

# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

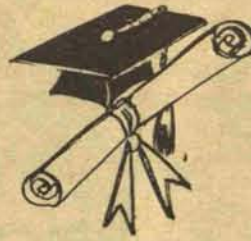
THE **ACTION** PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

MAY 1, 1968  
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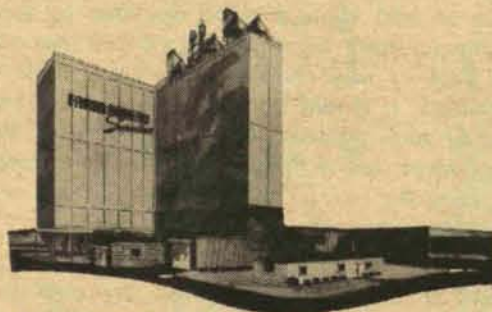
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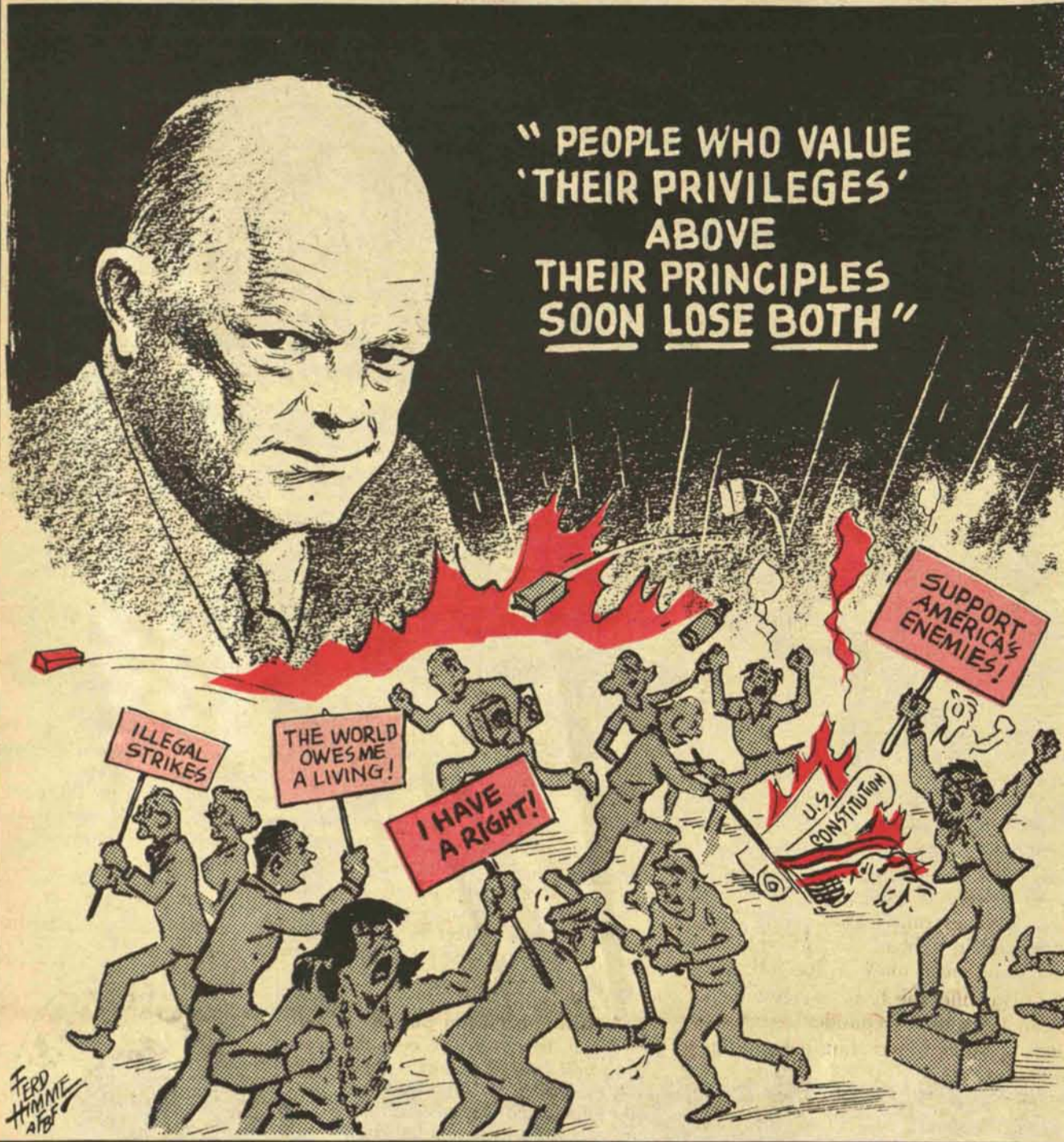
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**MICHIGAN WEEK — MAY 19 - 25**

# DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER SAID...



## A PERSONAL WORD FROM THE WOMEN:

## Tractors are Humming...

May flowers! Aren't the roadsides bright with the many colors mother nature uses to dress her early flowers? No wonder the colors we humans like at this time of year are so bright, everything comes to life in spring.

Tractors are humming their working tunes as farmers and farmers' families are all busy outside preparing the land for planting. It's a tiring time, but also a happy time on the farm. New little lambs, baby pigs, and calves all enjoy the warmth of the sun, along with the protection of their attentive mothers to keep them from harm.

The sun is a good friend to us all. We know that without the sun our newly planted fields would fail to show signs of life or growth. We must also remember that too much sun can burn humans, so as we get used to being outdoors in the sunlight early in the year, we should remember to use our good sense and protect ourselves from too much of it.

In a news release from the American Cancer Society, it is stated that the sun is known to be the culprit in most skin cancer cases.

Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers, and many cases of this disease are preventable. An estimated 105,000 Americans will develop skin cancer this year alone, and most of them will get it because their skins have been exposed to too many of the sun's ultraviolet rays, for too long a period of time.

Skin cancer is also the most curable of all cancers. Yet 5,000 Americans will die of this disease in 1968. Why? Because their disease was not treated in time.

Let's add this to our list of safety precautions. We have many do's and don'ts for safety protection on our machinery. Isn't it only good sense to add some for the operator of those same machines? So, if you have a sore that does not heal or any change in a wart, mole or birthmark, it would be wise to see your physician as soon as possible. Chances are it isn't skin cancer, but if it should be, early treatment can cure it.

Our spring district meetings are over now and I have enjoyed very much meeting with you ladies. Your meetings were enjoyable and I felt a warm welcome from you who were there. Sorry I wasn't able to be at all of them, but I'll make it some other time. I do want to get acquainted with all of you.

Spring is the time of Hope, and I would like to share this little verse with you —

"Hope may be a sometime thing,  
And yet it has a sturdy ring,  
Strength to lean on, faith to borrow,  
HOPE — the sunrise of tomorrow."

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

## Editorial

## LAW AND ORDER

"Human relations are more important than the power of the atom." Allan B. Kline, venerable former President of the American Farm Bureau Federation made that statement in Grand Rapids, Michigan, recently.

"Morality, the question of law and order, if not the top issue in this country at the present time, is very close to the top," he said.

Who really knows the cost of the wave of violence which has swept our nation?

Without counting last year's riot totals, around 45 million dollars in losses have been tabulated by property insurance companies since the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Both the cities of Chicago and Washington, D.C., suffered losses topping ten million and over nine million in losses were recorded in Baltimore, Maryland.

Add to this the staggering sum of \$80 million in property losses in just the two cities of Newark and Detroit during the riots of last summer — \$64 million in Detroit alone.

Looting is shown as the greatest single cause of loss, with fires second and vandalism third. Miles of windowless houses along one Chicago thoroughfare in the riot area stand as mute testimony to the vandalism involved. One of the burned buildings was a church, where fire damage is now estimated at nearly \$200,000.

Property can be replaced and buildings rebuilt, but what of the damages to people — to their respect for law and order — to their self-respect?

What strange new morality grips America — when "society" is blamed for the acts of individuals, when more concern appears to be shown for the criminal than for the victim, when "rights" are trampled in the name of seeking them — when wrong is declared right by mob rule?

What has happened to respect for law, when individuals choose which laws they will publicly defy, and are allowed to get away with it? Who can explain away the "peace marchers" who tried to storm the Chicago Avenue armory as national guard troops sought desperately to restore order?

And although campaigns may be conducted behind banners of non-violence, public defiance of the law can only lead to violence, and in the case of the Memphis marches, to the worst sort of violence — to murder.

Murder used as a nation-wide excuse for more defiance of law, for more violence — more death.

"Is there reason to be proud in a Nation where armed men patrol the streets and turn cities into walled arsenals against a revolution born of bitterness, frustration and oppression?" — asks Michigan Congressman, Guy Vander Jagt.

America is founded upon the principle of government by law, instead of government by men. When men pick and choose which laws they will obey, they place themselves outside the law.

Farmers believe that "economic progress and cultural advancement flourish best where men are free, responsible individuals."

Our Farm Bureau resolutions state: "We condemn the acts of those who incite or participate in riots, defile the flag, or burn draft cards. We recognize the right of citizens to dissent, but protests and demonstrations should not interfere with the rights of others and must not be permitted to deteriorate into civil disorder and anarchy.

"Each individual should be held liable for his acts when participating in, or inciting, such disorders . . ."

Perhaps Allan Kline summed it up best when he said: "Obviously you cannot solve insurrection with federal troops. It must be solved within the minds of the involved people . . ."

M. W.

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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## President's Column

## PLAN NOW

Now that Spring has come, most of us will be pretty busy for the next several weeks trying to stay ahead of the weather. While we are making preparations for a big crop harvest next fall, we need to do a little thinking about our Farm Bureau harvest—the policies for another year.

I realize it's a long time until the first county annual meeting and even longer until annual meetings of Michigan Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation, but we need to be looking toward all of them.

Now would be a good time to make plans for involving all our members in the process of policy development. Policies which we make in haste without thorough discussion can certainly come back to haunt us later.

It would be helpful if our counties could start selecting delegates to the annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau now. This would give these people a chance to spend a little more time finding out what county Farm Bureau members want. It also would make sure that our county delegates made an extra effort to attend the resolutions session of the county annual meeting.

The job of delegate to the annual meeting is one of the most important in the Farm Bureau, because it's here that the direction is set for the future. The issues presented to the delegates are many and some are very involved, so we just can't afford to make hasty or ill-informed decisions on any of them.

Any time a delegate goes to an annual meeting with only sketchy knowledge of an issue and the position of his county Farm Bureau, our policy process is in danger of failing. The only way a delegate can have a full understanding of his county's position is to be at the county meeting listening to the discussion of the resolutions. He also needs to study the Michigan and American Farm Bureau policies before this meeting so he can get points clarified for guidance at the annual meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau.

One of the things we need advice and guidance on most is new services for members. We have an alert, competent staff but we must have your help in developing new services. Any service which is instituted at state level has to come down from you if it is to be successful. We need your best thinking in policy development because policies finally become programs.

I've heard that some researchers found out that only 1% of the members make most of the decisions in any organization. They say another 9% help make these decisions and another 25% help with the work of execution of the decision, while the other 65% just go along for the ride.

Now, I'm sure that we have more than any 10% of us in the policy process in Farm Bureau but we always must work to get still more members involved.

The best way to get a person involved in Farm Bureau is to send him to the annual meeting at Lansing of the AFBF. I hope that this year every county will make an extra effort to see that their president attends the annual meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau. We also would like to have a good group of county presidents attend the American Farm Bureau meeting in Kansas City, December 9-12.

At the last annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau we had a planeload of county membership chairmen attending. Without exception, those I have talked with since their return have been most complimentary of the programs they attended.

I have no doubt that part of our success in membership this year has been a result of the inspiration these membership chairmen got at Chicago in December.

At these AFBF meetings, a person feels proud that he is a part of a mighty big organization and he usually comes home all pepped up and encouraged to do a better job in his own county. We just can't get too much of this sort of thing, and in my opinion, the more people we get to this Kansas City meeting, the stronger organization we will have here in Michigan.

Elton Smith

# commodity concerns examined... board to name study committee

Special commodity concerns were high on the agenda during a recent springtime meeting of the board of directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Livestock, fruit, poultry, dairy, vegetables, field-crop soft wheat and dry edible beans all were commodities represented by reports from producer-advisory committees.

A number of the reports carried action-recommendations; for example, the Fruit Advisory Committee, with District 1 director, Harry Nye as Chairman, suggested that the Michigan Farm Bureau begin a marketing study on both prunes and pears and consider the possibility of a new Michigan Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Association program for these important Michigan fruit crops.

Noting that Michigan orchards now contain 10,000 acres of pears and about 4,000 acres of prunes—with combined values of around \$5,000,000 annually, the board recommended that the studies be made and progress reports be presented to the board.

The Dry Edible Bean advisory committee reported meetings with the Michigan Bean Growers Marketing Cooperative . . . and noted that a substantial number of growers are interested in some form of cooperative marketing effort, but that lack of agreement is evident concerning the best methods to be used in doing this. The board issued a statement to the effect that the Michigan Farm Bureau will not enter into organized bean marketing at this time, and that in one year's time this action would again be reviewed in light of marketing progress which may have been made in the interim.

Meanwhile, the board suggested that county Bean Committees consider county-wide meetings to explain marketing possibilities to growers.

The board went on record as opposing a federal table-egg Marketing Act . . . Under the Act, now before Congress, a "National Egg Board" would be appointed from among egg producers. This board in turn would establish a quota of eggs to be produced throughout the United States, with individuals assigned a production quota based on their number of layers.

Future production would be largely static, in that producers could buy only enough pullets each year to fulfill their production quota. These quotas could be adjusted from year to year and producers could sell or transfer their quotas if they wished—however, without a quota they could not sell eggs.

The Act as introduced would provide enabling legislation, allowing these proposals, with the act itself subject to a producer referendum. Poultry leaders point out that the act would lead to a completely regulated egg industry.

In other action, the board reviewed the operation of the Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program—and endorsed its continuation for 1968 along much the same lines as in the past year. It was pointed out that producers not now in the program have until June 14 to sign an agreement to participate.

Farm Bureau policy dealing with the promotion of dairy products was restated—with dairy farmers again encouraged to vote in the forthcoming referendum on the proposed "Michigan Dairymen's Market Program." In prior sessions, the board had stated that it interpreted current policy resolutions dealing with dairy promotion as neither expressing approval or disapproval of the proposed Michigan Dairymen's Market Program. At that time, they stated that Farm Bureaus should not testify as an organizational unit during hearings—rather that such testimony should be given by individual dairymen directly affected by the legislation.

A motion was made "that the Michigan Farm Bureau Dairy Advisory Committee take active leadership in the development of recommendations regarding new products and new ways of han-

dling the demands of dairy marketing . . ."

Some time was spent by board members in reviewing a resolution adopted by the membership of the last annual meeting, and which called for the appointment of a state Farm Bureau study committee. The resolution states:

"The growth and success of our Farm Bureau has been due to building programs to serve the needs of members. Even better programs must be built on this sound basis so our organization will remain the leading farm organization.

"Our Farm Bureau is a sound financial operation. In looking ahead, we recognize that added programs will require additional competent staff. Labor and other operating costs will continue to rise as long as we are in this inflationary period. The time to look ahead is before the need of additional finance has become severe.

"We therefore request the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors to appoint a special study committee to study programs needed and possible alternative methods of finance."

The board agreed to set this policy in motion by adopting procedures for appointing the committee and outlining qualifications of the members.



MICHIGAN WEEK  
MAY 19-25



"At the present time we know of no subtle effects on humans from the use of pesticides. . . ."

# EXPERTS SPEAK



## capitol report

### Reed Answers Controversial Pesticide Control Proposal

The Michigan Farm Bureau has played a prominent role in recent testimony in opposition to a proposal to set up a powerful state "committee" to deal with registration and control of pesticide materials.

The proposal, House Bill 3911 — would also transfer much of the present authority in this area from the state Department of Agriculture to the Conservation Commission. Currently tabled, the bill would greatly handicap farmers in their use of a long list of chemicals now approved and recommended by researchers and health authorities.

Following is the testimony given by Dan E. Reed, Secretary-Manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau, before the House Committee on Conservation and Recreation, in a hearing called in early April in the House Chambers, Lansing:

I am speaking for the farmer members of the Michigan Farm Bureau, and am also authorized to speak in behalf of the dairy farmer members of the Michigan Milk Producers Association, and of the Independent Cooperative Milk Producers, of Grand Rapids. Many of the leaders of these organizations are here today.

