawa Lake; Mrs. Gerald Smith, Hastings; Mrs. Edna Tiedeman, Gaines; Mrs. Elmer Peterson, Big Rapids; Mrs. Gordon Willford, Jr., Gladwin; Mrs. Edward Lingg, Bear Lake; Mrs. Esley Van Wagoner, Alpena; Mrs. Wm. Parsons, Charlevoix; Mrs. Waino Rajala, Skandia, and Mrs. Chester Good, Bark River.



A WOMAN'S PLACE — is in Farm Bureau, Miss Helen Atwood, Women's activities coordinator, tells the young farm wives who, along with their husbands, attended the Young Farmer Conference, January 4-6. The women's role in Farm Bureau was explained to the group by Miss Atwood (left center) during one of the training sessions in which the 84 young farmers participated.

Fly to Washington!

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women are again providing an opportunity for members to visit the nation's capitol and visit personally with their Congressmen and officials of the American Farm Bureau Federation during the annual Washington Legislative Air Tour, March 13-16.

It is hoped that each County Farm Bureau will give serious consideration to sponsoring one or more Farm Bureau leaders to take part in this tour. Both men and women are invited to participate, with Legislative chairmen, Legislative Affairs Committee members, boards of directors members and officers of county Women's Committees especially encouraged.

Leaders who have the responsibility for being active in the legislative work of Farm Bureau will find this trip of real value and place them in a position to talk to their Congressmen on matters of concern to farmers.

The tour group will leave Detroit Metropolitan Airport in the late afternoon, Sunday, March 13, and return in the early evening, March 16. Monday will be spent visiting with officials of the AFBF to discuss current legislation. Tuesday will be the day for meeting with Michigan Congressmen and Senators, and Wednesday the group will participate in an all-day sightseeing tour of Washington.

Cost of the tour is \$101.57 per person, covering tourist air transportation from Detroit to Washington and return, baggage handling, transfers, three nights at the Willard Hotel, lunch on Monday, sightseeing tour and lunch on Wednesday, tips to bellboys, etc., and dinners served by the airlines enroute to and from Washington.

February 25 is the deadline date for reservations. The Farm Bureau Women urge counties to send in their reservations early in that the modest price is based on a "tourist" ticket available to those on the first plane-load. A somewhat higher "first class" ticket is also available to late-comers.

RESERVE YOUR TICKET

Use this request form to make your reservation for the annual Farm Bureau Women's Washington Air Tour, March 13-16. Reservation deadline date is February 25.

RESERVATION REQUEST

Return by February 25 to:
Michigan Farm Bureau Women
4000 N. Grand River Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48904

Reserve _____ places on the Farm Bureau Women's Washington Air Tour, March 13-16. Enclosed is check for _____ (\$101.57 per person; make check payable to Michigan Farm Bureau).

Name _____
Address _____
County _____
Telephone _____

"Farm Bureau in the Upper Peninsula"

The 10th Anniversary of Farm Bureau in the Upper Peninsula was celebrated recently and activities included an essay contest on "What has Farm Bureau meant to the Upper Peninsula?" Winner of the contest was Mrs. Cleve (Hattie) Lockhart, District 11-E Women's chairman and secretary of the Chippewa County Farm Bureau.

Her prize-winning essay has been used throughout the Upper Peninsula counties as an "inspiration piece" for membership work.

"How does one evaluate the benefits derived from Farm Bureau here in the Upper Peninsula? Let me try. . . ."

"Here in the Upper Peninsula, where distances are great and population small, we become increasingly aware of the importance of an organization through which effective, unified action can be taken on Legislative issues concerning farmers.

"Farm Bureau has provided through stress on the worth of

the individual member and his participation in community groups, an opportunity for him to discuss his problems, express viewpoints, and keep rural community spirit alive — thus helping us to help ourselves.

"Well-informed farm leaders, telling agriculture's story and telling it well, are a must in a society where farmers are a minority.

"Farm Bureau has offered us training that has developed rural leadership which would have gone unrecognized except for these opportunities.

"Because I believe that every farmer has a right to prosper under a competitive free enterprise system, and because I believe that Farm Bureau is dedicated to this same goal through its legislative, educational and economic programs — for these reasons, I believe Farm Bureau has meant much to the Upper Peninsula."



ESSAY CONTEST WINNER — Mrs. Cleve Lockhart, is shown giving her prize-winning talk before the crowd attending a program marking the tenth anniversary of Farm Bureau in the Upper Peninsula. The essay brought her a trip to the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau in Chicago. To the right sits Wesley Hawley, credited with much of the original U.P. organizational work. Others at the table include Clarence Prentice, Secretary-Manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Norwood "Bill" Eastman of the American Farm Bureau and MFB Board Director, Clayton Ford, president of Delta county.

