Michigan Farm Bureau leaders have accepted a challenge issued by the Ohio Farm Bureau to determine which of the two states will attain the greatest numerical membership growth in the new year.

J. Thompson, Director of Organization for the Ohio Farm Bureau, contends that Michigan hasn't a chance against the Buckeyes, "not a bit more chance than the MSU football team had all year"—he said, striking on a sore point with many Michigan residents.

"We have more of everything in Ohio. We have better farmers located on better farms. They are served by the best state Farm Bureau in the nation. Our Farm Bureau volunteers are out signing up new members right and left. We have the kind of membership teamwork which will assure our giving Michigan the horse-laugh when they end up with the "Tail-End" trophy—as they surely shall," Thompson said.

At issue is the trophy to which he referred, plus the great loss of public prestige which receiving it entails. The trophy is a sculptured wrong half of a horse.

The trophy was displayed and the official challenge given by Frank Sollars, president of the Ohio Farm Bureau, who, it is reported, somewhat crudely broke into a Michigan breakfast session during the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau, in Chicago. He pointed out that southern state Farm Bureaus were growing at a faster rate than those of the midwest and said that Ohio—for one, did not intend to stand still while this occurred. He suggested that Michigan Farm Bureau folks had tired blood...

When Sollars left to attend his own state breakfast, the Michigan group sprang into action. They instructed Michigan Farm Bureau president, Elton Smith, and Field-Services manager Ledy Ewing—to locate the Ohio group and "tell them off.'

In doing so, it was agreed that payoff time would come during the annual Michigan-Ohio State football game, to be held in Columbus, October 10. "We will bring along the presidents of the first ten of our Michigan counties which go over goal, to witness the humiliating presentation of the Tail-End trophy to you ..." Ewing told the Ohio group.

Meanwhile, back at the Michigan breakfast, one observer reported that the people were "stomping mad". They promptly organized a "Beat Ohio" demonstration (see editorial) and produced home-made signs and noisemakers and then set off for the convention hall. There, they interrupted proceedings with a half-hour demonstration before a crowd estimated at five thousand persons.

Leading the parade was Michigan Farm Bureau Secretary-Manager, Dan E. Reed, followed by the 150 Michigan persons at the convention. Newsmen craned their necks to see what was going on, and many in the huge crowd were at first convinced that the hall was being subjected to actual picketing. Smarting 'from this public slap, Ohio Farm Bureau officials (later) distributed authentic-appearing newspapers with banner headlines proclaiming their membership-getting ability. Michigan folks countered by capturing the overhead projector used during the convention to flash announcements on the huge auditorium screen, and using Indian terminology flashed: "Chief Mighty-Eagle Smith of the Michiganders, says Chief Sollars and his Ohios always day late and dollar short. Heap big talk—little action."

In commenting on the by-play between the two states, Charles Burkett, Director of Field Operations for the Michigan Farm Bureau, observed that the rivalry provided needed lighter moments in an otherwise businesslike annual meeting.

"But horse-play or not, Farm Bureau in Michigan is now publicly committed to reach our membership goal of 53,536 Farm Bureau families in 1968, and to stay well ahead of Ohio in the process."

Encouraging signs include reports showing Michigan to be 6,000 members ahead of last year at this time, with many county Farm Bureaus at 75 per cent of goal. January has been designated as "membership month" with most of the county Farm Bureaus expected to reach goal by January 15th.
President's Column

PAINT THE BARN

I'm not much inclined toward "New Year's resolutions," but I do think the beginning of a new year is often a good time to make positive plans for the future.

This is the time for positive planning for agriculture, and for Farm Bureau. We have just wound up an old year with state and national conventions to decide the things we would like done in the new year. Now is the time to make resolutions.

New Farm Bureau programs can't be built without support from members. Programs aren't built first and supported later. Programs are achieved by members TAKING PART — for without this, no program exists.

The slogan for our state annual meeting back in November was "The Holiday Season Action." This is a fitting slogan for an organization like Farm Bureau. Every word is vital.

"Strength," for example, can mean legislative strength — it can mean strength in numbers and we all know how important this kind of strength is to farmers today. Both of these can also mean economic strength — if we get the right results in our efforts. But we can also have economic strength in other ways through our Farm Bureau service affiliates — Farm Bureau Life, Farm Bureau Health and Home, Farm Bureau Group, and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.

By "Groups," we can mean the million and three-quarters families making up the American Farm Bureau Federation. Or the 32,000 member organizations in the Michigan Farm Bureau Federation; or any one of the 2700 county Farm Bureaus across the United States; our nearly 1200 Community Farm Bureau Groups here in Michigan, or the innumerable working committees.