The members of these organizations are producers of the great variety of agricultural, horticultural and livestock products grown in Michigan, and must compete in the nation's markets and in world markets with producers of other states and other countries. Our competitors use the best techniques, methods and treatments available to produce high yields and high quality products. If Michigan farmers do not have available, or are prevented from using, comparable methods, they are placed at a competitive disadvantage.

We are also concerned about the processors of our products. "Pretty good" isn't good enough when it comes to processed foods. "Only a few cherry maggots" on the label of canned or frozen cherries would ban them from the shelves of our own markets and shut us off from the export trade we are trying hard to develop. Farmers are experienced in the use of pesticides and use only the products approved and recommended by researchers and scientists to do the job that must be done.

Agriculture is one of the major contributors to the plus side of our balance of trade. The products of one acre in five are exported. We cannot enter the foreign market without disease-free and insect-free products. Other countries don't want our problems and we don't want theirs, but, like the cereal leaf beetle or the Japanese beetle, or Dutch elm disease, we

sometimes have to control them. Michigan is fortunate that many pests, such as the Japanese beetle, have not gotten a foothold in our state due to the constant vigilance of our Department of Agriculture and the timely and proper use of pesticides.

There are many different problems, many different conditions, and often alternate treatments that may be desirable. Different soils, slopes and drainage situations must be met. For example, in some extremely localized problem areas, where there is no run-off, treatment is needed to control grubs to permit forest plantings to establish themselves. Banning of certain pesticides is not warranted in these conditions and is a real handicap to good conservation practices.

There is a great deal of difference between applying chemical to stable soils with no run-off and their application to ponds, roofs, pavements, and dumping directly into storm sewers.

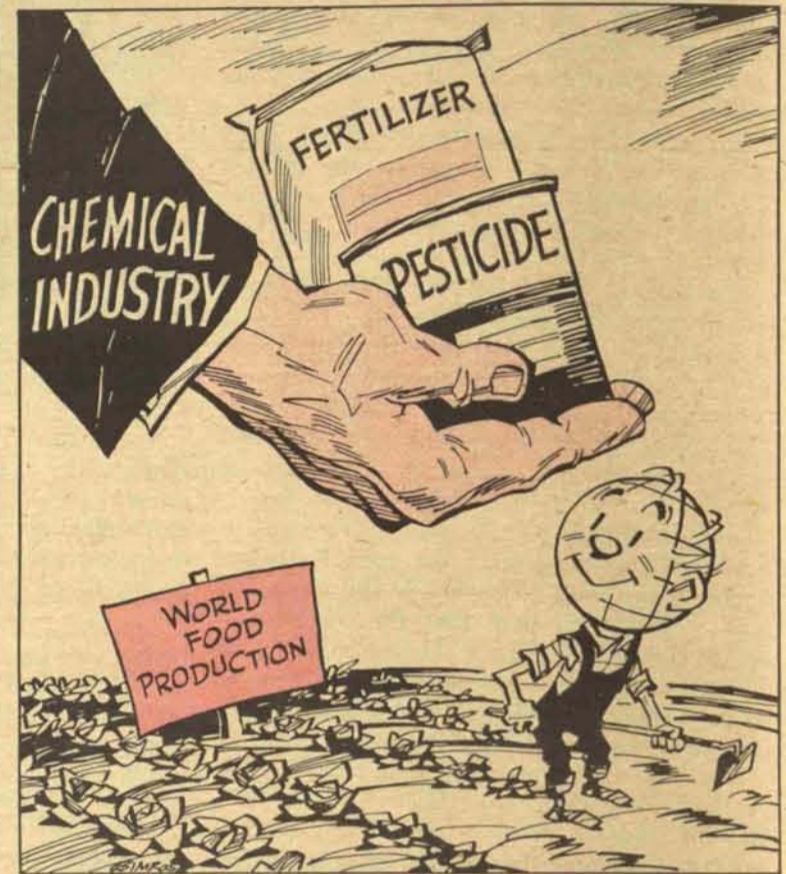
Much of the current attack on the use of chemicals centers on DDT. I have an article here referring to DDT applications as "agricultural pesticides." Little, if any, DDT is used by farmers, and it hasn't been for some years. For instance, DDT recommendations were cancelled for use on dairy cattle nearly 20 years ago. Certainly, any continuing build-up of DDT in Great Lakes waters is not due to agriculture.

The bill on which this hearing is being held involves a serious matter, affecting the entire economy of this state. Answers must be based on sound and considered judgment. Unnecessarily restrictive and punitive action on the use of chemicals in Michigan is not the answer. Michigan is already far ahead of most states in the control and study of these chemicals. The Pesticide Center at Michigan State University is doing outstanding work in this area. It should be noted that Michigan is only one of the Great Lakes States, and unilateral control will not accomplish the result of clearing up contamination in the Great Lakes watershed.

We believe that the special legislative committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 146 can be very helpful in providing sound, reasonable and workable answers. Any study should include the total use of these chemicals, whether by agriculture, municipalities, public agencies, business, industry or individual homeowners.

We urge that the House allow H. B. 3911 to remain on the table, and permit this committee to carry out its assignment.

### A HELPING HAND...



### AMERICA — HOPE FOR A HUNGRY WORLD!

Public opinion polls generally place such things as the Vietnam War, the cost of living, and racial strife at the head of the list of great issues that concern people the most.

But one growing problem over-riding all others is that of worldwide population growth. A U. S. Senator, speaking on this problem, called it, "the most challenging crisis for the rest of this century," and he speaks with good reason. World population in the year 1887 was 1.3 billion persons. By 1957, just 70 years later, it doubled to 2.6 billion. By the year 2000, careful projections indicate a world population of 6 billion people must be provided with a minimum diet in order to exist.

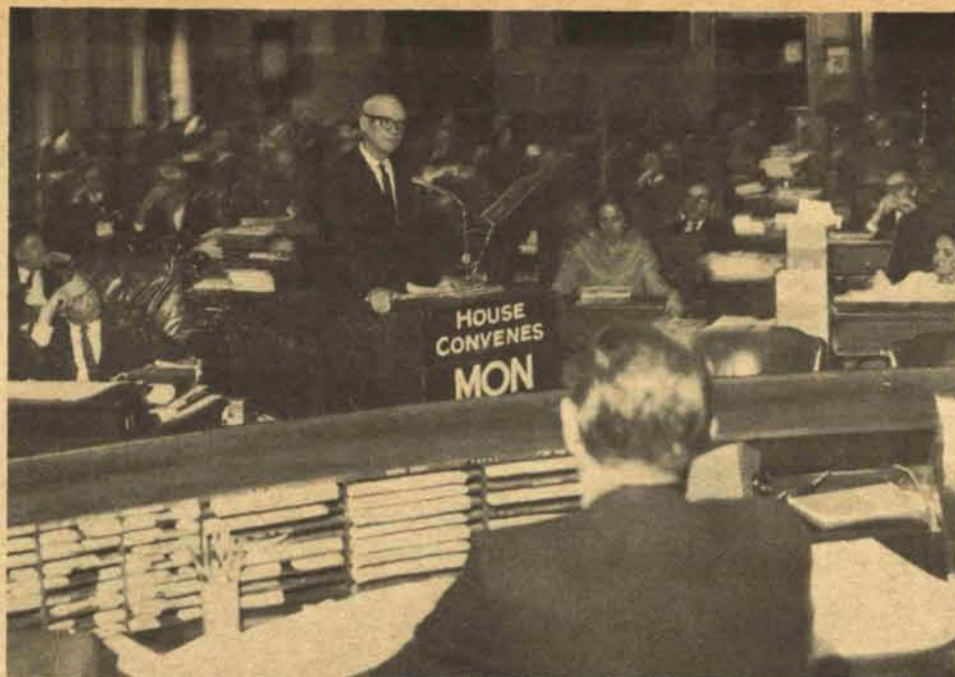
In the matter of food production, the United States has become the shining hope of the world for the simple reason that it has demonstrated what modern technology can do to increase the productivity of the land. Free enterprise agriculture, coupled with revolutionary advances in the development and use of machinery, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, has produced dramatic results. Take but a few typical crops.

Corn production in the 1925-29 period approximated 26 bushels per acre. In 1965, it was estimated at 72 bushels. Wheat yield per acre went from about 14 bushels to 27. Cotton production has tripled in the last 30 years. Milk production per cow has nearly doubled in the same period. In the forefront of the list of tools upon which we must increasingly depend to augment agricultural production are pesticide chemicals — the wide variety of insecticides, fungicides, weed killers, rodent destroyers, and plant growth regulators available for safe use in food production, processing and marketing.

The United States, among the developed countries, faces the challenge of playing a decisive leadership role in helping teach two-thirds of the world's people how to produce enough food to feed themselves. Advanced agricultural techniques cannot be applied overnight in countries with vastly differing eating habits, crop requirements and political systems.

U. S. agricultural progress itself depends upon public understanding of our economic system of free markets and private enterprise. This system provides the incentives to create and apply the constant flow of technological developments on which we and the rest of the world's people depend for survival.





FARM BUREAU SECRETARY — Dan E. Reed, appeared on behalf of Michigan farmers at the public hearing in the House Chambers in early April. He said "Farmers are experienced in their use of pesticides and use only those products approved by research scientists to do the jobs that must be done . . ."



AG-COMMISSION CHAIRMAN — Mrs. Rebecca Tompkins, filled a dual role in her appearance before the Pesticide hearing recently in Lansing. Active in the operation of a fruit farm north of Traverse City, she spoke as both a concerned grower and as a representative of the State Department of Agriculture.



## PROPOSED LEGISLATION BRANDED AS "UNWARRANTED-UNNECESSARY"

By: Margaret G. McCall

More than 50 persons appeared before the Conservation and Recreation committee of the Michigan House of Representatives at a public hearing to testify in regard to proposed pesticide control legislation. Witnesses included many nationally recognized scientists and researchers.

The hearing, called by Chairman Raymond Baker, Oakland county Republican, was held Saturday, April 6, in the House chambers. A crowd estimated at about 300 persons filled the gallery. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the hearing continued throughout the day, and several people were still waiting to testify when it concluded about 6 p.m.

Two bills had been introduced in the legislature this year under the sponsorship of the Department of Conservation which would have set up a committee with complete control over use of pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and rodenticides.

The proposed committee would have been comprised of nine members, including the Director of Conservation (designated as chairman), the Director of Agriculture, Director of Public Health, Director of the Pesticide Research Center of MSU, Dean of the School of Natural Resources at University of Michigan, and four members of the general public to be appointed by the governor, subject to Senate approval.

### Committee Structure

Of the appointed members, one would have been from a recognized state-wide conservation organization, one from a recognized state-wide agricultural organization, one a medical doctor knowledgeable concerning pesticides, and one an ecologist from a state university or college.

Makeup of the proposed committee, as indicated, would have included not more than three having any connection with agriculture: only one farmer, plus the director of agriculture, and the director of MSU's Pesticide Research Center.

### Broad Powers

Broad powers would have been given to the committee, to approve or disapprove any program by a public agency to eradicate or control pests; to approve or disapprove all state agency rules pertaining to registration of pesticides, with power to modify or

withdraw existing registrations; and monitoring of pesticide levels and residues in air, water, soil, wildlife and man.

One bill, S. 984, died in the Senate Conservation committee. However, an identical bill introduced in the House, H. 3911, was finally reported out of committee and laid on the table.

Through pressure by various groups opposing use of pesticides and other chemicals, a public hearing was scheduled. Michigan Farm Bureau and other organizations and individuals then organized and coordinated testimony to be presented before the committee, to truly reflect agriculture's views on the subject.

### Farm Bureau Appears

Among the numerous witnesses were farm leaders representing every commodity grown in Michigan. Text of the statement presented by Dan Reed, Secretary-Manager of Michigan Farm Bureau, appears on page 4 of this issue of Michigan Farm News.

Expert witnesses testifying before the committee included Mitchell R. Zavon, M.D., associate professor of industrial medicine, the Kettering Institute, College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati.

### "D.D.T. most valuable"

Dr. Zavon, who has devoted the last 18 years to scientific research in the field, declared: "I consider DDT the single most valuable development of this century. It has done more good for mankind than any other development of our time."

He pointed out that the great

risk of encephalitis in the United States has been virtually eliminated through the use of DDT, and millions of lives have been saved throughout the world. "There is no margin-of-safety for food or health protection," Dr. Zavon explained. "At the present time we know of no subtle effects on humans from the use of pesticides, and it would be unwise to base legislation on such unknown future effects."

### Unnecessary Legislation

Witnesses repeatedly emphasized that pesticides and other chemicals are highly controlled under present federal and state regulations, and declared that the proposed legislation was both unnecessary and unwarranted. They urged that "emotional and hysterical" action be avoided.

B. Dale Ball, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, outlined present strict controls which govern use of pesticides. "Before a pesticide can be put on the market in Michigan," he said, "it is approved by the USDA and the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture Laboratory division. If it is used in food production, it also must be cleared by the U. S. Public Health Service Food and Drug Administration."

Ball pointed out that the Michigan Agriculture department relies heavily on research data from the Experiment Station and the Pesticide Research Center at MSU, which is considered one of the top research centers in the world.

The director also noted that the Michigan Department of Agriculture has not used DDT since 1962. He traced the changing use of pesticides through the years, demonstrating that so-called "soft" pesticides have been replacing the "hard" pesticides as rapidly as scientific development permits.

Ball emphasized that "probably less than 50% of the pesticides used are used by farmers. However, effective, safe pesticides must be available to farmers, food processors and others, if we are to continue to have adequate, high-quality food available to consumers at reasonable cost."

### Review Urged

The Agriculture department director urged a "complete review" of the pesticide issue as provided for in Concurrent resolution No.

146. This resolution establishes a 10-member legislative committee representing both houses to study the effects of pesticide use by agriculture, municipalities, public agencies, industry and individual homeowners. Michigan Farm Bureau supports this resolution.

Expert witnesses emphasized again and again that further research and study are needed to assure the public that proper protective measures are being taken to control pesticide usage.

### Experts Appear

Among those testifying were: Dr. Harry W. Hayes, director, Pesticide Registration division, USDA, Washington; Dr. Donald Spencer, consultant, The Ford Foundation, New York; George C. Rohwer, Plant Pest Control division, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Washington; Douglas E. Hanson, regional assistant commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, Dept. of HEW, Chicago; Dr. J. A. Hofer, assistant director, Agricultural Experiment station, MSU; Dr. Stanley K. Ries, Department of Horticulture, MSU; Dr. Howard E. Johnson, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, MSU; and Dr. James Butcher, Dept. of Entomology, MSU.

Mrs. Rebecca Tompkins, chairman of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, and wife of a Michigan fruit grower, also spoke against the proposed bill.

One of many farmers who appeared, Duane Baldwin, a vegetable grower from Stockbridge and president of the Michigan Agricultural conference, said use of chemicals on vegetables, especially head lettuce, is absolutely essential in order to grow it; however, the Food and Drug Administration tests the lettuce as it comes from the field and before it is washed. He said that, in eight years of such testing, head lettuce producers had not had one single complaint due to chemical residues. He expressed surprise at hearing that the Department of Conservation has just recently stopped using DDT, and said, "This chemical is outdated as far as agriculture is concerned."

Continuing public interest in the use of pesticides, development of new and safer chemicals, and the methods of control is expected.

The study committee has been instructed to review all aspects of the problem and to report its findings and recommendations to the 1969 session of the Michigan legislature.

At that time, interested individuals and organizations will have another opportunity to weigh the merits of the pesticide controversy. In the interim, the recent hearing may have served a valuable purpose in exposing the issue to public scrutiny, giving people a chance to "speak their piece," and perhaps increasing public knowledge of the subject.

## Pesticide Policy Panel

A three-member panel has been appointed by Governor George Romney to develop a state-wide policy on the use of "hard" pesticides.

Appointed to serve on the panel were Dr. Gordon Guyer, chairman of the department of entomology, Michigan State University; Dr. John Bardach, professor of fisheries and zoology, University of Michigan; and Eugene Kenaga, Dow Chemical company, Midland.

In announcing appointment of the committee, Governor Romney said, "The pesticide problem is extremely complex and is a matter of national as well as Michigan concern. Michigan cannot afford to continue to merely engage in emotionally charged conflict over this subject."

The panel will review all pesticide research and will submit its findings and recommendations to the governor.

# Livestock Management Tool

## FARMERS USE FUTURES MARKET

More than 100,000 dairy cattle have vanished from Michigan farms in the past two years as high labor costs and the special demands of dairying have caused increasing numbers of farmers to move toward feeder cattle.

