

# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

AGRICULTURE PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE—of the Michigan Farm Bureau, checks proposed legislation against current Farm Bureau policy. The 3-member committee acts as a "watchdog" and study group, meeting whenever issues of major farm importance need attention. They analyze wording and intent of Farm Bureau policy statements and compare them with proposed legislation before making action-recommendations. Often

they are aided by legislative specialists invited to consult with them. Meeting with Robert E. Fryer, Director of the Michigan Municipal League, (left) they discuss changes in annexation laws to give greater farm protection. Committee members include Robert Zeeb, (standing) Dean Pridgeon, Chairman; and Eugene Roberts. Much recent committee attention has centered on easing problems caused by Workmen's Compensation.

## Workmen's Comp Problems

Michigan farmers are greatly perturbed by obvious confusion and excessive costs existing within the new Workmen's Compensation Act, soon to apply to all farmers.

While the 1965 Act became effective on business and industry in general, September 1, the agricultural section was given an effective date of May 1, 1966.

In the face of mounting recognition of need for many changes in the Act, the Michigan Farm Bureau urged a delay in the effective date to permit amendments to be prepared and adopted.

Bills have been introduced in the House and Senate to delay the effective date to May 1, 1967. For the one-year delay to become

effective, one of the bills must pass through both House and Senate, and be given "immediate effect" in each House by a two-thirds vote of the members, and then be signed by the Governor.

*Although veteran capital observers feel this will occur, until it does, farmers can only assume that the Act will apply to them this year as originally intended on the May 1 date.*

In its present form and under presently quoted rates (see discussion topic, page 14) the law presents problems to both farmers and insurance carriers. It is difficult to locate insurance companies willing to write required coverage.

For farmers, the addition of \$8.35 per \$100 of covered pay-

roll, means another big boost in farm costs. Michigan State University farm-account figures now show about 60 per cent of costs on a fruit farm of our state represent hired labor. Workmen's compensation could add another five per cent.

If the legislature delays the effective date of the Act, farmers ask immediate action in making needed changes in the law. Action during the present session would permit time for insurance companies to prepare needed coverage and allow farmers to adjust to the law's requirements.

*Under no circumstances should the legislature fail to complete action on needed changes during the 1966 session.*

## SAFETY SIGN BOOSTED

"Slow-moving vehicles may create a safety hazard on streets and highways," said delegates at the Michigan Farm Bureau convention held in East Lansing last November.

"We urge all farmers and other operators of slow-moving vehicles to purchase and use this standard emblem," the delegates wrote.

Representative Harry E. Rohlfs, of Akron, in Tuscola County, representing the 84th District in the Michigan Legislature, has introduced a bill (H.B. 3267) which would require vehicles with a maximum speed of not more than 30 miles per hour to carry and display an approved reflectorized device. Representative Rohlfs has a sample of such a device and expects to demonstrate its effectiveness to the Legislature.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the adoption of this measure will do much to lessen accidents involving the slow-moving vehicle," Rohlfs said.

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## Editorial

# YOU AND I . . .

Farm Bureau Women have a relatively new committee that has swung into action—the "Understanding and Information" committee, which title they have significantly reduced to "U and I".

More meaningful than first glance might indicate, the committee title was selected in recognition that if YOU and I know more about each other this exchange of information will of necessity bring about understanding and on this basis you and I will be better able to work together.

Appropriately too, YOU should come before I—for isn't this the way of a civilized society? Just as wise men and women through the ages have agreed that true love is never selfish, true consideration for others comes from a genuine understanding and appreciation of others.

*A Gentleman opens the door for others. A Lady inquires about the needs and desires of guests. This consideration brings with it automatic reciprocity, for as in all nature, like must produce like.*

A genuine interest and concern for others is returned, and in these confused days, farmers need the kind understanding of a long list of friends. More than ever before, farmers need friends in town and city, in the courthouse, on the Board of Supervisors, in the Legislature and Congress.

How well agriculture does in the immediate future in each of these places will largely depend upon what has been termed the "enlightened self-interest" of these friends who right now can outvote farmers nearly 15 to 1!

*It is typical of Farm Bureau women to have a positive program already in operation in answer to such harsh facts. They, more than any other group within Farm Bureau, have shown growing concern with the lack of understanding of farm economics on the part of the average non-farm consumer and voter.*

Farm Bureau Women have been hard at work reaching out to the non-farm public through sponsorship of "Press Relations" tours and visits. They have effectively told the story of farmer-support for the free-market system; of the low 37¢ share farmers receive from each dollar spent for food, and of farm opposition to freedom-robbing farm programs and controls.

But most of all, Farm Bureau Women are concerned about the ability of farm people to speak effectively for themselves. Subscribers to the belief that the best kind of Public Relations are described as "Project and Report" the Women have set themselves to the task of promoting the best techniques to use in projecting the most effective reports possible to the non-farm public.

This means conveying how farmers feel about farm programs, apportionment, minimum wages, foreign farm labor, compulsory Workmen's Compensation and a dozen similarly vital issues. This means reporting in person on radio and television, before city officials and political leaders, visiting with civic and luncheon clubs, church and school groups.

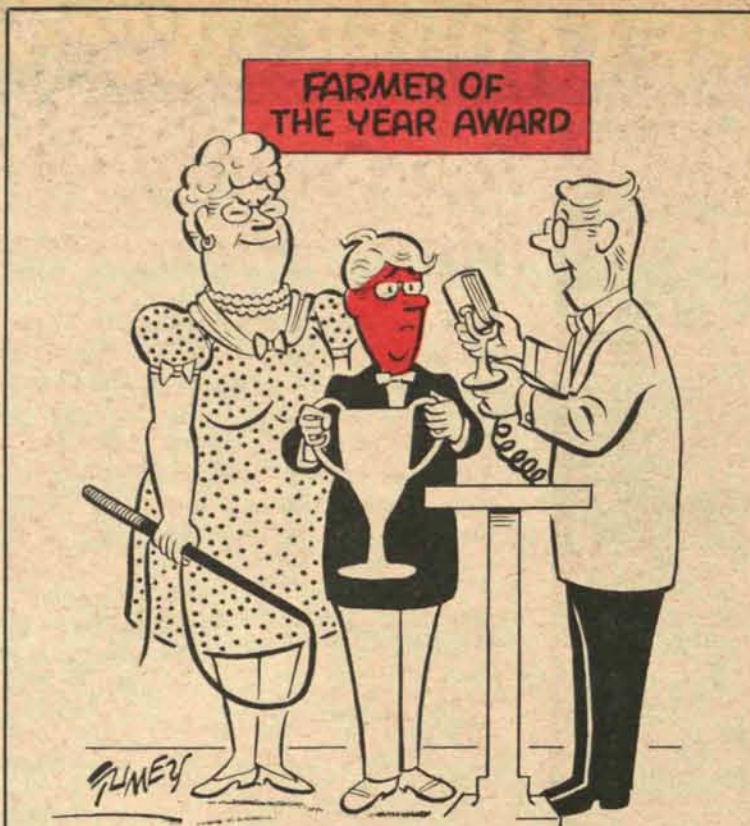
Recognizing that many otherwise qualified farm spokesmen need the kind of encouragement which comes from working with others of similar intent, Michigan Farm Bureau Women have now provided a training session open to Farm Bureau members, leaders and officers.

*Only qualification needed to take part in their two-day, state wide "Speaker's Bureau" set for the dates of March 10-11 at Camp Kett in Northern Michigan (described in detail on page 8, this issue) is the sincere desire to become a more effective voice for agriculture.*

Men and women are equally welcome, novices and accomplished speakers alike, can share and add to the learning process.

If farmers are serious about this business of building an organized VOICE for agriculture, if they truly mean what they say when they join Farm Bureau to better speak for themselves, then they cannot resist this excellent chance to sharpen their ability!

M.W.



TO WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE YOUR SUCCESS?

## Outstanding Farmer

Although it is doubtful that any farm ladies carry whips to lash husbands into becoming successful farm businessmen, there is no doubt whatsoever that today's farmwife carries her full load in building a successful farm enterprise.

**But instead of a whip, she uses brainpower in acting as a full-time partner in what has become a complicated, high-financed and fast-moving industry.**

Even with modern labor-saving devices found in most farm homes—or perhaps because of them, today's farm women does more work by actual measure than did her great-grandmother. She is chauffeur in the school car-pool, family bookkeeper and typist and involved in many community activities, including we trust, work in a Farm Bureau Women's group.

Nowhere is the result of this helpful teamwork more evident than during the judging of the annual Outstanding Young Farmer program, sponsored each year by the Michigan State Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Scheduled for March 5, in the Elks Temple at Alma, the state contest will bring together fifteen or more impressive young farm couples for the contest finals and the naming of the "Most Outstanding" farmer and his wife.

Judges Milon Grinnell, former farm editor; E. B. Hill of Michigan State University and Dwight Ballard, Eaton Rapids poultryman, are sure to encounter considerable trouble in picking out, as they must, the one couple which in their estimation have demonstrated the greatest management ability, family achievement and community service work.

Michigan farmers will be proud of their selection and pleased that such an energetic and important group as the Michigan Jaycees have paused in their whirlwind of programs to once more pay tribute to farmers and the farming business.

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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## President's Column

# COOPERATION

Farmer cooperatives have encountered many successes and failures in their 100 years history. Practically all of the failures have been due to one thing. Farmers didn't cooperate in the ways that counted. The successes came when they did.

*There is rarely anything wrong with the co-ops that better cooperation by farmers wouldn't fix. Cooperation is an asset to farmers, without doubt. And, it makes an organization like Farm Bureau go, too. Success in cooperation is a personal thing for every farmer if advantages are to be realized. As farming gets more complicated and costly, cooperation will become more important.*

I got interested in Farm Bureau when I was active in my local farm co-op. I found that Farm Bureau and the co-op were working for the same things. Farm Bureau was all sorts of farmers pulling together on a grand scale. Yet, with both of them, the benefits gained are directly related to the cooperation given by the farmers. That is a lesson we farmers have not learned one hundred percent.

*Farm Bureau has gone hand in hand with cooperatives since it began in 1919. It carried the standard for them in tax issues, transportation problems and many other legislative threats. There have been major and minor examples.*

In 1965, Farm Bureau succeeded in getting one word changed in a trucking bill. That one word saved farmer co-ops many thousands of dollars in trucking fees. Farmers benefit in these savings. 1964—Farm Bureau blocked the licensing of bulk fertilizer spreaders under the State Motor Vehicle Code. Licenses would have meant turn signals and all the other gadgets required for trucks. Every move takes major support by farmers to put it through.

Or—consider what cooperation means in the area of farm supplies. Whether you are running a local co-op or a Farm Bureau fertilizer factory, no savings are earned for farmers until your business goes above the break-even point. The more business the farmers do with their co-op above that point, the greater the savings to be returned to them in patronage.

Our Farm Bureau fertilizer factories give a good example of this. We know that if farmers in the state would buy only 10,000 tons more Farm Bureau fertilizer, it would mean a saving of \$1.90 a ton. The savings are lost when farmers don't use their cooperative program to the fullest.

Another example. In the face of the shortage of seasonal farm workers last year, many growers suggested that Farm Bureau set up a program to recruit and provide farm workers to fill the farmers' requirements.

Our marketing department figured the least number of workers under grower contracts necessary to support such a program. It would take at least 1,300 workers in the program at fee rates similar to those charged in other states to give the minimum finances needed and get the program off the ground.

So growers were surveyed to see how many workers they would take under a Farm Bureau contracting program. Results were insufficient to turn on the green light for the effort. Growers that regularly use 30 to 50 workers would sign up for only 5 or 10 workers. *If people who ask for a program will not go "all out" to support it, the program can be stalled before it gets started. This is what I mean when I say that we have to measure the extent of our own cooperation if we accept a cooperative program to bring us benefits.*

When it comes to building a new Farm Bureau to meet our needs for the future, we have to consider the same point. No program can be made to go without the cooperation of the members. This is true with legislative efforts or any special service programs we may try.

*Building a new Farm Bureau isn't a small job. A few leaders alone can't do it. It's more like building a big cathedral than a tool shed. It takes the work of a lot of dedicated people, and the best ideas that can be found.*

E. S.

# "WE BUILD THE LADDER ON WHICH WE RISE"

## Top County Officers Meet, Plan, Prepare

Tradition named it the "County Farm Bureau Presidents' Conference." It has expanded beyond this in the past two years to include all members of the County Farm Bureau Executive Committees.

Over 100 of these leaders attended the two-day session held at Camp Kett, near Cadillac, February 14-15.

