

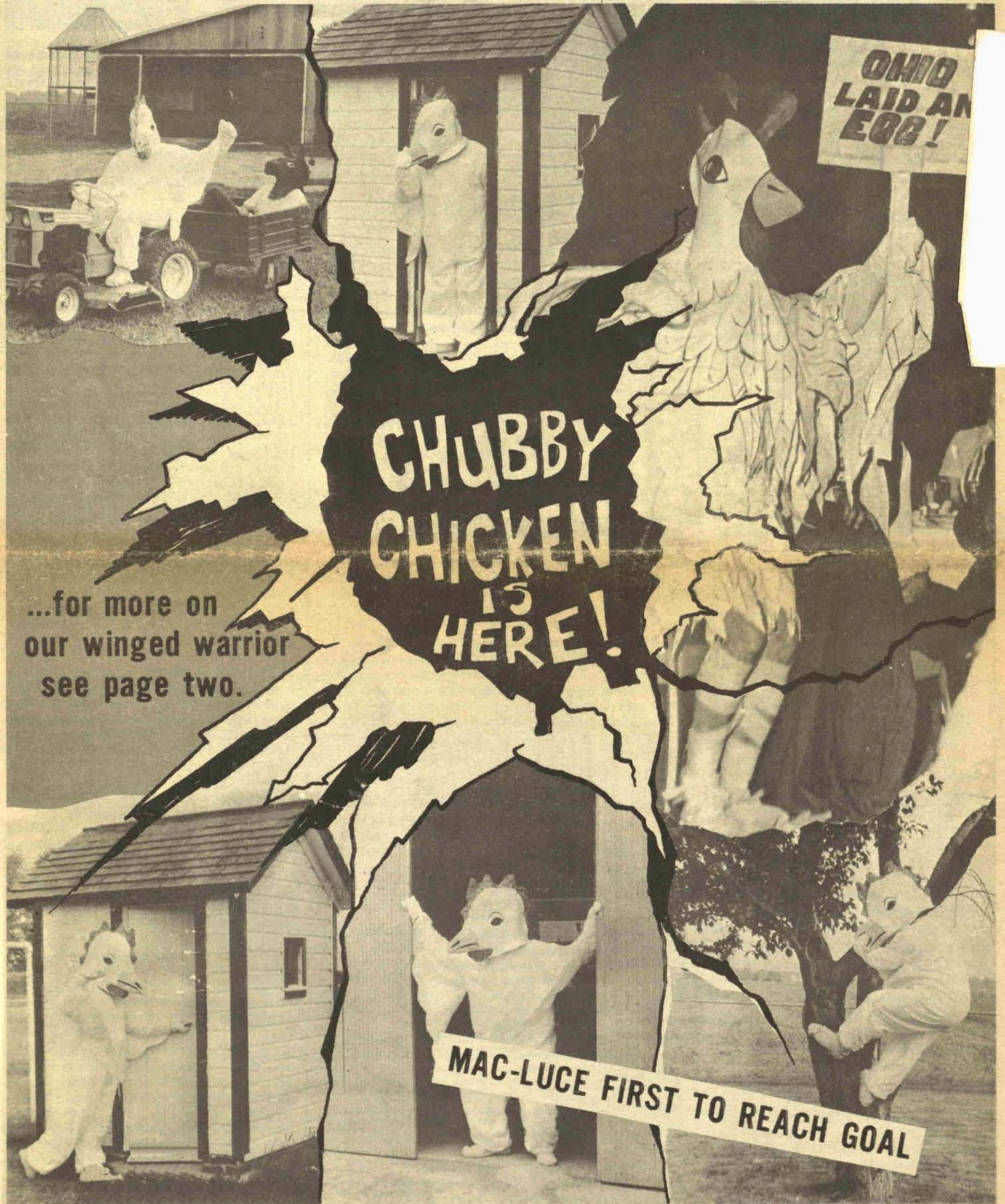
MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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

Vol. 50, No. 1

THE NEW **AGE**

January 1, 1971



**CHUBBY
CHICKEN
IS
HERE!**

...for more on
our winged warrior
see page two.

**OHIO
LAID AN
EGG!**

MAC-LUCE FIRST TO REACH GOAL

ON THE INSIDE:

Boycott
Expands
page 3

New AFBF
President
Page 6

Four V.P.'s
Named
page 6

Free School
Supplies?
page 10

EDITORIAL . . .



MFB Members In Houston

More than 5,000 farmers from 49 states and Puerto Rico gathered together in Houston, Texas for the 52nd annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation during the second week of December.

Over 250 Michigan farmers took time out from their daily farm chores to take part in this annual event of the world's largest farm organization.

From the opening vesper service to the motion to adjourn, Michigan members took an active part in the convention.

It began when Michigan representative Robert Harms of Sunfield was selected one of the five finalists in the national Discussion Meet.

Our lovely Michigan Farm Bureau Queen, Miss Judy Behrenwald, proudly represented us in the parade of queens at the large Coliseum before thousands of people. She also assisted in the organization conference for the 1970 membership kick-off.

Michigan was presented with a three-star award at the "Gold Star Award" program. State Farm Bureaus were required to show a gain in membership over their 1969 total in order to qualify for the gold star program. Michigan was well qualified, having had a membership gain for five consecutive years. Other program areas of the MFB to receive a "Gold Star Award" were women's activities and marketing.

Marketing programs were emphasized throughout the convention with special sessions conducted on cotton, dairy, grain, soybeans, livestock, poultry and horticultural crops.

Major guest speakers at the general sessions were U. S. Representative Rogers C. B. Morton of Maryland, recently nominated to the post of Secretary of the Interior by President Nixon and John B. Connally, former governor of Texas and former Secretary of the Navy and most recently selected by President Nixon to be his new Treasury Secretary.