"Action," of course, can mean several things, such as action by legislative committees to help get a bill through the Legislature. It can be marketing action, such as through MA-CH-A, where farmers can sell their apples, tomatoes, or even the new red-terry-cherry program now being developed.

One thing we have to remember about the whole idea — the bigger the "grouper" the stronger "strength" we are capable of putting together, and this is the reason we spend the first part of the year, for instance, when the others are getting their resolutions together, working for your resolutions.

This is the time of year when we protect our investment in Farm Bureau. Farmers believe in protecting their investments. We paint our farm equipment; we buy liability insurance for that life is made up of a lot of "firsts."

"First"? We can accomplish many things if we all work together. What better way can we begin to help, than on membership? It has been jokingly said, that two good ways to get a job done is to tel-a-phone and tell-a-woman. Ladies do get on the telephone and call your local Roll-Call worker and tell him you want to help in your local membership drive.

The Ohio Farm Bureau challenged the Michigan Farm Bureau to a membership contest. The Michigan Farm Bureau accepted the challenge and in order to win this contest we will all need to go to work. Remember a Farm Bureau membership is "strength" we are capable of putting together, and like members of our families learn to accept responsibilities, so we as members of our Farm Bureau families must also learn to accept responsibilities. Wouldn't this be a good place for another one of the over 2700 county Farm Bureaus to become involved.

Actually, the competition began a long time ago.

The Holiday Season is now history and I hope you all had a wonderful time with your families and friends. To many of the folks in the heart of Chicago, the conclusion must have reached that Farm Bureau members can be stirred to public action.

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Michigan farmers, 150 strong, played prominent parts in the 49th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, December 10-14.

Held in nearby Chicago, the convention attracted one of the largest and most enthusiastic Michigan groups in recent years.

Perhaps of most significance to midwest farmers is the continuous dramatic growth of membership in the southern region, which this year for the first time topped all other regions in both membership growth and in total members, thus giving the southern farmer more "voice" in the agricultural affairs of the nation.

However, Michigan continues to be well represented on the board of directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation, with the re-election of Elton B. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, to his first full, two-year term on the board.

Smith has been elected last year to fill the vacancy created on the board by the resignation due to illness, of Olen Monroe, then president of the Missouri Farm Bureau. Only state Farm Bureau presidents are eligible for election to the board.

Twelve states comprise the midwest region, each granting voting delegates based on a formula tied to membership size. Illinois, with the largest state Farm Bureau membership, has 14 voting delegates, followed by Indiana with 11 and Iowa with 8. Kansas has 7 and Michigan, Ohio and Missouri have each earned 4. Minnesota and Wisconsin have 3 each, while Nebraska and North Dakota have two. South Dakota has a single voting delegate.

Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers made impressive showings in three events, with Marshall Forbush, Byron — representing his state well in the national "Discussion Meet" contest. His chief competition came from George F. Guess, Jr., 27-year-old farmer from Stevenson, Alabama, who won the national contest by outlining the topic "The role of Farm Bureau in today's world." Guess was national public speaking winner of the Future Farmers of America in the 1957 competition.

Although there is no national contest as such in the annual "Talent Pool" — Michigan's entry, Mrs. Jeanette Mehney of St. Johns, displayed the same professional versatility with the accordion which won her first place in the Michigan state contest in Lansing. She played two selections before an audience counted at over 3,000 persons, doing so while accompanied by a 15-piece band.

Miss Kay Eichelbach of Jackson county, wearing her crown and sash as "Farm Bureau Queen" — strolled on-stage, on the arm of Michigan Farm Bureau president Elton Smith, to be introduced to the large audience, and to be greeted by American Farm Bureau president, Charles W. Cameron.

Earlier, Miss Eichelbach appeared relaxed and regal on WGN television in a half-hour color show wherein she presented a dramatic display of confidence and support for the Farm Bureau. Naturally, Farm Bureau leaders are gratified with this dramatic display of confidence and support for the Farm Bureau.

Six states reported a membership gain in all of their organized county Farm Bureaus. States with a membership gain in each organized county are Delaware, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Utah and Wisconsin. This is the third consecutive year all organized county Farm Bureaus in Wisconsin have shown a gain in membership over the previous year.

The AFBF secretary-treasurer said, "Fifteen states established an all-time high in membership in 1967, but the largest gain came from the Southern Region with nine of concentrated growth and over 14,000 members over 1966. This is the same number of states that gained in membership last year," Fleming said.