WOMEN SET FOR BUSY YEAR

AN ACTION MEETING

When members of the Farm Bureau Women's state committee met in Lansing, January 10-11, they took action on several important issues, including the acceptance of a work program for 1966 and the election of a third member of the Executive Committee.

The first order of business was an official welcome to new members of the committee: Mrs. Florence Carpenter, vice-chairman; Mrs. Dorothy Kramer, Dist. 2; Mrs. Ann Campau, Dist. 4; Mrs. Doris Wieland, Dist. 10W, and Mrs. Betty Marquardt, who served as alternate for Mrs. Crystal Wheaton, Dist. 5.

The committee decided to recommend special emphasis on the following activities: encourage county boards to appoint women to serve on other Farm Bureau committees; encourage young farmer activities; study legislative issues of importance; meet with women of new Farm Bureau families; meet with leaders of other women's organizations; Michigan Week, and traffic safety.

Mrs. Eugene DeMatio, chairman of Dist. 10E, was elected third member of the Executive Committee. She was also re-elected chairman of the State Safety Committee, and Mrs. Dorothy Hendricks, Dist. 9, was elected to fill an unexpired term on the committee.



ADMIRING THE NEW FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S COOK BOOK are Mr. and Mrs. Duane Dykstra (left) of Kent county and Mr. and Mrs. Basil O'Dell of Iosco county. The exhibit at the recent Young Farmers Conference drew much attention.

A report of the activities of the State Safety Committee was presented by Mrs. DeMatio, which included recommendations to counties to promote slow-moving vehicle emblems, legislation regarding safety, the Driver Improvement Program, and a one-day state safety workshop.

The Farm Bureau Women were urged by President Elton Smith to be active in 1966 in the areas of political action, marketing, and legislative affairs. He also urged the women to personally contact legislators regarding Farm Bureau policies and to be active in the membership campaigns in their counties.

Arlo Wasson, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., gave a presentation for the women titled, "What Women 'Auto Know' about Farmers Petroleum Cooperatives and their Car." It was voted by the committee to invite Mr. Wasson to appear at the Spring district meetings.

Spring district meeting dates were scheduled: April 7, Dist. 7; April 12, Dist. 1; April 13, Dist. 8; April 14, Dist. 3; April 15, Dist. 4; April 16, Dist. 5; April 19, Dist. 6; April 20, Dist. 9; April 27, Dist. 2; April 28, Dist. 10E; April 29, Dist. 10W; June 14, Dist. 11W; June 15, Dist. 11E.



ISABELLA COUNTY ROLL-CALL MANAGER, Mrs. Edmund O'Brien, holds the trophy to be awarded to the best membership salesman of the year. With Mrs. O'Brien are Howard Quackenbush (left), Isabella County president, and Dean Taylor, county membership committee chairman. The trophy is sponsored by Bob Acker, FB Insurance Agency Manager.



A GIFT FOR MAXINE — Admiring a gift of a tiny replica of the old-fashioned range which appears on the cover of the Farm Bureau Women's "Country Kitchen Cookbook," is Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff, former vice-chairman of the Women's Committee.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

COMMUNITY SERVICE INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Community Service Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 4000 North Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, on Monday, February 21, 1966, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To amend Articles and By-Laws.
4. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest:
N. L. VERMILLION
Secretary

February 1, 1966
WILBUR H. SMITH
President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office in Lansing.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

FARM BUREAU LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF MICHIGAN

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 4000 North Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, on Tuesday, February 22, 1966, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest:
N. L. VERMILLION
Secretary

February 1, 1966
DAVID MORRIS
President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office in Lansing.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF MICHIGAN

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 4000 North Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, February 23, 1966, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest:
N. L. VERMILLION
Secretary

February 1, 1966
WILBUR H. SMITH
President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office in Lansing.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION REMAINS FARM ISSUE!

A top concern for Michigan farmers centers on provisions of the new Workmen's Compensation law. Coverage is scheduled to become effective May 1 of this year.

The Michigan Farm Bureau has been working closely with those members of the Legislature involved in handling legislation dealing with the Compensation Act, including members of a joint House-Senate committee appointed to look into effects of mandatory coverage on agriculture.

Farm Bureau has had many meetings with committee members and with the entire committee, and has been assured by the Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, Senator Sander Levin, that farm coverage and what it will mean, is still under study.

"We are still studying the effects of this legislation on Michigan farmers," reports Levin, who suggests that farmers hold off in purchasing Workmen's Compensation coverage until pending action by the Legislature early in this session.

Unless hoped-for changes are made, farmers affected under the bill should be sure to get adequate coverage by the May 1 date. There is a possibility of a change in the effective date as the law applies to agriculture, according to Dan E. Reed, Legislative Counsel for the Michigan

Farm Bureau.

