A Personal Copy of MFB Policies

This issue of the Farm News contains a copy of policies of the Michigan Farm Bureau on state and Farm Bureau functions as adopted by the voting delegates at the 51st annual meeting.

The national policy recommendations have been omitted as they will be presented to the voting delegates at the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation which will be held in Houston, Texas, December 6-10. May we suggest that you save the center eight pages of this issue as your personal copy of the 1971 policies of your organization.

Each year Farm Bureau members are given the opportunity to participate in the policy development process. This process involves 1,100 community groups, county commodity committees, 71 county annual meetings and eight statewide advisory committees.

This year’s 515 delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting expressed their thoughts on nearly 150 widely differing policy matters during the three-day meeting.

The attitude that prevailed throughout the meeting was well expressed in part of the FOREWARD to the resolutions as adopted:

“We believe human society’s concern with pollution should extend to the pollution of the mind. With increasing crime, widespread use of drugs, lack of respect for our heritage of self-government, and our protection of the individual, we call on all people to renew their faith in our historical institutions, such as church and home. We point out that people, with their attitudes, beliefs, and skills, are America’s most important resource.”

MEMBERSHIP IN FARM BUREAU

“Membership must always come first…without membership, an organization is without muscle.” This was a part of the annual report of Michigan Farm Bureau Secretary-Manager Dan E. Reed given to the delegate body at the annual meeting in November, 1967.

The same basic principle applies to any organization today.

Membership in the Farm Bureau is important to every farmer in Michigan. It is one means whereby farmers can join together and discuss problems that affect agriculture, arrive at sound conclusions, formulate action and strive for results.

During the past two years over ten thousand new members have joined our organization which is a clear indication that farmers do desire to unite together for a common cause. It is also an indication that Farm Bureau is an organization on the move with the “muscle” to accomplish a job for farmers — be it legislation, marketing, community betterment, economic services or information.

Carl P. Kentner

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

EDITORIAL

“THERE'S A WAY TO GET HELP, NEIGHBOR...”

Editor's Note: This month's President's Column features re- dom excerpts from President Smith's Annual Address "The New Age of Agriculture" given before the Michigan Farm Bureau delegates at the 1970 Annual Meeting in the Lansing Bakeda Civic Auditorium, Monday, November 9.

"Our forefathers were pioneers of new land and that was their frontier. And like our forefathers, the farmer of today is a member of a vast and new frontier. A frontier that requires profound knowledge and understanding of the issues of the day. Our frontier is with people, in educating them to the needs of our agriculture, and in teaching them that agriculture is their most precious natural resource.

"As farmers we are paying over twenty percent of our net income for property taxes, while non-farmers pay only about three-and-a-half percent. That's inequitable and we farmers have the responsibility to change it.

"In Michigan, it has been estimated that uncontrolled urban growth will eliminate 20 of the 28 best agricultural counties during the next thirty years. We farmers must work to gether to protect our good agricultural land.

"The need to rid the world from hunger must be met. But our tools that produce the finest food in the world, in the largest quantity and quality, are being held back out of bounds fear, created by unlimited propaganda.

"Such unfounded stories that could support a healthy agriculture must be challenged by agriculture and scientists must be ready to fight back.

"Our Farm Bureau is instrumental in supporting the effort for action to cure these problems and was successful this year when the doors opened for the new Pesticide Research Center on the Michigan State University campus.

"California vineyards show mankind's continual failure. Many grape vineyards are unutilized. Workers must sign with the union or get fired. That's simply and cold bloodedly done. There is no freedom of choice in this program.

"The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee has a chance to establish itself in Michigan. It is on the move and we Michigan folk will have to deal with it.

"We farmers, I believe, must agree that our goal must be to control our production of food and fiber. Forty years of government farm programs have not brought us the prosperity agriculture deserves. It's time for a change!

"It can get done when farmers quit talking about cooperative action and take more cooperative action!

"Marketing and bargaining in cooperatives is the key to the future success of the NEW AGE. I urge all farmers, with all their talents, take the marketing theory off the shelf and put it to practice.

"For this change, Farm Bureau has developed and is supporting an agricultural marketing and bargaining act. With the passage of this act, agriculture can be better assured of a firm market.

"The member is the heart of our growing Farm Bureau. Our organization is on the grow — and in 1970, it increased its membership rolls in every county Farm Bureau for the second year in a row. For the third year in succession our Michigan Farm Bureau has recorded a total membership gain.

"Membership volunteers are truly the 'right hand' of Farm Bureau, and we salute you. Please give some thought to the question: WHO WILL SPEAK FOR FARMERS?

"Farmer unity and efficiency must continue to be the survival of our business itself. And I am confident it will continue to improve.

Elton H. Smith

THE MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE MICHIGAN FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau, at its publication office at 150 N. Lakerose Street, Greenville, Michigan.


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OFFICES: Michigan Farm Bureau, 4000 Grand River, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Home office 

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DIRECTORS: District 1, Arthur Bailey, Schankville; District 2, Don Pfitzen, Montgomery; R-3, District 3, Andrew Johnson, Howell; R-3, District 4, Elton H. Smith, Cadillac; R-1, District 5, David Merri, Grand Ledge; R-3, District 6, Jack Leuenberger, Case City; R-3, District 7, Leonard Ball, Bailey; R-1, District 8, Ravene Lousene, Saginaw; R-3, District 9, Reginald Roberts, Lake City; R-1, District 10, Richard Wieland, Emmet; R-1, District 11, Franklin Schwindes, Dutton; R-3, District 12, Vella Fung, Frankenmuth; James L. Symes, Bad Axe; Calvin Lentz, Kalamazoo.

WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU: Michigan Farm Bureau, Eileen Topf, Eaton Rapids, R-1; FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS: Michigan Farm Bureau, David Webb, Dearborn.

The county delegates at the State Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids made the final decisions on Farm Bureau policy for 1971. It is in effect for all Farm Bureau members to acquaint themselves with these policies and do whatever possible to help carry them out in the coming year. These recommendations in this issue contain all of the State policies that were adopted. Hopefully, each of us will save this section, take time to read those policies and then try to work toward goals that have been set. Michigan's voting delegate to the National Farm Bureau policy committee on national and international affairs at the National Convention early in December, County Farm Bureau Policy Development Committees, together with County Annual Meeting decisions, again resulted in substantial recommendations from the counties to the State Policy Development Committee. These recommendations indicate that Farm Bureau members in the counties have given a great deal of thought to the many issues facing agriculture.

In order to carry out policies designed to improve the state, it is essential that the legislative team be ready for action. This team consists of legislators, especially if any significant reduction is made in property taxes for school purposes. The state aid act passed this last session contains the major elements of the "Spencer Plan," including a limitation on property taxes for school operation and provisions for a state aid formula to assist in building school facilities or paying for debt retirement and provision for allowing school districts to use the income tax as a source of local revenue.

The plan guarantees that the funds come to the primary districts per pupil, will be the same as it would be in a well-to-do district, with $7,000 of property valuation behind each pupil. It would also guarantee that the yield of any local income tax for school purposes would be the same per pupil throughout the state.

The state aid act also, for the first time, included a significant amount of money, $16 million, for vocational education, which indirectly helps to relieve school districts of this extra burden. Before these proposals go into effect, they will be reconsidered by the new Legislature. In addition, the tax act passed this last session contains the major elements of the "Spencer Plan," including a limitation on property taxes for school purposes and provisions for a state aid formula to assist in building school facilities or paying for debt retirement. The state aid act also, for the first time, included a significant amount of money, $16 million, for vocational education, which indirectly helps to relieve school districts of this extra burden.

The following was named to the Task Force by the Governor:

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  - FARM LABOR
  - The Task Force also included a number of other recommenda-
  - Michigan Farm Bureau is presently preparing such a bill. Here in Michigan, Farm Bureau is studying the various alternatives.
  - Other farm labor issues in the state will again include further extension of the Workmen's Compensation Act and regulation of unemployment insurance to agriculture, as well as further regulation of many areas dealing with labor, such as housing codes, stricter safety laws, employment of young people, etc.

- Environment
  - Ecological and environmental policies will be considered by the new Legislature. In addition, the tax act passed this last session contains the major elements of the "Spencer Plan," including a limitation on property taxes for school purposes and provisions for a state aid formula to assist in building school facilities or paying for debt retirement. The state aid act also, for the first time, included a significant amount of money, $16 million, for vocational education, which indirectly helps to relieve school districts of this extra burden. Before these proposals go into effect, they will be reconsidered by the new Legislature. In addition, the tax act passed this last session contains the major elements of the "Spencer Plan," including a limitation on property taxes for school purposes and provisions for a state aid formula to assist in building school facilities or paying for debt retirement. The state aid act also, for the first time, included a significant amount of money, $16 million, for vocational education, which indirectly helps to relieve school districts of this extra burden.

- Marketing
  - A review of the policies passed at the State Annual Meeting will indicate many areas where legislation is needed to bring equity and justice to all. The following was named to the Task Force by the Governor:
  - Want Farmer Representation
  - Appointment of agricultural representation to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.
  - The Task Force also included a number of other recommendations, as well as some supplementary recommendations which have application in particular areas of the state.
**Annual Report, MFB**

**Women's Committee Cbr. Maxine Topliff**

"My report this year is about wheels. In the farming business we use many different kinds of wheels, wagon wheels, big wheels, small wheels, big round wheels, all kinds of wheels. The first wheel I want to tell you about is not made of rubber or iron, but it's a 'real-life' people-wheel and let's call it a steering wheel. Each of you in this room could be a part of this wheel, if I let me tell you about it. Let's start at the outside or rim of this wheel and you ladies are the key county women that starts this wheel. You are the people responsible to your Farm Bureau women to carry out the program of work they have adopted for the year. I urge each of the county Women's Coordinators to meet with the Executive committee of the county Farm Bureau heartily and to work together in your county on the total county Farm Bureau program, for you are the people in the job, but let's strive to make it even better. Will you all join me and will you be these county women and vice-chairmen for the good job they do?

"The spokes of this wheel are all the county Women's Coordinators. These ladies, together with our District Chairs, form our entire working program, planning, coordinating, organizing. The vice chairman is the county woman chairing the program planning committee and I want you to think of these ladies. From District 1, Betty Baker; District 2, Leora Smith, District 3, Nancy Giger; District 4, Ewelene Rhodes; District 5, Doris Mahaffy; District 7, Claudine Jackson; District 8, Marthe Van De Sande; District 9, Lulu Lutz; District 10E, Edna Timm; District 10W, Phila Shanahan; District 11, Evelyn Rhoddes; District 11W, Teri Tikkanen; State Vice Chairman, Doris Wragg; and District Program Committee.

"The hub of this wheel is next to a chair. This is the committee women chairing their county Women's Committee. They are Ruth Cooper, District 1; Doris Baker; District 6; Leora Smith, District 3; Claudine Jackson, District 5; Doris Mahaffy, District 7; Evelyn Rhoddes, District 10E, and Teri Tikkanen, District 11W. Thank you ladies for a job well done.