He added: "Membership growth in a voluntary association is the most reliable test available to us as to whether farmers and ranchers support its policies and programs. Naturally, Farm Bureau leaders are gratified with this dramatic display of confidence and support for the Farm Bureau."

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The Tennessee Farm Bureau in reaching an all-time high passed the 100,000 membership mark for the first time in its history.

The Alabama Farm Bureau federation in reaching an all-time high passed the 100,000 membership mark to join Texas, Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois in the category of states with more than 100,000 members. The Alabama membership climbed to 100,024.

The Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation has had a continuous gain in membership over the previous year for the past 27 years. The Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation has had a continuous gain in membership since it was organized 26 years ago.

Other state Farm Bureaus with outstanding records of continuous gains in membership over the previous year are Texas with 12 years continuous membership growth; Alabama and Puerto Rico with 11; Montana and North Carolina with 9; Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina with 8; Indiana, Kentucky, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

The 1967 AFBF membership quota was attained by 35 states. This includes 14 of the 15 states listed above (Montana excepted) having new all-time highs plus the states of Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

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DANGER TO OUR DOLLARS — was outlined for broadcast by Senator Williams (right) of Delaware, in speaking of inflationary pressures to Farm Bureau radio-television man, Jack Angell. The program was re-broadcast in 35 states on a network of more than 400 stations.

DOLLAR VALUES IN DANGER
Senator Speaks Out

There is a very real threat of devaluation of the American dollar, according to Senator John J. Williams of Delaware.

Recipient of a distinguished service award at the American Farm Bureau annual meeting recently in Chicago, Senator Williams said that only vigilance on the part of elected officials can prevent such a devaluation.

"Inflation is not a threat in America to-day, it is a reality," he said. "Unfortunately there are those at high government levels who do not recognize the real danger as yet."

He also pointed out that the recent devaluation of the British pound has intensified the pressures on the American monetary system.

Examining the effects of the pound devaluation he pointed out that the British people are having to pay dearly for the mistakes of their government. As an example he pointed to people living on pensions who have suddenly lost a seventh of their already meager resources.

As a result of our trying to go full steam ahead here and in Vietnam, he said, "We have a deficit running at the rate of one and one-half billions dollars a month — over fifty million dollars a day. If it's kept up, we can be in trouble with the American dollar."

"The first order of business must be to cut expenses," he said. But he added that he would support increased taxes if the executive branch met the first test.

The 1967 awards for distinguished service to agriculture, highest honor conferred by the American Farm Bureau Federation, were given at the Federation's 49th annual meeting to Sen. Williams of Delaware and Charles Marshall, Avoca, Nebraska, former president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, and a former member of the AFPB board of directors.

In presenting the award to Senator Williams, Charles B. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said:

"Members of the U.S. Senate achieve renown for many reasons — some of them not necessarily salutary — but the man we honor here tonight is esteemed by many others as well as we in Farm Bureau for a quality too often rare in politics — integrity. Indeed to many, he is Mr. Integrity."

"He has been instrumental in uncovering some of the biggest scandals in the government. His investigation brought forth 125 convictions for bribery, extortion and embezzlement and other crimes. A total of 131 persons were accused with criminal conviction of more than 80 million dollars worth of grain held by the Commodity Credit Corporation."

"He was a leader in the effort to bring the infamous Bobby Baker to justice, he played a major role in keeping the government honest in the Billie Sol Estes scandal. He is, indeed, the conscience of the Senate."

In addition, Shuman said, Senator Williams has not confined his duties to investigations.

"As the senior Republican on the important Senate Finance Committee, he is a major force in the evolution of the tax policies of the nation."

"His voice is often heard on the side of logic and reason. He is not above the people; he truly is of the people. He also serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee," Shuman pointed out and said Farm Bureau was truly gratified in honoring a true, honest-to-goodness farm boy who had reached a position of natural prominence in the U.S. Senate.

DANGEROUS SPILLS are a constant threat to America's food supply. The problem is growing as the population increases. Forward-thinking farmers have developed new practices to combat the problem. Fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides can all be applied in a way that minimizes the risk of spillage. Farmers are encouraged to be proactive in reducing the risk of spillage. Proper storage, transportation and handling practices can help prevent spills. Farmers who follow these guidelines can help protect the environment and ensure a safe food supply for all. **leading news source.**

FIFTH IN A SERIES:

**KLINE ON FREEDOM**

By: ALLAN B. KLINE

Seni-retired following his 1964 decision to decline renomination as President of the Farm Bureau Federation, Allan Kline has continued to serve through his persuasive speeches and writings. This is the fifth of a six article series outlining the anatomy of Freedom. . .

