IONIA — this new County Farm Bureau office building of brick, with a mansard roof, is located just south of Ionia on M-66. The offices are panelled and carpeted and serve both Farm Bureau Insurance and the county Farm Bureau. The insurance area can be divided by folding partitions. There is a full basement for group meetings.

SAGINAW — where a drive-in window is a feature of the Farm Bureau Credit Union side of this modern building which houses the county Farm Bureau, Credit Union and Farm Bureau Insurance Group. Air-conditioned and panelled, the building contains a full basement and kitchen. It will be occupied in early February.

GRATIOT — this 48 by 50 foot air-conditioned, all-steel building contains conference rooms and two office areas, one for the Gratiot County Farm Bureau — the other for the Federal Land Bank. One block from downtown Ithaca, the site was purchased from the city. More than 500 persons visited recently during an Open House.

NEW COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICES

BRIGHT NEW OFFICES — owned by county Farm Bureaus, dot Michigan. Presently, 23 counties own their own “homes” with several more in the process of building. Most recent of the group are Ionia, Gratiot and Saginaw, with Kent county looking to a new office sometime in spring. The Ingham county Farm Bureau — which now owns its own office, is planning an improved one to be completed soon. Shortly, the Macomb Farm Bureau will enter a new rented building.

OWNED OR RENTED — county Farm Bureau offices are farm-service headquarters. Of the 71 county Farm Bureaus in Michigan, 35 now maintain offices, with related agricultural services often found in the same building or nearby. Immediate “neighbors” include Farmer’s Petroleum, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, Farm Bureau Services, and such farm-related groups as Federal Land Bank, P.C.A. Farm Bureau credit Union, Soil Conservation Service and ASCS.

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GETTING SET FOR POLITICAL YEAR

One of the best reasons to sign up new Farm Bureau members this year, is a political election year and the cry of the politician is heard over the land. A strong, growing, county, state and national Farm Bureau membership is the best evidence farmers can offer to show they understand that minorities which stick together remain effective. Politicians often ignore the implications of 49,824 new Farm Bureau families gained in recent months, bringing an all-time high of 1,753,532 families into the American Farm Bureau Federation. Such growth is sure to attract the attention and respect of most politicians.

And the political signs are everywhere — although it is early enough in the season that not everyone recognizes them. Unfortunately, many farmers remain unpatriotically oriented, with the very nature of farm work tending to keep them out of touch of the political mainstream.

What are some of the more obvious early political signs? Wouldn't it be fair to list such things as the "resignation" of Defense Secretary Robert McNamara and his replacement by the President's successor? Doing so is acceptable to both sides of Congress — and to the voters. Political maneuvers which farmers can expect in the coming year to include much more talk, and perhaps some constructive action, to gain a settlement in Viet Nam, and to settle this costly and unpopular war before election time this Fall. Farmers can expect: much more talk and perhaps minor action, to curb non-defense spending. And that is why we can expect the President to continue to push for a 10 per cent income tax surcharge, more as political evidence of an attempt at fiscal responsibility than in the hope of balancing an impossibly unbalanced federal budget. Farmers can expect: some form of announcement from the Secretary of Agriculture and USDA officials of a scheme to bolster shattered wheat and feed-grain prices, prior to the election.

Farm Bureau members can expect to hear much more from farm organizations with small, or "secret" membership and not-so-secret ambitions. We can expect the President to continue to push for a 10 per cent income tax surcharge, more as political evidence of an attempt at fiscal responsibility than in the hope of balancing an impossibly unbalanced federal budget. Farmers can expect: some form of announcement from the Secretary of Agriculture and USDA officials of a scheme to bolster shattered wheat and feed-grain prices, prior to the election.

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Roll-Call Goal
Nears in State

By: Larry Ewing
Manager, Field Services Division

Michigan Farm Bureau will make a membership gain this year. As of mid-January, with over 50,000 members, we're at 92% of goal. We have more renewals than last year, and are doing well on new members. We'll beat Ohio.

Six counties — Baraga, Muskegon, Charlevoix, Mecosta, Benzine and Saginaw have already exceeded their goal. Counties that have increased members over last year are Arenac, Chippewa, Clare and Otsego. Many other counties are within 10 memberships of making an increase.

Currently, the Ohio Farm Bureau membership is about 89,000. While this figure is considerably behind ours, the Ohio Group has not officially launched its membership drive.

This contest is one we in Michigan want to win. It should be pointed out that the real winner of the contest is the farmer in Ohio or Michigan. By having a larger and more effective organization, he will be able to actively tackle the problems facing him.