Roger Fleming, secretary-treasurer of the AFBF said in his report that farmers and ranchers are determined to get "muscle in the market place."

"In terms of far-reaching importance to the net incomes of farmers and ranchers," he said, "the most significant Farm Bureau programs have been and are in the field of building greater market power for farmers and ranchers.

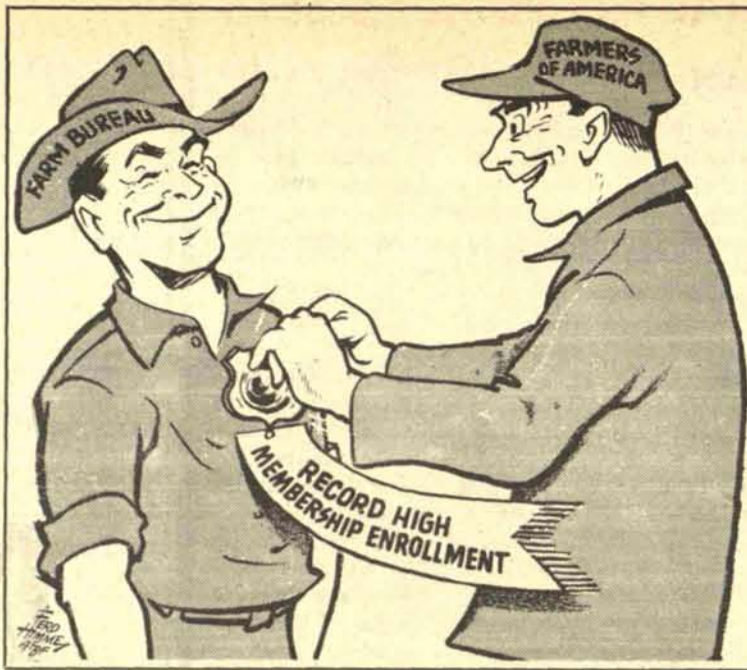
"We have some of the most 'battle tested' volunteer leaders in this field anywhere. We have made a substantial start at taking hold of a problem area that has plagued farmers and ranchers for as long as any of us can remember."

Fleming also reported that Farm Bureau membership reached a new all-time high during 1970.

We are proud to say that Michigan helped AFBF in reaching this all-time high membership figure and the Michigan members are again gearing up to conduct a membership campaign that will show an increase.

January is membership campaign time in Michigan. Voluntary workers will be contacting farmers who are not now members offering them the opportunity to join an organization that is of-by-and-for farmers. Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization. It is local, statewide, national and international in its scope and influence.

Carl P. Kentner



Chubby Chicken is Here!

The great white bird has landed! Chubby Chicken is here! The White-Winged Warrior has returned from his flight to Houston and is ready for the coming membership campaign. In case you're wondering who Chubby Chicken really is, don't feel alone, there's a lot of folks from Ohio wondering the very same thing. Chubby Chicken is a combination of the Lone Ranger, Superman, Batman, and a chicken with a thyroid condition. He is a character symbolizing the SUPER MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN WORKER in the 1971 Membership Campaign and will soon be attending many of the membership campaign kick-off meetings via a new slide-tape film.

In the presentation, Chubby, the super worker, takes on the world's most stubborn prospect, Merlin Mule, in a battle of wits. Of course, our champion reigns as the victor, proving without a doubt that the 1971 Membership Campaign Team is the best in the country.

Rumor has it, Chubby might be stopping in at several county Farm Bureaus for a personal visit . . . and he is definitely going to attend the regional Barnyard Bash parties.

While in Houston, Michigan's White-Winged Warrior swooped down on the Michigan-Ohio Breakfast. The Ohio representatives were immediately struck with fear and terror as our hero fluttered around the room with a sign reading, "Ohio laid an egg." Following the breakfast, he disappeared as quickly as he appeared — and was last seen at about 30,000 feet — somewhere between Houston and Lansing. According to informed sources, Chubby is now flying from county to county, and may very likely be at your kick-off.

*"Look back and give thanks
Look forward and take courage
Look around and serve
Look up and ask God's help."
(From Mrs. Haven Smiths Annual Address)*

These four lines could set a living theme for all of us during 1971. The new year is sure to be one of many challenges — some will end in triumph, others in defeat. By following a few other words of Mrs. Smith's, courage and faith will be derived by all. Mrs. Smith said, "Whatever we do in life, the accomplishment will depend on the price we are willing to pay. In our own selves lies triumph or defeat.

"He who will pay the price of hard work, of unselfish service, of altruism in the task before him, will find his life a success. The world is waiting for men and women willing to take up its burdens, and will give in return satisfaction, happiness, a great nation and a better world." A Peaceful, Happy New Year To All.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

The MICHIGAN FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau, at its publication office at 109 N. Lafayette Street, Greenville, Michigan.

Editorial and general offices at 4000 North Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Post Office Box 960. Telephone, Lansing 485-8121, Extension 317. Subscription price, 50¢ per year.

Established January 12, 1923. Second Class Postage paid at Greenville, Michigan.

EDITORIAL: Editor, Carl P. Kentner; Associate Editor, Vern M. Bullen; Advertising Manager, Carl P. Kentner; Artist, Norman Goodling.

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POSTMASTER: In using form 3579, mail to: Michigan Farm News, 4000 N. Grand River, Lansing, Michigan 48904

Second class postage paid at Greenville, Michigan

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

AFBF Annual Meeting



October, November and December have been busy months for farmers in the policy development process but agreeing on how we want to proceed in bettering agriculture is probably one of the most important things we can do. Without an agreed upon plan, farmers wouldn't get very far down the road before we farmers would lose our direction. We farmers avoid this at the county, state and national policy meetings.