Other hoped-for reliefs to farmers would include setting farm-worker classifications so that rates for each could be based upon actual hazards faced; and the establishment of a limited coverage for part or all of the farmer's employees, such as medical and lia-

bility coverage presently available and carried by most farmers.

Representatives of Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Insurance Companies have pointed out that the law as presently written, is actually impossible to administer and needs considerable clarification.



FARM BUREAU LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL — Dan Reed (left) discusses problems faced by farmers in complying with the new Workmen's Compensation law with Senator Sander Levin (D. Berkley). Levin is Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee.

CONGRESSMEN RATED

The annual ratings of members of Congress have just been released by the national organization — Americans for Constitutional Action. The ratings are based on roll call votes on issues ranging from Medicare, repeal of Section 14(b) to rent subsidies and foreign aid.

In figuring the ratings for Senators, 29 roll call votes were used. Roll calls on 28 issues were used in rating the Representatives.

The first column gives the cumulative ratings, including 1955-1965 for the Senate, and 1957-1965 for the House. The second column gives the rating for 1965, including only the first session of the 89th Congress.

The higher a member's rating, the greater ACA grades the member's devotion to constitutional conservatism.

In the scorings, the record of Michigan's two U.S. Senators is unique. Michigan is the only state where both Senators are rated "0" in the 1965 session.

ACA RATING LISTINGS FOR MICHIGAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS:

Senate			
	Hart	1	0
	McNamara	1	0
House of Representatives			
District			
1	(D) — Conyers	0	0
2	(D) — Vivian	4	4
3	(D) — Todd	12	12
4	(R) — Hutchinson	94	93
5	(R) — Gerald R. Ford	82	81
6	(R) — Chamberlain	79	85
7	(D) — Mackie	11	11
8	(R) — Harvey	78	67
9	(R) — Griffin	78	73
10	(R) — Cederberg	90	92
11	(D) — Clevenger	4	4
12	(D) — O'Hara	2	0
13	(D) — Diggs	2	0
14	(D) — Nedzi	2	4
15	(D) — Wm. D. Ford	0	0
16	(D) — Dingell	4	4
17	(D) — Griffiths	6	4
18	(R) — Broomfield	65	65
19	(D) — Farnum	4	4

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Michigan State University/Ag Hall
East Lansing, Michigan

Twenty-years of Solid Service

Eaton Farm Co-op Sets Growth Record

By Don Kinsey

This is the story of a remarkable farmer cooperative — and how it grew. The Eaton County Farm Bureau Cooperative has, in fact, one of the most outstanding growth records held by any cooperative in Michigan.

Its very growth is the mark of the fine service it has rendered to the farmers of its area. It is also a feather in the cap of its Board of Directors and the manager, Fred Long. *Without this record of top-level services no such growth could have happened.*

The Eaton County Farm Bureau Cooperative was born in February, 1946. This makes it still a young stripling, but one that has grown to a hearty, healthy and active maturity.

This cooperative was born of the determination of a group of Eaton county farmers who wanted a farmer-owned business in the vicinity. They worked for it. Investment stocks were sold to farmers in the area. The response was vigorous and a capital fund of \$53,760 was realized.

In May of 1947, the new cooperative purchased the Farmers Elevator Co. of Charlotte for \$52,400, and they were in business. Now to find a good manager — something not always easy to come by.

The board of directors was fortunate. How well they did is indicated by the fact that the first manager they obtained has been their last. He is still there, and he has helped things to happen that deserve the envy of many a cooperative.

Fred Long came to this position from a similar position at the Woodland Branch of the Farm Bureau Services in 1947. The pace-by-pace advancement at the Eaton County Farm Bureau Cooperative is the mark of his work.

In its first six months of business operations, the young cooperative gave immediate signs of future trends which it would follow. There were less than six months of business activity in its first fiscal year. But a fast pace was set. Business volume totaled \$423,000 in that period, with earnings of \$11,842 and more than \$9,000 available for patronage refunds. This is getting away from the starting line with a fine burst of speed!

For nineteen years there has been no slacking of the original pace. All of the original investments made by farmers have been paid off. In addition, the cooperative has earned capital assets of over \$700,000.

Let's study the ladder which the Eaton County Farm Bureau Cooperative mounted, round by round.

The elevator originally purchased formed a nucleus around which many a new facility was to grow and by which many added services came into being. A retail store and office building was erected in Charlotte in 1952. A wide stock of farm supply items was made available to farmers.

The membership organization, the Eaton County Farm Bureau, took an office in part of this building, thus creating a Farm Bureau center in the county.

