



# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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

Vol. 49, No. 12

THE NEW AGE

December 1, 1970



*Judy Behrenwald 1971 Michigan Farm Bureau Queen*

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**Pull Out Section: '71 STATE FARM BUREAU POLICY STATEMENTS**

EDITORIAL . . .



**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 512 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 is well expressed in part of the FORWARD to the resolutions as adopted:

*"We believe 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 with its 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



**"THERE'S A WAY TO GET HELP, NEIGHBOR.."**



**Special Announcement**

The Michigan Farm Bureau is offering a new service to its membership . . . an Order-by-Mail plan for members of the Michigan Farm Bureau and their families only.

Each month an array of merchandise ranging from 8-track stereo tape sets to coffee pots will be offered.

In its first offer, such manufacturers as Mirro, world's largest producers of cookware; Ross Electronics, one of the leading names in the radio, tape recorder and electronics field; Hamilton Beach, a leader in the manufacture of blenders, electric knives and other kitchen aids; Bisco, manufacturer of gift items; the Baltimore Luggage Company; Sheffield Watch Company and others.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Order-by-Mail plan is being handled by Wil-Way Premiums, Inc., of Adrian, Michigan.

In the advertisement on page 17, the suggested retail price of the manufacturer is listed, followed by the Order-by-Mail plan cost to Michigan Farm Bureau members. Michigan sales tax indicated by s/t and shipping costs to the home of the purchaser are additional.

All merchandise will be delivered by United Parcel Service and is insured up to \$100. Some of the merchandise will be shipped directly from the manufacturer. Because of this, allow for a minimum of three weeks delivery.

United Parcel Service makes deliveries by street address only. If the member does not have a street address, indicate directions to your home on the order blank.

Merchandise offered through the Michigan Farm Bureau Order-by-Mail carries the warranty of the manufacturer, thus insuring the buyer of high quality merchandise.

**MICHIGAN FARM NEWS**

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

*Editor's Note: This month's President's Column features random excerpts from President Smith's Annual Address "The New Age of Agriculture" given before the Michigan Farm Bureau delegation at the 1970 Annual Meeting in the Grand Rapids 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 professional knowledge and action to win 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 22 best agricultural counties during the next thirty years. We farmers must work together 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 of the world, in the largest quantity and quality, are being held back out of boundless fear, created by unlimited propaganda.

"Such unfounded stories that could support a healthy agriculture must be challenged by agriculture and be defeated.

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

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

"The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC) is establishing itself in Michigan. It is on the move and we Michigan folks 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 theory and take more cooperative action!

"Marketing and bargaining in cooperatives is the key to the future success of the NEW AG AGE. I urge all farmers, with all their talents, to 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. Also 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.

"In the years ahead, we must continue to decide the question: WHO WILL SPEAK FOR FARMERS?"

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

Elton R. Smith

# Policy Decisions Are Made . . . Time For Action

by Robert E. Smith

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 now time for all Farm Bureau members to acquaint themselves with those policies and do whatever possible to help carry them out in the coming year. A pull-out section in this issue contains all of the State policies that were adopted. Hopefully, every Farm Bureau member will save this section; take time to read those policies and be ready to help in any way to work toward goals that have been set. Michigan's voting delegates will help determine Farm Bureau policies 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 another record number of recommendations from the counties to the State Policy Development Committee. The quality of the recommendations indicate that Farm Bureau members in the counties had given a great deal of thought to the many issues facing agriculture.

In order to carry out policies dealing with legislative matters, it is essential that the legislative team be ready for action. This team consists of legislative committees on state and national affairs in each county, together with the Minutemen in the Community Groups, and also with a great deal of assistance from various other forces such as the Women's Committee, Young Farmers Committee, County Boards of Directors and individual Farm Bureau members. It is only through a coordinated team effort that progress can be made toward reaching policy goals.

The following is a summary of some of the issues that can be expected in the coming legislative session:

## STATE BUDGET AND TAX REVENUE

It appears that state tax revenues must be increased. This will, in turn, be highly controversial as to how it can be accomplished. The state budget adopted this past year was thrown out of balance by possible deficit of some \$62 million. Because of constitutional requirements prohibiting deficit state spending, it was necessary to cut back in many areas.

Most of the expected deficit in the budget resulted from the UAW strike against General Motors. This amounted to at least \$50 million of the expected \$62 million deficit. This came from strike-related costs, including about \$25 million loss in revenue and another \$25 million increase in welfare costs.

Most of the budget cuts were not long-run savings. In many cases, such as deferral of building projects, they merely shifted expenditure until a later date.

## State Salaries Up

Cost will rise in the coming year for a variety of reasons — one, the general increases due to inflation; another, however, is the fact that the State Officers Compensation Commission has approved across-the-board pay increases for top state officials and

lawmakers. For instance, the Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court receive a raise of \$7,000 a year, the Governor a \$5,000 a year increase, and Legislators an increase of \$2,000 a year. Their current \$3,000 a year expense allowance will be cut to \$2,750 per year. These increases will go into effect on January 1 unless the new Legislature, by a two-thirds vote, rejects the proposal. The increases were considerably less than had been recommended by some legislators and others. (For instance, one of the recommendations was that supreme court justices should receive an increase of \$22,000, bringing them up to a \$57,000 salary.) These increases will no doubt result in salary increases for all judges in the entire court system.

Wages will also rise for the state's 47,000 classified workers. The State Civil Service Commission is recommending an increase of 9.8%. Whatever increase is accepted, it will add up to \$42 million to the cost of state government. This, too, can also only be changed by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. The auto wage settlement was used as an argument for the wage increase for state employees.

## State School Aid Costs Up

School finance reform, if carried out, will also create a need for increased state taxes, 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 yield from property taxes in poor districts per pupil, will be the same as it would be in a well-to-do district with \$30,000 of property valuation behind each pupil. It would also guarantee that the yield from 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 Legislature will also have to provide the source of additional funds to offset the shifting of some of the cost of schools from the property tax.

## Farm Assessments

The taxation and assessment of farmland will again be a major issue. H.B. 2533 ("green acres" bill) passed both houses in the previous session; however, it was bottled up at the last moment in the House Appropriations Committee. In spite of this, good progress has been made and more and more people are beginning to recognize that Michigan should other states in the special taxation of farmland, not only because of the burden on actual farmers, but also in order to encourage the preservation of this most important natural resource.

The Governor's Task Force on Agricultural Problems found in its many hearings throughout the state that the property tax is considered to be the number one problem facing agriculture.

## Restoration of Tax Credit

Last year, the Legislature repealed the property tax credit against the state income tax. This, in effect, created an additional tax burden on all property owners, but especially on farmers. The repeal, however, was for a one-year period and the tax credit will automatically go back into effect unless the Legislature again repeals it. Efforts will be made to maintain this credit unless other more significant property tax relief is forthcoming.

## FARM LABOR

Another top issue facing farmers this year within the state and nation-wide is the area of organization of agricultural workers. The insidious boycott technique of forcing farmers and workers alike into signing labor contracts has been perfected in California. It was first used on grapes and now is being used on lettuce. Michigan is expected to be affected by this same technique. While the secondary boycott is illegal in industry under NLRA, it is apparently legal in agriculture and can be used to "rule or ruin."

Presently, there are no state or federal labor laws setting up legal guidelines and regulations dealing with farm labor organization problems. If Congress continues to fail to act on legislation setting up an Agricultural Labor Relations Board to set labor guidelines in agriculture, it may be necessary to seek state legislation. California 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 Laws, possible extension 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., etc.

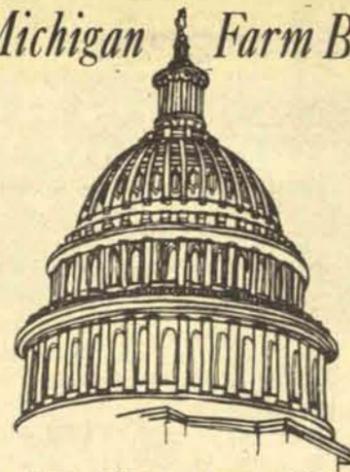
## Environment

Ecology and environment will continue to be a major issue. H.B. 3055, passed this last year permitting most anyone to sue anyone else for alleged pollution. It has only recently gone into effect and has not yet been used to any great extent. Court action brought against approximately a half-dozen farmers in the past year have been under the old statutes.

## Marketing

A review of the policies passed at the State Annual Meeting will indicate many areas where legislation is needed to bring equity and fairness to the marketplace for growers of many commodities not presently protected under state laws.

Michigan Farm Bureau



# CAPITOL REPORT

## Ag Task Force Reports To Governor

Property tax relief was the Number One recommendation heard by the Governor's Task Force on the Future of Agriculture in its hearings around the State.

In its report presented to Governor Milliken on December 1, the Task Force recognized the need for tax reform as its Number One recommendation.

In second spot, the report places recommendations to assist farmers in more effectively and efficiently marketing farm products. The report recommends legislation calling for filing of contracts offered by processors, posting of prices prior to delivery, prompt payment for farm commodities, and deduction of marketing service fees by processors when approved by producers. The report also urges additional marketing specialists in both the Extension Service and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

## Farm Labor on List

Other items spotlighted in the letter of transmittal to the Governor included:

— Farm labor legislation on federal and/or state level to protect producers and consumers against loss of crops through work stoppages at harvest or other critical periods.

— Legislation providing tax relief for farm property in urbanizing area (H.B. 2533) to aid in creation of green acres of open space.

— Stepped-up research on methods of crop and animal pest control to replace chemicals now under fire.

— Development of efficient methods of handling agricultural wastes to combat pollution.

— Continued recognition of society's obligation to assist farmers in providing improved housing for seasonal farm workers.

## 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.

In carrying out the charge given the Task Force by Governor Milliken, a schedule of 17 meetings was held around the State to permit the Task Force to hear farmers state their problems and offer possible solutions.

The Task Force has expressed its appreciation to the several hundred farmers who assisted through their participation in developing the recommendations presented to the Governor.

## "Will Give Consideration" — Governor

"I will give every serious consideration to the recommendations of the Task Force in the development of my Message to the Legislature in January," said Governor Milliken in requesting a report by December 1.

The following were named to the Task Force by the Governor: Dan E. Reed, Chairman, Duane Baldwin, Mrs. Eric Furu, Robert Craig, Karl Wright (replaced Arthur Mauch, who retired), Joa Penzien, Rep. Stanley Powell, Mrs. Seth Tompkins, Senator Charles Zollar and John Dempsey.

## Annual Report, MFB Women's Committee Chr. Maxine Topliff

"My report this year is about wheels. In the farming business we use many wheels, tractor wheels, wagon wheels, big wheels, little wheels, just all kinds of wheels. The first wheel I want to tell you about isn't made of rubber or iron, but it's a 'real-live-people-wheel' and let's call it a steering wheel. Each of you in this room is or may be a part of it, so let me tell you about it. Let's start way at the outside or rim of this wheel. Will each county vice chairman of the Farm Bureau women please stand and remain standing? Ladies, you are an important part of this wheel. You are responsible for setting up the program of work in your county. Will each county Farm Bureau women's chairman please stand now? You are the inner rim of this wheel and you ladies are the key in your county that starts this wheel in motion. You are 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 Executive committees to meet with the Executive committee of the county Farm Bureau board to study ways you may work together in your county on the total county Farm Bureau program. You are doing a great job, but let's strive to make it even better. Will you all join me as we applaud these county chairmen and vice-chairmen for the good job they do?"

"The spokes of this wheel are our District Vice Chairmen. These ladies, together with our District Chairmen, form our entire working, program planning committee. The vice chairman is the chairman of the program planning committee and I want you to meet these ladies. From District 1, Betty Rhoda; District 2, Ruth Crouch; District 3, Nancy Gieger; District 4, Evelyn Rhoddes; District 5, Linda Jennings; District 6, Doris Mahaffy; District 7, Louise Wagoner; District 8, Martha Baker; District 9, Loraine Lutz; District 10E, Edna Timm; District 10W, Phila Shanahan; District 11E, Faye Gribbell, and District 11W, Teri Tikkanen. Your State Vice Chairman, Doris Wieland, is chairman of the State Program Planning Committee.

"The hub of this wheel is next and your District chairman do a fine job of binding the spokes together. It is with a great deal of pride and pleasure I introduce to you your State Farm Bureau Women's Committee. Alice Burandt from District 1; Alice Lee, District 2; Claudine Jackson, District 3; Leora Smith, District 4; Maud Bristol, District 5; Margaret Welke, District 6; Grace Greenhoe, District 7; Marie Swindlehurst, District 8; Ruth Cooper, District 9; Margaret Kartes, District 10E; Bertha Parsons, District 10W; Marie Postma who is also the 3rd member of the executive committee, District 11E and Mille Corey, District 11W. Your Vice Chairman is Doris Wieland, my name is Maxine Topliff and you ladies elected me to be your chairman.

"The incentive that keeps this wheel in motion and running smoothly is our coordinator, Helen Atwood. You've heard of perpetual motion, well if you followed in Helen's footsteps for a

while I'm sure you'd say she was perpetual motion. Helen, we are proud to have you for the drive shaft of this steering wheel and I guess it's the drive out in our counties that keeps you so busy.

"So ladies, this is the story of our present Farm Bureau Steering wheel. We have some who are retiring from our committee this year and I want you to meet them. First, Eleanor Honkala who served as chairman of District 11W and these other ladies who have served as vice chairmen of their Districts. They are Ruth Dowd, from District 1; Helen Nixon, District 3; Betty Marquardt, District 5; Neta Call, District 9; and Marilyn McNally from 11E. 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 ship is Farm Bureau, so let's look at some of the handles we have used in our projects this year. In order for any organization to exist you have members and it's good to see how many of you worked on the membership campaign. We are a family membership organization so it's only right that we as women do help in the membership campaign. When one hand helps the other you can carry on many worthwhile activities.

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

"Our Washington Seminar is another handle. This is another joint effort of the women and county boards in many counties and to me, this is the way it should be. Yes, the women do sponsor it, but the whole county Farm Bureau benefits from the Seminar.

"Our fourth handle might be Michigan Women for Highway Safety. This organization is about 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 our Young People's Citizenship Seminar. This too is another project of our total 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 where 65 students participated. The other one was held at Central Mich. Univ. in July and 181 students took part in this one.

"The remaining handle on our wheel is the rural-urban activities carried on in many counties. Have you ever thought of an exchange day with an urban homemaker?"

"Another wheel I find in our activities is a potter's wheel. This is a rotating wheel used to shape clay. Our clay might be the educational or training part of our



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 their districts in planning the program of work best suited to your needs. Many of you know that this was the first year for a District Program planning workshop and from all reports these were a great success. Your district officers, regional representatives and Helen Atwood worked together to help you plan programs and projects to fit your own county needs. We will have a 3rd, one day meeting of the committee this year. This will be tomorrow night, Nov. 10. This is new this year.

"Another of our educational programs is our District Rallies or as you call them District Meetings. We had speakers on 'New Trends in School Curriculum' 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 own local school as they set the curriculum. Our fall district meeting speaker was Mr. M. J. Buschlen who told us about MASA and Farm Labor. There was much food for thought in what Mr. Buschlen told us. The MASA is a member of our Farm Bureau family and it is my hope that we can all become better acquainted with each of our Farm Bureau family members. Earlier we said Farm Bureau was our ship so we should learn what is in our ship that can help us in our own farming operation.

"There are spring and fall district council meetings. These are well attended and at your fall meetings you had some communications training. Learning the right way to communicate is fun. If you have a chance to take this training, please do, you'll be glad you did.

"Another mound of clay on our potters 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 committee and helped in the publicity. This is another learning experience and we do encourage more of you Farm Bureau women to attend.

"There is another wheel we find in use on our farms 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 Marge-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 scholarship 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 program is a happy occasion too. This year five of the Merit Mothers are Farm Bureau women, and Mrs. Carl Abel of Hudson is 1970 State Mother of the Year. She and her husband operate a poultry farm and are 'participating life members of Farm Bureau.' Does your county have an outstanding mother? Why not nominate her?"