At the first official Victory Party of the year, Elmer Rusch of Saginaw County was asked to explain the success. He said "We had lots of help from people who WORKED. We made calls on prospects and called on members to renew their membership."

The truth of this statement is the 122 new members signed in Saginaw and a cancellation of less than 4 per cent. People were asked to join and they did!

Farmers are seeing the value of Farm Bureau when they are contacted this year. Have you contacted any non-member and asked him to join with you? It takes time and effort on your part. Is it worth it? Is it worth having an organized farm voice speak for you in the legislative halls in this county? Is it worth having an organized approach to marketing? Is it worth having an organization to obtain services and fringe benefits? What's the future of agriculture worth to you?

A few calls on your neighbors encouraging them to belong to your Farm Bureau is a small investment to protect that future. Will you help your county and Michigan make a membership increase this year?

When those large medical bills crop up...

...you'll be able to handle them if you're protected by Blue Cross and Blue Shield. And the best way to get the most Blue Cross and Blue Shield protection at the lowest cost is to join through your Farm Bureau group. Because your Farm Bureau group has made wise use of benefits, Blue Cross and Blue Shield can offer the best coverage at lower rates than previously possible for most Farm Bureau members.

What kind of benefits? Well...

Blue Cross pays your hospital bill with no dollar limit...for up to a full year of care. The average Blue Cross payment for hospital care is about $40 a day. But your hospital bill could be higher than average; if it is, you're covered, nevertheless...including in-hospital drugs and laboratory services.

On the other side of the coin, Blue Shield pays realistic fees for surgery—up to $450 and more if your case requires special consideration. Blue Shield covers expensive X-rays with no limit as to number. These, plus laboratory services, are covered even when you're not in the hospital.

You certainly wouldn't gamble with your crops, your buildings or livestock; so why gamble with even more precious stakes—your family's health?

When you consider that Blue Cross and Blue Shield return 95 cents in benefits for every dollar received, you can be sure that you're getting the greatest value for your money.

The deadline for enrolling in Blue Cross and Blue Shield is March 15. For more information, contact your Farm Bureau County Secretary.
These are especially busy days for members of the Public Affairs Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Now is the time when those policies developed and approved by the membership are put into effect.

On those matters requiring legislation, sponsors must be found for potential bills, and this work continues before a deadline date.

Meanwhile, Farm Bureau has been working at many levels. For example, it is not generally known that Farm Bureau is represented on an advisory council to the State Department of Education. This council is made up of people representing many different kinds of organizations. It is at these meetings that many important decisions are made, such as those affecting state-school reorganization, and special education programs (among many) are discussed and direction given to the Department.

Just how important is this entire area can be seen from the fact that showing that over half of the state budget goes to education. This figure has been increasing each year, and presently about $292 million is being spent on education in Michigan. Add to this $109 million, which goes to the Tenth Circuit Court, that does not include higher education, but only kindergarten through 12th grade.

How should schools be financed? This question is more pertinent than ever since the "Thomas Report"—over 500 pages long and only recently released—costs a $200,000 appropriation made by the legislature for an in-depth study of Michigan education.

Currently, there is a great deal of discussion concerning new state aid programs, probably to be introduced in the 1969 legislature.

Seminars Schedule
A series of Legislative Seminars will be held in mid-February and early March, by the Public Affairs division of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

The schedule calls for eight meetings held on the basis of Farm Bureau regions and with all members of each county's State Affairs committees expected to attend along with members of county Executive committees and other county Farm Bureau leaders. All Seminars will be held at the YWCA in Lansing, located near the Capitol and each begins at 10:00 a.m. (coffee and rolls at 9:30) and conclude with group attendance in the Capitol at sessions of the House and Senate. At noon-time luncheons, members of the legislature are guests of their respective Farm Bureau chapters during these sessions and the Capitol leaders later, when the county leaders become better acquainted with those who represent them in Lansing.

All Seminars begin with an outline of Farm Bureau legislative programs and include a progress report. Future legislation is often discussed and action-programs outlined.

Attendance at the Seminars is considered a duty of all members of State and National Affairs committees. Seminars by regions include:
- February 13, Saginaw Valley
- February 14, Northeast, Northwest and Upper Peninsula
- February 20, West, February 21, Thumb, February 27, Southwest, March, Central, March 12, West Central and March 13, Southeast.

GROUP TO EXAMINE MEAT MARKETS
Another in the popular series of Livestock Marketing Tours has been announced by the Market Development Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau—according to Noel Stuckman, Division Manager.