"Now that you've met your steering wheel, I want to give you a definition of a wheel: a wheel with projecting handles for controlling the rudder of a ship. Our wheel is Farm Bureau, so let's get the first handle on the wheel and we have used it in your county this year. In order for any organization to move, it needs a steering wheel to stand. It's good to see how many of you worked on the membership drive. We have two new handles on the membership organization so it's only right that we as women do help in this area. When one hand helps the other you can carry on many worthwhile activities.

"Project MBS (market research survey) might well be another handle of our wheel. You ladies have made some progress and will make more, but it does take time to get a survey set up that will be acceptable to the greatest number of people, so please have patience on this one.

"Our Washington Seminar is another steering wheel on our other joint effort of the women and county boards in many counties. I think it's a good idea that we should do this, but the whole county Farm Bureau boards from the Seminar.

"Our fourth handle might be Michigan Women for Highways Safety. This organization is a year old now and has a committee in many of our counties. Many of you ladies are either chairmen of, or serving on your county committee. It's good to see so many people interested in finding ways to cut traffic fatalities.

"The next handle on our wheel might well be the young people's Citizenship Seminar. This too is good for our Farm Bureau, but women in many counties do work on this worthwhile project. We have two of these seminars, one in the Upper Peninsula in June and 65 women attended. The other one was held at Central Mich. Univ. in July and 181 students participated.

"The remaining handle on our wheel is the rural-urban activities carried on on many counties. Have you ever thought of how nice it is to have a change in your household? Another wheel I find in our country activities is a potter's wheel. It's a rotating wheel used to shape clay. Our clay might be the educational or training part of women's program. Our State Women's Committee meetings are found in this wheel. We've had two of these meetings this year where we carry on the business of the committee, plan a program of work for the coming year and have training for our committee members so they may better assist members in the districts in planning the work of best suited to your needs. Many of you know that this was the last year for a District Program planning workshop and from all reports these were a great success. Your district or state and county representatives and Helen Atwood worked together to help you plan programs for your own county needs. We will have our 3rd, one day meeting of the committee this year. It will be tomorrow night, Nov. 10. This is now new this year.

"Another of our educational seminars is to be held in the District Rally halls as or you call them District Meeting. We had speakers on "New Traffic Law" by our District and state officers where we listened to some of the new approaches to teaching. We were told that if we were concerned the place to go was to our local school at which we set the curriculum. We have two of these, the fall district meeting speaker was Mr. M. J. Buschhagen of the MASA and the women might learn food for thought in what Mr. Botschagen told us. The MASA is a member of our Farm Bureau family and it is my hope that we all can better acquainted ourselves with the membership. Earlier we said Farm Bureau was our ship and we should learn what is in stormy seas that can help us in our own farm operation.

"There are spring and fall district council meetings. These are well attended and at your fall meetings you had to communicate, take time to think and take time to plan. If you have a chance to take this training, please do you will be glad you did.

"Another mound of clay on our potter's wheel is College week for women. This was held in June at MSU and is sponsored by the Family Living Dept. of Cooperative Extension Service. Farm Bureau women worked on the planning committees and helped in the publicity. This is another learning experience and I do encourage more of you Farm Bureau women to attend.

"There is another wheel we find in our farm on ours and that is the pivot wheel. Let's pivot just a little and look at some of the fun things you've participated in this year. The Marie-Karker Farm Bureau Scholarship was split three ways this year. One student is pre-veterinary, one a teacher, and one an Ag. Economics major. The MFB Women's Committee met early last spring and interviewed the applicants. They are all worthy, so you pick and choose until you have those who need your help most.

"Michigan Mother of the Year lemon is a happy occasion too. This year five of the Merit Mothers are Farm Bureau women, Mrs. Carl Ables of Redus is 1970 State Mother of the Year. She and her husband operate a dairy farm and are participating life members of Farm Bureau. Does your county have a farming mother? Why not nominate her?

"Sewing and craft contents in your counties is another of our jobs and, hopefully, you encourage your participation projects. You asked for crafts to be added to ACWW, but we need time. We need to encourage you to do these projects. It's a real good time to make the craft exhibit across the hall immediately following our adjournment.

"Norway 1971, yes that too is a work, fun, learning experience coming. However, there are conditions. Limited space being the prime condition of how many people can go. Many Michigan women people would like very much to go, but this is not possible. MFB women to attend ACWW and get some fun. If you are a contributing member, you probably know some of the other women. If you did get one, fill it out and send it in. We need for ACWW to 'be lucky enough to be able to go as a contributing member. We are always looking for people who may have time not to go, wouldn't be able to.

"The last propelling wheel we will look at today is the wheel drive of our meetings. We need to take a look at our operating rules often, updating them to meet the ever changing needs of our county. It's sad, but true, that we have a lack of community groups than we did but we still rely on groups primarily for our committee members and their counties are taking a long hard look and coming up with other ways of involving more of our membership in our women's programs. Have we checked with our county boards and regional representatives for prospective committee members, have we nominated her?

"Another of our educational seminars is the Seminar on Farm Labor. There was much new approaches to teaching. We where we listened to some of the new ideas, or new views, that we needed to consider in the fall meeting. The MASA, Farm Labor. There was much new approaches to teaching. We where we listened to some of the new ideas, or new views, that we needed to consider in the fall meeting. The MASA.

"Another of our educational seminars is the Seminar on Family Living Dept. of Cooperative Extension Service. Farm Bureau and State Agriculture. This was held in June and is sponsored by the Family Living Dept. of Cooperative Extension Service. Farm Bureau women worked on the planning committees and helped in the publicity. This is another learning experience and I do encourage more of you Farm Bureau women to attend."

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Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff is the chairman of the Dramatic Reading Group. She has served as a committee member of the Farm Bureau Women's Committee, served as the first place award, second place award was presented to Silhouettes, county. Mrs. Marlyn Sutton is the chairman of the committee. In the largest membership group category, Mrs. Ollie Hubbard, chairman of the Lenawee county Farm Bureau Women's committee, received the first place award. Second place award was Kent county, Mrs. Pamela Rodgers is chairman of this group.

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**FOUR**

December 1, 1970

**MICHIGAN FARM NEWS**

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**SIX COUNTY WOMEN’S COMMITTEES**

Women's activities were honored at the Women's Committee meeting luncheon. Helen Atwood, coordinator, MFB Women's Activities, commended all the women for their participation in the county Farm Bureau activities. Counties of Michigan were divided into the three memberships. Groups. Certificates of awards and checks were presented to the county representatives. In the counties of 400 members or less, Chippewa county placed first (Mrs. Carolyn Wilson, chairman) and last, second, Mrs. Fayene Griffin, A. L. Age, chairman. In the second membership group category, Montcalm county chairman, Mrs. Dorothy Perkins, received their first place award. Second place award was presented to Shiawassee county. Mrs. Marlyn Sutton is the chairman of the committees. In the largest membership group category, Mrs. Ollie Hubbard, chairman of the Lenawee county Farm Bureau Women's committee, received the first place award. Second place award was Kent county, Mrs. Pamela Rodgers is chairman of this group.

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"We did increase our cherry sales this year. We sold 335 million 30-pound units. Let's work harder next year.

"As you can see women have been very busy with their committee accomplishments and accomplishing various tasks and setting sights on goals not yet reached. We thought it over and realized we all seem to have trouble with it. I said once I didn’t have time to do a certain job and there I walked right in and worked. It was not on my priority list. It was right, so since then if a task needs doing, ‘take time’ is the key word. Little does says it just right.”
Farm Bureau

memberships are
up 5½% while
Michigan farms
are down
by 8½%

Concerned farmers are now realizing the worth of Farm Bureau supply and marketing services. While total Michigan farms decreased by 8-1/2% in three years, Farm Bureau membership actually increased 5-1/2%.

Farm Bureau Services' competitive prices, discounts and dividends plus national and international marketing know-how, give members that productivity and profit edge they need right now. Find out what Farm Bureau Services can do for you. Ask your local dealer, or write: Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Lansing, Michigan 48904.

MEMBERS OF FARM BUREAU SERVICES board of directors, (seated, left to right), Eugene Roberts, executive Committee; Elton R. Smith, president; Dean Pridgeon, executive Committee. Standing, (left to right), Kenneth Bull, John Converse, Loren Block, Walter Frachm, Loren Gettel, Elmo Heft, Harvey Leuenberger, Rudy Yost, James Clark and David Morris.

In his annual message to the stockholders and guests, President Elton Smith noted the strong trend of reducing operating costs and losses and the increase in operating margins. He also spoke of the consolidation of company functions and elimination of duplications, improvement of communications with farmers, dealers and suppliers, plant facility improvement in fertilizer and feeds. Smith spoke of new ventures in marketing and increased services to farmers.

Executive Vice President Donald R. Armstrong reported the years operation to the stockholders in a slide presentation. He noted that only the farmer-buyear, through the use of the cooperative, can make the best plans of Farm Bureau Services become successful.

Freedoms Foundation Award Accepted

The Freedoms Foundation George Washington Honor Medal Award was accepted by Farm Bureau Insurance Group Vice President Nile L. Vemmilion at the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting banquet. Supreme Court Justice John R. Dethmers made the presentation. The banquet was held in the Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium, Monday, November 9.

The Honor Medal, awarded to the Lansing-based insurance firm for the second consecutive year, was earned in 1969 for sponsoring the Freedoms Foundation Essay Contest for eighth grade students throughout Michigan. Some 900 students from 204 Michigan schools. The top essays were forwarded to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for entry in National competition. Awarded in the 1970 National competition will be announced in February, 1971.

This unique community relations program was first introduced in 1965 for Lansing eighth graders. The contest was well accepted and ultimately expanded in 1969 to a statewide competition, with the topic, "What the U.S. Flag Means To Me."

In making the George Washington Honor Medal Award presentation, Justice Dethmers said, "This campaign encouraging youth to write their thoughts about the U.S. Flag inspired patriotism while revealing American youth's remarkable insight and political acumen."

This year's third annual month-long essay contest competition was conducted in February, beginning on George Washington's Birthday. Participating in the 1970 contest were 3,500 students from 204 Michigan schools. The top essays were forwarded to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for entry in National competition. Awarded in the 1970 National competition will be announced in February, 1971.

Farm Bureau Insurance Group is a multiple line firm operating throughout Michigan with an agency force of 320. Policyholders number approximately 230,000.

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge is a nonprofit, non-political, nonsectarian, educational organization created to achieve a better understanding of the basic principles underlying the Republic and to encourage Americans to be more articulate about freedoms in today's America.
**Notes From All Over**

All county Farm Bureaus were honored at the annual meeting banquet. County presidents (or their appointed representatives) accepted special certificates, recognizing their counties for outstanding activities in Membership, by Farm Bureau Women, and in their Young Farmer and Community Group programs and Commodity Marketing.

Chippewa county President E. DeWitt accepted the top Five Star Award for his county. Chippewa became the first Five Star winner in the history of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Montcalm county earned a Four Star Award under the presidency of James Quiensbery.