"Sewing and craft contests in your counties is another of our fun and, hopefully, greater member participation projects. You asked for crafts to be added to the needlework of last year. Be sure to see 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 people would like very much to go, but this is not possible. MFB women may send just a total of nine people. If you are a contributing member, you probably have gotten an application from ACWW to attend. If you did get one, fill it out and send it back and trust that you may be lucky enough to be able to go as a contributing member. We are sorry that all who want to go won't be able to.

"The last propelling wheel we will look at today is the wheel of progress. 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 less community groups than we did but we still rely on groups primarily for our committee members. Some counties are taking a long hard look and coming up with other ways of involving more of our membership in our women's program. Have we checked with our county boards and regional representatives for prospective committee members, programs and projects in which we can work together? You see, we don't plow with horses anymore, we keep updating our equipment so let's keep pace with our programs to keep up with today's needs.

"Your Women's State Executive committee has met several times this year for business and to meet with women from other organizations. One group was the officers

SIX COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMITTEES . . . were honored at the Women's Awards Program during their annual meeting luncheon. Helen Atwood, Coordinator, MFB Women's Activities, commended all the women for their participation the past year and their evidence of increased interest in Farm Bureau activities. Counties of Michigan were divided into three membership groups. Certificates of award 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 Mac-Luce, second. Mrs. Faye Gribbell is Mac-Luce, chairman. In the second membership group category, Montcalm county chairman Mrs. Dorothy Perkins accepted their first place award. The second place award was presented to Shiawassee county. Mrs. Marion Sutton is the chairman of the committee. In the largest membership group category, Mrs. Olis Hudson, chairman of the Livingston county Farm Bureau Women's committee, received the first place award. Second place winner was Kent county. Mrs. Evelyn Rodgers is chairman of this group.

of the Michigan Medical Society Auxiliary. Some of these organizations have projects or programs we can work on too.

"We did increase our cherry sales this year. We sold 3534, 30-pound tins. Let's work harder next year.

"As you can see many wheels have been in motion this year accomplishing many tasks and setting sights on goals not yet attained. Time is the one thing we all seem to have trouble with. I said once I didn't have time to do a certain task and was reminded that that was not quite true, that what I really meant was, it was not on my priority list. This was right, so since then if a task needs doing, 'take time' and this little poem says it just right.

Take time to think —

It is the source of power.

Take time to play —

It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read —

It is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to pray —

It is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to love and be loved —

It is a God-given privilege.

Take time to be friendly —

It is the road to happiness.

Take time to laugh —

It is the music of the soul.

Take time to give —

It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work —

It is the price of success."

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

**NEW UPPER PENINSULA FARM BUREAU UNITS**

Three new geographical names have been added to Michigan Farm Bureau. For several years, 71 county units were listed as making up the Michigan Farm Bureau Association. Since their annual meetings in October, several counties in the Upper Peninsula have reorganized and formed

three new Farm Bureau units. By official action of the individual county Farm Bureaus, Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon now are listed as the Copper Country Farm Bureau and are under the presidency of Leonard Ollila, Houghton. Hiawathaland Farm Bureau is

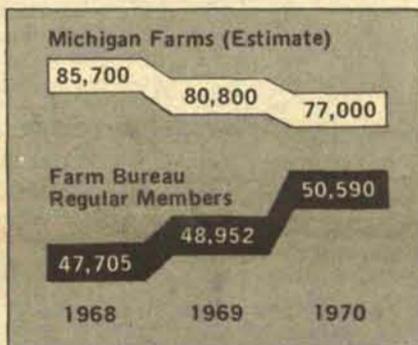
made up of Delta county, the east portion of Marquette and Alger county with William Conine, Trenary, as president. The Iron Range Farm Bureau brought together Iron, Dickinson and the west portion of Marquette counties. Frank Tuchowski is president.

**3 New FBS Board Members**



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 Black, Walter Frahm, Loren Gettel, Elmo Heft, Harvey Leuenberger, Rudy Yost, James Clark and David Morris.

# Farm Bureau memberships are up 5 1/2% while Michigan farms are down by 8 1/2%



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.

Where *Your Farm Comes First*

# FARM BUREAU

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC

Three new members were elected to the Board of Directors of Farm Bureau Services at the cooperative's annual meeting which was held November 9, 1970, in Grand Rapids.

The new directors are: Loren Black, Traverse City, who operates a beef and cherry farm in Grand Traverse county and serves as a member of the advisory board for the Farm Bureau Services branch in Traverse City; James Clark, Onondaga, specializes in feeder cattle, is past president of Eaton County Farm Bureau and a member of Eaton Farm Bureau Cooperative board and Elmo Heft, Conklin. Mr. Heft is a dairy farmer in Ottawa county, is chairman of the Coopersville Cooperative board and president of the Western Michigan Holstein Breeders Association.

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-buyer, through the use of the cooperative, can make the best plans of Farm Bureau Services become successful.

**Freedoms Foundation Award Accepted**



The Freedom's Foundation George Washington Honor Medal Award was accepted by Farm Bureau Insurance Group Vice President Nile L. Vermillion 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 Freedom's Foundation Essay Contest for eighth grade students throughout Michigan. Some 900 students in 96 schools participated.

This unique community relations program was first introduced in 1968 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 Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge for entry in National competition. Awardees 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 350. Policyholders number approximately 230,000.

Freedom's 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 representative) 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 Michigan Farm Bureau. Montcalm county earned a Four Star Award under the presidency of James Quisenberry.

Three Star winning counties and their presidents were: Montmorency and Hilbert Schultz; Osceola and Buel 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, Van Buren county, for Membership and Commodity marketing.

Benzie county, Donald Nugent, and Washtenaw county, Armin Weidmayer, earned Three Star Awards for Membership and Young Farmer activities. For Membership and Community Group activities were Cheboygan, Gerald Brown; Emmet with Robert Hand; Marquette-Alger and William Conine and Menominee county with president Roy Rasner.

Two star county Awards were presented Alcona, Alvin Andrews, president; Alpena, Beverly Veliquette; Arenac, Tom Kopaczekski, Baraga; Ronald Moilanen; Barry, Robert Bender; Bay, Herbert Schmidt; Berrien, Dave Timmerick; Branch, Remus Riggs; Calhoun, Hugh White; Cass, Levi Van Tuyle; Charlevoix, Wayne Saunders; Clare, Charles Magnus; and Clinton, Lee Ormston.

Other Two Star winners included Delta, Kenneth Sahn; Eaton, James Clark; Genesee, Donald Hill; Gladwin, Alvin Shearer; Gratiot, Norman Gulick; Hillsdale, Alvin Wells; Houghton, Leonard Ollila; Huron, Keith Sturm; Ingham, Junior Brownfield; Ionia, John Westbrook; Iosco, Lyle Robinson; Iron, Frank Tuchowski; Isabella, Roger Himebaugh; Jackson, Dale Crouch; 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 Wirbel; Missaukee, Don Vanderpol; Monroe, Elmer Anderson; Muskegon, Donald Stevens; Newaygo, David Zerrip; N. W. Michigan, Floyd Hant; Oakland, Adolph Engler; Oceana, Francis Hawley; Ogemaw, Gerald Green.

Other Two Star winners were Otsego, Eugene Fleming; Ottawa, Arthur Lucas; Saginaw, Harvey Gosen; St. Clair, Fred Schultz; St. Joseph, James Roberts; Sanilac, Kenneth Fiecke; Shiawassee, Earl Reed; Tuscola, Gerald Hicks; Wayne, George Carpenter and Wexford, Leon Cooper.

*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.*

*Ordinarily, 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 traveling 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 36th Annual Convention general sessions November 24. Pres. 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 the 26th, National Farm-City Week. President Nixon requested "that leaders of agricultural organizations, business groups, labor unions, youth and women's clubs, civic and fraternal associations, schools and others join in noting not only the interdependent roles of producers and consumers of America's agricultural abundance but also their opportunities for cooperation in building for the future."

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."

## MAFC ANNUAL MEETING



DR. ERIC THOR

MAFC's (Michigan Association of Farmers Cooperatives) Annual Meeting and State Co-op Clinic will be held December 15 at the Steinhaus (6025 W. Saginaw, Lansing) for managers and directors. This year's meeting carries the theme "Cooperative Extension Service Appreciation Day." L A Cheney, Exec. Sec. MAFC, requests that invitations be extended to County Extension Directors and/or agents.

The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. with registration. The Annual Meeting is slated to begin at 10 with Dr. William E. Cooper, Michigan State University Assoc. Prof. of Zoology speaking on "Environmental Issues and its Impact on Agriculture".

Dr. Clinton Meadows, MSU, Professor, Dairy Dept. and Jack Dendel, president of Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative, will share the noon luncheon speaking honors. "How Can Cooperatives and Extension Programs Work Together to Improve Agriculture" will be their discussion topic.

Dr. Eric Thor, Administrator, Farmer Cooperative Service, US-

DA, 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.

Committee and officers reports and election of administrative council members for 1 year terms are also on the agenda.

### "GRAPESTAKES" CONTEST WINNERS



MRS. MEYERS - AL ALMY

Winners of the "GRAPESTAKES" contest prizes were drawn during the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Banquet, held in the Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium, November 9.

The newly-crowned Michigan Farm Bureau Queen, Judy Behrenwald, drew the names of the winning entrants.

All prizes were provided by the California Table Grape Commission.

The winner of the first prize, a three-piece set of Samsonite

patio furniture, 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 Holdwick 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 Pickup Truck.



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# 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, from Community Groups through state officers. The organization must maintain the best type of employees to carry out the wishes of the members.

While programs should be geared to serving commercial agriculture, membership opportunity should be provided for all people interested in agriculture. Appropriate safeguards must be maintained to limit the voting rights to committed farmers. The distinction between regular and associate members must be made clear and concise. County Boards must observe the spirit of such a definition which should be carried in their bylaws.



MEMBERS OF THE 1970 . . . Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee are, left to right: Wayne Musbach, Clarksville, District 4; Bruce Leipprandt, Pigeon, District 6; Robert Eggle, Tustin, District 7; Carl Quackenbush, Burt, District 8; Bernell Hershberger, Mio, District 10; Otto Flatt, Engadine, District 11; Mrs. Raymond Postma, Rudyard, Mrs. Ray Anderson, Chief, and Mrs. Marvin Lott, Mason, representing Farm Bureau Women; John Laurie, Cass City, Member at Large; Dean Pridgeon, Chairman, Montgomery, Member at Large; Leslie Dowd, Lawrence, District 1; Karl Howard, Marlette, Farm Bureau Young Farmers; William Middleton, Ortonville, Farm Bureau Young Farmers; Eugene Roberts, Lake City, Member at Large; Henry Jennings, Swartz Creek, District 5; David Diehl, Dansville, Farm Bureau Young Farmers; Donald Nugent, Vice Chairman, Frankfort, District 9; Glenn Hanson, Howell, District 3; Alvin Wells, North Adams, District 2.

## RECOMMENDATIONS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The recommendations on National and International Affairs adopted by the voting delegates have been forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for use by the National Resolutions Committee, which is made up of representatives of every State Farm Bureau. Michigan's recommendations will also serve as a guide for our voting delegates to the forthcoming Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The National and International Policies adopted at our National Convention will serve as the policy for all State Farm Bureaus. This is essential in order that there may be effective harmony and unanimity among Farm Bureau organizations throughout the Nation.

Michigan'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 our organization. We belong 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 as any other people. One concern to both urban and farm people is pollution of our environment. We welcome the concerns of others in this area. We point to our efforts in improving our surroundings by soil conservation practices, and work to stop littering of our countryside.

We believe 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 with its 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.

Because of these and other concerns, we put great effort into establishing policy for our organization. We are convinced that policy only has meaning when it truly reflects the attitudes and beliefs of our farmer members. For this reason, every member is given an opportunity to contribute to this policy development process.

This process involves 1,100 community groups, county commodity committees, 71 county annual meetings and eight statewide advisory committees. The recommendations of all these sources come to the State Policy Development Committee, who, to inform themselves, confer with some 50 resource people. The committee after spending six long days in deliberation, present to the delegate body, this, our annual report.

After consideration and adoption, this becomes the policy of our organization for 1971. Through the strength that comes from unity, we pledge to achieve our goals.

Dean Pridgeon, Chairman  
MFB Policy Development Committee

## PART I

### RECOMMENDATION ON STATE AFFAIRS

#### APPRECIATION

The 75th Michigan Legislature acted favorably on several Farm Bureau policies, including:

1. Further tax measures, including the requirement that "zoning and existing use . . ." be considered in determining property valuations, and improvements in the Commercial Forest Reserves Act (Pearson Act) including increased payments to the county.
2. Legislation providing matching funds for upgrading housing for seasonal workers.
3. Amendments to various dairy and livestock laws, including increased indemnity payments for tuberculosis and brucellosis, calfhood vaccination, and improvements to the butter, cheese and ice cream laws.
4. Updating of the "Horton Trespass Law" to extend its provisions to fishing, snowmobiling and to privately-owned, fenced wildlands.
5. Reflectorization of license plates and other traffic safety legislation. Also, legislation permitting relocation payments under the Federal Aid Highway Act.
6. Improvement in the state school aid formula, including for the first time aid for vocational education.
7. Approval of two new research programs — cash crops (dry beans, sugar beets, etc.) and integrated control of pests — and appropriations to continue research on fruits and vegetables, pesticides, mastitis, beef cattle — forage, white wheat, sod production, mechanical harvesting, peach tree life, cattle and swine infertility, fruit and vegetable weather adaptability.
8. Creation of new Potato Commission.
9. Amendments to hunting laws to help control woodchucks and raccoons and provide hunter safety measures.
10. Amendments to the State Meat Inspection Act, thereby preventing federal control of this vital service.

We commend the Governor and the Legislature on the 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 such proposed legislation not in the best interest of agriculture was not adopted.

#### TAX REFORM

Farm Bureau policies have supported total tax reform for several years. Much has been accomplished 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 1969 study revealed that in urban areas property taxes as a percentage of family income ranged from 3.3% to 4%. In sharp contrast, U.S.D.A. data shows that farm real estate taxes as a percentage of net 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.
- Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built.
- New methods of financing schools, with strict limitations on property taxes for school purposes.
- Use of the income tax as the major source of funds to finance schools.
- Assessment of agricultural land as farmland as long as it is so used instead of on its possible potential value.
- Prevention of inequities 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

Confiscatory taxation and assessment of agricultural land has reached critical proportions. Latest published U.S.D.A. data show that farm property taxes as a percentage of net income are now over 20 percent! Four to five times higher than taxes paid by other segments of the economy. Open land, while being taxed to support services, creates no cost. It requires no services such as sewage, water or schools and actually helps moderate a service load to the community. Agriculture — the basic industry — is easily forgotten in land use planning, as it cannot be nucleated into great plants like steel and autos. It creates no commuting traffic jams and no parking problems. Farmers are the victims of an insidious "real estate roulette." Unable to pay the taxes forces selling, often to a developer with large financial resources who can afford to hold it for huge speculative profits.

Such tax confiscation of the value of land is no more acceptable than would be the confiscation of the value of other types of investment.

A proper tax structure can be an effective method of preserving the better farmland for future food needs. Such "green acres" and "open space" will also conserve water, help purify polluted air and provide for esthetic and recreational values.

Many progressive states have recognized this problem; 20 or more have taken action to allow assessment of farmland on the basis of its value for agriculture rather than potential nonfarm uses. For instance, the Maryland law states that it is "in the general public interest . . . to maintain a readily available source of food and dairy products close to the metropolitan areas of the state, to encourage the preservation of open spaces as an amenity necessary to human welfare and happiness, and to prevent the forced conversion of such open space to more intensive uses as a result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of land at a rate or level incompatible with the practical use of such land for farming."

In other industrial states, urban interests have strongly supported such laws.

Both houses of the Michigan Legislature, during the 75th session, passed legislation (H.B. 2533) which was based on similar laws operating successfully in other states. It is regrettable that at the last moment H.B. 2533 was bottled up in a committee.

We shall continue to strongly support such legislation in the interest of tax equity and the present and future needs of our environment and an exploding population.

