



THE "COUNTRY COUSINS" — Young Farmer Community Group of Calhoun county, move outdoors for their summertime discussions and business meetings. The dozen youthful couples in the group average 23 years of age, and farm a total of 4,000 acres. Most have dairy herds, which, if combined, would represent nearly 500 cows. Group Chairman Jack Rocco and wife, Bonnie Kay, were absent because of the arrival of their third child. Babysitters for small children (oldest 3 years, youngest 3 days) is one problem group members take in stride.



FORMAL DISCUSSIONS — are followed by free-wheeling, informal food and fellowship sessions, such as this one in the home of Ken and Mary Eyre. Picnics, complete with homemade ice cream and weiner roasts, often climax summer lawn gatherings. Most of the young couples are involved in partnerships and are seriously concerned with problems such as taxes, labor and farm prices. Two of the group serve on the county Farm Bureau Executive committee and one (Lynn Smith) serves on the state Young Farmer committee. The group is two years old.

YOUNG FARMERS —LOOK AHEAD

It is becoming obvious that Michigan's youthful Farm Bureau members take seriously the theme of a recent Young Farmer program — "Participation, Key to Action."

Their effective participation in all phases of Farm Bureau work is sparking action in many parts of the state — in Young Farmer Community groups and in county-wide Young Farmer programs.

A group of 65 youthful Farm Bureau leaders met recently in Saginaw for a three-day Young Farmer training conference, based on the "Participation — Key to Action" theme.

Speakers included three representatives of Michigan Farm Bureau: Elton R. Smith, president; Dan Reed, secretary-manager; and Dale Sherwin, legislative counsel; Jack Angell, director of Broadcast Services, American Farm Bureau Federation; and Earl J. Hill, public relations, Consumers Power Company.

Two-fold purpose of the meeting was to point out major objectives of Young Farmer activities in Michigan, and to encourage greater participation among young farmers in Michigan Farm Bureau. With a state-wide membership of more than 52,000 families, the organization includes several thousand young farmers.

The conference was conducted by the Young Farmer committee of MFB, and Larry Karsten of Presque Isle county was general chairman.

During the sessions, participants indicated interest in learning more about the history, philosophy and organizational structure of Farm Bureau. Classes were devoted to discussion of these topics, along with others on marketing and political education.

In response to the question, "What do you think the objectives of Farm Bureau should be in the years ahead?" these answers were given:

Serve the needs of Farm Bureau members, whatever they are, such as marketing, information, policy development, benefits to members; betterment of farming; improvement of farm economics, with emphasis on political and governmental issues; provide leadership in agriculture, keeping farmers active and programs in tune with changing times and conditions;

Development of more organized marketing programs; supply a good legislative voice; accept a leadership role in prices paid to farmers; offer farmers their "best deal" in the supplies they buy; be active in community service and local affairs;

Create member loyalty and discipline; member education, involvement and action; change some farm products through research, promotion and legislation; educate farmers regarding the quality demanded by consumers; provide public information; recognize need for adequate staff, both in quality and quantity.

Another question, "What services do you expect from Farm Bureau in the future that you are not now receiving?" brought these responses:

A Credit Union, more direct buying of supplies, better service in petroleum supplies, a new approach to the women's program, improve labor procurement and fringe benefits, expand research and promotion for commodities, better market information, cooperative purchasing, employer education, soil testing and protein analysis of feeds.

Member discounts, leasing of equipment — perhaps on seasonal basis, group purchasing and application of spray materials, "hot line" market information, feed contracts and use of futures market.

Answers to a third question, "What do you expect of a Farm Bureau marketing program?" included:

Bargaining power, including stabilization of the market, and protection of the farmer's interest; market development and maintenance; build loyalty in growers; reasonable profit for producer and processors; highest price with least involvement to the farmer; and keeping ahead of competition.

Editorial

What makes it run? What makes it hum?

"The Centipede was happy quite
Until a toad in fun
Said, 'Pray, which leg goes after which?'
That worked her mind to such a pitch
She lay distracted in a ditch,
Considering how to run. . . ."
(Pinafore Poems — 1871)

How does Farm Bureau run where you live?
Who puts the "legs" under programs of your county Farm Bureau?

Are there many people involved in many local areas of Farm Bureau action, doing important jobs with local impact for members in terms of their lives and incomes?

Or are there only a few people involved in a modest program aimed mostly at putting together a few suggestions at the annual meeting for work to be done by the Michigan or American Farm Bureau in Lansing and Washington?

Last year, county Farm Bureaus submitted 579 recommendations for state policies to the Michigan Farm Bureau. They submitted another 239 recommendations for national policies.

They wrote only 27 local policy action resolutions calling for work to be done at home, by themselves!

If a county Farm Bureau does not have a well-defined program of work for itself, if it involves only a few of the same people doing a few important jobs, if it continues to ignore local problems and projects of importance to its members — *some day it will get into trouble.*

That's when someone comes along (*much as the toad in our verse*) and asks the sticky question about how Farm Bureau is going to solve *this* problem for its members, or handle *that* project that the members want done. It is at this point that the organizational strength of a county Farm Bureau is tested.

Such questions remind us that voluntary organizations such as Farm Bureau don't really run themselves, although for various reasons from time-to-time, they may appear to do so.

The best kind of voluntary organization is one which dashes along toward well defined local goals on a thousand hidden membership legs, each working in unison with the others.

A good, strong, county Farm Bureau, is built of more than legwork, for it is well "armed" as well . . . and the legs and arms of this membership "army" provide the group strength necessary to group action.

It has been said that a county Farm Bureau cannot be stopped or killed, only slowed down . . . and there has been considerable evidence gathered over a half-century to back that statement. Voluntary organizations, such as Farm Bureau are very much a different kind of creature.

County Farm Bureaus are weakest when they are run by only a few "stemwinders" who fill most of the offices and do most of the jobs. They are made weaker every time they fail to develop their own membership-muscle by shipping a problem off to Lansing or Washington to be solved.

We must not forget that a county Farm Bureau has only as much "life" as there are live-wires in it. Such people, given important jobs to do, the authority and budget to do them, and freedom to get the job done in their own fashion, will make a county Farm Bureau hum.

That's when the very fact of a decentralized authority gives Farm Bureau an unkillable strength . . . when a truly organized Farm Bureau operates so smoothly that nothing can ditch it — when it seems to run by itself.

M.W.



"WELL — ASIDE FROM THAT — DON'T YOU THINK IT'LL GROW A NICE STAND OF HAY?"

A PERSONAL WORD

about June

"June is bustin' out all over." June, the month of brides, is dairy month; roses bloom, the odor of freshly cut hay fills the air. School's closing brings graduation and school elections.

June is Dairy month, so how about all of us using a little more milk, butter, and cottage cheese? Our diets are very important, with increased activity during summer months, so we need to be health conscious.

Graduation — a big event in the lives of our young people completing high school or college. For many, it is a time when they choose the work they hope to pursue for many years. One big question we need to ask ourselves, "Are they properly equipped?" Why do I ask? Do you vote in your school elections?

School elections are close to graduation, maybe just before or after. Are you a concerned parent, voting not only on the bonding or millage issues, but also on candidates for the school board?

I know from experience as an election inspector that the main issue which gets voters to the polls is one that touches the purse strings. I'm not saying this is bad, but I do say that if we want our schools to produce the kind of young people we want for our leaders in the years ahead, we had better be sure we vote for people we know will help us develop a good school system. If we say, "the schools aren't what they should be" then we had better check if we are doing our part to make them better. It's rather sad to know that only about one-tenth of the eligible voters cast their ballots.

I goofed last month when I said spring district meetings were over. In the Upper Peninsula, June 4 and 5 are the dates. Ladies, it is my plan to be with you, and I'm looking forward to these meetings.

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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President's Column

LOCAL POWER

Farm Bureau was originated in the local communities to solve local problems. It seems that the formation of the Michigan Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau came more or less as afterthoughts.

Some of the early areas of work for Farm Bureau included finding better farming methods, building better roads and better schools, and seeking better means for marketing the produce of the farm.

Wayne County Farm Bureau directors recently had an opportunity to examine the old minutes of their early meetings and found that many of the first committees were appointed to find these better ways to market farm products. Other committees were selected to assist the new county agent in finding permanent quarters and getting furnishings for it.

