IMPORTANT TAX BILL — one of several vital to Michigan farmers, is signed into law by Governor Romney. Exempted from taxation are fruit and Christmas trees, shrubs, bushes and vines. Also prevented is taxation of other farm crops.

WITNESSING THE SIGNING are (from left) Rep. Charles Raap (D), Wilbur Paul, blueberry grower, Senator Vanderploeg (D), introducer of the bill, all of Muskegon; Elton Smith, President, Michigan Farm Bureau and Robert Smith, Legislative Counsel.

FARMERS GAIN SUBSTANTIAL TAX RELIEF

Governor Signs Two Major Tax Measures

Few things are simple anymore.

In today's complicated world, it often happens that a scratch of a pen in Lansing or Washington has more effect on a farmer's income than anything he can do on his farm.

July 11 and 12 were two big days in the economic life of every Michigan farmer. On the morning of July 11, Governor Romney signed into law Senate Bill 710 (introduced by Senator Johnson, D-Marshall), thereby eliminating taxes on all farm personal property. On the afternoon of July 12, Romney signed Senate Bill 352 (introduced by Senator Vanderploeg, D-Muskegon), exempting fruit and Christmas trees, shrubs, plants and vines from assessment.

From now on, Michigan farmers will save millions of dollars of taxes every year, and some long-delayed equity has been brought into the Michigan tax structure.

S. 710 not only eliminates the personal tax on machinery and livestock, which were traditionally assessed, but also on silage, hay in the barn, grain in the bin, corn in the crib and ground feed, which were taxable, but in most cases were not taxed.

By the same token, S. 352 affects all farmers because it not only stops the practices existing in some counties, it also prevents the assessment of wheat, winter barley, rye, hay (alfalfa, clover, etc.) or any other crop in the ground on the assessment date. This is provided that this gain can be maintained year after year.

These tax gains, much as the agricultural exemption on sales tax, and the tax exemption on gasoline for non-highway use, will no doubt be challenged year in and year out, and farmers, through Farm Bureau, will have to continually justify them.

The effort to gain equity on the effect of the property tax on farmers through S. 710 and S. 352 is a striking parallel to the sales tax exemption fight. The sales tax exemption on farm production supplies resulted from a fight led by Farm Bureau more than 30 years ago. That fight was carried in both the courts and the Legislature.

The court case went to the Supreme Court and was won. The Legislature then changed the statute. The issue at the time was whether agriculture should be treated the same as industry. Industry had been granted some personal property tax relief through the removal of the tax on "tools, dies, jigs, etc." and tax relief on equipment used to prevent water and air pollution.

Another parallel exists in the passage of S. 352, exempting trees, bushes, etc. The unreasonable assessment practices developing in some counties could have led to a long and costly fight in the courts. In fact, one Legislator who opposed the bill admitted that the practices were unjust, but claimed that farmers should take it to the courts.

Fortunately, many Legislators recognized it for what it was — a legislative problem.

Special: FARMERS PETROLEUM REPORT Pages 9, 10, 11, 12
Michigan wheat farmers prepare for harvest even as the last of the old crop moves into market channels. As they do so, they can note with satisfaction the recent direct sale of a cargo of soft wheat out of Michigan to a milling firm in England.

Most important, this was a farmer-to-farmer arrangement. That such a federal government has become a dominating factor in the international market through manipulation of such things as export subsidies and "authorizations" of Public Law 480 sales.

Although the sale of one cargo of wheat may be a relatively minor factor of itself, officials of the Michigan Elevator Exchange which made the sale are justified in pointing out that it has a significance beyond size in representing closer international marketing ties.

Further, it was soft wheat—a Michigan specialty and an important crop in our state, with last year's 30,000,000 bushels worth about $55,000,000 in farm income.

Soft wheat is primarily used in crackers, cook- ing ingredients, and pastas as opposed to the hard varieties, used mostly for bread-flour and macaroni products. But hard or soft, all wheat these days is produced and marketed under the watchful eye of the Federal government.

And the federal government has much of the final say as to where and when it will be sold in international trade. Employed are a number of our own, of control operations.

For example, although many countries of the world have strong demand for Michigan soft wheat and may prefer it, they find soft wheat prices too high to permit much for the government manipulation of export-subsidies.

The level of these subsidies is set on a daily basis by an export committee within the United States Department of Agriculture, and they vary with classes of wheat. "The subsidy fluctuates almost as much as does the actual market and we watch it about as close," reports Ed Powell of the Michigan Elevator Exchange.

To complicate matters more, subsidy levels differ between ports on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. By changes in subsidy rates, certain classes of wheat may be placed at disadvantage with others.

—And soft wheat appears to take second place in the minds of government officials, for in mid-July, the difference between subsidies on soft and hard wheat in the Great Lakes was 9¢ per bushel, in favor of hard wheat.

The injection of such complicated problems into the relatively simple world of the wheat farmer's life and concerns expresses concern last fall for the future of Michigan's soft wheat, and markets for it.

The Delegates urged "further exploration and intensified efforts" to form a Soft Wheat Growers Foundation organization through action by Farm Bureau.

At a recent meeting in Farm Bureau Center, Lansing, wheat producers showed enthusiastic support for the idea. Representatives of ten of Michigan's wheat-growing districts called for port subsidies, better treatment of soft wheat in international marketing ties.

Although names and places shall remain anonymous—the folks of one Michigan community continue to chide about the way a farm family reacted after strangers misused a lovely shaded spot in their pasture for a picnic grounds.

Not that they ordinarily begrudge the use of the place, for there are friendly folks, well liked in their community and not given to grouching. Still the guests were uninvited, made no effort to consult the owners, treated the place as their own and left plentiful evidence of their picnic when they moved on.

Actually, that's what did it. Among the scattered swimpings, peeling and old papers, was the address of a family living in a not-too-distant city. Later, it was confirmed that the address matched the owner's name of the car license which the farmer had thoughtfully jotted down.

Not that they expected to enjoy what they were about to do, but our farm friends still were determined to do it. They prepared a picnic lunch, complete with multiple loose wrapping, things that peel easily and cans to be opened and scattered. They started off to town.

It was a fine Sunday, and they timed it about right for the noon-hour as they set up light-house-keeping on the offending family's lawn in one of the best neighborhoods. Dad went the table-cloth, and out came the food, followed shortly by the unbelieving home-owners, who had first called police. It turns out they shouldn't have done this.

Meanwhile, the "picnic" continued to progress to the delight of a number of onlookers who had gathered to watch by the time the local constabulary responded to the call. A policeman who listened politely, appeared to think it was one of the funniest things that ever happened to lives an otherwise dull day.

He called the local newspaper which promptly sent a photo-reporter to cover the story, and then stood guard until the farm family was finished—leaving behind the wrappings, the peeling, the tin cans . . .

"Remember us?—We own that pasture where you picnic every year!

sooner or later . . .

IT HAD TO HAPPEN!

There is no doubt that the marketing of soft wheat is an important crop for us in Michigan. A new marketing order would help the American public realize the value of Michigan-grown wheat.

E.S.
POLICY-RESOLUTION PROCESS BEGINS

COMMITTEE SELECTED WORK SCHEDULE SET

The group that many feel is Michigan's most important single farm committee, has been appointed and will swing into action within a few days. All of the 15 members of the Michigan Farm Bureau Resolutions Committee have accepted.

It is with deep concern for the problems of agriculture that I accept appointment to the Resolutions Committee. I will serve to the best of my ability and plan to be at the opening session, August 9th.

This reply to President Smith by Mrs. Andrew Jackson, one of the three persons to represent Farm Bureau in the Resolutions Committee, is typical of the attitudes expressed toward the important task.