**Pull Out Section: '71 STATE FARM BUREAU POLICY STATEMENTS**

# Policies Reflect: THE VOICE OF THE MEMBERSHIP . . .

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS



**JAMES G. HAYS . . .** accepted his Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from MFB President Elton R. Smith. Mr. Hays' plaque was engraved to read: "In Recognition of his Contributions to Agriculture Through Education and Public Relations." Both men were nominated by their county Farm Bureaus for the awards.

**LEE D. FERDEN . . .** was awarded one of Michigan Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service to Agriculture awards. The award, presented by MFB president Elton R. Smith, reads: "In Recognition of His Contributions to Michigan Farmers Through the Improvement of Field Crops and Cooperation with Michigan State University."

## 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 are in Class I land — and over half of this highly fertile Class I acreage is in urban areas! It is in these areas that the population explosion is creating demands for all kinds of land for a variety of public and private uses. Prime 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 which is good cropland. In Michigan, it is estimated that, at the present rate, urban sprawl will eliminate 20 of the 22 best agricultural counties within 30 years. Such changes in land use are permanent and irrevocable and can be disastrous to the total environment. Pollution of water and air can be reversed — what is done to land is often irreversible!

It should be obvious that all alternatives must be given every possible consideration before productive farmland is taken for such purposes as reservoirs, research, industrial and housing developments and roadways. We believe that township, county or state land use planning and zoning, along with tax reform, can help in solving land use problems. We need to contemplate the wisdom of a Nigerian Chieftan when he said "I conceive that land belongs to a vast family of which many are dead, few are living, and countless numbers are unborn."

## PROPERTY TAX CREDITS

The 1967 tax reform package gave some measure of property tax relief through the use of a sliding scale of property tax credits on the state income tax.

This year, the Legislature repealed most of those credits, which will prove to be particularly detrimental to farmers. Fortunately, the repeal is limited to one year.

We urge that the property tax credit be permitted to again become effective at the end of the one-year limit.

## ASSESSORS TRAINING

Legislation requiring training programs for local assessors was passed in 1969 with a special board to implement the law. We believe that such educational programs are desirable in order that local assessors can have a basic knowledge of assessment techniques. Some community colleges are already offering good basic courses. Coordination of such programs is a reasonable and practical approach.

It should be pointed out that 1969 was the first year that all counties were required to have equalization departments. Qualified, well-trained personnel are difficult to find. However, we believe that well-qualified County Equalization Directors can assist local assessors whenever specialized knowledge is required. This will maintain local control and help assure equitable procedures.

We further believe that the Tax Commission should do a more adequate job of providing local assessors with practical guidelines together with a constant updating of the Assessors Manual. However, it should be remembered that the final decision does and should continue to remain with the local assessor.

## TAXATION OF MOBILE HOMES

Presently, mobile homes in trailer parks pay, in lieu of property taxes, a fee of \$3 per month. Two dollars of this amount goes to the school, 50 cents to the township and 50 cents to the county. This fee system enacted in 1959 is no longer realistic. The increased value of trailer homes is not reflected, nor do they contribute a proper share of the costs of schools and local government.

We urge that legislative action be taken to increase the fee to a level in relation to the property taxes paid by other homeowners.

## MICHIGAN TAX COMMISSION

Presently, this agency of government has unique powers. In effect, the Commission promulgates rules, regulations and required practices and then sits as judge on appeals which may result therefrom.

We will support legislation that will resolve this obvious conflict of interest and create an appeals procedure

assuring taxpayers and local governments efficient and impartial treatment.

## EDUCATIONAL FINANCE REFORM

We believe that school finance is undoubtedly a major key to total educational reform, as statewide equality of educational opportunity cannot be achieved unless the method of financing is first restructured to achieve equity.

With the adoption of a state income tax, new methods of financing our schools became available. It is generally agreed that property taxes for this purpose are obsolete and do not have the capacity to expand 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 years between 1961 and 1968 the average millage rates on property for schools increased 57% (17.89 to 28.05). However, during that same period of time, if, beginning in 1961, an income tax for schools had been levied with \$600 exemptions at 4.19% rate, the rate could have remained unchanged during the seven-year period and yielded \$20 million more than the actual yield of the property tax despite the 57% increase that occurred in the property tax rate. During that period of time, assessed valuations also increased at an alarming rate, which multiplied the tax burden. This is ample proof that income taxes can keep pace with increasing needs and property taxes cannot.

Continued voter rejection of millage proposals throughout the state clearly indicates the need for new approaches to school finance and for educational reforms. We recommend:

- Property taxes for all K-12 school purposes be strictly limited by law (should not exceed 12 mills).
- The income tax be used as the major source of funds for our schools.
- 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 state aid formulas.
- Legislation to require each taxpayer to identify his school district on his income tax form.

The 1970-71 state aid act clearly indicates legislative intent to move in these directions. We continue to support equitable educational finance reform.

## EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

We believe the time has come for substantial reforms in our educational system.

We recommend that:

- The present State Board of Education should be replaced by a bipartisan, odd-numbered Education Commission appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Commission should employ the Director of Education.
- The regional concept be followed if intermediate districts are reorganized. However, there should be a policy-making regional board, representing all local boards of education.
- Statewide testing and assessment of student progress and total evaluation of education should be continued and expanded.
- Reorganization of K-12 districts should continue to be voluntary. Required reorganization should be delayed until such time as assessment and evaluation tests provide factual information as to quality education programs for students.
- State funding for public schools should be sufficient to provide, as nearly as possible, sufficient classrooms and equal educational opportunities in the local school concept for all students.
- Local school facilities be used to their fullest potential for educational purposes for both youth and adults. Year-round school would be feasible in many areas.
- Vocational-technical programs for both youth and adults be made available to all areas of the state, fully financed by state funds. Existing educational facilities should be used wherever possible. The "World of Work" demands salable skills. Vocational programs, whenever feasible, should include on-the-job training with local business places for school credit.
- Special education programs be available to all handicapped children. It has been proved beyond a doubt that these children can be educated to lead productive lives with dignity and contribute to the economy.
- New and innovative instructional methods be researched and used wherever possible.

## OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Many parents are concerned about the subjects being taught (sex education, etc.), the material used in teaching and some of the suggested reading lists in our schools.

The school curriculum is primarily the responsibility of the local school board. However, parents should be interested in what is being taught and should work with local school board members in developing curriculum that upgrades moral training in our schools. This can be done by:

- Reviewing present curriculum.
- Volunteering to serve on any review committees.
- Helping to elect the best qualified people to serve on local school boards.

We urge greater effort on the part of all institutions of public instruction to overtly teach and promote patriotic Americanism.

## FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The recent Supreme Court ruling requiring schools to furnish books and supplies for students is an extra burden on already overloaded school district revenues.

We feel this goes beyond the intent of our forefathers when they established free education.

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 makes it unreasonably difficult for school boards to discharge incompetent personnel. We believe the Tenure Act should be amended to require that all tenure positions be subject to a re-evaluation of performance after a reasonable period of time; however, not to exceed each five years of service, with the opportunity to discharge undesirable or incompetent teachers.

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Educators in Michigan should have the responsibility of providing all citizens with an opportunity to become and remain occupationally competent. Occupational education should be an integral part of the total education process. A recent statewide committee, called the State Vocational-Technical Curriculum Committee, recommended a vertically integrated occupational curriculum that extends through the elementary and through the post-secondary levels. Such an integrated program could develop positive attitudes about work, create awareness of the vast occupational opportunities and provide knowledge and skill to meet the demands of a constantly changing society.

Vocational centers are also rapidly developing, many through existing local educational units, including community colleges, intermediate districts and high school districts.

We fully support these programs and believe that the ultimate goal should be to develop and implement effective occupational programs in all regions of the state. Such training opportunities should, wherever feasible, include "on-the-job" training for school credit in cooperation with local businesses.

We urge the Legislature to adequately finance construction of vocational education centers wherever needed and operation of all such programs; also for the transportation of students. Local property cannot be expected to assume this additional tax burden.

## AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The demand for more teachers of vocational and technical agriculture continues with the advent of specialized programs on both secondary and post-secondary levels in vocational centers and community colleges. We urge capable students to consider this career opportunity.

The Institute of Agricultural Technology, MSU, reports a constantly increasing demand in many occupational fields for employees with agricultural background and training. The Federal Vocational Act of 1963, and 1968 amendments, finally recognized the urgent need for technical training in agriculture. Nationally, the number of students involved in technical training in agriculture has doubled in the past three years and is expected to double again in the next three years. The National Academy of Science is presently conducting a survey of the need for two-year programs in agriculture.

We strongly urge that teachers of vocational agriculture continue to be employed on a 12-month basis. Summer months provide the opportunity for students to put into practice much of the vocational agricultural instruction provided during the school year. Providing this on-the-farm instruction to students is an important part of the vocational agriculture teacher's responsibilities. Vocational agriculture and FFA are unmatched in teaching "individual enterprise" through practical application of classroom training.

We continue to support these programs and urge that greater emphasis be given to the increasing opportunities in technical agriculture and agri-business.

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE

We deplore the destruction of public property in our public schools. We believe that an important part of education is learning to respect the rights and property of others. Therefore, we would encourage the administration and faculty in our local school systems to use discipline necessary to instill this respect in the students. We applaud those administrators who have good discipline and encourage others to follow their example.

## SCHOOL BOARDS COOPERATION

We believe that it is imperative that school boards work together in areas in an effort to effectively deal with the increasing problems of school districts, including the rising cost of education, teacher and employee contract negotiations, curriculum, etc.

We commend the Michigan Association of School Boards in its efforts to correlate the attitudes and positions of all school boards.

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

This pioneer land grant college has become a great university and has not lost sight of the fact that agriculture and agri-business is the foundation stone of nearly 30% of the economic base of our state and that the benefits of research of the College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Experiment Station, along with the Cooperative Extension Service, have reflected in better living for all our people, rural and urban.

We believe that Michigan State University must continue to give prime consideration to these disciplines and recognize the great need for specialized training for agriculturally-related occupations which may or may not lead to a degree, but can be met through the course work offered by the Institute of Agricultural Technology.

We believe that scholarships and loans should continue to be available to qualified students needing assistance.

It is obvious that there will be increasing further needs for emphasis in the areas covered by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Experiment Station, the Extension Service, the Institute of Agricultural Technology, the world-renowned Pesticide Research Center, as well as all other areas of agricultural studies.

# STRENGTH THROUGH GROUP ACTION . . .

Through the years, we have supported the expansion of many of the services of Michigan State University. We are now concerned with the critical shortage of medically trained personnel and will 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-H CLUB PROGRAM

During the past few years, the 4-H program has moved the emphasis away from competition in club 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 most appreciative of those special services provided farmers—such as market reports, weather forecasts and honest news reporting.

Just as farmers bear an awesome burden and responsibility to produce the food and fiber needs for the public, so, too, news media must bear a similar burden and responsibility in providing accurate, timely and unbiased reporting and programming to the public.

We are aware of continued attempts to expand government "guidance" within the news media industries and compare these attempts with similar interference in the agricultural industry.

We believe the news media must work to maintain accurate reporting and quality business standards, and the acceptance of public interest responsibilities—both for the sound 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 areas. Telephone companies are allowed to charge the rural subscriber a higher rate to cover charges for distance lived from the telephone centers. We urge that telephone companies of Michigan be required to charge equal rates for equal services in both rural and urban areas.

## HIGHWAYS

Michigan has a total of 114,544 miles of roads and streets (45% inadequate). The State Highway Department has the responsibility to develop and maintain 9,222 miles of this total. This includes the 1,175 mile interstate highway system. Our excellent interstate system, as presently planned, is nearing completion. Extensive use of federal funds (90% federal-10% state), together with a bonding program, has made this possible; however, interstate roads constitute only 1% of the total mileage.

Michigan's 83 County Road Commissions are responsible for 77% (87,611 miles) of the total road system (44% inadequate). Of this total, 25,313 miles are classified as Primary Roads (37% inadequate) and 62,298 miles are classified as Local Roads (47% inadequate).

Of all bridges on local roads, 62% are considered inadequate. Most of these bridges were built in the 1890's for horse and buggy traffic and are unsafe for today's variety of traffic. Many are unsafe for school buses and other vehicles and have been so posted. In many cases, the return of state highways to the counties creates an additional burden. In spite of increasing revenue, little progress has been made in eliminating the deficiencies in most county road systems. Obsolescence and structural failures are occurring faster than the facilities can be replaced.

As a result of the rapid growth of the interstate system, counties have the additional costly job of fitting county roads into that system and to accommodate the increased traffic on our local roads caused by small industry, recreation users, etc., which create added stress on such roads and structures. The most desirable recreation areas are, in most cases, accessible only by county and local roads. Proper development of rural areas, including industrial expansion, is dependent on an adequate road system. For instance, the Class A or frost-free highway system permits trucks to carry the same weight the year around, but to service country areas they must often reload.

We recommend:

—Any needed increase in revenues be met through "user taxes" rather than a return to the old system of taxing property to build roads.

—Present matching requirements for local roads should be decreased. (Most local units of government are financially unable to increase their contributions.)

—Local roads serving recreational areas should be maintained without local matching funds.

—Local bridge replacement and reconstruction matching should be eliminated or substantially reduced, as they represent a specific problem and are extremely costly.

—Federal highway aid should be substantially increased for county and local needs inasmuch as the Michigan interstate system is near completion.

—State and Federal highway authorities should recognize the spiraling costs of maintenance and equipment and make proper provisions in maintenance contracts with County Road Commissions.

—Consideration be given to counties with large areas of public recreation lands, not only because of the heavy financial burden placed on such counties, but adequate roads can also be part of an effective safety program.



MISS JUDY BEHRENWALD . . . 1971 Michigan Farm Bureau queen, is a senior at Michigan State University. Miss Behrenwald is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Behrenwald, Lakeview, Montcalm County. She was selected from 28 candidates and will represent MFB at many functions in 1971. Mrs. Jane Ross Foss was the 1970 MFB queen. Runner up was Miss Deborah Jane Elbring, Monroe County.

—There should be no further increases in weight, width and length limitations of trucks using any road system. Most systems are inadequate to carry even the existing loads.

—Routes be chosen to avoid diagonal highways and the use of productive agricultural lands where feasible.

—Multiple use of highway rights-of-way for pipelines and other utilities.

While we endorsed reclassification of the road system and the current Highway Needs Study, which are not completed, we emphasize that the special problems of the county and local road systems must be carefully considered. Good local roads are essential if rural areas are to be developed to their fullest potential.

## HIGHWAY SAFETY

Accidents on highways take many lives each year; many people are injured and much property damage occurs. To help reduce auto accidents, we recommend that:

1. Motorcycles be required to have some type of uniform and distinctive marking clearly visible to oncoming vehicles.
2. Hard-top roads should be marked with center lines and side lines as an aid to safer night-time driving.
3. STOP AHEAD signs should be placed an appropriate distance from every STOP sign, where a particular hazard exists.
4. County Road Commissions clear roadsides and intersections of anything within road rights-of-way that obstructs the view of motorists.
5. Signs within the travelled lanes of any highway be the flexible or breakaway type.
6. School buses be equipped with distinctive markings on front and rear clearly visible during hours of darkness.

## DEDICATION OF HIGHWAY FUNDS

We re-emphasize our well-established position that revenues derived from the taxation of motor vehicles and motor fuels should be used exclusively for highway purposes. Michigan's Constitution contains an anti-diversion provision. However, it does state that highway purposes shall be "as defined by law."

The Legislature should not distort the intent of that provision by providing for the expenditure of highway revenues for any purposes which are not directly related to the construction, maintenance, or financing of modern and adequate highway facilities.

Motor vehicle owners, in addition to specific highway use taxes, contribute millions 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 for marine purposes should be permitted unless factual studies prove they are justified.

## COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONS

The Board of County Road Commissioners is a unit of local government responsible for maintenance and construction of most roads within a county. The three-member Board have six-year staggered terms and are, in most cases, appointed by the County Board of Commissioners.

We believe this system has insulated the jurisdiction of our county road systems from direct politics and has resulted in efficient highway management throughout the years. We continue to support the Road Commission concept and oppose 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.