We are in a rather fortunate position. We have accumulated all the knowledge of the ages. We have the institutions of freedom. We have a nation which is run by those whose power, whose freedom is without counterpart in history. We are part of it.

Freedom cannot survive in a disorderly society. We believe in justice, under the law. There is a difference — not justice on the basis of what someone thinks it ought to be at the moment.

We believe in competition and a free market; in individual ownership and individual initiative. This is America and America works. The legislative branch of our government has been a very key branch and very vital in our system of government.

It represents all the people. Until the Civil War, the Courts challenged the constitutionality of an act of Congress only twice. The first 17 presidents had only 7 vetoes which went to the Court.

Those who governed believed in the Constitution! We believe that people should have considerable administrative responsiveness where they have the power to learn to govern themselves by taking part. At home is about the only place that most people can take part.

But, now let's look at Congress. The comparative power of Congress has been declining. It has lost control of the purse. The budget comes over from the executive. Congress can hardly read it. It is a foot thick, with many secret items in it. The people, as members of our body politic, have not been able to unravel it. They are the owners of these funds, unexpended balances, revolving funds. Congress has lost control — and control of the money is important.

Congress still has some power of investigation. But this is now being eroded. We have a Court decision which says that all these investigations are subject to COURT review!

The "liberals" don't like investigations and they don't like Congress. They don't want interference with their fulfillment of what they feel to be the responsibility of their government. They want it to work. Congress no longer initiates much of the legislation. Many bills come to Congress with the "yes" voted in and the "no" crossed by the biggest lobby in Washington — the executive department of the government of the United States.

The executive has gained a vast new accumulation of power. The executive department is a vast bureaucracy. It represents all the people.

What about treaties? We have international bodies — the United Nations and associated agencies, the international bank, international monetary fund. They all have the effect of treaties. A lot of treaty agreements never came to the Congress for consideration at all. They were made out after the fact. They are more numerous than the ones which required Senate approval.

What about courts? We have international bodies — the UN and associated agencies, the international bank, international monetary fund. They all have the effect of treaties. A lot of treaty agreements never came to the Congress for consideration at all. They were made out after the fact.

Treaties become the law of the land. In treaties, the President makes agreements with the force of law, which, in many cases, supersedes the Constitution of the United States itself.

We had a Court decision in 1936 which said that in the international field the President was the supreme authority. Other decisions later declared that international treaties are THE SUPREME LAW. So, now the President can over-ride the Constitution in this sphere. And efforts to try to change this to concentrate more power in the executive department is in the air.

What about the Supreme Court? Courts have a dominant position in deciding what is in accord with the Constitution. Under this advantage, the Court has acted itself in the position of an inquisitor of Congress. Democracy moved into the Supreme Court — where opinions are determined by an over-riding majority opinion and a power to act being centered in few men.

Democrats want Congress out of the way. They do not want public policy expressed through a bicameral legislature or Congress — they are too tough to move around — they want the executive to speak for the people.
Notes From All Over

Conducts Pick Figs

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS
January 1, 1968
FIVE

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

YOUNG FARMERS

Two major Farm Bureau events are scheduled for the first part of 1968, with the 4th consecutive YOUNG FARMER program set for Lansing on the dates of January 3-5.

The annual "President's Conference" has been scheduled for the later part of the month, and is set for Camp Kett in northern Michigan, January 25-26.

The Young Farmers Conference will bring 55 youthful farm couples together as guests of the Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies, and will include a tour of some Farm Bureau facilities.

Included in this year's program will be tours of the Leonard refinery at Alma, of the Farm Bureau Supply Center at Saginaw and the ultra-modern egg-processing plant at Brighton.

It is expected that the youthful participants will view these facilities in a critical light, and as a first-time experience for many.

"Nothing in Farm Bureau is sacred simply because we have been doing it all along"—said President Elton Smith in announcing the conference.

"We hope our young guests can help us improve our activities and services."

"PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE"

Much the same attitude is attached to the annual "President's Conference" where members of County Farm Bureau Executive Committees are also invited to attend.

Chairman by Mr. Smith, the conference will deal with membership Roll-Call, with increased involvement in local affairs and with an expanded "PEF" program (Political Education and Participation).

Managers of affiliated service programs will again participate in the two-day and one evening program, which will open at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, January 25, and continue through 3:00 p.m. Friday, January 26.

Workshops and question-answer sessions will be held, and mutual problems and opportunities examined.

MERCEDES, California—(AP)—Over the objections of organized labor, California convicts were out picking figs to avert what Gov. Ronald Reagan said would be a disaster for the state's growers.