Three Star winning counties and their presidents were:
- Montmorency and Hilbert Silver; Oscoda and Buell Boyd and Presque Isle and Hugo Sorgenfrei. These three counties won their stars in Membership and Community Groups. A Three Star Award for Membership and Women’s activities was earned by Lyle Glover from Livingston county and by Edgar Austin, Burren county, for Membership and Commodity marketing.
- Benzie county; Donald Nugent; and Washtenaw county, Arthur Bailey; and Kalkaska, Robert Hall.

Frank Tuchowski; Isabella, Roger Himebaugh; Jackson, Dale BrownEield; Ionia, John Westbrook; Losco, Lyle Robinson; Iron, Houghton, Leonard Ollila; Huron, Keith Sturm; Ingham, Junior Riggs; Calhoun, Hugh White; Cass, Levi Van Tuyle; Charlevoix, Wayne Saunders; Clare, Charles Magnus; and Clinton, Lee Ormsby.

Other Two stars winners included Delta, Kenneth Sahm; Eaton, James Clark; Geneseo, Donald Hall; Gladwin, Alvin Shaver; Gratiot, Norman Gulick; Hillsdale, Alvin Wells; Houghton, Leonard Ollila; Huron, Keith Sturm; Ingham, Junior Browningfield; Ionia, John Westbrooks; Iosco, Lyle Robinson; Iron, Frank Tuchowski; Isabella, Roger Himebaugh; Jackson, Dale Chapin; Kalamazoo, Arthur Bailey; and Kalkaska, Robert Hall.

Kent, James Robinette; Lapeer, Herbert Opperman; Lenawee, Lowell Eisenman; Mac-Luce, Archie Pentland; Macomb, Robert Verellen; Manistee, Charles Agles; Mecosta, Joel Chapin; Midland, Jerry Wielch; Missaukee, Don Vanderpol; Monroe, Elnor Anderson; Muskegon, Donald Stevens; Newaygo, David Zerrip; Newaygo, Donald Stevens; Osceola, Arthur Bailey; and Kalkaska, Robert Hall.

Dr. Eric Thor, Administrator, Farmer Cooperative Service, USDA, will be the main speaker of the program. Dr. Thor has degrees from the U. of Nebraska, Florida and California and is active on many farmer related committees, both state wide and nationally.

**Grapestakes**

**CONTEST WINNERS**

**GRAPESAKES**

**CONTEST WINNERS**

MRS. MEYERS - AL ALMY

The winner of the first prize, a 12" RCA Portable TV set, was Mrs. Randall Meyers of Ottawa County.

The winner of the second prize, a 12" RCA Portable TV set, was George Lindgren of Oceana County.

The third, fourth and fifth place entrants, won Char-Broil barbecue sets. Winners of these prizes were: Mr. C. W. Smith of Washtenaw County; William Boldwick of Huron County and Wilbur Herbst of Livingston County.

The objective of the "GRAPESTAKES" contest was to increase the market for California table grapes, help preserve the right of all farmers to market their crops, continue the right of consumers to purchase the products they desire, and maintain the right of farm workers to decide for themselves whether or not to join a union.

The contest began on June 1 and ended July 31, 1970. County Farm Bureaus Freedom-to-Market Committees, Women’s Committees and many others promoted the contest and encouraged members to participate. A significant number of members submitted entries for the "GRAPESTAKES" contest. Most of the entries were accompanied by sales receipts indicating the purchase of table grapes.

All Michigan Farm Bureau members who entered the "GRAPESTAKES" contest have been automatically entered in the national drawing, to be held at the AFBF convention in December. First prize in the national drawing will be a 1971 Ford Pick-Up Truck.

You can cut down your own Christmas tree and haul it home to your fireside, providing you follow certain legal requirements. So says B. Dale Ball, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Ornationally, transportation of Christmas trees and evergreen boughs is illegal in Michigan without a bill of sale or proof of property ownership. The law is administered by the Department of Agriculture’s Plant Industry division.

But during December, an exception to the law permits transportation of not more than two trees without a bill of sale, if they were legally obtained. Many Michigan residents according to the north country before the holidays, such as deer hunters, enjoy taking advantage of this special permit.

Necessary legal forms for persons transporting more than two trees are available from the Lansing and regional offices of the Department. Forms can also be obtained from county extension offices, county sheriffs and state police posts.

Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith was the speaker at one of Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation’s 30th Annual Convention general sessions November 24. Prof. Smith chose as his topic “Working Together.” The Convention was held in Hot Springs. U. S. Senator John L. McClellan was the main speaker at the general session.

President Richard Nixon proclaimed November 20 through December 1, 1970, "Farmers Week." The theme of this period was "Togetherness in Agriculture." The proclamation continued: "I urge the Department of Agriculture, land-grant educational institutions, and all appropriate organizations and government officials to carry out programs to mark the new significance of National Farm-City Week, including public meetings and exhibits and presentations in the press and on radio and television."
1971 POLICIES REFLECT "THE NEW AGE"

Adopted by the Voting Delegates at 1970 Annual Meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau, Grand Rapids, November 9-11, 1970

PREFACE

Our Farm Bureau is a farm organization. It must be an aggressive organization geared to serving commercial farmers with bold and imaginative programs. The building and maintaining of this bold and aggressive farm organization depends heavily on attracting the best in farmer leadership. This leadership must be active at all levels of the organization. That leadership is to be found through state officers, The organization must maintain the same standards of type and degree of leadership as are expected from the members.

While programs should be geared to serving commercial agriculture, membership opportunity should be provided for all people interested in agriculture. Agriculture, despite the type of farming, is something to be carried in the genealogical heritage of everyone. The spirit of such a definition which should be carried in the heritage of every member should be brought before our voting delegates to the forthcoming Annual Convention of the National Farm Bureau Federation, for the national Mfairs adopted by the voting delegates have been formulated, deliberated and adopted at the several state and national Mfairs adopted by the voting delegates of the upcoming convention, which is to be held in 1971. These Mfairs are made up of representatives of every State Farm Bureau. Michigan's recommendations will also serve as a guide to our voting delegates to the forthcoming Annual Convention of the National Farm Bureau Federation.

The National and International Policies adopted at our Annual Convention serve as the policy for all State Farm Bureaus. This is essential in order that there may be a coherent policy from coast to coast. Michigan Farm Bureau's recommendations on National and International Affairs are available to County Farm Bureaus and others upon request.

FOREWORD

We, the members of Farm Bureau, are the strength of the organization because we are concerned about problems in agriculture and of our society. We believe there is strength and accomplishment through working together. We live in a complex society with a variety of problems. Farm people are a part of society and, as such, have the same concerns and problems as others upon request. Men and women of all ages are interested in problems. Farm people are a part of society and, as such, have the same concerns and problems as others. We believe that the following will lead to greater equity in the interest of tax equity and the present and future needs of our environment and an exploding population.

TAX REFORM

Farm Bureau policies have supported total tax reform for several years. This is a long awaited beginning with the new Constitution and continuing with each session of the Legislature since that time. Michigan's tax structure now contains the major elements of a balanced tax structure.

However, tax reform is a complex and continuing process. Further reforms are needed. Taxes on property continue to carry an unfair share of the total tax burden. Property is no longer a good measure of wealth or the ability to pay. For example, a 1988 study revealed that in urban area property taxes as a percentage of family income ranged from 3% to 4%. In sharp contrast, U.S.D.A. data shows that farm real estate taxes as a percentage of total farm income are four to five times higher.

We, therefore, continue to support further tax reform and believe that the following will lead to greater equity of taxation:

- New sources of revenue for local units of government in order to relieve property taxes.
- Improved assessment and equalization procedures.
- Personal income taxation and assessment of property for school purposes for the first year it is built.
- New initiatives for financing school and other strictly limited on property taxes for school purposes.
- The use of the income tax as the major source of funds to finance public schools.
- Assessment of agricultural land as farmland as long as it is so used instead of as its possible potential value.
- Prevention of intrusions arising from special assessments on property that receives no benefit from the project.

The balancing of Michigan's tax structure should result in every citizen paying his fair share toward the support of his schools and other local and state government services.

AGRICULTURAL LAND ASSESSMENT

Our farm land, the most important natural resource owned by the American people, has reached critical proportions. Latest published U.S.D.A. data show that over 40 percent of the value of our farms is in land. This land, which is property is both a source of income and a source of wealth. Our policymakers must remember that our farms and farmers are a source of 75% of our food supply and 33% of our income. Over 25 or more have taken action to assure a fair and equitable taxation of this land.

The balancing of Michigan's tax structure should result in every citizen paying his fair share toward the support of his schools and other local and state government services.

We, therefore, continue to support further tax reform and believe that the following will lead to greater equity of taxation:

1. Further tax measures, including the requirement that "zoning and existing use," be considered in determining property values.
2. Legislation providing matching funds for up-grading our farm land.
3. Amendments to various dairy and livestock laws, including increased indemnity payments for tuberculosis and brucellosis, calfbad vaccination, and improvements to the butter, cheese and ice cream laws.
4. Updating of the "Horton-Tennsps Law," to extend its provisions to fishing, nomenclating and to privately-owned, fenced wildlands.
5. Reflectorization of license plates and other traffic safety legislation.
6. Amendments to existing school law, including the provisions for educational field management, peach tree life, cattle dairies, dairy feed and dairy cattle, fruit and vegetable-weather adaptability.
7. Approval of two new research programs — cash crops (dry beans, sugar beets, etc.) and integrated crop management. To continue research on fruits and vegetables, pesticides, mastitis, sugar beets and dry beans, we need to ensure that we have better diagnosis, mechanical harvesting, peach tree life, cattle dairies, dairy feed and dairy cattle, fruit and vegetable-weather adaptability.
9. Amendments to hunting laws to help control wildlife and rambunctious cattle and recreational values.
10. Amendments to the State Mont Inspecion Act, thereby preventing federal control of this vital service.

We commend the Governor and the Legislature on enactment of these and several other measures we have supported which are important to agriculture and to the economy of the State of Michigan. We also appreciate the fact that the new revenue programs are not not in the best interest of agriculture was not adopted.

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Agricultural Land Use

The United States has 1.9 billion acres of land. Of this amount, only 458 million acres are cropland, and of this amount only 72 million acres are in Class I cropland. Only 20 percent of this amount, or nearly 150 million acres, is in urban sprawl. Urban sprawl eliminate 20 percent of our highly fertile Class I acreage in urban sprawl. It is in these areas the population explosion is creating demands for all kinds of land for a variety of public and private uses. Land is becoming an extremely limited resource. It is estimated that, in the U.S., 1.5 million acres disappear each year—one-third of our cropland. As farmland is taken out of production, the rate could have remained unchanged during the seven-year period and yielded $120 million more than the actual yield of the property tax despite the 75 percent increase that occurred in the property tax rates. During the period of time, assessed value equalized at a rate of increase, which multiplied the tax burden. This is another evidence that increasing needs and property taxes cannot.