## INTOXICATED DRIVERS

No operator of a motor vehicle makes our highway more hazardous than the person who drives under the influence of an intoxicant. Measures must be taken to increase the effectiveness of our laws in preventing this practice.

We urge our State Legislature to update our implied consent law to meet the established federal standards.

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

## UNINSURED MOTORIST FUND

We feel that the \$1 fee which is charged auto owners and which is put in the uninsured motorists fund should be eliminated. If the fund needs money, charge the uninsured enough to cover the costs of the program.

## SNOWMOBILES AND ATVs

Many property owners continue to report that the rapidly increasing number of snowmobiles is causing damage to crops, young trees and fences on private property. We should be aware of the fact that the Horton Trespass Act was amended during the recent legislative session to include snowmobiles.

The all-terrain vehicle, trail bikes and similar machines are also becoming very popular. We will support legislation to include these vehicles under the Horton Trespass Act and other statutes presently applying to 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 dissent, but condemn the acts of those who incite or participate in riots, bombings, vandalism, defile the flag, or burn draft cards.

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 lawbreakers after apprehension and due process of law.
3. That our campuses remain in their traditional role as centers of reason and intellectual pursuit. College administrators must take strong disciplinary measures against student activists, nonstudent extremists, and faculty members who support campus disorders or interfere with the rights of other students and the orderly operation of educational institutions.
4. Citizens to carry out their responsibilities in helping law enforcement officers by offering pertinent information and assistance.

## FIREARMS CONTROL

We believe our laws should place more emphasis on the crime and the criminal rather than on the gun.

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.

## LITTERING

Littering is a costly nuisance and much of it is thrown on Michigan's farm lands. Cleanup of highway litter is costly to taxpayers. Over 18,000 truck-loads of bottles, cans, paper and other filth will be picked up by hand on State highways alone during the present year, the Michigan State Highway Department estimates.

The recently-passed Anti-Litter Law can help in curbing littering. The judge may levy a fine and costs and may require the offender to pick up litter along a specified mileage of highway.

It is difficult to apprehend and identify litterers. Citizens must be willing to aid police officers in this difficult job. We must not permit local political influence to hamper enforcement.

We urge the use of signs posted along State and County highways and in parks, stating the maximum fine for littering. If "It Pays to Advertise", let's use this tool.

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 Beautiful."

## NONRETURNABLE BOTTLES

The nonreturnable bottle is a nuisance and a hazard. It is more than just "litter".

Farm implement tires, auto and truck tires, livestock and crops are being damaged or destroyed by broken glass, most of it in the form of throwaway bottles.

Time lost as a result of damage to a tire can mean many dollars of crop loss.

The seriousness of the problem has been recognized throughout the state.

The nonreturnables are thrown away where emptied and are not picked up for salvage because they have no return value. Our county and local roads and adjoining fields and woodlots are favored spots for beer parties and rubbish dumps.

We have worked for several years to obtain establishment of a mandatory return value on beverage throwaways. Legislation has been introduced, but has not yet been adopted.

We will continue to seek relief through:

1. Use of plastic-type decomposable containers; or
2. A required return value on glass beverage containers; or
3. A tax being placed on the manufacturers of these bottles to help cover the cost of cleaning them up from our roadsides.

## WELFARE

The cost of welfare continues to increase each year. In Michigan alone, during 1969-1970, the estimated cost will be approximately \$290,464,000 to the State, \$251,631,000 Federal, and \$40,905,000 to the Counties. We believe that the present welfare program should include:

# POLICIES TO LEAD MEMBERS THROUGH THE NEW AGE . . .



**MAIN BANQUET SPEAKER . . .**  
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Hugh M. Beahan explained his address title, "The Cookie Cutter Complex" to the more than 1,300 guests that attended the annual meeting. "Father Mike" kept his address typically "light and lively" and emphasized the need of love for everyone, not to be ashamed to show it and not to all be cut out by the same cookie cutter mold.

1. Incentive to become financially productive. Welfare benefits should not be reduced by 100% of earnings until earnings exceed the established minimum.
2. Local administration.
3. Retention of County, State and Federal financial relationships.
4. Job training and placement programs should be related to eligibility programs.
5. Food stamps to welfare recipients should be included as a method of insuring a percent of the welfare payments being spent on food.
6. Day care programs to enable welfare mothers to work.
7. Birth control information.
8. Emphasis on maintaining the family unit.

Welfare should not become a "way of life", but should be considered only as an emergency, or last resort, program.

## RURAL POVERTY

Writers in the public press tend to dwell on the problem of poverty in the urban areas and fail to recognize the increasing problems of rural poverty.

The report of the President's National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty, published in 1967, pointed out 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 underemployment are major problems in rural America.

Poverty in rural areas is often more serious than in urban areas. Many of the costs of living may be higher; educational, cultural and many recreational facilities are not readily available; many public and private assistance programs are not available; distances and transportation are added problems.

It is estimated that some three-quarters of a million people in rural Michigan live under poverty conditions. Unfortunately, most of the poverty resources have been siphoned off into urban areas. Society's responsibility is just as important in rural areas as in urban areas.

We believe that there are presently sufficient agencies, public and private, to deal effectively in a coordinated manner with these problems. One of the most effective agencies with long-time experience in helping people to help themselves is the Cooperative Extension Service.

We believe that programs similar to those used by the Cooperative Extension Service can provide valuable services in helping to solve this problem. Expansion of these programs should be separately funded, and not included as an Agricultural Assistance Program, or result in diminution of present services.

## FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

We support the food stamp program as a means of helping those persons who are really in need of assistance. However, we believe there should be a complete investigation of the present procedures for distributing food stamps, and that the procedures be revised so that eligibility rules can be enforced.

We further believe that any person who refuses to work when offered employment or is on strike should not be eligible for food stamps or surplus food commodities.

## NARCOTICS AND HARMFUL DRUGS

The rapidly growing use of narcotics and harmful drugs must be stopped. We encourage massive, direct and realistic educational efforts to inform youth, parents and others concerning the harmful effects of drug abuse. We oppose legalization of marijuana.

We support more realistic penalties for first offense users. The courts should make sure stronger penalties are imposed against drug pushers.

More rehabilitation centers and programs should be made available to drug users. Drug users under 21 years of age should be permitted and encouraged to seek treatment on their own initiative.

We support effective enforcement of the Federal Drug Abuse Control Act of 1970 to tighten the importation, manufacture and distribution of narcotics and harmful drugs.

## HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

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. It is also a strong voice in support of voluntarism in health planning.

## HEALTH SERVICES

We believe that Medicaid and Medicare programs should be under continuous scrutiny to eliminate excessive use and abuse.

We also believe that an investigation should be made into the effects of the increasing number of malpractice suits against those trained in the health professions and health institutions. Unreasonable suits can discourage young people from entering these occupations and can be an important factor in the rising costs of health care.

## AGRICULTURAL BARGAINING AND BARGAINING ACT

We shall develop and support an Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act to define and clarify the rights and limitations of bargaining associations.

Provisions of this legislation should:

1. Define an agricultural bargaining association.
2. Provide standards for recognition of bargaining associations by buyers of agricultural products.
3. Provide that failure of a buyer to negotiate in good faith with a recognized bargaining association shall constitute an unfair trade practice.
4. Improve and strengthen marketing rights and the definition of agricultural fair practices.
5. Redefine and broaden the rights of bargaining associations under antitrust law.

This approach would provide the necessary legal framework on which farmers can build their own effective marketing and bargaining programs.

We will support and work for legislation that will enable a producers' association supported by a referendum vote of 51% of the growers with two-thirds of the production of a commodity, or representing two-thirds of the growers with 51% of the production of a commodity, to bargain for and be supported by all producers of that commodity. This legislation should provide for a periodic rehearing or referendum to assure that the association is adequately serving the industry.

We will support legislation to provide that purchasers of farm products, through negotiations, shall state their buying price, or a formula for determining this price, at or before the time of delivery.

## MARKETING ORDERS

Federal and state marketing orders are acceptable marketing tools through which groups of producers of perishable and specialty agricultural commodities can work to improve farm income through industry-operated, market-oriented programs. Marketing orders have specific and limited application. They are not a substitute for effective producer marketing associations.

Marketing orders should be designed to provide for orderly marketing, establish quality standards, generate market information and dispose of unanticipated surplus commodities. Orders should not be used to establish closed markets or maintain artificially high prices. Money collected under marketing orders should be used only for administrative costs, marketing research, market development, or for advertising and promotion if it is clearly evident that advertising and promotion expenditures will increase producers' net incomes.

We believe that any marketing order should meet the following criteria:

1. Be market-oriented; used to maintain and expand markets.
2. Provide opportunity for new producers to enter production.
3. Contain provision for periodic review at not greater than five-year intervals.
4. Allow for a petition for rehearings 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 carried out.
7. Approval of a marketing order should require a referendum vote of 51% of the growers, with two-thirds of the production of the commodity, or two-thirds of the growers representing 51% of the production.

Orders for commodities produced for processing should not require processor approval when confined to raw agricultural products.

We support amendments to the Act to authorize orders for additional agricultural commodities whenever producers demonstrate a need for such programs.

Farm Bureau should be keenly aware of producers' marketing needs and take leadership in meeting these needs.

## FILING PRODUCTION CONTRACTS

Michigan ranks high as a producer of processing vegetables. This important segment of Michigan agriculture should be expanded. Two of our major competitors, Wisconsin and North Carolina, have legislation which requires processors to file proof of financial responsibility and contract terms with the Department of Agriculture. In both states, farmers, processors and the industry have benefitted from this requirement and the industry has grown.

We recommend that all processors and handlers offering contracts to producers for the production of vegetables be required to file a copy of the contract offered, including contract terms and financial rating of contractor with Michigan Department of Agriculture before offering contracts to producers.

## MARKETING ASSOCIATION FEE COLLECTION

An increasing number of farmers are joining cooperative marketing associations to improve their income and become better informed about marketing. With the expansions of marketing activities into previously unorganized commodities by MACMA, there is need for a

system of marketing service fee payment that will provide adequate and sound financing of the association.

Although some processors have recognized the value of marketing services and information provided and have cooperated with MACMA in the collection of members' marketing service fees upon the association's and members' request, other processors have refused accommodation even though they purchase members' commodities. A uniform system of collecting marketing service fees at time of sale could provide a simple, efficient procedure that would benefit the association, the members and the processors.

We favor legislation requiring processors and other buyers to deduct marketing service fees from cooperative marketing association members' receipts upon official notification by the association verifying that such growers are members of the association and have voluntarily consented to the deduction. These deductions need to be made promptly and then forwarded to the association within a reasonable length of time. The legislation should be similar in principle to the New York Agriculture and Markets Law in regard to deductions for payment to cooperatives.

## PRICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

At times, fruit and vegetable growers have had to deliver produce to processors without the benefit of knowing what price the processor is going to pay and later find that the prices paid by the processor are unrealistic. We urge the Michigan Legislature to enact legislation that would require fruit and vegetable processors to post prices to be paid for fruit and vegetables a reasonable length of time prior to the beginning of the delivery date of the products for which the price would apply. The posted prices should include the date on which the prices are effective. If new prices are subsequently posted which are lower than the previous prices, the new prices should not apply to any produce delivered or contracted before the posting of the new prices.

## PAYMENT FOR PRODUCE

We deplore the practice by some independent fruit and vegetable processors of operating on growers' money due to delayed payment for product delivered. Sometimes this period extends for as long as a year or more. Growers must pay farm workers immediately after work is performed and are required to pay for their other costs of production within a set period of time along the standards of normal business practices.

We urge the Michigan Legislature to enact legislation that would require processors who purchase fruits and vegetables from growers to make full payment within ten days of the date of purchase unless other provisions are made by written contract.

## FEDERAL MARKET ORDER FOR RED TART CHERRIES

We endorse the proposed Federal Market Order program for red tart cherries. We believe the order, if enacted, will aid in the expansion of marketing and utilization of red tart cherries and improve the profitability of the cherry industry for producers and processors. We encourage cherry producers to favor the Cherry Market Order when it comes to a vote.

## VOLUME MEASUREMENT OF CHERRIES

We believe that the measurement and sale of cherries by volume creates certain marketing efficiencies and quality inducements. On the other hand, the costs of this practice have been substantial to cherry producers. There are also indications of violations of the Michigan Department of Agriculture Regulation No. 548, prohibiting the conversion of volume measurements to a weight basis for pricing purposes. Growers do not have sufficient evidence as to the suitability of continuing the practice on a permanent basis. We urge continuation of Regulation No. 548 (Sale of Red Tart Cherries Suspended in Water) on a trial basis through 1971. We support enforcement of the regulation pertaining to pricing.

## SWEET CHERRY MECHANICAL HARVESTING

Research by Michigan State University has revealed that an abscission agent can be employed to dramatically improve the harvestability of sweet cherries by mechanical means. Use of this agent, ethrel, improves the quality of machine-harvested sweet cherries and also results in less damage to the cherry trees.

We believe that ethrel should be given a research label for use in 1971.

## CHERRY RAW FRUIT INSPECTION

We believe that using third party inspections to determine the grade and quality of agricultural products is a sound business practice—for example, many growers, shippers and buyers have used the Federal-State Inspection Service to mutual benefit. In some instances, however, particularly in the case of red tart cherries, compulsory use of Federal-State Inspection Service has provided an unsatisfactory experience. Cherry growers have discovered that raw product grades on cherries are inconsistent from one inspection station to another.

Some buyers have taken advantage of these inconsistent inspection practices to force lower prices through strict grades while concealing price increases through liberal inspections. These practices lessen competition between buyers by keeping price schedules on a subjective rather than objective basis.

The third party inspection requirement for cherries has forced growers who pack their own to pay a Federal-State inspector to inspect cherries as they come into their own plant where a grade determination is unnecessary.

We urge that raw fruit inspection of red tart cherries by the Federal-State Inspection Service be changed from a mandatory to a voluntary or negotiable practice between buyers and sellers.

# WHERE THE MEMBERS VOICE IS HEARD . . .

## POULTRY BUYER BONDING

Marketing alternatives for producers of live poultry include both state and out-of-state buyers. Modern roads and vehicles enable buyers to travel long distances from processing plants to obtain poultry from producers. Sometimes buyers arrive at the farm with unsanitary equipment, which can cause disease problems. A large percentage of Michigan-produced poultry is handled by out-of-state processors. Dealing with unknown poultry buyers increases the potential for serious financial loss to producers.

We strongly urge legislation to require buyers of Michigan-produced poultry to post adequate bond for the financial protection of poultry producers in their marketing operations. Regulations should also provide for buyer equipment sanitation standards.

## POULTRY MEAT IN SAUSAGE

Recent amendments to Federal meat and poultry inspection regulations provide for the inclusion of poultry in cooked sausage products. Present Michigan law does not permit the addition of poultry meat in sausage products. We urge Michigan Farm Bureau to seek legislative changes to our comminuted meat law to permit the addition of poultry 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 responsible voice for all egg producers has contributed to this problem. Egg producers now have the opportunity to benefit from a united voice. We commend the activities of Midwest Egg Producers Cooperative Association and the United Egg Producers in promoting the orderly marketing of eggs. We urge poultry producers to consider joining the Midwest Egg Producers Cooperative Association.

## EXPANDING MARKETS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS

The production and marketing of high quality dairy products represents a dynamic segment of Michigan agriculture. Dairy substitutes continue to challenge and compete with dairy products in the marketplace. We commend the dairy industry for developing and financing strong promotion programs to expand the market for dairy products. The removal of some of the legislative barriers restricting markets for dairy products will also benefit the Michigan dairy industry. We will continue to work with dairy organizations to determine and seek solutions to the competitive problems facing dairymen.

## MICHIGAN POTATO GRADES AND STANDARDS

Michigan potato grade standards permit the sale of potatoes under the "Unclassified" designation. This no-grade description has permitted the marketing of potatoes that have food value but cannot meet grade standards due to quality conditions resulting from uncontrollable factors, such as weather and disease.

We are alarmed that at times consumers have purchased poor quality Michigan Unclassified potatoes and did not understand that the potatoes did not meet quality standards. Unfortunately, some of these consumers chose not to buy Michigan potatoes again.