It's interesting to note that many of the early Farm Bureaus spent much of their funds and efforts helping arrange for the farm agents with their new ways of doing things. Support of the Cooperative Extension movement has been one of our continuing programs from the time of our formation.

As our horizons have broadened in Farm Bureau, we have placed much emphasis on state and national programs, sometimes to the detriment of local programs. Not that we deliberately cut back the local effort, but because we became so involved in the others we tended to forget the local problems. Possibly this has happened because we at Michigan Farm Bureau have not placed the emphasis on the local problems that we should have.

Whatever the reason for the let-up in local Farm Bureau, the delegates to our last annual meeting called for renewed stress on these close-to-home problems. They called for the formation of Local Affairs Committees by county Farm Bureaus. I hope your county is organizing an active committee on local affairs, whatever you may call it.

When we examine the records of some of those early meetings, we are struck by the positive attitudes expressed by the participants. They had organized to do something about certain local problems and there was little complaining reflected in the minutes, rather the minutes reflected a determination to do something to correct the problems facing them.

There are still plenty of local issues which merit our attention right at home in our townships and counties.

At last year's annual meeting in our counties we passed numerous resolutions relating to local problems. I wonder how many of these we have actively worked on since then? When we meet again in October how many of these problems will still be existing and how many can we report to members that local Farm Bureau helped to solve?

From time to time we hear of counties actively working on one of these problems which members have been unable to solve alone. One case which comes to mind is the effort of the Iosco County Farm Bureau to correct land assessments which they considered to be incorrect. Last reports indicated that they have been instrumental in getting a 10 per cent across-the-board reduction in agricultural land assessments — more in some communities.

With the resolutions committees beginning meetings before very many weeks, it would be well for us all to see if there isn't some problem in our home area which could be handled rather easily now but which may become a major problem if allowed to grow and get worse. Community groups can play an important part in this process of finding potential problems before they really get going. Alert community groups can be of great help in curing these problems also.

The big thing for the younger generation seems to be involvement. We in Farm Bureau have been involved for over fifty years and there seem to be plenty of opportunities for us to be involved for another fifty — and in something truly useful, our own community welfare.

Elton Smith

1968 Farm Program Bill is Introduced by Vander Jagt

Representative Guy Vander Jagt—U. S. Congressman from Michigan's 9th District, has introduced the first major farm program bill of 1968 in the House of Representatives—an act which closely follows Farm Bureau recommendations, and which in Vander Jagt's own words, should "return farming to farmers".

The new bill (H.R. 17036)—he said, "Will permit the market to operate and will enable producers of wheat, feed grains, and soybeans to get their income in the market place".

Washington observers pointed to the apparent bi-partisan support for legislation to permit the market system to work more effectively for wheat, feed grains and soybeans.

It was noted that the Vander Jagt bill, introduced by a western-Michigan Republican, whose district contains large and important farming areas, is very similar to a bill (S-3158) introduced in the Senate in March, by Senator Abraham Ribicoff, Connecticut Democrat who frequently speaks with the voice of big-city labor and industry.

Vander Jagt's bill is titled the "Wheat and Feed Grains Act of 1968" and contains specific provisions for cropland retirement programs and makes certain that soybeans are eligible for recourse loans.

Under the Act, the Cropland Adjustment Program would be extended through 1972 and would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to use the "bid" system to encour-

age the retirement of whole farms.

The bill would repeal authority for acreage allotments, marketing quotas, marketing certificates, diversion payments and price support payments on wheat; "base" acreages, diversion payments and price support payments on feed grains; and price supports on soybeans.

In speaking of his bill, Vander Jagt observed that the burdensome surpluses of wheat and feed grains of years past have been largely eliminated, and that the climate is right for a strong move to be made toward removing strangling controls on some farm products.

"This much-improved situation is due to a combination of factors, including rapidly growing use of grains, greatly expanded commercial exports and food shipments to meet emergencies and to foster economic progress in developing nations of the world" Vander Jagt said.



CONGRESSMAN VANDER JAGT

"Present outmoded programs should be abolished" he added. "There is no need for a sprawling bureaucracy that squanders public money on controls and subsidies spawned during economic poor times of the past—we should give farming back to the farmers"—the Congressman said.

He added that under a "recourse loan" policy of his bill, farmers could borrow from banks and other private financial institutions to meet their expansion needs.

"The bill will permit the market to operate—enabling producers of wheat, feed grains and soybeans to get their income in the marketplace and not from the federal trough"—Vander Jagt said.

Congressman Esch Asks Bracero Policy Review

By Marvin L. Esch, U. S. Representative
Second District, Michigan

Recently I had the honor of representing the United States at an Interparliamentary conference with members of the Mexican Congress. As a member of the Social Problems committee of the conference I initiated a frank discussion with our Mexican counterparts about U. S. policy toward migrant workers.

As Michigan farmers are well aware, the Secretary of Labor in 1964 issued an order severely limiting the number of braceros permitted to enter this country to harvest crops. The Secretary's stated intention was to protect these workers from "slave labor" and

poor living conditions. It was also generally agreed that a cutback on immigration of farm laborers would have a positive affect on unemployment in the United States.

In practice, however, the Secretary's ruling has not achieved either of these goals. As I pointed out at the conference, the situation is probably worse now than it was and the ruling has had an adverse side effect on our nation's agricultural community.

In 1964, under Public Law 78, we had 180,000 braceros enter the U. S. to work. Last year only 6,127 entered under certification

issued by the Secretary of Labor only for employment in California. The hidden factor here is that during this same period the number of illegal entries increased three times—from 32,079 to 108,303.

At the same time, we have not seen any significant interest on the part of the domestic unemployed to accept plentiful farm jobs. Michigan farmers are well aware of this fact and many farm employers across the country have watched crops go unharvested because domestic workers cannot be found to fill jobs previously held by migrants.

Every farmer I have met agrees that we must strive to have farm employment conditions comparable at least to other enterprises. Michigan farmers in cooperation with state government have led the nation in improving farm labor living and working conditions. Yet the Department of Labor has actually penalized this progress by continuing to restrict bracero immigration.

Such policies also cause a real hardship on the half-million dependents in the economically depressed rural areas of Mexico.

I was encouraged by the expression of mutual concern over these problems by the Mexican delegation. They are well aware of the problems created by our policies on both sides of the border and expressed to me their desire to initiate further bilateral talks.

In short, our current policy satisfies neither its stated nor implied goals and has resulted in economic discrimination against our agricultural community. The time has come for a complete Congressional review.



CONGRESSMAN—Marvin Esch, takes time out from a busy schedule to visit with a migrant family in Monroe county. Esch represents Michigan's 2nd district of Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe and Washtenaw counties—and portions of Wayne.

National Experts at Citizenship Seminar

Practical, down-to-earth training in citizenship will be offered to 140 high school juniors and seniors during the annual Young People's Citizenship Seminar conducted by Michigan Farm Bureau.

The program is scheduled for July 15-19 at Camp Kett. Five major topics will be included: People and Governments Around the World, Americanism, Economic Systems, Participating in Political Parties, and The Challenge of Leadership.

Outside experts who will contribute to the over-all informative materials participants receive will include these five:

Kenneth Cheatham, assistant director of program development for the American Farm Bureau Federation; D. Hale Brake, director of education for the Michigan State Association of Supervisors; John H. Furbay, Ph.D., General Motors lecturer, author and global air commuter; Clifton L. Ganus, Ph.D., president of Harding college, Searcy, Arkansas; and Arthur Holst, National Football League official, and administrator for the Forest Park Foundation, Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. Cheatham, who attended Greenville college and the University of Illinois, joined the Farm Bureau organization in 1956. He was county Farm Bureau manager for six years, director of Young People's activities for the Illinois Agricultural Association four years; and is the only Illinois recipient of the Future Farmers' highest award, having been named Star Farmer of America in 1948.

Active in many youth activities, he presently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Illinois 4-H foundation, director of the Illinois Recreation council, and in other similar posts. He and his wife are the parents of three children.

Mr. Brake, a Michigan native, is a graduate of Albion college and received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1922. He has been a state senator, served for many years as state treasurer, and was a delegate to the Constitutional convention. He has conducted numerous workshops on local government, and also owns and operates a 500-acre farm at Stanton, Michigan.