Serving with Mrs. Jackson, who comes from Livingston county, will be Mrs. LaVerne Kramer, Hilldale; and Mrs. William Lockhart of Chippewa county in Michigan's Thumb.

Louis Hayward of South Boardman, Kalkaska county, has accepted the demanding post as Committee Chairman.

Between the time he first gaves the group its first task August 9th, and the final, formal sessions of the Committee during the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in mid-November, the group will have become involved in thousands of resolutions and hundreds of thousands of words, in putting together a comprehensive policy platform and program of work for Michigan's largest farm organization.

Accepting a position on Farm Bureau's Resolutions Committee is not to be done lightly, for committee work is not something that can be done in "spare" time.

Rather—a competition with daily duty is much more appropriate, for the group is often "locked up" in formal sessions, hears "witnesses" testify, and listens to experts and spokesmen for other organizations.

Although opinions and arguments on the resolutions work of the Committee and its sub-groups are to make sure that Farm Bureau resolutions are based on fact, not opinion or prejudice.

All this action is spread over a thirteen month period, with the tentative calendar shaping up somewhat in this fashion: August 9th—organizational meeting. August 23rd —policy development conferences. October 4th—hearings and presentation of background material.

Tied to this renewed emphasis on county policy development will be a statewide series of regional meetings of county resolutions committees.

Probable issue will be the theme of the series, with members of the Public Affairs Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau presenting background material for local policy development at.

Last year more than 1,600 county Farm Bureau policy recommendations were adopted locally and forwarded to the state Resolutions Committee for review.

Later, they were combined into a composite book with the weight and appearance of a mail-order catalog.

It is this book of proposals which will become the center of attention at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, and out of it will come another action-packed policy program for the new year.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

District 1, Adolph Dongello, Jr., District 2, Nicholas Smith, District 3, Arthur Rouley, District 4, Russell Sill, District 5, Ralph Letson, District 6, Alfred Goodall, District 7, Lawrence Robinson, District 8, Harmon Williams, District 9, Louis Hayward, Committee Chairman, District 10, Edwin L. Steele, District 11, Charles Donaldson, Jr., Farm Bureau Young People, to be announced.

Farm Bureau Women, Mrs. Andrew Jackson, Mrs. LaVerne Kramer, Mrs. William Lockhart, Members at Large, representing Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors: Dean Pridgin, Eugene Roberts and Robert Zeeb.

Farm Bureau policies are the result of the combined thinking and action of thousands of farm people.

POLICIES FOR DEALING WITH

COUNTY ISSUES

STATE ISSUES

NATIONAL ISSUES

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

REPORTS FROM COUNTY RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEES

TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

POLICIES FOR DEALING WITH

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

REPORTS FROM STATE

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBERS STAR HERE

DISTRICT RESOLUTIONS

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEES

D A T E S T O R E M E M B E R

August 9: 1966 Resolutions Committee—first meeting.
August 9: Dist. 9 Midsummer Meeting of Executive Committees and Membership Chairmen.
August 11: Dist. 4 Midsummer Meeting.
August 12: Dist. 5 Midsummer Meeting.
August 15: Dist. 3 Midsummer Meeting.
August 16: Dist. 1 Midsummer Meeting.
August 23: Statewide Policy Development Meeting—state and county Resolutions Committees, county presidents and women's committee chairman.
August 24: Dist. 8 Midsummer Meeting.
August 25: Dist. 7 Midsummer Meeting.
August 26: Dist. 6 Midsummer Meeting.
August 30: Dist. 2 Midsummer Meeting.
Sept. 27-28: Dist. 6 Farm Bureau Women's Fall Meet.
Oct. 4: Dist. 9 Farm Bureau Women's Fall Meet.
Oct. 5: Dist. 7 Farm Bureau Women's Fall Meet.
Oct. 6: Dist. 4 Farm Bureau Women's Fall Meet.
Oct. 11: Dist. 2 Farm Bureau Women's Fall Meet.
Oct. 12: Dist. 8 Farm Bureau Women's Fall Meet.
Oct. 13: Dist. 3 Farm Bureau Women's Fall Meet.
Oct. 17: Dist. 5 Farm Bureau Women's Fall Meet.
Oct. 18: Dist. 10 Farm Bureau Women's Fall Meet.
Oct. 23: Dist. 1 Farm Bureau Women's Fall Meet.
Oct. 25: Dist. 1 Farm Bureau Women's Fall Meet.
Nov. 9-10-11: Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.
Dec. 4-5: American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

OLDEST & YOUNGEST

Symbolizing a great past and a vigorous future, the oldest and youngest Michigan cooperative leaders are being sought by the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives.

Both will be honored as part of October "Co-op Month" ceremonies when Michigan, along with more than 20 other states, will pay tribute to the cooperative movement and to the people who have supported it.

"There can be no 'movement' without movers—people who make things go. Such people have built the kind of cooperatives in Michigan which serve people, and they have earned a great deal of admiration," said LA Cheney, Secretary-Manager of the Co-op Association.

"By recognizing and honoring the oldest known living 'cooperator' from within our membership, the person who has continuously used and supported cooperatives over the greatest number of years, we will be saluting a great past," Cheney said. "But to stop there would be foolish.

"The youngest cooperative leader must be a youthful person elected to a Michigan cooperative board, and presently serving.

"Persons selected will be invited to attend the signing of Cooperative Month proclamation by Governor Romney, and to participate in a number of other promotional

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

The months ahead are busy ones for Farm Bureau members, beginning with August "Midsummer Meetings" of county Farm Bureau executive committees and membership chairmen.

Scheduled by districts, the meetings are aimed at informing county leadership on the expanded stone for a successful program and reviewing the past year's activities. Also, counties will be submitting their "by laws" for state membership goal.

According to Charles Burkett, Field Operations Department, the meetings will be "the foundation stone for a successful 1967 membership drive."

October is the month for county Farm Bureau annual meetings and Farm Bureau Women's district fall meetings, followed by the Michigan Farm Bureau convention November 9-10-11, Michigan State University campus, East Lansing.

Exciting Las Vegas is the site of this year's American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting, December 4-5. Farm Bureau members will have an opportunity to participate in a "Convention Tour" to Las Vegas by way of sunny California.
Session Reaches Tense Climax
Legislature is now "recessed."

What was the score?
That's a question people always ask about a ball game. Just how well did farmers "score" in the session of the legislature recently concluded? According to two well-known Farm Bureau "team members," Legislative Counsels Dan Reed and Robert Smith, "this has been another highly successful year for Michigan farmers. Many key members of both parties recognized this need for additional tax relief and gave the farmers a balanced tax structure.

Top of the list was passage of two major tax bills, reported in depth elsewhere, but which mean a giant step toward correcting a major flaw in the state's tax structure. One bill completely eliminates taxes on farm personal property, the other exempts fruit and Christmas trees, shrubs, plants, etc., from taxation. Both will mean millions upon millions in tax savings for farmers.

The "box score." (statistics) of the last session is impressive when compared to the record of the previous "72nd Session." Nearly 3300 bills were introduced in the most current session as compared to about 550 for the previous "72nd Session." Each "Legislature" is dead. This occurred in both sessions. Both men pointed out a similar situation which existed within the past two years to truly evaluate the full (most recent) 73rd Session.

They must keep in mind that the "73rd Session" which concluded technically the "second session of the 73rd legislation" really was the first session of the "73rd Session" which occurred this year that for the first time under the new Constitution, bills introduced in the first year of a two-year session automatically carry over to the "live" and open for action in the second year.

Bills not acted upon at the end of the session of the second year of the Legislature are dead. This occurred this year. However, next year's 74th Legislature begins with a clean slate and if necessary, bills will have a two-year life.