That's what we accomplished at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting held in Houston, Texas in December. And all of us Michigan people, more than two hundred of us, who were there took part in an exciting event. I believe any annual meeting where representatives of the nearly two million family members of Farm Bureau get together is invigorating and productive. Each of us has the opportunity to meet and talk and learn about our business with farmers from New York to California. If the opportunity prevails, I would hope that every farmer could attend a national annual meeting; it truly is a worthwhile experience.

To begin to report to you of all the events is a big task and I'm sure your representatives attending the meeting will do a much better job for you than what this newspaper column will provide. But I can review with you some of the highlights.

Probably the most surprising event was when our American Farm Bureau President, Charles B. Shuman, decided to retire with 16 years of elected service as head of the AFBF. We'll miss him because he has been an invaluable leader for farmers, one that we all deeply respected and admired.

William J. Kuhfuss of Illinois is the new AFBF president. President Kuhfuss, before his election, had been the Illinois Agricultural Association president for 13 years. He is a third generation farmer and is in livestock and grain in Tazewell County, Illinois. He is a dedicated, sincere man who will give our organization the kind of leadership to keep growing and changing, while our agriculture changes.

Some of the greatest changes of agriculture are in the marketing and bargaining area.

In Houston I believe farmers made real headway in national policy agreements. The agreed upon resolution makes concrete recommendations to Congress concerning bargaining legislation.

Our new resolution recommends that law be passed to set standards for agricultural bargaining associations, and to make it illegal for buyers to refuse to negotiate in good faith with them.

The rights of qualified bargaining associations to enter into contracts with handlers to supply their full requirements should be clarified.

The fourth point would make it unlawful for a handler or processor to negotiate with an individual farmer while negotiating with a qualified bargaining association. Furthermore it should be unlawful for a handler to buy from any producer for other than the terms negotiated by the association.

Of course, one of the changes of this year's national meeting is the very little time spent in talking about government farm programs. It indicates that after years of battling this legislation, it is finally on its way out. It is greatly encouraging for all of us farmers that these programs are deteriorating. Many experts predict this will come because of results over the long hassle over the present disputed government farm program.

Elton R. Smith

NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL F.B. POLICIES SET

Robert E. Smith

Delegates to the AFBF national convention in Houston have completed the annual task of determining the Farm Bureau policies on national and international affairs. Delegates represented fifty Farm Bureaus from every state and Puerto Rico.

As usual, important changes occurred in national policies to accurately reflect the recommendations of state Farm Bureau policies resulting from county and state annual meetings. At least 150 titles are included in national policies on every subject that directly or indirectly affects agriculture.

Now that Congress has enacted a farm program for a three-year period — one which was not supported by a single farm organization (certain sections are in line with Farm Bureau policies, such as continuation of Food for Peace Program, P. L. 480, Class I Base Program, Wool Program, etc.) the delegates said that the next three years should be used for "an intensive study and reappraisal of all approaches to the improvement of the incomes of American farm families looking toward the development of a market oriented economy for all of agriculture."

They further urged the Secre-

tary of Agriculture to use the vast authority given him by the new act in such a manner that farmers will have "income opportunities more comparable to those of persons in other segments of the national economy." They said that "farmers must not be forced to compete with the CCC for markets" and that surplus stocks should not be used, as in the past, to "depress prices." They continued support for various specific programs, one of which affects Michigan — the extension of the Sugar Act.

Marketing and Bargaining

Continued emphasis was put on marketing and bargaining, with recognition that certain federal legislation must be passed in order to assist farmers in these marketing efforts. This includes provision of standards for recognition of a qualified bargaining association by buyers of agricultural products and requiring a buyer to negotiate in good faith with a qualified association.

Clarification of the rights of farmers to enter into contracts with handlers is needed, along with making it unlawful for a handler to buy from any producer for other than the terms negotiat-

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

The delegates continued to overwhelmingly support the enactment of national legislation governing farmer-worker relations, pointing out that farm labor should not be subject to the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board. Legislation should be written especially for the special problems and conditions in agriculture. The delegates also encouraged State Farm Bureaus to support enactment of state legislation on farm labor relations.

They continued to oppose the coercive force of boycotts of farm products designed to force recognition of labor organizations by the farmer with or without the consent of the workers. Such a tactic is illegal in industry.

Faster tax writeoffs of investments in farm labor housing was favored together with the recommendation that unused farm labor housing should be demolished.

Recommend New Department

The recommendation was also made that the AFBF should es-



Federal Tax Policies

They said that federal tax policies must be designed to encourage private initiative, help stabilize the dollar, and promote employment and economic growth, and favored, among other things, tax deductions or credits for college students supported by the taxpayer, deduction of the full amount of the cost of medical insurance for those who must pay their own, reinstatement of the seven percent investment credit and numerous other recommendations dealing with capital gains, depletion allowance and income taxes.

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FARM PRODUCT BOYCOTT EXPANDS

Efforts to force farm workers into joining a union have expanded and are now directed at workers employed by California lettuce growers. Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC) aimed their sights at lettuce workers following an end to the grape boycott.

The lettuce boycott is designed to move through the same channels as the boycott against grapes — a nation wide network of UFWOC boycott organizers along with help that can be mustered from churches, social action groups and retail food stores.

However, there are some major differences that exist between grape boycott and the lettuce boycott.

Most of the lettuce moving from California is produced under a contract between the growers and the Western Conference of Teamsters. Although some growers have rescinded their Teamsters contract to avoid a confrontation with UFWOC, many growers prefer the Teamster contracts. The lettuce boycott, to the extent that growers do not abandon Teamster contracts, will be directed against "union" produce.

Another difference is that the Teamsters who participated in the closing of big city terminal markets for table grapes will want to keep these markets open to Teamster lettuce.