Dr. Furbay received his master's degree from New York university, his doctorate from Yale, and has done graduate research at the Sorbonne in Paris and the University of London. The author of several books and magazine articles, he was appointed by former President Eisenhower to the advisory committee on the "People-to-People" program.

A permanent member of the staff of the World Seminar on Education in Geneva, Switzerland, he is also a fellow of the National Geographic Society. He spent several years as senior specialist in the Office of Education, and was an educational advisor in the U. S. embassies of Costa Rica and Colombia. For three years he served as president of the College of West Africa in the Republic of Liberia.

Born in Hillsboro, Texas, Dr. Ganus received his bachelor's degree from Harding college, and took his advanced degrees at Tulane university. Prior to his appointment as president of Harding college, he was head of the department of history and social sciences. A noted educator, lecturer, and student of world affairs, he has been instrumental in developing the School of American Studies and the National Education program.



DR. CLIFTON GANUS

Dr. Ganus was awarded a George Washington medal by the Freedoms Foundation in 1956 for an address on "Basic Concepts of Government." He received similar awards during the next four years from the Freedoms Foundation.

Young people attending the Citizenship conference will arrive at camp Monday afternoon. Following a buffet dinner, they will be welcomed by Elton Smith, president of Michigan Farm Bureau, and Ben Westrate, Camp Kett administrator.

Each day's activities will begin at 7 a.m., with an early morning breakfast preceding the flag-raising ceremony. Discussion periods and workshops following each major presentation will give students an opportunity to evaluate the messages delivered by the speakers.

In addition, following Mr. Brake's presentations, they will have an opportunity to carry out mock primary elections, county political conventions, a political rally, and to hold a general election. All these activities are designed to give the young people practical experience in the field of politics.

Dr. Ganus will hold the spotlight Tuesday, with addresses on "Understanding and Preserving Our Heritage," "What Then is This New Man?", "The Moral Foundations of Freedom," and "Pyramids of Freedom."

Emphasis will be on economics Wednesday, led by Mr. Cheatham, whose topics include: "Economic Systems and Their Characteristics," "Private Enterprise—The American System", and "Preserving Our Private Enterprise System."

Dr. Furbay will be featured Thursday, speaking on these topics, "Four Dreams of Man," "Countdown for Tomorrow," and "Let's Join the Human Race." Evening address Thursday, given by Mr. Holst, will be, "The Challenge of Leadership."

Time will be provided daily for swimming, recreation, get-acquainted sessions, and other social activities. Students will be sponsored by county Farm Bureaus throughout the lower peninsula.



capitol report

Lansing Sessions are Lively

LEGIS-LATE-NOTES

MEAT INSPECTION

Meat inspection is again becoming a serious legislative problem. As this is written, both the House and Senate have included language in an appropriation bill which, *unless it is removed, will prevent Michigan from entering into an agreement with the Federal Meat Inspection Program.*

USDA has now approved Michigan's Meat Inspection Program and will match funds up to 50 percent next year. The Legislature, on the other hand, is becoming wary of similar federal programs, as the cost often continues to rise and the state is sometimes left paying for the whole program. *However, if Michigan meat is to become fully acceptable to the market and be permitted to cross state lines, it will require a cooperative program with USDA.* The meat inspection program passed by Congress last year becomes fully effective in 1970.

At the moment, livestock farmers and the entire meat industry are in the middle. For example, in Detroit there are about 40 meat packers of various kinds. They have lost at least one-third of their business due to the fact that most large buyers are demanding meat be marked with the USDA inspection stamp.

One Detroit packer with a kill capacity of 2,000 animals per week, is only running at half capacity because he has lost much of his market. It is also claimed that many cuts of Michigan meat that do not have the federal stamp must sell at a lower price in order to find a market. This, in turn, can seriously hurt livestock producers because it means a reduced market for Michigan-raised livestock.

If the Legislature removes the restrictive language in the bill, it will mean that Michigan meat

packers could qualify under the federal Talmadge-Aiken Act and use the USDA inspection stamp even though the actual inspection is carried out under Michigan's law and under Michigan inspectors. It will also give them at least 18 months to meet other requirements of the law.

Farm Bureau is working to help find a solution. While it may seem simple, it is in reality most difficult because meat inspection is a touchy legislative area for many political and other reasons.

MARKETING

The price announcement bill, H. 2702, died in the Senate Committee on Agriculture. It would have required purchasers of fruit and vegetables for processing to post the price and other terms of sale at the beginning date of delivery unless there was a written agreement stating other terms.

It appears that this bill was, in part at least, a victim of political trading on other measures. *Rep. Allen Rush* of Lake Orion, chief sponsor of the bill in the House, did everything possible to help save it in the Senate committee. *Sen. Byker*, of Hudsonville, also worked hard to get the bill out of committee.

Fifteen producers came to Lansing to testify before the Senate committee. The committee did, however, indicate its intention of thoroughly studying this problem before the next legislative session.

TAXATION

A Farm Bureau-supported bill, S. 979, has passed the Senate and is now before the House for action. It will require assessors to take "zoning and land use" into consideration. *This is a far-reaching measure.* It is one more step toward the goal of assessing agricultural land on that use rather than on its potential value.

There is presently a case in court involving the problem of property being zoned under one classification but assessed on its potential value under another classification.

More and more leaders are recognizing the fact that prime agricultural land must not be taxed out of existence. *Mrs. William Milliken, wife of the Lt. Governor, alluded to this problem in a recent speech before the Awards Luncheon of the Keep Michigan Beautiful Committee. She said in part that "land use and tax policies must be re-evaluated."*

U.P. VICTORY

Upper Peninsula farmers will celebrate their most successful membership year in U.P. Farm Bureau history with a gigantic "Victory Party" June 22, at Camp Shaw, Chatham.

Over 1,000 Farm Bureau members, press, radio and television and other guests are expected to attend the noon-time chicken barbeque and afternoon program with invitations already accepted by all members of the state legislature in the Upper Peninsula and from U.S. Congressman, Philip Ruppe.

Cooks for the huge feast will be U.P. District Director on the state Farm Bureau board, Clayton Ford, and Regional Representative Hugo Kivi, assisted by state staff members.

"Seven of our eight county Farm Bureaus are over goal, and our total membership is 15 per cent above last year"—reports Kivi, who said that counties and individuals responsible for this gain will be recognized during the afternoon program.

DAIRYMEN'S PROGRAM

All Michigan Grade-A dairy producers have been mailed a ballot allowing a vote in the proposed Michigan Dairymen's Market Program.

The ballots must be returned, postmarked no later than June 7, to record a vote in the referendum.

Involved is an expanded program of sales promotion and research financed by a mandatory set-aside of 4¢ per hundredweight of milk produced.

VOTING RECORDS

Voting records "on major issues" should be periodically published in the Michigan FARM NEWS—according to a policy directive from the House of Delegates of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

This policy statement was adopted last November at the 48th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau, with the voting records to be printed "in order that we may be better informed on the actions of our legislators . . ."

Roll-Call Vote on the "Fair Practices" Act

A transposed line in last month's FARM NEWS, removed much of the meaning from a report of the voting record of Michigan members of the U. S. House of Representatives, on the important "Agricultural Fair Practices Act of 1968."

The House vote on the bill was considered a critical hurdle in the eventual passage of the Farm Bureau supported Act by Congress in mid-April. President Johnson has since signed the Act into law.

On a Roll-Call vote, ten Michigan Congressmen voted for passage of the bill. Five voted against it and four are listed as not voting.

Farm Bureau had strongly supported the measure through many hectic months of its movement, first through the Senate and then through the House.

The ten Michigan Congressmen, all of them Republican, who voted "Yea" in support of the measure as urged by Farm Bureau, were: **Marvin Esch, Garry Brown, Edward Hutchinson, Gerald Ford, Charles Chamberlain, Donald Riegle, Jr., James Harvey, Guy Vander Jagt, Elford Cederberg and Jack McDonald.**

The five Michigan Congressmen—all of them Democrats, who voted "Nay"—in opposition to the Farm Bureau supported measure, 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).**

Passage of the bill and its subsequent signing into law by the President, provides farmers the protection of what has been termed "new rules of fair play" in their business dealings with processors and others.

At one point in the testimony, the position of the National Farmers Organization on the bill was raised to House Agriculture Committee Chairman, W. R. Poage.