But as is often the case — many of the old problems evaded by this move have been replaced by new ones, including occasional wild fluctuations in profits which have been common in the feeder business in recent years.

Now — something new, a Michigan Livestock industry first, has been tested and is offered by Farm Bureau Services, to make it possible for the feeder to compute his profit and largely lock it in, before he puts the feeders in the lot.

This is done through a new hedging service involving an adaptation of normal futures trading on the Merchantile Exchange to the livestock industry. Under the arrangement, any qualified livestock producer, with at least 25 head of cattle or 100 hogs for sale at one time, can participate in the program, operated by Farm Bureau Services with the close cooperation of the Michigan Live-stock Exchange.

Essentially, the process consists of computing the "finished" cost of market-hogs or steers, and comparing these costs with the futures prices.

If the futures price is higher than the computed cost of the finished animals, the owner "locks in" this computed difference by selling a contract for the future market. Assumed, of course, is an efficient job of interim feeding.

Under normal futures-trading there seldom is an actual delivery of goods being traded. A symbolic contract and cash are used instead. Involved is a brokerage contract, a "margin deposit" for

each transaction and a buying and a selling commission.

Under the new Farm Bureau Services hedging program, the brokerage contract stands, already made for the local feeder's use. The considerable paper-work involved is done as a service of the Feed Department. Feed Field-men have been given special training to allow them to help producers with other mechanics of a modern marketing function which until now has been largely foreign to farmers.

The key to the process is sharp pencil-work, and the ability of all concerned to accurately figure the finished costs of the livestock.

Having compared this finished cost with the futures prices, — and finding the futures offering a favorable profit-margin, the feeder "pledges" a future payment (representing his livestock) by selling a contract at the named futures price and bearing a due date. Usually, the trader (feeder in this case) settles his contract for cash on or before the due date. Meanwhile he has "locked in" (as-

sured) his profit while the livestock are on feed in the interim period. His gain comes about in that, under these conditions, profits in the paper futures market tend to make up losses in a declining cash market.

Not to be ignored is the possible reverse effect when gains on a rising cash market are erased by losses in the futures market. Every feeder must keep in mind that the use of futures-contracts is to guarantee the computed profit, and in so doing, DOES NOT allow the feeder to speculate on the cash market.

There will be times when the feeder must decide to gamble on the cash market or not feed, because futures prices are not always favorable.

At present, the futures markets — through hedging, can guarantee the profit-margin of market cattle or hogs, the cost of western feeder cattle, and the cost of any supplemental grain needed.

"We are dealing with a relatively new management tool — a method of marketing that brings a number of advantages," states Don Shepard, Sales Manager for the Feed Department of Farm Bureau Services.

"Although both the Chicago Merchantile Exchange and the Board of Trade developed contracts for trading livestock several years ago, and these contracts are heavily traded on both floors, participation has been light on the part of livestock producers.

"We feel that many farmers do not understand the procedures involved in this new marketing concept, and others may not think of themselves as being large enough to take part in futures trading. Through a joint Farm Bureau Services and Michigan Livestock Exchange marketing program, we are out to dispel these fears and misconceptions," Shepard said.

He encourages feeders who want more detail, to contact their nearest local Farm Bureau Services feed dealer or district Feed Department representative . . . and to "try one or two contracts to determine for yourself that it works . . ."

## SUPERMARKET TO THE WORLD



CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE, CELEBRATING ITS 120TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR, IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMMODITIES FUTURES EXCHANGE. TWO OUT OF EVERY THREE FUTURES CONTRACTS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE MADE IN THE BOARD'S TRADING PITS.



The Chicago Board of Trade itself does no buying or selling; it serves as an international marketplace where, in open auction, producers and consumers of selected commodities buy and sell futures contracts — agreements to make or take delivery at some later date.

BOARD OF TRADE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES 1,402 FARMERS, PROCESSORS, GRAIN ELEVATOR OPERATORS, EXPORTERS, BANKERS, SHIPPERS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO TRADE FOR THEIR OWN ACCOUNTS. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 20,000 BROKERAGE HOUSE SOLICITORS AND OTHER SALES REPRESENTATIVES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO ARE REGISTERED TO TAKE ORDERS FOR FUTURES CONTRACTS.

TRADING VOLUME IN CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE FUTURES CONTRACTS HAS BEEN OVER \$50 BILLION IN EACH OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS, MAKING IT THE SECOND LARGEST FINANCIAL MARKETPLACE IN THE WORLD.

## FUTURES TRADING

Futures trading has a prominent and rightful place in our competitive market price system.

Trading in commodity futures reflects a need of the market system for a means of transferring certain types of risk. It presently serves a useful purpose for a number of commodities and should be provided for additional commodities where need exists and research shows futures trading would be beneficial.

1968 Policy Resolutions, American Farm Bureau Federation —

# Cherry Division Grows

## STAFF MEMBER NAMED

A fast-growing membership representing impressive tonnage, newly elected members to the state-wide Processing Red Tart Cherry Marketing Committee and the appointment of a full-time Field Representative, are among progress items listed in a spring-time Cherry Division report.

Membership in the Processing Red Tart Cherry division of Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association has reached 265, representing well over 21,000 tons of production.

This was the report of Royal Call, acting secretary of the division, following election meetings in seven of the eight districts.

Committeemen elected will comprise the Processing Red Tart Cherry Marketing committee, engaged in market analysis and price leadership. Mr. Call said the committee's goal is to establish a realistic price for cherries this year.

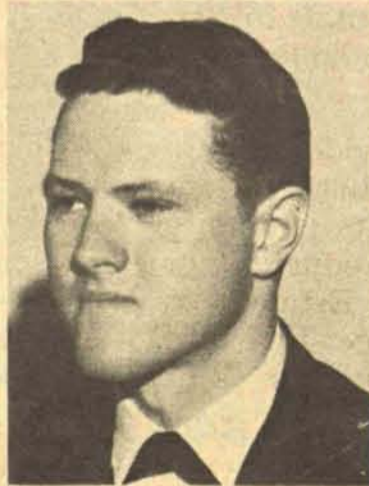
Each district is entitled to one member on the committee; districts having more than 4,000 tons of production in the program are permitted an additional member.

District 1, comprising Antrim, Charlevoix, and other counties north, will elect its representative at a future date. Other districts, and their committeemen are:

District 2, Grand Traverse county, Noel Baumberger, Northport; District 4, Benzie and Manistee counties, James Evans of Frankfort and Leon Hadaway of Onkama;

District 5, Mason and Oceana counties, Burton Hawley of Shelby; District 6, Newaygo, Muskegon, Kent, Ottawa, Mecosta, Montcalm and Ionia counties, Keith Moore of Grant and Rodney Bull of Bailey;

District 7, Allegan, Van Buren and Kalamazoo counties, Vernon Sill of South Haven; District 8, Berrien and Cass counties, John Steimle of Eau Claire.



JOHN WILLISIE

Appointment of John Willisie as field representative for Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, in Northwest Michigan, has been made by Robert Braden, MACMA manager. Mr. Willisie's appointment became effective April 15. He previously was employed as a regional representative for Michigan Farm Bureau in the same area since April, 1967. He is a 1965 graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry.



MICH. LIVESTOCK MEN — hear explanation of how farmers can benefit by using the futures market. Visiting with them (second from left) is Karl Heimke, Vice President of Chicago's Merchantile Exchange.

## Swine Group

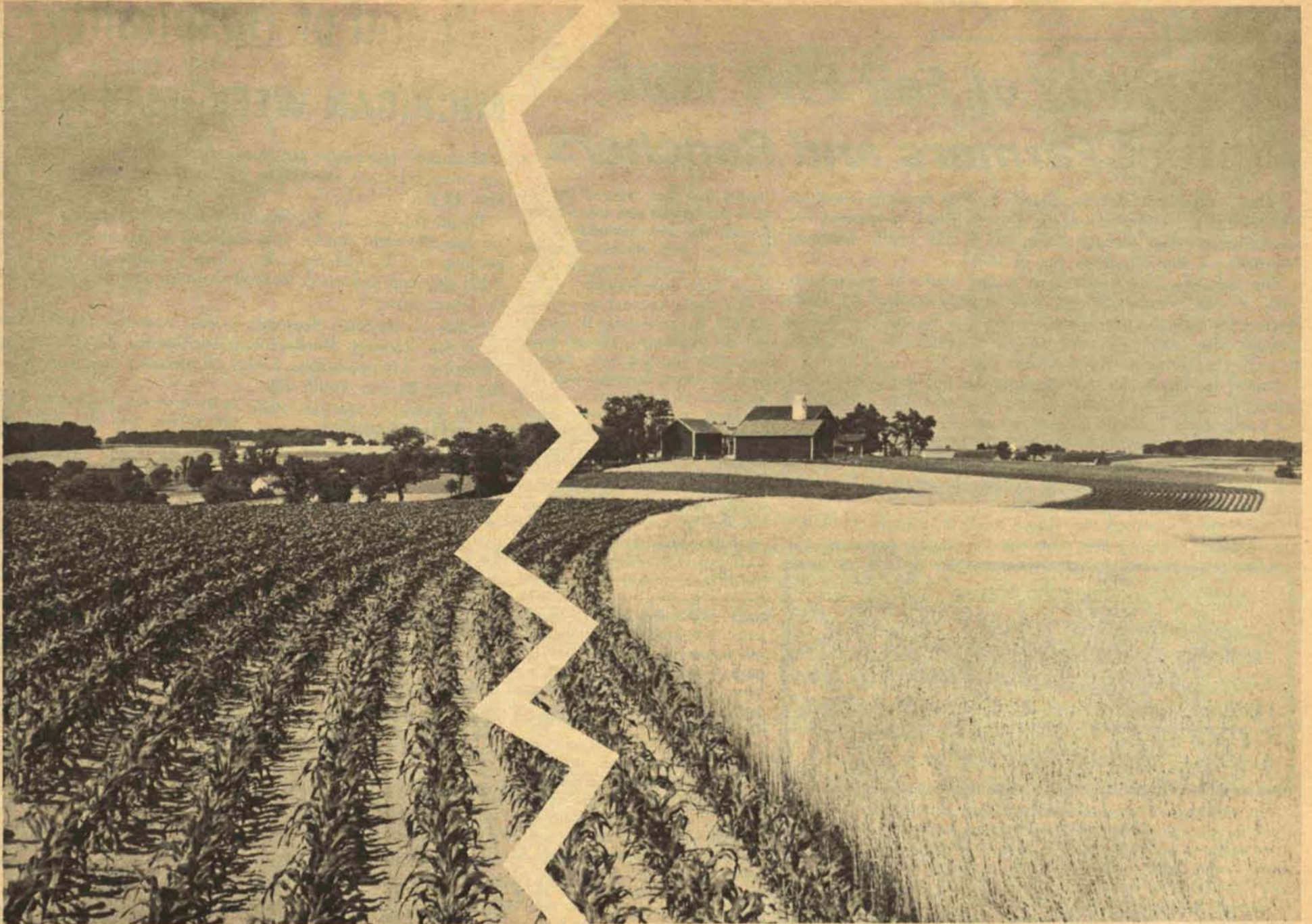
A new 16-member livestock committee — advisory to the board of directors and dealing specifically with swine — has been appointed by Michigan Farm Bureau President, Elton Smith.

The committee, representing 21 of Michigan's major swine-producing counties, includes:

Eugene Roberts, chairman, and Dean Pridgeon, both members of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors; Howard Gray of Kalamazoo, A. J. Robinson of Cass, Dale Troxell of Berrien, Walter Timm of St. Joseph, all from District 1;

Martin Barnhart, Hillsdale, Mike Barton of Jackson, Harold Calhoun of Lenawee, John Denning of Calhoun and Mike Pridgeon of Branch, all District 2; Chip Ray of Allegan, Al Porritt of Kent, District 4; Bill Biergans of Clinton, Russell Rowe of Ingham, both District 5; and Gene Oberst of Gratiot, District 8.

According to William Byrum, Livestock Marketing specialist within Farm Bureau's Market-Development division, "Swine producing Farm Bureau members have shown so much interest in a quality hog marketing program that the Michigan Farm Bureau has responded by asking this group of top producers to provide advisory opinion and research aimed at possible new service-to-member programs of importance to swine producers."



## WILL YOUR FARM STAY IN THE FAMILY?

It has taken a lifetime, perhaps longer, to build your farm. It is a major investment of dollars and sweat. But what will happen tomorrow? Will the farm remain in your family? Or will it be split-up to meet immediate financial obligations which arise from a death or disability?

You can guarantee the future for your family and farm — through Farm Bureau Life's Family Financial Planning service. Here is what it can do for you:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Your Family Farm — Provide ideas for keeping your farm in the family — and creating an equitable inheritance for children who do not stay on the farm.</p>   | <p><b>3</b> Social Security — Provide ideas to help you qualify for Social Security benefits when you elect to receive them.</p>  |
| <p><b>2</b> Estate Transfer — Provide ideas to help you reduce the high cost of transferring your estate to family members, including reduction or elimination of Federal Estate Tax, Michigan Inheritance Tax and Probate and Transfer costs.</p> | <p><b>4</b> Partnership — Provide ideas for partnership continuation agreements — to protect your operation in case of a partner's retirement, death or disability.</p> |

Contact your local Farm Bureau Agent. He'll arrange an appointment with one of our Family Financing Planning Consultants, to work with you and your attorney.

**FARM BUREAU  
INSURANCE  
GROUP**

Farm Bureau Mutual - Farm Bureau Life - Community Service, LANSING



## "FAIR PRACTICES ACT"

# New Rules of Fair Play Will Protect Farmers and Ranchers

"They said it couldn't be done!" In this fashion, Michigan Farm Bureau Secretary-Manager, Dan E. Reed, announced the successful passage through Congress of the much discussed "Agricultural Fair Practices Act of 1968".

The measure, which attracted a fair share of controversy since it was first introduced, was strongly backed by Farm Bureau through the many hectic months of its movement, first through the Senate—under the title of "S-109" and then through the House as H.R.-13541.

Passed by the Senate last August, the bill faced two more critical hurdles—a favorable House vote, and then—the need for compromise between House and Senate versions.

Following the favorable House vote March 25 (232 to 90) the Farm Bureau urged the Senate to accept the House version instead of allowing the bill to become involved in the risky business of a conference committee.

The Senate accepted the House version in early April and the measure becomes law with the President's signature.

### WESTERN UNION

TO: MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU—APRIL 16  
PRESIDENT JOHNSON SIGNED INTO LAW TODAY  
S-109, THE AGRICULTURAL FAIR PRACTICES ACT.  
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FINE WORK. JOHN  
C. LYNN, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN FARM  
BUREAU—WASHINGTON D. C.

Ten Michigan Congressmen voted for passage of the bill, five voted against it and four are listed as not voting. Since a Roll-Call vote was taken, the voting record by name & is listed at the end of this article.

After passage, the House voted to substitute the number of the bill as originally passed in the Senate, and it again became "S-109". Originally introduced in Congress in 1964, thousands of words, dozens of proposed amendments and nearly four years of time were involved from beginning to successful conclusion.

Unsuccessful in the 88th Congress—in 1964, the bill was re-introduced both in 1965 and 1967. Problems that beset it included processor opposition, weakening amendment proposals and off-again, on-again support from various farm groups other than Farm Bureau.

At various stages of the measure's painful progress, Agricultural Department support appeared to wax and wane. Although the Department was thought to be opposing the bill in its final House version just prior to passage, House Agriculture Committee Chairman, W. R. Poage, reported that with the adoption of the "Sisk amendments" the Department supported the bill. The amendments contained clarifying language important to several sections of the bill, and were offered by California Representative, B. F. Sisk.

The bill as passed is considered to be strong, and sure to be of considerable benefit to farmers and ranchers—who, under the terms of the act are protected by new rules of fair play on the part of processors and others in their business relations with farmers.

Especially pointed are sections of the bill which deal with unfair practices designed to discourage farmers from voluntarily participating in marketing associations.

These prohibited practices are clearly spelled out in the measure in this fashion: "It shall be unlawful for any handler knowingly to engage or permit any employee or agent to engage in the following practices: (a)—to coerce any

producer in the exercise of his right to join and belong to, or refrain from joining or belonging to, an association of producers or to refuse to deal with any producer because of the exercise of his right to join and belong to such an association; or (b) to discriminate against any producer with respect to price, quantity, or other terms of purchase, acquisition, or other handling of agricultural products because of his membership in, or contract with, an association of producers; or (c)—to coerce or intimidate any producer to enter into, maintain, breach, cancel, or terminate a membership agreement or marketing contract with an association of producers or a contract with a handler; or (d)—to pay or loan money, give anything of value, or offer any other inducement or reward to a producer for refusing to or ceasing to belong to an association of producers; or (e)—to make false reports about the finances, management, or activities of associations of producers or handlers; or (f)—to conspire, combine, agree, or arrange with any other person to do, or aid or abet the doing of, any act made unlawful by this Act . . ."