The governor authorized the use of about 200 prisoners from the minimum-security Detel Vocational Institution at Tracy to lend a hand in harvesting the ripe crop.

"Unless prison labor is made available immediately, a substantial loss will be suffered," the governor said.

The men are being paid prevailing wages, with part of the money going into the state treasury and the rest into a fund paid to the convicts upon release.

Thomas Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, protested the experiment, saying the prisoners hadn't made full efforts to find domestic labor.

— Detroit Free Press

Farmers Assailed by De Gaulle

PARIS—(UPI)—President Charles de Gaulle said Tuesday that the French government had already done "more than any other country" for its farmers.

He blamed vicious demonstrations by 100,000 farmers on their stubborn refusal to modernize.

De Gaulle met with his cabinet to discuss Monday's massive demonstrations and the French Farmers Union's demands for immediate price increases for farm products.

Hundreds of farmers and 179 police and gendarmes were injured in the violent demonstrations.

The nation-wide strikes and riots were the most serious since World War II.

Following the Tuesday cabinet meeting, Information Minister Georges Gorse said de Gaulle felt the farmers should work with the government instead of demonstrating against it.

Gorse said the farmers' real problem was inefficiency in production and marketing and not low prices. The farmers had asked for an across-the-board increase of five percent in farm prices and 10 percent on meat prices. They also want protection against crop failures.

The most serious rioting Monday occurred in Quimper in Brittany where 7,000 farmers and police fought near the local Guilloiset union party offices. More than 100 persons were hospitalized.

Four were critically injured.

— Detroit Free Press

Let the Spirit of the Holiday’s Remain with You Throughout The Coming Year!

FARMERS PETROLEUM

We can assist take care of your winter needs — Call us now!

4000 N. GRAND RIVER LANSING, MICHIGAN

SPEECH COPIES AVAILABLE

There were many requests for copies of the "Selling America" speech by Richard DeVos, speaker at Farm Bureau's Women's annual meeting. A copy was secured from Mr. DeVos and duplicates have been printed. They may be ordered through the Information Division of Michigan Farm Bureau, 4000 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing, Mich. 48904.

STUDY COMMITTEE—Authorized by the state Women's Committee, has held three meetings and prepared recommendations for consideration of the committee at their January meeting. Following this meeting, the final recommendations will be available to county women's committees for area presentation, program their use. The committee studied planning, training, and district activities.

RURAL ART EXHIBIT—Michigan State University has announced a Rural Art Exhibit at the 53rd annual Farmers' Week. The show will feature artists from the state's rural areas, hopefully with many Farm Bureau members included. The exhibits will be displayed January 30, 31, and February 1 at MSU's Auditorium exhibit room.
plenty of fruit and vegetables are available from near the Cape. Mr. de Koning was born on a farm but chose to leave it for teaching. He spoke on the political situations and integration. Filling their desire to see a farm, the family was entertained at the Edward Bourns for church and Sunday dinner, and a tour of the farming operation.

The Oakland County Farm Bureau Women have recently completed an "African Exchange" project, which they feel was a very worthwhile activity. After several months of collecting material such as magazines, cookbooks, sewing, extension and 4-H material, pictures of farms (including the "Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblems"), and the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's "Country Kitchen Cookbook," two boxes were sent to a woman in Piketberg, South Africa.

Exchange material from Africa arrived for the Oakland Women in September, and to our surprise, the magazines were similar to ours, even with similar ads. This exchange material was displayed at our regular women's meeting, and a speaker was contacted at the International Center of the University of Michigan.

The speaker was Thomas de Koning, a graduate student and teacher in Social Psychology. He arrived in America a year ago last August, and his wife and four children arrived the following November. Two days later they saw their first snowfall.

The family lives at Victoria, South Africa, near Piketberg, our exchange town.

Mrs. de Koning spoke about the woman's place in South Africa and of living conditions there. She explained that help is no longer plentiful so women are learning to do their own work. Few of them work outside the home — and the man is still "head of the household." Electricity is still scarce, Mrs. de Koning said, and little heat is necessary at temperatures range from 50 to 100 degrees all year. Weather is very dry but still plenty of fruit and vegetables are available from near the Cape.

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The speaker was Thomas de Koning, a graduate student and teacher in Social Psychology. He arrived in America a year ago last August, and his wife and four children arrived the following November. Two days later they saw their first snowfall.

The family lives at Victoria, South Africa, near Piketberg, our exchange town.