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 . . ."

The Sisk amendments contained clarifying language important to several sections of the bill and were offered by California Representative, B. F. Sisk.



COUNTY REAPPORTIONMENT—(left to right) Reps. Russell Strange, Mt. Pleasant; Stanley Powell, Ionia and Wm. Weber, Kalamazoo, form a special House Committee to suggest solutions to complex problems created by the U. S. Supreme Court decision calling for redistricting county boards of Supervisors. Numerous proposals will be considered.

FARMERS FACE DEADLINE DATES

WHEAT PROGRAM

Michigan wheat producers, not already in Farm Bureau's Wheat Marketing program, have only until June 14 to sign up.

Agreements are available for this purpose in county Farm Bureau offices, from county Farm Bureau wheat committeemen, or in each of the 85 participating cooperative elevators of the state.

Meanwhile, the May crop report shows another "bin-busting" wheat crop in prospect. Excellent growing conditions are causing prospects near the 1967 record breaker.

These prospects, when combined with an extremely large carryover of 1967 crop wheat, are ominous in terms of what price can be expected from the 1968 crop harvest.

Only 40 per cent of Michigan farms are eligible for the "shelter"

of a government loan, the Farm Bureau wheat marketing program becomes the best alternative to the traditional selling of wheat at harvest time—particularly when new crop prices are quoted currently at about \$1.12 to \$1.14 per bushel.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY PARTY



PAST PRESIDENTS — of Tuscola County Farm Bureau were on hand with current President Leon Keinath to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization's founding, and to reminisce about the challenges of earlier years. Left to right, back row, are President Keinath, Lyle Sylvester, president in 1962-63; Bruce Ruggles, 1958-60; front row, left to right, John Graham, 1965-67; Alfred Goodall, 1963-65; Clifton Lotter, 1960-62; and Fred Bach, 1956-58. —(Fritz Neitzel photo)—

Winter's worst snowstorm delayed, but could not defeat, the celebration of Tuscola County Farm Bureau's 50th anniversary. The birthday party honored organizers and workers of the last five decades.

Originally scheduled for March 23 by the Board of Directors, a severe storm forced postponement of the event for a month.

Seven past county presidents, representing a span of 22 years, gave brief accounts of goals and achievements during their terms of office. Elton R. Smith, Michigan Farm Bureau president, reviewed highlights of the Michigan and Tuscola Farm Bureaus. He commended the county for its outstanding leadership and excellent programs.

Arrangements for the observance were made by Mrs. Clare Carpenter, Information chairman and head of the 50th anniversary program; Mrs. Ford Boyne, Women's group; Leon Keinath, county president; and Alfred Goodall, a past president. Special guests were State Treasurer Alli-

son Green and Mrs. Green. Mr. Green was secretary-treasurer of the county board of directors for 10 years.

Fred Reimer of Hale, regional representative in the Thumb area in the 1930's, spoke briefly. Guests included residents of neighboring counties and former members and staff.

A congratulatory message from Charles B. Shuman, American Farm Bureau president, stated: "There is a great future for farm families in the United States if they work through their Farm Bureau organization to solve their many problems."

A 50-year history of Tuscola Farm Bureau, compiled by Mrs. Carpenter, includes details on how it grew, and why it remains the major farm organization. The 57-page booklet was distributed to all members. It is dedicated "to the men and women, with their convictions and courage, who brought Farm Bureau through the pioneer years and to those who have helped to advance the purpose for which it began."

"LIAISON RALLY"

a family matter

"Liaison" — according to Webster's dictionary, implies a close bond or connection — intercommunications and a form of inter-relationship as within a close-knit family.

Such words would certainly describe the ideal climate in which the Farm Bureau "family" — the Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies, should operate.

To assure that such is the fact, Farm Bureau Services, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) and the parent Michigan Farm Bureau, take time out now and then to work hard at the important job of inter-family liaison.

State and regional Liaison Committees have been in active operation since 1952. The state committee presently includes eight representatives of the Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies, and meets on the mornings of the second Friday of every month at Farm Bureau Center, Lansing.

In the afternoon of the same day, Regional committees meet in four locations throughout the state. Each regional meeting is attended by field representatives of each company and by one state committee representative — on a rotating assignment basis. For the past two years, this on-going dialog between representatives of all parts of Farm Bureau, has been supplemented by a state-wide "Liaison Rally."

New products, new projects, new problems, all are reviewed and examined. At a typical session, a membership status report is likely to be followed by a discussion of how all parts of Farm Bureau can work toward filling membership goals.

Program time-tables are compared, conflicts or duplication of effort avoided. Most importantly, programs and projects become interpreted in terms of people — the people who operate the programs and plan the projects; and as these people become acquainted and better understand each other, the program efforts are mutually strengthened.

This year the second annual Liaison Rally was held in Grand Rapids, a site deliberately chosen because it was sufficiently removed from the Lansing office to allow an overnight stay and an even greater chance for intercommunication on an informal basis.

The "rally" began with a session for new employees — those who had not previously attended such a statewide inter-company meeting. Arlo Wasson, marketing division manager for Farmers Petroleum cooperative chaired this session.

Later, room assignments were made, with deliberate mixing of personnel from different companies. Following a joint dinner, Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton Smith told the group "We must all realize that the only valid reasons for the existence of any of our companies is to better serve the needs of the members of the Michigan Farm Bureau . . ."

"The day we lose sight of this, we are headed for trouble. We must realize that the making of money or furnishing of jobs must always remain secondary to this service to our member-owners.

"We must remain responsive to the needs and wishes of our members. They have every right to expect that we, and their organization, will remain loyal to their interests and not to the interest of any group of employees . . ."

Following Smith's talk, the Information Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau produced an unusual "skit" involving personnel from several companies, and designed to show how "liaison" implies "family" — the kind of interaction between people best found in a family relation.

It was dramatized that communication is a "people-problem" and that although words have meaning, this meaning is dependent upon the people involved either in saying or hearing them . . . further, that there are many kinds of non-verbal communication in constant use in our complex society.

In narrating the skit, Melvin Woell, manager of the Information Division told the group that "Liaison results from the recognition that some things are larger than we are. We all have a built-in urge to be independent, to stand alone, but doing so ignores a great truth of all civilization — that indeed, we are not alone . . ."

"It ignores the great truth which is the heart of Farm Bureau — that we gain most when we stand together . . ." Woell said.

The next morning the rally opened with a penetrating look at Michigan State University's "Project 80" — with project head, Dr. John Ferris, examining current trends in Michigan farming . . . and how they relate to Farm Bureau. This was followed by a discussion of sales techniques and the matter of personal public relations by Jim Erskine, Agency Manager of the Bay-Saginaw Agency of the Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

A lively session which included audience questions, brought a "Managers Panel" before the group, with William Guthrie of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum; Nile Vermillion, of the Farm Bureau Insurance

ORIENTATION OF EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

Here is what the voting delegates had to say at the most recent annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau about employee orientation and inter-company liaison . . .

"The employed representatives of the Michigan Farm Bureau and all of its affiliated service companies represent Farm Bureau in general when contacting members around the state, and the public at large.

"Uninformed or misinformed employees or agents may contribute to a poor or weak image of Farm Bureau, either in answers given to questions or statements made to other people when the information involves companies other than their own. A lack of information shows a weak interest on their part toward Farm Bureau generally when inquiries are made.

"We feel that all persons, employees or agents representing Farm Bureau and all of its affiliates who contact people in the field should be given intensive and regular orientation regarding philosophy, programs, services and operations of Farm Bureau and all other affiliates.

"Much progress has been made, evidenced by a much greater degree of cooperation between employees. However, since there are many new programs and new employees there is still need for continued effort to improve understanding.

"We feel that organization-wide meetings to orient and enthuse personnel would be worth the time and expense involved by all companies, and we request that managers of the Farm Bureau and all affiliated companies plan to hold joint meetings designed to present a well-grounded and united front by all personnel before all people."