Over half of the business volume of the cooperative has been in the handling and marketing of grain and beans. In 1954, the first silos of a new grain storage complex were built beyond the city limits. Business outgrew

them. More were added in 1957 and again in 1958. They sum up to a fair sized grain terminal in appearance.

The coming of the picker-sheller and the corn-combine meant high-moisture corn to be processed. Much of the 1965 corn crop went to market with 30% moisture, for example. High capacity drying facilities became necessary. The Eaton County co-op installed a gas-fired, 1,000 bushel per hour gas dryer besides its grain storage complex. *It is a vital service for modern farmers.*

A short distance from the grain storage complex stands a block of tall silos, a hundred feet high. It was built in 1964 and holds 85,000 bushels of beans. "The Thumb" has no corner on bean production!

"Someday in the not-too-distant future," says Fred Long, "we would like to add complete facilities for the finished processing of beans for market. We already clean a lot of grass seed and this has become a service of considerable size in the past few years."

Under Fred's direction, the cooperative pioneered in the bulk delivery of feeds and the field spreading of bulk fertilizers back around 1958.

"Our eleven trucks are on the go all the time," said Fred after he got through talking with the crew at the grain storage location. "Those trucks move grain, pick up supplies for the store, deliver petroleum and accessories, deliver feeds and fertilizer and a hundred other jobs."

"You see, ninety-five percent of our business is with farmers. We even deliver coal to farm homes that still use it for heating. Or if they want fuel oil or gasoline or diesel fuel, our two tank trucks go to work. We deliver products supplied by the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative. We started an on-the-farm tire service, too in 1964. It's really just getting under way."

The petroleum and tire service operation are managed by Theo Thowns. Many of the present day services meet the trend for helping the farmer save time and labor right out at the farm. Cooperatives should set the pace of competition. And Eaton County Farm Bureau Cooperative does.

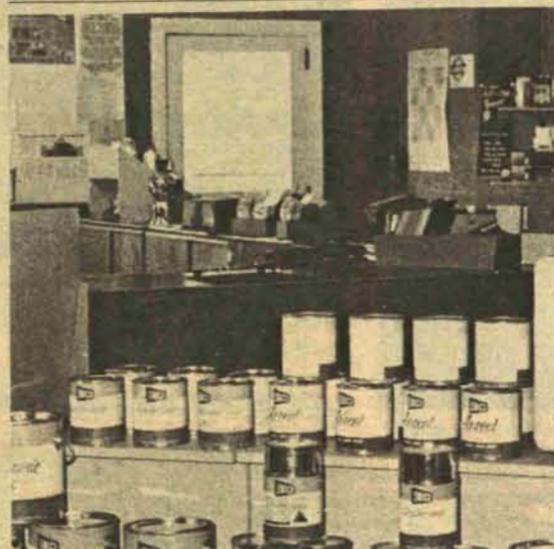
Farmers use it. Its yearly business volume today runs upward of one and a half million dollars. There are 750 farmer stockholders, but nearly 2,300 farmers in a twenty-mile radius are patrons.

Farmers' equity in the cooperative has grown to \$456,000, almost every cent earned through patronage in the business. The cooperative owns \$133,000 of equity in the Farm Bureau Services and the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.

All in just twenty years.



THE ORIGINAL ELEVATOR — which made up the Eaton County Farm Bureau Cooperative, when it first began operation, stands behind the modern farm-supply store in Charlotte, Michigan. All Farm Bureau activities are centered in this modern building, which includes the offices of the Eaton County Farm Bureau.



A LARGE VARIETY — of farm supplies are on display in the modern farm store within the Eaton County Co-op building. Completion of the store and office building in 1952 marked the growing success of the cooperative.



STORAGE COMPLEX — east of Charlotte, holds grain and beans for the Eaton Co-op. Steam pours from the 1,000 bushel per-hour grain dryer. A cluster of "unit-poured" concrete silos for bean storage is part of the complex.

COMING EVENTS...

Programs and projects specially designed for young farmers are on the Farm Bureau activities calendar for 1966. The Young People's state committee, meeting in Lansing on January 14-15, set up an agenda aimed at furthering the interest in Farm Bureau of both young farm couples and unmarried farm young people.

A two-year program of district meetings for young farmers is one of the program highlights. These will begin in March with three series planned for the 1966 year. Purpose of the district meetings will be to enlist more young farmers in the Farm Bureau program.

Other projects sponsored by the Farm Bureau Young People this past year are: (1) the Farm Bureau "Queen" contest, (2) a Talent Find, (3) a Discussion Meet program, and (4) the cafeteria at the Ionia Fair.