It was, without question, one of the most important Farm Bureau meetings of 1966. Forty-seven counties had leaders in attendance. Their task was to set the course for Farm Bureau program advancement in the year ahead.

"We must look alive as leaders," challenged Elton Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, in his opening address titled, "We build the ladder on which we rise!"

"1966 is a TEST YEAR that will measure our leadership and set the future course of our Farm Bureau. In moving to \$20 dues, we have merely mounted the first 'rung' of the ladder necessary to fulfill our commitments to build a 'New' and better Farm Bureau. We must build the higher 'rungs' of this ladder and move upward. The programs and services which we generate must make Farm Bureau one of the most vital forces to the lives of our farm people.

"The County Farm Bureaus will be one of the most important testing grounds. The program action which you generate in your home counties will be a vital test of the vitality of the New Farm Bureau. It should become so vital to farmers and members that Farm Bureau becomes a 'first' on their list of interests and civic activity.

"Many of the problems and needs which we must tackle are peculiar to your own county and locality. As leaders, we must find those problems and go to work on them. We must ask our members what problems most concern them right in the counties.

"Pick the problems that are most pressing. Set up a fact-finding committee to gather all the information needed. Then turn the problem and the facts over to a county Farm Bureau Planning Committee. Tie this planning committee to your whole county Farm Bureau activity. Let it consist of the chairmen of all

your other Farm Bureau activity committees.

"But we must move beyond mere talk and discussion. We must go to work. What is happening in your county is happening to your people, whether it is a matter of taxes, zoning, traffic safety, annexation, schools, drainage and water problems, right-of-way, local government, farm labor or marketing. Put your county Farm Bureau in the forefront of county affairs. Then the people will consider Farm Bureau important enough to join and to work at."

A former member of the Michigan Farm Bureau staff and presently head of the Local Programming Department of the American Farm Bureau Federation, worked with the county leaders. He was Jerry Cordrey, recently selected as his community's "Most Outstanding Man of the Year" by the local Jaycee Chapter.

Cordrey told the conference that the best way to increase rural influence is through effective personal involvement in local affairs. He said that we cannot win by substituting protests for programs.

Time was given at the conference to studying the mix-up in the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1965, and current action needed to correct confusions in the law. Dan Reed, Legislative Counsel of the Michigan Farm Bureau, and James Rathbun, head of the Underwriting Division of the Farm Bureau Insurance Group, told of confusions existing in the law as it now affects farmers.

The county leaders decided on a course of action to get support for changes in the law at the present session of the Legislature, including a series of district-wide information meetings for county leaders.

President Smith urged the County Farm Bureau officers to step up the work to strengthen Community Farm Bureaus. "They are very important as a form of member participation," he said.

"They have been a wonderful source of leadership and have assured us an active, informed core of members in Farm Bureau. We need a strong youth movement in the groups. So let's go to work on it."

President Smith indicated that the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors is vigorously working at ideas and plans for new programs and improvements at the state level. The growing farm labor problem is one of them.

"The Michigan Farm Bureau is trying to figure out how best to provide a seasonal labor placement service," he said. "Extensive studies have been made by our Market Development Department. Before we can go ahead, we have to know what chances are for success and what changes must be made for those who use the service.

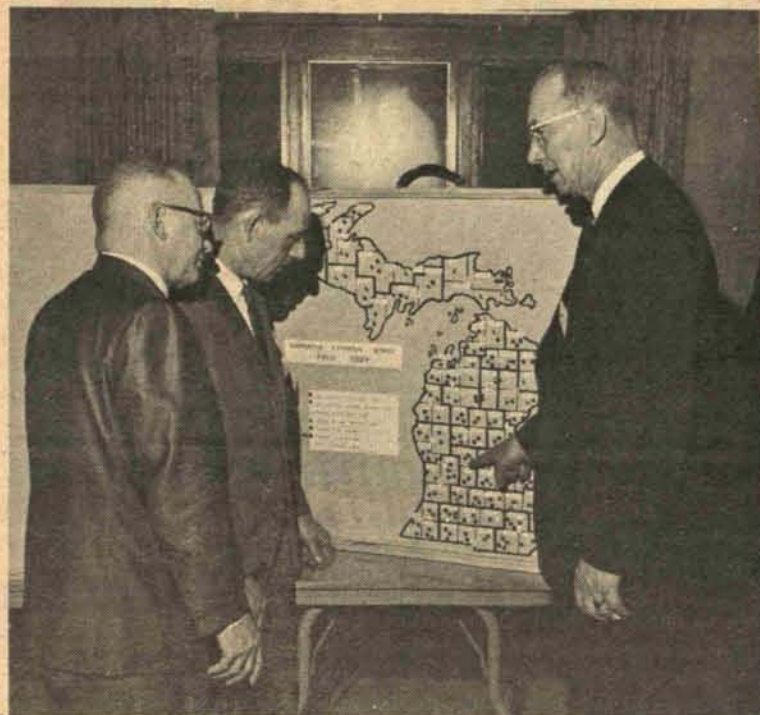
"The groundwork and promotion needed to give this program a trial run will call for a lot of help by the county Farm Bureaus. This same cooperation will be needed for many of the programs we might try in the future of the new Farm Bureau. In Farm Bureau, the success of programs rests on the cooperation of many people."

In a closing summary, Clarence Prentice, secretary-manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau, pointed out that the key to positive action lies, to a great extent, within the morale of the leadership. Morale is partly a matter of faith in ourselves plus an attitude of determination to get things done.

He said that you can measure the achievements of any county Farm Bureau in terms of the morale of its leaders. High morale puts Farm Bureau in the forefront of affairs in the counties where high morale exists.

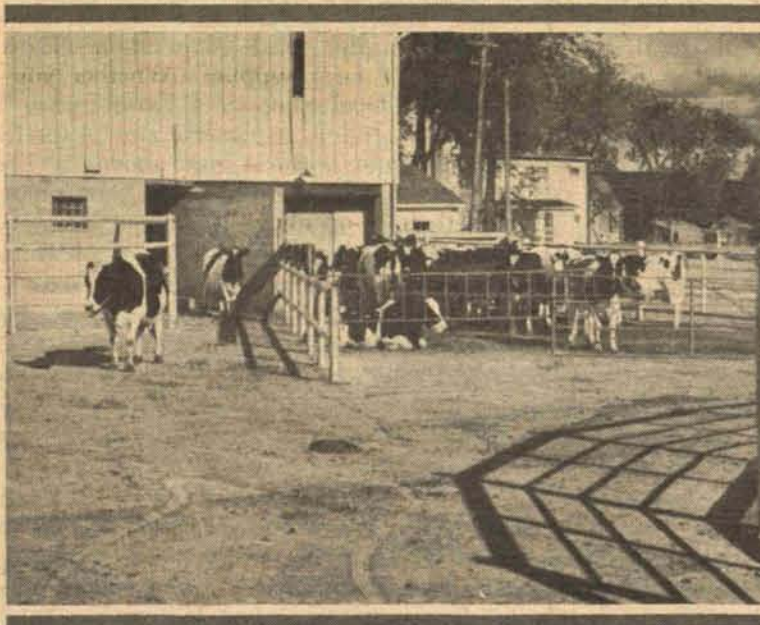
"Many people say morale is something that spreads from somewhere else. In Farm Bureau, county leaders may say it starts at the state office. In the state office, we are likely to say it starts in the county. County leaders may say morale springs from the members and members feel the county board presses the button to start the flow of morale," Prentice said.

"Morale, then, is the product of the best in all of us—working together. High morale and confidence on the part of the county board will be reflected in everything that's done in the county Farm Bureau."



ORGANIZATION CHART—Showing location of Cooperative Extension Service field personnel, is explained by George McIntyre (right) of the Service. With him is Elton Smith (left) and MFB Board Member, Harvey Leuenberger. McIntyre appeared on an evening program at the President's Conference.

## SANITATION AND EFFICIENCY ...PARTNERS WITH CONCRETE IN THE DAIRY INDUSTRY



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ALL IN FAVOR—hold up your right hand, and this hard-working group of county officers voted overwhelmingly to sponsor county informational meetings dealing with the Workmen's Compensation Act and what it will mean to Michigan farmers. Earlier, James Rathbun of Farm Bureau Insurance told of many conflicting areas of the Act.

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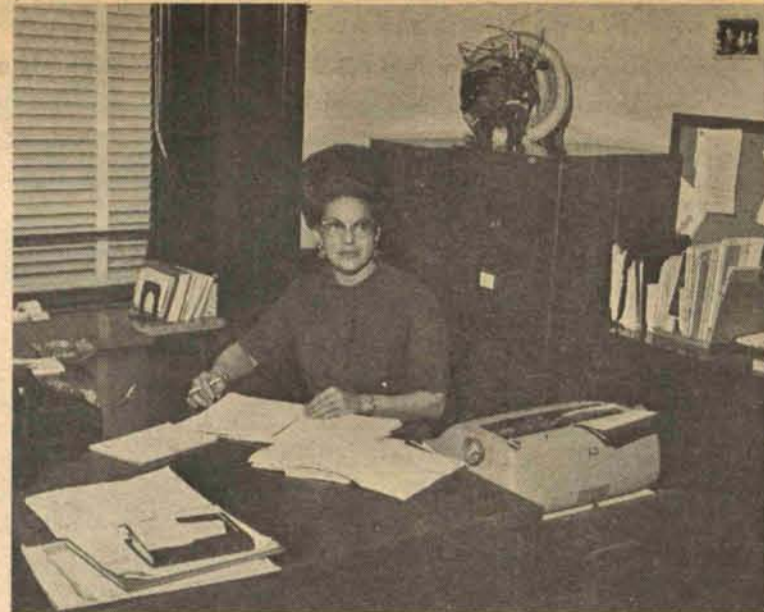
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# capitol report



"And I thought the Agriculture Committee would be such a nice, quiet responsibility," said Mary Keyser, Secretary to Senator Roger Johnson, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

The 1965 battle for the passage of dairy unfair trade practices legislation centered around the Senate Agriculture Committee. Mail, telegrams and telephone calls flooded Mrs. Keyser's desk.

The bill, which would outlaw below-cost selling and other unfair trade practices, generated much heated debate. The bill has passed the House but lies on the table in the Senate. There seems to be a general feeling that it would be useless to bring the bill back to the floor for a vote unless amendments can be made to make the bill more acceptable to a majority of the Senators. If changes are made in the bill, it would then go back to the House, where it would be subject to another vote.



FREE-PRESS REPORTER — Roger Lane (left) visits with Majority Leader, Representative J. Robert Traxler (D-Bay City) and Representative Sanford E. Charron, Pinconning. Actions taken in a long, Monday night session are the topic. Both Legislators have extensive farm areas in their districts and have sponsored farm bills.

## PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM THE MAJORITY

Over a period of time, the Supreme Court of the United States has handed down a series of decisions which require that states reapportion their legislatures on the basis of population only. These are commonly referred to as the "one-man, one-vote" decisions. The result has been a long and intense controversy which is far from ended.

It has been common for states to establish the legislatures on a basis comparable to that of Congress. One house is appointed on population; the other on geographical and political considerations as well as population.

The Supreme Court has thrown this old and established system out. And the result has been a large and growing movement to restore the right of the states to constitute their legislatures as their people may desire.

At the last session of Congress, a constitutional amendment, usually referred to as the Dirksen Amendment, was offered in the Senate. Its purpose is "... to preserve to the people of each State power to determine the composition of its legislature and the apportionment of the membership thereof in accordance with law and the provisions of the Constitution of the United States."

There were 57 yeas as against only 39 nays. However, the Amendment was rejected, because the necessary two-thirds majority was not obtained. However, as Senator Dirksen has said, "The final chapter has not yet been written. The battle will be continued." And it promises to provide one of the major issues of the current session.

The arguments in favor of the Amendment, and in opposition to forcing all state legislative houses to be apportioned on a population basis only, are many and varied. Justice Harlan, in dissenting from one of the Court's decisions, said: "... judicial entry into this realm is profoundly ill advised and constitutionally impermissible. . . . the vitality of our political system, on which in the last analysis all else depends, is weakened by reliance on the judiciary for political reform; in time a complacent body politic may result."

A very different kind of argument comes from Senator Dirksen: "The question is not one of rural domination or urban domination or ethnic domination or labor domination or any other type of domination. The issue, simply, is whether the people of a State are to be allowed to determine for themselves the manner in which they would be governed."