—1968 Policies, Michigan Farm Bureau

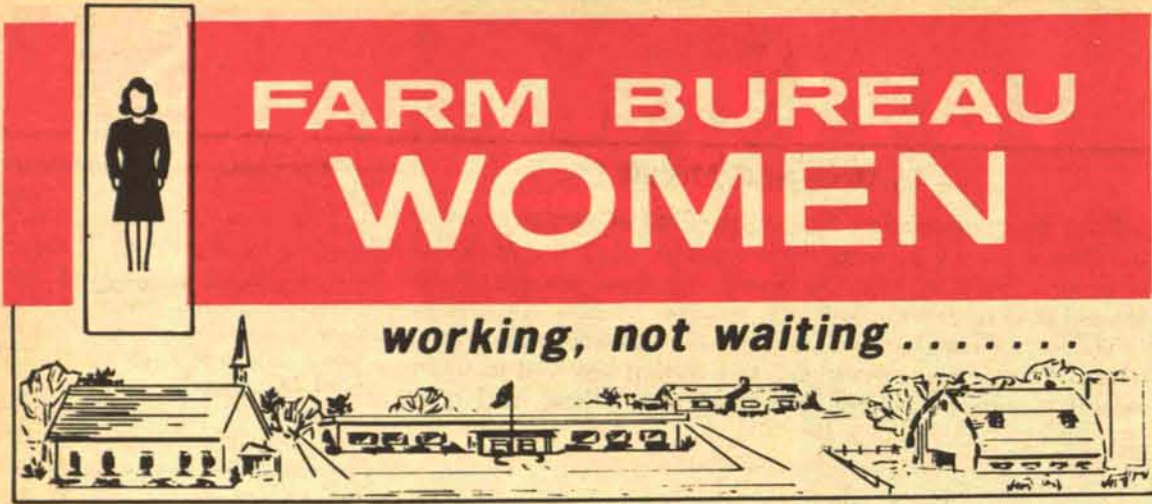
Group; Robert Braden of MACMA and the newer Michigan Agricultural Services Association; L A Cheney, of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives and Dan Reed, of the Michigan Farm Bureau — all taking part.

The rally climaxed with the luncheon appearance of Allan Kline, Iowa corn-hog farmer and past president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, who told the group of employees that it is the "organization know-how of Farm Bureau members that makes Farm Bureau different.

"We have the kind of people in Farm Bureau who know why they

belong. This intent, willingness and unified philosophy of members is reflected in their voluntary joining together and their voluntary self-assessment of dues."

With a smile, Kline told the group that it is never safe to assume that a successful farmer doesn't think — "He'll fool you just something awful," Kline said. "He deals with natural law all of the time. He deals with moral laws, and knows that there has never been a way to circumvent the moral wisdom of the ages . . . Our organization is made of thinking people — it is full of people who know what it is all about . . ."



President Johnson Invited to Michigan

President Lyndon B. Johnson has been invited to deliver the welcoming address at U.S.A. Day during the 12th Triennial conference of the Associated Country Women of the World. President Johnson will speak to more than 5,000 visitors from many different countries at the noon luncheon on the Michigan State university campus in East Lansing, Thursday, September 5.

The day's program is open to anyone who makes reservations before July 1. Sessions will be held in Jenison fieldhouse, beginning at 10 a.m. Registration for the day, including two meals, is \$6.75. Registration and the noon meal only is available for \$4.25.

Greetings from the United States and India, home of the ACWW president, will open the day's activities. Announcements of exhibits will be followed by naming of needlework and essay contest winners.

Main address will be delivered during the morning session by Dr. Earl Butz, Dean of Purdue university, Indiana. Entertainment will be provided by a 100-voice chorus of 4-H members, a big-name band, and the Koshare Indian dancers.

According to committee members, there will be time to mingle with international friends repre-

senting more than 50 countries. Visitors from abroad are being asked to wear their native costumes on this special occasion. Events will conclude about 10 p.m.

Each county Farm Bureau Women's committee chairman is requested to select a committee to arrange for transportation of guests to East Lansing on U.S.A. Day. Several counties have already made arrangements for busloads of guests to attend this unique observance.

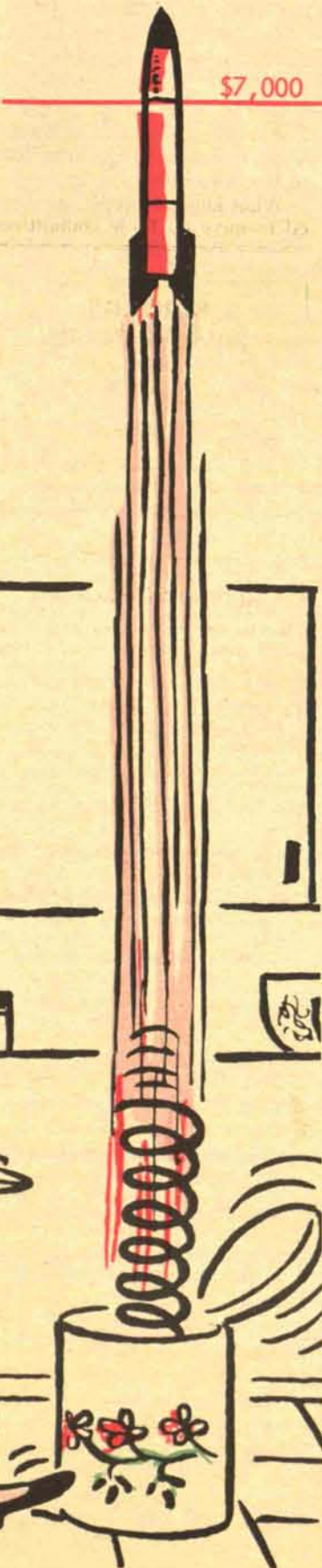
Individuals making reservations must send a check, payable to Michigan State University, and addressed to USA Day, 103 Home Economics building, MSU, East Lansing, Mich., 48823.

A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included for return of meal tickets. Deadline is July 1, and early registration is urged.

KARKER SCHOLARSHIP

Miss Helen Atwood, coordinator of women's activities for Michigan Farm Bureau, reminds county Farm Bureaus and Women's committees of the July 1 deadline for meeting the Marge Karker scholarship fund minimum goal of \$8,000. Currently about \$7,000 has been reported.

"We fully expect to exceed our goal, through current fund-raising activities, by the July 1 deadline," Miss Atwood said. Interest earned by the money provides a yearly scholarship to a student in agriculture, nursing, veterinary medicine, or teaching.



The life of a fruit grower's wife

A noted cook and efficient housekeeper, Mrs. Ray S. (Florence) Anderson resides on an 80-acre fruit farm in Manistee county with her husband and children. The Andersons have been active in all phases of Farm Bureau since 1953 — and Mr. Anderson is the grower-representative on the eight-member State Wage Deviation board.

by Mrs. Raymond Anderson

I'm his "Gal Friday" not only on Friday but sometimes every day of the week, especially during harvest time.

There are the regular duties of a homemaker which sometimes seem insignificant when — an extra arm is needed to get at an inaccessible spot on the tractor, for instance; a part is needed to get back in running order a much-needed piece of equipment right now; or a hurry-up order for supplies.

It's being secretary, bookkeeper, trouble-shooter, ingenious make-doer, big sister, nurse, photographer, travel agent, teacher, personnel manager, salesman, delivery gal, restaurant and motel manager, marriage counselor, party planner and boss.

What's sleep when the payroll has to get out?

Being a Fruit Grower's Wife . . .

Means working around the clock trying to save crops, then living on "deficit spending" when frost wipes them out.

It's trying to understand why lovely fruits and vegetables get so badly bruised by those who care so little and yet want the best.

It's waiting, sometimes for years, for final returns on crop sales, wondering why so many have to be guaranteed this and that, and why you, as a farmer are so different.

It's wondering if agriculture is unimportant and should pay top interest on borrowed money when public utilities and schools get it for so much less.

Wondering why there's nothing left for house uplifting when most of the bills finally get paid.

My Life is Spent . . .

. . . Finding it hard to accept the fact there is so much money available working against agriculture, but finding little money to help it.

. . . Wondering why we have to lose our \$600.00 per exemption in a loss year.

Fruit-Growing Means . . .

Having a heart and picking up your harvest help when they've had an accident — expected but not much appreciated.

Seeing only futility in farmer strikes — there must be a better way.

Wondering about economics wherein you receive (and are expected to live on) a 6¾ cents per dozen price for sweet corn, from which all production expenses and harvesting costs must come first.

Sometimes I wonder . . .

Why are there no training schools for on-the-farm workers?

About that "wonderful" concept of one-man-one-vote — will it work for me or just run over me?