The dates of February 27-29-30 have been set for the tour which will cover almost 1,000 miles and besides one important stop in Chicago, allows points of marketing interest in the states of Illinois and Wisconsin.

Purpose of the tour, according to Wm. Byrum, livestock specialist with the Division, will be to allow Michigan producers to see how the livestock-action is, and "to do all as part of a group of Michigan farmers with the same basic interests."

Byrum points out that the tour involves a wide range of marketing experiences, including visits to a major meat packer, in Chicago, headquarters of a packers, headquarters of a quality meat program, and the meat counters of one of the larger chain retailers.

The somewhat misunderstood area of livestock futures will be dealt with during one session with the National Livestock Producers at the Chicago Board of Trade.

The group will make two stops in Chicago during the three-day tour, and one evening will be left open for sightseeing on the town.

The first Chicago visit will include a stop at the Interstate Livestock Producers at the Chicago stockyards, with the tour moving on to Wm. Madison, Wisconsin, the next morning. They will then travel to Chicago the same evening, and will visit the interesting Mercantile Exchange the following morning. Another Chicago highlight will be a stop at the Merchandise Mart, which is the world's largest office building, and visits to the American Farm Bureau Federation offices there.

According to members of the Farm Bureau Market-Development Division, the kind of informative material that will allow Michigan livestock producers an insight concerning the pool, and what happens to it after leaving the farm.

Tour costs for the round-trip by bus are $40.00 per person, which includes transportation, hotel rooms, and some meals. Omitted from the meals included in the basic costs are two breakfasts, two luncheons and the final evening meal enroute home to Michigan.

Steps in the order they will be made are: Spartan Stores, Grand Rapids; Chicago Stockyards; Oscar Mayer Packing Company, at Madison, Wisconsin; Mercantile Exchange; National Livestock and Meat Board Office, and the Michigan Farm Bureau Office.

Current plans call for using one copy of the Beef and Wool Newsletter, and an article on a first-come basis. Those interested should contact the Market Development Division, Michigan Farm Bureau— and do so soon.

BUSY TIME FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FREEDOM TOUR FLIES TO SHRINES

Michigan Farm Bureau's Freedom Conference has a new look this year. In years past we have been content to talk about democracy and government, this year members of the conference will be able to see how our government operates.

The 1968 Freedom Conference will be a classroom for wings. It will be operated as a part of the annual Women's Heritage tour of Washington, D.C., leaving Detroit's Metro Airport on the afternoon of March 11, the conference will visit Washington for three days, returning to Metro on the afternoon of March 14.

In addition to seeing the operation of the Congress and some of its committees, there will be an opportunity to visit some of the National shrines of this country.

One of the highlights of the conference will be a conducted tour of the offices and laboratories of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Here conference members will have an opportunity to see how the nation's safety from fifth columnists is assured.

Shrines which are on the agenda include places such as the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorial, the grave of President Kennedy, and the Smithsonian Institution.

One of the most visited shrines will be Mount Vernon, home of George Washington. Here, one gets the feeling of George and Martha Washington. The reassuring evidence included testing of 49,000 food samples by FDA. This story, of how American has one of the world's most wholesome food supplies, will be held and relayed by farmers.
Almost two million hogs were slaughtered in Michigan in 1965, the most recent year-end figure available. This amounted to just over 1.3 percent of all hogs slaughtered in the United States, and falls far below the amount of pork Michigan residents buy and eat.

Michigan pork needs are growing much faster than the Michigan hog industry, and it is predicted will require the importation of 50,000 feeder pigs per year by 1968. At the same time, Michigan farmers are exporting about 40 percent of their corn production to nearby states, where it is largely used to feed out hogs!

The quality of pork is one of the most emphasized topics among producers and packers today. Low quality pork, often called P.S.E. (pale soft exudative) appears very pale colored, and watery, lacking the firmness and eye appeal necessary in a quality product.

Some research work indicates P.S.E. pork to be less tender and juicy with 3 to 5% greater loss in processing due to loss in tissue fluids. The research indicates pork quality traits are highly heritable and that by applying selection pressure, quality can be improved.

The term “quality” deserves clarification, and refers to the content of firmness of the meat, degree of marbling (intramuscular fat), color of the lean, and texture (coarseness of the fibers in the lean).

“Meatiness” refers to the amount of internal finish on a carcass or cut and the general dimension of red meat in the various kind of ham, loin-eye area, ham-ear area and total dimension of the ham.