This means that farmers can have two chances at each piece of legislation important to them. At the same time, bills contrary to farm interests that were not acted upon in the previous session will be given a second chance this year.

As one legislative teammate Dan Reed explained that measuring how well farmers have done is "a relative thing." For instance, although we did receive an important measure of tax relief in the passage of the two major tax bills, farmers still support total tax reform, leading to a second "tax strategy." (Continued...)

"We hear a lot about consumer protection. Consumers are major consumers, too, and need protection through regulation of the sale of the things they need—Kleenex, foods, fertilizers and seeds," according to Smith.

Both Smith and Reed reflected concern that gains made in this legislation, along with all previous gains—must be maintained and protected in future sessions, "at a time when people fully understand the importance to them of a sound agriculture."

The Public Affairs Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau is compiling a complete summary of legislative acts taken in the past session which are of importance to all farmers.

AG-COMMISSION MUDBLE
The effectiveness of the important five-member Agriculture Committee, which leads the Michigan Department of Agriculture, has been hampered by confusions and political maneuvering.

Required by law to be a bi-partisan group, both Republicans and Democrats are members. Governor Romney has appointed, and the Senate has confirmed, four members: Mr. F. P. Lange, Sebewaing; and Richard K. Stout, Marshall, and two Representatives, Mr. Seth Tempkin, Traverse City, and Charles Don aldson, Jr., Daggett. The fifth member, Mr. Bill Tharp, of the Commission and Chairman, Blane Knirk, Quincy, was appointed by the Governor.

Michigan's Constitution provides that unless an appointee is rejected within 60 session days, the appointment is confirmed. On what was considered by many to be the 50th day, Knirk drew amendment and was not rejected. The succeeding day, however, Senate Democrats muster needed votes for rejection.

American agriculture is done. It's going to take someone to stop this. The people of any nation we set out to help.

If we want the people of this world to trust our word and listen to us, we need to do something about the way we think and talk about our food policies and the way we help other nations.

Pressure is building up in high political circles, as well as among church leaders, to take off all restraints on food production in our country, and to use the resulting surpluses in an enormous program of supplying food to hungry people throughout the world. It sounds good. It has great humanitarian appeal. But those who advocate it surely have not thought it through.

In the first place, who would pay the farmers for their efforts? If this load should be placed upon taxpayers already struggling under the greatest weight of indebtedness that any people have ever borne, it would probably make our economy altogether unviable.

If we expect the countries receiving the food to pay for it, we are deceiving ourselves. Most of the food we have already supplied has not been paid for, and to put these countries further in our debt would be to overburden their economies and would probably do more harm than good.

Furthermore, it is exceedingly dangerous to teach the people of any country, our own included, that free food is available. That of itself is destructive to the economy of any nation we set out to help. It takes the emphasis of local production, and teaches people to hope that any temporary windfall that comes their way might be permanent. Millions of people in our own country have already been misled by that harmful and deceptive belief and practice.

More importantly, if we supply more free food, the people of these countries helped will grow even faster than the available food supply. All the food we could send would not keep pace with the ever-increasing number of mouths to consume it.

For instance, the agricultural sector would be extremely cruel, as it would lead people everywhere to believe that some progress was being made toward solving the twin problems of an extra 25 million and mounting populations.

Two things are necessary to solve this problem. The first is an insistent and thorough campaign to teach the people of the world to limit the size of their families. The second is to learn once and for all that socialism never has and never will produce food abundantly.

The Communist countries, all of which are now plagued by food shortages, could solve the problem in one year by abandoning socialized farming and returning the land to the peasants, with freedom to farm as it they wished. Their rulers know this, but are unwilling to do it because it would weaken their hold upon the people and their control over them.

Increasing hunger will finally demonstrate the failure of socialized farming and force the Communist bosses to grant more freedom to the people. If we send free food to these countries, it will lessen the pressure upon the Communist rulers, and will enable them to continue their oppression of the people.

The idea of free food for a world, conceived by good people with humanitarian motives, would make the difficult situation of the peasants worse. It is to be hoped that the American people will see these facts before it is too late, and stop this disastrous policy before any more damage is done.

If we try the program for a few years and cause the birth of 350 million people, this will eventually have to starve along with the others when the food runs out. They will finally become evident that the proposal is impossible.
"Consumer Protection"

The 73rd Legislature is still technically in session. It recessed on June 29 and will return for a day or two on August 22 for further consideration of some issues that were left in conference committees.

One of these issues, H. 3867, indicates a need for an important degree. This Farm Bureau supported bill, as originally introduced, was not, as they say, an important, but non-controversial bill. It was a true "consumer protection" bill. It would have replaced Michigan's presently antiquated general food law (passed 1st August 1922). This food law was first adopted in 1922 and then revised by the House Judiciary Committee in 1923. The House then amended H. 3867 to make it cover much more than food, to include drugs, devices, cosmetics and any other commodity of any kind manufactured for human consumption. This broadening of the bill, of course, eliminated any possibility of a food law in Michigan in uniformity with other states.

While the Michigan Department of Agriculture has always had the responsibility of administering the food and sanitation laws and weights and measures, it does not want, and probably should not have, jurisdiction over drugs, cosmetics, etc.

Another problem was a strong, but unsuccessful, fight by some hereafter known to many 1967 to, in effect, turn over much of the Department of Agriculture's regulatory ability to the Health Department.

Farm Bureau opposed such an amendment because it would have been a backward step and could have resulted in returning to the old status of each and every local unit, and with the duplication of inspections for dairy farms, meat and other commodities.

The health groups tried to amend the food bill after failing to get it passed out of the committee, which could have eliminated the good accomplished last year by passing a uniform dairy inspection bill and the statewide meat inspection bill. Farm Bureau opposed these amendments.

The Senate Committee on Agriculture removed many of the House amendments. This left the original food bill to its original purpose of updating the Michigan food laws.

The House Agriculture Committee would adopt the proposals of the health groups. However, one of those provisions, which was one of the manner, during the floor debate, hence the deadlock. The House insisted on its amendment and the Senate will not accept it.

The conference committee must report. The important fact is that passage of the new food law as originally written, together with the new Weights and Measures Law passed three or four years ago and some measure passed last year, will give the Michigan consumer continued protection second to none.

"Not Me—You're Going to Obedience School!"

Poor Grandpa P... P... P... P... P.

Grandpa first took just a bit of whiskey — occasionally, for a tonic. He didn't really set out to become an alcoholic. No more than we Americans set out to become addicted to centralized government. We just let the politicians tamper with our Constitution, and in a way Grandpa let the whiskey work on him.

And he had a few good times while the boys were setting up the amusement center and the boys had a lot of fun after a while of living it up. Grandpa found out he was really paying for the bill.

Grandpa thought that most of the shots were being paid for by well-fed members of the crowd, at least until he figured out that the boys had their hands in his pocket when he wasn't looking.

"Other New Tax Laws"

The victory farmers enjoyed in passage of the two major farm tax law amendments meant nothing to the exempt trees and shrubs from taxation as well as eliminate taxes on farm personal property, tend to overshadow several important tax bills passed this year.

For example, House Bill 2664 (carried over from the 1965 session) gives counties a new source of revenue by taking transfers of property through a stumpage affixed to the document, similar to the present federal tax on such documents.

The amount of the tax would be at the rate of $1.11 per dollar of the consideration paid or $1.10 per $1,000. This rate is the same as the present federal rate.

The effective date of the new statute is January 1, 1968, which is the date that the present federal tax is supposed to be repealed.

It is estimated that this tax will amount to over $4 million. All of the proceeds are to go to the county general fund.