Earlier portions of the measure describe the importance of a healthy agriculture, and state that the "marketing and bargaining position of individual farmers will be adversely affected unless they are free to join together voluntarily in cooperative organizations as authorized by law."

"Interference with this right is contrary to the public interest and adversely affects the free and orderly flow of goods in interstate and foreign commerce . . ." the opening "Declaration of Policy" states.

At one dramatic point in the House debate, Representative Steiger of Wisconsin asked Agricultural Committee Chairman Poage: "Do we have any indication as to what the view of the National Farmers Organization is on the bill as it now stands?"

Poage replied: "As I have stated at least twice before, I do have a positive statement from the American Farm Bureau Federation,

stating that they support the bill as it now stands and will support it with the Sisk amendments. I have no such statement either one way or another from the other major farm organizations . . ."

One of the original sponsors of the bill, Representative B. F. Sisk (D) of California, offered some perfecting amendments dealing "with the terms 'handler' and 'associations of producers' . . . and designed to avoid misinterpretations of those terms.

In discussing these changes, Representative Latta, (R-Ohio) stated: "I believe this legislation should protect the right of my farmers to join associations of producers and the right of associations of producers to exist. I should also protect the rights of farmers to join, or not to join, these associations." Latta continued; "I believe the Members of the House are aware of my opposition to the closed shop for labor, and I am also against the principle of the closed shop for agriculture . . ."

Latta asked if Chairman Poage would help clarify the point . . .

In his reply, Poage said that "it was clearly the opinion of the entire Committee that there was not any intention or desire to give anybody the right to discriminate against anybody else because of his failure to join any of these associations . . ."

Elsewhere in the discussion, Poage said: "We made of the original legislation a two-way proposal, which would actually assure to any producer the right to belong, or not to belong to a cooperative . . ."

Five Mich. Congressmen—all of them Democrats, voted "Nay" "Yea" in support of the measure, an action strongly urged by Farm Bureau. They were: Marvin Esch, Garry Brown, Edward Hutchinson, Gerald Ford, Charles Chamberlain, Donald Riegle, Jr., James Harvey, Guy Vander Jagt, Elford Cederberg and Jack McDonald.

Five Michigan Congressmen—all of the Democrats, voted "Nay"—in opposition to the Farm Bureau supported measure. They were: James O'Hara, Lucien Nedzi, Wm. Ford, John Dingell and Martha Griffiths.

Four Michigan Congressmen—two Republicans and two Democrats, were listed as not voting on the measure. They were: John Conyers, Jr.-(D), Charles Diggs, Jr.-(D), William Broomfield (R), and Philip Ruppe-(R).

## "Land of Hospitality"

### MICHIGAN WEEK—MAY 19-25

Michigan's farm folks are among the eight million citizens of our state who are invited to participate in Michigan Week May 19-25.

Theme this year is "Michigan—Land of Hospitality." There are actually eight special days included in the observance, beginning with May 18, Saturday, which is known as *Community Pride day* and dedicated to final clean-up and preparation for the observance.

Sunday is *Spiritual Foundations day*; Monday, *Our Government day*; Tuesday, *Heritage day*; Wednesday, *Livelihood day*; Thursday, *Education day*; Friday, *Hospitality day*; and Saturday, May 25, *Our Youth day*.

Win Schuler of Marshall, 1968 general chairman, declared: "Michigan Week is much more than a celebration. It is a time for renewal, rekindling and rebuilding of pride in our great state and determination on the part of all of us to work together for its advancement."

He said Michigan Week is "actually the climax of many year-around programs, and the friendliness that is making Michigan famous is a year-around effort, too".

Of special interest to Michigan Farm Bureau members will be selection of the Product-of-the-Year and the Agricultural-Development-of-the-Year. General awards chairman is John Calkins, chief deputy director, Michigan State Department of Agriculture. Deputy chairman for the agriculture award is Richard Arnold, farm editor of WKAR in East Lansing, while the same position in relation to the product award is held by Paul Chien of Northwood Institute in Midland.

Many Farm Bureau members throughout Michigan are participating in related county and state Michigan Week activities.

The Agricultural-Development-of-the-Year award, first made in 1963, is designed to focus national and international attention on Michigan as a leading agricultural producer, and a leader in developing new techniques and better agricultural products.

Contestants for the agricultural award may be farmers, agricultural and horticultural associations, food processors, and all other individuals or groups located in Michigan who are actively engaged in the growing, developing, processing or marketing of agricultural, horticultural or animal products. Not eligible are state or federal agencies, state colleges or universities.

Mr. Calkins emphasized that "the product, process or program should be one of major significance in the agricultural advancement of Michigan, or of an area of the state; it should contribute

to the economic betterment of the community, area and state; and should demonstrate excellent potential for future expansion or diversification of the agricultural industry of Michigan."

Announcement of the award winner will be made during the Michigan State Fair in late summer.

Previous state agricultural award winners have included: a mechanical blueberry harvester, an improved process for making fruit juices, development of a new variety of blueberry, development of the sweet potato as a successful Michigan crop, and a combined growing and marketing program for Russet Burbank potatoes.

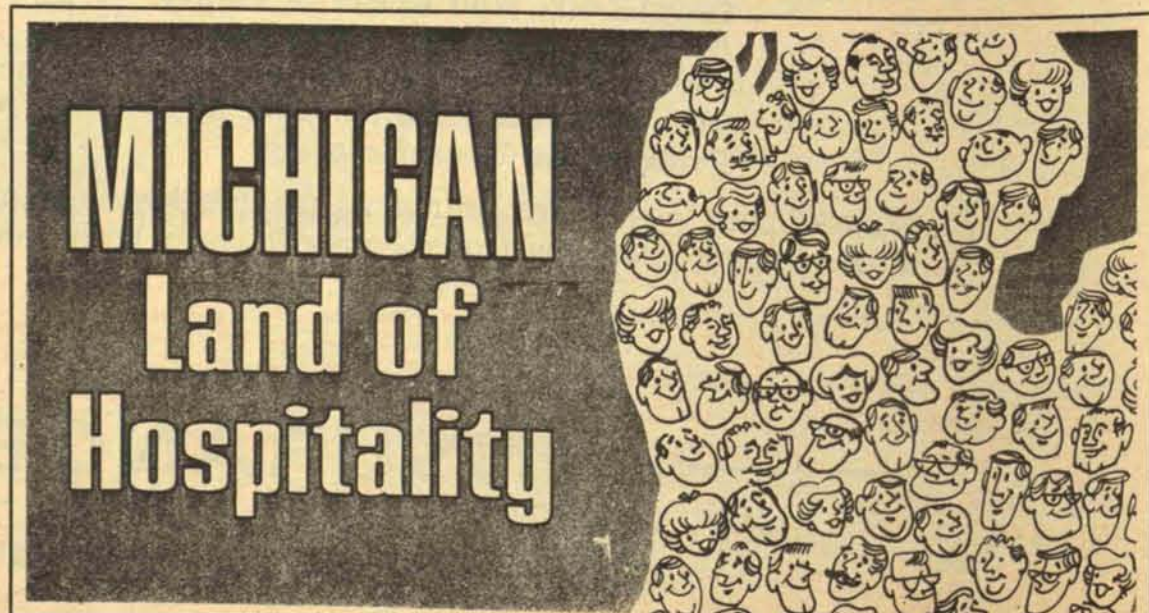
County winners will compete for the 16 regional titles, and these winners in turn will be entered in the state finals. Regions will be invited to display their winners at the state fair.

The Product-of-the-Year contest originated in 1959, and focuses attention on the wide variety of Michigan products. The winning consumer product must be manufactured in Michigan, and be relatively new or have a recent record of outstanding development. It may be either an end product in itself, or an accessory that is sold to the general public. The winner may represent an unusual development or design, or a totally new invention.

County, regional and state winners will be named on the same schedule as agricultural award competitors.

State product award winners in other years have included: the motion picture, "Anatomy of a Murder," a portable classroom, three-place helicopter, portable building, camping trailer, and shoes.

Besides the awards programs, and special Michigan Week days, there will be poster displays with the 1968 emblem, speeches and programs, and thousands of citizens designated as Minutemen, who are pledged to "take a minute to talk up Michigan."





# Vote "Yes" for Milk

About May 15th, the official ballot will be mailed to you for voting on the **Michigan Dairymen's Market Program** for Grade "A" milk as proposed by ADA of Michigan. This is the official vote. Voting at winter meetings was only advisory. Block voting is not permitted. Unlike ADA voluntary programs, **you cannot approve this Program by not voting.** You must complete, sign and return your individual ballot within 15 days to have your vote counted. We urge you to vote "yes" for milk.

## Questions and Answers about Michigan Dairymen's Market Program as Proposed by ADA of Michigan:

**Why is it necessary?** (1) Imitation milk is a growing threat. (2) Supermarkets are fast becoming major processors of milk—but only to cut costs. (3) Independent dairy processors are going out of business or diversifying. Dairy farmers, on the other hand, have a bigger and bigger stake in the market for milk. They now own 95% of the dairy business. Can we afford not to develop and promote our product vigorously?

**How does the Program work?** The Michigan Agricultural Commodities Act provides for the establishment of a program for market development, advertising and research. If the Program is approved by 2/3 of the voting producers (who must vote "yes" on the official ballot as individual producers), the cost is shared by all Grade "A" producers without exception. No "free riders" are permitted. The Program would be administered by a 15-man dairy farmer committee nominated by Co-ops and Michigan D. H. I. A.

**What is the rate of set-aside?** The familiar "Six Market Test" sets the standard for advertising and promotion at 15¢ per capita. To meet this standard, it is necessary to raise \$1,600,000 in Michigan. Therefore, the set-aside rate is 4¢ per hundred on all Grade "A" milk sold.

**Who controls the Program?** Grade "A" dairy farmers of Michigan—through a 15-man committee nominated by Co-ops and D. H. I. A. The Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture is a non-voting member of the committee.

**How would funds be used?** For market development, advertising and research to expand the market for milk produced in Michigan.

**Would this Program replace the present ADA voluntary program?** Yes. If this Program goes into effect, present ADA deductions from Grade "A" milk checks will be stopped immediately.

**Do all Grade "A" producers share the cost?** Yes. Unlike voluntary programs, this Program requires all Grade "A" producers to share the cost. Grade "B" producers will remain on a voluntary basis.

**What does it take to get this Program started?** The Program must be approved by 2/3 of the voting producers. **Your vote is vital.** The Program could easily fail if too many producers take approval for granted and do not take 30 seconds to mark and mail their ballots. Since individual production is a consideration in the vote, each **Grade "A" producer must indicate his "Base" (or April 1968 production) on the ballot, sign and return it within 15 days in order to have his vote counted.**

**What happens if you do not return your ballot?** Unlike ADA voluntary programs, you must vote "yes" on the official ballot in order to be counted. **You cannot approve the Program by not voting.** It is urgent that every producer mark and return his ballot. Voting at producer meetings this past winter was only advisory.

By resolution at their Annual Meeting, these organizations have endorsed the Michigan Dairymen's Market Program as proposed by ADA of Michigan: Michigan Holstein-Friesian Association • Michigan Guernsey Cattle Club • Michigan Jersey Cattle Club • Michigan Brown Swiss Association • Michigan Ayrshire Breeders Association • Michigan Milking Shorthorn Breeders Association • Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative • Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement Association • Kalamazoo Milk Producers Cooperative Association • Berrien County Milk Producers Cooperative • Michigan Producers Dairy Company • Otsego Sanitary Milk Products Company • Michigan Milk Producers Association • McDonald Cooperative Dairy Company • Mackinaw Trail Milk Producers Cooperative Association • Constantine Cooperative Creamery • Copper Country Dairy, Inc. • Michigan Professional Dairymen • Producers' Equalization Committee



**POLITICAL EDUCATION** — programs for Farm Bureau women are the topic of conversation following a P.E.P. presentation at the District 4 Women's meeting. Dale Sherwin, left, Legislative Counsel, discusses P.E.P. with Mrs. Donna Truist of Allegan county (center), and Mrs. Ann Campau, (right) district chairman.



**SOUTHWEST AFRICA** — its customs, its costumes, were described by women of Ionia county at the District 4 meeting. Five of the countries in ACWW were featured by counties in the district, in preparation for the ACWW triennial which will be held at Michigan State University next September.

## Scholarship Awarded Kenneth Koenigsknecht

Winner of the 1968 Marge Karker Farm Bureau scholarship, awarded by Michigan Farm Bureau Women, is 20-year-old Kenneth I. Koenigsknecht of Route 2, Parks road, Fowler.

The Clinton county youth plans to enter Michigan State University next fall, as a junior, to major in agriculture. He will specialize either in farm marketing management or in animal husbandry, he says, working toward a bachelor of science degree.

Kenneth is the second oldest in a family of six boys and girls, children of Mrs. Viola Koenigsknecht and the late Julius Koenigsknecht. Since their father's death two years ago, the sons have operated the 289-acre family farm, with their mother serving as farm manager and bookkeeper.

Present farm operations include a beef cattle herd averaging 120 steers, with tillable acreage devoted primarily to corn. The family does not have brood cows, but purchases feeders averaging about 500 pounds and finishes them for market.

Kenneth is a graduate of Fowler high school, Class of 1966, and in June will have completed two years of basic studies at Lansing Community college. He has commuted daily to classes in order to help with the farm operations. During the summer, he has also worked part-time on the assembly line of an auto factory to supplement income for college.

His older brother, Richard, will be graduated from Michigan State this spring, where he has majored in pre-law. He expects to enroll in law school in Detroit this autumn.

The next younger brother,



KENNETH KOENIGSKNECHT

David, who graduated from Fowler in 1967, is completing his freshman year at Lansing Community college in a metal working apprenticeship, combining a work-study program.


Kenneth's two sisters, Karen and Irene, are active in 4-H work while attending Fowler schools and helping with house-keeping chores at home.

Three younger brothers, all in grade school, are Alvin, Mark and Julius. They too, help with farm chores, meanwhile learning some of the fundamentals of agricultural production from their older brothers.

When he completes his training at MSU, Kenneth looks forward to returning to full-time management of the family farm.

While in high school, Ken said, "We were milking an average of 45-65 cows regularly, so we three older boys were limited to one sport each. I chose football."

The family has held membership in Michigan Farm Bureau for the last 25 years. They are also members of Fowler Catholic church, and Ken participates in the Knights of Columbus.



# FARM BUREAU WOMEN

*working, not waiting* . . . . .



## district chairmen elected at spring meetings

New women's chairmen have been named in five districts during Spring meetings held in April. Elections were conducted in Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9.

In addition, district meetings focused attention on P.E.P., the Political Education Program which will receive special emphasis in women's activities from now until the November elections.

New women's chairmen have been named in five districts during Spring meetings held in April. Elections were conducted in Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9.

Elected chairman of District 1 is Mrs. Alice (Robert) Burandt of St. Joseph. She and her husband operate a 110-acre fruit farm. They have one daughter, a primary school teacher in Albany, New York, and a son at home.

Mrs. Burandt has served for two years as vice-chairman of the Berrien County Farm Bureau Women; three and one-half years in the dual role of county Farm Bureau Women's chairman and member of the county board of directors; and four years as vice-chairman of District 1.

Mrs. Claudine (Andrew) Jackson of Howell is the new chairman of District 3. Her husband is a member of the board of directors of Michigan Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Jackson has served as chairman of the Livingston county Farm Bureau Women, and has been a member of the district council for four years. She was a member of the State Farm Bureau policy development committee for two years, and in 1967 served as its chairman.

Mrs. Maud (Clifford) Bristol of Durand is the new District 5 chairman. She and her husband operate an 80-acre general farm. They have two married daughters and six grandchildren.

The new chairman served as district vice-chairman for the last two years, was a member of the state women's program planning committee, and 1968 legislative chairman.

Elected chairman of District 7 is Mrs. Grace (Harold) Greenhoe, who lives with her husband and family on a 179-acre farm in Crystal township, Montcalm county. They own a registered Holstein herd and are engaged in dairy and general farming.

The Greenhoses have two daughters, one married and the other a student at MSU majoring in dairy production, and three sons at home.