Continued variation rejection of millage proposals throughout the state clearly indicates the need for new approaches to taxation and finance and for educational reforms. We recommend:—Property taxes for all K-12 school purposes should be strictly for the purposes of the school district. The income tax be used as the major source of funds for the other purposes.

A reasonable state aid formula be developed to assist school districts in meeting the cost of building needed facilities.

Sufficient funds should be appropriated to pay in full all past due taxes.

Legislation to require each taxpayer to identify his school district on his income tax form.

The 1967 tax reform package gave some measure of equalization and reducing the burden on already overloaded school district revenues.

We believe that parents and students have a responsibility to provide textbooks and supplies except in cases of hardship.

TEACHER TENURE

The inflexibility of the present Teacher Tenure Law minimizes the ability of a school district to hire and discharge incompetent personnel. We believe the Tenure Act should be amended to make it more practical, with the subject to a re-evaluation of performance after a reasonable period of time; however, the legal protection should continue for five years of service, with the opportunity to discharge incompetent or untrustworthy teachers.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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We urge that legislative action be taken to increase the number of training programs for local school boards.

We, therefore, believe that the Legislature, through its action in passing the tax reform act of 1967, has already provided the maximum needed for the educational reform package. To increase the need for programs in vocational agriculture, we recommend a further increase in the need for programs in vocational agriculture.

We support legislation that will resolve the problems of the urban sprawl, and some of the suggested reading lists in our schools.

We believe that school finance is undoubtedly a major key to total educational reform, as statewide equality of educational opportunity is dependent on the methods of financing is first restructured to achieve equity.

With the adoption of the Federal guidelines of financing our schools become available. It is generally agreed that property taxes for this purpose have never been raised, and do not have the ability to meet the increasing needs nor are they a good measure of ability to pay.

It is interesting to note that new studies show that during the seven-year period the average millage rate on property schools increased 57 percent from 1.70 to 2.80. The rate could have remained unchanged during the seven-year period and yielded $120 million more than the actual yield of the property tax despite the 75 percent increase that occurred in the property tax rates. During the period of time, assessed value equalized at a rate of increase, which multiplied the tax burden. This is another evidence that increasing needs and property taxes cannot.

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Through the years, we have supported the expansion of many of the services of Michigan State University. We urge the Governor-elect to continue to support the development of a complete School of Medicine.

We shall continue to support research and educational programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, recognizing that the benefits accrue to the entire economy.

4-C/1 PROGRAM

During the past few years, the 4-H program has moved the 4-H Cloverbud unit into the heart of our school and civic work. We believe that competition is basic in every endeavor that a person makes in his life.

We recommend to the Extension Department that the emphasis on competition be retained in the 4-H Club program.

NEWS MEDIA SUPPORT

We are grateful to those Michigan news media which have given recognition and support of agriculture. We are particularly grateful to those newspapers which have added farm editors—market report, weather forecasts and crop bulletins. Just as farmers bear an awesome burden and responsibility in the selection of their markets, so, too, news media bear a similar burden and responsibility in the selection of their news media, constantly and unabashedly reporting and programming to the public.

We are aware of continued attempts to expand govern- ment "guidance" within the news media industries and compare these attempts with similar interference in the free press of other countries.

We believe the news media must work to maintain acceptable standards of practice, and the acceptance of public interest responsibilities—both in the growth of their own industry and the welfare of the public.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

We continue our support for Eastern Standard Time for Michigan on a year-round basis.

TELEPHONES

Electric power is sold at the same rates in urban and rural Michigan. The rural subscriber is to be charged equal rates for equal services in both areas.

We urge to the telephone companies of Michigan to be required to charge equal rates for equal services in both urban and rural areas.

HIGHWAYS

Michigan has a total of 114,544 miles of roads and streets. The Michigan State Highway Department has the responsibility to develop and maintain the system of nearly one and a half million miles of the state highway system. Our excellent interstate sys- tem and the increasing need for employment. Extensive use of federal funds (90% federal-10% state) has made this possible; however, interstate roads constitute only 1% of the total mileage.

83 County Road Commissions are responsible for 77% (87,611 miles) of the total road system in Michigan. Roads classified as Primary Roads (37% inadequate) and Secondary Roads (25% adequate) are classified as Local Roads (47% adequate).

Of all bridges on local roads, 63% are considered inadequate. Ninety percent of all rural roads were built in the 1890's for horse and buggy traffic and are usually too narrow for the modern traffic, and many of these roads have been replaced by modern highways and other vehicles and have been no longer needed. In some cases, the county highways to the counties creates an additional burden. In spite of increasing traffic volume, little progress has been made in eliminating the deficiencies in most county road systems. Obsolescence of remote structural and mechanical deficiencies are occurring faster than the facilities can be replaced.

As a result of the rapid growth of the interstate systems, counties have the additional costly job of fitting county roads into that system and to accommodate the increased use of our roads. Many of our roads, including secondary roads, and local roads are not equipped with distinctive markings, and the system of county roads is to be developed through this program.

Telephone companies of Michigan are required to charge equal rates for equal services in both urban and rural areas.

LITTERING

Littering is a constant menace and is most on the highways. Cleanliness of highway litter is costly to taxpayers. Over 18,000 truck-loads of bottles, cans, paper and other filth produce an annual costs on State highways alone during the present year, the Michigan State Highway Department estimates.

The all-terrain vehicle, trail bikes and similar machines is obvious that there is a lack of respect for law and order. It is difficult to apprehend and identify litterers. It is necessary for the law enforcement agencies to consider the criminal elements and which require the offender to pick up litter along a specific right-of-way that obstructs the view of motorists.

Signs within the travelled lanes of any highway be placed indicating the presence of a penalty.

School buses equipped with distinctive marking and rear-view mirrors will increase the visibility of the buses.

DEDICATION OF HIGHWAY FUNDS

We re-emphasize our well-established position that revenues derived from the taxation of motor vehicles and motor fuel taxes should be used exclusively for highway pur- poses. The Michigan Constitution contains an anti-diversion provision. However, it does state that highway purposes may be used for the construction, maintenance, or financing of modern highway facilities.

Motor vehicle owners, in addition to specific highway taxes, contribute an amount of dollars annually to the State General Fund through sales and use taxes on the purchase of vehicles, accessories, etc. These additional funds should be adequate to finance highway-related programs.

We do not believe that further diversion of highway funds and the current Highway Needs Study, which are not completed, we emphasize that the special problems of the rural and local road systems must be carefully considered. Good local roads are essential if rural areas are to be developed to their fullest potential.

We urge the use of signs posted along State and local highways and roads and in parks, stating the maximum fine for littering. We urge the State to continue this program.

We also support legislation to make the owners of a vehicle responsible for the litter thrown from his vehicle. We commend television and radio stations and other media for their efforts to help "Keep Michigan Beauti- ful.''

UNRETURNABLE BOTTLES

The nonreturnable bottle, a nuisance and a hazard. It is estimated that more than 35 billion farm implement tires, auto and truck tires, livestock feed and water containers, and many donars of crop loss.

We urge: 1. That the Governor-elect support the Road Commission concept and operate the same any effort to shift control of county roads to some other agency. However, liaison between Commissioners and citizens is sometimes poor and we believe that citizens should have a direct procedure for complaint and corrective action.

NINE

INTOXICATED DRIVERS

No operator of a motor vehicle makes our highways safe. A substantial number of fatalities are the result of the influence of an intoxicant. Measures must be taken to increase the effectiveness of our laws in preventing this practice.

We urge our State Legislatures to update our implied consent law to include the driver of a motorcycle.

If we do not conform with these standards, we could jeopardize Michigan's federal highway funds.

UNINSURED MOTORIST FUND

We feel that the $1 fee which is charged auto owners and which is put in the state's fund to help cover the cost of uninsured motorists. State, federal, and $40,000, 000 to the Counties. We believe that the present welfare program should include:

SNOWMOBILES

Many property owners are interested in the rapidly increasing number of snowmobiles causing damage to crops and property damage. We should be aware of the facts that the Horrion Trespass Act was amended during the recent legislative session.

The all-terrain vehicle, trail bikes and similar machines are also becoming very popular. We will examine legis- lation to include these vehicles under the Horrion Tres- pass Act and other legislation dealing with snowmobiles.

LAW AND ORDER

It is obvious that there is a lack of respect for law enforcement agencies in our society. We recognize the rights of citizens to protest the acts that those who incite or participate in riots, bombings, vandalism, defile the flag, or bum wildcards.

We urge:

1. The restoration of authority and respect for our law enforcement agencies in our society.

2. Courts to follow through in the convictions and punishment of those who are engaged in reprehensible and criminal practices.

3. That our young men remain in their traditional role as centers of character and intellectual pursuit. College administrators should consider strict measures against student activists, nonstudent extremists, and faculty members who support campus disorders. To do otherwise would be an injustice to other students and the orderly operation of educational institutions.

4. Citizens to carry on their responsibilities in help- ing our law enforcement officers by offering pertinent information and assistance.

FIREARMS CONTROL

We believe our laws should place more emphasis on the control of firearms. We believe that our laws should include:

1. We oppose further expansion of registration of firearms.

2. We would support mandatory imprisonment for any person convicted of a felony involving use of firearms.

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The recently-passed Anti-Litter Law can help in curbing littering. The Michigan Legislature should not distort the intent of that law.

We urge the use of signs posted along State and County highways and in parks, stating the maximum fine for littering. We urge the State to continue this program.

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Policies to lead members through the service...

MAIN BANQUET SPEAKER...St. Rev. Augik, Hugh M. Ber- no, was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

We wish to commend the Health Planning Council of Michigan for the excellent work it is doing in helping to plan and coordinate health services throughout the state. This voluntary, nonprofit organization is assisting the people of Michigan in many communities in their efforts to provide optimum health care at the least possible cost through wise planning based on exhaustive and factual studies.

We believe that Medicaid and Medicare programs should be under continuous scrutiny to eliminate excessive costs and waste. We also believe that an investigation should be made into the effectiveness of these programs, and that data from such investigations be used to improve these programs.

AUGMENTING THE BARGAINING AND CONTRACTING POWER OF Producers

We shall develop and support an Agricultural Market- ing Development Program to study and identify the rights and limitations of bargaining associations.

Provisions of this legislation should be:
1. Definition of bargaining association.
3. Provide that failure of a buyer to negotiate in good faith with a recognized bargaining association shall constitute an unfair trade practice.
4. Provide clear and specific rights and definition of agricultural fair practices.
5. Redefine and broaden the rights of bargaining as sociations in marketing and pricing operations.
6. Be administered by an advisory committee with the Secretary or Director of Agriculture having authority only to make sure the law is properly administered.

Marketing Orders

Federal and state marketing orders are acceptable only when they provide for the following:

1. Washington court will recognize that the association is adequately serving the industry.
2. Provide opportunity for new producers to enter the market irrespective of production area.
3. Include products produced for the same general market.
4. Be administered by an advisory committee with the Secretary or Director of Agriculture having authority only to make sure the law is properly administered.
5. Redefine and broaden the rights of bargaining associ-ations by buyers of agricultural products.
6. Include, when applicable, the Secretary or Director of Agriculture having authority only to make sure the law is properly administered.