Interestingly, passage of this bill reverses the usual trend for in this case, a federal tax will be repealed and a local unit of government will be able to use its own tax rates on exempt property.

Another problem was a difficult one which may be given financial support during the next year.

The nine-man Commission met in Saginaw in early July to solve a particular problem in the upper peninsula, where the land is often owned by mining or logging companies. This was situated on leased land. This was to reduce losses at harvest time to the extent that they should in political affairs. If this is true, it is indeed unfortunate that less than 30% of the all the business in our country is governmental business — hence public business.

President Eisenhower expressed his concern over indifference among the people, when he said that American heritage is threatened as much by our indifference as it is by the most horrible foreign threat and "Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen."

Political activity should be much more than just going to the polls and pulling a lever or making a single cross without particular regard to the individual being elected. Farmers, in particular, must now have the ability to set aside their vote on factual information about the individual running for office, regardless of his party.

FARM BUREAU PEP Committees throughout the state are going about their business of bringing information to the voters, based on their voting records, as recorded on the issues of greatest importance to Farm Bureau members. Many committees have been "Get Out The Vote" campaigns and other activities. In some cases, farmers as individuals may support specific candidates.

President of Michigan Farm Bureau summed it up recently when he said:

"Again I stress that there were certain legislators who cared — who went to work for Farmers. And they came from both sides of the political fence, some of them may have come from your legislative district. From a farmer's point of view, they deserve to be re-elected — regardless of party."

In addition, tenants and stockholders of cooperative housing corporations are eligible for the exempions if they meet other eligibility standards.

Passage of H. 3566 clears up a problem that has existed in the minds of many farmers, concerning who the property owner is paying his taxes for the previous year or a year in advance.

The statute now states that the income of the preceding calendar year after each December 31 shall be the tax year for the purposes of the general property tax, regardless of any contrary provisions in any city or village charter.

In addition, county and other taxing units must collect taxes based on state equalized valuation.

"Bean Commission"

M. D. Brownlee, Secretary/Manager, Michigan Bean Commission, reports that support by Michigan farmers for the new marketing activities for the 1965 crop year has been high.

House Bill 2119, passed by the 1965 Legislature, provided that growers be paid 90 cents per hundredweight on the basis of improved harvesting equipment to reduce losses at harvest time from checked skins and splitting.

It is stated that the bean crop is not as large as it was estimated to be before the deadline.

"This kind of support would add a great deal of serious about using the commission to improve their lot," Brownlee said.

Assuming normal crop yields, the two cents per cent. assessment will provide over $100,000 to be used by the Commission in improvement of the bean industry.

The 1965 Michigan Bean Commission (comprised of six growers, two handlers and one classifier) appointed in November by the Governor to January, met in Saginaw in early July to begin work evaluating various red and green bean crops which may be given financial support during the next year.

Numerous research and promotion areas are urgently in need of attention, commission members were told.

During the opening meeting of the Michigan Bean Commission, reports that support by Michigan growers for the new marketing activities for the 1965 crop year has been high.

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What is in the Law:

Michigan's new Slow Moving Vehicle law is specific in its description of both the equipment which must use the SMV emblem and the emblem itself. The law states:

"When operated on the highway, every vehicle which has a maximum potential speed of 25 miles an hour, implement of husbandry, farm tractor or special mobile equipment shall be identified with a reflective device as follows:

"An equilateral triangle in shape, at least 16 inches wide at the base and at least 14 inches in height: With a dark red border, at least 1 3/4 inches wide of highly reflective beaded material: a center triangle, at least 12 1/4 inches on each side of yellow-orange fluorescent material.

"The device shall be mounted on the rear of the vehicle, broad base down, not less than 3 feet nor more than 5 feet above the ground and as near the center of the vehicle as possible. The use of this reflective device is restricted to use on slow moving vehicle specific in this section, and use of such reflective device on any other type of vehicle or stationary object on the highway is prohibited ..."

Some Day or Night—
This emblem may save your life
State Committee Meets in Lansing

It is obvious that the "midsummer slump" hasn't hit activities of Farm Bureau Women with action-programs underway in a wide range of project areas.

In their annual summer conference, members of the Farm Bureau Women's State Committee reviewed progress reports, made appointments to a number of important committees and confirmed the attendance of National Chairman, Mrs. Haven Smith, at their coming annual meeting.

The "Speaker's Bureau"—planned for last spring and later cancelled when less than required numbers of participants enrolled, was discussed. A decision was made to re-schedule the training program, with time and place to be determined by the Understanding and Information subcommittee.

Eight delegates were elected to take part in the August Traffic Safety Conference, held at Michigan State University. Elected were: Mrs. Lou DeMatte, delegation chairman; Mrs. Nelson DeGroot, Mrs. Earl Hendricks, Mrs. Don Root, Mrs. Harkind Welke, Maurine Srandlin, Ruth Hooper and Helen Amcoed. Alternates chosen include Gladys Rea, Jennette Babbitt, Viola McLaughlin and Mrs. Sam Bercy.

In another action, Mary Edith Anderson was elected Vice Chairman of Michigan's Christian Rural Overseas Program and it was announced that Michigan Farm Bureau Women have been encouraged to continue their participation in the Share-a-Loaf project sponsored by C.R.O.P.

Farm Bureau President, Elton Smith, told the women that projects for 1968 show only about half of present farm numbers in Michigan, and suggested that farmers must emphasize their work in economic and legislative fields.

Smith encouraged Farm Bureau Women to help "redefine" their annual Washington Legislative Tour, to shape it into a "prestige project for Farm Bureau Legislation workers."

Later, the Committee followed his suggestion by moving to sponsor the tour for legislative workers, and suggested that they also explore the possibility of sponsoring an "American Heritage" suite at the same time, but with an altered itinerary to allow guided sightseeing of historically important spots.

Mrs. Elton Smith was elected to the Scholarship Committee, which earlier reported plans for an honorary "Marge Karker" scholarship.

Present members of the "You and I" (U. & I) committee were re-elected. They are Florence Southworth and Martha Baker (one year terms) and Doris Wieland and Ann Campana (two year terms).

Chairman Maurine Srandlin announced that Mrs. Virginia Smith, of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee has confirmed her attendance at the annual meeting set for November 9. Mrs. Smith is remembered for her extraordinary enthusiasm and devotion to the farmer's cause, shown in previous visits to Michigan.

Las Vegas Trip is Suggested as Gift

Looking far into the future, the women discussed the possibility of asking Ann Landers to be guest speaker headlining the program in 1968. It was announced that prior to then, Mrs. Arpi Dutt of India, president of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) will visit the United States in 1967.

Michigan Farm Bureau women plan to entertain Mrs. Dutt at that time, and are already at work on details.

Two newly elected District Chairmen were present at the meeting for the first time. They were Mrs. Laura (Eleanor) Honkala, Crystal Falls, representing District 11 West, and Mrs. Lewis (Jeannette) Babbitt, Eagle, representing District 5.

HOUSEWIVES' LAMENT. . .

—Betty L. Smith

Ionia County Farm Bureau

Remorse

Ah, the fragrance of rising bread, As it filters through brain and tummy. After a dozen samples or so, I feel like an overstuffed mommy! Reducing

Nutritionists are experts when It comes to losing weight and diet They make it sound enchanting But, I wish they too would try it!

COMPLAINT

H, in this whole wide world, I could have my choice of wishes, One thing I'd do away with, and That's my sink of dirty dishes!

The Task

When it comes to dressing chickens, I declared, "I'll never do it!" After eighteen years of having done so— I declare, "There's nothing to it!"