Still another telling argument is put forward by the National Council for Fair Reapportionment, Inc.: "This Amendment will cure the present situation in which a bare majority of the voters can deny representation in the State legislature to all other individuals. . . . It will protect racial and religious minorities. . . . This Amendment provides for the minority representation in the halls of government and the protection of the rights of individuals to participate. . . . This Amendment will make government more democratic because it will insure the appropriate representation in the State legislature of the 49 per cent of the people who might otherwise be denied representation."

## Marketing Food for Freedom

By: Dan E. Reed  
Legislative Counsel

Will there really be a major change in the direction of farm programs? There are straws in the wind which continue to point this way. This could be one of the biggest changes affecting agriculture since the beginning of national farm programs in the early 1930s.

Last June, Senator George McGovern, of South Dakota, introduced a world food bill aiming in the direction of the purchase in the market place of food supplies. These would be used to carry out the U. S. Food for Peace programs in the under-developed nations of the world.

### SIX BILLION!

Sparking the new approach is the growing awareness of the probability of the doubling of the world's population in the next 35 years. This increase, from a little over three billion to more than six billion mouths to be fed, shocks a world already aware that much of its population lives in a state of perpetual hunger.

Recognizing the changing situation, delegates at the American Farm Bureau convention, in Chicago in December 1965, headed their major statement on government food and production programming "Marketing Food for Freedom." The resolution opens with the statement — "We favor the use of food to assist less developed nations seeking to move toward goals of economic growth, prosperity, and peace. We recommend a program to offer such assistance in a manner that will provide for constructive changes in existing programs."

A key to Farm Bureau's recommendations is a shift from the idea of dumping agricultural surpluses in foreign nations to one of purchasing those commodities needed through the regular market channels.

There is good statistical evidence to show that such a program could be adequately financed from

funds now being appropriated for various price support programs, direct payment to producers, and P.L. 480 subsidies.

The difference in the various proposals advanced by Senator McGovern and other members of Congress and the proposal that Farm Bureau and other farm groups are suggesting are not so great that compromise and action cannot be expected. Senator McGovern has asked the Senate for unanimous consent to move his bill from the Foreign Relations Committee, where it was originally referred, to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Fulbright, okayed the action and said his committee was busy anyway and the bill concerned agriculture and should be referred to that committee.

Presumably this is in line with the present thinking of the Administration that funds authorizing the purchase of food supplies for such programs should go to the U.S.D.A. While there is a danger that the addition of this food-buying item to the U.S.D.A. budget will give a very false impression to uninformed citizens who feel that the whole U.S.D.A. budget is a farmer subsidy, there is also a feeling that the food purchase program would be more realistic than if handled by the State Department, which was a proposed alternative.

There is sound reason to hope that the new emphasis on "production for use" rather than "production for government storage" will help in restoring the farmer's freedom to make his own deci-

sions, and less emphasis on government regulation and control.

Purchase in the market of items needed for Food for Peace programs would tend to guide the production of commodities needed rather than give false signals resulting in the continued production of commodities already in surplus.

There are many difficulties ahead in expanding and rechanneling an already large program aimed at feeding hungry people in the free areas of the world. In some situations, cargo handling facilities will have to be constructed before more food supplies can be unloaded and protected from waste and destruction.

More facilities must be developed to move the food from where it is unloaded to the places where the people are.

### RECOMMENDED . . .

The new interest in farm programs aims in the direction recommended by the delegates at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual convention held in East Lansing in November, 1965. The delegates at that time encouraged "further study of a U. S. farm program of production for use." The delegates said such a program should include:

**More freedom for farmers to produce** — elimination of allotments, quotas and other hampering regulations — higher farm income based on production.

**More food for the world's hungry** — purchased on the market and provided as America's contribution to the prevention of starvation.

**Less cost and more results for taxpayers** — greatly reduced costs of program administration — elimination of excessive government storage costs — purchase for needs, not for surplus disposal.

# "BOTTLE-BATTLE" BEGINS IN STATE LEGISLATURE

An editorial in a recent issue of the Livingston County Press has lent strong support to the opinion of most farmers concerning "throwaway" containers such as beer bottles.

In official resolution, the Farm Bureau delegates pointed out that over 18,000 truckloads of bottles, cans and paper will be picked up by hand on state highways alone during the present year. Glass is by far the greater nuisance and is a costly hazard to tires, livestock, harvesting equipment and the hands and feet of children and adults.

Recently a bill has been introduced to enact into law the Farm Bureau request that "the Legislature require all bottled beverages sold in Michigan to be delivered in returnable bottles with a deposit value of at least five-cents each, to encourage their return."



REP. SLINGERLEND

A BOTTLE BATTLE—expected to result from a bill now introduced in the legislature, is discussed on Farm Bureau radio by Rep. Robert Slingerlend (D-Oakland). The bill has received widespread public support.

In an editorial titled "Nickle Bottle Bill Deserves Support" the Livingston County Press stated:

"The bill just introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives to ban throwaway beer bottles and initiate a nickel-a-bottle minimum deposit, has our wholehearted support.

"Situated as we are here in Livingston County, practically surrounded by state land and state supported recreation areas, we bear the brunt of a lot of 'city litter.'

"Too many of our fine roadside parks, beaches and sport areas are littered with broken, discarded beverage bottles or cans.

"While a nickel bottle deposit may not deter the drinker from casting it aside, it might bring out the kids in droves to salvage a little extra spending money.

"According to a recent release it costs the Michigan State Highway Department 32¢ for each discarded bottle or can it picks up along the highway. Surely this money could be used to better advantage.

"In our opinion, this bill introduced by Rep. Robert J. Slingerlend of Lake Orion deserves our full support. It doesn't cost the taxpayer a thing, it doesn't even cost the beer drinker an extra cent if he takes his bottles back 'like a good drinker should', and it's a step in the right direction so nature lovers can eventually harvest a clean, uncluttered country side.

"If you have any views on this proposed bill, our own Rep. Thomas Sharpe in Lansing might appreciate hearing from you."



"MAY I CUT IN?"—One recent beer-bottle count was made on a Michigan expressway where on a 13 mile stretch, 78 throw-away beer bottles were tallied from a car traveling 65 miles per hour. Many were smashed on the road edge. It would cost \$25 to have this number picked up, or at 5¢ each, a boy could have earned \$4.



INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE—Committee Chairman is State Senator Gilbert E. Bursley, (R-Ann Arbor) Washtenaw and parts of Lenawee counties form his district. He has introduced bills to further Michigan's foreign trade and expansion of farm exports. Michigan farmers are vitally interested.

## WATCHDOG COMMITTEE

A half-dozen issues of major importance to Michigan farmers were among those discussed by the Legislative Committee of the Michigan Farm Bureau, meeting in Farm Bureau Center, Lansing, for the "first called" meeting of the new year.

Michigan Farm Bureau Vice President, Dean Pridgeon, serves as chairman of this important committee. Other members include directors Eugene Roberts and Robert Zeeb. In its work, the committee analyzes Farm Bureau policies in terms of proposed legislation and closely correlates these policies with actions of the legislature.

As need arises, the committee invites specialists in fields of legislative interest to appear before them and to consult on policy matters.

Among the subjects covered by the Committee were:

(1) Changes needed in legislation providing agricultural coverage under the Workmen's Compensation law on a mandatory basis.

(2) Consideration of possible changes in annexation laws to provide reasonable protection for agricultural land against unwise use of annexation and incorporation laws. The discussion included not only annexation and incorporation of cities and villages, but also involved recent changes in charter township legislation.

(3) Slow-moving vehicle emblem legislation.

(4) A proposed new licensing law covering landscape architects and arborists. The provisions of this would not affect growers of sod, nursery stock and landscaping materials unless the grower also provided a service in sod laying and landscaping.

(5) Personal property tax exemptions. A number of bills have been introduced or are in preparation. The Committee discussed the best procedures for supporting legislation to accomplish the objectives of Farm Bureau policy.

(6) A possible "Emigrant Agent" law for Michigan. A number of states require farm labor recruiters coming in from another state to be licensed before seeking to recruit farm workers for service in another state.

Some states provide very high license fees which work as barriers against mobility of labor.

Recognizing the possibilities of retaliation, and believing that a free flow of farm labor is best for all of agriculture, the Committee looked more favorably on a minimum cost of licensing, with registration and reporting as a part of the requirement placed on the Emigrant Agent.

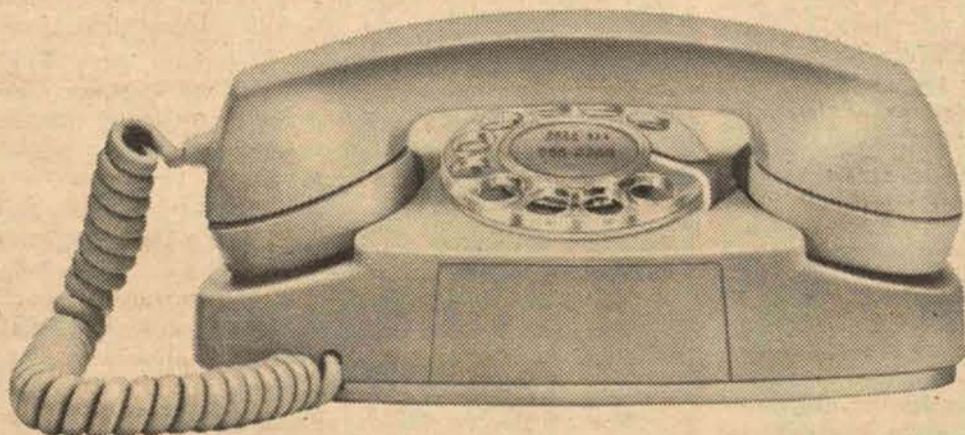
There was also some discussion of a possible bonding provision to insure that the recruiter did not "over-sell" the advantages of employment in his area.

In 1965 there was some crop loss in Michigan resulting from recruiting workers on the job in Michigan to leave our state for employment in adjoining states. Some left the Michigan crops before the harvesting was done only to arrive in their new locations to find the promised employment was not available as the crops had not yet ripened.

The recommendations of the Legislative Committee will be presented to the MFB Board at its next meeting.

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"MAYOR OF SQUASH HILL"—Rep. Claude E. Burton (D-Belleveue)—so named because as one of the few farmers in the Legislature, he grows the big vegetables. Burton is among those introducing bills to provide farm property tax relief.



STATE DISCUSSION TOPIC COMMITTEE members met at the new radio-television studios at Farm Bureau Center, January 21, to select topics for community groups and to evaluate the discussion program. The committee, chaired by Don Kinsey, Michigan Farm Bureau Information Division, is now established as an advisory committee of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors.

## A WORKING COMMITTEE

Meet your State Discussion Topic Committee.

It's a working committee. On a Friday in January and again in July, it assembles to do a variety of jobs.

It criticizes and evaluates the discussion program of the Community Farm Bureaus. It suggests changes and new approaches.

It studies current issues and problems that may need to be considered by the members in the groups.

It selects a group of topics to be prepared, either for the regular discussion schedule or for special optional use by the groups.

In 1965, this committee became a special advisory committee of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors. Its members are appointed by the directors who represent the Farm Bureau districts of Michigan. It may work on special study assignments relating to the Community Farm Bureaus at the request of the board.

Serving on the State Topic Committee at its meeting in Lansing on Friday, January 21, were:

Lawrence Rhoda, District 1, Kalamazoo County; Edwin Kiessling, Dist. 2, Calhoun; Robert Verellen, Dist. 3, Macomb; Willard DeVries, Dist. 4, Allegan; Richard Noble, Dist. 5, Clinton; Mrs. Ford Boyne, Dist. 6, Tuscola; Jerome Jorissen, Dist. 7, Mason; Mrs. Lillian Wonsay, Dist. 8, Isabella; Robert Snell, Dist. 9, Benzie; Wilbur Priddy, Dist. 10, Ogemaw; and Orville Bawks, Dist. 11 (U.P.), Chippewa.

Mrs. Rhoda, Mrs. DeVries and Mrs. Bawks accompanied their husbands at the meeting.

### Topic Selections

There is much interest and concern about the new Workmen's Compensation law and how it will affect farmers. The Farm Bureau Women requested that this matter be considered for group discussion.

New developments may appear in the Legislature in the coming weeks — and some uncertainty exists as to how the law may be adjusted. Many say the law is unworkable as it stands. The Topic Committee called for a review of this on the March calendar.

Declining student enrollments in the College of Agriculture at Michigan State University create some hazards for the future of that program. What can Farm Bureau do to help boost more student enrollments in agriculture? Farmers should have an interest in keeping the Agricultural College strong. This is a topic to come soon.