A discussion meet on "What is the Future in Agriculture for a Young Person Today?" will be another highlight of this year's activities. A search for talent among farm young people will be carried out during the year to participate in the 1966 Talent Find. Plans are being made to help send some of the winners to the American Farm Bureau convention in Las Vegas.

Members of the 1966 Young People's state committee are: Ray Kucharek, Otsego county, chairman; Arlo Ruggles, Tuscola, vice-chairman; Lyle Murphy, Ionia, third member; Mrs. Janet Ravell, Montcalm, secretary; Roger Stoner, Cass; Bruce Landis, Calhoun; Paul Geiger, Washtenaw; Ray Launstein, Ingham; Miss Rita Johnson, Saginaw, and James Call, Northwest Michigan.

ECONOMIC SEMINARS

Resulting from the wide interest shown in the 1965 "Economic Seminar" conducted by the Community Programs department of the Michigan Farm Bureau, are repeat-sessions scheduled at two new locations, Alma College and Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. Dates run from mid-February through March.

Again, much of the time will be devoted to a study of major world industries with top-flight representatives of steel, petroleum, transportation and distribution industries scheduled to attend.

Of direct interest this year to the 200 or more farmers and their wives expected in attendance, will be discussions by representatives of meat-packing and distribution companies. The Administration's attitude in forcing rollbacks in steel, aluminum and copper prices will be another area of intense interest.

Economists from the host colleges will take part in the discussions on basic economic theory. Each seminar is completed in a series of six day-long sessions.

The Alma College schedule is: February 14-21-28 and March 7-14-21.

The Eastern Michigan schedule is: February 15-22 and March 1-8-15-22.

DIRECTOR'S INSTITUTES

The Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives — working with Michigan State University "Project '80" leaders, will sponsor a series of one-day meetings for directors of local cooperatives. The "directors only" meeting series is designed to study the future of Michigan agriculture and to develop means to use the new information in improving the operation of cooperatives.

Listed are meeting times and places for the 7 Institutes, the first four of which will be held in February:

February 8, Chesaning, at "Naismyths", south of Saginaw on M-13; **February 9**, Ubly, Thumb Electric Cooperative; **February 10**, Allendale, Township Hall west of Grand Rapids; **February 22**, Jackson, Schulers, east of Jackson on I-94.

The April series includes: **April 4**, Sault Ste Marie, First National Bank Community Room; **April 5**, Escanaba, County Extension office; **April 6**, Ewen, at the American Legion Hall.

The theme of each program is "Michigan Cooperatives in 1980" with the mornings spent on a state-wide overview presented by Karl Wright of the department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University.

Later, the "local situation" will be reviewed by District Extension Marketing Agents Quentin Ostrander, John Trocke and Willard McLeod, each taking part in the meeting associated with their districts.

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION AROUND MICHIGAN

WOOL WINNERS



MAKE IT YOURSELF WITH WOOL contest winners Janet Ryman (left), Big Rapids, and Sally Ann Glas, Ann Arbor, pose with their prize-winning outfits. Miss Ryman, first-place winner, represented Michigan at the national contest finals in Oregon in January. Over 300 girls participated in the state contest which is sponsored by the Michigan Sheep Breeders Association.

WOMEN'S EDITOR GIVEN COOKBOOK



A GIFT FOR MARILYN — A copy of the Farm Bureau Women's "Country Kitchen Cookbook" was presented to Mrs. Marilyn Horvath (right), Home Editor of the Michigan Farmer, at a luncheon during the state Women's Committee meeting, January 11. Shown with Mrs. Horvath are Mrs. Clayton Anderson, Dist. 3 chairman, who was Marilyn's hostess at the Farm Bureau Women's annual meeting in November, and Miss Helen Atwood, coordinator of Women's activities.

MEET AG DIRECTOR



MICHIGAN DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, B. Dale Ball (center), discusses the operation of the new meat inspection program which went into effect in January, with (left to right) Mr. and Mrs. Richard Godfrey, Hillsdale county, and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Rupprecht of Tuscola county.

BAY "CITY-FARMER" PROGRAM



LOADED WITH "LOOT" were guests at the Farm-City dinner meeting sponsored by the Bay County Farm Bureau. To the left is Herb Peppel, county president. Special guests include (from left) John McGill, Farmers and Manufacturers Beet Sugar Ass'n.; Herbert Turner, prominent fruit farmer; Alvin Nehmer, secretary, Michigan Bean Growers; Warner Meylan, president, Michigan Bean Growers Association and new member of the Michigan Bean Commission; former state Director of Agriculture, George McIntyre, now with the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service. Toastmaster was state Representative J. Bob Traxler, Democratic Floor Leader of Bay City. — Herb Schmidt Photo.