One of the big tasks confronting producers, animal breeders and packers is proper communication with the consumer. There must be a common language in this area with all parties emphasizing the highly heritable economic traits from the producers’ standpoint and then the one big item of production, satisfying the consumer with a juicy, tender, tasty cut of pork.

Grade and yield selling is a big topic these days and has every right to be, since 25% of all hogs are marketed by this method in Iowa alone. Grade and yield marketing has many good points which include paying the producer on the actual yield of the hog, therefore rewarding the producer for the “right kind” of hog, but at the same time protecting the packer from the very wasteful kind. Carcass data is available to the producer, hence he has a basis for selecting bred sires and replacement gilts.

Big question marks concern carcass purchasing on the rail, including who is to represent the producer in grading of the carcasses and how the base price is to be determined, so that the producer is properly paid or docked, depending on the kind he produces. Often the animals are moved great distances and a large amount of shrink results, raising the question of where the liveweight should be measured.

The possibility of a complete production-marketing program deserves consideration for the future. A possible program looks like this: a central coordinating center manages a production testing program for the sow herd and operates a herd book directory for the producers of available boars that meet standards established by the organization.

A feed service is involved in the "package" and offers a premix program involving feedstuffs, balancing rations, and a complete permit offering. The feed service also manages the herd health program and offers advice on building and purchasing.

From the marketing standpoint, the coordinating center manages the movement of feeder pigs and organizes and sorts the supply of market hogs to the packer. This also involves representing the producer, if selling on the rail.

There are many new areas of interest that have a place in an expanded hog market, such as the futures trading service, increased specialization in finishing, feeder pig production, and many new ideas in marketing for increased profit. Production testing, carcass educational programs and retail promotional campaigns on a pilot basis may play a big role.

The need to breed, feed and constructively market a quality hog is in the order of the future. A joint cooperative effort should be a means to offer a larger number of lean, quality, meat-type hogs for more profit and consumer satisfaction.

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TOWARD MORE MONEY FROM MICHIGAN PORK

By: Wm. Byrum
Market Development Division

How can Michigan swine producers regain more of this available pork market? A lot of ideas are being examined, with much discussion about such things as quality pork, selling on carcass values rather than on the basis of live-weight, and a "complete marketing plan" to coordinate the efforts of producers, feed companies, marketing exchanges, packers and retailers, to shape the produce to needs of the market.

This advertisement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy any of these securities. The offering is made only by the prospectus.
Keeping in step with modern agriculture

Farm Bureau women’s leaders in Michigan have accepted the challenge of change and are making plans to program their activities to keep step with modern agriculture. The decision was made by the State Women’s Committee at their regular meeting in January.

This committee adopted recommendations to the county women’s committees for their program of work for 1968. Action projects they suggest include the following:

1. Carry out recommendations of a state committee studying Farm Bureau Women’s activities in Michigan
2. Associated Country Women of the World activities
3. Political Education and Action projects
4. Implementing Farm Bureau policies for 1968 and working with County Farm Bureau board of directors in county programs
5. Attending this State Farm Bureau Women's Committee meeting were Mrs. Maxine Topfiff, chairman; Mrs. Florence Carpenter, vice chairman; Mrs. Vida Morehouse, Mrs. Dorothy Kroeser, Mrs. Mary Edith Anderson, Mrs. Ann Campman, Mrs. Jeanette Rabbitt, Mrs. Marie Swindallhurst, Mrs. Dorothy Hendricks, Mrs. Margaret Kartes, Mrs. Doris Wieland, Mrs. Nettie Lockhart, all district women’s chairman; Mrs. Margaret Welke and Mrs. Grace Greenhow, district vice chairman.

The Women’s district vice chairmen make up the State Women’s State Program Planning committee. Those who met with the Women’s Committee on January 9 and 10 include Mrs. Alice Burmeister, Mrs. Wibona Obrey, Mrs. Lettie Kral, Mrs. Leona Smith, Mrs. Maud Bristol, and Mrs. Martha Baker. Mrs. Florence Carpenter serves as chairman of the Program Planning committee.

BUSY SESSION

Many other important items of business were discussed at this State Women’s committee meeting. Mrs. Francis (Ann) Campau of Ada, Chairman of District 4 women, was selected to serve one year as the third member of the state women’s executive committee.

Announcement was made of a statewide Safety workshop for County Farm Bureau Women’s safety chairmen and others interested in safety, to be at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant on February 28. This workshop will emphasize prevention in the home and on the farm. It is to give those who work on safety some workable projects in which their County Farm Bureau women can participate.