About why research and mechanization are so slow.

At my hurt when Mrs. Consumers say "food is too high"; when food is dumped; when hourly wage increases in industry are more than we make per hour.

Where else, except from small business, does our fellow American get so much, so inexpensively?

I wonder where the best idea comes from, when Clergy says "get rid of the family farm and migrant help," and history tells me government-controlled farms aren't the answer.

Why Must it be . . .

That there is always so much work to be done, and so little time for family fun?

Why do we always have to be the losers and be blamed for city slums, pollution, poor wages, riots, mediocre housing, and most everything else wrong? What a refreshing lift when an employee or family of migrant helpers wants to do the best or pick the most as their goal.

Why must I be so sick at heart, thinking maybe you're wrong in being a vital part of providing three square meals daily for our 200 millions — getting in return such a tiny part of their weekly earnings that even their housing costs more than food.

Questions on my Mind . . .

If there are too many farmers why is job retraining so scarce?

Are fruit growers such a different breed that they've been so busy doing such a good job of producing they haven't taken time to toot their own horns, and soon will be legislated or regulated out of business.

I'm wondering if my husband's "gratis" farmer-and-community good deeds are really worth the effort, or just fulfilling "gimme" attitudes?

Picture my delegate husband attending meetings while I forego even window-shopping when such grave and important topics are being discussed and voted on, even though I have no vote. . . .

Pointed Pondering . . .

The inability to quite comprehend the "why" wherein farms should be bought by monied persons or organizations for tax write-offs, or how a few large agricultural units can collect million dollar government programs payments.

Delight at seeing the sunrise, feeling a needed rain, working shoulder to shoulder with your better half or hired helpers, expecting from them what you yourself can do.

Having faith in yourself and something greater, that the next year will be better; looking at clean, growing fields and thinking you now have a chance — that is, if the bank will go along with an operating loan. And still feeling that nowhere else does the "second best" partnership work harder for the betterment of all.

Should we just give up? Is there still a place for us in farming?

As a fruit grower's wife, I'm not yet ready to strike out, believing as I do that my place is in agriculture. And I have another task — to sell the importance of agriculture to people who seem unwilling to learn, and who least understand it.



Bill O'Malley



SANILAC COUNTY — Farm Bureau's second annual Commodity Dinner was attended by nearly 225 members and guests, who received commodity "loot bags" and an array of prizes. Photographed here comparing notes on the evening's program are, left to right, Mrs. Malcolm Williams, general chairman; Mrs. Leonard Wiswell, county Women's chairman who was in charge of the program; and Kenneth Fierke, county Farm Bureau president.

-LOCAL AFFAIRS

by Margaret G. McCall

Does your community need new medical facilities? How's the library service to residents of your area? What curriculum is being offered in your local schools? How many parks are located in your county, and who pays for them?

These are local affairs — are you one of the concerned citizens who are asking these questions, and getting involved in finding workable answers? Every day decisions on these, and countless other local issues, are being made by interested individuals and groups in your community. *Is the Farm Bureau policy — and the Farm Bureau philosophy — reflected in these decisions?*

It should be, and plans are now afoot to help county Farm Bureaus participate more effectively in local affairs which influence the lives of all residents in their counties.

A Local Affairs program has been discussed, reviewed and approved at the state level, by your Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors. This program, under the leadership of Carl Kentner, is aimed directly at a renewed emphasis on the concept of Farm Bureau which helped to build this organization's strength in its early years.

It was enthusiastically received by county presidents when presented in tentative outline by Mr. Kentner at the Presidents' Conference at Camp Kett. Now, the details have been worked out, and it's ready to start rolling.

The program will next be taken to selected county Farm Bureau boards of directors for their okay, and their appointment of county-wide committees made up of three to five members.

What kind of people are needed to serve on these committees?

According to Kentner, "We want people who have demonstrated their interest and effectiveness on behalf of Farm Bureau; people who have the respect of their communities; who have indicated their interest in local issues, their ability to work with others and to effectively communicate their ideas."

Committees will be expected to determine local problems and issues, and to report them to the county Farm Bureau board along with recommendations for action to be taken. The county boards will provide both guidance and financing for projects undertaken.

If they are to function effectively, committees will need to be the best-informed citizens in the county on local problems they study. Members will be expected to present Farm Bureau's policies and philosophy, serving as "spokesmen" to local officials and groups. In order to carry out this responsibility, committee members will need to investigate the responsibilities of various governmental agencies and officials.

"Discussing road maintenance problems with a welfare official is a waste of everybody's time," Kentner pointed out. "Lists of officials, lists of agency heads, and names of citizen groups, are all valuable sources of information which committee members will need to secure."

Assistance to committees from the state level will include: Guidelines for helping to determine what problems exist; resource materials to provide background information; training in preparation of reports.

The rewards which committee members receive will be in direct proportion to their participation. Members can gain in understanding of their local government; they will reap the satisfaction of knowing they have contributed to a better community and have helped to build a better Farm Bureau.

Kentner said one of the program's major goals is to improve the image and the influence of Farm Bureau. In addition, successful county projects will help to increase membership, leadership and participation in county Farm Bureaus, the grass-roots foundation of our organization.

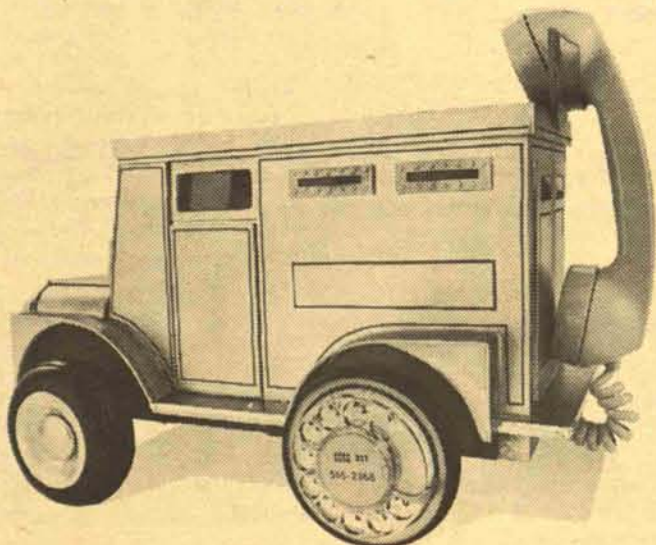
Training sessions for committee members will be conducted by Kentner and others, to provide information on purpose of the program; ideas on committee functions; outline of services available from the Michigan Farm Bureau; discussion of the need for the program and its value to members.

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If you'd like to save some money, you'll be interested in Direct Distance Dialing. It's a more economical way to call Long Distance because direct dialed calls are all Station-to-Station instead of Person-to-Person.

It's easy, too. Just dial "1", then the Area Code, if it's different from your own, and the number you want. For an idea of how much you can save, here's an example. A 3-minute Person-to-Person call between Detroit and Chicago costs \$1.30 at the day rate. Dial direct and the cost is only 85¢.

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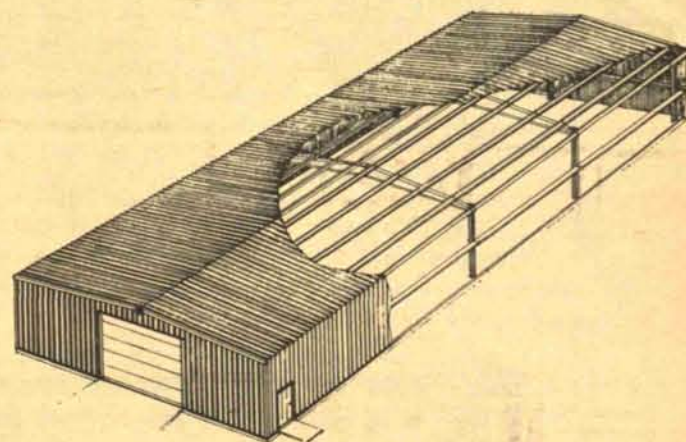
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BRIGHT LIGHTS OF THE MIDWAY — A FAMILIAR SCENE AT THE COUNTY FAIR

ANNUAL MEETING GUESTS



DR. NORMAN VINCENT PEALE — nationally-known pastor of New York's Marble Collegiate Church and famed author ("The Power of Positive Thinking" and many other books) will be banquet speaker at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, November 18-19-20.