We ask that the Michigan Potato Grade Standards be amended to require that all potatoes graded and packed in consumer-size packages (quantities less than 100 pounds) meet the grade standards. We urge that the potato industry develop outlets, such as processing, starch and feed, that will utilize inferior quality potatoes.

## POTATO INSPECTION

We favor legislation to require federal-state inspection of all potatoes sold in interstate commerce bearing a federal grade designation.

## DRY EDIBLE BEANS

The production and sale of dry edible beans comprises an important part of Michigan agriculture. Rapid changes in farming and the bean industry have resulted in fewer and larger buyers and more specialization by growers. Producers have fewer market outlets and are forced to make marketing decisions without adequate information. Many commercial growers recognize that there is an urgent need for producers to have a greater voice in price determination and other marketing conditions.

As the largest farm organization in the state, we are concerned about bean marketing problems faced by members. An extensive study of the need and feasibility of statewide organized marketing has been conducted by the Michigan Farm Bureau in conjunction with the County Farm Bureaus in bean-producing counties.

We stand ready to assist bean producers with organizing and operating marketing programs when such efforts will benefit Farm Bureau members to an extent that justifies the expenditure of Farm Bureau resources in such activities.

We urge:

1. All bean producers to participate in marketing activities that are based on realistic economic approaches to solving marketing problems and improving producer income.
2. County Farm Bureaus in the bean-producing area to evaluate and assist members with the development of effective bean marketing programs.
3. Greater unity of effort among cooperatives involved in bean handling and marketing.
4. The Michigan bean industry study the feasibility of establishing a marketing system utilizing production contracts and advance pricing concepts.

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Agricultural research is essential to maintain the efficiency of agricultural production. New problems continually arise in the production and marketing of agricultural crops (an example is the southern corn leaf blight) and in the field of farm management. Solution of these problems must be supplied through basic and applied research. This research can best be done by educational institutions such as Michigan State University.

The agricultural research facilities of our land grant institution have done much for farmers as well as consumers.

The following are among the research projects in which we have concern:

- Various projects in advancing food science.
- Dry edible bean and sugar beet research.
- Infertility in livestock.
- Alfalfa weevil, potatoes and sweet corn.
- Beef cattle and forage.
- Mastitis prevention and control.
- Improvement of Michigan soft wheat varieties.
- Disease control in turf.
- Research to aid our cherry and peach industry.
- Continued pesticide and integrated pest control research.
- Agricultural wastes and recycling systems.
- Southern corn leaf blight.
- Fruit and weather adaptability.

We also support continued intensive research to develop varieties of fruits and vegetables and crop cultural practices to accommodate mechanical harvesting.

We commend the work of the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station and ask the Legislature to appropriate adequate funds for the continued research efforts by the Experiment Station.



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.) Daniel Robotham (second from right) accepted on behalf of Benzie county Young Farmers. The certificates were given in recognition of outstanding Young Farmer programs in the respective counties.

## ENVIRONMENTAL 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 conservation 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 research is necessary to minimize leaching 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 farm organization, Farm Bureau will continue an informational program to inform the public of agriculture's contribution to a clean environment.

## PESTICIDES

Agricultural chemicals have been one of the major reasons for agriculture's phenomenal ability to produce abundant and high quality food. Farmers, in general, have used them judiciously, and only in the quantity necessary to assure control of disease and pests that affect agricultural products.

Because of the controversy concerning use of insecticides, fungicides, acaricides and herbicides, and the withdrawal of labels of some of these, we urge the State and Federal governments to fully fund programs for intensified control research and further development of alternative chemicals.

## CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION

Chemical residue (mercury, etc.) in animals can be a dangerous health hazard. We favor legislation permitting the Department of Agriculture to quarantine suspected animals and condemn such animals proved to be contaminated with poisonous chemicals.

## 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 usually the result of misuse. In case of injectable antibiotics, 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.

## POLLUTION ABATEMENT PROGRAMS

The Agricultural Conservation Program pollution abatement practices contribute toward the improvement of man's environment. Pollution abatement practices are approved for every county in Michigan and monies are available to provide farmers with financial assistance when installing approved practices. We believe the ACP program should place added emphasis on pollution abatement practices to control runoff from farm barnyards and feedlots, prevent sediment from reaching our streams, and encourage proper handling and disposal of animal wastes.

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Many actions of the Department of Natural Resources have tremendous effects on Michigan agriculture. We urge that agriculture have representation on the Natural Resources Commission.

## SOIL CONSERVATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Responsibility for the use and improvement of land and water resources rests on all citizens, urban as well as rural. Cities are dependent on rural lands not only for food, but for most of their water supplies.

The annual increase in our population places a definite responsibility on agriculture and the nation to safe-



guard our needed future food production facilities. Farm owners and farm renters, as well as our urban population, must be aware of the need for intelligent use and conservation of our lands. (Soil erosion in new developments is a growing problem.)

The Soil Conservation Districts now organized in Michigan are efficiently operated by elected farmers serving without salary and are effective units of soil-saving activity.

## DRAINAGE LAW

We urge that Michigan drainage laws continue to be updated. Future legislation should emphasize understandable provisions. The drainage law should require all drainage projects to have a maintenance clause to require the drain commissioner to maintain and repair drains 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 districts 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.

## FISH FARMING

Fish farming is developing as a food production industry 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 operations.

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.

## WEATHER REPORTING AND FORECASTING

Agri-business contributes much to the economy of the state and much investment has been made by producers and processors of farm crops; many people depend on the harvesting, processing and handling of these crops for their livelihood.

It is a well-established fact that weather conditions play an important part in the growing and management of crops and, in some cases, knowledge of possible temperature changes of even a few degrees can be the difference in saving or losing an entire crop.

Unfortunately, agricultural weather information has been nearly phased out by the Weather Bureau, and most agricultural meteorologists have been reassigned to other duties. It is apparent that forecasts necessarily cover large areas and are of a general nature and of little value to modern specialized farming.

We request the Weather Bureau to cooperate with those needing special reports during critical times.

# MANY ISSUES WERE CONSIDERED . . .

## RODENTS, BLACKBIRDS AND STARLINGS

Rodents, blackbirds and starlings are causing serious damage to crops and property in many areas. They are also a potential carrier of diseases to humans and livestock. This problem is increasing over a wide geographic area.

We recommend continued intensive research efforts by state and federal agencies to find an effective method of control or eradication of these pests.

## DEER HERD

We recommend that the Department of Natural Resources re-evaluate its antlerless deer policy and issue antlerless permits only in those areas sustaining damage from overbrowsing or other economic loss due to the over-population of deer.

## WILDLIFE PRESERVATION AND AGRICULTURE

Wildlife is important to the economy of Michigan and its public recreational opportunities. Federal and State game refuge areas contribute much to 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 crop damage to surrounding farmlands and loss of local tax base. An example is the Hayward Lake Goose Refuge in the Upper Peninsula.

We urge that practical safeguards be established to provide equitable protection to farmers against unreasonable land acquisition for Federal-State game refuge areas and from damage caused by wildlife using these areas. Alternate site locations, compensation for crop damage and payment for land 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 progressively changed since the establishment of the Experiment Station at Chatham. The Experiment Station can continue to effectively serve the U.P. farmers and timberland owners.

We need the leadership that one experiment station in the central part of the U.P. can furnish in the further development of agriculture and timber management. Some of the research projects needed under U.P. conditions include:

1. More test trials in small grains on disease resistance and production.
2. Alfalfa and trefoil variety development.
3. Beef breeding and feeding.
4. Field demonstrations in potato, rutabaga and other cash crops.

We urge that the Chatham Experiment Station be maintained.

## FARM LABOR

We are encouraged by the current arousing of social conscience and public awareness with regard to special problems related to seasonal farm workers. In the past, these special problems have been recognized only by their farmer-employers. Farmers have for years carried the burden for providing not only jobs for these people, but even while their own families are forced to live on 70% of parity, have tried to provide housing and improved living conditions during the work period. They have increased farm wages at a faster rate than most other wage rates even as net farm incomes have decreased. In addition to increased wages, many farmers pay transportation costs for workers from their home states to the work state and provide loans and pay advances to support workers who reach the work area during times of a work shortage.

Even with the recent gains 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.

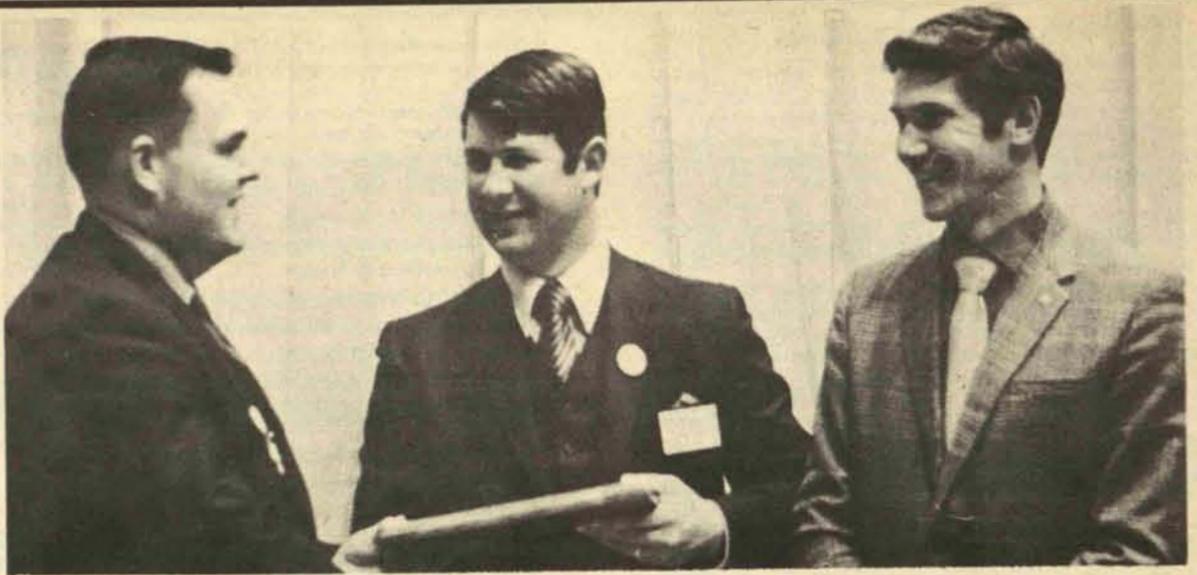
In light of these facts:

1. We commend leaders in government and civic organizations for realizing the presence of these special problems.
2. We encourage members of the Legislature and leaders in agencies of government to be informed of the true agricultural labor situations so that understanding, reason and knowledge of the farm labor system and the agricultural situation will guide the development of legislation and implementation of programs dealing with farming and farm labor.
3. We caution these leaders against reactionary approaches to emotion-packed allegations by certain pressure groups that would lead to the establishment of costly and unwise programs that would be of little value to seasonal farm workers while causing unnecessary hardships on farm families.
4. We encourage state and federal regulatory agencies to work toward simplified interstate recruitment procedures so that workers will be encouraged to have employment arranged before they leave their home states.
5. We urge the Michigan Farm Bureau to expand research into the possibility of establishing guidelines, including legislation, to assure the uninterrupted 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 programs should be subject to continuous review and scrutiny to prevent abuses, particularly the payment of benefits to those who can and should obtain employment.



ROBERT HARMS, VERMONTVILLE (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.

Where necessary, we recommend that state laws be revised to provide that no benefits be paid to workers who are on strike.

Pressures are increasing 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.

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Employers of farm workers in Michigan are having difficulty in adjusting to the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act as it applies to agricultural workers. It imposes a financial hardship upon farm employers who must meet competition from producers in other states where such coverage is not required. Unlike industry, farmers cannot pass on the cost. Any extension of the act will compound these serious farm economic problems.

## SEASONAL LABOR HOUSING

We recommend that all migrant labor camps be inspected by trained employees of the State Health Department, so that all camps will be licensed according to the same interpretation of the rules and regulations as provided by Public Act 289.

We commend the Michigan Legislature and the Governor of the State of Michigan for recognizing that there are special problems with respect to housing for seasonal farm workers. The passage of Public Act 197, Public Acts of 1970, has provided much needed assistance to farmers who provide housing for seasonal workers.

We urge that the Legislature provide similar assistance in 1971 and continue such assistance each year until all seasonal labor camps can be brought up to the standards of the State Health Department.

At the present time, Public Act 289 places the full responsibility of maintaining a migrant labor camp upon the employer. We urge that Public Act 289 be amended to require the occupants of a Farm Labor Camp to assume responsibility for the deterioration of a housing unit during their occupancy, except for normal wear and tear.

## EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS IN AGRICULTURE

Youth should have the opportunity to obtain employment in agriculture.

In most instances, the employment of minors in agriculture is socially and economically desirable. Work experience is an essential part of the educational process and develops self-reliance and self-respect.

The declaration of certain hazardous occupations by the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Labor are acceptable, but should not be extended.

The programs administered by the Agricultural Extension Service and vocational agricultural teachers for young workers have demonstrated that workers 14 and 15 years of age can be trained successfully in the safe operation of tractors and farm machinery. We recommend continuation of these training programs.

## RURAL MANPOWER CENTER

We continue to support the operation of the Rural Manpower Center as a part of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University. We should continue to evaluate the program of the Center and suggest research and activities that will be of value to Michigan agriculture.

## MINIMUM WAGES

Adjustments in the state minimum wage should take into consideration many factors that are often unknown or are ignored. Most farm wage rates are well above the present minimum. It should be recognized, however, that many employees have gravitated to farm work because they are denied job opportunities in other segments of the economy, either through a lack of skills or because they cannot meet production norms, health, or other standards set up as conditions of employment.

Agricultural employment differs in many respects from industrial employment, such as occasional employment, family employment, substantial fringe benefits in addition to Social Security and Workmen's Compensation (e.g. housing, utilities, transportation costs, loans, etc.), minimum supervision and payment of wages by piece rate.

Minimum wage provisions must be flexible to fit these varying situations and differences. Piece rate provisions are essential to provide employment opportunities

for workers who have handicaps which may prevent them from other employment and at the same time provide proficient workers much higher earning opportunities than do hourly rates.

Farm commodities produced in Michigan must compete with commodities produced in other areas of the U.S. and the world. Michigan minimum wage rates should not exceed the federal minimum wage for agricultural workers, as many states do not have state minimum wage laws applicable to agriculture.

Farmers themselves are at a serious disadvantage being the victims of ever-increasing costs and low prices. Unlike other segments of the economy, farmers are not in a position to readily pass increased costs on to the consumer.

## BOYCOTTS OF PERISHABLE FOOD PRODUCTS

We are opposed to boycott techniques which result in the removal of products from the marketplace, such as in the case of California grapes.

We would emphasize that these methods of coercion and harassment were successfully employed on California produce and that the same tactic could be extended to any and every identifiable Michigan product.

We urge that the proper authorities be apprised of this situation so that proper legislative and legal action may be taken to protect the rights of producers, farm workers and consumers.

## PART II — OUR FARM BUREAU

### FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP

In 1970, the Michigan Farm Bureau had a membership of 57,940. This was an increase of 2,753 families over the preceding year. For the second consecutive year, all counties made a gain in membership.

During the past two years, 10,509 new members have joined our organization. Of these new members, 6,654, or 63%, were 45 years of age and under. This is significant as these members will assure vigor and strong leadership in the years to come.

Aggressive membership work remains an important job in Farm Bureau. Without it, little else is possible.

We approve a 1971 membership goal of a one-member 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. We are pleased that our members take this responsibility seriously.

We would point out that this right to participate carries with it the responsibility to support the decisions of the majority. This requires a sense of organization discipline which can only be self-imposed by the member.

We encourage our members to discuss, disagree and recommend changes in the policy when these actions are appropriate. **WE ALSO REQUEST THAT MEMBERS GIVE ENTHUSIASTIC 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 to join a farm organization through the provision of tangible economic benefits. Our Farm Bureau experience has been that strength of membership has benefitted through the offering of some services of this kind in the past.

We feel that it is important for the Michigan Farm Bureau to promote and develop specific new programs which will provide services to Farm Bureau members only. We must preserve to the fullest degree possible those service-to-member programs which fulfill the present and future needs of our members.

### FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS

The Farm Bureau Young Farmers Program is a part of, not apart from, Farm Bureau. An increasing number of Young Farmers between 17 and 30 years of age are availing themselves of training, leadership opportunities, and responsibilities within the overall struc-

# MANY POLICIES WERE DECIDED . . .

ture of Farm Bureau. This continues to be an effective program in the implementation of Farm Bureau programs and the development of leadership. It is a proven fact that no organization can survive when it fails to bring in new leaders.

We urge all County Farm Bureaus to make this program a part of their structure on a committee basis. The program will only be successful if given strong emphasis at the county level.

## FARM BUREAU WOMEN

The Farm Bureau Women's Committees have represented a very active phase of our Farm Bureau program and we commend them for this leadership.

We urge County Farm Bureau Women's Committees to provide for active participation of women of all member families in activities, projects and programs of Farm Bureau. We also urge Farm Bureau Women to continue to relate their efforts to the furthering of the total program 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 cornerstones of Farm Bureau and every effort should be made to strengthen this important part of our organization. The starting of new and the maintaining of existing Community Groups should be a top priority project. In order to move forward in the Community Group program, we recommend that:

1. County Farm Bureau Boards give emphasis to the program by appointing Community Group Committees, establishing goals for the committee and reviewing the progress of the committee.
2. County Farm Bureaus conduct some form of training school for group officers early in the year.
3. Counties participate in the "Regional Organizer" program to the fullest extent possible.

## LOCAL AFFAIRS

People support best those things which they help build. County Farm Bureau officers and leaders are therefore urged to provide "building opportunities" for members by encouraging them to become involved in the work of Farm Bureau.

An opportunity to serve on an action committee is welcome by many members. It allows them to build their organization. Care should be taken by County Boards to see that many people are involved. New members should be given committee assignments in line with their interests.

Once established, a committee should be given strong support and guidance from the County Farm Bureau Board. It should be given important tasks to do and budget, if needed, to do them. There should be regular reports and action deadlines. The committee should call upon the County Information Committee to promote and publicize its work.

Because the strength of Farm Bureau springs first from the strength of its local membership, much of the work should be done by these members, locally. It is suggested that a "Local Affairs" committee be appointed and made active in each county, with these committees charged with the responsibility of involving Farm Bureau in local affairs and problems.

This committee should study local issues, including those of a controversial nature. It should assist in research work on such things as zoning and bonding issues. It should involve itself in local road, school, health, safety and finance matters. It should work closely with the County Information Committee to bring such things to public attention.

## CITIZENSHIP

Good citizenship consists of rights and responsibilities. It involves being INFORMED on issues, willingness to work and courage to act in our two-party political system of government and enterprise.

Michigan Farm Bureau will continue local training and incentive programs to encourage members to become active in the political party of their choice. Members should pay particular attention to voting records of incumbents at both the state and national levels, and should make every effort to support and elect candidates who will support Farm Bureau policies.

Members should also make regular contacts with their Senators and Representatives to inform them of the importance of issues affecting farmers and agriculture, and should not fail to thank them, personally or in writing, for support given to agriculture's cause.

Through the years, Farm Bureau has provided opportunities for members to gain information on citizenship matters. Activities such as Legislative Seminars, Meet and Measure the Candidate Meetings, Young People's Citizenship Seminars, Freedom Conferences and Heritage Tours have been part of keeping our members informed, and should be continued.

We urge that activities be conducted at the Michigan Farm Bureau and County Farm Bureau levels to motivate members to accept their responsibilities as good citizens.

## STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

We urge our members to become more active in local affairs 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 levels be curbed.

## 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 make it impossible for many families to provide for their needs in these areas. This could increase the demand for a Federal Government Health Plan. We do not believe that this approach would solve the problem.

We recognize that there are many items causing the rapid rise in health care costs. These include general inflation, increased wages of hospital employees, a shortage of doctors and other medically trained persons, duplication of specialized facilities within hospitals and a high cost of many new developments in medical technology.

We look forward to the results of the comprehensive study initiated by the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors to study alternative health insurance plans for Farm Bureau members.

## PORNOGRAPHY

American youths and adults continue to be exposed to a heavy volume of pornographic publications and programs from movie theatres, newsstands, bookstores and, to some degree, on television. We believe this irresponsible exposure contribute to immorality and delinquency.

We do not agree with the recent report of the Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography that obscene and pornographic publications and programs are not detrimental to our society.

We urge Farm Bureau members and the general public to become active through personal contacts or letters to theatre owners, movie production companies, publishers, newsstand operators, television stations and networks and program sponsors to ask their support and cooperation in controlling this menace to the moral fibre of our nation.

## ESTATE PLANNING

The investment in the family farm is constantly increasing in order to provide reasonable living for the farm family. Unfortunately, farmers often have only a vague, verbal agreement between the parents and children of how the estate will be disposed of. They also fail to recognize the extent to which Federal Estate Taxes, Michigan Inheritance Taxes, Probate and other transfer expenses can cut into the total value. Farms sometimes must be sold or broken up in order to pay these costs.

Estate planning can assure that the family farm will stay in the family. We urge members to consider such planning.

## AGRICULTURAL ZONING

With the rapid consumption of our agricultural land by industry, highways, and residential developments, we must, as farmers, take the lead to save and protect our prime land for future food production. It is essential that we become active locally in planning and zoning to protect our property, ourselves, and the future of agriculture.

We urge that exclusive agricultural zoning be stressed for our prime agricultural land.

## COUNTY COOPERATIVE COUNCILS

Cooperatives have been organized to serve farm people. In many instances, members and leaders of one cooperative know very little about other cooperatives.

Several counties have organized cooperative councils, made up of leaders from all cooperatives which operate in the counties. The purpose of this council is to create an understanding of all organizations, an opportunity for leaders to become acquainted and a vehicle to solve problems involving cooperatives.

We encourage County Farm Bureaus to take a leadership role in operating and promoting County Cooperative Councils.

## MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS BY AFFILIATE COMPANIES

Farm Bureau affiliate companies have been organized to serve Farm Bureau members. The rapid growth in programs has shown that these companies have moved aggressively in this direction.

Growth in programs is sometimes more rapid than understanding. We are concerned that members may not know of services available to them from their companies. Understanding is the first step to participation. This understanding must be created with constant information as well as advertising.

We urge Farm Bureau affiliate companies to utilize all existing Farm Bureau information programs to build a stronger communications network to inform members of the available programs and services of their organization.

## PRODUCTION AND MARKETING PROGRAMS

We believe that farmers should act through their own initiative to solve the problems confronting them today. Faced with low farm prices, the need for large amounts of capital to operate farming enterprises, the rapid changes in agricultural technology, and the interference of the Federal government in agriculture, we accept the challenge to shape the future to the benefit of the family farmer. As the largest and leading statewide farm organization, we have the responsibility to establish standards for production and marketing programs to assure that they work directly for the benefit of farmer members. Farmers working through their own organization, the Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliate companies (MACMA and Farm Bureau Services) are utilizing current marketing tools, such as contract production of crops and livestock, ownership of processing facilities and bargaining. Use of these tools can be helpful in assuring a successful future for the family farm.

We, therefore, support and endorse the efforts of the affiliate companies of Michigan Farm Bureau to provide production and marketing programs for members.

## ORIENTATION OF EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

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

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

## FARM LABOR MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Michigan farmers have long been concerned with the problems of hiring and retaining capable employees. Each year the competition for skilled workers from business, industry and agriculture has become more severe.

The manager of today's farm business needs assistance in avoiding labor problems where possible and preparing to meet and deal with problems when they arise.

We commend the work of M.A.S.A. for assisting farmers by recruiting labor when requested. In addition, M.A.S.A. has represented farmers' interest at legislative labor hearings and in legislative actions.

The labor management newsletter service has provided valuable labor information for M.A.S.A. members.

## 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—county, state and national—must give the development of more effective marketing programs high priority. We should continue to expand marketing activities in commodity areas when requested by members and where programs are economically feasible.

We are proud of our efforts in the area of marketing. Farm Bureau Services, Inc. continues to provide grain, dry edible bean and egg marketing services. A Cooperative dry edible bean marketing program and a fowl marketing service have been initiated this past year. The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) is now operating nine commodity marketing programs. Three new commodity divisions—Multi-Fruit, Feeder Cattle and Order Buyer—have become operational this past year.

Members should become informed of the producer owned and operated marketing services being provided through our affiliate marketing organizations. We urge members producing commodities for which Farm Bureau has marketing programs to participate in the programs.

If Farm Bureau marketing programs are to become fully effective, support and participation is needed by large numbers of producers. Successful marketing requires the discipline of members. When a majority of the producer members of a commodity decide on a course of action, all producers must abide by the will of the majority. Members must be willing to commit the commodities they produce through contracts with their marketing organization, and the organization, in turn, sell the products through full supply contracts.

## FARM BUREAU WHEAT MARKETING PROGRAM

We approve the idea of farmers being more involved in the marketing of their own products. The Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing program is a step in the right direction. We commend the efforts of Michigan Farm Bureau and the participating members for organizing and supporting this marketing venture. We urge all wheat producers to consider the merits of marketing their wheat through this orderly marketing program.

We ask that the feasibility of having participating producers store Program wheat in their own farm storages be studied. Also, efforts should be continued to expand the Program to include soft wheat grown in other states.

## FARM BUREAU MARKETING STUDIES

Farm Bureau affiliates are engaged in many successful marketing programs. Part of the reason for success has been that these programs were called for by members. Another reason has been that proper research has been done prior to establishing the service. This research includes need, economic feasibility and alternative methods of operations.

Members are urged to look to their Farm Bureau to improve their marketing opportunities. County Farm Bureau Boards should be informed of these needs. County Boards should then request the assistance of the Michigan Farm Bureau in seeking solutions to these needs.

We ask the Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau to continue marketing studies as needs arise and resources permit.

## FARM BUREAU COMMODITY ACTIVITIES

Agricultural production and marketing is becoming more specialized. Farmers' problems are often commodity oriented. Farm Bureau, although defined as a general farm organization, serves the specific commodity interests of members in many ways. Commodity and commodity marketing activities have long been a major part of the Farm Bureau program.

As Farm Bureau grows larger and more diverse in its membership composition, there is need to direct more organization attention to the solution of members' commodity problems. We must provide additional opportunities for more members to become active in their commodity interest areas within the organization.

The American Farm Bureau Federation and several leading State Farm Bureaus have been investigating ways in which Farm Bureau could better serve the specific commodity interests of members. After several years of study, the AFBF has developed a proposal that would establish commodity divisions within Farm Bureau.

We ask that the Board of Directors explore ways to better facilitate the commodity representation and activities within the State and County Farm Bureaus. Consideration should be given to developing commodity divisions as proposed by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

# MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU EXPRESSES THANKS . . .

## 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 strive to develop contractual production and marketing programs that assist in more orderly and effective marketing for livestock producers.

## 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.
- Malting 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 feasibility of licensing them.
- Soft white wheat utilization. Significant changes in the production, utilization, exports and various demand factors are occurring.
- Retirement programs for farm employees. Competition with industry for full-time farm labor is a definite problem. Development of a group retirement program or other fringe benefits could help stabilize the agricultural labor force.

## CENTRAL SALES AGENCY

Growers of seasonal commodities have traditionally marketed their produce on the basis of market conditions at harvest time. We believe that some growers will increasingly desire to spread the risks and opportunities of marketing over longer periods of time by owning their own produce after it has been processed. This spreading of risk is presently being used by some Farm Bureau members.

While the practice increases the opportunity for farmers, it also tends to increase the number of sellers on the market. We believe that the increased number of sellers will offset the possible gain, and that only through cooperative selling of the finished products can members truly gain an advantage from the shift in marketing practices.

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-finished, 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 Bureaus 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 yearly. This 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, 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 believe, however, that there must be more adequate understanding of the role of farmers in our society.

The place to start in developing this understanding is in our local areas. We must participate locally in nonfarm groups, such as church, civic activities, service clubs and other types of organizations.

We urge County Farm Bureaus to conduct rural-urban activities, farm visits, press relations meetings and other activities which will help create understanding between farm 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 advisory groups on which agricultural representation is important to all of us.

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

Within our own organization are also many 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 unselfish service to agriculture.

## FARM BUREAU LEADERSHIP

Michigan Farm Bureau commends AFBF President Charles Shuman for his "Freedom is Courage" essay which received the Freedom Foundation award.

Editorials by our AFBF President Shuman and MFB President Elton Smith contribute significantly to a better understanding by the general public and all members.

We urge all members to follow these examples at the local level.

## DELEGATES TO AFBF ANNUAL MEETING

We, as well as other State Farm Bureaus, have accepted associate members into our organization who, while interested in agriculture, may not be farm owners or operators. As the nation's largest and most effective farm organization, it is important that our Farm Bureau continue to be directed by farm people and that our policies be developed to reflect the ideas and ideals of America's farm people.

Therefore, we urge that representation from State Farm Bureaus to the AFBF Annual Meeting be determined on the basis of the farmer membership.

## STATUS OF PREVIOUS POLICIES

The policies adopted at the four previous annual meetings are hereby reaffirmed except insofar as they have been modified or supplemented by later policies, including those adopted at this annual meeting. All other policies shall be deemed to have lapsed except insofar as the Board of Directors may specifically find that such a prior policy provides the only basis for action on a current problem.

## MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU POLICY IS BASED ON RESOLUTIONS —

- Developed through a program featuring individual member participation
- Discussed in nearly 1100 Community Farm Bureaus
- Drafted by 69 County or Regional Farm Bureau Resolutions Committees, representing 77 counties.
- Approved by members in 69 County or Regional Farm Bureau annual meetings
- Digested by 20-member State Policy Development Committee, composed by one member from each of the eleven districts, plus three representatives of the Farm Bureau Women, three from the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers, and three members at large
- Determined at State Annual Convention by voting delegates from County and Regional Farm Bureaus — one delegate for each one hundred members

## Smith Reelected MFB President



ELTON R. SMITH

Leuenberger, Saginaw, District 8 and Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, District 10. Walter Frahm, Frankennuth and James Sayre, Belleville were reelected to two year terms as directors-at-large.

Other members of the 16 member board are Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft; Andrew Jackson, Howell; David Morris, Grand Ledge; Kenneth Bull, Bailey; Eugene Roberts, Lake City and Franklin Schwiderson, Dafer.

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., Dansville, newly elected chairman of the Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee.

Elton R. Smith, Kent County dairyman, has been reelected president of Michigan Farm Bureau. The action was taken at the annual reorganization meeting of the Board of Directors, following the three-day annual meeting of the 58,000 member organization.

Renamed vice president was Dean Pridgeon, Branch County farm leader. John Laurie, Tuscola County dairyman was elected to the Executive Committee. Others reelected were Dan E. Reed, secretary-manager; William Beattie, treasurer and William Wilkinson, assistant secretary.

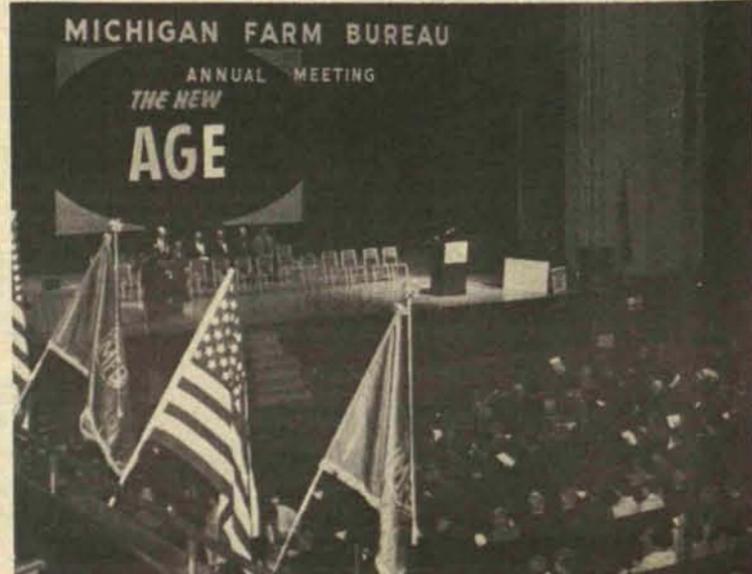
Five district directors were reelected at the three day meeting . . . Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, District 2; Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, District 4; John Laurie, Cass City, District 6; Harvey



MACMA AND MASA . . . shared a display booth in the Products Show during annual meeting in the Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium. Manning the booth was John Heim, (left) MACMA N. E. Field Representative; Clarence King (center), Mgr. Branch Co. Farm Bureau Oil Co. and Ron Jensen, MACMA West Central Field Representative.