Mrs. de Koning spoke about the woman's place in South Africa and of living conditions there. She explained that help is no longer plentiful so women are learning to do their own work. Few of them work outside the home — and the man is still "head of the household." Electricity is still scarce, Mrs. de Koning said, and little heat is necessary at temperatures range from 50 to 100 degrees all year. Weather is very dry but still plenty of fruit and vegetables are available from near the Cape. Mr. de Koning was born on a farm but chose to leave it for teaching. He spoke on the political situations and integration. Filling their desire to see a farm, the family was entertained at the Edward Bourns for church and Sunday dinner, and a tour of the farming operation.
The apple has always been known as the "king of the fruits," the "Queen," but the Red Tart Cherry has been the glamour fruit or the Crown Prince of Michigan. Cherry growers in the state have been planning a cooperative marketing program for years, but until now the program had little chance of success due to the large number of growers involved. However, 1961 was a turning point for the cherry industry in Michigan. The Michigan Farm Bureau Market Development staff studied the probability of a successful cherry division of MACMA for Michigan growers and recommended that such a plan be set up as soon as possible.

The County Farm Bureau boards in those counties where interest had been indicated, then appointed cherry committees. The Chairman of each of these local committees was to act on the State Advisory Committee. The State Committee is made up of two members representing Michigan Farm Bureau, five members at large representing the heavy cherry producing counties and the all-appointed county Chairman.

This committee met several times during the fall of 1960 and decided that a cherry division of MACMA was very desirable and necessary to stabilize the tart cherry industry. This is a fine committee of good cherry growers who have worked diligently for the tart cherry industry of Michigan. They have spent a great deal of time in their offices and have accomplished much, but they have not yet had the necessary monetary rewards.

The board of directors of MACMA voted to proceed with the formation of a cherry division. This group of growers produce about 6% of the total tart cherries grown in Michigan, so you see they are successful operating producers.

This year, with the short crop, your committee decided to go all out with a market analysis and price forecasting service to all cherry growers in the state. The growers of New York and Wisconsin cooperated in the program. This program was financed by borrowed funds from Michigan Farm Bureau. It accomplished its purpose as you all know. The processors of Red Tart Cherries in New York, looking at their good crop, made a prediction of paying $16 for cherries and you can well see what would have happened in Michigan. The New Yorkers came out with a 15% price increase. Under the present set-up, Michigan processors are no longer locked into a state-wide Cherry Advisory Committee. New York, two other states bordering the Great Lakes area, with some emphasis on the apple industry. Michigan has five members on the National Cherry Advisory Committee, two members representing the heavy cherry counties and the at-large representing the heavy cherry producing counties. Phase one - a market analysis, market information and price leadership and a newsletter will be published. This will be financed by not over a 10% marketing fee. Number two - or Phase two is phase one plus bargaining for price with MACMA as an exclusive sales agent. This, too, becomes effective after a member referendum requiring a two-thirds majority of those voting representing over 50% of the eligible tonnage when voted into effect by grower referendum. If it becomes necessary to go into phase two, which the committee does not plan on doing this next year with the 1961 crop, there would be at no time more than a 3% fee for the sales agent services.

To say there is a place in the market for small producers, but there is no place for small sellers. The expansion of buyers into fewer and larger units, together with the increasing strength of labor and government, is the challenge of today's producers. Cooperation is necessary for market power. Facts vital for market power are accurate analysis of costs and conditions, carry-over stocks, demands for processed products and the situation of competing products. Informed growers have more market power because of information they have and their ability to unite all production areas, growers with the facts and they are successful operating producers.

The committee acts in similar capacity as our Michigan Cherry Advisory Committee. The interim cherry committee has been appointed to recommend membership agreement to help obtain assistance from other cherry growers. Phase one - a market analysis, market information and price leadership and a newsletter will be published. This will be financed by not over a 15% marketing fee. If necessary to go into phase two, which the committee does not plan on doing this next year with the 1961 crop, there would be at no time more than a 3% fee for the sales agent services.
PROPER TAXATION OF FARM LANDS

Some Problems

Today, less than two million acres of Michigan's total land area are devoted to urban and suburban development. And some land-use experts say that Michigan already has more land earmarked for this kind of development than they will need for the rest of this century.

However, present trends if continued, could result in as much as four million acres being used for this purpose by 1985. This is a trend that has Michigan farm leaders concerned, because much of the land that will be taken for this development will be some of the prime agricultural land in the state.

Urban sprawl—meaning unregulated, uncontrolled growth by metropolitan areas—is undesirable in the eyes of most farm leaders. The fact that land is often devoted to urban and suburban development is something that would be of value.

Many Michigan farmers have felt the power of urban sprawl. Some of them aren't farmers today. Some of them have resisted and continue to farm in spite of staggering tax burdens brought on principally by urbanization.