"FAT BOB" TAYLOR—the singing plumber who won the Metropolitan Opera competition from among 5000 entries in 1966, will sing familiar classics on the banquet program of the Michigan Farm Bureau. He has appeared on many national television shows.

FAIR TOMORROW!



Spring has no more than arrived when there is talk of "fair-time" in Michigan! Can it actually be time for the opening of county fairs in our state? Surely not—with crops barely planted and such things as pumpkins and newly harvested fruit months away.



But if you haven't noticed — modern fair-time has little to do with such things as pumpkins and the harvest, for these days county fairs are much more closely tied to the schedule of carnivals and to other fairs on the "circuit". Scrambled in between are the two official state fairs . . . the Upper Peninsula State Fair at Escanaba (August 13-18) and the Michigan State Fair in Detroit (August 23-September 2).



Opening the season will be the Lake Odessa fair July 3, and closing it will be Marquette's mid-October fair, October 10-12.



Prominent exhibitors at most of the fairs will be the county Farm Bureau organizations of the state. Farm Bureau booths will include such features as rest areas, drawings for prizes, information and entertainment, and in several instances, Farm Bureau Women will sponsor food sales.



The Michigan Farm Bureau will again prepare and offer county fair booth committees, an attractive exhibit theme built around this year's annual meeting slogan "Strength Through Group Action". The colorful table-top exhibit will be duplicated in kit form, with each kit passed on by local committees to several area fairs.



August is the big month for fairs in Michigan, with 43 scheduled for the month. Another 19 fairs will have been held in July, and 8 fairs will be held in September. Here is a complete list of dates in the order in which the fairs will be held, beginning with Lake Odessa, July 3 —



Hudson, July 5-7; Vassar, July 8-13; Hesperia, July 11-13; Big Rapids, Crosswell and Marne, all July 15-20; Milan, July 16-22; Bay City, Fowlerville and Hartford, July 22-27; Hastings, July 22-29; Greenville, July 23-27; Hale, July 24-27; Cadillac, Caro, Harrison, Holland and Mason, July 29-August 3.



Ravenna, Aug. 1-5; Ionia, Aug. 3-11; Alma, Aug. 4-8; Jackson, Aug. 4-10; Ann Arbor, Aug. 5-9; Bad Axe, Cassopolis, Coldwater and Monroe, Aug. 5-10; Evart and Flint, Aug. 6-9; Pontiac, Aug. 6-10; Standish, Goodells and Gaylord, Aug. 7-10; Adrian, Aug. 11-17; St. Johns, Aug. 12-14; Lowell, Aug. 12-16; Charlotte, Cheboygan and Corunna, Aug. 12-17; Midland, Aug. 12-19.



Other August fairs are Berrien Springs, Fremont, Ludington and Sandusky, Aug. 13-17; Belleville and Armada, Aug. 13-18; Atlanta, Aug. 14-17; Ironwood, Aug. 15-18; Hudsonville, Aug. 19-23; Alpena, Kalamazoo and Marshall, Aug. 19-24; Petoskey, Aug. 19-25; Mt. Pleasant and Manchester, Aug. 20-24; Iron River, Aug. 22-25; Traverse City, Aug. 26-31; Chelsea, Aug. 28-31; Onkama, Aug. 28-Sept. 2; Hart, Aug. 29-Sept. 2; Norway, Aug. 30-Sept. 2.



September fairs are Imlay City, Sept. 1-7; Marion, Sept. 2-7; Saline, Sept. 3-7; Saginaw and Allegan, Sept. 7-14; Centreville, Sept. 16-21; and Hillsdale, Sept. 22-28.

Marquette, October 10-12.

OSCEOLA QUEENS



FARM BUREAU "QUEEN" — for Osceola county, is Miss Valorie Stein. About 250 persons were present at the Farm Bureau banquet where Valorie (the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stein, Evart, Mich.) was chosen. Runners up include (left) Corry Straathof, Hersey, and Mrs. John Downing, Marion.

— Cadillac Evening News Photo —

IN APPRECIATION



REPRESENTATIVE GERALD FORD — pictured making a point before a Congressional committee in Washington (while U. S. Senator Everett Dirksen looks on) was honored recently at a dinner program by farmers of Kent and Ionia counties. Ford was toasted as "an outstanding Michigan Congressman, House Minority Leader, National Party Spokesman and All-American Citizen . . ."

WHEAT PAYMENT



SETTLEMENT CHECK — for 1967 participation in Farm Bureau's Wheat Marketing program, is delivered to Robert Kissane, St. Johns (left) by Ed Powell, of the Michigan Elevator Exchange. Powell manages the MEE grain department. Producers not now in the Wheat Program have until June 14 to sign up.

Cherry Committee DEAR EDITOR..

Marketing committee members of the Red Tart Cherry division, MACMA, have been named, and a meeting of the 1968 committee has been held, according to Chairman Rodney Bull.

District election meetings have been completed, with these results:

District 1, comprising Antrim, Charlevoix, and other counties north, John Boals, Kewadin;

District 2, Grand Traverse county, P. C. Morrison, Jr., of Williamsburg and John Minnema of Traverse City;

District 3, Leelanau county, Noel Baumberger, Northport;

District 4, Benzie and Manistee counties, James Evans of Frankfort and Leon Hadaway of Onekama;

District 5, Mason and Oceana counties, Burton Hawley of Shelby and H. James Fitch of Scottville;

District 6, Newago, 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.

Michigan Farm Bureau:

We would like to extend a personal "Thank You" to the Michigan Farm Bureau for the wonderful time we had on our trip to Washington D. C. and for the opportunity to visit the legislative branch of government.

We hope that in some small way we might have been good representatives for Farm Bureau and the American people.

Special thanks to the Farm Bureau people who so sincerely tried to show us a wonderful time: Mr. Woell, Roger Brown, Dan Reed, Charles Bailey, Miss Helen Atwood representing the Farm Bureau Women, and all of the other wonderful people we met on the trip.

Keep up the good work!

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Buist
Allendale, Michigan.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Robert and Nina Buist were guests of the Michigan Farm Bureau — and of Farm Bureau Women, during the recent spring Washington Air Tour. They received the trip as the result of Robert's selection as Michigan's "Most Outstanding Young Farmer" — in the annual state-wide competition sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Michigan.)

A BETTER PORK to bring
A BETTER PRICE

The Swine Carcass Evaluation program of Michigan Farm Bureau can mean better income for the state's swine producers, according to Eugene Roberts, Swine Committee chairman.

Aimed at developing producer understanding of market requirements, production qualities, and the development of better swine to meet these needs, the program is the first step in a long-range plan to get better prices in local markets, he said.

Producers are asked to put two market hogs into the program for a complete evaluation. The producer is asked to evaluate, on a live basis, his two animals which are then slaughtered and tagged for further study.

The chilled carcasses are broken down into wholesale cuts and measurements are made to determine backfat thickness, loin eye size, length and percentage of ham and loin, in order to establish the cutability of the carcass. Quality is also scored, based on such things as marbling, texture, firmness and color. Production traits of feed efficiency and rate-of-gain are also emphasized along with the carcass characteristics.

In a follow-up meeting, each producer buys back one loin from each of his hogs, and an analysis of the carcass data is made. At this time the producer is able to compare the actual carcass data of his hogs with his personal evaluation of the live animal.



BACKFAT THICKNESS — is measured by the carcass evaluation team at the Farmer Peet packing plant, Chesaning. The team later determined loin length, loin-eye size, and percentage of lean cuts on each animal entered in the demonstration.

Packers are cooperating with the determination of carcass data along with MSU staff, extension assistants and Livestock Marketing Specialist Bill Byrum of the Farm Bureau staff. Hogs used in the program are bought by the cooperating packers on a scale which includes premiums for quality.

"We are developing an understanding by producers of the qualities their swine must have if the packer is going to be able to give the best price for them. We also hope to develop a better understanding by growers of the relationship of external appearances to the best internal qualities," said Byrum.

NEW MACOMB OFFICE



CONVENIENTLY LOCATED — is this modern office building at 67200 Van Dyke, Romeo, housing the Macomb county Farm Bureau and Insurance Group. The air-conditioned and carpeted office includes basement conference room and kitchenette. Northwest of the former office site, the new building is more accessible to the membership.