Mrs. Margaret Kartes of Ogemaw County was elected to serve as chairman of the Women’s State Safety Committee. She replaces Mrs. Lou DeMatos of West Branch who has served to effectively as chairman of this committee for several years. Under Mrs. DeMatos’ leadership, Farm Bureau women worked special recognition from the Farm Bureau Insurance companies last November at the annual meeting for their excellent promotion, sale and publicity of the slow moving vehicle emblems. This distinctive plaque hangs in the lobby of Farm Bureau Center in Lansing.

Women’s Washington Air Tour

March 11-14, 1968

Send me a day-by-day schedule:

Reserve __ places on the Air Tour. Enclosed is check for ($112. per person, make checks payable to the Michigan Farm Bureau).

Name:
Address:
County:
Telephone:

Return by February 26, to Information Division Michigan Farm Bureau, Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Lois D. Whitfield, head of extension family living programs since 1965, died December 24 at her home in Okemos. On sick leave since major surgery last summer, Mrs. Whitfield was a victim of cancer. She was 57.

Mrs. Whitfield worked closely with Farm Bureau Women in a number of important projects, among them plans for the coming ACWW Triennial Conference, to be held in East Lansing on the campus of Michigan State University, September 3-14, 1968.

A native of Nebraska, she began her extension career in her home state in 1940. After service in Maryland and FES, she was a home economics consultant for the Ford Foundation in Pakistan from 1952-54. Upon her return from foreign assignment she became extension specialist in consumer markets at the Ohio Extension Service. From 1955-61 she was state leader of extension home economics programs at Ohio State.

Mrs. Whitfield came to Michigan three years ago as a leader of special programs to the U.P. In February 1965, she was named to head family living education, succeeding Miriam J. Kelley who joined the MSU Nigeria Project.

Funeral services for Mrs. Whitfield were held in East Lansing December 27 with burial in Plattsmouth, Nebraska. She is survived by her husband, her father, a sister and two step-children.
HOLIDAY CAMP!

The "Holiday Camp" for Farm Bureau women in the counties of districts one and two is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, March 27 and 28 at Wesley Woods Camp, which is located near Dowling, Michigan. Farm Bureau women from all counties as well as non-members, are especially invited to participate in this holiday camp.

The "camp" program committee is planning an interesting and valuable program. Plan to mark these dates on your calendar.

More details and an enrollment blank will be included in next month's issues of the FARM NEWS.

Women's Scholarship Gift

The Women's Scholarship Committee reports $500.00 received to date in the Marge Karker-Farm Bureau Scholarship. Applications are now being received for students attending Michigan State University for a tuition scholarship to be given for the 1968-69 year.

Student requirements include: a member of a Farm Bureau family, must be prepared to show financial need, must be enrolled at Michigan State University in any of the following areas of education: field of Agriculture or related fields of Food Science, Food Marketing, Leadership training in agriculture, or Journalism as related to agriculture, Food packaging, Horticulture, Veterinary medicine, Medical Technology, Nursing, or the field of teaching.

The Scholarship will be a gift, not a loan.

Students interested in this scholarship may contact Helen Atwood, Coordinator of Women's Activities, at the Michigan Farm Bureau office, 4000 North Grand River Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48904. Completed applications should be returned to this office by March 15.

FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP THERMOMETER

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January 1968

DEAR EDITOR... 

I am now in Mabulagwe which is twelve miles north of the tropic of Capricorn. I am the Young Farmer Advisor of Botswana. I will be here until August 22nd. I stopped in Uganda and Kenya on my way here and was in Gaberone's for three weeks, which is the capital of Botswana. I have a house and a house boy from Malawi.

Botswana is a semi arid desert land, the main crop is sorghum, maize, and beef cattle. The cattle are five to six years old before being sold. The people's wealth is determined by the number of cattle which they own. Cattle are not given any grain, only the pasture on the desert.

Most of the people own cattle and have a cattle "post." The people's wealth is determined by the number of cattle which they own. Cattle are not given any grain, only the pasture on the desert.

Lyle Murphy
(former Ionia county farmer and member of Farm Bureau's State Young Farmer committee.)
Zoning...
The new edition of the World Almanac includes news that there are now 81,233 units of local government in the United States. This is a decrease of approximately 10,000 units in the last five years.

Although the number of units of local government are decreasing, and many of their activities are being taken over by state government, and the need for local government services in some areas is good or bad — there remains a great and growing need for good local government.