It is a known fact that tax assessments have helped speed the shift of land to uses other than farming. Many farms, owned by the same family for generations, have suddenly been forced out of agriculture because over a period of years, the suburbs have grown closer and closer, shopping centers crowded in. The local assessor, required by law to assess property at its market value, has had to increase assessments on the farm because of its "potential value" as development property. Since insufficient profit could be shown on the land operated as a farm to pay the resulting higher taxes, many such farms have been sold, often before there was any real need for the land as development property.

But another side of the matter is even worse from the standpoint of farmers. The fact that land is assessed at its value for some supposed higher and better use does not automatically provide a buyer for the land at that price. In any number of cases, farmers have been burdened with high taxes when in reality, there was no demand for the land other than for agricultural purposes.

In some cases, when farm land values actually do go up rapidly, landowners have an opportunity to receive increasing effect on the owner. The state of Ohio has recognized this problem and has passed legislation to prevent such hardships. We recommend that legislation be enacted in Michigan to solve this increasing problem.

Some Solutions

Preservation of open spaces or "green-belt" areas has a decided value to both agriculture and to the urban population—for economic and esthetic values. At least four possible avenues are open to farmers in providing a solution or at least an easing of the problems brought on by higher taxation in the urban fringe.

(A) Farm Land Assessment—This type legislation allows assessment of farm land according to its value for agricultural production, rather than on its potential value for other uses, such as residential subdivisions. Farm land near cities, theoretically, would be assessed at the same value as it would be assessed if it were located in a remote rural area—strictly according to its value for growing farm produce.

(B) Tax Deferral—This approach to the problem causes a part of the present taxes to be deferred each year, but not actually forgiven. The amount of this deferral then becomes due when the land passes into non-agricultural uses. The number of years this "roll-back" would be charged varies from state to state. New Jersey would charge the deferred tax for up to three years; Oregon for five years.

(C) Planning and Zoning—This plan ties the availability of use-value assessment to local land-use zoning. Farm land can receive a farm land assessment value only in areas which have been designated as agricultural or open space zones. Farm land in other zones is assessed the same as all other property.

(D) Easement—This plan abandons the use of special assessments to protect agricultural land. Instead, the taxing governmental unit actually contracts with the landowner to restrict the development of the land for a period of time, and pays him for restricting the use of the land. This payment offsets part of the tax which is paid on the property under normal assessment procedures, but in addition, the contract may affect the value of the land. Some states require that assessment be based on only the values allowed under the easement contract.

NEXT MONTH: Changing Role of Local Government

By: STEVE VAN SLYKE
DIRECTOR, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Farmland Policy

AGRICULTURAL LAND ASSESSMENT

Many Michigan leaders are becoming increasingly concerned with the rapid disappearance of good agricultural land. Future leaders may look back at the folly of our unwarranted use. A proper tax structure can be an effective method of saving the better farm land for future use, which will provide for food conservation, and the preservation of "open spaces" for aesthetics and recreation.

Many other progressive state legislatures (14 of 48, recently) have passed laws which allow the land on the basis of its value for agricultural rather than for non-farm uses.

At the request of our Michigan farm leaders, the Michigan Law states expressly that it is in the general public interest that farming be fostered and encouraged in order to maintain a readily available source of food and dairy products close to the metropolis, thus of the state, to conserve the preservation of open spaces as an amenity necessary to existing population centers, and to foster and encourage the conversion of such open space to more intensive uses as a result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of land at a rate or level incompatible with the property's value.

This is becoming an increasingly serious problem in Michigan. We recommend legislation that will protect prime agricultural lands and farmland owners to consider only agricultural factors in assessing land value for that purpose.

SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS

Owners of agricultural land often find themselves saddled with high, specious assessments taxes due to the necessity of crossing their property with property maintain, energy demands and the pressure of those demands on the owner. The state of Ohio has recognized this problem and has passed legislation requiring the assessment of the property to be determined on the basis of its "potential value."
DOES IT

Public Must Know
Pesticide Truths!

The Food and Drug Administration has just completed a study which found that the dangerous levels of pesticides in a well-balanced diet is "substantially below acceptable safety limits." R. F. Duggan, director of the F.D.A. survey, said, "If it continues like this, we've got no real problems."

Not so many years ago, most people had at least a rough working knowledge of the facts of life down on the farm. This was because the energies of most people were devoted to the business of making a living. Today, however, the farm has lost its remotest notion of what it takes to dress from the sun, the rain and the soil the things we require to live.