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.

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NOTICE: Commercial men — 15 Hamp. gilts bred to good Yorkshire boars, plus 5 Hamp gilts bred for purebred litters.

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County zoning can provide protection against unwise land use. Complaints often come to light after the dump or junk yard has been established.

It is then too late to provide safeguards which could be available through county or township zoning.

County Farm Bureaus, Community Farm Bureaus and individual members can and should be active in initiating and supporting efforts to develop acceptable zoning ordinances. . . .

— 1968 Policy Resolutions Michigan Farm Bureau

DISCUSSION TOPIC

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

ZONING

ZONING OF AGRICULTURAL LAND—A LOCAL AFFAIR!

WHY ZONE?

The headline said, "Supervisors defend county zoning rules." The background behind this Michigan story is long and involved but it boils down to people having been denied building permits for homes because the land had been unsuited for septic tank sewage disposal.

A result of the case is criticism of zoning. Purchasers are left with rural plots on which they cannot build that dream home in the country, naturally they are unhappy. Landowners who had visions of selling a little surplus acreage to the refugees from the city are unhappy because they face either a law suit or the return of money to purchasers. The realtor is unhappy because he lost a sale and the income from commissions.

A good, well planned zoning ordinance, fairly administered, would actually protect the interests of all three. Sounds a little odd, doesn't it? But it is literally true, as we shall see as we study the subject of zoning agricultural lands.

To be effective, a zoning ordinance must be based on a carefully developed plan for the long range use of land. It cannot be looked upon as a means to stop the encroachment of urban populations but it can be used to ease the dislocations from such encroachments. It can be used to keep tax assessments somewhere normal by preventing the random location of houses and businesses on normally agricultural lands. The Farm Bureau-supported bill No. 5797 now in the legislature would require that "zoning and land use" be taken into consideration when assessing property.

Zoning is often confused with land planning and with building codes; it is neither. It is one of the tools employed to make the land-use plan effective. The building code is still another tool to use in the operation of a land-use plan.

Simply stated, zoning is the division of a township or community into use-divisions such as dwellings, business, manufacturing or agriculture. Under Michigan laws (Act 184 of 1943 as amended) there are eight separate steps in setting up a zoning ordinance in a township:

1. Adoption of "resolution of intent to zone" by Township Board; advertising of resolution.
2. Preparation of a basic land-use plan by the zoning board.
3. Preparation of the proposed zoning ordinance.
4. Public hearings by the zoning board on the proposed zoning.
5. Submission of proposals to county zoning commission for approval and coordination.
6. Enactment of ordinance by Township Board.
7. Publication of the new ordinance.
8. Referendum on proposal if petitioned for by 15% of resident property owners.

There is also built into the system a method by which the property owner may appeal a ruling of the Zoning Board to a Board of Appeals which the zoning unit, by law, must establish.

There is in the law provision for amending the zoning ordinance as deemed appropriate by the

Township Board. The process has to be flexible to keep up with the needs of the community with the passage of time, it cannot be a permanently fixed ordinance.

Zoning, properly done, can lead to a systematic development of rural property to the benefit of all concerned. It cannot outlaw buildings already in existence or stop activities already going. For instance, the new zoning code in a community cannot require the removal of a local eyesore already there, but properly used it might prevent the development of another such nuisance. A zoning ordinance cannot correct past mistakes.

Zoning is not always the most popular thing in a community, especially in agricultural areas near the fringe of one of the large cities. When city people come out and ask to buy small plots, 5 or 10 acres, at inflated prices, farmers are tempted to sell. In at least one case, a neighbor sold 4 small lots for about a thousand dollars each. The assessment of a farm across the road jumped nearly five times because of the sale.

This instance happened because the current zoning plan was not followed, an exception was granted, or possibly the ordinance was just ignored. A good zoning ordinance will function only as well as the people in the community will allow it to.

Of course, a hastily prepared ordinance based on poorly made land-use plans can also prove troublesome. In one county a large artificial lake project proved very costly because the heavy soil was totally unsuited to septic tank operation although the lake held water very well indeed. Had a properly prepared zoning plan been in effect, this area would not have been open to dwellings without central sewage.

APRIL TOPIC SUMMARY

"Pricing and Bargaining for Farm Products" GROUPS REPORTING: 698

QUESTION: What pricing and bargaining tools should farmers use? List preferences.

METHOD	YES	NO	Undecided
Pass anti-discrimination law (Since passed by Congress)	489	102	104
Cause buyer to buy only produce of Association members	149	288	91
Use promotion and research with refund privilege	386	142	104
Use compulsory promotion check-off after 2/3 "yes" vote.	448	131	66
Use power of bargaining groups to withhold products	146	390	94
Use bargaining groups to picket buyers for price	84	484	74
Use bargaining group to picket non-members	43	559	41
Use Check-off for non-members, after 2/3 producer vote	372	294	68
Use government election for bargaining representation	110	459	68
Use power of government to set up farmer-processor-consumer price negotiating board	278	292	76

— as of May 15, 1968 —

A LOOK AT OUR TOWNSHIP

If we could see accurately into the future for ten years or so and see the conditions in our township then, we could make much more logical decisions about zoning. Under the circumstances we can only use our best estimates of what is to come.

If we are near a large city, it's a good bet that the city will continue to grow and push out into the country. We know, too, that the presence of a lake-front or major stream in our area will encourage the migration of part-time residents along with the problems they bring.

More and more factories are being built outside the limits of the larger cities bringing with them larger population and demands for more space and different service installations.

Before these changes really get rolling is the time to plan and zone for the day they arrive. If we do not implement plans of our own, forces from outside our community are likely to decide our future.

SURVEYING OUR COMMUNITY

The first step toward logical zoning is to study our community as it is today and find out what recent changes have taken place in it. Most of us are a little surprised at how little we really know about our township when we start to look at it closely.

Some of the questions we might consider include:

1. What developments that changed the community have already taken place?
2. Do we anticipate that some of the present farm land will be needed for dwellings or business in the next ten years?
3. Do we know enough about the soils, topography and natural resources of the area to know the best land uses?
4. Do we have adequate transportation facilities for an expanding community? Are our roads adequate and well maintained?
5. Is our school system adequate for the present? Are plans being made for the future?
6. Do we have a good water supply? Would it support added industry?

SUMMARY

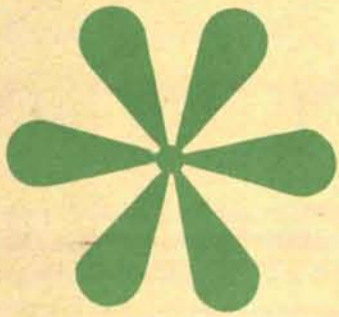
We have examined many phases of zoning without becoming deeply involved in the mechanics of getting such an ordinance in a township or county. Presently about half the townships in Michigan have zoning and 11 counties have county zoning. Others are in various stages of preparation.

A very good pamphlet on the mechanics of zoning, "Rural Zoning in a Nutshell," is available from your local extension office. Some county agricultural extension offices have land planning and zoning advisors who are available to assist communities.

The basic question in zoning is whether we value our individual freedom to buy, sell or subdivide as we see fit, more than we value an orderly use of our most precious farm asset, our land?

NEXT MONTH: Crop Reports
What They Mean To Us

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8 gallons — \$8.00 10 gallons — \$10.00
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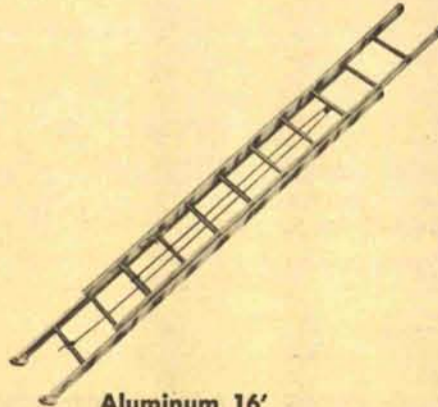


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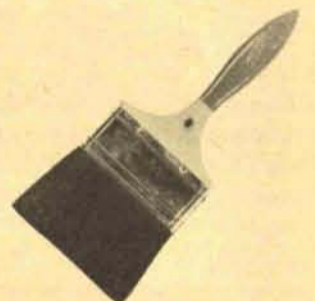
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