Despite these differences, Chavez has stated that the boycott against lettuce will be conducted

on an even larger scale than was the grape boycott. Union organizers say there is no timetable for success, but there is inevitability.

Support for the lettuce boycott is now evident in Michigan. The Detroit offices of Dow Chemical Company and its Midland-based headquarters, are the scene of pickets by UFWOC and clergy supporters. Dow Chemical owns an interest in a large California lettuce farm which has a Teamster contract. This farm has resisted organization efforts by UFWOC.

A California Superior Court Judge last summer ordered Chavez to cease picketing this lettuce farm. Chavez retaliated with the lettuce boycott and failed to obey further Court orders to call off the nationwide boycott. As a result, Chavez has been jailed by the Judge until the boycott is ended in California and elsewhere.

The Michigan supporters of the lettuce boycott are demanding that the use of some pesticides in the lettuce fields be stopped and that restrictions be placed on all pesticides used. Dow Chemical is being picketed because Dow chemicals are supplied to the California lettuce farm in which it has ownership.

In the absence of national or state legislation to establish guidelines for the orderly handling of agricultural labor disputes, UFWOC is free to use whatever tactics are necessary to force farm workers into the union. Propaganda of the type reproduced here is common in the union effort to obtain public support for the boycott.

Many growers of other commodities are not concerned with the threat of product boycotts and forced unionization of farm labor because they have not yet heard the "bell toll for them." It is clear that UFWOC will not exempt any commodity from strikes or boycotts. If every commodity is fair play, growers must not wait for the "inevitable" to become concerned.

Food Stamps For Strikers!

The following wire was received from Congressman Charles E. Chamberlain of Michigan's 6th District.

"Your message regarding food stamp bill received. Know you'll be disappointed to learn that the House late yesterday rejected a substitute bill which I supported that excluded strikers from food stamp coverage. The committee bill then passed as reported. Bill now goes to conference."

Charles E. Chamberlain
Member of Congress

Support For Task Force

At its annual meeting on December 14, 1970, the Michigan Agricultural Conference gave unanimous support to the report of the Governor's Task Force on the Future of Agriculture.

Task Force Chairman Dan E. Reed briefed the Conference on major points recommended by the Task Force for the Governor's consideration:

1. Property tax relief on agricultural lands.
2. Legislation to improve the climate for agricultural sales and marketing.
3. Farm labor.
4. Land use.
5. Research.
6. Environment and ecology.
7. Recognition of society's responsibility in housing farm workers.
8. Agricultural representation on the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.

The Task Force made 30 other significant recommendations as well as 24 suggestions and recommendations for program improvements.

Attending the Agricultural Conference session with Chairman Reed were Task Force members Mrs. Eric Furu and Duane Baldwin, both of whom served as members of subcommittees of the Task Force.

Copies of the Task Force report may be obtained by writing the Governor's Office, The Capitol, Lansing.

Please Don't Shop Here!



Farm Workers are Struggling Non-violently to Better their Living and Working Conditions

In the Salinas Valley where 70% of our country's lettuce is grown, over 6,000 farm workers began a strike on August 24, 1970, after lettuce growers refused to recognize their union — the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO. They wanted a living wage, protection from the mis-use of deadly pesticides, decent housing, medical coverage and safe working conditions, so that they could care for their families. Conditions are so bad for them now that the life expectancy for migrant farm workers is a shocking 49 years, while the average U.S. citizen lives over 70 years.

Growers in California and Arizona are Attempting to Stop Farm Workers From Improving their Lives

Although the strike was both just and effective, most lettuce growers refused their workers' reasonable requests. Violence and intimidation were used against the striking workers. Strikebreakers were imported from as far away as Mexico in a desperate attempt to break the strike. Then the Monterey County Judge, Anthony Brazil handed down a court order forbidding the workers to exercise their constitutional right of strike picketing. It broke their strike. And now the farm workers have been forced to declare a boycott of all lettuce not bearing the Black Eagle Union label of the UFWOC.

Farm Workers Have Asked this Store to Support Them In their Non-violent Struggle for Justice

And this chain has refused the farm workers' request to buy UFWOC union label lettuce and continues to sell non-union lettuce. This powerful chain is supporting the very growers who are denying the farm workers the right to live and work in dignity.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE FARMWORKERS! DO NOT SHOP HERE!

For more information contact:
United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO
1380 South Wabash Avenue Chicago, IL 60605
phone: (312) 939-5120-21



Look for the wrapper on box with the union label.

UNION LABEL

Order-By-Mail Merchandise Plan

Refer to the December issue of the Michigan Farm News on page 17. We hope you have taken advantage of this service-to-member program. The February issue will offer new items in addition to most of the items now available.

Remember — When you receive your purchased item, be sure to keep the Warranty and instructions for returning item if defective. Regardless of how reputable a manufacturer may be, occasionally a defective item will slip through.

"Grapestakes" Winners

An Indiana school teacher couple won the national Grapestakes contest at a drawing held on December 8 during the general session of the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual meeting in Houston, Texas.

First prize in the contest, a 1971 Ford pick-up truck, will be delivered to Mrs. Carolyn R. Butt of Huntington, Indiana, whose winning entry coupon was drawn from thousands entered in the contest from 41 participating State Farm Bureaus.

Mrs. Butt is a librarian at Huntington North High School. They are members of the Huntington County, Indiana, Farm Bureau, and owners of a small farm in Miami County, Indiana.

Second prize in the national contest, a \$2,000 RCA home entertainment center, was won by Leslie M. Thompson, building superintendent for the community school district of Ottumwa, Iowa. Thompson, who also has small farm holdings, is a member of the Wapella County, Iowa, Farm Bureau.

Third prize — a yard full of Samsonite patio furniture — was won by Mrs. Gerald D. Anthony, a farm wife of Dekalb County, Indiana.