Active in Farm Bureau for more than 20 years, Mrs. Greenhoe has been county Farm Bureau Women's chairman for two years and a delegate to state meetings. She served four years as district vice-chairman.

New chairman of District 9 is Mrs. Ruth (Leon) Cooper of Buckley, who assists her husband, son-in-law and daughter in the operation of a 400-acre farm which includes a herd of 80 dairy cows.

Mrs. Cooper has served as Wexford county Farm Bureau Women's chairman, chairman of the county Resolutions committee, represented District 9 on the Women's activities Study committee; and served on the county Citizenship committee.

## District Four Meeting

Approximately 130 women of Farm Bureau District 4 were present for an informative and instructive program on Political Education and Participation (P.E.P.) in Caledonia April 17.

Welcoming Farm Bureau women of Kent, Ottawa, Ionia, Barry and Allegan counties was Mrs. Ann Campau, district chairman.

Dale Sherwin, Farm Bureau legislative counsel, introduced the P.E.P. session, which included a slide presentation emphasizing the importance of individual participation in politics. Miss Helen Atwood, state women's coordinator, distributed copies of a quiz designed to test the audience's political knowledge, and reviewed the information it contained.

Mrs. Maxine Topliff, state women's chairman, spoke effectively on the role of Farm Bureau women in politics, particularly in this election year. She outlined activities in which the women might engage, such as coffee hours, "meet the candidates" programs, etc.

Bob Driscoll, regional representative, discussed state issues of concern to Farm Bureau members.

Afternoon program was devoted to colorful descriptions of five countries participating in ACWW. In keeping with this theme, luncheon tables were centered with flags of many countries.

Kent county women discussed the Philippines; Ottawa county, Sierra Leone; Ionia county, Southwest Africa; Barry county, Sweden; and Allegan county, Indonesia. Brightly colored native costumes added to the enjoyment of the topics.

## 5000 DELEGATES EXPECTED

A pictorial history, "People and Places in the United States of America," will serve as an introduction to our country for thousands of women attending the 12th Triennial Conference of Associated Country Women of the World.

The meeting will be held September 3 through 14 at Michigan State University, East Lansing, the first land-grant college in the United States, established in 1855.

Among the 5,000 delegates and accredited visitors will be six representatives of Michigan Farm Bureau Women: Mrs. Maxine Topliff, Mrs. Maurine Scramlin, Mrs. Florence Carpenter, Mrs. Ann Campau, Mrs. Jeannette Babbitt and Mrs. Margaret Kartes. Alternate delegates include Mrs. Marie Swindlehurst, Mrs. Hattie Lockhart, and Mrs. Dorothy Kramer. Farm Bureau Women will have 30 to 40 accredited visitors.

Approximately two and one-half million women in the United States are affiliated with the ACWW, through the Country Women's Council.

ACWW is comprised of 150 Constituent societies, 15 Associate societies, and 77 Corresponding societies and individuals. In the United States, there are four Constituent societies, the American Farm Bureau Federation Women's Committee, National Extension Homemakers Council, National Master Farm Homemaker's Guild, and the Women's National Farm & Garden Association.

Promotion of international understanding and friendship have been achieved through such projects as "Pennies for Friendship," exchange of letters, friendship parcels, and programs. Member societies also participate in activities of certain specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO); Food and Agriculture (FAO); United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund UNICEF); and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The 175-page paperback booklet, "People and Places in the United States," was first published in 1948. It has recently been revised by a CWC committee, and contains nearly all new photos and text.

Contents, representative of the United States, include typical recipes, folk song, folk story, a history of rural women's organizations, commentary on American history, historical chronology, and suggestions for further reading.

Permission has been given for translation of the volume into Spanish, Japanese, Hindi, and several other languages.

Triennial ACWW conferences have been held in Vienna, 1930; Stockholm, 1933; Washington, D.C., 1936; London, 1939; Amsterdam, 1947; Copenhagen, 1950; Toronto, 1953; Colombo, 1957; Edinburgh, 1959; Melbourne, Australia, 1962; and Dublin, Ireland, 1965 — and now — in East Lansing, at Michigan State University, 1968.

## BEAN SMORGASBORD: BEANS and QUEENS

Pretty girls, delectable bean dishes, and Michigan residents with hearty appetites were all in abundance at the recent Gratiot County Farm Bureau Women's bean smorgasbord.

A crowd estimated at nearly 600 was served the traditional bean and ham dinner in Van Dusen Commons at Alma College, according to Mrs. Charles Cary, general chairman.

During the evening's program, judges selected Barbara Wilson, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Wilson of North Shade township, Carson City, as Gratiot County's 1968 Bean Queen. Along with the honor goes the opportunity to compete for the title of State Bean Queen in Fairgrove during Labor Day weekend.

Second place went to Judy Heil, another 17-year-old from Carson City, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. Henry Heil. Third place was awarded to Linda

Thomas, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murl Thomas of rural Breckenridge. All three girls are high school seniors.

Larry DeVuyst, Farm Bureau regional representative and a Gratiot County resident, was master of ceremonies.

Harvey Leucnberger, Saginaw, Farm Bureau director from District 8, was present to welcome Dale Stoneman, Gratiot County Farm Bureau President, into the "President's Club" on behalf of President Elton Smith.

Membership in the honorary club is limited to County Farm Bureau presidents in Michigan.

Guest speaker was Dr. Myron P. (Mike) Kelsey of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University. Dr. Kelsey, who recently accompanied Kellogg Young Farmers on a tour of European and Asian countries, discussed world food supplies and related agricultural problems.

## FOUR TOP YOUNG FARMERS NAMED

Michigan's Outstanding Young Farmer, Robert Buist of Allendale, was one of 47 state nominees who participated in the national selection of America's Four Outstanding Young Farmers.

The program, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, was held April 9 in Des Moines, Iowa. Its purpose is to honor outstanding young farmers in their communities, and to "foster better urban-rural relations by creating a greater interest in, and understanding of, today's farmers and their problems."

National winners in the 1968 contest are: Richard L. Kerbs of Blackfoot, Idaho, who operates a 2,300-acre potato and row crop farm; Jerome Sickinger of Cato, Wisconsin, dairyman who raises grain on his 600 acres;

Charles H. Stone of Huntsville, Alabama, operator of a 1,600 dairy, cotton and soybean farm; and Cecil Zahnnow from Raub, North Dakota, whose farm operations encompass 9,000 acres and a herd of 528 cattle.

Winners were named by a panel of 10 well-known agricultural experts, using progressiveness, soil and water conservation, and contributions to the community as criteria for their decisions.

As Michigan's nominee, Buist received an expense-paid trip to the national finals. A Farm Bureau member, he and his wife, Nina, were guests of Michigan Farm Bureau on the recent Washington Air Tour.

## understanding principles Citizenship Seminar aim

The third annual Upper Peninsula "Citizenship Seminar" will be held in Escanaba, in Marco's Restaurant—June 11-12. Sponsored jointly by the county Farm Bureaus of the Upper Peninsula and the Escanaba Chamber of Commerce, the seminar is dedicated to an increased understanding of the principles of Americanism and the free-enterprise system.

Program leaders will include such well-known personalities as T. C. Petersen, Director of program development for the American Farm Bureau Federation, and "Hans Odegaard"—lecturer and student from Denmark.

Others on the program are Wesley Hawley, retired Farm Bureau leader and a holder of Farm Bureau's Distinguished-Serviceto-Agriculture award; Hugo Kivi, U. P. Regional Representative for the Michigan Farm Bureau; Dale Sherwin, Legislative Counsel for the Michigan Farm Bureau and Walter Lewke, Manager of the Escanaba Chamber of Commerce.

The seminar will begin with an 8:00 a.m. registration, with the first general session at 10:00 a.m. Adjournment is set for 3:30 on the afternoon of June 12. An evening banquet, June 11, will feature Mr. Odegaard's talk.

Students or adults interested in attending should contact their county Farm Bureaus or the Escanaba Chamber of Commerce. (A separate Citizenship Seminar for youth of the Lower Peninsula, has been set for July 15-19—at the 4-H Leadership Training Center, Camp Kett.)

# Give a hoot about savings? Dial direct.

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## W.H.A.R. WHY HAVE AWFUL ROADS?

Neglect of rural road maintenance, which results in dangerous traffic hazards, damage to vehicles, impaired fire, police and ambulance service, and excessive maintenance costs to school bus systems, has prompted Oakland county rural residents to organize a protest group, WHAR (Why Have Awful Roads?)

Already operating in most townships of Oakland county, the organization and its leaders hope to stimulate similar action among rural residents throughout Michigan, where country roads have become the "neglected stepchildren of the road system."

Ben East of Holly, nationally known outdoor writer and life-long Michigan resident, is chairman of WHAR. He listed some of the group's immediate goals as:

"To upgrade maintenance of rural roads by more efficient and regular schedules of work and by prompt repair of trouble spots; to work for a construction or replacement program, adequately financed, aimed at preventing total breakdown of the gravel road system in the next few years; to obtain better planning of, and better supervision over, maintenance work;

"To insist that classification of rural roads and their selection for major improvements be divorced from all political considerations and based instead on reliable and realistic traffic counts."

Michigan Farm Bureau's policy statement on highways for 1968 includes this information:

"Michigan has a total of 113,380 miles of roads and streets. Michigan's 83 County Road Commissions are responsible for 77% (87,038 miles) of the total road system; 25,133 miles of this total are classified as Primary Roads (38% inadequate) and 62,595 miles are classified as Local Roads (47% inadequate)."

Pointing out that most county supervisors, in the more populous counties, are appointed rather than elected, and in turn appoint the County Road Commission, East declared:

"We are interested in legislation aimed at returning to the people a needed measure of citizen control over the county road commissions. We believe such control can best be obtained by making the office of commissioner elective rather than appointive."

"It is the function of government to serve all the people," East said, "rural residents are entitled to the same consideration as those of cities and villages, and local traffic has as much right to safe passage as traffic on major highways."

He concurred with the Michigan Farm Bureau policy statement that:

"As a result of the rapid growth of the interstate system, counties have the additional costly job of fitting county roads into that system and to accommodate the increased traffic on our local roads caused by small industry, recreation users, etc., which create added stress on such roads and structures.

"The most desirable recreation areas are, in most cases, accessible only by county and local roads. Proper development of rural areas, including industrial expansion, is dependent on an adequate road system."

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Farmers Petroleum reminds you that State law forbids the use of studded snow tires from May 1 to November 1 on State highways.

# FROM CORN FIELD TO NEW FEED MILL

Ground has been officially broken — and building has begun on Farm Bureau Services impressive new feed mill — located on a 66-acre site one mile east of the Climax exit off I-94 on the west edge of Calhoun county.

If you drive at modest speed, and watch closely, you can see where last year's cornfield has become this year's new industrial site, with about 200 workmen expected to be on the job at the height of building activities.

Construction of the plant is being financed by the public sale of six per cent interest-bearing 15-year maturity Farm Bureau Services debentures, with heavy sale of the securities reported, as enthusiasm for the new mill mounts on the part of Michigan farmers. This enthusiasm confirms intensive research conducted some months ago, indicating the need for the mill and pin-pointing the best location.

Fortunately, there were ideal transportation facilities in the exact location checked as being best for the project, and the property was available for sale. Now, instead of growing corn on the land, thousands of bushels of corn along with other feed-grains will be "imported" from nearby areas to meet the production capacity of the modern and highly automated plant.

"The new mill will be so completely automated that 60 ingredients including 30 drugs, medicants and additives, can be mixed by 'prescription' into large quantities of feed," said Elton Smith, President of Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

All of which was hard to visualize on the day of the official ground-breaking ceremony when Smith stuck a spade into the moist soil and tossed it toward cameramen and reporters. Nearby was a pine-board stake, topped by a red ribbon, upon which someone had written, "N.W. Corner — new mill".

More than 100 persons braved a high wind on an otherwise nice day, to witness the ceremony. Smaller shovels were employed symbolically by members of Farm Bureau Service's 13 man board, as township, railroad, and construction officials and dozens of interested spectators gathered.

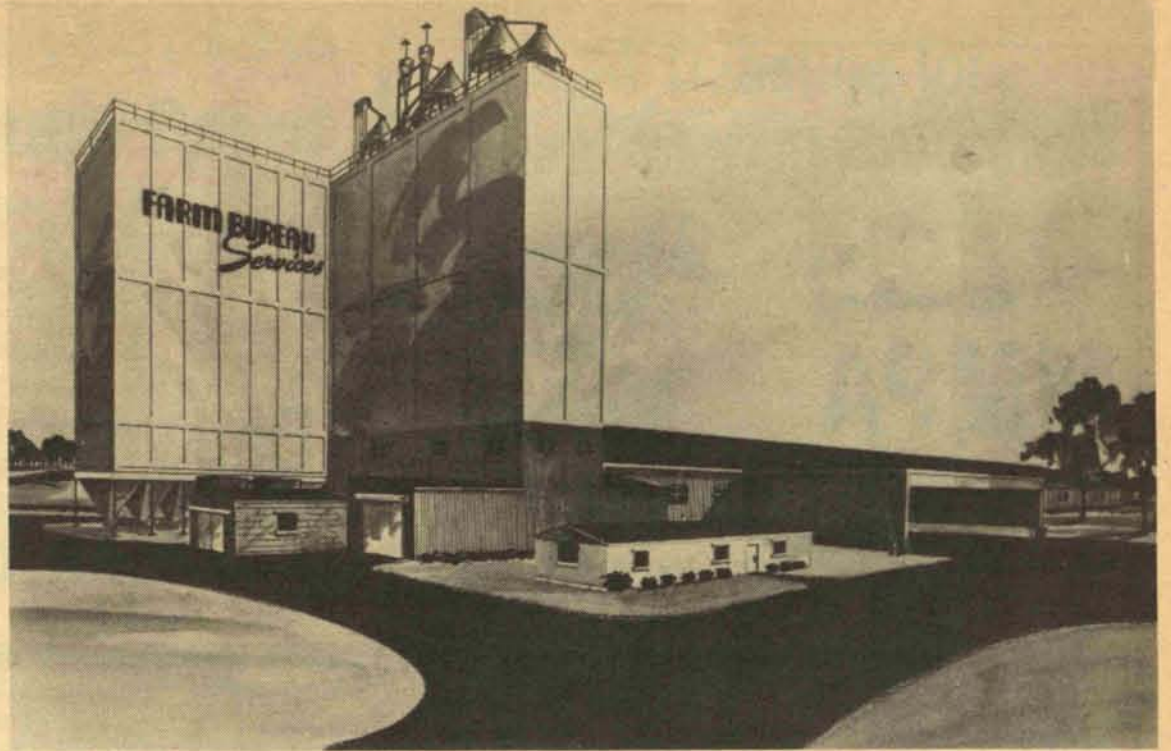
When in operation next year, (a hoped-for dedication is planned for sometime next December) — the feed plant will have an automatic batching system with an annual capacity of 40,000 tons of both mash and textured feeds.

There will be bins with a storage capacity of 100,000 bushels, plus a 3,000-ton mixed ingredients storage capacity and 20 impressive bulk load-out bins.

What will the new mill mean?

For one thing, more jobs for the Climax, Galesburg and Battle Creek areas. It will mean a new landmark for those traveling either by train or auto.

But most of all, it means a new market for home-grown grains, to be manufactured into feeds and sold at more competitive local prices.



ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF FARM BUREAU SERVICES NEW FEED MANUFACTURING FACILITY NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.



SYMBOLIC SHOVELS — are used by Farm Bureau Services officials to toss ground broken for the new mill toward photographers and reporters. About 200 persons trampled corn stubble on the site where the new mill will stand. Shovelers are: (from left) David Morris, Wm. Guthrie, Eugene Roberts, John Converse, Dean Pridgeon and President Elton Smith.

## Farmers Petroleum Co-op

### Heading for a Top Year



The Farmers Petroleum Cooperative is headed for the best year in its history according to the mid-year report released by President Carl Heisler. Sales for the first six months of the fiscal year were up nearly 13% while margin before taxes was up over 50%.

Asked about the increase, Heisler said that most of it has come from farmers using larger machinery and using it for longer periods of time. He pointed to the whopping 37% increase in the sales of Custom diesel fuel as an example. "Studies of the Agricultural Engineering Department of M.S.U. indicate that more and more farmers are going to diesel power, and as a result they are buying more diesel fuel," he added.

Although one might expect the sales of furnace oil, which once was the universal diesel fuel, to decrease, sales have actually increased this winter.