YOUNG FARMERS TOUR SERVICE POINTS



TOURS OF FARM SUPPLY AND SERVICE INSTALLATIONS were among the highlights of the three-day "Young Farmer" training sessions, January 4-5-6, sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliated companies. The 84-member group is shown at the Leonard Refinery where fuels distributed by Farmers Petroleum Cooperative are produced. Here, crude oil from FPC wells in Michigan and Illinois is refined, using the very latest in catalytic cracking processes. The group saw the care exercised to insure that Farmers Petroleum customers get the best fuels available with present know-how and equipment. The young farmers also visited the Saginaw Grain Terminal complex and the Brighton egg-packaging plant of Farm Bureau Services.

NEW INSPECTION SEAL

Inspecting the Meat You Eat...

NEW MEAT LAW NOW IN EFFECT

It took a lot of time, understanding and effort, but after six years of hard work a state-wide, uniform meat inspection bill passed the legislature.

The bill had extensive bi-partisan support and had been strongly boosted by the Michigan Farm Bureau and the entire meat industry. Finally, January 1, 1966 the uniform meat inspection program became a reality in Michigan.

As is not unusual in new programs, misunderstandings occur, facts are forgotten and growing pains are experienced. Any new program has "rough edges" and in the case of the new meat inspection law, there have been charges that the legislation will put many packers out of business. Are the charges true?

Dr. Ralph Beebe, head of the meat inspection service of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, reports that out of 328 slaughtering plants in Michigan, only 23 will not be licensed. Several were not licensed because the operator did not wish to continue in business. Another 21 plants were asked to sign a commitment to make necessary improvements before a license would be granted.

The meat inspection law is general in nature. To start the program, detailed regulations were published by the Department of Agriculture. These regulations were drafted in cooperation with the livestock and meat industry

and follow closely the federal meat inspection program.

The big difference is a paragraph in the Michigan regulations. This paragraph reads as follows: "The director may waive strict compliance with this regulation if the cleanliness of the premises and the wholesomeness of the products are not adversely affected."

"At this point," said Dr. Beebe, "the most serious deficiency we find in plants is the lack of toilet and hand-washing facilities and floors in coolers which are not washable. These items are necessary if proper sanitation is to be maintained."

Many slaughtering plants which had no inspection in the past will be operating in a similar manner for several months. This is because personnel and funds are not sufficient to expand inspection services. Additional funds are being requested from the legislature to put the program in full effect.

While some hardships may be

faced as the program grows, the overall benefits will outweigh them.

One benefit often forgotten is prevention of transfer of livestock diseases such as tuberculosis, to humans.

"We're tremendously pleased with the new meat inspection program from this standpoint alone," reports Dr. Ronald M. Scott, assistant veterinarian in charge of the Animal Health Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Although he reports tuberculosis incidence has dropped dramatically, there still are about six reactors in each 10,000 head of cattle tested. A very effective trace-back system to the farm of origin is used whenever a meat inspector finds an animal showing signs of disease.

Public confidence is one major result of the new program, and everyone benefits.

Packers will not find it necessary to buy licenses to deliver their products in many communities. They will be able to compete with packers in other parts of the state. As this happens, Michigan livestock producers could well receive the benefit of the increased competition in the form of higher livestock prices.

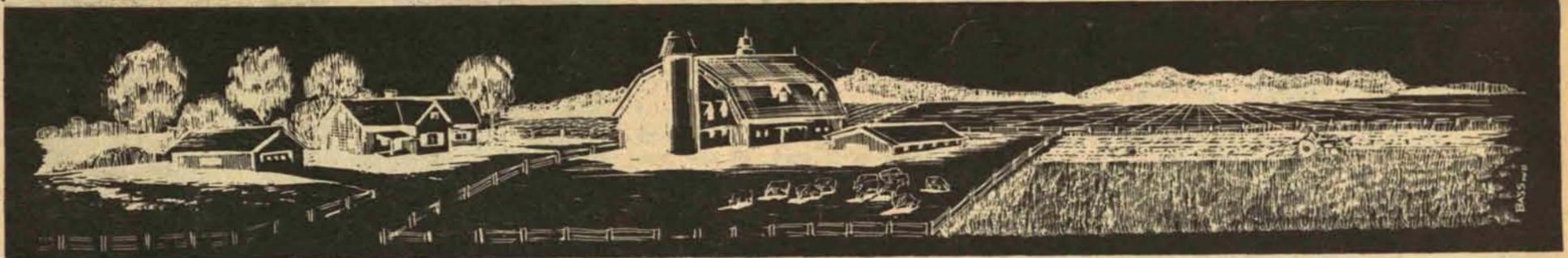
"If over 30 other states can make meat inspection work, we can too," Dr. Beebe concluded.