Ironically, the great strides in biological and technological advances in agriculture which has freed the majority of the population from the drudgery of squeezing out a living on the back have been a two-edged sword. Those who have been left behind from the new age are unaware of the vital role of such things as chemicals in agriculture, and thus often obstruct agricultural progress. Keeping the public informed of the latest advances has become a major task.

Recently, Congressman James L. Watten drew attention to the need of public understanding of pesticides and pesticide residues and the necessity of receiving adequate explanations from the people of other nations, particularly between the United States and countries of western Europe, upon pesticide tolerances. Testing methods of such substances have been developed as to permit identification. The situation today is such that we are dealing with infinitesimal as to be beyond human comprehension. Present testing methods make "no residue" requirements utterly unrealistic. Therefore, in the opinion of Congressman Watten, nations that are safe tolerances and must reach an understanding in order that trade between nations shall not be needlessly incumbered and people threatened with critical shortages.

Everything we eat has faint traces of immemorial chemicals—put there by nature. Man-made pesticides are just another food contaminant. The world food safety issue remains after the growth and harvesting process. A few years ago, the analyses techniques of the time could not detect these harmless traces. But now, the laboratory must isolate the minuscule traces of contamination in our food.

Thus, laws that say "no residue" are impossible to comply with and can simply result in the total prohibition of scientific pesticide research. Sensible solutions to the pesticide problems must be brought by the people of all nations to the table and its solution.
TEN
January 1, 1968
MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

DISCUSSION WINNER

"DISCUSSION MEET" winner, Marshall Forbush of Byron, participated in the national event at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Chicago, where he made an impressive showing.

IN APPRECIATION

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT — recognizing Farm Bureau Women's Slow Moving Vehicle emblem promotion, was presented by Terry Buckles, of Farm Bureau's Insurance Group, to Mrs. Lou DeMatio, Women's Safety Chairman.

VISITING TOGETHER

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PICTORIAL REPORT

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION — PICTORIAL REPORT

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PICTORIAL REPORT

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION — PICTORIAL REPORT

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE . . .

REP. CHARLES DAVIS — of Onondaga, and wife Lenore, were among those honored by Distinguished Service awards at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting. After 39 years of service, he has earned the title of "Agricultural Statesman" said MFB President, Elton Smith.

VISITING TOGETHER

EDITOR, JEAN WORTH — of Escanaba, was one of three Distinguished Service recipients. "If all newsman presented the farm picture in the same manner as does Mr. Worth, our city cousins would have a much better understanding" — President Smith said.

WARD G. HODGE — of Snover, along with wife, Gladys, were honored as Distinguished Service recipients. Ward was the highly respected President of the Michigan Farm Bureau from 1954 to 1958. He has served Farm Bureau for 20 years in a variety of leadership positions.
Farm Bureau Services NEW
Plan-A-Yield Program
Gives You Higher Yields
With Less Cost and Labor!

Here Are Your Row Starter Production Costs

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<th>Yield Per Acre</th>
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<th>Bulk Per Acre</th>
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ORDER EARLY AND SAVE!

Pre-Season Delivery Discounts — Cash

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This Is A Complete Program Not Just A Fertilizer Sale!

The Plan-A-Yield program can help any farmer who wants to get a more profitable yield. It doesn't matter if you're a corn grower presently getting 80 bushels or 150 bushels per acre, our program can help you increase your yield and increase your net income by lowering your cost of production. This plant food program is tailor-made for each farmer, farm, field, crop and yield. The Plan-A-Yield program gives you recommendations on rates, methods and time of fertilizer application; specific fertilizer carriers; type of hybrid; plant population and planting patterns; and controls for weeds and soil insects. As the plants develop there will be tissue tests to determine nutrient levels. At harvest time you'll have total cost per acre, gross and net income, cost per bushel and most important, your income comparison with your present program. Send a post card today and our specialist will show you the complete program.
Another Auto Insurance Dividend Declared

If you are a Farm Bureau Mutual auto policyholder...you will receive another dividend check...the second declared in a year. How much? Up to a healthy 15% of the semi-annual premium payment for each auto and truck.

Approximately $300,000 will be refunded to policyholders insuring 55,000 cars and trucks, beginning in mid-January. That's over $600,000 in dividends declared since August, 1967. It pays to insure with Farm Bureau.

We believe our customers deserve maximum benefits for their insurance dollar. That's why most families carry two, three or four different types of protection with us— to meet all their insurance needs.

Farm Bureau Mutual has a unique system of rating and classification which permits everyone in the group to benefit from the individual driver's attention to safe driving. If you are interested in traffic safety and the low rates which result, why not contact the Farm Bureau Insurance Group representative in your locale? He has the whole story.