Our state, county officials, village trustees, town councils — these units have new and important roles to play. Among these, and taking a more prominent position, is the area of planning and zoning. Every day, the United States is converting about 11,000 acres of valuable farmland to urban uses — some farms are going under the bulldozer daily.

Proposers of community planning and zoning programs say that with this much change, there must be some planning involved in order to avoid trouble in the future. If such plans are going to be done, farmers had better be involved in making them.

There have been problems attached with planning and zoning programs of the past, and there has been a great deal of effort to avoid the teeth that are necessary to make planning and zoning work; however, many feel that it is about the only possible way to protect and encourage good community development.

As one farm writer put it, "The question is what KIND of zoning ordinance to have, rather than SHOULD we have it."

Farmers and landowners in and near larger urban centers have already felt the effect of planning and zoning, or at least, are aware of some of the possible values or dangers it can have to them. Realistically, some of these landowners recognize that the most profitable and final crop which can be cultivated on their land is building sites.

Because of the fact that a land sale at some point in the future — for some non-agricultural use — could bring some beautiful capital gains, landowners should watch very carefully to see that zoning restrictions don't lock the gate too tightly. Nothing about zoning should be designed to be completely rigid. If a farmer wants to be rezoned at a later time, he should be able, and willing, to subject the area to unreasonable costs and destroy value of neighboring properties. Some good planning and zoning programs are reviewed on a regular basis.

Any plans, whether for a farm operation or area-wide land use, should have good long-range goals. Several have been suggested for planning-zoning:

1. Improving the tax base.
2. Preserving recreation lands.
3. Keeping the area beautiful.
4. Encouraging tourism and industry.
5. Preventing conflicting uses of land.
6. Giving each acre its best possible use.

Like any law, zoning restricts people. The idea is to make it work only to keep people from being destructive or offensive to others.

Dumps...
The township dump has gone the way of just about every other area of authority once vested in township government.

A new state law, passed in 1965, gave control of all dumps in Michigan to the state health department. Regulations issued by the department in recent months have gradually climbed down, adding stronger and stronger requirements until many smaller units of government, including townships, counties and some small cities, have found it difficult to meet them.

As a result, many of them have taken a good look at their dumps, and with some of them being closed completely.

Some townships have combined their dumps with those of a neighboring township and the two or three that are left are able to maintain an operation acceptable to the Health Department regulations.

In at least two and one-half cases, the closing of a particular dump was a desirable result in order to eliminate some of the many problems involved in the operation of poorly managed or uncontrolled dumps.

One of the big problems for farmers is not the fact that he no longer has a convenient dump site but that a place or two where this can be done. The problem for farmers is that non-farmers with no place to dump things, all too often use the roadside, fences, or even the edge of a corn-field. This public defiance of new dumping laws will probably decline as new methods of handling wastes are developed and put into effect, but for the present, littering along highways and in rural areas remains a serious problem.

Public Act 87, enacted in 1965, forbids disposing of any refuse at any place except a disposal area licensed by either a local health officer or the state Department of Health. It does not prohibit a farmer from disposing of his own refuse on his own property, as long as it does not create a nuisance or hazard anywhere.

The Department of Public Health, acting under the law, has issued regulations governing the licensing and operation of public dumps, both by units of government or private operators.

About the only practical approach under the regulations is the sanitary landfill. Open dumps are expressly forbidden for special cases.

The sanitary landfill is also an expensive operation. Requirements are that it have an attendant on duty at any time the site is open and that the site be completely closed when no attendant is on duty to supervise unloading. Refuse must be spread and compacted into leach pits and in some cases covered daily by at least six inches of "suitable material" with a final cover at least two feet thick to be placed over the entire area within one week.

Under present regulations, no burning is permitted at all, however, there is no penalty in the Legislature which would void this regulation in townships with under 50,000 population.

FARM BUREAU POLICY

We believe that the maintenance of strong, independent, and responsible state and local government is imperative to the preservation of self-government and individual freedom.

Agreements andaciones should be performed by the qualified unit of government closest to the people without coercion by administrative agencies of the federal government.

We urge State and County Farm Bureau to undertake study of the modernization of local government and to take an active role in making their local governments effective.
COMMUNITY GROUP AWARD, given to Ottawa County for outstanding performance in the area of Community Farm Bureau, was accepted by Mrs. Hilbert Hoffman, chairman of the Ottawa County Community Group Committee, and Arthur Lucas, county president.