DR. RALPH BEEBE — head of the Michigan Department of Agriculture's new state-wide meat inspection service — applies the inspection seal to beef. Effective January 1, the new law requires antemortem and postmortem inspection of animals slaughtered within the state as well as other requirements to assure the consumer of wholesome meat products. Inset top right shows closeup of seal.

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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DISCUSSION TOPIC

PREPARED BY THE
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MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Labor Picture Dim For State Farmers

"Five little — four little — three little Indians!" The old song sets the trend that hit seasonal farm workers in 1965. Michigan growers worry about the prospects for a worker supply in the future. They look with concern on the higher price tag attached to such services.

Some see a small glow of hope in the western horizon. Reports from California tell of hopeful experiences in recruiting and employment of youths and women. High school and college students have helped. They have found the farm work more interesting than they had anticipated.

Growers have been surprised to find that these urban youths are better workers than they had pictured them to be. Women have made up about ten per cent of the farm worker force. Many have said that they will return for the 1966 season. Perhaps this can happen in Michigan.

With employment of adult males nearing 100 per cent (Michigan's unemployment labor force is only 2 per cent), youths and women represent an area that remains to be explored.

But there are problems.

Michigan has been third in the nation in the employment of seasonal farm workers. In 1964, farms of this state used 159,400 seasonal workers — 63,000 domestics from other states, 83,000 from Michigan, 13,400 Mexican "braceros" and a few others from foreign sources.

Many things made for a confusing farm labor situation in 1965. Many farmers, fearing a labor shortage, cut their planted acreage (and thus their incomes). And labor was short. Many acres of pickling cucumbers turned yellow on the vines. Ten per cent of the fruit crop was left hanging on the trees for want of pickers.

Many workers moved from job to job. Production per worker was down. If picking thinned out, the workers moved to "better picking and better pay." Growers from other areas, many from out of state, "pirated" the worker crews from Michigan growers. Several orchards and fields were deserted with crops only partly harvested. All this put a dent in some farm incomes.

At least partial responsibility for the predicament lies at the door of the U.S. Secretary of Labor, Willard Wirtz. Secretary Wirtz appointed a Michigan Advisory Panel on Farm Labor. It consisted of professors from Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, plus representatives of labor and industry — no farmers.

This panel recommended, to the surprise of many, that Michigan be allotted 5,000 Mexican farm workers for 1965. But the Secretary of Labor disregarded the panel's recommendations. He slammed the door tight on Michigan growers — no Mexican help. He granted some other states small quotas of Mexicans to ease their labor problems. Losses to our farmers meant nothing to the Labor Secretary. Apparently, he was unimpressed by the fact that growers had spent \$1 million to improve housing for the workers.

Finding sources for other workers to replace the Mexicans was not easy. Industry gathered in all the capable people. People on welfare showed little interest. Farm work was seen as strenuous, and they did not want to see their welfare checks reduced or "cut off."

New causes for concern are added to the scene for 1966. Under new laws, farm labor camps will be licensed and worker transportation becomes regulated. Workmen's Compensation takes effect on May 1. The Minimum Wage is due to increase.

Farm Bureau delegates have pointed out that the minimum wage does not fit the farm work situation in the case of seasonal workers. Hourly rates are not an equitable method of paying the workers. Piece rates should be set so that the average worker can earn the minimum wage, but should not be based on the pace of the slower workers. If set for the average, the better workers could exceed the minimum wage.

Through Farm Bureau efforts, the minimum wage increase will be delayed until July 1, in an attempt to arrive at piece-work rates which meet minimum wage requirements.

FARM LABOR — 1966 WHAT CAN BE DONE ?

Workmen's Compensation will add materially to costs for farmers who use hired help for any considerable period of time. Labor costs in fruits and vegetables already amount to fifty per cent of all costs. Workmen's Compensation can add nearly another nine per cent, where coverage is required.

This would handicap Michigan farmers in competing with growers from other states. It can mean "red ink" in the accounts and would put some farmers out of business. Farmers cannot simply pass along added labor costs to consumers as is done by industry. The biggest villain in the story of distressed farm incomes is already the one named "Costs!"

All of these pressures accelerate the movement toward mechanized harvesting fruits and vegetables. But the need for some hand labor will continue for many years. Many crops do not lend themselves readily to mechanical harvesting — peaches for example. Farmers strongly urge stepped-up research in mechanization.

The farm labor shortage in 1965 brought another question sharply into focus. Should Michigan Farm Bureau develop a farm labor procurement program? In their meeting in November, the Farm Bureau delegates called for close study of the question. The idea stirs many other questions.

Is the work of finding and organizing farm workers getting so complicated that farmers need help? Do enough farmers want such a program to warrant it? How will they finance it? Would such a program serve farmers better or in ways not now provided by government employment services?