At the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in November, the delegates asked for group discussion of the "Development of Ver-

tical Integration in Modern Agriculture." The committee took action to do as the delegates requested.

Since the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors had recently called for a strengthening and further building of our Community Farm Bureaus, the committee considered it a good idea to discuss how we can strengthen member activity through groups and other types of programs.

What coverages will Blue Cross-Blue Shield offer to supplement the Medicare programs? Give the members information, if possible, said the committee.

Somewhere a bit later in the topic series should be a "progress report" to the groups regarding the plans being made to build the "New Farm Bureau," the committee decided. The groups themselves may yield some good ideas for improved or new programs.

Another possibility for a topic in the near future deals with County Home Rule — and how it will affect future local governments.

The committee requested that a special, optional discussion packet be made available for groups interested in discussing highway and farm safety. Eight optional discussion packets on a variety of subjects are now available where groups desire to use them, at the modest costs of printing and mailing the packets.

## Legis-Late-Notes

Rep. Harry Rohlf (R), representing parts of Saginaw and Tuscola Counties, is concerned about highway accidents involving slow-moving vehicles. A serious accident in his community recently has put focus on the need for increased use of the approved slow-moving vehicle emblem.

Designed by the National Safety Council, the emblem is triangular in shape, brightly colored, and reflectorized.

A statement adopted at the November 1965 convention of Michigan Farm Bureau urges "all farmers and other operators of slow-moving vehicles to purchase and use this standard emblem."

More than \$15 billion in food costs each year has been saved for American consumers through developments in agricultural technology resulting from research. Michigan farmers still face critical problems.

A proposed \$495,000 research expansion program, to be carried out by the Agricultural Experiment Station, would provide for development of vegetable varieties to meet new market demands and to adapt varieties to mechanical harvesting, provide research aid for the cherry industry and provide for expanded markets for Michigan's processed foods through the development of new products and new methods of packaging.

Greatly increased pesticide use, estimated at over 200% in the last two years, is causing problems of DDT residue build-up in certain areas and is causing concern regarding compliance with tolerance requirements. Budget figures for research in these four areas have been tightly drawn to accomplish practical results.

Great amounts of federal money are used in the areas of basic research. It remains, however, for practical applications to be made to meet the needs of Michigan's agribusiness industry.

Last year labor recruiters from other states drew off supplies of Michigan labor before the completion of harvest. Many states require out-of-state labor recruiters to register and be licensed under "emigrant agent laws." In some states the license requirements range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Often a separate license is required for each city or county in which the recruiter seeks to work. Such barriers do much to prevent a free flow of farm labor to those areas where the opportunities and needs are greatest.

The Michigan Farm Bureau is participating in studies which will probably lead to the introduction of an emigrant agent licensing law in Michigan. It is expected, however, that license fees will be nominal, with registration and reporting of activities as the important control.

There is also a possibility that a performance bond might be a part of the requirement for out-of-state recruiters working in Michigan.

Four of the five members of the new Agriculture Commission have been appointed by Governor Romney and await Senate confirmation. Under the law, the Commission is bipartisan.

Appointees announced include: Charles Donaldson, Jr., Menominee County; Mrs. Seth Tompkins, Grand Traverse County; Blaque Knirk, Branch County, and Richard Stout, Calhoun County.

Under the statute, the fifth Commissioner will be a Democrat. It is expected that someone from the eastern part of Michigan will be named. Farm Bureau has submitted a list of names proposing qualified farmers to serve in this important agricultural post.

Trade expansion is receiving attention from the Legislature and from the Executive office. Governor Romney has called for increased shipments of food to underdeveloped nations and is supporting legislation to assist in the promotion and expansion of foreign sales of state farm products. Rep. E. D. O'Brien and Senator Gilbert Bursley head committees of the Legislature concerned with expansion of Michigan's export markets.

The cry often goes up for all farm organizations to get together in support of the same policies. A recent voice calling for such action comes from a well known economist.

It should not be surprising that farm organizations do not always see eye to eye when economists themselves differ so widely on solutions to the problems of agriculture and our nation's fiscal stability.

Nor do the President's advisors all seem to agree on what should be done in Vietnam.

The very safety of our nation is dependent on the opportunity for people to join themselves into voluntary groups through which their voices can be heard. Unanimity is desirable but must be voluntary if it is to be meaningful.



JERRY CORDREY — (standing in rear) former Michigan Farm Bureau staff member now with the American Farm Bureau Federation, has been named "Outstanding Man of the Year" by his home-town Jaycees of Wheaton, Illinois. Cordrey heads the Local Affairs Program for the A.F.B.F. Seated to the right are Wheaton Mayor and Mrs. Karl Heimke.

# NEW COLLEGE PROGRAM BOOSTS AGRICULTURE

## SOUTHWESTERN MICH. COLLEGE

In the midst of much de-emphasis of agriculture and its related occupations, comes news of a new Michigan institution which plans to give special stress to agricultural pursuits.

Southwest Michigan College at Dowagiac plans to offer a two-year program of courses in "agribusiness."

Its Board of Trustees and its president, Dr. Nathan Ivey, have declared that agriculture and its related activities are playing a role of increasing importance in today's economy.

There may be fewer farmers each year, but what they produce and what happens to it, are more important than ever before in world history at a time when food

needs are measured against an exploding population.

The two-year curriculum will aim at preparing students for immediate employment in fields related to agricultural production, processing and marketing.

Michigan farm leaders have been pleased by the scope of the program and some have suggested that the value of the curriculum could be increased further if consideration were given to preparing students for advanced work in the College of Agriculture at Michigan State University.

Thus Southwest Michigan College, and others like it, could become a strong link in the chain "feeding" students interested in

agriculture into the four-year college training programs.

Dr. Ivey chaired a specially appointed committee of leading farm authorities from the Dowagiac area—which worked for several months developing the curriculum. It is notable that most members of the committee are men trained at Michigan State University, thus at least indirectly, a relationship has been recognized and a bond formed.

The planning committee includes members with a wide variety of agricultural interests. They include: Ross Bentley, director, Vocational Agricultural department, Cassopolis High School; Joe Jerue, farmer and industrialist; Jerry Hunziker, landscape architect and nurseryman; Duane Jackson, farm manager; Kenneth

McCoy, director, Vocational Agriculture, Niles High School; A. H. Oines, farm chemical company; Dale Warsco, custom feed company; Walter Weber, farm chemical company and Emmet Wilson, farm feed company.

A student who successfully completes the two-year course will receive an "Associate-in-Science" degree from the college. According to Dr. Ivey, "not only will the student who plans to farm benefit greatly from the Agri-Business course, but it will also prepare men and women who want to seek positions in a wide variety of farm-related industries."

Listed among them are: farm fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, farm machinery, manufacturing or distribution, farm feeds industry, farm marketing, farm credit, farm

insurance, processing of foods, storage of produce, farm salesmen, buyers, and plant manager trainees.

There is no age limit for admission to the college, although students must have a high school diploma to be eligible for admission, however even this provision can be waived if an adult demonstrates the ability to successfully do the college work.

## Bean Commission

The Michigan Senate on February 10 gave unanimous approval to the selections made by Governor Romney for filling the nine posts on the newly created Michigan Bean Commission.

The Commission, under the law, elects its own officers for terms of one year. The officers authorized are a Chairman, a Treasurer "and such other officers as it (the Commission) deems advisable." The Commission will also appoint a Secretary-Manager and set his compensation.

Elected Chairman of the first meeting of the Commission has been Wilford Root of Saginaw. Edmund Good, Gagetown, has been elected vice chairman, and Stanley Sherman, Lansing, Secretary.

As outlined by P.A. 114 of the Public Acts of 1965, the duties of the new Commission include promotion of research on bean varieties and growing practices, and on the food values of beans and bean products. It will promote research on market development, and compile commodity information.

The activities of the Commission will be financed by an assessment of two cents per hundredweight on beans grown in the state in 1966 and annually thereafter. Growers not wishing to be included in the program may become nonparticipating for the year by making a proper filing on or before June 1 with the Secretary of the Commission.

Members of the Commission approved by Senate action are:  
 Warner Meylan Robert Dodge  
 Wilford Root Basil McKenzie  
 Howard Hirth Edmund Good  
 Fred Bach Stanley Sherman  
 Dean Jickling

## ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Two Michigan farm leaders have been named to American Farm Bureau Federation commodity committees for 1966. AFBF president, Charles B. Shuman, announced that Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, will serve on the national Dairy Advisory Committee, and Eugene Roberts, Lake City, on the national Poultry Advisory Committee.

Elton Smith, Michigan Farm Bureau president, will represent the Midwest region, along with P. D. Hempstead of Minnesota, John Armstrong, Kansas; C. R. Johnston, Missouri, and Perry Keltner, Illinois, on the 20-member dairy committee.

Roberts, Michigan's district 9 director, also represents the midwest region on the national poultry committee. Serving with him are Clifford Bass, Wisconsin and William Phelps, Iowa.

The committees are advisory to the American Farm Bureau Federation board in the interpretation and application of policy resolutions dealing with commodity problems as they arise in Congress and elsewhere.



## the big message for Spring


- **WATCHING** — For four weeks, eight TV stations will carry 87 commercials a week, talking about "Milk with Meals."
- **LISTENING** — The radio audience will be reached on car radios, portables and in homes — 4 weeks, on 54 stations.
- **READING** — Once each week, in 34 daily newspapers, a large advertisement will sell "Milk with Meals."

This is the first of three major 1966 Fluid Milk promotions — provided by over 75% of Michigan dairy farmers who are working together, by supporting the American Dairy Association program.



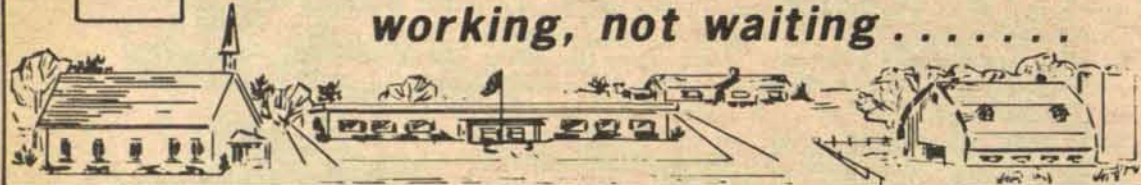
american dairy association  
 of MICHIGAN  
 3000 Vine, Lansing





# FARM BUREAU WOMEN

*working, not waiting . . . . .*




"FARM PEOPLE CAN TELL THEIR STORY — if they will only try," Mrs. Eugene DeMatio tells other members of the U and I Committee of the Farm Bureau Women. This group working on plans for a Speakers Bureau are (left to right): Mrs. DeMatio, Miss Helen Atwood, Michigan Farm Bureau; Mrs. George Southworth, chairman, Elkton; Melvin Woell, Michigan Farm Bureau; Mrs. Clare Carpenter, Cass City, and Mrs. B. H. Baker, Merrill. Committee members not present were Mrs. Francis Campau, Ada, and Mrs. Richard Wieland, Ellsworth.

## Facts, Experience, Confidence

Concerned with the obvious need for strong agricultural spokesmen, Michigan Farm Bureau Women plan to enlarge their "Speakers Bureau" program, aimed at preparing farm men and women to face audiences with facts, experience and confidence.

Scheduled at Camp Kett for March 10 and 11, the conference will be designed to make farm leaders better spokesmen for their industry.

Working on the premise that only farmers can adequately tell the amazing story of modern agriculture, the "Understanding and Information" (U and I) committee of Farm Bureau Women has begun to prepare for the task.

The U and I Committee ("You and I" — meaning that information leads to better understanding between You and I), under their chairman, Mrs. George Southworth, has set out in 1966 to get more farm people to speak for farmers. The Speakers Bureau is one of a series of activities designed to prepare and inspire farm people to do a better job of presenting their story.

"Our biggest problem," says chairman Southworth, "is to give people confidence so that they will seek opportunities to present the agricultural story. Many of our people can do a much better job of this than they suspect, if only they would try. There are opportunities for speakers at meetings of many clubs, churches and other organizations who need program help, and who is more interested in our welfare than the consumer who depends on us for food?"

Serving on the committee with Mrs. Southworth are: Mrs. B. H. Baker, Merrill; Mrs. Francis Campau, Ada; Mrs. Clare Carpenter, Cass City; Mrs. Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, and Mrs. Wm. Scramlin, state Women's chairman.

Instructions in public speaking will be given by Mary Jane Miltgen, Women's Editor of Michigan

State University radio, WKAR. A communications specialist, Miss Miltgen has long been concerned about the "image" of agriculture, and is currently involved in a research project to find the best kind of materials to arm rural people in telling their story.