ACHIEVEMENT IN YOUNG FARMER activities brought awards to two county Farm Bureaus. Wexford (left), represented by Robert Benson, past president, and Larry Luther, chairman of the Young Farmer Committee, received the award because their young farmers became involved in the total Farm Bureau program. Ionia County, represented by Harold Michalka, chairman of the Young Farmers Committee, and Stanley Fay, past county president, did an outstanding job in developing and implementing the Young Farmer Program.

BIG BUSINESS-BIG INVESTMENT

This giant 71/2-ton Ford 8800 tractor, with its 401-cubic-inch diesel engine, is symbolic of the massive power needed in today's modern farming. Big power calls for big investment, and the kind of accurate farm records vital to good farm management. That's where Farm Bureau's new Farm Records Service fits in . . .

IT MAKES AVAILABLE:

Income Tax Reports
Credit Summaries
Management Records
Enterprise Accounting
Personal Income and Expense Records.

Enrollment for 1968 is now underway. For more details, contact your county Farm Bureau office, or write: Market Development Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904.
EGGS "A Clouded Picture"

There are few smiles today among Michigan's egg producers, caught as they are between higher costs and depressed prices. For almost the entire past year, egg prices have remained within a few cents of the prewar market price. Feed, a commodity, unless it would be the broiler business, has vertical integration made such inroads.

However, the Egg Marketing Division of Farm Bureau Services in 1959 to give the professional egg producer a substantial market for a quality product. For the Michigan Farm Bureau, and with the welfare of farmers as their primary interest.

You imply that Michigan egg producers were losing out... in what way?

We simply weren't producing enough eggs to meet our needs, and didn't, we turned to Farm Bureau Services for an assured volume of eggs not produced in the state - and it comes obvious that prices paid to producers have been depressed by egg production in large scale for a variety of reasons. In no other agricultural product have other companies entered large scale egg production for a variety of reasons. In no other agricultural product has segregation been followed by some months of fall and winter strength - and this has been followed by a period of Spring, when prospects for egg prices have been good, but then the market price has fallen. For almost the entire past year, egg prices have been down below the level of quoted prices established by the USDA (at retail store level) on the quality difference between the USDA Fresh Fancy egg and the more common-place A-Grade eggs.

Earlier, you said that this high egg must be backed by an effective marketing program - how has this been done?

Retail outlets recognize the need to sell only top quality eggs. They have had considerable experience with customer reaction to anything less.ddl quality. We have been searching for just the type of product Farm Bureau Services can offer. Among a result, several retail grocery stores and both cooperatives and independents have turned to Farm Bureau Services for an assured volume of eggs at a quality that was not available before. It has built a reputation that attracts them.

Would you name some of these stores?

They include Meijer Markets ("Thrift Acres") Polly's Master Markets, Spartan Stores and the Great A & P Tea Company. To show how many contacts develop through Farm Bureau Services dealing with specific stores, one of our advertisers, a local retail store, has turned to Farm Bureau Services for an assured volume of eggs. It has built a reputation that attracts them.

We mean an egg that meets the right requirements that allow it to be placed in a "Fresh, Fancy Quality AA Grade" carton. It means that each lot of eggs must be inspected by a full-time resident USDA inspector in each Farm Bureau Services location, and backed by a program of quality control extending from the producer's farm through the retail store. It means supervision and inspection throughout the supply line.

What about the eggs produced within the program, but which do not meet the standards? What happens to these eggs?

A lower price is paid to producers whose eggs fail to come up to the standards ... and this quality of egg has a corresponding lower price in the market-place. Egg producers who wish to market all eggs produced in the state are required to market all eggs produced in the state. They own and operate as an essential for total Farm Bureau action, and that members are addressed when he said "effective membership participation is essential for total Farm Bureau action, and that members are offered a better opportunity to guide and support our Farm Bureau when they participate in Community Farm Bureau Groups". The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors is giving priority to this important part of our organization. Are there any conditions imposed on Farm Bureau Services by such agreement?

Services agree to receive and market all of the eggs, make all transportation arrangements including farm pick-up, supply all packing cases and packing materials, pay for eggs on the basis of the lowest price received by the producer participating agreement with Farm Bureau Services.

What are some of the conditions imposed on Farm Bureau Services by such agreement?

I said that our egg account for 17 per cent of the total eggs produced in the state - and it becomes obvious that prices paid to producers on eggs in an agreement must be based on supply-demand relations involving the other 83 per cent. This, plus our relationships to the dominating New York market.

Retail outlet studies show that eggs contribute nearly 2 per cent of gross store sales and a corresponding share of the profit. Our eggs must compete with over 7,000 items in the modern store. To keep good service methods dictate our sales and merchandising practices with buyers, but 'at the same time, we're trying to meet the farmer's interests in mind.