STRAW HATS AND GOLD COATS . . . were the "garb of the day" for those working the Product Show. Straw-hatted Dave Klink, FPC, took the opportunity to discuss their complete tire line with Kent county salesman Larry Parrish.



MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU'S 1971 . . . insignia, "The New Ag Age" greeted the 512 voting delegates and other guests in the Civic Auditorium, Grand Rapids, when they convened for the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

## VOTE "YES" ON CHERRY MARKETING ORDER!



MEMBERS OF THE RED TART . . . Cherry Div. Mkt'g. Committee are: (Left to right, seated) John Boals, Antrim County; John Hawley, 2nd Vice-Chairman, Oceana County; P. C. "Pete" Morrison Jr., Chairman, Grand Traverse County; Arthur Dowd, 1st Vice-Chairman, Van Buren County; Harry A. Foster, Secretary-Manager, Red Tart Cherry Division Marketing Committee and Hugh Bowling, Manistee County. (Left to right, standing:) Donald Barden, MACMA Executive Committee; Vernon Sill, Allegan County; Lawrence Stover, Berrien County; Noel Baumberger, Leelanau County; Keith Moore, Newaygo County and Tom Runge, Leelanau County. The committee members not present when the picture was taken are John Minnema, Grand Traverse County; James Evans, Benzie County; H. James Fitch, Mason County and Rodney Bull, Muskegon County.

### MACMA Urges Favorable Vote On Tart Cherry Marketing Agreement and Order

MACMA members have been involved in the development of an orderly marketing program for red 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.

Latest word from the USDA indicates that the referendum will be held and ballots will be in the

possession of growers and handlers on or about November 23, reports Foster.

MACMA urges all growers to cast a favorable vote and return their ballot immediately to the USDA. Adequate time will be permitted, however, for growers to cast their ballot, as the deadline for casting these votes is Wednesday, December 9. Any growers who misplace their ballot may secure one by contacting their County Extension Office.

Any grower who needs additional information to answer questions as to how this proposed marketing program will affect them should contact their County Extension Office, a MACMA Committeeman, or the MACMA office directly.

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.

### Farm Bureau Marketing Agreement And Order for Red Tart Cherries

At the recent annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau, a policy was adopted supporting the proposed Federal Marketing Agreement and Order for red tart cherries.

The policy adopted at the recent Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, said, "We endorse the proposed Federal Marketing Order program for red tart cherries. We believe the Order, if enacted, will aid in the expansion of marketing and the utilization of red tart cherries, and improve the profitability of the cherry industry for producers and processors. We encourage cherry producers to favor the cherry Marketing Order when it comes to a vote."

Farm Bureau has supported industry marketing agreements and orders for many years, and has had policies adopted each year at annual meetings to provide guidelines for the drafting of industry marketing programs.

Farm Bureau leaders recognized that the proposed Marketing Agreement and Order for red tart cherries met policy guidelines and was drafted specifically to aid cherry growers and handlers to cope with fluctuating production and supply situation. The storage of certain surplus cherries produced in a given year will aid in the expansion of cherry markets and improve the profitability of the cherry crop to growers and handlers.

The proposed Marketing Agreement and Order includes a Great Lakes and eastern states area consisting of Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. This production area also represents a tart cherry marketing unit.

Every five years the Market Order program must be reviewed and voted upon by the industry for the continuation of the program.

Many cherry producers who have had reservations in general about Marketing Agreements and Orders have said that this will give the cherry industry an opportunity to develop an aggressive marketing program attacking the wide fluctuating production and supply situation, according to Harry A. Foster, Secretary-Manager, Red Tart Cherry Division, MACMA. Many of these same growers have recently said, in view of the "depression prices" of the last two years: "We have got to do something to help ourselves," reports Foster.

Both growers and handler responsibilities are outlined specifically in the proposed Marketing Order.

## MARKETING AND COMMODITIES

### MACMA FEEDER CATTLE

MACMA Feeder Cattle Division Order Buyer Division

The fall feeder cattle movement has been completed in northern Michigan for MACMA feeder cattle members. 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 McCory, 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 sales 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 direct to their feedlot on the day of the assembly. 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 preconditioning practices, improving quality and expanding to other areas of northern Michigan.

The present MACMA Feeder Cattle Marketing Committee is: Robert McCory, Chairman, Dafter; John W. Zellar, Vice Chairman, Germfask; Larry McTiver, Newberry; Gordon Andrews, Sault Ste. Marie and Carl Eagle, Sault Ste. Marie.

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 feeder cattle on a volume basis. Membership and more information on participation and purchase of cattle through the Order Buyer Division may be obtained by writing or calling the MACMA Order Buyer Office at 4000 North Grand River Avenue, Box 960, Lansing, Mich. 48904, telephone 517-485-8121 Ext. 372.

### PROCESSING APPLE MARKETING COMMITTEE



MEMBERS OF THE PROCESSING . . . Apple Marketing Committee are left to right: Lester Kober, Grand Rapids; William Davis, Belding; Leon Hadaway, Onkama; Donald Barden, South Haven; Walter Wightman, Fennville; Robert Braden, Manager, MACMA; George Stover, Berrien Springs; Glenn Robotham, Beulah; Andrew Jager, Fennville; Ray Anderson, Chief; Jerry Sietsema, Grand Rapids and Howard Gilmer, Augusta.

# HEALTH COSTS

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 incensed at the wastefulness that was directly affecting his health care costs.

Health care costs are up and this month's discussion topic reviews some of the reasons why. In the case of the hospital building, as explained by Mr. Marlie Drew, coordinator, County Farm Bureau Offices, Field Operations Division of Michigan Farm Bureau, 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, Drew said, 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 often was a long trip to wheel in the tanks and more dangerous for the patients health, but now oxygen is available in a matter of seconds. So you can see, he explained, building all kinds of special equipment into the wall, out of the way, would be near to impossible to do 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 being charged to patients goes further than construction of new buildings.

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 with comparable 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 to say little of the needy patient, he said. An example is the recent walk-out at Flint's Hurley Hospital.

Professional help, such as nurses, are also bargaining, Drew said, so I believe this area of our health cost problems will not be immediately solved.

Another factor is the cost of highly technical equipment, that amounts to thousands of dollars. In this instance, Drew said, the need for such equipment may be small per unit even though it is still a fixed cost of the hospital, they have to pay for it. Drew compared it with a farmer buying a \$20,000 combine and only using it one day a year. "If you can't keep it working, and doing the job for you, then it is hard for a farmer to justify the expense. However, in the case of hospital care, we're dealing with human life, and there is a continual striving for the best service available," he said.

## THE COST

Farm Bureau members from August '68 to July '69 undercut the national average hospital stay of 8.4 days to 8.13 days. Average hospital charges nationally is \$565.00 while Farm Bureau members pay nearly sixty dollars less with an average bill of \$506.52. Costs continue to climb.

The national average for current per day hospital cost is \$68.00. Michigan's per day hospital cost 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 already shortage of facilities become increasingly burdened while health care plans become more expensive.

Current annual rate of increasing hospital charges in Michigan is estimated at 15 percent, along with a current annual rate of increasing physician charges of eight percent. Drew said that people cannot continue to match the payments of these inflationary rates and that alternatives are being sought. He explained that health costs can be held down, but first, it will take a massive education program on the part of every facet of our society to understand just how it can be done.

The present health system is ineffective and it needs to be changed, he said. Drew explained that the present system grew up so clumsily because there never has been any central control to build efficiency into our hospitals. He said, the system is almost completely unorganized, where most hospitals are independent of each other, where each sometimes tries to outdo the other in facilities, where expensive equipment is duplicated instead of cooperatively sharing services at less expense. He said that only in recent years has there been a healthy growing public awareness and concern for the problem.

"Health cost can be reduced when people decide they want to do something about it," Drew explained.

## DISCUSSION TOPIC

By GARY A. KLEINHENN  
Director, Education and Research

He said, it is quite similar to the Farm Bureau philosophy — that it takes more than one person to get the job done, and that people have to join together in numbers to effectively surmount obstacles before them.

There are alternatives that are available, he said, some good and some not so good.

The not so good, he believes, is in the proposal for a national health plan or in other words socialized medicine. Many think that this means free medical treatment, Drew said, but really it is just the opposite. He predicted that such a plan, if ever enacted, would be more inflationary to the nation, and more detrimental to the quality of treatment given a patient than other proposed plans.

Drew outlined examples of many countries with national socialized medicine. The most notable was in England where medical people have been stripped of personal incentive to earn a better way of life. The result, Drew said, is that it is extremely difficult for England to keep top notch medical people.

What this means to the patient is low quality treatment, and in America, Drew said, I don't believe I've ever met anyone who would be satisfied with second-class treatment. Folks want to be as healthy as they possibly can.

Furthermore, there is a bigger question of "socialized medicine" that should be answered. Is this the road Americans want to take? Eugene Holman adeptly pointed out:

"There is a price tag on human liberty. That price is the willingness to assume the responsibilities of being free men. Payment of this price is a personal matter with each of us. It is not something we can get others to pay for us. To let others carry the responsibilities of freedom and the work and worry that accompany them — while we share only in the benefits — may be a very human impulse, but it is likely to be fatal."

Action to push a national health insurance program through congress failed recently, as UPI re-



ported the present administration rejected the ideas as improper, unworkable and too costly a proposal. John G. Veneman, undersecretary of Health, Education and Welfare said the bill would cost \$77 billion in 1974 and would be equivalent to a federal health tax of over \$1,000 per year for every household in the United States.

## ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE

But there is another alternative as MFB's Marlie Drew explains, which will maintain personal initiative and high quality service. He said, one way to accomplish this is through a central organization or authority to better direct hospital functions on a regional basis where all the specialists of medicine in an area could be utilized to their fullest extent. But as it is now, he said, there are no agencies to effectively put this theory to work.

Drew continued, "We live in an age of specialists and contrary to what many people may believe it can help to slow rising costs." Today if we were still in the days of the general practitioner, Drew explained, people never would get treated.

He said advantages built into this concept of regionalized hospital and doctor facilities would be more expert service given to a greater proportion of the citizenry. However, he added, folks might have to drive a little further to get this service, but it would work best for the needs of the people.

The need for more and better service will not decrease, he said. For instance in the U.S. we have over two hundred million people and in thirty years population is expected to climb to three hundred million.

Drew further emphasized the need for reorganization. He said that the doctor shortage is a real problem. He said that nationally our yearly graduates from medical schools number only some 9,000, and that if this graduate figure were doubled every year it would still take twenty years to come up with an adequate number of physicians.

And he explained, reorganization of health care units set up on a regional basis would also allow for full utilization of specialized equipment for less frequent types of cases.

Furthermore a regionally organized medical facility based on geography and population would also increase the efficiency of building facilities. Small hospitals for example are much more costly to operate than would be this type, he said.

The need is great, there are over 54 million people living in rural areas alone that need better service. However, some resistance to the regional idea is that it is not strong on personalized service, Drew said, and this is probably the biggest factor that must be overcome before the public will push for the idea.

To bolster better health care, through regional concept, a plan has been formulated through the Michigan Community Health Services study during a four year compilation of data sponsored by a grant from the U. S. Public Health Service, and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. The study, "The Committee of Forty Report of Recommendations," encourages the establishment of uniform regions in Michigan for the purposes of planning organizing and implementing comprehensive health programs.

The 152 page report is a working guide for communities. It explains that the public's unawareness of existing health problems and needs is perhaps the most critical dilemma facing community health agencies today.

For further information discussion groups can write to the Michigan Community Health Services Study, 109 South Observatory, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

# BLUE CROSS - BLUE SHIELD by Marlie Drew

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

There are 57,940 families who

belong to Michigan Farm Bureau. By joining together in the Farm Bureau, they have formed a strong voice which has resulted in many successes for the benefit of all members.

Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield provide health care protection for over five million people in Michigan. The steady growth of these plans over the past thirty years can be attributed to the basic concept under which they operate. That is the principle of providing service benefits under a contractual relationship with the providers of care. This is the real strength of the program, the guaranteed benefits to the subscribed through contracts between the hospital, the doctor and the subscriber.

### VALUE

The best health care value 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, ninety-five cents is returned 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 a "true group" program. Full service benefits covering most hospital and doctor services without dollar limit. For example, 365 days of paid-in-full care covering room and board and costly in-

patient extras in accordance with your contract coverage. You can get this kind of coverage without the inconvenience of confusing claim forms—just show your Blue Cross and Blue Shield identification card—anywhere in the world.

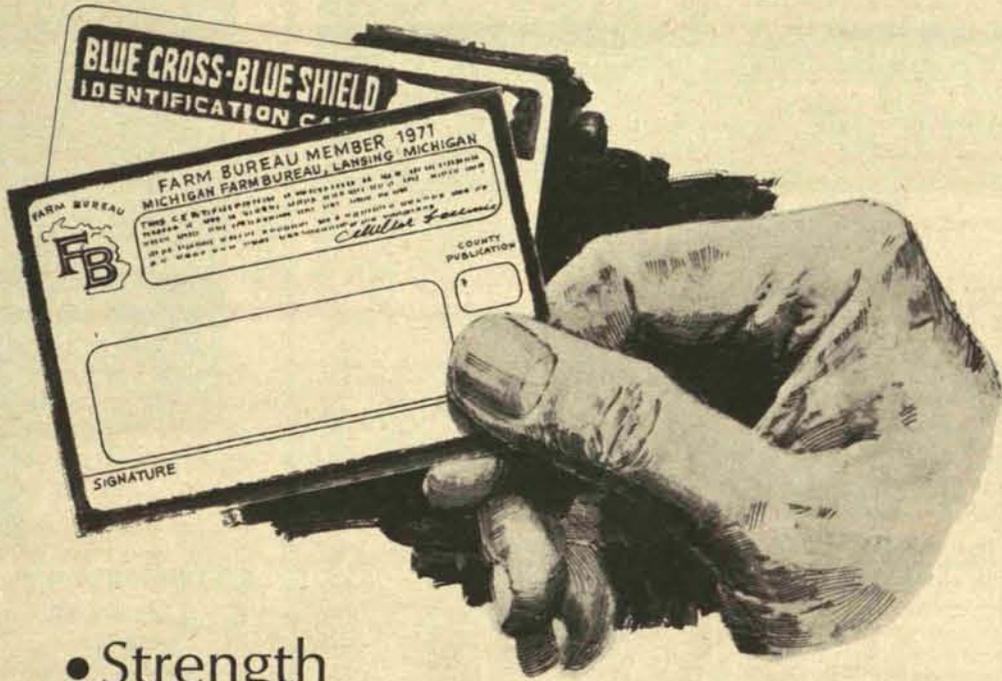
### KNOWLEDGE

Michigan Farm Bureau is an organization made up of people in 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 your best source of this knowledge and thus make a tough business a little easier.

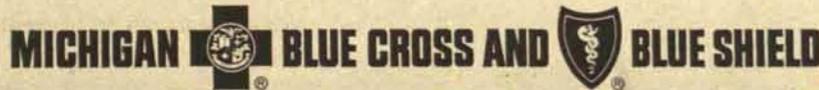
The concept of pre-paid health care is not new, but not as old as the principles on which the Farm Bureau was founded. The need was there as a result of the social and economic dilemma of the thirties. As a result, the hospitals and doctors in Michigan formed two prepayment organizations to help people pay for their needed hospital and medical care—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**

## Put them together and what have you got?



- Strength
- Value
- Benefits
- Knowledge
- Responsibility



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

# ( Cut & Save )

As one of the Michigan Farm Bureau members, you are entitled to purchase any one or more of the exciting, national 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.