Incentive to become financially productive. Wel- fare should not become a "way of life", but should be considered only as an emergency, or last resort, program.

The report of the President's National Advisory Com- mittee on Rural Poverty is right on the point that there are more than "14 million rural poor". This figure would be much larger had there not been a steady migration to urban areas. Unemployment and under- employment are the major problems in rural America.

Rural poverty is often more serious than in urban areas because of the distances and transportation problems. For example, it is more difficult to get to educational and medical facilities.

We believe that there are presently sufficient agencies, public and private, to work effectively in the battle against rural poverty. It is the responsibility of the people in urban areas to help themselves in the Cooperative Extension Service.

We believe that programs similar to those used by the Cooperative Extension Service should be multiplied in other areas. These programs should be supported by the public and private agencies.

We support the Federal and State aid programs to improve farm income through industry-operated, marketing order, or negotiated regulations. We support the Washington and federal marketing orders.

Marketing orders should be designed to provide for orderly marketing of agricultural products, including real- time and limited application. They should not be a substitute for competitive marketing systems.

Marketing orders should be administered by one or more processing associations in order to save administrative costs, marketing research, market development, and advertising and promotion if it is evident that they will increase producers' net income.

We believe that any marketing order should meet the following criteria:
1. Be market-oriented, used to maintain and expand marketing.
2. Provide opportunity for new producers to enter the market.
3. Contain provision for periodic review at not greater than five-year intervals.
4. Allow for a petition for reexamination or a new referendum.
5. Include products produced for the same general market irrespective of production area.
6. Be administered by an advisory committee with the Secretary or Director of Agriculture having authority only to make sure the law is properly administered.
7. Approval of a marketing order should require a referendum by producers of the commodity.
8. Orders for commodities produced for processing should not require producers to pay a fee in addition to required to raw agricultural products.

We support amendments to the Act to authorize orders for additional agricultural commodities whenever predetermined demand is either increased or expanded.

The increasing problems of rural poverty...

Unfortunately, most of the poverty resources have been...
POULTRY BUYER BONDING

Marketing alternatives for producers of live poultry include both state and out-of-state buyers. Modern roads and highways will enable buyers traveling long distances to processing plants to obtain poultry from producers. Sometimes, buyers will arrange with the farm to sell the poultry handled in out-of-state processing plants. Dealing with unknown poultry buyers involves the potential for serious financial loss to producers.

We strongly urge legislation to require buyers of Michigan-grown poultry to buy in accordance with poultry handling agreements. This will benefit the poultry producer and provide a steady market for poultry producers in the state. The poultry producer association will also provide for buyer equipment sanitation standards.

PORK MEAT IN SAUSAGE

Recent amendments to both federal and pork industry inspec- tion regulations provide for the inclusion of pork in cooked sausage products. Present Michigan law does not provide the same types of protection for pork meat products. We urge Michigan Farm Bureau to seek legisla- tive changes to our comminuted meat law to permit the addition of pork meat in accordance with USDA standards.

MIDWEST EGG PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE

Commercial egg producers have experienced severe price fluctuations in recent years. The lack of a re- sponsible voice for all egg producers has contributed to this problem. Egg producers now have the opportunity to develop this voice through the activities of the Midwest Egg Producers Cooperative Association. We commend the dairy industry for developing and financ- ing the activities of Midwest Egg Producers Cooperative Association and encourage other members to support the marketing of eggs. We urge poultry producers to con- sider joining the Midwest Egg Producers Cooperative Association.

EXPANDING MARKETS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS

The production and marketing of high quality dairy products is a major concern to Michigan dairy farmers and Michigan agri- culture. Substantial interest has been expressed by both producers of Michigan dairy products and the dairy farms themselves about expanding markets for Michigan dairy products. The removal of some of the legislative barriers to marketing dairy products will also benefit the Michigan dairy industry. We will continue to work with dairy organizations to determine and seek solutions to the problems facing dairy farmers.

MICHIGAN POTATO GRADES AND STANDARDS

Michigan potato grade standards permit the sale of potatoes for processing only. Michigan potato grade description has permitted the marketing of po- tatoes that have food value but cannot meet grade standards due to maturity or quality conditions resulting from un- controllable factors, such as weather and disease. We recognize that many consumers have purchased poor quality Michigan Unclassified potatoes and we believe that a Michigan potato industry will develop in accordance with government standards.

We ask that the Michigan Potato Grade Standards be expanded to include potatoes and packed potatoes in consumer-size packages (quantities less than 100 pounds). This change will enable growers to market fresh potatoes and maintain the quality of Michigan potato industry development outlets, such as processing, starch and feed, that will utilize inferior quality potatoes.

POTATO INSPECTION

We favor legislation to provide Federal inspection of all potatoes sold in interstate commerce bearing a federal grade designation.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

The production of dry edible beans comprises an important part of Michigan agriculture. Rapid changes in crop growing practices, machinery, and production methods continue to increase the demand for new buyers and more specialization by growers. We believe that Michigan has a potential to become a major producer of dry beans and we urge those interested in making marketing decisions without adequate informa- tion on these problems to be interested in helping us to meet the problems. We are interested in helping to keep Michigan dry bean growing profitable.

We urge those interested in expanding marketing opportunities for Michigan dry beans to contact their local Farm Bureau. The purpose of this is to help us evaluate and assist members with the development of new markets for Michigan dry beans.

TWO YOUNG FARMERS . . . . accepted certificates of commendation from 1970 Y. F. Chairman Karl Howard at the MFB Young Farmer Banquet. Dale Weidmayer, second from left, Washtenaw county, accepted the award for Washtenaw county. (Mrs. Howard, lower center, looks on.) Karl Howard and his wife, Mrs. Howard, attended the banquet.

ENVIROMENTAL CONCERNS

The current drive for a better environment shows every sign of becoming a powerful and permanent force. Farmers have long recognized the importance of caring for the land so necessary for their living. Good soil con- servation practices, minimizing erosion, can be one of agriculture's most important contributions to a clean environment. We pledge our support to work with the Soil Conservation Service to conserve our soil and water through sound conservation practices. However, we should point out the serious soil erosion that results from construction of highways, pipelines, and residential and commercial developments.

While great strides have been made, continued re- search is necessary to minimize erosion and runoff of agricultural fertilizers, chemicals, wastes, and to find new uses for agricultural wastes through recycling systems.

We urge all persons engaged in agriculture to become informed of pollution sources and discipline themselves so as not to add to the problem. As the leading organization, Farm Bureau will continue an informa- tion program to inform the public of agriculture's contri- bution to a clean environment.

PESTICIDES

Agricultural chemicals have been one of the major problems facing agriculture throughout the world. Abundant and high quality food. Farmers, in general, have used them judiciously, and only in the necessary amount to control disease and pests. Many pesticides are effective for the control of pests, but certain pesticides have been nearly phased out by the Weather Bureau, and a difference in saving or losing an entire crop.

We support legislation to provide for assessment and taxing the use of pesticides that are not used in a manner that affects agricultural products.

CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION

Chemical residue (acryloxylic, etc.) in animals can be a dangerous health hazard. We favor legislation per- mitting the use of food in the United States to contaminate suspected animals and condemn such animals proved to be contaminated with poisonous chemical.

ANTIBIOTICS AND FEED ADDITIVES

The use of antibiotics is essential to efficient modern- day animal husbandry and assists in the production of high quality animal products. Traces of antibiotics in farm products are virtually unavoidable and government authorities have threatened to deny their use to farmers if residues show up in meat products.

We urge all farmers who use antibiotics and feed additives to follow directions carefully and be judicious in their use.

FISH FARMING

Fish farming is developing as a food production in- dustry in Michigan. Presently, fish farming is recognized as a farming operation for tax purposes providing the harvest of fish occurs on a regular basis. If operated on a “catch-your-own” basis, fish farms are considered to be a recreational activity and are not taxed as farming activities.

We believe that harvest of fish by the “catch-your- own” method is a management decision and fish farms using this method of harvest should have a similar tax status.

DRAINAGE LAW

We urge that Michigan drainage laws continue to be updated. Future legislation should emphasize under- standable provisions. The drainage law should require all drainage projects to have a maintenance clause to require the drainage district to maintain and repair drainage systems and dikes after they have been renovated. The cost of this maintenance should be borne by the entire drainage district.

Lands owned by public agencies, such as school dis- tricts and the Department of Natural Resources, often receive direct benefits from drainage projects which are financed and paid for by adjoining landowners.

We support legislation to provide for assessment and collection of drainage benefits to publicly-owned lands.

WEATHER REPORTING AND FORECASTING

Agri-business contributes much to the economy of the state and much investment has been made by produc- ers and processors of farm crops; many people de- pend on the harvesting, processing and handling of these crops in order to make a living.

We are a well-established fact that weather conditions play an important part in the growing and marketing of crops and, in some cases, knowledge of possible tem- perature changes of even a few degrees can be the dif- ference between harvest or no harvest.

Unfortunately, agricultural weather information has been limited. A program, established by the Weather Bureau, and most agricultural meteorologists have been reassigned to other duties. It is apparent that there is a need for more general weather knowledge and to those special reports during critical times.
TWELVE

MANY ISSUES WERE CONSIDERED . . .

ROBERT HARAS, VERNONTICE (CENTER) . . . is the 1971 Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Discussion Meet winner. He accepted an engraved plaque from Young Farmer chairman Karl Howard (left). Looking on is the 1970 Discussion Meet winner David Farley.

WHEREAS, we recommend that state laws be revised to provide more effective protection for public workers who are on strike.

This is not the first time at both the state and national levels to bring agriculture under unemployment compensation laws. Such efforts often ignore the differences between agriculture and industry.

We therefore recommend a study be made to determine the feasibility of some type of unemployment compensation for farm workers.

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION AND AGRICULTURE

Wildlife is important to the economy of Michigan and its public recreational opportunities. Federal and State game and fish policies are aimed at the preservation of wildlife and migratory waterfowl.

Establishing new and expanding existing game refuge areas often creates serious local problems. These include acquisition of good farmland at below-market values, increased costs to grow crops which grow on surrounding farmlands and loss of local tax base. An example is the Hayward Lake Goose Refuge in the U.P.

We urge that practical safeguards be established to provide for compensation of farm owners against unreasonable land acquisition for Federal-State game refuge areas and from damages resulting from their construction. We urge that state relocation policies be established to compensate for land and property at full market value should be considered when establishing new or expanding present refuge areas.

UPPER PENINSULA EXPERIMENT STATION

Agricultural and timberland enterprises in the U.P. have experienced considerable establishment of the Experiment Station at Chatham. The Experiment Station is a major source of knowledge to U.P. farmers and timberland owners.

We believe that there is a need for one experiment station in the central part of the U.P. which can furnish in the future development of agriculture and timber management. Some experimental research under U.P. conditions includes:

1. Wheat trials in small grains on disease resistance and production.
2. Alfalfa and truffel variety development.
3. Soil breeding.
4. Field demonstrations in potato, ratabag and other small grains.