The drawing of winners from Iowa and Indiana generally reflects the degree of participation in the Grapestakes contest.

The National Drawing was the culmination of Grapestakes contest in 41 participating states designed to promote the sale of California table grapes at the height of the grape boycott during the summer months. Prizes for the national and state contests were provided by the California Table Grape Commission.

Reverent Theme Set At Vespers

The candlelight Vesper Service opens the American Farm Bureau Federation's convention each year. Mrs. Haven (Virginia D.) Smith, Chairman, American Farm Bureau Women's Committee, conducts the solemn, inspiring service. The 1971 program was held at 3 p.m., Sunday, December 6, in the Jesse H. Jones Hall, Civic Center Complex. The Rev. E. Hermond Westmoreland, pastor of the South Main Baptist Church since 1938, emphasized the theme, "justice - mercy - humility" as a guide line for a good Christian life. He also stated that "The way we climb is by stooping to help others."

AFBF staff members assisted in the candlelighting ceremony. The College Singers of Houston Baptist College, provided the musical background for the Vesper Service. The 28 singers, in addition to their annual tours, average 200 performances each year before civic, cultural and church groups.

"Building America - Together"

(Mrs. Haven Smith, Chairman, American Farm Bureau Federation Women's Committee, gave an inspiring address to several hundred women attending the 52nd Annual Meeting. Following are several excerpts from her message.)

"We are gathered here, at the beginning of our second half century, with another new all-time high in membership — 1,943,181 member families united in Farm Bureau. And, with our rapidly urbanizing population, and with human problems pressing on us from all sides, we are gathered here when Farm Bureau has greater need of effectively mobilized woman-power than ever before in our history. Some of the key areas in which Farm Bureau needs to concentrate its greatest effort are areas in which women can be just as effective, and sometimes more effective, than men. There are 6 areas where we must increase our effectiveness. These are:

• Re-build Faith

"We need to work, every day, to re-build faith in our Country. Everyone of us has continuous contacts, with our families, our neighbors, our churches, and with other organizations. There is no limit to the influence of 1,943,181 informed, dedicated women, in over 2,800 Counties across this land, can have if we will speak out, stand up, and be counted against the hodgepodge of America's down-graders who would destroy the democratic foundations on which this country was built. I've talked about this before, God willing, I'll talk about it again and again.

• Law and Order — Our Responsibility

"We must be an active part of a citizenry concerned enough to

stop the wave of lawlessness that has been sweeping this country.

"Any thinking person knows that to continue the road we have been traveling means anarchy, dictatorship, and the end of our great free America.

• Government By The People

"Each year it becomes more imperative that every one of us put forth our concentrated effort to make government "by the people" a reality. A quick analysis of the election a month ago may be of value as we chart our course ahead.

"First, fifty-six million votes were cast. This was a record turnout for an off-year election, and reflects citizen concern:

• Controlling Inflation

"In the months ahead, we must be increasingly active and increasingly vocal on government issues.

"I believe we can make our country what we want it to be, but we cannot do it unless every one of us is informed and concerned about government. A top priority for Farm Bureau women in every state is to get, not only our own members, but the people around us, to understand the issues and to be an active, part of "government by the people."

• Rural Development — Its Time Has Come

"A major challenge to every Farm Bureau member, man and woman, is to learn about Rural Development, and to play a leadership role in study and action programs in Rural Development in your county. This is an area in which our Country has just recently developed deep concern. We read full page articles about it in the "Washington Post," the "New York Times," and other metropolitan papers. Congressmen are making speeches about it, churches are holding state conferences, all kinds of organizations are wanting talks about it on their convention programs, there is a title on it in the new Farm Program legislation, the "1970 Yearbook of Agriculture" deals at length with this subject, and the Department of Agriculture is holding lecture series for its staff members.

• The World — Our Workroom

"Every woman — every woman — has a responsibility to make of herself, and of our Nation, a force for bringing peace and friendship and a better life for all of the three and one-half billion people of this world that is each year becoming closer to us — closer not only physically, but closer in our intelligent and understanding concern for our fellowmen."

DISTRICT MEETING SPEAKERS



FALL WOMEN'S DISTRICT MEETING SPEAKERS . . . were M. J. Buschlen and Miss Bonita Bohnsack. Mr. Buschlen, Operations Manager of Michigan Agricultural Services Association, acquainted the women with MASA and Farm Labor Problems. Miss Bohnsack demonstrated cutting and serving of beef and pork. She is a member of the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

"A minute with Maxine"
MAXINE TOPLIFF
 STATE WOMEN'S CHAIRMAN

Another Gold Star In Our Crown!

As I sit here this morning the radio is playing Christmas carols and outside is one of the most beautiful winter scenes one could ever wish for. The branches on the trees are covered with thick beautiful frost glistening in the sun against a cloudless blue sky. It makes you feel great to be alive. It is cold and slippery under foot, so we must remember to be careful as we walk and drive.

The AFBF convention in Houston is now history. As we were taking off in our chartered jet the pilot told us we should be two hours and thirty five minutes to Houston. My seatmate said, "From our house we could be only just across the state line in that amount of time." We had a beautiful flight to Houston, traveling through the clouds up to the blue sky and bright sunshine with billowy white clouds under you, made you feel like you were on top of the world.

We arrived in 76 degree weather and promptly shed our coats. We boarded buses and started to our hotel with a tour of the Astrodome on the way. We walked the one and a quarter miles around on the inside, sometimes going up a floor or down whichever would take us to another point of interest. The temperature inside is regulated so it is always between 70 and 72 degrees. We had a bus driver who talked to us all the way to the hotel telling us what many of the buildings were. You felt a little acquainted after listening to him.