### COOKWARE SETS

No. 1088 — **MASTERBILT BY MIRRO** 7-piece heavy quality aluminum cookware set. Super tough Teflon II inside. Avocado and Poppy. \$24.99 value. Your cost \$15.36 plus 62¢ Sales Tax and \$1.50 ship/hdl. Send \$17.48

**DELUXE MIRRO-MATIC PRESSURE COOKERS.** Rack, recipe book included.

### PRESSURE COOKERS

No. 1089A — (4 qt.) — \$17.49 value. Your cost \$8.69, plus 35¢ Sales Tax and \$1.05 Ship/hdl. Send \$10.09

No. 1089B — (6 qt.) — \$21.49 value. Your cost \$11.43, plus 46¢ Sales Tax and \$1.20 Ship/hdl. Send \$13.09

No. 1089C — (8 qt.) — \$27.99 value. Your cost \$16.44, plus 66¢ Sales Tax and \$1.50 Ship/hdl. Send \$18.60

No. 1089D — (16 qt.) — \$36.99 value. Your cost \$22.89, plus 92¢ Sales Tax and \$1.90 Ship/hdl. Send \$25.71

### PARTY PERKS

No. 1090 — **MIRRO COLORMODE** 30-cup party perks, Poppy and Avocado. \$16.99 value. Your cost \$10.50, plus 42¢ Sales Tax and \$1.05 ship/hdl. Send \$11.97

### AUTOMATIC PERCOLATORS

No. 1091 — **MIRRO 5-10 cup** automatic percolator. Avocado, Harvest Gold, Poppy. Value \$15.99. Your cost \$7.98, plus 32¢ Sales Tax and 65¢ ship/hdl. Send \$8.95

### FRENCH FRYER

No. 1092 — **MIRRO MANHATTAN** electric French Fryer and Buffet Cooker. Super tough Teflon inside, removable heat control, aluminum food basket. Avocado and Harvest Gold. Value \$23.99. Your cost \$14.64, plus 59¢ Sales Tax and \$1.30 ship/hdl. Send \$16.53

### ELECTRIC FRY PAN

No. 1093 — **MIRRO-MATIC MANHATTAN** electric Fry Pan. Extra deep. Extra tall cover. Super tough Teflon II inside. Avocado and Harvest Gold. Value \$28.99. Your cost \$17.28 plus 69¢ Sales Tax and \$1.25 ship/hdl. Send \$19.22

### MENS WATCHES

No. 1094 — **SHEFFIELD 25-jewel** silvertone water resistant, automatic day/date. Center expansion bracelet. \$45.00 value. Your cost \$33.75 plus \$1.35 s/t plus 52¢ ship. Send \$35.62

No. 1095 — **SHEFFIELD HEAVY-DUTY** wrist watch silvertone, 17-jewel, water resistant, chronograph calendar, black alligator strap, \$75.00 value. Your cost \$56.25 plus \$2.25 s/t and 52¢ ship. Send \$59.02

### WOMENS WATCHES

No. 1096A — **SHEFFIELD**, Goldtone Savonette pendant watch. \$23.50 value. Your cost \$17.63 plus 71¢ s/t and 52¢ ship. Send \$18.86.

No. 1096B — **SHEFFIELD** Bracelet watch. Gold or Silvertone, imported synthetic Spinnette crystal. \$30.00 value. Your cost \$22.50 plus 90¢ s/t and 52¢ ship. Send \$23.92

### WALKIE TALKIES

No. 1097 — **ROSS WALKIE TALKIE**. Solid state ½ mile range, call 'alert' system. Separate 'push to talk' and volume controls—8-section telescopic antenna. 5½" x 2½" x 1½". Break resistant plastic case, per pair \$22.95 value. Your cost \$13.75 plus 55¢ s/t and 52¢ ship. Send \$14.82

No. 1098 — **ROSS WALKIE TALKIE**. Two channel 1¼ mile range. Separate volume push to talk and 'call alert' controls. Telescopic 9-section antenna. Diecast Chrome front and high-impact plastic back 6½" x 2¾" x 1¾". \$32.95 value. Your cost \$20.00 per pair, plus 80¢ s/t and 58¢ ship. Send \$21.38

### STEREO TAPE PLAYER

No. 1099 — **ROSS STEREO 8-Track** Tape Player and am/fm-fm Stereo Multiplex Combination Instant solid state, automatic and manual track switching, track pilot light, indicator light, vernier slide rule tuning, cross-over speaker system, 70-watt output power. Main unit 19½" x 10" x 4½". Speaker size 14¼" x 9" x 5½". \$189.50 value. Your cost \$111.88 plus \$4.48 sales tax and \$3.05 ship. Send \$119.41

### RADIOS

No. 1100 — **ROSS AM-FM Digital** Clock Radio. Solid state chassis. Unique dial counter with wake up to music features. 60 minutes sleep switch. Illuminated clock face. Hand rubbed walnut cabinet 13" x 5½" x 4". \$39.95 value. Your cost \$27.50 plus \$1.10 s/t and 71¢ ship. Send \$29.31.

No. 1101 — **ROSS portable** Clock AM-FM Radio. Solid state Battery operated. Built-in AFC for drift-free FM. Black Case with Chrome Trim. 6½" x 3¼" x 1¾". \$19.95 value. Your cost \$11.88 plus 47¢ s/t and 58¢ ship. Send \$12.93

### HOME REFERENCE LIBRARY

No. 1102 — **COLUMBIA Encyclopedia** Set. 19 sections plus durable binder. 75,000 articles, 20 world maps, 500 illustrations. \$49.50 value. Your cost \$17.23, plus 69¢ s/t and 88¢ ship. Send \$18.80

No. 1103 — **WEBSTER'S** New Twentieth Century Unabridged Dictionary. \$49.50 value. Your cost \$17.23, plus 69¢ s/t and 88¢ ship. Send \$18.80

### BLENDER

No. 1104 — **HAMILTON BEACH 8-Pushbutton** Blender. Generous 40-oz. container conveniently opens at both ends. Available in handsome white Avocado or Harvest Gold base with white deck. \$28.95 value. Your cost \$17.95, plus 72¢ s/t and 97¢ ship. Send \$19.64.

### ELECTRIC KNIFE

No. 1105 — **HAMILTON BEACH**, Two-Tone Electric Knife with famous "hole in the handle", Avocado. Comes in compact travel case. \$19.95 value. Your cost \$11.56, plus 46¢ s/t and 65¢ ship. Send \$12.67

### CANDLE SET

No. 1106 — **BISCO Danish** Steel 12-piece candle set. 4 holders and 8-11" candles. \$7.95 value. Your cost \$5.96, plus 24¢ s/t and 82¢ ship. Send \$7.02

### LUGGAGE

No. 1107 — **AMELIA EARHART** Men's Attache case with deck top divider. Cordovan and Charcoal Built-in file for legal folders. 14½" x 4½" x 18½". \$22.95 value. Your cost \$14.38, plus 58¢ s/t and \$1.21 ship. Send \$16.17

No. 1108 — **AMELIA EARHART** Companion Suitcase. Man tailored, coordinated fabric. Cordovan and Charcoal. Ideal for "carry-on". \$24.95 value. Your cost \$15.63 plus 63¢ s/t and \$1.34 ship. Send \$17.60

No. 1109 — **AMELIA EARHART** Men's Two-Suiter. Two removable molded hangers with convenient fold-and-hold. Cordovan and Charcoal. \$36.95 value. Your cost \$23.13, plus 93¢ s/t and \$1.73 ship. Send \$25.79

No. 1110 — **AMELIA EARHART** Women's Train Case. Cordovan, Avocado Green, Light Blue, White, Melon, Red, Charcoal. 9½" x 9¾" x 15". \$21.95 value. Your cost \$13.60, plus 54¢ s/t and \$1.14 ship. Send \$15.28

No. 1111 — **AMELIA EARHART 21"** Weekender. Cordovan, Avocado Green, Light Blue, White, Melon, Red, Charcoal. Three luxuriously ruffled, shirred pockets. Quilted top and bottom. 16½" x 6¾" x 21½". \$24.95 value. Your cost \$15.63, plus 63¢ s/t and \$1.27 ship. Send \$17.53

No. 1112 — **AMELIA EARHART 27"** Pullman. Cordovan, Avocado Green, Light Blue, White, Melon, Red, Charcoal. Three luxuriously ruffled, shirred pockets. Quilted top and bottom. \$36.95 value. Your cost \$23.13, plus 93¢ s/t and \$1.60 ship. Send \$25.66

## FARM BUREAU WIL-WAY PREMIUM ORDER FORM

Each piece of merchandise listed in this Wil-Way Premiums advertisement carries a key number corresponding to the number on this Farm Bureau Order-by-Mail card. Circle the appropriate number or numbers of merchandise you wish to purchase and complete the necessary information as to color and size. All merchandise carries the manufacturer's warranty. Attach your name 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-Way Premiums, Box 636, Adrian, Michigan 49221*. Allow a minimum of three weeks for delivery. Void where prohibited.

1088	1089A	1089B	1089C	1089D	1090	1091	1092	1093
1094	1095	1096A	1096B	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101
1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110
1111	1112							

Color \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACH NAME AND 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.

If address is a Box or Rural Route number only indicate road or street address for U.P.S. delivery.

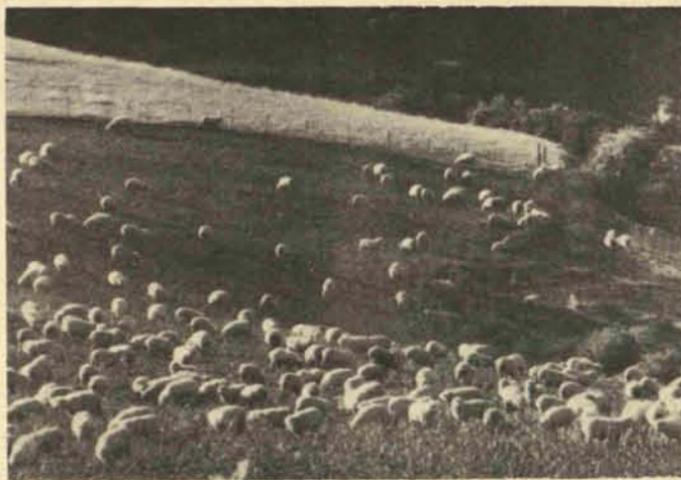
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCUSSION TOPIC SUMMARY**

September Topic: School Finances In The Near Future — 677 groups reporting — 6,830 participants. Question for the U.P. groups: How do you explain your 4th and 7th graders scoring higher on a district basis than other areas of the state, according to the statewide assessment program? Answers included: Good teachers, emphasis on basics, more discipline, less crowding, less affluence makes parents and students more responsible, less disturbance as to racial problems, fewer broken homes and easier and slower pace of living. Q. Should "accountability" of school system be employed in your district. A. It can be, 22 groups; it should be, 309 groups. Is it employed? Yes, 127. Q. Do you believe school finances can be improved through better management practices. A. Yes, 575; No, 28. Q. How? A. 60 groups said schools should have trained business managers and more conscientious administrators and boards. Q. Have any of your schools been forced to cut back in school sessions because of the lack of funds? A. Yes, 135; No, 536. Q. What is your opinion about the funds? A. 135 groups oppose it, saying, "ownership creates appreciation;" 78 groups said books only; 27 groups said they like it, while 24 groups said it is too socialistic.

October Topic: Farm Unionization — Where Is It Headed? Five-hundred-forty-seven questionnaires returned — 5,500 participants. Question: What effect will unionization efforts have on agriculture? 187 groups said it would force many farmers out of farming; 100 groups said it would cause higher food prices, while 90 groups said it would increase mechanization and require more skilled labor. Q. Should farmers favor legislation to curb unionizers and to set up rules and regulations to give farmers a bargaining lever? A. 519 groups said yes and 22 groups said no. Over 300 groups said farmers should start by promoting legislation. Q. Does your group favor the Murphy Bill? A. 451 yesses and 20 noes. 351 groups indicated it provides a measure of protection for both farmers and workers.

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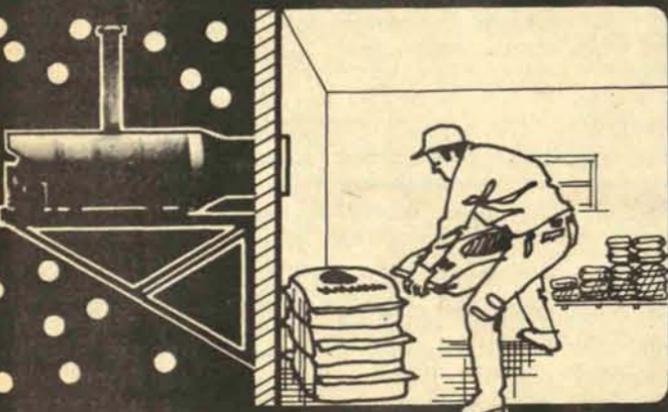
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"1001 THINGS FREE" (64-page book) \$1 — MAILMART, Carrollton, 72, Kentucky 41008. (5-tf-10b, 36

**36 MISCELLANEOUS**

FREE CIRCULAR. COUNTRY RECORDS — or tape cartridges — fiddle tunes — blue grass, etc. Mac Wiseman, J. E. Mainer, others. Uncle Jim O'Neal, Box AMFN, Arcadia, California 91006. (6-10t-26p)

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WANTED HOMEWORKERS: \$100 weekly addressing envelopes. For details send 25¢ and large, stamped, self-addressed envelope to: WJR Enterprises, Box 44125, Department M7, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244. (12-tf-26b)

STOP RUSTY WATER FROM RUINING WASH, staining fixtures. Proven filter keeps complete water system free of rust, sand, tastes, odors and other impurities. Uses economical, washable filters. 30 day trial offer. Free information. Write: RUSTRAP, 836-AC W. 79th, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420.

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BOTTLE COLLECTORS: Yount's latest \$3.95 "Bottle Collectors Guide" lists identifies and prices over 2500 bottles of every American category. TEXTBOOKS, Box 3862-MN, San Angelo, Texas 76901 (9-4t-24p)

WANTED: ALLIS ROUND HAY BALER, any place, any condition. Alfred Roeder, Seneca, Kansas 66358. (12-1t-20p)

John Heim, MACMA 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 MACMA's Red Tart Cherry and Feeder Pig Divisions. The announcement was made by MACMA 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 "lake-bordered" paper, the salutation reads: "A Friendly Blast; 3 long — 2 short. When a sailor meets a sailor — As their boats draw nigh — It's three long blasts — 2 short toots — Their way of saying Hi!"

Dates have been set for the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer conferences — January 6 and 7, 1971 at McGuire'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 Washenaw Farmers Oil Company.

Carl J. Heisler, president of FPC, stated with pride that for the sixth consecutive year sales totals have increased and the cooperative's financial position has been strengthened. He added, "I have no doubt that Farmers Petroleum can become the most important company selling petroleum, tires, batteries, and accessories in Michigan." He also noted that the cooperative's position today is excellent. It's a foundation from which we have much to gain, especially in future years. He also reported \$224,415 will

be paid to patrons as a patronage refund after taxes and reserve allocations.

In his operations report, Donald R. Armstrong, executive vice president, reported that total sales again set a record for Farmers Petroleum. Sales to the farm market improved 7.5% over last year and net margin, before federal income taxes, was \$340,016.

Highlights of Farmers Petroleum operations for the year include 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 "on-the-farm" tire service.

## FARM LABOR ORGANIZERS HIT CONFERENCE

A Welfare League Conference on Migratory Labor proved to be little 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 Garcia, 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 & P stores were made a target of 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 either act on the issue or 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 filings.

A great deal of proof was presented to the commission, indicating that the petitions, if properly canvassed, would fall far short of the required number of valid signatures. It was found that many circulators were not registered voters and many signers were not registered voters. This was an exceptionally higher percentage than normally expected in a petition drive. In any event, this indicates the importance of the issue.



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\*Dealer guarantees this price to be \$ \_\_\_\_\_ lower than price on March 1, 1971.



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