What could be more exciting than a gift-trip to Las Vegas? Farm Bureau officials suggest that such a trip now as part of the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting scheduled for Las Vegas in early December, would be an interesting visit to many delegates touring to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting scheduled for Las Vegas in early December.

The gift might be an anniversary present from husband to wife, or the December timing suggests a Christmas gift-trip from the father or son. Some Farm Bureau officials have requested present plans for an "American Heritage" trip for legislative workers.

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CARGO SOLD DIRECT TO ENGLAND

Two Farm Bureau-related agencies have cooperated to open a chink in an international trade door which remained tightly closed in the past. The Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services recently completed a sale of Michigan wheat direct to England.

The marketing contact that led to the sale was made through the Farm Bureau Trade Development Corporation of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, an affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The wheat shipment was made out of Baltimore, Maryland, to Avonmouth, England, with its destination an English flour mill. The Michigan Elevator Exchange does not consider the size of the sale as most important, rather that opening contacts have been made. MEE officials express the opinion that Michigan farmers benefit most because a new channel for negotiations has been opened.

The negotiations can reveal the true value of Michigan wheat in terms of the price paid by the wheat miller in England as compared to the price the farmer sells for in Michigan. This is possible because the sale was made directly to the miller.

A closer marketing tie has been established through this sale and more offerings are expected to be made by the Michigan Elevator Exchange in the near future.

This is not the first contact made by the Farm Bureau Trade Development Corporation that has led to sales of Michigan farm products abroad. Past sales include Michigan potato products, canned fruit products, and a variety of other Michigan agricultural products.

Michigan's First "Pear Day" Set

Pears - one of Michigan's major fruit crops - will be commanding the attention of the state's fruit industry August 5.

"Michigan Pear Day" is scheduled for then, in the Oceana-Mason county area. The day-long program will include tours of commerical and experimental pear orchards, and a foreign horticultural expert will be featured speaker.

"Michigan is the leading pear producing state east of the Rocky Mountains," according to Noel Stockman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Market Development Department. "Our pear industry is expanding, especially in the western-central part of the state where the Pear Day will be held."

The field day will start at the John Rickett Farm, north of Shelby at 10:00 a.m. From there the tour will proceed to Hart for a view of the Vroom Cold Storage operation, largest of its kind in the Midwest.

At noon, a luncheon and program will be held at the Hart Fairground. Professor Tom Fren ton from East Malling, England, will be giving the main address. The afternoon will be spent touring some of the orchards in Mason County.

Sponsored by the Grower-Processor Conference Committee, Pear Day is one of a series of annual commodity days which spotlight one of the state's major fruit or vegetable crops.

The Grower-Processor Conference Committee is jointly sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Ganners and Freezers Association. Committee activities are designed to improve relations between producers and processors and to promote the Michigan processing horticultural crops industry.

WORLD NEEDS GROW

To supply the needs of its rapidly-growing population - expected to double by the year 2000 - "the world needs new agricultural areas equal to the State of Illinois each year, with water supplies equal to ten Colorado Rivers," reports the Water Resources Committee of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation.

By Larry Ewing

Wheat is wheat - well at least sometimes That's the way the USDA seems to feel. When it comes to acreage allotments, the USDA treats all classes of wheat as wheat. But in making PL 480 allocations, or in determining export subsidies the various classes of wheat are segregated. The result is inequitable treatment for soft wheat.

Delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual meeting voiced concern about this government discrimination towards soft wheat producers. They asked that a study be made by the Michigan Farm Bureau on how soft wheat producers could effectively organize to correct this discrimination.

"Soft wheat producers need a United Voice" said Alton Wattles, Branch County, wheat producer. Wattles serves as chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Soft Wheat Advisory Committee. The Committee was appointed by MFB president, Elmo R. Smith.

Serving on the Committee in addition to Wattles are Robert Norris, Berrien; Francis Bingham, Kalamazoo; George Demson, Livingston; Robert Westbrooke, Ionia; James Clarke, Eaton; Harold Schutt, Arenac; Robert Vander Molen, Missaukee, and Arnold Kentz. Appointed from the Board of Directors are Walter Frum, Saginaw; and Dean Prile, Branch.

"Everyone knows that the government affects the price of wheat by setting support price and acreage allotments. But government manipulation of the important export market also has a great bearing on the price of wheat farmers receive," said Wattles.

Export subsidies, the payments received by exporters from the government to bring the U.S. wheat price down to world price, are set each day by the USDA. They vary by class and are different for various parts of the country.

In recent years export subsidies have been less for soft wheat than for hard. This results in a lower domestic price for soft wheat when selling in the world market.

The use of PL 480 sales can also affect price received by growers. With a low export subsidy and relatively high PL 480 sales, soft wheat movement and price is at the mercy of domestic millers.

Some developing countries may desire soft wheat. They may be forced to take hard wheat, however, since the USDA has not authorized soft wheat for PL 480 sales.

At a recent meeting of the soft wheat advisory committee a recommendation was made to the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors. It pointed out the need for an organization of soft wheat producers in the soft wheat producing states. This would provide a united voice to point out problems to the USDA and Congressmen.

The Committee also expressed a need for information for farmers. Production, export possibilities, market outlook, how government action will affect price, all are information that could make the farmer money.

The Committee intends to study possibilities of better coordination of marketing within soft wheat producing states. Farmers must be organized in this area, too.

Wheat may be wheat, but the USDA will learn that soft wheat is different - soft wheat will have a united voice - through Farm Bureau.
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.
MULTI-PURPOSE B-660 GREASE ........................................ $ .30 per tube

A superior new grease designed for general farm use in all farm equipment applications where high speed, heavy loads, wide temperature ranges and moisture conditions are involved .... available in tubes, pails or drums.

UNICO SHD MOTOR OIL .................................................. $1.02 per gal.

in 55 gal. drum and the drum is yours to keep

UNICO 12M MOTOR OIL .................................................. $1.15 per gal.

10W-30 in 55 gal. drum and the drum is yours to keep

OUTBOARD MOTOR OIL for mowers, chain saws, generators, motor scooters ........................................ $1.51 per gal.

HYDRAULIC OIL (R & O) excellent stability, protects against rust .................................................. $5.65 5 gal. can

HYDRAULIC TRANSMISSION FLUID designed to meet manufacturers O.E.S ........................................ $2.32 2 gal. can

JOHN DEERE TYPE 303 OIL a modern specialized lubricant .................................................. $8.10 5 gal. can

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION FLUID friction and wear resistant .................................................. $3.22 2 gal. can

MULTI-PURPOSE GEAR OILS (GL-5) stable for long service .................................................. $2.78 2 gal. can

SERIES III MOTOR OIL for heavy-duty diesel engines .................................................. $1.22 per gal. in 55 gal. drum

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• WINDSHIELD SPRAY DE-ICER ........................................ $1.15

HEAVY DUTY BRAKE FLUID

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1 gal. ........................................ $3.95 5 gal. ........................................ $15.95

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Sock-type refills, especially designed for heavy duty equipment.

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Farmers Petroleum customers get new high octane gasolines blended specifically for top performance all year long. They are special clean burning, no-knock fuels designed for cars, trucks and farm machinery... gives your engine extra power and thrust as well as faster starts and longer life.

Farmers Petroleum's new precision diesel fuel for modern high output tractors is especially blended with MPA-D to guarantee maximum performance with minimum maintenance. Cut fuel consumption in your farm operations and increase tractor life by using this NEW POWER BALANCED Custom Diesel Fuel... It's a money-saver.