The convention started with a Vesper service at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. It was an inspirational service and set the mood for a busy three days for many of us.

The women's delegate dinner was Sunday evening. Each state chairman gave a one minute report of their outstanding project for the year. This is always a time to listen to what other states are doing and you can evaluate your own state program. Some states are doing things we have done or are doing and some are doing things we can do in the future. Michigan Farm Bureau women were thrilled at the awards program. The women's program won a Gold Star for Michigan. You gals in the counties are doing a great job and I know you'll keep on doing a great job. Many hands make light work and get more done, so let's keep getting more of our ladies involved.

The women's business meeting was Monday afternoon and Virginia Smith was reelected chairman of the AFBF women's committee. Beatrice "Bea" Wilkie, who was our vice chairman, found it necessary not to run again and Mary Jane Smith from Oklahoma was elected our new vice chairman. Someone said, "Looks like the Smiths have it, doesn't it?"

On our way home Wednesday, we had a tour to NASA, where we saw many of the early space flight vehicles. Some of them looked like they had been rather warm, or hot, in spots, and we were glad we hadn't been the one to ride in them. Another beautiful flight home, another convention over and many happy, tired people had had a good time.

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff



BRENDA LEE RASCH . . . daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Rasch, Conklin, was chosen 1971 Michigan State Apple Queen at the Michigan State Horticultural Society Centennial Convention held recently in Grand Rapids. The Rasch's are long time Farm Bureau members. As Michigan State Apple Queen, Miss Rasch will tour the country promoting the state's apple products and will compete in the "Miss Apple Queen U. S. A." contest in the fall of 1971.

Notes From All Over

Martin J. Bauer, long-time Hemlock civic leader, retired December 31 as general manager of the Hemlock Farmers Co-operative after 45 years with that organization. Mr. Bauer was one of the original 112 stockholders of the Hemlock Co-operative Creamery. Mr. Bauer has been an active Farm Bureau member, local and state, since 1930. He has served on the State Farm Bureau Advisory Board of Managers and is a director of Farm Bureau Services. Alvin C. Zabel, a 25 year employee, will succeed Mr. Bauer as manager.

Several letters have been received at Michigan Farm Bureau Center from members who attended the annual meeting in Grand Rapids. William Notestine, Petoskey, wrote (in part) "My wife and I thought that the annual meeting last year could not be improved upon. However, the annual meeting this year was a definite improvement over last year. Of course, the principal reason was the location, which was ideal. I had always objected to a change but it was all for the best. The other improvement was the smoothness with which the meeting progressed. More was accomplished, it seemed to us, in a shorter time than ever before."

A portion of a letter from Howard Ebenhoeh, Saginaw County Farm Bureau, reported "The Saginaw County Farm Bureau delegates would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere approval and satisfaction of the selection of the Pantlind Hotel—Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids, for the Annual Meeting location. Congratulations!"

Still another—Ruth W. Dowd, secretary of the Kee-Hart Group, Van Buren County, wrote (a portion quoted) "We feel that the convenience of not having to worry about cars and weather added a great deal to the now relaxed atmosphere . . . Thank you again for a very worthwhile three days."

The Citizens Research Council of Michigan received notice that it has received two awards from The Governmental Research Association. One award was for "Effective Presentation of Government Research" for its report 'Public Education in Michigan' and the second for "The Most Effective Brief Presentation of Government Research" for its report "Taxes On Industry and Individuals: Michigan Compared to the Competitor States." The Governmental Research Association is the national organization of individuals professionally engaged in governmental research. Dan E. Reed is Michigan Farm Bureau's representative on the council.

Dr. Hannah Honored by AFBF



Michigan Farm Bureau's nominee, Dr. John A. Hannah, received one of two American Farm Bureau Federation Distinguished Service Awards at the organization's annual meeting, December 8. The Award was presented by Charles A. Shuman, immediate past president, AFBF. Dr. Hannah was introduced by Michigan Farm Bureau president Elton R. Smith.

Dr. Hannah, former Michigan State University president and now Administrator of the Agency for International Development, (AID), said (in part) in accepting the award, "I have been interested in the Farm Bureau since its beginning and have had continuing relationships with the Michigan Farm Bureau for the better part of 50 years."

"I have always been a farmer and continue to be one. As the president of Michigan State University for 28 years and as a part of its administration and College of Agriculture for an additional 18 years, I participated in countless numbers of farm meetings and programs sponsored by or for the Farm Bureaus, local, county, State and National."

"As administrator of the U. S. Agency for International Development, I continue to have a real interest in world agriculture and in the part American farmers can play in helping the direction of providing better lives for all of their peoples."

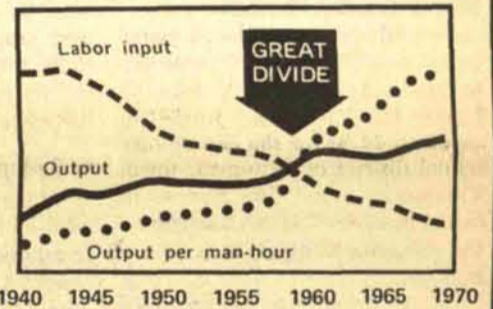
Dr. Hannah continued, "Farmers have a great feeling for other people. That is why some of the best examples of foreign aid have involved farmers."

The Award is presented on the basis of the individuals' service to agriculture.

Dairy farmer members of Kalamazoo Milk Producers Co-operative have voted to merge with Michigan Milk Producers Association, April 1, 1971. Vote on the merger proposal, which was recommended by the KMPC board of directors, came at the organization's annual meeting held recently in Kalamazoo. Henry C. Gleason, Three Rivers, is KMPC president. MMPA general manager is Jack W. Barnes and Glenn Lake, North Branch, president.

Grow With Farm Bureau

Where are you now that we've passed the great divide?