Another factor influencing the sales of FPC has been the increased penetration of the farm petro-

leum products market by the company in recent years. A couple of years ago market studies showed FPC's share of the farm fuels market in the Lower Peninsula at about 20% of the estimated market. A recent survey indicates the company is now selling nearly 25% of the total consumption for farm use in this area.

Just over a year ago, a new on-the-farm tire service was started on a test basis by the Lansing District. Using the very latest in portable tire repair and handling equipment, the new units were able to take new tires into the field. Going practically anywhere that a tractor or farm machine could go, the new truck produced such a demand that there are now ten of them operating.

Partly as a result of this new service, tire sales are up over 28% for the year to date. The new on-the-farm service is being backed up by an intensive training program for tire service specialists. This training will make readily available to farmers in-

formation on tire sizes and capabilities.

The crude oil department of FPC has contributed substantially to the healthy condition of the company in the past several months. Holding of interests in producing wells have not been able to stay abreast of the needs for crude oil, but the operation has continued profitable. Presently, about a fourth of all fuel sold is produced by FPC's own wells.

The Crude Oil Department has underway two water-flood projects for secondary recovery in two different oil fields. By pumping water into the oil strata, the operators expect to extend the useful life of the fields for several years. One of the new projects is showing signs of being very successful in the recovery of oil which otherwise would remain in the ground.

"Given a good, open spring so we can work in the fields, Farmers Petroleum should top its past performance in practically every department," predicts Heisler.

## STRENGTH THRU... GROUP ACTION!

From all indications — the Community Farm Bureau program is "on the move" in Michigan, with Chippewa county leading the way. Six new Community Groups have been added to the 13 already in operation in that county, making a total of 19 groups.

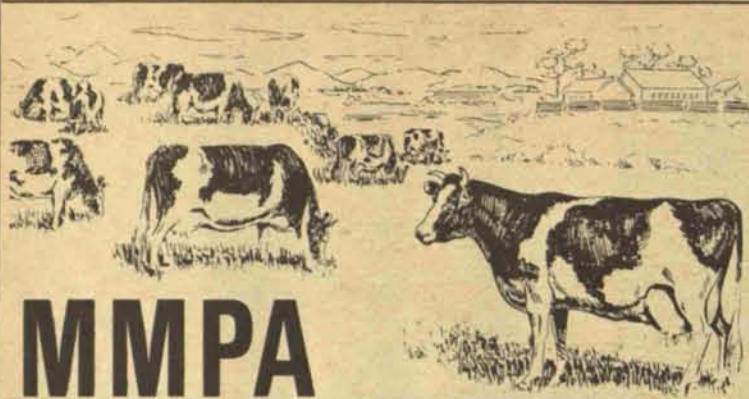
The new groups and their chairmen include: Riverside, Gordon Andrews; Speedway I, James Kamper; Speedway II, Vern Van Slaten; Blairville, Delores Nettleton; Dryburg Drifters, Louie Mayer; and Cloverland Community Farm Bureau, Kenneth Ross.

In Chippewa county, as in many other parts of the state, the successful organization of new groups has included the "Group Organizer approach".

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Schwiderson of Dafter, in Chippewa county, (he was Michigan's Most Outstanding Young Farmer" in 1961-62) served as group leaders. Edwin DeWitt of Rudyard is President of the Chippewa county Farm Bureau and served on the state Community Group advisory committee in 1967. Robert Wilson of Pickford serves as chairman of the county-wide Community Group committee in Chippewa, where the county currently has 81.3 per cent of its total membership enrolled in groups.

"With the apparent renewed interest in groups throughout the state, members will have a much better opportunity to be effective in Farm Bureau," according to Jack Deppong, director of the Community Programs department of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

"Chippewa county leaders have shown what can be done to build a strong foundation for local Farm Bureau programs through Community Groups . . . and are to be commended for doing their part in this important member participation program . . ." Deppong declared.



## MMPA annual meeting

The Michigan Milk Producers Association has taken a strong stand in favor of keeping control of agricultural pesticides in the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

The action came at the MMPA Annual Delegate Meeting, when 400 representatives of the 7,900 members of the state's largest dairy farmer cooperative adopted policy guidelines for the future.

Besides the position on pesticides, MMPA Delegates endorsed a proposed new advertising program to be paid for through a mandatory contribution by all Michigan dairy farmers, and strongly backed adequate state financing of research on cattle problems.

The pesticides matter, now before the Michigan Legislature, may be the most pressing question facing farmers at this time.

MMPA's policy states: "Under no circumstances should extraordinary governmental regulations or bans be imposed in response to uninformed even though well-meaning pressure generated by non-agricultural groups." Strong moves advocated by conservationists in recent months may be needed, but they should be undertaken only with careful study and then by those who have long worked with pesticides, the MMPA Delegates indicated.

"We oppose any attempt to remove authority for control of pesticides from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and we urge that Department to work closely with other agencies of government to assess effects of farm use of pesticides," the MMPA resolution said.

"We believe that programs of information and education on pesticides should be undertaken by the Agriculture Department, and that such programs should be directed to both urban and rural residents."

The resolution on pesticides also praised the work of the Michigan State University pesticides research center, established last year with backing from MMPA members, and noted that information concerning the "many unanswered questions concerning pesticides" can best come from such research facilities.

On national matters MMPA Delegates urged speedy Congressional approval of a proposed law to limit the importing of possibly inferior dairy products from other countries into the United States; said that Federal farm programs must be used as intended by Congress to strengthen farmer income; endorsed school milk, school lunch and special milk programs, and reaffirmed support of the Federal Milk Marketing Order program.

State agencies charged with enforcing sanitary regulations for dairy farms were cautioned to do so with "sane and sensible" interpretations, and the MMPA Delegates pledged cooperation. Another resolution supports a bid by the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station for state funds for research into mastitis and cattle infertility.

The MMPA Delegates most strongly urged all Michigan voters to turn down "daylight saving time" when the issue is decided at the November general election.

The Delegates said milk purchased for use in Michigan's schools, colleges and universities should come from Michigan farms.

To help pay for facilities to handle surplus milk in Michigan, the MMPA Delegates agreed to a rearranged dues structure that won't increase the member's contribution for support of MMPA, but will enable maintenance of "standby" processing plants and milk hauling equipment.

**In other actions the Delegates:**

— Endorsed MMPA programs of advertising and public relations.

— Stated that "agri-business" should get more attention from farmers and city businessmen alike.

— Called for a prohibition on use of the word "milk" in advertising except in connection with genuine milk and dairy products.

— Urged that only property owners be allowed to vote on millage questions, and called for assessments on farm land to be made on a use value basis.

— Endorsed 4-H, Future Farmers of America and Vocational Agriculture programs.

— Commended dairy farmers and others who have come up with new innovations in milk marketing.



## MARKET DEVELOPMENT

### "Dairymen's Marketing Program" Placed Before State Producers!

Since last August, your Michigan Farm News has reported the problems facing dairy farmers in marketing. We have discussed the proposal of the American Dairy Association of Michigan and its area of responsibility, namely: advertising and promotion, research and public relations for dairy products.

We have examined in some detail the proposed Michigan Dairymen's Marketing Program ("A.D.A. of Michigan Stands at Crossroads"—March issue), which would contain a mandatory flat set-aside of 4¢ per hundredweight of milk produced for such promotion and research.

The program would be enacted through a state-wide marketing order, brought about by a producer referendum.

At the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting last November, through the resolution process, our policy concerning the American Dairy Association was changed. It reads:

"Recently many imitation dairy products have come into the market.

"As present market conditions indicate that dairies are becoming food companies, we believe dairy farmers should closely consider and determine their needs for expanding their market, and the means by which their program should be financed."

An additional resolution concerning "Commodity promotion through state marketing programs" states:

"Enabling legislation for State Marketing Programs was enacted into law by the 1965 Michigan Legislature. Funds to support statewide commodity industry promotional programs can be collected from producers through marketing programs established by the vote of the producers. We believe that each commodity group should determine for itself whether an escape clause shall be included in the marketing program for that commodity."

Throughout the past winter, industry personnel attended numerous farmer-meetings to tell the story of integration of the dairy business into the grocery business. They pointed out the problems evolving from this type of integration.

A second problem is the fact that as a result of the grocery integration, many dairy plants have gone out of business or diversified their operations to the point that they have become food companies rather than dairies—as we have known them in the past.

As a result of the meetings with dairymen, the original proposal has been changed in a number of ways, the most significant being that the rate of set aside shall be a flat 4¢ per hundredweight throughout the state. This final recommendation replaces the variable set aside originally proposed. A hearing and new referendum would be required in order to change the set aside rate.

On March 29, 1968, petitions were filed with the Director of the Michigan Department of Ag-

riculture by the ADAM Board requesting a hearing and subsequent referendum, providing testimony at the hearings is favorable. The hearings were scheduled for April 26 at Lansing and May 3 at Marquette. In the event testimony is favorable, all Grade "A" producers in Michigan should receive a ballot from the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture about May 13. Each producer will have two weeks to return his ballot.

In filing the petitions with the Director, the ADAM Board of Directors requested that the Program begin July 1, 1968.

Farm Bureau's resolution process at the state level is a means to express the thinking of Michigan farmers at the American Farm Bureau Federation meeting, which was held last December. The policies as concerns this program adopted at the A.F.B.F. Annual Meeting then become the policies of the state membership.

The policy adopted at the A.F.B.F. meeting is more specific than that adopted by the Michigan delegates and states in part:

"Programs for the promotion of agricultural commodities which involve the check-off of funds from agricultural producers should meet the following criteria:

"(1) The program must be initiated and developed only by the producers of the commodity involved."

(The Michigan Dairymen's Market Program fully meets this requirement.)

"(2) Funds collected must be used only for research, education, and promotion and not for legislative or political activities."

(The M.D.M.P. is specific that the funds will be used only for research, education, and promotion.)

"(3) Each producer shall have the right to refuse to pay at the first point of collection."

(Contrary to A.F.B.F. requirements, the M.D.M.P. does not provide for the right to refuse. The Program specifically states that all Grade "A" producers shall support the Program. There is no escape clause.)

"(4) The program must be approved or amended by two-thirds or more of the eligible producers voting in a referendum, and these must represent two-thirds or more

of the production of the commodity involved."

(The Michigan law, Agricultural Marketing Act of 1965, states: "The affected producers shall be deemed to have assented to the proposal if either of the following conditions are met: (a) If 66% or more by number of those voting representing 51% or more of the volume of the affected commodity produced by those voting assent to the proposal. (b) If 51% or more by number of those voting representing 66% or more of the volume of the affected commodity produced by those voting assent to the proposal.")

"(5) Continuation of the program after each three-year period shall require approval by two-thirds or more of the eligible producers voting in a referendum, and these must represent two-thirds or more of the production of the commodity involved."

(The Michigan Program calls for a referendum every five years with voting the same as stated under number (4).)

(6) Funds collected should be administered by a producer board elected by the producers of the affected commodity."

(The M.D.M.P. meets this qualification. Dairy cooperatives shall nominate two producers for each seat they are entitled to on the Market Program Committee. Non-cooperative members shall be nominated by Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement Association who shall be considered a group the same as a cooperative.)

"(7) Handlers may be included on the administrative governing board when it is mutually agreed that they should be included."

(There is no provision in the M.D.M.P. for handlers to be included in this Program.)

"(8) Provision should be made for an annual certified audit. This will provide producers and the general public with an adequate accounting of expenditures."

(The Michigan law and the M.D.M.P. meet this requirement.)

In the March 1968 Michigan Farm News, the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors' interpretation of our position was printed. The Board agreed that as an organizational unit, Michigan Farm Bureau and County Farm Bureaus should not testify at hearings concerning the Michigan Dairymen's Market Program but should maintain a neutral position. The Board agreed that testimony at hearings should be given by individual dairymen who will be directly affected by the legislation and that Farm Bureau should assume an active role in providing information to help producers to decide whether or not the Program can be of assistance in promoting their products.

Above all, Farm Bureau encourages all dairymen to vote.

## Oppose World Wheat Plan Effective Bean Markets Concern of State Board

The American Farm Bureau Federation vigorously opposes Senate ratification of the controversial International Wheat Trade Convention.

In testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee, Legislative Counsels John Lynn and Herbert Harris, said that the proposed convention would not liberalize world trade in wheat as some contend, rather it would reduce U.S. wheat exports and bring lower incomes to U.S. wheat farmers.

Not only would it result in lower farm incomes in the market place, it would require either substantially tighter government "supply-management" or the implementation of an export tax . . . Lynn said.

"Fewer bushels of U.S. wheat sold in the export market means more wheat thrown back onto the domestic market," he declared.

"This would depress prices to U.S. farmers. The International Wheat Convention would mean lower, not higher wheat prices to American farmers."

Lynn, who serves as Legislative Director for the American Farm Bureau in Washington, D.C., said, "we believe that refusal to ratify would make clear to the world that the United States intends to vigorously pursue wheat markets throughout the world."

"But," he added, "as the world's largest exporter and most efficient producer of farm products, American farmers can play a larger role. We have set our sights on annual agricultural exports of \$10 billion. This goal is attainable if we are permitted to price competitively and market efficiently."

"This requires vigorous trade negotiations designed to reduce restrictions on world trade with nations which are prepared to offer reciprocal benefits to U.S. exports. Such negotiations not only must include, they must emphasize — trade in agricultural products. At the same time, government supply-management features of domestic farm programs should be abandoned. The proposed International Wheat Trade Convention is contrary to these objectives."

"Refusal to ratify the Convention would present a significant benefit to the U.S. farmer since it would indicate clear Congressional intention that other important agricultural export commodities should not be placed in a similar strait jacket," Lynn concluded.

By: Noel Stuckman, Manager  
Market-Development Division

County Farm Bureaus in Michigan's dry bean producing area are being urged to be active in alerting members on how to become more effective in bean marketing.

This action came at the conclusion of a four-month study of the role that Farm Bureau could play in bean marketing. The study was conducted by the Michigan Farm Bureau Dry Edible Bean advisory committee in conjunction with county Farm Bureau bean advisory committees in all major bean producing counties.

Michigan farmers grow about 98% of the total U.S. crop of navy beans. For years, producers have been interested in the possibility of organizing a state-wide growers' association to cooperatively market their beans. To date, all efforts to organize bean growers on a large scale have been relatively unsuccessful.

The study revealed that a substantial number of bean growers are interested in cooperative marketing, but there is a lack of agreement among producers concerning the one best approach to organizing. This lack of producer unanimity on the part of the state and county committees resulted in a decision by the Michigan Farm Bureau to not enter into organized bean marketing activities at this time.

The Michigan Bean Growers Marketing Cooperative, which was organized three years ago, has about one-third of the state's navy bean crop currently being grown by its members. The officers of that organization met several times with Farm Bureau's Dry Edible Bean advisory committee and more recently with the presidents of many of the bean county Farm Bureaus.

Bean producer meetings are being held by most county Farm Bureaus to bring about better understanding of bean marketing and methods by which producers can have a greater voice in determining the price of beans and possibly lead producers into an accord concerning the type of marketing organization they need — and will support.

The Michigan Farm Bureau board pledged continuing interest in the marketing of beans on the basis that Farm Bureau is continually concerned about the marketing of all commodities produced by members. The board agreed to review both the progress of bean marketing and its own decision after a year's time.

The state Dry Edible Bean advisory committee — established to conduct the special study — completed its assignment with the conclusion of the study and its report to the board of directors.

The chairman of the committee was Jack Laurie, District 6 director on the Michigan Farm Bureau board. Others serving from the board of directors were Walter Frahm and Harvey Leuenberger, both bean growers from the Saginaw Valley bean producing area of the state.

Chairmen of county Farm Bureau bean advisory committees also served as members of the state advisory committee. They included Tom Kopaczewski, Arenac; Clarence Frank, Bay; Maurice Gove, Clinton; Allen Caughey, Eaton; Henry Jennings, Genesee; George VanderVeen, Gratiot; Howard Ritter, Huron; Dale Haney, Ionia; Harold Holt, Lapeer; Jerry Wirbel, Midland; Herbert Perkins, Montcalm; Bernard Neuenfeldt, Saginaw; Ronald Pattullo, Sanilac; Roy Chrisinke, Shiawassee; Roy Greenia, St. Clair; and Lyle Sylvester, Tuscola.



NEWLY APPOINTED — members of the Michigan Farm Bureau Dairy Advisory committee held their first meeting recently in the Farm Bureau Center. Left to right are: Michael Satchell, Tuscola county; Beverly Veliquette, Antrim; Orlo Sparks, Wexford; Eugene Fleming, Otsego; Robert Zeeb, Clinton; Walter Frahm, Saginaw; William Oswalt, Kalamazoo; Richard Wieland, chairman, Antrim; Al Almy, secretary, Lansing; Howard Ebenhoeh, Saginaw; Remus Rigg, Branch; Frank Wiersma, Kent; Tarry Edington, Eaton; Earl Mulder, Ottawa, and Max Graybiel, St. Clair.