Farmers Petroleum Flame Balanced Heating Oils give you the ultimate in clean-burning, home-heating comfort. No. 1 heating oil is Hydrofined, the most advanced process for heating oil treatment known today. No. 2 heating oil is Electrofined to stabilize and maintain even heat... blended for highest B.T.U. content. For more comfort per dollar... use Flame Balanced Heating Oils.
Space remains available aboard the luxurious KLM Royal Dutch airliner, scheduled to carry those farmers and their wives taking part in the 1966 European "Farm Study" tour.

According to tour escort, Bill Day, popular Agricultural Director of radio station WCMR, Elkhart, Indiana, it is not too late for additions to the group which will leave New York Monday, September 5, and return three weeks later, September 26.

Day will carry special portable recording equipment to be used in daily reports for broadcast "back home" from the 5,000 watt station located near Michigan's border. Besides verbal descriptions of tour sights, Day plans to include visits with Hoosier and Michigan farmers on the tour.

Enthusiastic in urging participation, Day points out that those who wait for a perfect time to travel, usually end up waiting forever. "Farmers are always busy, so the only way they can ever have a trip of a lifetime" is to attack the project with the same determination that made them successful farmers in the first place," he says.

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A former staff member of the Hoosier Cooperative Services, an affiliate of the Indiana Farm Bureau, Day is especially well-versed in farm matters and in exploring the interesting and unusual in agriculture.

A glance at the European tour itinerary clearly shows that this is indeed a trip of a lifetime.

For those dairymen with a soft spot in their hearts for sturdy Holstein cattle, a visit is planned to North Germany's important agricultural province of Schleswig-Holstein. Other sights of special interest to dairymen include touring both a Danish blue-cheese factory and a modern milk-canning plant.

For the historically inclined, there are mountain castles, grape vineyards, a canal ride in Holland, and a visit to the beaches of World War II—Omaha and Utah invasion beaches, France.

Earlier, Farm Bureau members will be especially pleased by a full day reserved for meetings with personnel of the Farm Bureau Trade-Development Corporation, Rotterdam, and an exploration of the city including a trip by boat around the busy harbor.

Countries to be visited in the order of the tour itinerary are: The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Belgium and France. Major cities include Rotterdam; Haagland and Groningen in The Netherlands; Hamburg; Schleswig, Flensburg, Cologne and Bonn, Germany; Aarhus, Denmark, Brussels, Belgium; and Ghent, Rouen, Vincours, Caen, Mont-Saint Michel (on an island) — and Paris, all in France.

For more details, fill out the nearby coupon to receive a day-by-day itinerary.

The European Farm Study tour leaves for New York from Detroit, Indiana participants will depart from either Indianapolis or Chicago.

The schedule for two typical days reads: "departure by special bus for Hoogland, there to visit the Schothorst — a research laboratory for modern cattle feeding. Continue to Drontheem, a new town in Holland. Inspect grain silos and farm buildings under progress. Travel via Emmeloord, the largest town in the Northeast Folded, to Leeuwarden for dinner and overnight . . . ."

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International Guests Greeted by F.B. Women

MACOMB COUNTY

"God be with you till we meet again"—thus sang 135 guests of Macomb County Farm Bureau Women, including 57 members of the "Federated Women's Institute" of Ontario, Canada. A luncheon in early July, prepared and served by Farm Bureau Women, was the occasion for the songfest at the Masonic building in Davis, following a tour by the Canadian ladies of the Macomb county Farm Bureau offices.

Attending the meeting were a group of Oakland county Farm Bureau Women, among them Mrs. Maurine Seramul, chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee. She told the guests the purpose, structure and philosophy of Farm Bureau in general, and was followed by Mrs. Helen Atwood, who as Coordinator of Women's Activities discussed specific programs and projects of Farm Bureau Women in Michigan.

Also addressing the group was Mrs. Everett Small, Provincial President of the Women's Institutes of Canada. The Michigan women learned that the Canadian "Institutes" were similar to Extension Homemaker's Clubs here in the "states" and offer informal training to members in rural leadership, homemaking, and youth work.

HURON COUNTY

An Exchange Student from Cologne, Germany, was guest of the Huron County Farm Bureau Women at their most recent meeting. She is Miss Barbara Ciemeter, now making her home with the Roy Kerr family of Bad Axe.

She told of her own family and compared back-home living with conditions in her "adopted" country. A recent graduate of the Bad Axe high school, she added observations about the two school systems.

Especially interesting was her recounting of a visit to Berlin in June of last year and her impressions of the Berlin Wall. She showed a number of pictures taken in the area, including the guarded and highly reinforced wall itself.

Election of officers during the business meeting resulted in re-election of Mrs. Robert Thumme, Jr., and Mrs. Emory Motz as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively. Mrs. Carl Ritter was elected Secretary.

A bus trip to Saginaw has been announced for August 23, to include a morning shopping tour, luncheon together, and a food demonstration provided by Consumer's Power Company.

ISABELLA COUNTY

Nearly 100 persons attended the Farmer-Clergy meeting sponsored by Isabella county Farm Bureau Women in late June at Edenville, Michigan. Women's Chairman, Mrs. Hugh Swindlehurst, acted as "M.C." for the program.

A "smorgasbord" of hot dishes and desserts greeted the farmers and Clergy guests as they entered the church basement during the noon hour. Ladies of the Walton Group were hostesses for the event, with the County Farm Bureau Women's Committee furnishing coffee, hot buns and platters of ham for guests seated at the many tables.

Seven church denominations were represented at the meeting, as was the Isabella County Ministerial Council. County Farm Bureau board members attended the gathering and mingled with their guests.

The three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Stilgenbauer, of the Walton Group, sang a song appropriate to the occasion, followed by a talk by Melvin Woelfl, Manager of the Information Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Woelfl listed basic concepts which guide Farm Bureau, and summed up this listing of beliefs by adding "all these, undergirded by our faith in God."

YOUTH IN UNDERSTANDING

Deborah Kapplinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kapplinger, Clare County Farm Bureau members, will return to her Farwell home August 19 after spending nine weeks in Finland in the Youth for Understanding Program. "Debbie" was sponsored by the Farwell Methodist Church, the Clare County Farm Bureau, and the Farm Bureau Women.

She will be a Junior this fall at Barnwell High School, where she will serve as vice-president of the Student Council.

She is a Sunday School teacher and pianist for the Farwell Methodist Church. Debbie is also a majorette in her high school band.
Inflation and socialism, encouraged by "big" government, are dangerously undermining the individual freedoms and economic structure of the United States, eminent speakers told the Upper Peninsula Citizenship Seminar in Escanaba, July 12-13. The Seminar was co-sponsored by the county Farm Bureaus of the Upper Peninsula and the Escanaba Chamber of Commerce.

Nearly half of the audience of 100 were young people selected and sponsored by the county Farm Bureaus.

The strike of machinists which halted five national airlines created problems in travel and the agenda had to be changed to get the speakers on the program when they arrived.

Speakers for the two-day session were W. Cleon Skousen who spoke on the communist threat; Dr. Clifton Ganus who discussed the moral foundations of freedom, and Dr. Lewis E. Lloyd who covered the area of basic economics.

Also appearing on the program were Walter Lewke as representative of the Escanaba Chamber of Commerce and Farm Bureau Regional Representative, Hugo E. Kivi, who served as general chairman of the seminar.

The two-day event was well-covered by area press, radio and television.

Before adjournment, the audience was asked for comments and suggestions for future seminars. It was agreed that it should be continued and that other organizations and groups be invited to participate in the project.

Chickens B.A.B.-Q — sponsored by the Baraga County Farm Bureau — was served to over 300 people at Sturgeon River Park near Pelkie. Proceeds from the annual event went to pay expenses for students to the Upper Peninsula Young People's Citizenship Seminar, Escanaba, July 12-13. The Bar-B-Q was one of several methods used to raise funds to send students to the seminar, which was sponsored by the Upper Peninsula County Farm Bureau and the Escanaba Chamber of Commerce.