At an evening dinner session, the guest will be Leonard Warner, Press Relations Director of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Warner will discuss press relations and the part that "outspoken" readers play in the formation of newspaper policy. He will also report on farm legislation in his "Potomac Roundup."

Using professional tape recording equipment, students will have an opportunity to record a short speech and hear it played back. Group instructor for this exercise

will be Jack Angell who directs radio and television activities for the American Farm Bureau. Angell, a former announcer for one of the major networks, will assist the students in a self-appraisal of their recorded speeches.

Members of the Michigan Farm Bureau Information Division will conduct one period on tools, techniques and home-produced visual aids for speakers. Other Michigan Farm Bureau staff members will present information on the history, accomplishments and aims of the organization.

A special invitation to attend is extended to members of county Women's Committees, Roll Call managers, county Information Committee members; however, any interested Farm Bureau member is welcome.

Those attending should make reservations immediately by writing to: Miss Helen Atwood, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904. The deadline for reservations has been set for Tuesday, March 8.

Cost of the two-day session, including meals and lodging, is \$12.

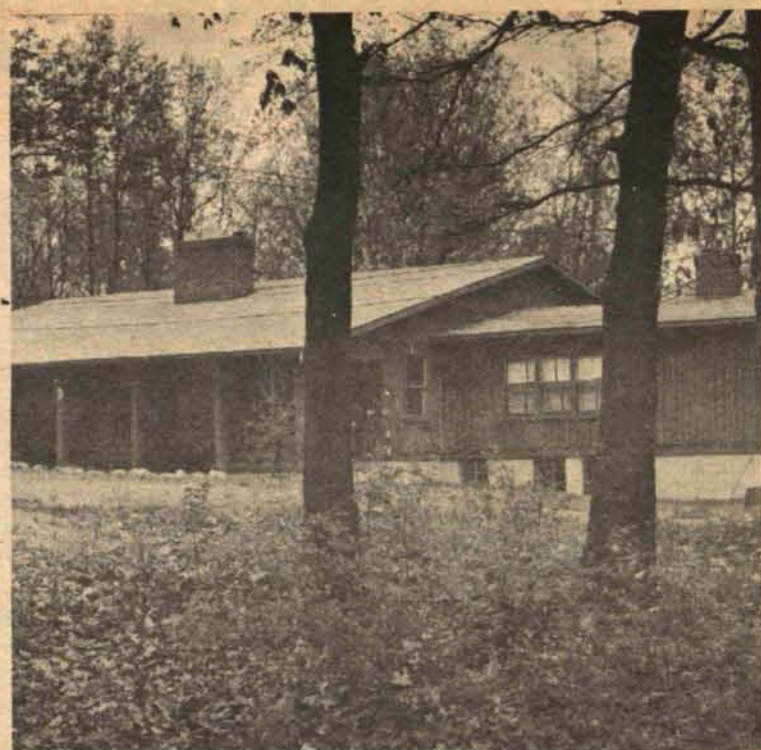
## ALL ABOARD

Last call for reservations on the annual Farm Bureau Women's Washington Legislative Air Tour, departing Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Sunday, March 13.

This tour offers an opportunity for farm leaders to watch Congress in session, meet with their Representatives, and visit with staff members of the American Farm Bureau Federation. An added bonus will be an all-day sightseeing tour to such famous places as the White House, Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery.

Cost per person — \$101.57 — includes air transportation from Detroit to Washington and return, three nights at the Willard Hotel, baggage handling, tips, and several meals.

Send your reservations and check today to Farm Bureau Women, 4000 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48904.



SYLVAN SETTING — of "Wesley Woods" Methodist Camp on Clear Lake, near Battle Creek, offers a charming rustic atmosphere for those who take part in the forthcoming Spring Holiday planned by Farm Bureau Women. American Farm Bureau Secretary, Roger Fleming, will make one of his rare Michigan appearances at the Camp, April 6.

## Women Invited to... "Have a Holiday!"

The annual Spring Holiday, sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women of District 1, and open to all women of the state, has been set for April 6-7 at Wesley Woods Camp near Hastings.

"Think Young" is the theme of the two-day meeting which features as guest speaker — Roger Fleming, secretary-treasurer of the American Farm Bureau Federation and director of the Washington office. Fleming will speak at 10:00 on the opening session of the camp before leaving on a series of press-relations meetings with newsmen in the Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids areas.

A topic of interest to Farm Bureau Women — traffic safety — will be discussed by Corporal Duane A. Smith, Michigan State Police. Smith will project plans involving highway safety, future road building plans, auto insurance and taxes.

"Questions our Youth are Asking" will be discussed by bio-chemist Leroy Augenstein of Michigan State University. His presentation will be the highlight of the second day's program.

Farm Bureau Women are urged to contact representatives of urban women's organizations, informing them of the outstanding program, and inviting them to attend.

Total camp "fee" including four meals, lodging, insurance to and from home, and registration, is \$7.50. Campers are asked to bring their own bedding, and to dress comfortably. Baby-sitting service is again available with a registered nurse in charge, and meals for children at half-price.

This year's Holiday Committee members are: Mrs. Louise Smith, chairman; Mrs. Erma Hombaker, Mrs. LaRue Hulbert, Mrs. Margie Austin, Mrs. Betty Rhoda, and Mrs. Doris Hahan.

Reservations may be made by sending the attached coupon to Wesley Woods Camp, Route #1, Dowling, Michigan. Deadline for reservations is April 1.

### — RESERVATION REQUEST —

Wesley Woods Camp  
Route #1  
Dowling, Michigan  
Phone: Banfield 721-8295

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the Farm Bureau Women's Holiday, April 6-7.

- \_\_\_\_\_ We will attend the entire camp.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We will attend Wednesday only.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We will stay overnight Wednesday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We will attend Thursday only.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

My urban guest's name \_\_\_\_\_



# MEAT AND THE MODERN MARKET

## Michigan in Chicago

Feature By: Charles H. Bailey

"It's a long way and there are many people between the producer and the final customer," said cattelman Grover Zettle, after the recent Livestock Market tour sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau's Market Development department.

Zettle was one of thirty cattlemen — and women — who spent three days in the Chicago area studying the involved meat-marketing process.

Starting Tuesday, February 9, at the new ultra-modern and highly mechanized packing plant of Swift Packing Company at Rochelle, Illinois, the group followed meat from the farm to the city consumer at a meat counter. At the Swift plant, the farm group saw cattle, hogs and sheep processed in a new and highly sanitary facility where everything possible is done mechanically and with a maximum of speed.

One of the impressive aspects of the plant was the careful checking of each carcass by inspectors assigned through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Another discovery at the Swift plant was that very few animals come in these days showing signs of disease. As one employee at the plant remarked, "You should have seen the animals we got when I was a youngster in this business. You farmers have made a big improvement in animals not only in meat quality but in the absence of diseased animals these days. We get almost none anymore."

Back in Chicago for the night, the group had breakfast with Mylan Ross, secretary-manager of the National Livestock Producers Association. Ross talked at length about the part co-operative marketing groups, such as our Michigan Livestock Exchange, play in handling millions of head of cattle, hogs and sheep sold in America every year.

He suggested that only by being actively in the market through their own sales-associations, can farmers make sure that they get full value for their products.

At the Union Stockyards later in the morning, the livestockmen visited with vice-president, L. L. Colvis, of the Interstate Livestock Producers Association, a Farm Bureau affiliate located in Illinois and Iowa. Colvis discussed the contract sales system which Interstate is operating in a trial project in western Illinois.

Wednesday afternoon, the "Livestock Caravan" went hunting "real, live consumers." The spot picked was a neighborhood market operated by Jewel Food Stores in the industrial district of west Chicago. Here the group saw highly skilled butchers cut and package beef, pork and lamb carcasses. Next they watched housewives hunt and pick over the elaborate meat display in a huge meat counter.

Although the neighborhood around the store was not new or especially attractive, buyers surprised the visitors by selecting better cuts of meat, and buying in large amounts. As the store's meat manager said, "When they have the money, these folks believe in buying the best meat we have. Price doesn't seem quite as important to them as quality."

The final day began at breakfast with Dr. Kenneth Hood and Herman Aaberg of the American Farm Bureau marketing staff. They discussed issues facing American farmers. Two of the most important, according to Dr. Hood, are the use of contracts to the benefit of farmers, and loosening the grip of the federal government on the farmer's business.

Herman Aaberg, who heads livestock activities for the Farm Bureau, discussed the importance of the disease control and eradication programs both to farmers and consumers. Noting that Michigan is in the last stages of a hog cholera eradication program, he told the group that it has cost American farmers about \$40 million a year to suppress and "live with" hog cholera.

When the commodity market of the Chicago Board of Trade opened with a wild shout at 9:30, the tour group watched the antics of traders and helpers in amazement. After the first flurry of trading died down, special guides led the group onto the floor of the futures exchange where they saw at close range the frantic process of buying and selling grain-future contracts. Ordinarily, visitors are not allowed on the selling floor.

A futures trader and one of the authors of the rules for trading beef futures, John J. Nolan, showed the Michigan group the mechanics of the market and how the use of grain and beef futures market might help beef feeders to protect themselves from sharp market drops.

While admitting that the use of the futures-contracts might limit profits of the feeder, he pointed out that they might also help guarantee that they would not sustain severe losses.

After a quick visit to the office of the American Farm Bureau in the huge Merchandise Mart Building, the caravan headed for home.

All were tired, but agreed that the visits with others in the producer-to-consumer marketing chain sparked new ideas about how Farm Bureau might better its marketing work on behalf of farmers.



"OUR CUSTOMERS INSIST — on this type of package," Mrs. Stella Miano, Jewel Food Stores, tells the visiting Michiganders. She is the only woman in the Chicago area to successfully complete the three-year apprenticeship for "Journeyman Butcher."



"TO SATISFY CUSTOMERS — we must buy choice carcasses," Jewel Food Store's meat manager, Bert De Lorenzo, tells Bob Oesheger, Huron county, and Harold Aldrich, Calhoun.



THE ART OF SELLING fresh meats in large quantities is discussed with touring livestock producers by George Siedel, Jewel Food Store's district store manager.



CHECKING THE LATEST PRICES on the commodity market at the Chicago Board of Trade are Al Van Aelst, Jr. (left), Oceana county, and Vincent Roggenbuck, Sanilac.



CAREFUL, ACCURATE GRADING assures that buyers get exactly what they order and pay for. This is the basis on which the Board of Trade's huge cash grain trade operates.

# COMING EVENTS...

## SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS

Smells, . . . noises . . . and surprises! That's what's in store for Farm Bureau Women who attend their Spring District meetings as they learn "What women 'auto' know about their car and Farmers Petroleum."

Lecturer and demonstrator for this provocative-sounding presentation is Arlo Wasson, Sales Manager for Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. Wasson will be the featured speaker at each of the district meetings scheduled throughout the state during April, and in the Upper Peninsula in June.

Recognizing that "half of today's drivers are women," the petroleum expert will talk about the crude oil that makes the auto run — and other by-products such as miracle fabrics, cleaners — even foods. The women will learn about such things as motor "bath-tub ring."

Wasson will show his audience the part that Farm Bureau has played in "The Wonderful World of Power" found beneath our farms. All Farm Bureau Women are urged to attend these educational and entertaining meetings. District meeting dates are listed

below. Check with your county chairman for time and place.

Dist.	Date
1	April 12
2	May 10
3	April 14
4	April 15
5	April 16
6	April 19
7	April 18
8	April 13
9	April 20
10E	April 28
10W	April 29
11E	June 15
11W	June 14

## SCHOLARSHIP

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Scholarship Committee reminds members that March 15 is the deadline for applications for the Michigan State University scholarship.

The MSU scholarship, in the amount of \$324, is limited to juniors and seniors who are Michigan residents and members of Farm Bureau families.

Applicants must submit a written application, be willing to be personally interviewed by the Scholarship Committee and show financial need.

Requests for application forms should be sent to Michigan Farm Bureau, attention Miss Helen Atwood, 4000 N. Grand River Avenue, Lansing 48904.

The Michigan State University scholarship is one of three awarded by the Farm Bureau Women each year. Others are the Practical Nurse scholarship in the amount of \$200, and the Cooperative Elevator-Farm Supply scholarship for \$100.

# A Willing Worker — MUMFORD "HOMEWORK" IMPORTANT



(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of "field reports" featuring Michigan Farm Bureau Regional Representatives. This month we salute Charles Mumford of the Saginaw Valley region.)