## June 14 Deadline for Wheat Market Program!



Backed by substantial research evidence showing that orderly wheat marketing can bring more income to growers, the board of directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau has announced a continuation of the Farm Bureau wheat marketing program on the same basis as in the 1967 crop year.

The recommendation came to the board from the state Soft Wheat advisory committee, which also suggested that Farm Bureau opposition to the International Wheat Convention should be made widely known. Currently subject to ratification by a two-thirds favorable vote of the U.S. Senate, the agreement would place restrictions on U.S. farmers in pursuit of wheat markets throughout the world.

Designed as a continuous program, the original contract-agreements signed by growers in 1967 remain in effect for the new crop year. Producers will soon receive a return sign-up card with their final payment checks, with the card to be used in indicating the extent of their participation in 1968.

A producer not now in the program, has between now and June 14 to sign an agreement, placing a specified number of bushels of his wheat into the program. He agrees to deliver this wheat at harvest, to the participating cooperative elevator of his choice.

As was done in the past year, the grower will again be given a cash advance, the amount depending upon the freight zone of the elevator to which the wheat is delivered. Once delivered to the cooperative, the wheat comes under the professional management of the Michigan Elevator Exchange division of Farm Bureau Services, which markets and handles the wheat.

At the end of the marketing year, the costs of handling, storage and selling operations are to be computed and subtracted from the gross value of all sales.

A final settlement on the bushelage basis for the balance due the grower-member in the program, is to be made within 30 days after the last wheat of the season has been sold.

Open only to members of the Michigan Farm Bureau — the program depends strongly upon substantial participation for part of its effectiveness . . . although it has been repeatedly stated that the program is not designed as an effort to alter market-prices by controlling and manipulating a large part of the market.

"Rather, this is an effort to take advantage of the normal changes in the market which usually occur after the new-crop wheat has moved out of the hands of the producer . . ." according to Noel Stuckman, Manager of the Market-Development Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

In a letter to county Farm Bureau leaders, Michigan Farm Bureau President, Elton Smith, asked that they place special emphasis on enrolling additional wheat producers in the program.

"Although the total grower sign-up in the state was satisfactory last year, and the amount of wheat in the program was adequate for the first year's operation, we need to make it even more successful . . ." he said.

Smith pointed out that the special Soft Wheat advisory committee composed of grower-members works closely with both the board of the Michigan Farm Bureau and with the Elevator Exchange, in guiding the program.

# AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

## — — PICTORIAL REPORT

HEADS COMMITTEE

NEW ON STAFF



**ARTHUR BAILEY** — Kalamazoo county Farm Bureau leader, has accepted appointment as Chairman of the Policy Development Committee of the Michigan Farm Bureau. He operates a cash crop and dairy farm near Schoolcraft.



**NORMAN VELIQUETTE** — becomes N.W. Regional Rep. for Michigan Farm Bureau. Former IFYE Exchange Student (Brazil) he was raised on a fruit and dairy farm in Antrim county. Recipient of F.B. Women's Scholarship, he is a graduate of MSU.

GRATIOT QUEEN AND HER COURT



**PRETTY YOUNG QUEEN** — Barbara Wilson, 17, of Carson City, is chosen as Gratiot county's 1968 Bean Queen. At right is Judy Heil, 17, also of Carson City, first runner-up; Linda Thomas, 18, of rural Breckenridge (at left), was second runner-up.

BUSY MISS



**ENJOYING HER DINNER** — as only a youngster can, Kimberly Lynn Roslund skips a bite to smile for the camera during the Gratiot county Farm Bureau women's bean smorgasbord, while "Daddy" watches approvingly. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Roslund, route 3, St. Louis.

SMORGASBORD SERVING LINE



**FOOD CHAIRMAN** — for the Gratiot county Farm Bureau women's bean smorgasbord, Mrs. George Vanderveen (left) surveys the dessert table loaded with eye-popping, mouth-watering cakes, candies, cookies and other delicacies concocted from Michigan navy beans. Dale Stoneman (center), Gratiot county Farm Bureau president, and Mrs. Charles Cary, (right) general chairman, were among the 600 satisfied customers who attended the annual dinner and program. The event was held in Van Dusen Commons at Alma college.

KLINE SPEAKS



**FORMER PRESIDENT** — of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Allan B. Kline, was keynote speaker at a "Liaison Rally" for Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate company employees, held at Grand Rapids.

RECOGNITION



**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN** — Harold Zorman (center) of Hillsdale County receives a recognition award from Alvin Wells (right), county president, while Nicholas Smith, district FB director, waits to offer his congratulations.

TIRELESS TIRE-MEN



**UNICO "HI-FLOTATION" TIRES** — from Farmers Petroleum Co-op, Lansing, are installed on new Farm Bureau Services fertilizer spreaders in an operation involving almost 800 tires and several types of applicators used in custom work.



# a screech of brakes --- a jarring crash!

A screech of brakes, the jarring crash, then silence followed by wailing sirens and the antiseptic whiteness of a hospital emergency room. These are the ingredients of a serious automobile accident. And as medical costs steadily mount, so do your dangers of serious financial loss . . . even if you have car insurance.

### Medical Benefits Increased

While medical costs have risen sharply, auto insurance medical benefits remained essentially the same. Farm Bureau Insurance Group has changed that. On April 15, all Farm Bureau auto and truck insurance medical benefits were increased by 50 percent . . . and at no cost to policyholders. Medical benefits formerly set at \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$5,000 have been raised to \$750, \$1,500, \$3,000 and \$7,500 respectively.

The 50 percent medical benefit increase is another step in a broad program designed to further improve auto coverages and benefits. This continual reassessment reflects the philosophy of Farm Bureau Insurance Group management: The responsibility of an insurance company is to provide the best protection at the least cost within the range of sound fiscal responsibility.

Brochures explaining the increased medical benefits are now being mailed along with premium notices. In this way the policyholder can quickly determine how much his medical benefits have increased.

### Two Dividends Declared

But growing policyholder benefits and insurance innovation are nothing new at Farm Bureau. In 1967, Farm Bureau Mutual's Board of Directors declared two auto dividends totaling over \$600,000. Members insuring over 55,000 cars and trucks with Farm



**MORE COVERAGE, NO COST** — All policyholders insuring cars and trucks with Farm Bureau Insurance Group will now have 50% more coverage under the Medical Benefits section of their policies. The increased protection, provided at no cost, was put into effect to meet rising medical expenses.

Bureau reaped these rewards for safe driving.

### Young Driver Rates Reduced

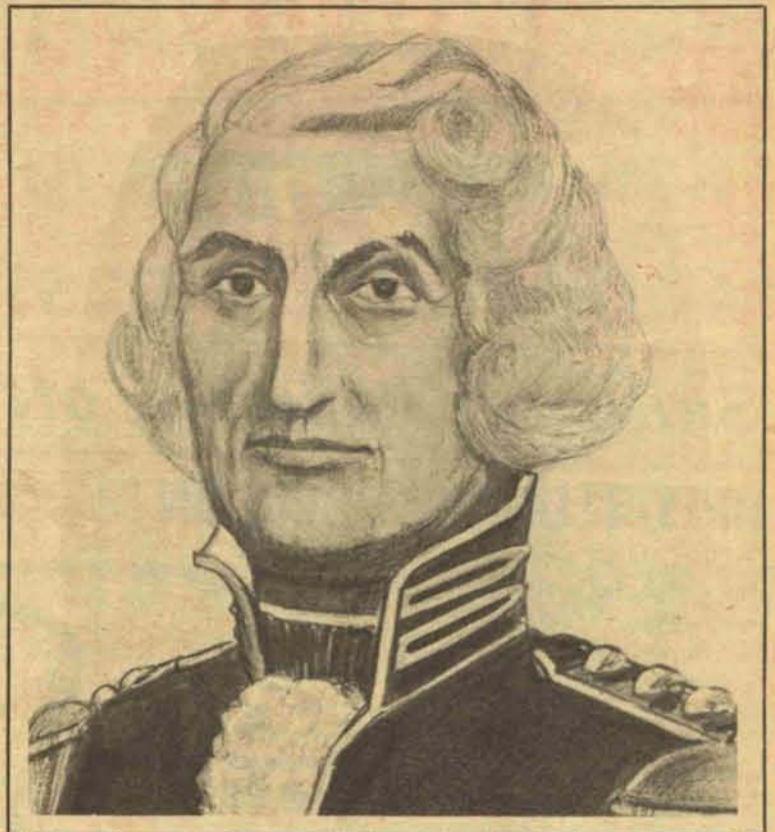
Too often young drivers pay more for insurance simply because they are young. In keeping with the development of improved auto coverages and benefits, Farm Bureau has implemented a major rate reduction for young drivers. Married male drivers ages 23 and 24 are eligible for adult driver rates

which represent a rate reduction ranging up to 30 percent.

In addition, rates for married male drivers ages 19 and 20 have been reduced approximately 20 percent and rates for unmarried women ages 21 to 25 have been reduced 15 percent.

Innovation, development, sound policyholder service, increased benefits . . . the hallmarks of growing Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

## Historic Portrait Offer



WILLIAM BEAUMONT, M.D. — is one of seven Michigan historical figures featured in the Farm Bureau Insurance Group 1967 annual report. Reprints are available at no charge.

Yesterday's pioneer spirit and today's service opportunity are the subjects of a unique report distributed recently by Farm Bureau Insurance Group. A report of 1967 operations, the booklet includes artist drawings and biographical sketches of seven Michigan historical figures.

In other sections, newly-introduced policyholder coverages and benefits are reported briefly in chronological order.

These individuals from the state's historic past are featured: William Beaumont, M.D.; James Fraser; Charles T. Harvey; Jean Nicolet; John D. Pierce; Chief Pontiac and Father Gabriel Richard.

The annual reports have been distributed to Farm Bureau leaders, staff personnel and selected policyholders throughout the State.

Reproductions of the seven portraits are available upon request, at no charge. The reprint sets, produced in black ink on heavy, pastel-colored paper, measure 8½ x 11 inches and are suitable for framing. Requests should be forwarded, along with an indication of the number of sets desired, to: Communications Department, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, 4000 N. Grand River, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

# FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

**SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: 25 words for \$2.00 each edition. Additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word. NON-MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 20th of the month.**



### 6 DOGS

ENGLISH SHEPHERD PUPS \$20. Also two mature stock dogs — from our own stock dogs. Ferris Bradley, Route #1, Springport, Michigan 49284. (5-2t-21p) 6

### 14 FOR SALE

NIGHTCRAWLERS AND RED WIGGLERS, "B & W" Worm Ranch, Route #1, Steele, Missouri 63877. Phone 695-4984. Area Code 314. (2-2t-14p)

CALF CREEP FEEDERS — 30 bushel capacity \$88.50. Dealerships available. Free Literature. Dolly Enterprises, 219 Main, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (11-tf-18b) 8

OLD STYLE SLEIGH BELLS: 20 heavy nickel plate new 1½" diameter 7" strap \$10; 30 bells \$15. Colored Spinner Straps, Alfred Jensen, Little Falls, Minnesota 56345. (2-1t-24p)

### 14 FOR SALE

FARROWING STALLS — Complete — \$24.95. Dealership available. Free Literature. Dolly Enterprises, 219 Main, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (11-tf-15b) 8

NATURAL BUILDING STONE — Indiana Limestone (Bedford Stone) for Homes, Churches, Schools, Commercial and Industrial Buildings. Send for our illustrated catalog showing a large variety of stone veneer patterns, patio stone and sill stock. Victor Oolitic Stone Company, Dept. MF, P. O. Box 668, Bloomington, Indiana 47401. (4-5t-45p) 36

### FARM PROPERTY

FOR SALE: CLARKSVILLE — 143 acres, 20 miles east of Grand Rapids. Clay loam, 2 family house, 2 barns, silo, room for 50 head feeder cattle, 20 acres alfalfa, about 100 acres workable, 20 acres timber, flowing well. \$27,500 terms — will consider trade. Edward Tans, Route #1, Jenison, Michigan (Ottawa County) (2-tf-45b)

### 20 LIVESTOCK

HEREFORD BULLS — pure bred herd sires. Ready for service. Also, registered heifers and calves. Egypt Valley Hereford Farm, 6611 Knapp St., Ada, Michigan. Phone OR 6-1090. (Kent County) (11-tf-25b) 20

### 22 NURSERY STOCK

BEAUTIFY YOUR GARDEN with plants and trees from "Michigan's Fastest Growing Nursery". Strawberry plants, fruit trees, brambles, asparagus crowns. Send for a free price list. Fruit Haven Nursery, Kaleva, Michigan 49645. (2-12t-30p)

### 26 POULTRY

DAY OLD OR STARTED PULLETS — The DeKalb profit pullet. Accepted by the smart poultryman for high egg production, superior egg quality, greater feed efficiency. If you keep records, you'll keep DeKalbs. Write for prices and catalog. KLAGER HATCHERIES, Bridgewater, Michigan. Telephones: Saline HAZel 9-7087, Manchester Garden 8-3034 (Washtenaw County) (tf-46b) 26

### 26 POULTRY

SHAVER LEADS AGAIN . . . 3 years in a row. Three in a row for Shaver — first time in history. Three in a row! The Hat Trick! "The Hat Trick" is a sports expression indicating three successive accomplishments. For an unprecedented third consecutive time, Shaver Starcross 288 has led the U.S.D.A. — A.R.S. Two year summary of Random Sample Tests in North America, with highest net income of \$2.73. Try some Shavers from your Michigan distributor. MacPherson Hatchery, R#3, Ionia, Michigan 48846. (4-4t-76b) 26

KLAGER'S DEKALB PROFIT PULLETS — Order your started pullets that have been raised on a proven growing program. The growing birds are inspected weekly by trained staff, vaccinated, debeaked and delivered by us in clean crates. If you keep records, you will keep KLAGER DEKALBS. KLAGER HATCHERIES, Bridgewater, Michigan. Telephones: 313 429-7087 and 313 428-3034. (Washtenaw County) (9-tf-50b) 26

### 36 MISCELLANEOUS

1,000 ADDRESS LABELS with name, address, zip code. ONLY \$1. Rush order to Golden West Gifts, Box 5296, Long Beach, California 90805. (4-2t-20p) 36

### 36 MISCELLANEOUS

"ZIPCODE DIRECTORY" — (All 35,000 Postoffices): \$1.00 MAILMART, Carrollton 72, Kentucky 41008. (3-tf-11b) 14

OVERSEAS JOBS — Australia, Europe, South America, Far East, etc. Opening in all trades and professions. \$400. to \$2,500 monthly, free information write: National Employment Service (Foreign Division) Box 2235 A.M.F. Miami, Florida 33159. (4-1t-33p) 36

ILLUSTRATED WHOLESALE CATALOG, Imported Merchandise, 25¢. Sample item included! Imports, 2506 West Lloyd, Pensacola, Florida 32505. (2-4t-15p)

2 for 1 MEN'S SPRING FACTORY SUIT SALE now on at Dick Butlers O.P.S. (Opposite Police Station) in Grand Ledge. Very latest styles and colors. Our regular men's \$60 suits now 2 suits for \$55. The selection — all sizes thru 46. Long, regulars and shorts. If you don't need 2 suits — bring a friend — divide the suit and share the savings. Michigan Bank's good here at DICK BUTLER CLOTHING CORP. Opposite Police Station in Grand Ledge, Michigan. Instant alterations. (5-1t-79b) 36

# DISCUSSION TOPIC

BY: Charles H. Bailey  
Director, Education  
and Research  
Michigan Farm Bureau

## Skills are valuable, off or on the farm

### OPPORTUNITIES BECKON

Often as we worry over the exodus of our youngsters from the farm, we overlook two very important facts. First, we are producing far more children on the farms of America than there are farm jobs; some authorities estimate 8 or 10 times as many as we can employ on Michigan farms.

Then too, we shouldn't forget that most of these youngsters go to jobs which pay much more than they could expect to earn on many of their home farms. We should keep in mind that only in America is it relatively easy for the farm child to move into another way of life. In many countries the farm boy is pretty well tied for life to the estate on which he is born.

If the greater portion of our farm youngsters must look for work off the farm, what are some of the opportunities open to them?