We urge that the Chatham Experiment Station be maintained.

FARM LABOR

We are encouraged by the current arroung of social progress in the United States. This has brought special problems to seasonal farm workers. In the past, these men and women were often treated only by their farm employers. Farmers have for years cared for seasonal farm workers, but that is no longer enough, even while their own families are forced to live on 70% of parity, working long hours under trying conditions during the work period. They have increased farm wages at a faster rate than most other workers. The farm wage does not keep pace with inflation. In addition to increased wages, many farmers pay better wages to seasonal farm workers from their home states to the state of work, and provide loans and pay advances to help cover the high cost of living during the work area during a short work season.

Employees of farm employers have provided for seasonal employees, there are still problems inherent in migrating from state to state each year, particularly for a group with a low general education level and when a language barrier is sometimes present.

1.1 Farm labor services are needed to assist in the following ways:

1. We commend leaders in government and civic organizations for their recognition of the presence of these special problems.

2. We encourage members of the Legislature and leaders of industry and labor to be informed of the true agricultural conditions so that maximum advantage of the farm labor system and the agricultural situation will guide the development of legislation and implementation of programs dealing with farming and labor.

3. We caution these leaders against reactionary approaches to emotions-packed allegations by certain political figures who lead to the establishment of costly and unwise programs that would be of little value to farm workers while causing unnecessary hardships on farm families.

4. We urge that federal and regulatory agencies to work toward simplified interstate recruitment programs where possible to be encouraged to make employment arranged before they leave their home states.

5. We urge that the Michigan Farm Bureau to expand research into the possibility of establishing guide lines to farm laborers during the untrapped production, handling and sale of agricultural products which is essential to the public welfare.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

We favor retention of experience rating policies and the preservation of state responsibility to determine eligibility and benefits.

Administration of state unemployment insurance program by the state is more efficient and responsive to prevent abuses, particularly the payment of benefits to those who can and should obtain employment.

FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP

In 1970, the Michigan Farm Bureau had a membership of 57,049. This was an increase of 5,273 families over the previous year. For the second consecutive year, all counties made a gain in membership.

We urge that all farmers who have not yet joined our organization of these new members, 6,545, or 65%, were 45 years of age or under. This is significant as these members will assure vigor and strong leadership in the years to come.

We urge that we remain an important job of Farm Bureau. Without it, little else is possible. We encourage all farmers to support the increase for each County Farm Bureau, as well as a one-member increase for the Michigan Farm Bureau.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

We have in Farm Bureau a very democratic organization with the right to participate in making recommendations and decisions. This opportunity to participate is available to us by attending Community Group Meetings, County Annual Meetings and the State Annual Meeting where we plan our times take this responsibility seriously.

We must see to it that this right to participate carries with it the responsibility to support the decisions of our leaders and to be a source of organization discipline which can only be self-imposed by the member.

We encourage our members to discuss, disagree and debate issues of state and national importance. We are responsible. We ALSO REQUEST THAT MEMBERS GIVE THEIR SUPPORT TO ALL MATTERS OF FARM BUREAU POLICY AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN PROPERLY APPROVED.

SERVICE TO MEMBER PROGRAMS

The Michigan State University survey of farmer attitudes establishes that farmers are most strongly motivated in their work when they feel they are making contributions to the state and nation. This is not a new finding but it is significant as these members will assure vigor and strong leadership in the years to come.
MICHIGAN FARM NEWS
December 1, 1970
THIRTEEN

MANY POLICIES WERE DECIDED . . . .

ture of Farm Bureau. This continues to be an effective program in the implementation of Farm Bureau pro-
grame and motives of leadership. This is a prime fact that no organization can survive when it fails to bring about change.

We urge all county Farm Bureau to make this program a part of their structure on a committee basis. This is the only way to make a successful and strong em-
phasis at the county level.

FARM BUREAU WOMEN

The Farm Bureau Women's Committees have repre-
sented a very important part of the Farm Bureau program and we commend them for this effort.

We urge county Farm Bureau Women's Committees to provide for active participation of women of all mem-
ber families in activities, projects and programs of Farm Bureau. We believe that Farm Bureau Women are open to continue their efforts to the furthering of the total pro-
grame of the Farm Bureau at local, county and state levels.

We encourage action on the part of Farm Bureau Women which would strengthen, reinforce and vitalize action programs on the part of County Farm Bureaus.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community Farm Bureaus are the cornerstone of Farm Bureau and every effort should be made to strengthen this important part of our organization. The start-
ing of new and the maintaining of existing Com-
unity Groups should be a top priority project. In order to achieve this goal in the Community Group program, we recommend that:

1. County Farm Bureau Boards give emphasis to the pro-
gress of local groups in the Community Group pro-
motives, establishing goals for the committee and the officers.

2. County Farm Bureau conducts some form of train-
ing school for group officers early in the year.

3. Members should be encouraged to participate in "National Organizers' program" to the fullest extent possible.

LOCAL AFFAIRS

People support best those things which they help build. County Farm Bureau officers and leaders are thoroughly involved in every phase of farm life. It is important for members by encouraging them to become involved in the local affairs of the community.

An opportunity to serve on an action committee is welcome. The committee should call all members to their organization. Care should be taken by County Farm Bureau to see that many people are involved. New mem-
bers should be given an opportunity to work with their interests.

Citizenship established, a committee should be given strong support and guidance from the County Farm Bureau Board. It should be made clear to them what to do and what to do with the need to make proper research on issues and to do the business of the community.

This committee should study local lanes, including those of a controversial nature. We urge all Farm Bureau members to make regular contacts with their Senators and Representatives to inform them of the im-
portance of those affecting farmers and agriculture and not so full of life. We urge them to be available for support, for growth and for the good of the community. The committee should be kept informed of the County Information Committee to bring such things to public attention.

CITIZENSHIP

Good citizenship is the foundation of our community. It involves being INFORMED on issues, willingness to work and encourage others, our two-party political sys-
tem of government and enterprise.

Michigan Farm Bureau will continue local training and provide the necessary tools to help mem-
ber members to become active in the political party of their choice. Mem-
bers who work on the voting records of their members at both the state and national levels, and should not fail to do this. We encourage our leaders to show support for select candidates who will support Farm Bureau policies.

Michigan Farm Bureau representatives has the official power to protest on Senate and House of Representa-
atives to influence the information of members on matters of concern about the Farm Bureau policies. Members should be encouraged to participate in this program.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

We urge our members to become more active in local affairs and to do so in order to retain decision-making powers as near the local level as possible. Only in this way can the trend toward centralization of decisions at the Federal and state level be stopped.

HEALTH CARE COSTS AND CONTROLS

We are alarmed by the continued increases in the cost of health care and health insurance. We fear that the cost of these services will be impossible for many families to provide for in these areas. This is why the Farm Bureau endorsed Federal Com-

We urge Farm Bureau members to support the broad-based tax reduction program which will benefit families in order to retain decision-making powers as near to the preservation of self-government and individual freedom.

We urge Farm Bureau members to support the broad-based tax reduction program which will benefit families. We urge that Farm Bureau members contribute to a poor or weak image of Farm Bureau, even in areas where Farm Bureau is doing a good job to others when the information when the information involves companies of those that have the resources to pay and those that do not.

We commend the work of M.A.S.A. for assisting farm-
businesses in recruiting workers. The M.A.S.A. program has effectively increased the interest in labor bearings and in legislative actions.

FARM BUREAU MARKETING PROGRAMS

Agricultural marketing is of great concern to farmers. We recognize the need to improve our present marketing methods. If we are to receive a more equitable income, Farm Bureau should be given strong emphasis in the development of more effective marketing programs high priority.

We urge Farm Bureau members to participate in marketing activities in commodity areas when requested by mem-
bers and when possible.

We are proud of our efforts in the area of marketing. Farm Bureau, along with other cooperative agencies, dry-year end and egg marketing services. A Cooper-

eative dry-year end and egg marketing service has been initiated this past year. The Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) continues in operating this program.

We urge Farm Bureau members and the general pub-
lic to become active through personal contacts or letters to Washington.
FARM BUREAU LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Michigan Farm Bureau should continue to develop and expand livestock marketing programs such as the Feeder Pig, Feeder Cattle and Order Buyer Divisions of MACMA. A continued determined effort should be made to work with existing cooperatives to avoid duplication of service. Furthermore, Michigan Farm Bureau should look to other areas for potential sales and marketing programs that assist in more orderly and effective marketing of livestock.

FARM BUREAU STUDIES

New Farm Bureau programs have usually been preceded by a study to determine the scope of a problem and the facts involved. We believe this to be a sound approach to the solution of a problem. We urge the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors to initiate the following studies:

- Dairy herd replacement service. The Order Buyer Division of MACMA might possibly be used to market and supply dairy herd replacements.
- Marketing barley marketing services. Producers have encountered uncertain market outlets and prices. Livestock and poultry operations licensing. Technological changes and environmental concerns dictate a need for study of any problems connected with concentrated commercial operations and the present livestock and poultry production laws.
- Soft white wheat utilization. Significant changes in the production, utilization, and sales demands factors are occurring.
- Retirement programs for farm employees. Competition with industry for full-time farm labor is a definite problem. A development of a group retirement plan or other fringe benefits could help stabilize the agricultural labor force.

CENTRAL SALES AGENCY

Grows of seasonal commodities have traditionally marketed their produce on the basis of market conditions at harvest time. We believe that many producers will increasingly desire to spread the risks and opportunities of marketing their produce for a portion of their time or after they have harvested their own produce after it has been processed. This spreading of risk is presently being used by some Farm Bureau Central Sales Agencies.

While the practice increases the opportunity for farmers to get a fair price and assures them of a market for their produce, it is the needs of the market that dictate the prices. Through the cooperative selling of the finished product's commodities truly merit the services of the central sales agency as a conversion into a finished product. We recommend that the Market Development Division study the alternatives and propose a method for a cooperative central sales agency approach to merchandising member-owned processed or semi-processed, agricultural products.

PROCESSING AND SALES FACILITY STUDY

Processing of the many high value fruit and vegetable crops produced in the Northwest, West Central and other counties along Lake Michigan is of great economic importance to that part of Michigan and vital to the continued success of many producers in that area. In recent years, the ability of present facilities to adequately process the excellent fruits and vegetables produced is of increasing concern to many producers. Many processing plants, particularly in Northwest and Central Michigan, are small, poorly financed, inefficient and obsolete.

Modern, efficient processing and selling facilities in strategic locations are needed for this important segment of Michigan agriculture to grow and prosper. In order to establish the facilities needed, it may be necessary for producers, through their farm organization, to do it themselves.

We recommend that a study be made of the problems of the processing industry and the feasibility of establishing the facilities needed.

AFFILIATE COMPANY AGREEMENTS

Agreements signed between County Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau affiliate companies have been used to clearly define the responsibilities of parties involved. It is of the utmost importance that every County Farm Bureau Board review these agreements annually. That will create a more clear understanding of the duties of both parties and lessen the chance of misunderstanding.

PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

Much has been said and written about improving the image of agriculture. Many proposals have been made and, ranging from letters to the editor to the hiring of an advertising agency to create a favorable image.

We believe that farmers have a favorable image with most people. We urge our members to promote the role of farmers in our society.

The place to start is in developing this understanding in our local areas. We must use the resources locally in nonfarm groups, such as church, civic activities, service clubs and all types of organizations. We urge County Farm Bureau to conduct rural-urban activities, farm visits, press relations meetings and other activities which will help create understanding between farmers and nonfarm people.

We COMMEND FOR UNSELFISH SERVICE

Many of our fellow farmers are serving agriculture and our state as members of boards, commissions, committees and task forces on agricultural representation is important to all of us.

Cooperative service is rendered without any reimbursement for time and expenses involved.

Within our own organization and many others who give of their time and talent to make Farm Bureau the effective voice of farmers.

We commend these people and recognize them for their unselshish service to agriculture.

FARM BUREAU LEADERSHIP

Michigan Farm Bureau's April 21st AFBF President Charles Shuman for his "Freedom is Courage" essay which received the Freedom Foundation award.

SMITH REELECTED MFB PRESIDENT

Elton R. Smith, Kent County dairyman, has been reelected president of Michigan Farm Bureau at the annual reorganization meeting of the Board of Directors, following the three-day annual meeting of the 55,000 member organization.

Board of Directors president was Dean Priddon, Branch County farm leader. John Laurie, Tuscola County farmer, was reelected vice president and chairman of the Executive Committee. Officers elected were Dan E. Reed, secretary and supply dairy board replacements.

Mrs. Jerold Topliff, Eaton Rapids, chairman, Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee, will serve the second year of a two-year term. She is also a member of the Board of Directors. Also serving on the Board will be David Diehl, Jr., Dandridge (L), elected chairman of the Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee.

Macama and Masa . . . shared a display booth in the Products Show during annual meeting in the Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium. Honoring the booth were John Hein, (Left) MACMA N.E. Field Representative; Clarence King (center), Mgr. Branch Co. Farm Bureau Oil Co. and Ron Jensen, MACMA West Central Field Representative.

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU STUDIES

Fourteen practices.

Furthermore, Michigan Farm Bureau sellers will offset the possible gain, and that only through the marketing of service. We believe that the increased number of Michigan agricultural producers should strive to develop contractual production and expand livestock marketing programs such as the CENTRAL SALES AGENCY. The action was taken at the five-day meeting of the 58,000 member Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors to initiate the following studies:

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MACMA members have been involved in the development of an orderly marketing program for tart cherries, according to Harry A. Foster, Secretary-Manager, Red Tart Cherry Division, MACMA.

Even during the years of relatively high prices, MACMA leaders were aware of the fluctuating production and supply situation and corresponding fluctuating prices. As they studied the tart cherry industry’s marketing needs, it became apparent that in order to successfully solve these major problems, it would require working with tart cherry producers and handlers on a multi-state basis.

The study and review of orderly marketing alternatives led to the development and drafting of the proposed Marketing Agreement and Order by an industry group which included growers and handlers. Each part of the proposed Marketing Agreement and Order has been carefully analyzed by the MACMA Red Tart Cherry Marketing Committee, and has been given working approval by MACMA.

MACMA members testified at the early summer hearings conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and are on record as proponents of this orderly marketing program.

The main feature of the proposed Market Order program provides for the storage of surplus cherries produced in a given year, to be made available to the market in times of apparent demand or in short crop years. This storage feature permits the industry to attack the fluctuating production and supply situation, and permits the marketers of cherries to work aggressively for expanded markets and utilization of tart cherries, and for improvement of the profitability of this crop to the growers and handlers.

Additional space may be used by contacting your County Extension Office.

MACMA believes that when growers understand how the proposed Market Order program will work, they will be in favor of this proposed orderly marketing program.

MACMA urges favorable vote on tart cherry marketing agreement and order.

The fall feeder cattle movement has been completed in northern Michigan for MACMA feeder cattle feeders. Nearly 1,000 head of feeder cattle were assembled, graded, weighed and marketed to Michigan cattle feeders for members in the eastern Upper Peninsula, on October 15 and November 5, Bob McCoy, chairman of the MACMA Feeder Cattle Marketing Committee, said. "Calf-producing members received favorable prices for their cattle and enthusiasm for expansion in membership and volume in the coming year are excellent." This new service for northern Michigan calf producers was initiated at the request of Farm Bureau members in feeder cattle producing areas. Rapid progress has taken place since July in organizing and initiating the new division.

The program offers cattle feeders an opportunity to purchase specifically graded, weighed and sorted calves delivered directly to their feedlot on the day of the purchase. The cattle are purchased by private treaty either by telephone or after personal examination of the cattle. Plans for next year include an increase in volume, standardizing some pre-conditioning practices, improving quality and expanding to other areas of northern Michigan.

The present MACMA Feeder Cattle Marketing Committee includes: John A. Foster, Grand Traverse; Lyle A. Bading, Lee; Lyle Hadaway, Onekama; Donald Barden, South Sault Ste. Marie; Fred E. Anderson, Chief; Jerry Sletema, Grand Rapids and Howard Gilmer, Augusta.

Order Buyer Division

An additional year-around supply of top-quality, well-described feeder cattle at competitive prices are available through the newly established MACMA Order Buyer Division. Excellent progress has been made in supplying member cattle feeders with imported cattle this fall. This service is a part of the new nationally coordinated AAMA feeder cattle marketing program that involves selling states such as Colorado, Oklahoma, Virginia and Arkansas and includes buying states such as Michigan and Iowa.

The AAMA is the marketing bargaining affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The AAMA collects and disseminates to member associations supply and market information on a weekly basis. This information is then made available to Order Buyer Division members.

These states plus many additional states have feeder cattle available through their state Farm Bureau marketing associations and are made available weekly through the AAMA service. Detailed trading practices and guidelines between member associations assure cattle feeders of dependable cattle supply on a volume basis. Membership and more information about participation and purchase of cattle through the Order Buyer Division may be obtained by writing or calling the MACMA Order Buyer Office at 4000 Grand River Avenue, Box 960, Lansing, Mich. 48904, telephone 517-485-8112 Ext. 372.

Processing apple marketing committee

Members of the processing... Apple Marketing Committee are left to right: Lester Kober, Grand Rapids; William Davis, and Robert Braden, Manager, MACMA; George Stover, Berrien Springs; Glenn Robotham, Bushnell; Andrew Jager, Fennville; Ray Anderson, Chief, Jerry Sletema, Grand Rapids and Howard Gilmer, Augusta.

Michigan farm news December 1, 1970 Fifteen
A fellow said the other day that the hospital in his community had just ripped down one big section of its building facilities only to build another beside it. To all appearances, it seemed like a pretty foolish venture and a terribly expensive one. He could only conclude that it is no wonder health costs are jumping out of sight and he continued to become more immersed at the wastefulness that was directly affecting his health care costs.

Health care costs are up and this month's discussion is one of the reasons why. In the case of the hospital building, as explained by Mr. Marlie Drew, coordinator, County Farm Bureau, it is with a farmer buying a $80,000 combine. Such acts as completely tearing down one building and constructing another, in the long run, could really be the cheapest way to do it. Unlike ordinary buildings, a hospital complex has many special needs, and of course, the greatest need is to insure the health of the patient. And to do this, he explained, if you have been into a modern hospital room, you have probably noticed all the special plugs and gadgets coming out of the wall. Among them there probably are many outlets including provisions for piped in oxygen for emergencies. In the past, when patients needed oxygen it was often a long trip to wheel in the tanks and more dangerous for the patients health, but now ordinary buildings, the oxygen system, as second best one can see, he explained, building all kinds of special equipment into the wall, out of the way, would be near impossible in a building not designed for this type of remodeling.

Drew, the health plan coordinator for MFB members, explains the fast rise in health costs that are almost completely unorganized, where most hospital personnel have been paid less than non-professional employees have been paid less than they want to do something about it," Drew explained.

He said, "Probably the biggest single factor is in the area of wages." He explained that for years the non-professional employees have been paid less than employees who work in other industries. In recent years this group has been emphasizing union organization and hard bargaining. It is not unusual to hear of these hospital personnel walking off the job to apply pressure on the management, that amounts to thousands of dollars. In this case of the hospital building, as explained by Mr. Drew, the health plan coordinator for MFB members, explains the fast rise in health costs that are being charged to patients goes further than construction of new buildings.

He said, "Most dangerous for the patients health, but now is the recent walk-out at Flint's Hurley Hospital.

Drew, the health plan coordinator for MFB members, explains that it is not strong on personalized service, and there is a continual striving for the best service available, he said.

THE COST

Farm Bureau members from August '68 to July '79 undercut the national average hospital stay of 8.4 days to 8.13 days. Average hospital charges nationally is $506.52. Costs continue to climb.

The national average for current per day hospital charge in America is $84.29. In comparison, Boston, Massachusetts, has current average daily cost of $100.00 per patient! On the other hand, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, averages a low of $67.00. According to Drew, the high cost of hospital care in Michigan is due to our highly industrialized state. He said that with higher wage demands than most states, and with the availability of on-the-job prepaid health care plans, an average person's frequency of hospital visits increases distinctly. Subsequently, an accelerated shortage of facilities becomes increasingly burdened while health care plans become more expensive.

Current annual rate of increasing hospital charges in Michigan is $85 per person, about 4 percent, which is not unusual to hear of these hospital personnel walking off the job to apply pressure on the management. In recent years this group has been emphasizing union organization and hard bargaining. It is not unusual to hear of these hospital personnel walking off the job to apply pressure on the management, that amounts to thousands of dollars. In this case of the hospital building, as explained by Mr. Drew, the health plan coordinator for MFB members, explains the fast rise in health costs that are being charged to patients goes further than construction of new buildings. He said, "Most dangerous for the patients health, but now is the recent walk-out at Flint's Hurley Hospital.

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Current annual rate of increasing hospital charges in Michigan is $85 per person, about 4 percent, which is not unusual to hear of these hospital personnel walking off the job to apply pressure on the management. In recent years this group has been emphasizing union organization and hard bargaining. It is not unusual to hear of these hospital personnel walking off the job to apply pressure on the management, that amounts to thousands of dollars. In this case of the hospital building, as explained by Mr. Drew, the health plan coordinator for MFB members, explains the fast rise in health costs that are being charged to patients goes further than construction of new buildings. He said, "Most dangerous for the patients health, but now is the recent walk-out at Flint's Hurley Hospital.

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The words contained in the Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield advertisement in this issue of the Farm News will mean many things to many people. Every Farm Bureau member can probably relate the words to his or her own personal experience with, or exposure to, Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield. However, aside from personal interpretation, there are some basic facts which can be applied to them.