Although shoveling snow is not an "official" part of a Regional Representative's job, if he should happen by one of his county Farm Bureau offices when mounds of that white stuff hamper the approach of members to their service-center — out comes the shovel!

Wielding the "go-power" in the Saginaw Valley area in this capacity and in the wide range of regional responsibilities is Charles Mumford, who began his Farm Bureau career as a Community Group discussion leader in 1944.

"Charlie" served as Organization Director for Gratiot and Isabella counties from 1947 to 1951, when he became a field representative for the Michigan Farm Bureau in the Southeast region.

He has been a familiar figure to Farm Bureau folks in the Sag-

inaw Valley since 1957 when he was named regional representative for that area. His counties include Arenac, Bay, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Midland, Saginaw and Shiawassee.

Charlie's long service with the Michigan Farm Bureau has earned him the title of "Dean of the field staff." Some of his outstanding contributions to agriculture include helping to establish the livestock market in St. Louis, obtaining charter members in the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance

Company, and serving as special Michigan representative to help organize the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (Farm Bureau).

The Mumfords have two sons and two daughters, and are the proud grandparents of seven. Mrs. Mumford (Bernice) is a teacher in the Saginaw city system.

Charlie's hobbies include landscape gardening, antiques and travelling. He is a real booster of the Saginaw Valley which he calls "one of the garden spots of our country."

"I am honored and happy to be a Farm Bureau representative in the Saginaw Valley region. Honored because of the capable, dedicated agricultural leaders I have the pleasure of working with — and happy because of the many friendships I have had the opportunity to make."

## INGHAM GROUP

What county Farm Bureau people do "at home" determines whether we can "sell" the organization to other people, secretary-manager Clarence Prentice told a group of Ingham County membership workers meeting at Farm Bureau Center, Lansing, February 9.

Prentice told the 35 workers that involving members in meaningful activity at the county level is the key to success for Farm Bureau, and that only the counties themselves can decide upon projects that fit their own particular needs.

He urged the county Farm Bureau to "take a position" on local issues as representatives of agriculture.

Topic of the meeting, chaired by regional representative Ed Schrader, was "How we can be of service to the Farm Bureau Member."

Affiliated company representatives who briefed the group were: Arlo Wasson, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative; Roland Self, Farm Bureau Insurance; Robert Braden, MACMA, and Elden Smith, representing Farm Bureau Services.

Awards for new member sign-up were announced by Mrs. Chellis Hall, Roll-Call chairman. Philip Hall was first-prize winner and received a 1967 membership; Jim Weber, second-prize winner, received Unico grease and gun; Jerold Toppliff received a Farm Bureau stop sign for third prize.



INGHAM COUNTY ROLL-CALL worker, Jim Weber, receives second prize for new member sign-up from Bill Fillwock (right), Farmers Petroleum Cooperative sales representative. The young farmer was awarded Unico grease and gun; Philip Hall, son of Roll Call chairman, Mrs. Dorothy Hall, received a 1967 membership as first prize winner. The awards were made at Farm Bureau Center, Lansing, where 35 Ingham County membership workers toured the facilities and met with staff of the affiliated companies.

## IT'S OUR ANNUAL FARM TIRE SALE

Now's the time for big savings on all implement and tractor tires . . . all sizes . . . front and rear. Unico self-cleaning rear tractor tires are your best buy . . . special design gives maximum traction at all times. Get ready now before the weather breaks.

### REAR TRACTOR TIRES HAVE A 3<sup>YR</sup> FIELD HAZARD GUARANTEE

In addition, implement and front tractor tires carry a full two year field hazard guarantee . . . all Unico tires carry a LIFETIME guarantee against defects in manufacturing or workmanship. Remember, WE PUT IT IN WRITING.

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Farmers Petroleum makes it their business to provide the special products for your special farm needs. It is a farmer owned organization . . . one of the dynamic affiliates of the Michigan Farm Bureau.



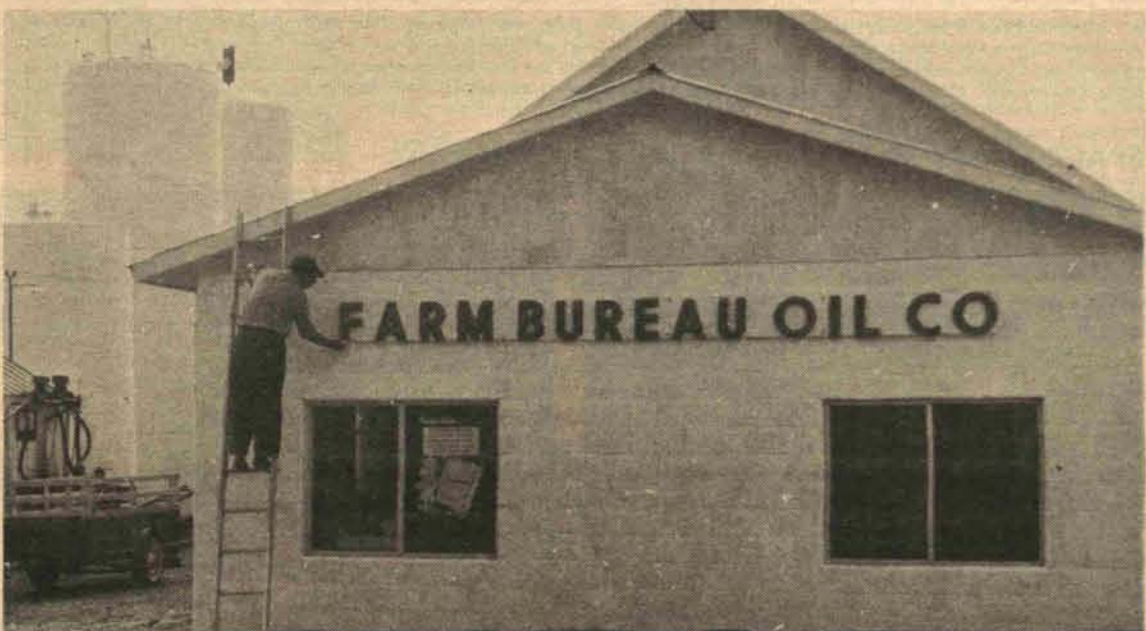
# FARMERS PETROLEUM

4000 N. GRAND RIVER AVENUE / LANSING, MICHIGAN

# FIRST IN MICHIGAN...



THE MODERN PETROLEUM "TANKER" —with its electric pumps, meters and many yards of hose— means quick, efficient delivery of fuels. Manager Clarence King shows driver Bob AcMoody the old 5-gallon measuring bucket that did the job when the cooperative began filling farmers' tanks in the '30's.



THE NAME GOES UP — on the new office and showroom front at the Branch County Farm Bureau Oil Cooperative in Batavia where modernized expansion is a sign of growth. The former office space becomes a warehouse. Bulk storage units at left have a capacity of 76,000 gallons of fuels.



"HARD SELL" METHODS needed here! Tank driver David Cranston talks over "Balanced Fuels" with customer Dean Pridgeon, Branch County farmer and president of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Dean is also a member of the Farm-Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. board of directors.

## MORE FARMERS JOIN HANDS

Shortly after the Branch County oil co-op organized, others in Michigan followed their example. Their leaders decided to pool their purchases through Farm Bureau Services to improve both quality and price.

A petroleum department was established in Farm Bureau Services and it grew.

It purchased for local cooperatives — liquid fuel, lube oil, greases, tires, and batteries, etc. They also acquired transportation trucks to deliver these supplies.

In 1949 farm leaders felt that another "giant step" should be taken. "Let's get into crude oil", they said. Their reasoning was that such ownership would add further stabilization to their cooperatives. Putting actions to their ideas Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. was organized.

It was owned by Michigan Farm Bureau, local farmer-owned cooperatives, and farmers themselves. Today, farmers and their cooperatives have invested in this organization around two and a half million dollars. Its assets exceed six and a half million dollars. In addition each year dividends have been distributed to its owners. Farmers Petroleum today has interests in over 500 oil wells located in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. Who said farmers can't work together?

# BRANCH IS PIONEER OIL CO-OP

By: Don Kinsey

Ancient history? Not exactly! But this cooperative was born in another era of time. The Branch County Farm Bureau Oil Company was the first such oil co-op in Michigan. It was founded in 1931 B.F.P.C. (before Farmers Petroleum Cooperative — 1949).

Early Farm Bureau petroleum operations in the state were carried on by a department of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. The Branch County oil cooperative actually began as a local branch of Farm Bureau Services. One hundred members bought \$7,000 in stock to get the operation going. Then they decided to make it a county cooperative — local and independent.

The walls of the little salesroom at the Branch County Farm Bureau Oil Company in the 1930's would look like an antique shop to a modern viewer. Horse collars and harness festooned pegs on the walls. Farm Bureau "King" harness and "Walsh's No-Buckle" harness. It was the age of the whiffle-tree and the kerosene lantern for the early chores at the barn. Few barns had electric lighting.

Two little 600-gallon tank wagon trucks ran the routes from the Branch County oil cooperative to the farms. Kerosene was the prime item in the early '30's. You can scarcely buy it today!

One winter day, Bert Rasey, tankwagon driver, sold 141 gallons of gasoline and 154 gallons of kerosene on his route. Kerosene was needed for many of the kitchen stoves, lamps and lanterns, heaters, and even the engine at the "well house" and might run on it. Quite a few tractors ran on kerosene after a preliminary warm-up on gasoline — an "economy measure" of sorts.

Bill Armstrong, who later managed the Branch County oil cooperative, ran a tankwagon route in the 1930's. Bill dispensed his fuels with a five-gallon tin measuring bucket. He would often find a five-gallon kerosene can — or smaller — waiting for him beside the road with a corncob or potato corking the spout. Practically all the business was done on a cash basis in those days.

The trend in tractor fuels favored increased use of gasoline. Farmers mounted 55-gallon drums on home-made racks in the yard. The tank driver filled these with a five-gallon bucket and a funnel. If a farmer bought a "fill" of 100 gallons, he was a "big customer."

Bill Armstrong had the first measuring meters in Michigan installed on his truck. "This took a lot of load off the back," says Bill, who now is a field supervisor for Farmers Petroleum.

He tells of old-fashioned ideas about gasoline in the 1930's. There was a notion afoot that it was better to burn "white gasoline" (non-leaded) in the summer and "regular" gas in the winter. It took a lot of convincing to change this notion.

Early patronage refunds to customers were given in "coupons" by the oil co-op. These could be redeemed in trade for fuels, motor oil or for cup or axle grease. Axle grease was a "big mover."

Warren Dobson, the first manager at the Branch County Farm Bureau Oil Company, says that in 1932, the freight charge on a railroad car of gasoline cost more than the gasoline. Freight rates were high.

The present manager of the Branch County oil operation is the very amiable and likeable Clarence King. Clarence has seen many years in, and many sides of, the Farm Bureau action front.

In the early 1950's, Clarence was the vigorous and capable young president of the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau. He served for a number of years as a regional field representative of the Michigan Farm Bureau. He has had experience as a staff member of the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.

Clarence will see to it that the Branch County Farm Bureau Oil Company continues its fine service record to the farmers and members of Branch County.