Michigan farming passed the great divide in the late fifties. Technology is now well ahead of labor when it comes to increasing agricultural output. As a result, farming as our fathers knew it, is gone forever.

Your Farm Bureau is concerned about the number of farms that still haven't met the "output per man-hour" challenge.

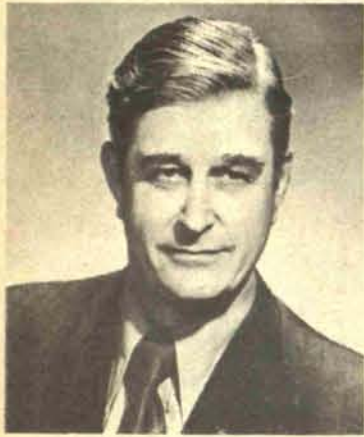
With Farm Bureau supply and crop marketing know-how you can get your output up and your input down. Farm Bureau Services can help you lower basic costs, get you extra discounts and net you extra dividends. It's the only way to play today's agri-game. Let us show you the new rules. Ask your local Farm Bureau dealer, or write: Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Lansing, Michigan 48904.

Where *Your* Farm Comes First

FARM BUREAU

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC

WILLIAM J. KUHFUSS NEW AFBF PRESIDENT



WILLIAM J. KUHFUSS

William J. Kuhfuss, 58, of MacKinaw, Illinois, was elected president of the nation's largest farm organization as the 52nd annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau came to a close in Houston, Texas on December 10.

Kuhfuss has been president of the Illinois Agricultural Association (Farm Bureau in Illinois) since May, 1958. He becomes the seventh man to hold the presidency of the AFBF since it was organized in 1919. He replaces Charles B. Shuman of Sullivan, Illinois, who has led the organization for 16 years. Shuman shocked delegates on the opening day of the convention when he announced he was retiring at the close of the meeting.

Kuhfuss has been serving as a member of the board of directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation since 1961. He has an 880 acre livestock and grain farm in Tazewell County, Illinois, which he farms in partnership with his brother, Alvin. He is an Angus cattle breeder and a past board member of the American Angus Association.

Kuhfuss's long association with Farm Bureau in Illinois began shortly after his graduation from Illinois State University in 1943 with a bachelor's degree in education, specializing in science and agriculture. He served as president of the Tazewell County Farm Bureau before becoming president of the Illinois Agricultural Association. He is serving as a member of the Board of Agricultural Advisers of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Illinois State Emergency Resources Planning Committee, and the advisory committee of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

He has been instrumental in spearheading a statewide campaign to secure the construction and adoption of a new constitution for Illinois. He served a Democratic governor as co-chairman of a committee working to secure voter adoption of the Constitution.



As head of the Illinois Agricultural Association, he also served as president of Country Life Insurance Company, Country Mutual Insurance Company, Company Capital Investment Fund Inc., and Illinois Agricultural Holding Company which are affiliated companies of the IAA.

Mr. and Mrs. Kuhfuss are members of the United Church of Christ. They have four children; two daughters, Mrs. Edward (Karen) Koch, 30 of Trenton, Illinois; Mrs. Thomas (Linda) O'Donnell, 28 of Champaign, Illinois; and two sons at home, Tad, 25 and John, 21.

make this change in leadership which, in any case, would inevitably take place in a year or so. Farm Bureau membership is at an all-time high and the morale in the organization is excellent. The direction of government farm policy has turned away from controls and price manipulation—the major battles are over and it is time for old generals to "just fade away." No one can interpret this change in Farm Bureau leadership as a reversal in policy direction.

"My greatest regret in retiring at this time is that there are many challenging, unfinished tasks. I also regret the disruption it causes in a capable and dedicated team of officers and staff. But this would also be the case a year or two from now. Several of the staff are nearing retirement age and my successor will have a better opportunity to shape the organization structure now than if the change were delayed.

"For these and other reasons, I trust you will understand my action in retiring before the completion of my current term. After nine years as a state Farm Bureau president in Illinois and 16 years as president of the AFBF, it is not easy to step out and sever the close organizational and personal relationships that have been built up over 25 years with thousands of Farm Bureau members, leaders and staff. However, I will be on call to be of service to you and will look forward to seeing you at many more conventions. This has been a wonderfully rewarding experience for me, a plodding country boy, to come to the top of the greatest voluntary organization of the finest people on God's earth.

"I thank you for your loyalty and support. Mabel and our five children and their families join with me to thank you most sincerely and invite you to come see

us on the farm near Sullivan in South Central Illinois."

Shuman was awarded the Federation's highest recognition, the Distinguished Service Award for Agriculture, during the four-day meeting.

The award was made to Shuman by unanimous action of the voting delegates from the member state Farm Bureaus.

The nomination was made by William J. Kuhfuss, former president of the Illinois Agriculture Association and the new AFBF president.

In his nominating speech Kuhfuss said, "We, the elected voting delegates—representing the 1,943,181 member families of Farm Bureau—appreciate Charles B. Shuman—the man and his work—and wish to pay him the greatest honor this organization can give any man.

"— He is a Christian gentleman

"— He understands the underlying principles that set America apart from all other nations

"— He has the ability to communicate that understanding in both the written and spoken word.

"— He understands that man must govern himself or he will be governed.

"— He has had the courage to stand up and be counted for decentralization of government and diffusion of governmental power.

"— He has long been an advocate of market power as the sound economic alternative to politically devised panaceas.

"Those who know Charles B. Shuman and have observed his individual style, know that he is a giant among men.

"Humble in manner, he conveys a sincerity of purpose that wins the respect of a friend and foe alike. He relies on truth to advance the things in which he believes, knowing that harmony in the world cannot be achieved by diluting the truth with fallacy.