The State Discussion Topic Committee met Friday, July 15th. The committee examined many subjects for timeliness and importance to Farm Bureau members in the coming months.

To allow some leeway of choice and adjustment of the program to changing events, eight possible topics were selected for the coming six months period from September through March. The following list is not necessarily in any calendar order.

1. Farm Bureau — Politically Active — Yet Non-Partisan?
3. Federal Moves to Put all Farm Products Under Federal Controls. The recommendations of the National Commission on Food Marketing.
6. Should the Federal Government Establish a Cabinet-level "Department for Consumers?"
7. What is the Cause of a Constantly Rising Cost of Living? What Contributes? How Does it Affect Farmers?
8. Can a Farm Bureau Program for Marketing Michigan Soft Wheat Pay Off? The Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors recently appointed a "Soft Wheat Committee" to examine this problem. This Committee submitted the following request:

"The soft wheat situation would make a good discussion topic. Since wheat is grown throughout all segments of the state, this topic would be of interest in all areas of the state. It should include information on production, usage, the differences of hard and soft wheat, export situation, export subsidies, a look at Public Law 480 and possibilities of a wheat marketing association."
ASPARAGUS PICKER

HOW DOES IT WORK — Asparagus producers eagerly examine a promising mechanical harvester invented by Illinois Farm Bureau member, Bernard Fuchs. The recent demonstration was sponsored by the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) on the farm of James and William Thor, Van Buren county. Michigan growers are also much interested in another asparagus machine, invented by Farm Bureau member Lloyd Gilbert, Muskegon county.

APPLE-VENDING

CHILLED APPLES — machine vended, catch the eye — and the nickles of Grand Rapids youngsters: (from left) Gayle Holmes, Betsy Bennett, Marlo Howeison and Debbie Westerhof. The new refrigerated apple dispenser was part of a demonstration-display at the recent National Apple Institute held in Traverse City. Apples were from the famed Bull Brothers Orchards.

ELECTION "CAMPAIGN"

"IF I AM ELECTED — I'll work for your interests," argue Lee Steinhoff (left) and Helen Ann Bendall (upper left) as they solicit the votes of Ann Geisler and Curtis Howell. The "election" was a demonstration in practical politics, staged as part of the recent Farm Bureau Citizenship Seminar.

FARM LEADERS MEET

AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES — remain unlimited, according to MFB President Elton Smith, as he reviewed growth of the farm cooperative movement recently with office guests. From the left they are: Alfred Roberts, Pigeon; Dale Nye, State Future Farmer's President; Smith, and Edwin St. Johns, recently appointed state F.F.A. Adviser.

NETHERLANDS STUDENT — Adrian Dees, from the University of Wageningen, The Netherlands, examines egg-packaging machines at the Farm Bureau Services plant in Jenison, Mich. Dees has self-financed his U.S. visit to study cooperatives.

STATE F.F.A. OFFICERS

ROLE OF FARM COOPERATIVES — is explained to newly elected Michigan F.F.A. officers by Stanley Sherman of Farm Bureau Services. The occasion was a dinner meeting sponsored by the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives and held in Farm Bureau Center, Lansing. Leaders from a number of prominent Michigan cooperatives attended and took part in a lively discussion period with the youthful leaders.
1966 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the Community Farm Bureau in Michigan. In August, Farm Bureau shall have scheduled 360 monthly discussion programs to these Farm Bureau groups.

Local discussion-action groups are almost non-existent among the members of any other organization.

Farm Bureau was bound to be different. It was founded by farmers looking for a way to cut their own patterns for agriculture's future. Such an organization must logically keep members in active, decision-making positions, to the extent possible.

One early leader put it this way: "Farmers who have a part in decision-making, take a more active part in the program. And they place a higher priority on what their organization is doing."

This concept was added into the program planning for the activities of the "discussion groups." Those who would do the discussion of issues and programs would share in the choice of discussion leaders.

By 1940, two procedures were hit upon to make this possible. Community Farm Bureau groups were asked to make suggestions for topics to be discussed. A list of current topics was submitted to group leaders. Members could indicate their preferences.

It was the custom in 1940 to hold a series of member meetings in the eleven organization districts of the Michigan Farm Bureau. At the 1940 meetings, each district chose a member and an alternate member for the "discussion program committee.

This elected committee met for the first time in August of 1940. It had two major tasks — make suggestions for the improvement of the discussion program and schedule topics for a twelve-month period. Attention would be given to the preference suggestions sent in by the Community Farm Bureau.

It was not long before efforts to schedule a full complement of discussion subjects at one time ran into a snag. Many a topic went "cold" — became obsolete — before its place on the calendar expired. Events of the world marched on, and left some topics stranded.

By 1943 the "State Discussion Topic Committee" began meeting each six months. This has been its schedule since that year. A twice-yearly meeting was not a total solution to the problem of timeliness of a topic, so some still went obsolete — but fewer of them. The problem was met, finally, by placing one or two "extras" in reserve to fill any gaps which developed.

In the 1950's this committee judged various contests. There were Community Farm Bureau awards to counties that showed the highest group gain. There were Community Farm Bureau grants to be awarded for the best all-around group program. These contests were stimulating and effective.

Members of the State Topic Committee normally served two-year terms. Even-numbered districts choose members in even-numbered years, odd-numbered districts in odd-numbered years.

Program changes in 1964 discontinued the district meetings where the committee members were elected. To maintain the committee in its usual standing, the committeemen have been appointed by the state officer who represents their district on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board.

Members of this committee should be honored for a remarkable high attendance record and a deep sincerity of purpose. Over 26 years of service, these members have averaged 90% of the committee in attendance at the meetings.

Fifty-two members have served on this committee since 1934 — giving freely of their time to help show how much they care, by how much they share.

DEDICATED SERVICE — to Farm Bureau on the part of Don Kinsey, is recognized by those attending the national conference, sponsored recently by the American Farm Bureau. Applauding near the camera is Roger Fleming, Secretary of the American Farm Bureau. Woodrow Littrell, Director of the AFBB Information Division, is in the background. Kinsey by letter, was honored for 20 years' service. He is Coordinator of Education and Research for the Michigan Farm Bureau.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

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"WHO SAYS You Get Better Yields With Farm Bureau Special Wheat Starter Fertilizer?"

"I DO" says DALE FIKE of Rt. 1, Coleman

"Farm Bureau Special Wheat Starter produced an extra 10 bushels per acre for me. Oct. 20, 1965, I planted 26 acres of wheat using Farm Bureau 5-20-20. This spring I topdressed half of the field with Farm Bureau Special Wheat Starter and the remainder with 6-24-12. Upon harvesting July 18, combine bin measurements resulted in 10 extra bushels per acre where Special Wheat Starter was used."

"I DO" says ED SCHUTZE of Rt. 1, Buchanan

"We have been using Farm Bureau Special Wheat Starter Fertilizer for the past three years, and have been very pleased with the yields that we have been getting. Some fields have gone over 60 bushels per acre and we think that is real good for our light soils. It grows rapidly in the fall, stools out very well, and usually we are among the first to harvest in the summer."

"I DO" says GEORGE SHRIVER of Fremont

"I have used Farm Bureau Special Wheat Starter Fertilizer since the Fremont Co-op started selling it. Last year's yield of 74 bushels per acre tested 62 pounds per bushel... NO dockage because of NO moisture. I put on 30 pounds of 28% nitrate solution in the spring. I used 250 pounds of Special Wheat Starter on the wheat last fall but I am sure the yield will be down because of so much wet weather last fall."