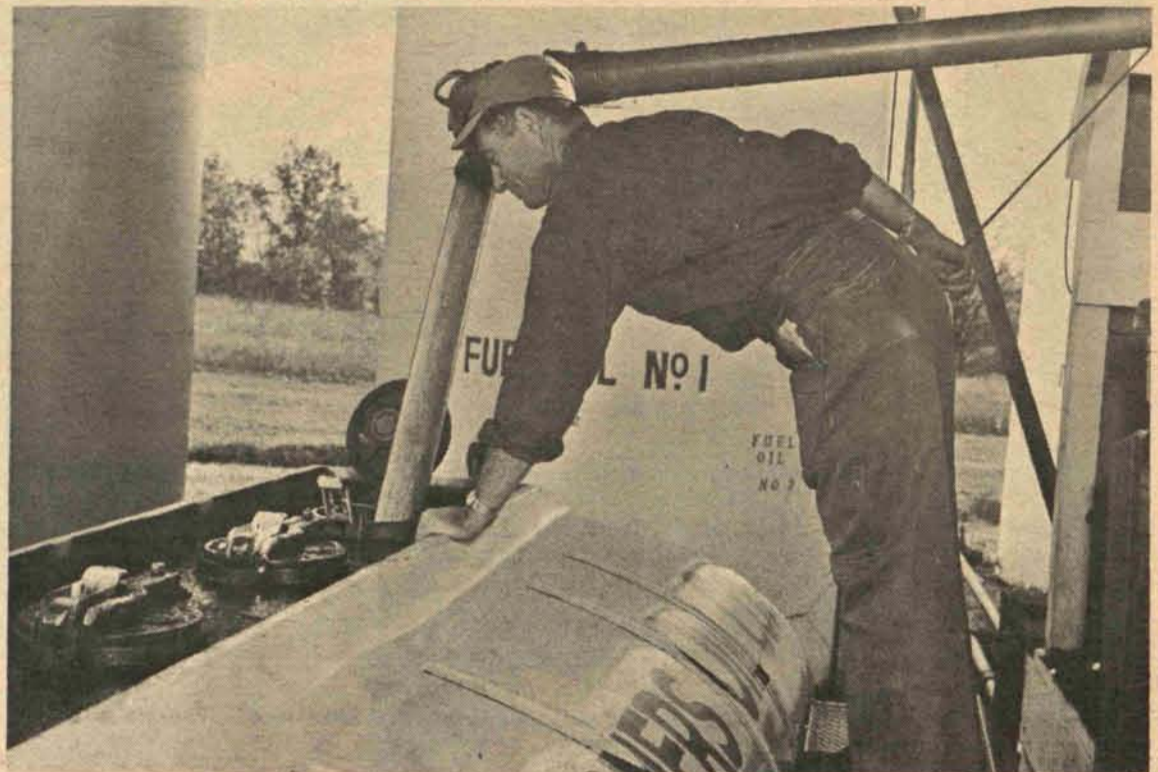
# AGRICULTURE IN ACTION AROUND MICHIGAN

## GUERNSEY AWARD



**PREMIER GUERNSEY BREEDERS**—Mr. and Mrs. Joe Patterson of Reed City, receive the Michigan Guernsey Breeders award for long service. Making the award is Association Director and Michigan Farm Bureau President, Elton Smith, whose all-Guernsey herd in Kent county is well-known.

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY



**A FAMILIAR FIGURE** to residents of the Saline area, Hollis Carr, celebrated his 25th anniversary recently as a tankwagon salesman for the Washtenaw Farmers Oil Company, distributors of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative products. Carr is a member of the Three-Quarter Million Club, an honorary FPC organization for tankwagon salesmen distributing over 750,000 gallons of liquid fuels yearly. He's recently added a new service for his many customers—an electronic answering and recording device.

## TURKEY DINNER



**NORTH ELMWOOD GROUP**—Tuscola county, obviously enjoyed their prize, a 22-pound turkey, awarded for being one of the outstanding groups in the county. Meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Koch, Gagetown, the group did away with the turkey in short order, reports Mrs. Richard Ziehm.

## SPACE RATIONS



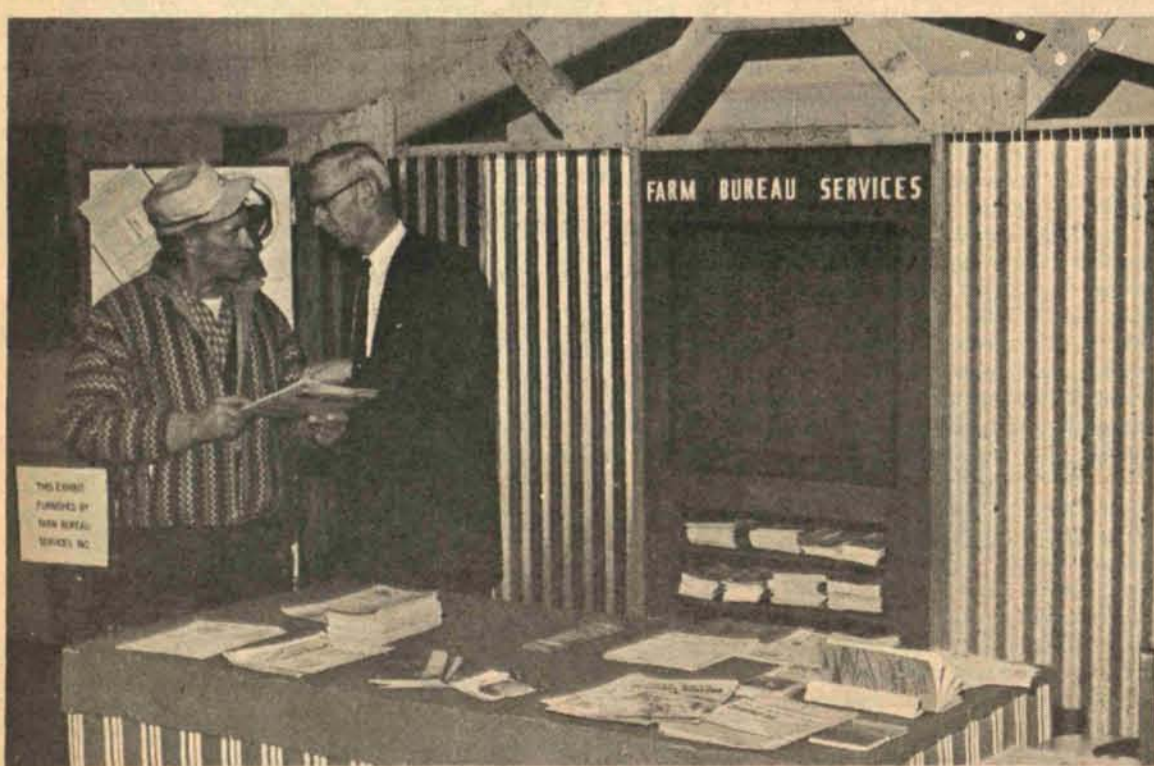
**ASTRONAUT FOOD** is the center of attraction for this group of youngsters at the Farm Bureau Freedom Conference. Talking with NASA facilities development director, Robert F. Freitag, are (from left): Susy Van Dyne, Ovid; R. Dee Woell, Lansing; Freitag; David Jandik and Ronald Darling, Ovid.

## SORGHUM



**FAIR EXCHANGE**—sweet syrup for sweet music, as Mrs. Jesse (Louise) Smith, long-time Farm Bureau convention organizer, is presented with a can of old-fashioned cane sorghum, during the recent Farm Bureau Freedom Conference.

## FARMERS' WEEK EXHIBIT



**NEW POLE-TYPE BUILDINGS**—being sold and constructed by Farm Bureau Services, formed an attractive display at Farmers' Week in the Agricultural Engineering Building, Michigan State University. Harold Milet, Farm Buildings Supervisor for Farm Bureau Services, explains construction of the buildings with a typical roof truss and ultra-modern enameled aluminum siding, to William Chapin of Blanchard.

## THE BOSS'S CHAIR



**JUST FOR FUN**—Duane Dykstra, who works for Farm Bureau President, Elton Smith, on his farm near Caledonia, tries out the Boss's chair in Farm Bureau Center. Looking on are Mrs. Zischke, secretary to Smith, and Mrs. Dykstra (Betty).

FIRST PRIZE



NEW MEMBER CONTEST WINNER—Mrs. Eva Aspin, long-time active Saginaw County Farm Bureau member, won first prize in Saginaw's membership campaign with 14 new members to her credit. She is shown accepting an RCA radio from Roll-Call chairman, Rudolph Reinbold.

READY AND WILLING



NEWAYGO COUNTY ROLL-CALL MANAGER—Mrs. Knox Powers, distributes membership materials to Township Captains at a "clean-up" meeting. Receiving the materials are Bob Landheer and Mrs. Ione Robinson. Mrs. Power's husband is co-chairman of the membership drive with the county currently at 81% of goal.

YOUTH LEAVE AGRICULTURE

An alarming percentage of the nations "agricultural exodus" is composed of rural youth. Norman A. Brown, Coordinator of Student Programs in the College of Agriculture at Michigan State University, said recently that thousands of talented rural youth are "counseled out" of agriculture each year.

*Young people who enjoy rural life should get the facts about careers in agriculture before deciding on their future, Brown said.*

Prospective agricultural employers report a shortage of adequately trained people. There is such a shortage of agricultural graduates from universities and colleges that most graduates have from 3 to 13 job opportunities. The salaries are excellent. The Michigan State University Placement Bureau reports that the average starting salary received by the College of Agriculture bachelor degree graduates in 1965 was in excess of \$7,000.

Up-to-date information on agricultural careers and individual counseling is available from the Coordinator of Student Programs, College of Agriculture, Michigan State University. Brown urges parents, as well as students, to avail themselves of this service.

GRATIOT YOUTH WINS HONOR



David L. Lake

The son of Gratiot County Farm Bureau members has been named valedictorian of Central Michigan University's January 1966 graduating class. David L. Lake, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Lake, Ithaca, achieved a 3.66 average while participating in a long list of campus activities.

Listed in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges," David is a member of several honor societies. The Lakes have been Farm Bureau members since 1953.

YOUNG FARMER MEETINGS

A series of District "Young Farmer" meetings, one in each of 11 districts of the state, is now underway, according to the Community Programs department of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

These are a "follow-up" to the Young Farmer's conference held in Lansing in January. Districts and meeting dates include:

March 1, District 6; March 2, District 2; March 3, District 3; March 7, District 1; March 8, District 4; March 10, District 9. Others are: March 11, District 10; March 12, District 11; March 14, District 7; March 15, District 5; March 16, District 8.

Each county Farm Bureau is asked to select three or more young couples to attend the evening dinner session nearest them, as part of Farm Bureau's continuing program of leadership training.

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.

**1 AUCTIONS**  
 MISSOURI AUCTION SCHOOL. Free catalog! 1330-50 Linwood, Kansas City, Mo. 64109. (2-Tf-10b) 1

**6 DOGS**  
 FOR SALE—Registered English Shepherd puppies. Available March 1st. Stock and watch dogs (formerly Johnson Kennels, Marshall). Lester Evitts, Vestaburg, Michigan. Phone 268-2349. (Montcalm County) (3-2t-23p) 6

ENGLISH SHEPHERD PUPS from Tinker and Bing—\$20.00. For stock and watch. Ferris Bradley, Springport, Michigan (Jackson County) (3-1t-16b) 6

**8 FARM EQUIPMENT**  
 BALE LOADERS—Bales pop-up ground to wagon. Literature free. Write: Ottawa-Hitch, FN321, Holland, Michigan. (2-2t-16b) 8

LAYING CAGES—Automatic Poultry Feeders. Brooders. Nests. Literature free. Write: Ottawa-Hitch FN321, Holland, Michigan. (2-2t-15b) 8

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**10 FARMS FOR SALE**  
 FOR SALE—160 acre grade "A" dairy farm, 400 gallon bulk milk tank, 22 Holstein cows, modern home, large stanchion barn. Total price \$21,000.00. Terms. John McDonald, Pickford, Michigan. Phone 647-5211 (Chippewa County) (3-1t-30p) 10

FOR SALE:—Beef farm with 290 tillable acres—30 virgin timber, three barns, flowing well, creek, large brick home. \$18,000.00. John McDonald, Pickford, Michigan. Phone 647-5211. (Chippewa County) (3-1t-26p) 10

FOR SALE—Complete 300 acre Grade A dairy farm with bulk pick up on excellent market. Located half mile south of Onaway, across highway from new school. Will sell as a unit or will sell farm, cattle or equipment separately. Reason for selling—ill health. For further information call or write Milo Horrocks, Onaway, Michigan. This farm would be suitable for a feeder cattle setup. (Presque Isle County) (3-1t-65p) 10

**14 FOR SALE**  
 FARRROWING CRATES—Complete \$22.95. Free Literature. Dolly Enterprises, 219 Main, Colchester, Illinois. (1-3t-12p) 8

15-45 HP J.I. Case Steam Engine, \$1700.00; 28-46 Avery roller bearing grain and bean separator, all steel, \$100.00; 1925 Model T Ford 4 door sedan \$800.00. All items in show condition. 125 ft. good rubber drive belt \$35.00; 2" tube roller \$5.00; 3" \$6.50; 1 1/2" \$4.00; hand heading tool \$4.00; tube cutter \$6.00; John Deere 6 HP gas engine, like new, \$100.00; Cushman 4 HP—good shape \$40.00; 4 HP vertical roller bearing engine—needs carburetor, \$20.00; grain drill and binder \$30.00. Richard D. Upham, 3136 E. Stewart Rd., Midland, Michigan 48640 (Midland County) (3-1t-108b) 14

**14 FOR SALE**  
 FOR SALE—375 gallon stainless steel Dari Kool, 3 years old, \$900.00 and 250 gallon stainless steel, 3 years old, \$650.00. Also, 20 Holstein Heifers, vaccinated, due July and August. Ed W. Tanis, Jenison, Michigan, phone MO 9-9226. (Ottawa County) (3-2t-37b) 14