**Strength**
- Value
- Knowledge
- Benefits
- Responsibility

**VALUE**

The best health care values available today is the program offered through your membership in Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield. For every dollar received, nine cents come back in the form of payment for benefits. Any payment for these benefits is on a cost-plus basis to hospitals which stretches the dollar even farther.

**BENEFITS**

The relatively small dollar amount you pay for membership entitles you to many benefits available only through your Farm Bureau. Eligible members have the opportunity to take advantage of health care benefits through the “true group” program. Full service benefits covering most hospital and doctor services without dollar limitation. For example, 365 days of paid-in-full care covering room and board and costly inpatient extras in accordance with your contract coverage. You can get this kind of coverage without the inconvenience of conflicting coverages. No Blue Cross and Blue Shield identification card — anywhere in the world.

**KNOWLEDGE**

Michigan Farm Bureau is an organization made up of people — agriculture, working for the benefit of the farmer. By working together for the past 50 years, through Michigan Farm Bureau, farmers have been able to keep pace by receiving important information relating to all aspects of the farm economy. Farm Bureau can be a single source of this knowledge and thus make a tough business a little easier.

The concept of pre-paid health care is new, but not as old as the principles on which the Farm Bureau was founded. The need was there as a result of the social and economic dilemma of the thirties. As a result, the hospitals and doctors formed the prepayment organizations to help people pay for their needed professional services. This is the birth of Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Under the guidance of both the health care providers and community leaders representing all fields in Michigan, they have grown to their present status as being in the top three plans in the nation. These organizations are good examples of the blend of health care experts and community leaders working together voluntarily to provide an important service to the people of Michigan.

**KEEP YOUR SERVICE ELIGIBILITY — PAY YOUR DUES BY JANUARY 15, 1971.**

**SAVE TIME AND MONEY BY BUYING THROUGH MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU ORDER-BY-MAIL PLAN TODAY**

As one of the Michigan Farm Bureau members, you are entitled to purchase any one or more of the exciting, nationally brand merchandise offered by the Michigan Farm Bureau’s Order-by-Mail plan. You save time and money by buying through this new service to Michigan Farm Bureau members. Members and their family only are allowed to make purchases at the cost prices listed. Orders for purchases by others will not be honored.

**CUT & SAVE**

**FARM BUREAU WIL-PRICE PREMIUM ORDER FORM**

Each piece of merchandise listed in this Wil-Price Premiums advertisement carries a key number corresponding to the number on this farm Bureau Order-by-Mail catalog. Complete the necessary information as to color and size. All merchandise carries the same number and address label from your issue of the Michigan Farm Bureau News to the order form. Fill in the amount of your check or money order and mail to Wil-Price Premiums, Box 630, Adrian, Michigan 48101. All checks and money orders should be payable in U.S. currency. Void where prohibited.

**Name and Address**

Name and Address. Please include your address label from Michigan Farm Bureau News here.

I am enclosing my check in the amount of $ for my purchase, Michigan sales tax and shipping costs. Please include your Farm Bureau member number only indicate your street or address for U.P.S. delivery.
EIGHTEEN UNINCIRCULATED BEFORE 1900 - $3.


FOR SALE: 14 Purebred Angus cows two years old and some heifer calves. Emmet H. Davis, 9745 12 Mile Road, N.E., Rockford, Michigan 49341. Phone: 866-7110.

FOR SALE: 1, 2, 3, Ionia, Michigan. Phone 527-0860.

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For details on the Special Farmer and Ranchers' Tour departing February 9, 1971, approved by FHA, VA, and Farm Home Bureau.

Baker's Community Homes
214 W. Pine Street
Elkis, Michigan 49831

PREVENT Foot Rot

1. Use a good footbath. 2. Keep barn dry. 3. Keep feed and bedding clean.

WANTED: ALLIS ROUND HAY BALER, various sizes. WANTED: ALLIS ROUND HAY BALER, various sizes. WANTED: ALLIS ROUND HAY BALER, various sizes.

Canadian Pacific Air's 9th Annual Farmers' and Ranchers' Tour - Where Sun's Gone for the Winter.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC
27 DAYS - $179*
Departs Lansing, Michigan, February 9, 1971.

This vacation begins with a visit to the State of Hawaii. Then it's on to New Zealand. You'll have time to enjoy the cities of Auckland and Wellington, see different types of farms and have lots of time to get to know your farm hosts. From the city of Christchurch you'll fly on to Australia for a pleasurable tour that will take you to cotton farms, cattle ranches and the largest wheat growing properties in the world. You'll be entertained in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. And of course, you'll have time for sightseeing and shopping too, in the bustling city of Sydney. And if you like, you can add a fun-filled extension to your trip which will take you to Hong Kong and Japan.

Tour price includes round trip air fare from Lansing, Detroit or Chicago, ground transportation by special restaurants, hotel accommodations and most meals on a sharing basis. Optional extensions available.

You can get full details by mailing this coupon. We'll send you a detailed information on the Special Farmers' and Ranchers' tour departing February 9, 1971.

NAME: ____________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________

TELEPHONE: ________________________

Mail to: CP AFB Farmers' and Ranchers' Tours,

Michigan Farm News, P. O. Box 960,

Lansing, MI 48904 USA.

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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BARBER SILOS - used. 2 Patz barn tors ... 100 groups said it would force many farmers out of farming; 100

SALTED ROUND HAY Balers. Write for prices and catalog.

IT PROVIDES INSTANT HEAT TO WARM WORK AREAS. WARMTH MAKES EMPLOYEES MORE PRODUCTIVE - MORE PROFITABLE.

It reduces insurance rates because this high output furnace reduces fire risks and makes money for you in insurance savings. It's a MONEY MAKING MACHINE!!

It provides instant heat to warm work areas. Warmth makes employees more productive - more profitable. It reduces insurance rates because this high output furnace reduces fire risks and makes money for you in insurance savings. It's a MONEY MAKING MACHINE!!

3-BEDROOM, CONTEMPORARY HOMES

3-BEDROOM, CONTEMPORARY HOMES

FLY WITH US TO GREENER PASTURES


FLY WITH US TO GREENER PASTURES

SAVE ON KEEPER'S FORM... MAKE ANY CHANGE desired, repaired, parts included. Total price $5.99, 1 day service. Our 15th year. Experienced trained. Send for free shipping info. High Service, 248 S. Lemp Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103. (12-tf-24p)

FREE CIRCULAR. COUNTIES RECORD... take care of all your advertising needs.

FREE ADVERTISEMENT... make any change desired, repaired, parts included. Total price $5.99, 1 day service. Our 15th year. Experienced trained. Send for free shipping info. High Service, 248 S. Lemp Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103. (12-tf-24p)

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Michigan Farm News

John Heim, MCMCA Field Representative in North West Michigan, has resigned this position to join the Traverse City Branch of Farm Bureau Services. John had been working primarily with MCMCA's Red Tart Cherry and Feeder Pig Divisions. The announcement was made by MCMCA Manager Robert E. Braden.

The Sault Ste. Marie News and Upper Peninsula Farm Journal has a friendly greeting each issue, heading the editors' column. Being a "laker-lined" paper, the salutation reads: "A Friendly Blast; 3 long -- 3 short. When a sailor meets a sailor -- As their boats draw nigh -- It's three long blasts -- 3 short shots -- Their way of saying Hi!"

Dates have been set for the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer conferences -- January 6 and 7, 1971 at Cadillac's Motor Lodge at Cadillac and a February 23, 24 and 25 date at the Valley Plaza, Midland. Deadline for the January meeting reservations is December 15 and for the February conference, February 1.

FPC Holds Annual Meeting

Alvin Marion, Saline, was elected to the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative board of directors at their annual meeting held in Grand Rapids on November 9, 1970.

Mr. Marion, a dairy and cash crop farmer, is secretary of Washkan Farmer Oil. He reported that sales again set a record for Farmers Petroleum. Sales to the farm market improved 75% over last year and net margins, before federal income taxes, were $340,016.

Highlights of Farmers Petroleum operations for the year included a 6% increase in total heating oil sold, with "Custom Diesel" fuel again leading the sales increase of liquid fuels by over 16%. Tire sales were boosted over 23%. Three new products were added to the up-to-date line, two new high-speed bulk plants were added, and important growth was seen in the oil burner service and the "emergency" tire service.

FARM LABOR ORGANIZERS HIT CONFERENCE

A Welfare League Conference on Migratory Labor proved to be more than an effort by the Chavez-paid organizers to use the platform for propaganda purposes.

A four-man panel at the Detroit meeting consisted of Fidel Carcel, of United Migrants for Opportunity; Joseph Garcia, Mexican-American Specialist of the Diocese of Saginaw; Roy Fuentes, Executive Associate, Office of Economic Opportunity, and one grower -- Calvin "Pete" Lutz, Manistee County fruit grower, nurseryman and members of the Board of Directors of Michigan Farm Bureau.

Designed to provide information on the changing picture in seasonal farm labor work and in the opportunities for migrant workers, the Chairman was unable to provide an impartial atmosphere and little was accomplished except name-calling, accusations, and threats to Mr. Lutz.

Later in the day, the Chavez workers sought to use the Welfare League for their own purposes. Joining the organization at noon, they sought to use the annual meeting to place the League on record in support of the present efforts to boycott lettuce. Specifically, A. A. P. stored the boycott. However, League President Erwin Simon, attorney of Detroit, stood his ground and enforced the rules of the convention to prevent a stampede action.

During the annual meeting the name of Michigan Welfare League, with more than 50 years of history behind it, was changed to Michigan League for Human Services. The new President is Robert Forman, of the University of Michigan.

Bitter Bottle Battle Brightens

Throw-Aways Under Fire

After a seven-year fight to eliminate the costly and dangerous throwaway bottle, Farm Bureau members throughout the State are winning support.

Currently putting up a last-ditch fight, the supporters of the nuisance containers are claiming that even returnable bottles are not being returned. In most cases, the return value on these bottles has not been increased in the last 20 years. The return value does not represent the actual value of the bottle, nor does it have any relationship to the cost of removing the bottle as unwanted litter.

Farm Bureau policy has urged an increase in the return value to recognize changing conditions. The contents of the bottle no longer sells for a nickel. Why should we expect the bottle to be returned for two cents?

A recent editorial in the Detroit Free Press says -- "Away With Throwaways." We say so too!

Double Fast Time Fantasy

The State Board of Canvassers has certified the petitions circulated by the Chamber of Commerce and others during the past year to require the Legislature to consider an act to have it put on the ballot in November, 1972. This issue is still involved in a case before the Supreme Court.

The background of this petition drive is too fantastic to believe. Circulators were permitted, by court order, to circulate petitions for close to a year and have made ten separate fillings. A great deal of proof was presented to the Board, including that the petitions, if properly canvassed, would fall far short of the required sales of signatures. It was found that many circulation workers were not registered voters. This was an exceptionally high percentage than normally expected in a petition drive. In any event, this indicates the importance of the issue.
PROTECTION FOR ALL SEASONS

'From the 'Everything You Need' Insurance People.

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP

Farm Bureau Mutual - Farm Bureau Life - Community Service Insurance - Community Service Acceptance