"I DO" says LYLE JESSWEIN of Buchanan

"Last fall we tried Farm Bureau Special Wheat Starter Fertilizer for the first time. We believe the wheat came on faster and stools out a little better than the field where we used the same number of pounds of 6-24-24. The straw is just a little taller and the heads are a little longer. It looks as though we would have a better yield where Wheat Starter was used."

"I DO" says ADRIAN ROTTIER of Fremont

"I have used Farm Bureau Special Wheat Starter since they started selling it at the Fremont Co-op. Last year I planted 9.2 acres of wheat using 300 pounds of Special Wheat Starter Fertilizer per acre. When I sold my wheat to the Co-op, I found I had a yield of approximately 60 bushels per acre."

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Farm Bureau Services is a major component of the Michigan Farm Bureau.
COMMUNITY FARM BUREAUS are — VITAL—NECESSARY—IMPORTANT!

Prepared by: Don Kinsey
Coordinator, Education and Research

The Community Farm Bureau is the member's "home town" arm of it a highly effective force in the community and a dynamo of strength within their farm organization.

These groups are the key to much of the Farm Bureau's accomplishment. The better the use made of them, the more effective Farm Bureaus become.

Outsiders repeatedly look upon these groups in Michigan with enthusiasm, astonishment — with envy. They would give their shirts to have an organized system among their members to match. They recognize that the groups give members increased opportunities to be informed, make decisions and action to move. This strengthens any organization.

In 1939, the under-secretary of Agriculture was M. L. Wilson. That summer, Wilson addressed thousands of Farm Bureau members from twelve mid-west states. His remarks are still appropriate.

"The Michigan Farm Bureau has launched a continuing program wherein members meet monthly and discuss problems and issues which involve farmers all over the state and nation. Such an approach is as American as apple pie!"

"This is not only a vital program to undergird a strong farm organization. It also puts the members in a position to speak in policy and program building and to work. It has activities that will take care of their problems locally and on more distant fronts."

"I hope that Farm Bureau in other states will develop this discussion-action group movement as rapidly as they can. Then they will have a real solid basis for action by their county and state Farm Bureaus."

Many states did. They came to Michigan, they studied, and in 1946 they followed out Wilson's comment making a good point for members who do not take part in Community Farm Bureaus — where such members want an effective Farm Bureau, meeting modern problems.

Let's roll that point over a bit, both for members who do and members who do not attend Community Bureaus.

A VOLUNTARY farm organization is a special kind of body. It is not like a large industrial corporation, turning out cars or television sets with a million or two paid employees to do the work. The members are the only large supporting force available to do the many things a farm organization needs to do.

Whether the present need is legislative action or marketing programs, or whatever the job, the effort succeeds or fails down in direct relation to the degree of member support. In such challenges, "no man is an island — no man can stand alone" and do what the occasion demands. No members, no single employed staff persons can carry the whole task by himself. Public persuasion and influence calls for many backers.

It was this basic fact, in part, that prompted Farm Bureau leaders to develop the Community Farm Bureaus in 1936. The idea of the groups is founded on a faith in farm people. The leaders said, "We believe that if we inform our members, give them the facts about issues and problems, they will come through with good decisions. Farmers CAN speak soundly for farmers in public affairs. Farmers will be constructive in their proposals for program building and tackling issues. Let's give them an opportunity to do so through Community Groups."

Members liked the idea. The spread of Community Farm Bureaus in Michigan for twenty years was almost startling. By 1959, group numbers peaked at 1985.

For so long as the Community Farm Bureaus shall operate, that point of faith in the members holds fast. The present Farm Bureau leadership has kept that faith. In the spring of 1966, the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors declared that a high priority must be placed on the task of building, expanding and maintaining Community Farm Bureaus in Michigan. The board also recognized that this effort must be concentrated on young farm families.

Thus, history repeats itself. In 1966, the original drive to organize these groups centered in young farm families. Some of the original groups still operate. They honor the gray hairs of the members of these groups still working on the thirtieth anniversary of the Community Farm Bureau program.

In 1966, the job of putting the Community Farm Bureau development program into high gear falls to a new staff member at the Michigan Farm Bureau — Jack Deppong. He can help you build this program. He has a sparkle in his eye about the job ahead. So far as Jack is concerned, the only way is upward. If the leaders and members will work with him, the program will move.

Not with a rush, of course. There's lots to do. County Farm Bureaus should set goals for progress on a year to year basis. Young groups must fill in the gaps where older groups fall by the wayside. Members not in groups must be convinced of the worth of organizing one. Organizing teams must be developed and trained.

It is not a simple job, but it is highly important. Everyone recognizes that Community Farm Bureaus are Michigan's first line of action in Farm Bureau. They provide a "Life-line" between the member and his county and state organization. Groups can talk over problems, work out plans for solving them, suggest policies, work on projects for community improvement, develop rural leadership and act to support Farm Bureau efforts on a broad front.

And groups are also "to enjoy!" They are neighborhood affairs. Attention should be given to making their meetings sociable occasions, as well as sessions for positive action. A good group will strike a balance between sociability and serious purpose in its program.

The Community Farm Bureau should be the "stimulator" of the County Farm Bureau. Good groups take the initiative to point out to the County Farm Bureau board directions for needed program activity. The members are out where problems have their impact. In such an organization as this, members should point much of the way. Actually, members sit in a position of leadership! Being organized creates that opportunity! Some of the group's discussion sessions will be centered in local and county matters. Groups can set their own priorities — decide what is most important for discussion and action at any meeting. The discussion program is not "cut and dried" by someone else.

Discussion and action on state and national issues are only part of the group's opportunities. Michigan Farm Bureau urges groups to take action on local and county problems.

We once put together a list of the many projects that Community Farm Bureaus were carrying on — to build better communities. There were over 135 different kinds of activities!

Some examples include the fixing up of a community social center, furnishing a hospital room, aiding a family that had burned out, promoting better snow removal, clearing roadside brush especially at road intersections, organizing a rural fire protection plan, farm visits for urban school children — the list went on and on.

Excellent action — no doubt of it! It puts the "Community" in Community Farm Bureaus. The members put the tool to use as it should be used.

Of course, the Michigan Farm Bureau needs member support too. It needs to have members informed about what is going on in Lansing and Washington. How else could the necessary support be mustered to win for farmers total exemption from the personal property tax, as was done in 1966? Only informed members will know what action is needed, when and why. They are ready to act when a crisis reaches its peak. To discuss such matters is very much in the farmers' interest and when better programs are built, members will help build them.

It is much more difficult to inform unorganized, individual members. And the very act of discussing issues together enriches and sharpens the knowledge of present issues and problems.

Organized members are in the direct channel of action, too. They can be alerted quickly when situations call for strong farmer support.

The Minuteman system becomes an action pipeline.

Be the times ever so modern, the value of this Community Farm Bureau information-action system still fills a key role in making Farm Bureau "an organization with something special in its kit." The only kind of farm organization that really counts is one that can get action when action is necessary.

Let's keep this ball rolling.

A special discussion exercise sheet is prepared for Group use.
Norm Lohr is a Farm Insurance Expert

He has had 12 years experience in assisting farmers in Monroe County plan the insurance protection they need for their particular farming operation.

Before joining Farm Bureau Insurance, he was a full-time farmer. His farming experience plus his insurance training and knowledge, and personal service have become an effective combination. He has provided over $5.5 million dollars worth of Farmowners coverage for his insureds.

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Why not call your nearest Farm Bureau Insurance Agent? Ask him for help in planning your insurance protection for your farm.