SEVERAL LOTS of 1st and 2nd cutting alfalfa and Brome hay from \$17.00-\$22.00 per ton. Ferris Bradley, Springport, Michigan. (Jackson County) (3-1t-20b) 14

**20 LIVESTOCK**  
 HEREFORD BULLS—pure bred herd sires. Ready for service. Also, registered heifers and calves. Egypt Valley Hereford Farm, 6611 Knapp St., Ada, Michigan. Phone OR 8-1090. (Kent County) (11-tf-25b) 20

DAIRYMEN—Use Perfect Balancer 8% phosphate mineral feed. Mix one pound of Perfect Balancer to every 100 lbs. of ground feed. You can eliminate bone meal by using Perfect Balancer. Get Perfect Balancer at your elevator. The Gelatin Bone Co., Box 125, Emmett, Michigan. (tf-40b) 20

CATTLE FEEDERS—Feed high analysis Perfect Balancer 8% phosphate mineral feed. Feed free choice. Put plain salt in one container and Perfect Balancer Mineral in another container. The animal knows which one he needs. Get Perfect Balancer mineral at your elevator. The Gelatin Bone Co., Box 125, Emmett, Michigan. (tf-47b) 20

FEEDING HOGS? Use salt free, high analysis Perfect Balancer 8% phosphate mineral feed in your hog feed. Mix one pound of Perfect Balancer with each 100 lbs. of ground feed. You can eliminate bone meal by using Perfect Balancer. Get Perfect Balancer at your elevator. The Gelatin Bone Co., Box 125, Emmett, Michigan. (tf-50b) 20

**22 NURSERY STOCK**  
 STARK BRO'S NEW 150th ANNIVERSARY CATALOG FREE! Spectacular full-color display of Giant-size Apples, Peaches, Nectarines (Fuzzless Peaches), Pears, Cherries, Apricots, Plums from DWARF, Semi-Dwarf, Standard Size trees. Ornamentals, Roses, etc. Guaranteed. Stark, Dept. 30636, Louisiana, Missouri 63353. (1-3t-39b) 22

**24 PLANTS & FLOWERS**  
 LIKE SWEET ONIONS? NEW BLUE RIBBON ASSORTMENT 600 sweet onion plants with free planting guide \$3 post-paid fresh from Texas Onion Plant Company, "home of the sweet onion," Farmersville, Texas 75031. (1-4t-31b) 24

**26 POULTRY**  
 POULTRYMEN—Use Perfect Balancer, 8% phosphate mineral feed in your ground feed. Eliminate soft shelled eggs. Mix 3 lbs. per 100 lbs. feed. The Gelatin Bone Co., Box 125, Emmett, Michigan. (tf-25b) 26

1800 BRED TO LAY Blue Diamond baby chicks available weekly, parents from proven R.O.P. Foundation Stock. Free literature. MacPherson Hatchery, Ionia. (Ionia County) (3-2t-21b) 26

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BABY CHICKS—Ghostly Pearls, Hy-lines, Calif-Grey Cross, White Rocks, Reds. Send for price list. Brewer Poultry Farm, 18135 Brewer Road, Dundee, Michigan. (Monroe County) 3-4t-23b) 26

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# "COMP" PUTS CRIMP IN FARM INCOME

## DISCUSSION TOPIC

PREPARED BY THE  
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT  
MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

## CONFUSION COMPOUNDED

"It would help farmers to know just how this new Workmen's Compensation law affects them." This was the idea in mind when the Farm Bureau Women requested this discussion topic. But it seems that the 1965 law, as it applies to agriculture, is about as clear as a muddy stream.

The Legislature made changes and additions to the Michigan Workmen's Compensation Law in June of 1965, and the Governor signed the bill. "Workmen's Comp" was to be compulsory for farm employers for the first time. In previous years, carrying or not carrying this insurance had been a voluntary matter for farmers.

Proposals in the original 1965 bill would have compelled farmers to meet the same requirements for Workmen's Compensation as those established for industry. Michigan Farm Bureau tried vigorously to convince legislators that farmers already snowed under by operating costs could not afford this added expense.

It was possible to get some concessions for the agricultural section of the act. Under Farm Bureau efforts, legislators finally agreed that farm jobs and operations are not the same as in industry. Many farm workers are hired for short work periods. They shift frequently from job to job. If numerous and repeated new insurance policies were required, it could bankrupt many farmers. And most farms are operated by families rather than stock corporations. This complicates things.

The law as written was intended to omit the requirement of Workmen's Compensation insurance for farmers who hire workers for short periods of time. But did it really do this? What would a court decision on the question say? There are confusions in the law which could make even this point uncertain. We will point them out.

When the requirements for farm coverage take effect as presently written, Michigan benefits will become among the highest, if not actually the highest, in the nation!

Those who call this a "a feather in Michigan's cap" are not the ones who have to bear the burden of expense for the program.

Insurance companies say that rates cannot be figured from the present wording of the law—and that, as it is, the law cannot be administered.

The rate set by the Workmen's Compensation Rating Bureau calls for payments of \$8.35 per \$100 of payroll—with a minimum premium of \$234. The rate is "a shocker" to farmers.

The confusions in the wording of the law have been admitted. The Senate and House Committees on Labor have recommended that the effective date of the agricultural section be postponed until May 1, 1957, and bills to do this have been introduced. The kinks in the law need to be ironed out, but unless the legislature acts favorably, and soon on this recommendation, postponement and corrections will not come in time.

## BOARD TAKES ACTION

The Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors has asked the Legislature and the Governor to consider the following points and to delay the effective date of the law:

1. Many farm employers hire persons who are unemployable in other jobs and industries. They may have physical or other handicaps—or some previous injury which makes them uninsurable. If these persons cannot find any work they add to the public welfare rolls.

2. Clearer classifications of "farm workers" are needed so that rates can be more clearly related to the hazards existing in different kinds of farm jobs.

3. Since most farmers now carry some medical and liability insurance on employed workers, a scale of limited coverage should be established under the law to consider present protections which farmers provide.

4. The law should be clarified as it applies to the members of the farm family, including children, who may be paid for work done on their family farm.

5. Coverages and rates required for farm workers should be reviewed and reduced.

A serious confusion exists regarding when a farm employer must begin paying for worker coverage. Let's read the key sections of the law and examine why this confusion exists. The law reads:

"All agricultural employers of three or more regular employees paid hourly wages or salaries who are employed 36 or more hours per week for a period of 13 or more weeks during the preceding 52 weeks—(must carry Workmen's Compensation insurance). Coverage shall apply only to such regularly employed employees."

For another class of employees:

"All agricultural employers of one or more employees who are employed for a period of five consecutive weeks during which the employee worked 35 or more hours per week shall provide for such employees' hospital and medical coverage for all injuries arising out of and in the course of employment . . . provided, however, that such provision of medical and hospital coverage shall not eliminate any remedy

otherwise available to the employee against the employer."

Note that—under the Workmen's Compensation coverage the employee could not sue his employer for further damages or lost wages resulting from an injury on the job. With the hospital and medical coverage only, he could still bring suit against the employer.

Now, again—when must the coverage be started? Is an employee eligible immediately upon taking a job or after working for 13 weeks? The law states that "regular employees" are eligible. It does not say that he is not eligible until after 13 weeks of work on the job.

Or take another case. Suppose that a farmer hires two persons. He is not required to provide Workmen's Compensation. But what if he hires a third person, and the two other workers have worked for 13 weeks or more. What then? Do the two become immediately eligible for Workmen's Compensation coverage, or after another 13 weeks? Are all three immediately eligible?

To deepen the confusion—what if a farmer releases the third man at the end of 12 weeks and hires someone else? Does this mean that the 12-week period begins all over again? Is coverage required or isn't it?

What about members of the family—perhaps children—who may be paid for doing jobs on the family farm? "Partners" would be part of the employing party, but are other paid members of the family "employees"? Do they count among the three cited in the law? It is probable that "change-work" arrangements would mean that each farmer would become an employee when helping his neighbor!

If family members are included, many more farmers will have to carry Workmen's Compensation insurance! The inclusion of family members worries insurance companies. It increases the risks.

Claims could be made for injuries whether received in actual farm work or not. Even mowing the lawn or washing the dishes could be classed as work in connection with the farm operation—and done on the farm.

Whether or not piece-rate

workers must be included is not clear. Some say that the "intent" of the law is not to include them. But it depends on how you define "wages." Nothing in the law says that piecework earnings are not wages. A recent publication by Michigan State University states that they are not covered, but many other authorities do not agree under the present wording of the law.

At least one interpretation of the law would require farmers to add a reasonable amount to their payroll reports for room, board or other extras provided. The inclusion of these costs would increase the employer's cost of insurance. A suggested rate, for example, is \$3 per week for housing and \$1 per day for meals.

If such interpretation of the law is allowed to stand, these fringe benefits could become even more costly to the farmer.

These are some of the confusions, and there are numerous others. Still more confusion can arise if farmers become subject to the hundreds of court decisions handed down about Workmen's Compensation in past years.

It is impossible for farmers to understand how this law applies to them when the law itself isn't clear.

Members need to back a strong appeal, RIGHT NOW to their state Senators and Representatives, asking for the delay in effective date of the law, to provide time for needed adjustments and clarifications.

Farmers should also insist that action be taken NOW, during the present session of the legislature, to make the many needed changes. This would allow a chance for farmers to learn exactly what the law requires, and let them make the best adjustment possible.

Let's not wait until next year!

### ACTION-EXERCISE

Outline a statement for your group members to send to the state Senator and Representative. Tell of the changes you feel are needed in the 1965 Workmen's Compensation Act, as it affects farmers. State your reasons clearly.

(Then send the statement to them. Do this in individual families, not as a group statement.)



WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION—was the topic of a panel discussion sponsored recently by the Isabella County Farm Bureau, with over 200 concerned farmers in attendance. Members of the panel included (left to right): Rep. Russell Strange, Senator Guy Vander Jagt, Loren Gray, attorney and panel moderator; Robert Smith, Michigan Farm Bureau Legislative Counsel; James Rathbun, Underwriting Manager, Farm Bureau Insurance, and Robert Carter, Clare County farmer.

# The TOP NAMES in THE FIELD



**ASTRINGENT LEAD ARSENATE:** For effective control of chewing insects.  
**DDT:** Organic insecticide — controls large variety of insects.  
**2-4D:** Selective control of large variety broadleaf weeds.  
**2-4-5T:** Controls many woody type plants.  
**MALATHION**



QUALITY • ECONOMY



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**CYPREX:** Outstanding for control of cherry leaf spot on sour cherries and non-bearing sweet cherries.  
**THIMET — 10G:** Granular systemic for potatoes and sugar beets.



**SEVIN:** Controls wide range of insects of fruit, vegetables and field crops.  
**MICRO DRITOMIC SULFUR:** For control of various fungi on fruit.  
**MALATHION:** One of the safest products for insect control.  
**ASTRINGENT LEAD ARSENATE • DDT • 2-4D • 2-4-5T**



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**ATRAZINE:** Outstanding weed killer for corn.  
**SIMAZINE:** Pre-emergence weed killer for corn, established nursery stock and certain non-bearing fruit.  
**DIAZINON 14-G:** For control of northern corn rootworms and wireworms.



**AMIBEN:** Pre-emergence weed and grass killer — Beans.  
**PYRAMIN:** New weed killer — Sugar Beets.



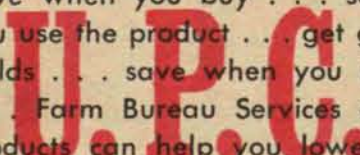
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# APRIL 12, 1965



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## *THE MORNING AFTER...*

The dawn of April 12th unveiled a shocking scene of destruction. Several tornadoes had swept through southern and central Michigan the night before — leaving damage, injury and death. The landscape was covered with the debris of homes and farm buildings which had been torn apart by the winds. Machinery was mangled. Silos were toppled. Livestock was dead or injured.

The Palm Sunday tornadoes left 47 dead and 788 injured. Approximately 700 homes were totally destroyed. Another 680 received major structural damage. Countless farm buildings were damaged or destroyed. The total financial loss surpassed \$23 million.

Unfortunately, many of the tornado victims found themselves underinsured — and were required to bear financial losses in the amount of tens of thousands of dollars.

This year's tornado season is just beginning. Please take a minute to make sure your insurance is adequate. Ask your local Farm Bureau Insurance Agent for an evaluation of the protection on your farm.

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