The logical place for most of our farm-reared and trained young people would be in a non-farm agricultural occupation. Opportunities in this area are almost unlimited and range all the way from the mechanic to the scientist studying the involved life process of plants and animals. This huge business employs nearly a fourth of all the employed people in the United States, and some estimates are far higher.

As agriculture becomes more and more technical, the services required by farmers will become increasingly complex and numerous. The new techniques will require more workers and they will need to be highly skilled. Many of the skills needed do not presently exist because the basic processes are still being developed.

As an example, one of the new jobs in government and in the food industry today is the detection of pesticide residues. This is a relatively new profession which has developed within the last 25 years or so.

A recent survey of the starting salaries of the 1966-67 graduates of Michigan State University has some surprises for those parents who are unhappy about "junior's" studying agriculture. The survey showed that holders of bachelors degrees in agriculture averaged nearly \$8,200 starting salary. This was second only to the engineering students who started at an average salary of almost \$8,700.

At Michigan State University, the College of Agriculture has reorganized its former Short Courses into a new Institute of Agricultural Technology to train technicians for the new scientific agriculture.

There is no emphasis on high school grades or courses taken: if the individual has a high school diploma he is admitted. High school vocational agriculture study is very desirable.

The Institute presently offers some 10 or 12 courses which run about a year and a half, some as long as two years. In these courses, covering such things as general farming, elevator and supply services, nursery management and food processing, the youngster with a farm background has an opportunity to build on his experiences as a farmer.

One of the biggest problems with these courses has been the recruiting of new students for them.

One stumbling block to larger student enrollment appears to be a lack of understanding by school counselors of the opportunities in agriculture. The College of Agriculture at MSU is currently holding briefing sessions with counselors all over the state to familiarize them with job opportunities in the agribusiness field. Already, 30 of these conferences have been held.



Some of the county Farm Bureaus have participated in these sessions by being sponsors and also by making sure that local counselors get to the meeting. Through this means, the College of Agriculture is working to keep more of our youngsters where we need them — in Agriculture.

Has your Farm Bureau been active in any of these conferences? If they have not, this might be a good project for the county Farm Bureau young farmer or the County Women's Committee.

Of course, MSU is not the only institution in the state offering advanced training in agriculture or related jobs. Several of the local colleges are offering training in such things as dairying, horticulture, and farm mechanics. For example, Andrews University at Berrien Springs, has a dairy farm technician course organized through the joint efforts of several groups including the Farm Bureau's Michigan Agricultural Services Association. Their first class is graduating this month.

It is very probable that other courses will be made available in other Community Colleges as local people request them and as students become available. Students for these courses have not been easy to find. Again, this is probably due to a lack of understanding on the part of parents and prospective students.

Many of the high school Vo-Ag departments are presently working with youngsters who want farm experience. Under the supervision of the Vo-Ag instructor the student spends several months working on a local farm. He is enabled to make some money through the program and at the same time he gains valuable experience which will later help in his life's work.

This program is one of the ways in which the provisions of the new Hazardous Occupations rulings of the U. S. Labor Department are eased somewhat. Boys who are working under the supervision of a qualified instructor can do some of the jobs otherwise prohibited; one example would be a 15-year-old driving one of the larger tractors.

Preliminary reports from over the state indicate that most of the instructors who want to cooperate in this program are having some problems finding employers who need or will use the students.

#### MARCH TOPIC SUMMARY

##### "School Problems"

QUESTION: Preferred sources of added school revenues.

GROUPS REPORTING: 695

382 Increase Tobacco taxes  
336 Earmark racing receipts  
195 Add 1-cent state sales tax  
189 State operated lottery  
171 State collect and distribute industrial property taxes  
158 Added state income taxes

Other choices were not selected by as many as 100 groups

There are any number of places where such training is possible in most areas of the state and this may be one way to beat the substantial cost of vocational training facilities. Many companies have expressed a willingness to become part of such a training program.

We would be less than realistic if we didn't mention the fact that there are areas which have few if any of these plants available. This presents the problem of locating farms or businesses which can give some sort of meaningful training to interested students.

Another subject which has received much attention lately has been the list of prohibited hazardous occupations for 16-year-olds which was released some weeks ago by the U. S. Labor Department. One magazine estimated that the new rules would remove 800,000 rural youngsters from farm employment. It could stop some students from doing certain farm jobs. Most of the jobs listed in the regulations, however, would normally be classed as work for a man, not a boy.

One of the restricted jobs listed which would ordinarily be open to a 14-or-15 year old is driving a tractor of over 20-horsepower.

Some of these jobs will still be open to these neighbor children PROVIDED they are enrolled in a training program and are "closely supervised by a qualified instructor." There are some other requirements which must be met but most of them involve procedure and the necessary paper work to satisfy the Department of Labor.

This regulation pretty well stops the use of children of tenants or employees to do any of the listed jobs unless they are enrolled in a training program. **THEY ARE NOT EXEMPTED UNDER THE RULES, ALTHOUGH CHILDREN IN THE OWNER'S FAMILY ARE EXEMPTED, FOR NOW.**

We are not reproducing these restrictions here because they have already been widely published, but any farmer using youngsters to help on the farm had better study these rules carefully. **There is a heavy fine for violation of the order.**

Most of these youngsters do need additional training to make maximum use of their present skills and know-how. Many communities have training facilities which have not been mobilized to help with the training.

Does your community have a job experience program in effect?

Are there programs to give non-farm youth farm experience?

Are there facilities in your community not presently cooperating in an experience program which could be used for training?

Has your local career counselor attended one of the MSU agribusiness career counseling conferences?

We have not discussed production agriculture, but when opportunity and interest exist, a career in agriculture may still be the best choice for the youngster with a farm background.

Young people with interest but without the opportunity to farm can find challenging opportunities in one of the associated agricultural businesses, if they are aware of what is available and prepare for them.

NEXT MONTH: Zoning Agricultural Lands

# YOUTH LABOR - OPPORTUNITIES AND RESTRICTIONS

# ASPARAGUS—FIRST SPRINGTIME FIELD CROP



Members of the Asparagus Marketing committee, MACMA, met recently at Farm Bureau headquarters in Chicago to discuss the 1968 asparagus market, and help determine competitive prices. Left to right are: Ferris Pierson, Hartford; Alton Wendzel, Watervliet, chairman of the committee; Ward Cooper, AFBF marketing research specialist; Tom Griener, Hart, committee vice-chairman; Harry Foster, MACMA marketing specialist; Alan Mandigo, Paw Paw; and Max Kokx, Hart.

## 'gras growers ask record 20.5¢ price

Members of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association's Asparagus division, have agreed on a record asking price of 20.5 cents per pound for the crop just coming to harvest. It is expected that prices will be settled by the time delivery to processors begins next week.

The price sought by growers is based on a slight reduction of acreage and a strong demand for the crop. It reflects the general upward trend of the national economy with both costs and prices up.

Across the nation, asparagus acreage has decreased by about 3,800 acres this year, and in Michigan by about 400 acres.

Unseasonably warm spring weather is expected to result in an early harvest of Michigan's 12,300 acres of asparagus this year, according to Harry Foster, manager of the Processing Vegetable Crops division, Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association.

Farmers are hoping to repeat last year's record crop of 9,000 tons, which brought a record price of 18.5 cents per pound. Michigan ranks fourth among the states in asparagus production, led by California, New Jersey, and Washington, in that order.

Foster pointed out that the asparagus harvest receives wide attention from both producers and consumers, since it is the first cash field crop of the season, and the first Michigan fresh vegetable

to appear on the family table in spring.

Approximately 35% of Michigan's total asparagus acreage is represented by MACMA, which provides both a cooperative marketing and information service to members. All Farm Bureau members who are growers are urged to join MACMA's asparagus program.

Foster reported that the Asparagus Marketing committee is already at work, compiling market news for growers based upon careful evaluation of every fragment of information from both Michigan and other growing regions. This information is relayed to members through frequent newsletters, meetings, bulletins and other methods of contact, so that members are fully informed of all market factors.

Nearly all processors have indicated their 1967 stocks have been completely depleted, Foster said. Importance of quality produce is being stressed by processors this year, and will have a major influence on prices, he added.

Members of the Asparagus Marketing committee include: Alton Wendzel of Watervliet, chairman; Tom Greiner of Hart, vice-chairman; Ferris Pierson, Hartford; Paul Wicks, Dowagiac; Alan Mandigo, Paw Paw; Dan Schultz, Buchanan; Roy Bisnett and Ernest Froehlich, Decatur; William Burmeister and Donald Hawley, Shelby; and Mathew Kokx of Hart.



## Does Farm Bureau Services PLAN-A-YIELD Program Really Work? YES!

says: Norris Young  
Buchanan, Michigan

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC. HYBRID CORN DEMONSTRATION PLOT  
Norris Young's Farm, Buchanan, Michigan

According to Soil Test we needed: 60# P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>  
150# K<sub>2</sub>O

### FERTILIZER PROGRAM:

225#	0 - 0 - 60	Bulk	@ — \$ 5.51 Per Acre
550#	33½ - 0 - 0	Bulk	@ — \$17.05 Per Acre
225#	Special Corn Starter	Bagged	@ — \$10.69 Per Acre
	N P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> K <sub>2</sub> O		
Total	204 - 61 - 171	Total Cost	.....\$33.25 Per Acre

### RESULTS:

NORTHROP KING	POPULATION	15½% MOISTURE	BU. YIELD
KE 497	18,000	26.3	111.0
PX 560	19,600	28.6	152.0
PX 44	22,800	29.8	173.0
PX 52	21,000	27.7	164.0

### GREAT LAKES HYBRIDS

402-2x	20,600	26.8	160.0
463-3x	20,600	26.8	160.0
550	17,600	28.4	132.0
500-2x	22,000	28.7	161.0

Planted: May 18, 1967  
30" rows Harvest Check: October 12, 1967

### COMPLETE: FROM SOIL TEST TO HARVEST

Our trained specialists assist you in your effort to achieve 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 us a post card and our specialists will show you the whole program.

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



**FARM BUREAU**  
*Services*  
INC.

4000 N. GRAND RIVER AVENUE / LANSING, MICHIGAN

### Here Are Your Row Starter Production Costs

#### In-Season Delivery — Cash

Yield Goal Per Acre	Fertilizer Per Acre	Bulk Per Acre	Bagged Per Acre
100 bu.	110 lbs.	\$5.44	\$ 5.72
150 bu.	150 lbs.	7.43	7.80
200 bu.	200 lbs.	9.90	10.40

## Farm Crop Exemption

Reports are coming into Farm Bureau indicating that at least in some areas, there is much confusion regarding the legislation exempting farm crops from assessment. Public Act 268, exempting farm crops was passed in 1966 and became effective for the 1968 assessment role.

Some assessors are apparently ignoring the law; others have carried it out; and still others have, for the first time, assessed certain crops separate from the land. For instance, it is reported that in one small area, the asparagus crop is being valued at \$200 an acre in addition to the value of the land on which it is growing. The interesting thing is that it is the first time it has been assessed in this manner. It is difficult to understand why this should be done at this time, when the new law specifically exempts farm crops from assessment. The law is easily understandable and is herein reprinted:

"Sec. 7e. The value of any deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, plants, bushes and vines, whether annual or perennial growing on agricultural land devoted to agricultural purposes shall be exempt from taxation. The assessment of agricultural real property shall be made without regard to any enhancement in value of the agricultural real property by reason of the deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, plants, bushes or vines. Nothing herein contained shall affect the taxation of growing timber."

The law passed, was signed by Governor Romney, and is now in effect this year for the first time.

Farmers should be aware of it, as it appears there is unnecessary confusion and misinformation being spread. It will no doubt take more effort to maintain this accomplishment than it did to achieve it; however, this is not unusual.

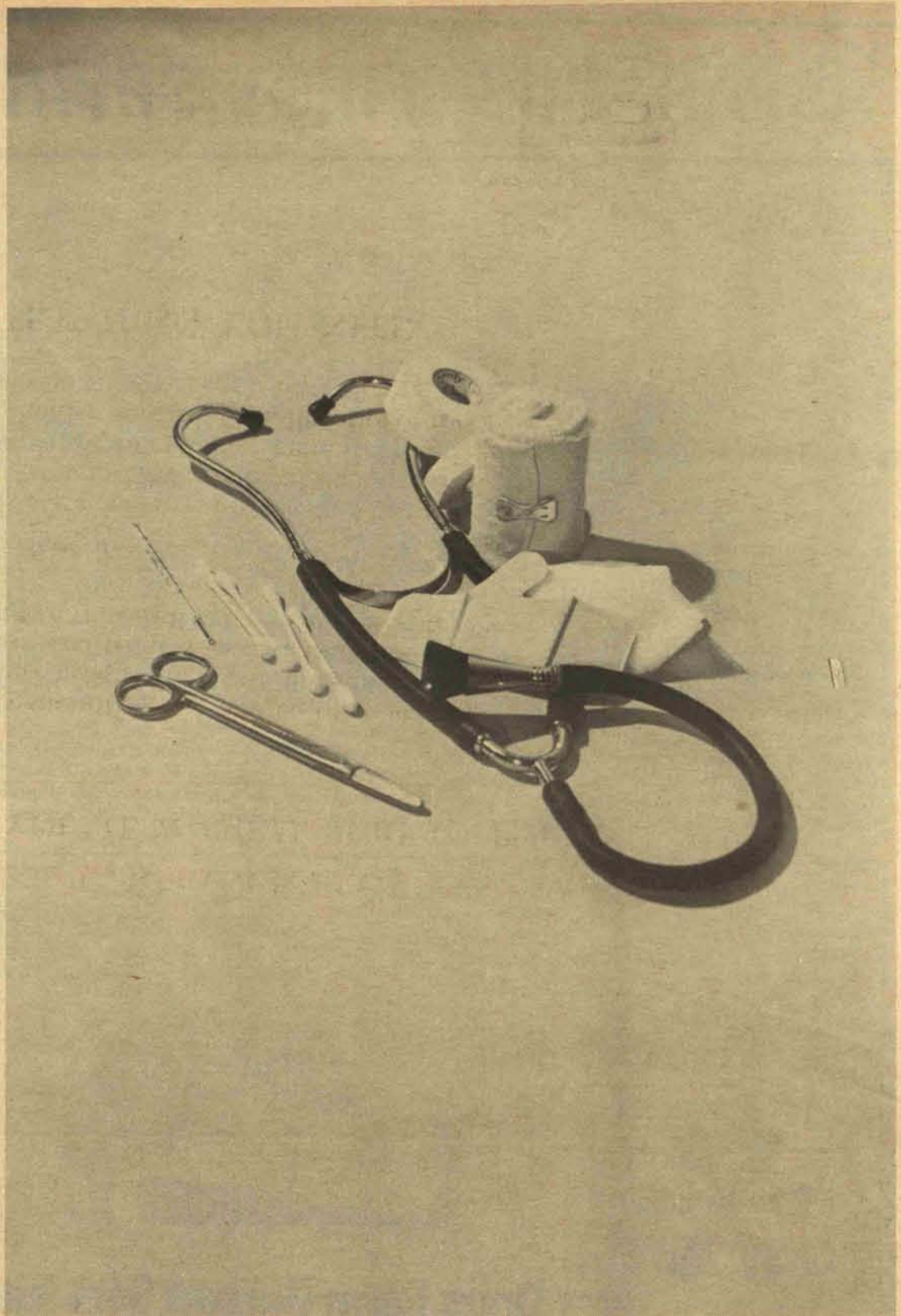
Special Corn Starter Fertilizer now has 2% zinc guaranteed.

# YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS

have just been

# INCREASED...

For Free!



NOW YOUR AUTO/TRUCK INSURANCE PROVIDES 50% MORE MEDICAL BENEFITS . . . IF YOU'RE A FARM BUREAU POLICYHOLDER

*Your Protection Is Our Concern.*

Medical costs have been steadily mounting . . . and so have your dangers of serious financial loss. To compensate for these rising costs and dangers, Farm Bureau Insurance Group has increased auto and truck Medical Benefits coverage 50%. This new protection costs you nothing . . . after all, it's our job to protect you.

*Continuing Innovation Is Your Benefit.*

Over \$600,000 in auto dividends were declared last year. Auto rates were reduced as much as 30% for many young drivers. Now, medical benefits have been increased. These are tangible Farm Bureau auto policyholder benefits. Constant research, new ideas, full protection, top policyholder service . . . hallmarks of modern, sound Farm Bureau protection with . . .

EVERYTHING YOU NEED

**FARM BUREAU  
INSURANCE  
GROUP**



Farm Bureau Mutual • Farm Bureau Life • Community Service, LANSING