We've been real proud that even though the industry has been depressed, Farm Bureau Services has increased its operations, and kept a good service efficiency record. We have charts to show that the "difference" between the price we pay for eggs (per dozen) and the price we sell them for, is at an all-time low.

Doesn't it seem strange to you that Farm Bureau's organization - the Michigan Farm Bureau, through its Farm Bureau Service affiliate - should itself engage in vertical integration in the production of eggs?

Not at all, since through this mechanism we are able to increase egg prices, lower price-bargaining power for Michigan egg producers. We have increased our share of Michigan egg market for Michigan producers, and Farm Bureau Services has provided a much more desirable form of integration, one which is ap- proved by the farmers themselves, and with the welfare of farmers as their primary interest.

What's the point of all of this?

We mean an egg that meets the right requirements that allow it to be placed in a "Fresh, Fancy Quality AA Grade" carton. It means that each lot of eggs must be inspected by a full-time resident USDA inspector in each Farm Bureau Services location, and backed by a quality control extending from the producer's farm through the retail store. It means supervision and inspection throughout the supply line.

About 17 per cent of all eggs produced in the state. They own and operate as an essential for total Farm Bureau action, and that members are offered a better opportunity to guide and support our Farm Bureau when they participate in Community Farm Bureau Groups". The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors is giving priority to this important part of our organization. Are there any conditions imposed on Farm Bureau Services by such agreement?

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Health Security

Today, over 70 percent of eligible Farm Bureau families in Michigan have Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage and, in coming months, that number may increase. Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage is available to Farm Bureau members at special group rates, and a program has been devised in the best interests of farmers.

A good health care protection program is basic to family security. You cannot use the Farm Bureau's Blue Cross and Blue Shield to forecast future medical costs. Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the best way to defend yourself and your family against catastrophe.

Could your family carry on if you became seriously ill? It would be difficult, but knowing that medical costs were covered would ease the burden, and assure you of the means to pay for the best hospital-medical-surgical care.

Go ahead and experiment with crops; but don't experiment with your family's health; choose the safest, most popular kind of health care protection there is — Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Have you thought about your senior years? Farm Bureau has a special Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage goes into effect when you reach age 62. Coverage can be transferred from one Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan area to another or on a County to County basis. And, no deposit is needed in participating hospitals (nearly all of Michigan's general hospitals).

Remember the deadline for enrolling or making changes in your contract if you are now enrolled, is MARCH 15. Act now to insure your health care future.
Farm Bureau Services NEW
Plan-A-Yield Program
Can Give You Higher Yields
with Less Cost and Labor!

Here Are Your Row Starter Production Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yield (bu. per acre)</th>
<th>Fertilizer (lbs. per acre)</th>
<th>Bulk</th>
<th>Bagged</th>
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<td>200</td>
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ORDER EARLY AND SAVE!

Pre-Season Delivery Discounts—Cash

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yield (bu. per acre)</th>
<th>Fertilizer (lbs. per acre)</th>
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<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>5.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, under ordinary conditions 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.

This Is A Complete Program from Soil Test to Harvest

Our trained specialists assist you from beginning to end so that you get more profit with less labor. Produced in Saginaw and Kalamazoo, our fertilizer is quality controlled throughout its manufacturing process, to assure you of getting the most from your money. See your local dealer for details or send a postcard and our specialists will show you the whole program.

If you want bulk blend fertilizer at a low price per ton contact our outlets at Remus, Coldwater and Marcellus.

*Special Corn Starter Fertilizer now has 2% zinc guaranteed.
TOMORROW... "EVEN BETTER" PROTECTION WITH AGROPLAN

A Total Farm Insurance Program . . .
... is a necessity for today's complex commercial operations, large and small. Today, hazards exist which a farmer cannot protect himself against financially. Tomorrow, AGROPLAN will meet this need.

Through Study and Research . . .
... Farm Bureau Insurance specialists are re-evaluating the future needs of Michigan farmers. Personal farmer interviews are being utilized to develop a total modern farm protection program.

Providing New Coverages . . .
... for modern farmers . . . like livestock mortality, business interruption and a personal umbrella program. And worries about crippling financial loss through transport accident and possible liability will be eliminated by AGROPLAN. Farm Bureau Insurance Group was built by the farming community and remains Michigan's largest farm coverage writer. So, the leader should pioneer the most completely modern farm insurance program possible. And we are.

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP
Farm Bureau Mutual - Farm Bureau Life - Community Service, LANSING