Farmers must face another question. Farm workers will be organized by someone. By whom?

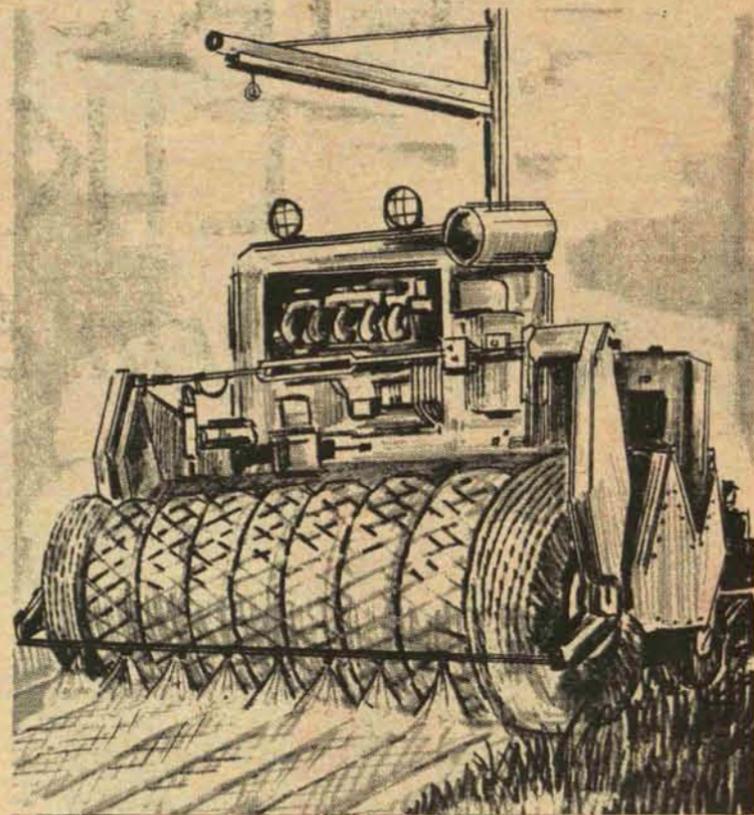
If Senator Harrison Williams of New Jersey has his way, the federal government will become a czar in control of all farm labor. He introduced a bill to bring this about in 1965.

Labor unions continue their efforts to organize farm workers. They seek to get their foot in the door among the workers in the grape vineyards of California. Strikes and labor agitation have marked the past months. This is not just a local affair. The goal is national.

Farmers have an opportunity to do their own organizing. They can work out a program to make qualified workers available and to give good jobs to farm workers. Yes, it is only a question as to who will run the show.

If it should become a Farm Bureau program, what should it include? How would it be administered? Would the program be centered locally, or would it be statewide and inter-state in scope? These questions lack answers at the present time.

No decision has been made yet to launch such a Michigan Farm Bureau program, although a hard-working committee is deep in the problem. Much fact-finding work has been done. There is more to do before a decision can be made as to whether a feasible labor-recruiting program is possible. Time grows late for this year. Programs in other states are also under study.



AUTOMATION IS COMING — with new "do-it-all" types of machines predicted. This fanciful device does the entire planting job at once, plows, discs, harrows, fertilizes, seeds, packs and sprays pre-emergent weed killers. Such costly machines will add to the already severe farm cost-price squeeze.



"FREE THINGS" ARE MISTREATED — as shown by what happens to free housing provided migrant workers. Once sparkling cabins soon become unappealing junk piles as most migrants give them that "well-lived-in" look in a matter of days. Here, full boxes of "free" government surplus food are left behind. Often windows are kicked out, furniture burned — part of the reason why farmers are moving into automation.



MISSING BED BOARDS — may have gone into the stove, although firewood was furnished and handy. Pictures were taken on the Alfred Erny farm near South Haven, Michigan, where Erny says that "few realize what a farmer goes through to keep migrant worker houses in liveable condition." Many farmers are sick of trying.

For twenty years, the New Jersey Farm Bureau has operated such a program through an affiliated company. It places about 10,300 Puerto Ricans, 750 workers from the British West Indies and several hundred domestic workers on one thousand member farms each year — or they did before the foreign worker ban came into force.

Twelve County Farm Bureaus in California have tried a pro-

gram. They have kept records of jobs and workers and have referred workers to growers. The local efforts have not been entirely satisfactory.

Few such Farm Bureau programs have been operated. No clear-cut conclusions can be drawn from them. What the Michigan Farm Bureau delegates have said is, "Let's look before we leap."

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HERE'S THE STORY

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"Doug" Fisher



Mr. Arthur Fisher



Mr. Osterle farms 177 acres of land in conjunction with his dairy operation, and milks 40 head of cows.

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