"Mr. Shuman is a student of public affairs. He knows that if you expect others to drink from your fountain of knowledge, you must have sound knowledge to offer them.

"He has a deep and abiding faith in the achievements attainable by God-fearing, freedom-loving people—responding to the incentives of the market system.

"I am honored to place in nomination for the American Farm Bureau Federation's most prized recognition, the Distinguished Service Award, a man who has met well the test of leadership, Mr. Charles B. Shuman."

Four Named To Vice-Presidencies

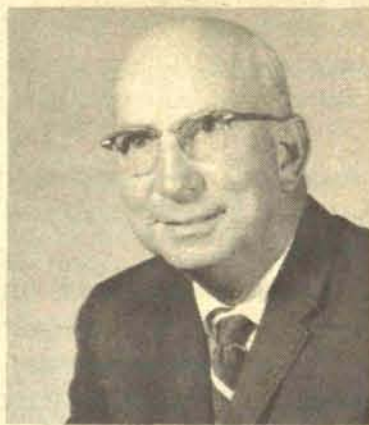
Four vice-presidential appointments in Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative have been announced by Donald R. Armstrong, Executive vice president of FBS and FPC. The appointments were effective December 1.



DUANE COHOON

Duane Cohoon, Division Manager of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative's Crude Oil Division since 1965, was promoted to Vice President and Assistant Treasurer in charge of the Crude Oil Division. Mr. Cohoon started with Farmers Petroleum in 1956 and has held responsible positions with FPC. He resides in Lansing with his wife Betty Jane and daughters Susan and Linda.

Kenneth J. Harvey, Operations Services Division Manager, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, since 1967, was named Vice President in charge of Operations Division and Assistant Secretary. Mr. Harvey started with Farmers Petroleum in 1955 and received several advancements prior to his new position. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey and their daughters, Laura and Mary, live in Lansing.



ARLO E. WASSON

Arlo E. Wasson, Vice President in charge of Marketing Division, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, started with Michigan Farm Bureau as a fieldman in 1949. He transferred to Farmers Petroleum in 1953 as Director of Membership Relations and continued with Farmers Petroleum in several capacities. Mr. Wasson and his wife, Shirley, live in Mason.



KENNETH J. HARVEY



CLYDE I. SPRINGER

Clyde I. Springer, Division Manager of the Egg Marketing Division since 1967, was appointed Vice President in charge of Egg Marketing Division, Farm Bureau Services. Mr. Springer and his wife Lois and children, Laurel and Jeffrey, live in St. Johns.

Mr. Armstrong said, "These promotions are consistent with organizational levels of responsibility throughout the Michigan Farm Bureau affiliate companies."

SHUMAN RETIRES

Mr. Charles B. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation for the past sixteen years, unexpectedly announced his resignation following his annual address at the 52nd annual meeting of the AFBF in Houston, Texas on December 7, 1970.

Shuman said in his resignation remarks, "Now I have a statement that I make after long and prayerful thought. This is one of the more difficult decisions I have ever had to make—that is, to retire this year as president of the American Farm Bureau Federation and ask the voting delegates to accept my resignation effective with the close of this convention. I have come to this decision primarily because of a number of personal reasons. First, I have an offer which I find difficult to turn down—my teen-age son, George, has made me a proposition to join him as a partner in the hog business. (I hope prices will turn up soon.) Furthermore, I want to return to the farming business while I have the health to make the transition. The AFBF presidency is a very demanding responsibility and I recognize that physical deterioration accelerates with each passing year. Also, I have the desire to do some writing.

"In making this decision, I have not been unmindful of the impact on Farm Bureau. It is my judgment that now is a good time to

Governor Signs Allocation Bill



Rep. Stanley M. Powell (R-Ionia) watches Gov. Milliken sign into law his bill assuring Michigan townships representation on county tax allocation boards. "Up until this time," Powell said, "all governmental levels concerned with the distribution of general property tax revenues, except townships, have been guaranteed a seat on the allocation board. This bill corrects that obvious inequity and provides townships with their rightful voice in millage allocation."

NASA . . . ASTRODOME . . . HOUSTON . . . OHIO-MICHIGAN BREAKFAST . . . ALL PART OF AFBF CONVENTION



PORT OF ENTRY . . . for all visitors to NASA is the Reception Building where all tours are scheduled and screened. AFBF travelers from Michigan found the clinical, spacious grounds typical of the minute detailing of the space program.

THEY WALKED WHERE SPACEMEN WALK . . .



AT LEAST 207 . . . flew by the Purdue chartered planes to Houston. Others came by train, some drove with campers, others commercial flight and some by auto. The planes cruise at 525 to 550 miles an hour — 31,000 feet above the clouds. At one time Captain Benjamin announced the temperature at 45° below zero outside the plane, but 76° above on the ground at Houston.



PUBLIC EXHIBITS . . . in the Reception Bldg. on Gemini, Mercury and Apollo programs, including moon shots, placing of the flag on the moon and actual space flight gear, food and clothing held the visitors' interest.



NASA MANNED SPACE CRAFT CENTER . . . home of the nation's astronauts and nerve center of all U. S. manned space flights, was on the tour schedule for Michigan Farm Bureau members in Houston. The Administration Building is the business center of NASA.

MICHIGAN-OHIO BREAKFAST



MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU MEMBERS . . . were proud to carry the trophy home — to be kept permanently — for beating Ohio — membership wise. Pres. Elton Smith accepted the trophy from Ohio President Robert Summer.



THE HORSES TAIL TROPHY . . . found a permanent home in Ohio, completing a three year membership race between Michigan and Ohio. Pres. Smith gave the trophy to Pres. Summer.



OHIO FARM BUREAU . . . members didn't need to be reminded that they had "laid an egg" — but nevertheless, Chubby Chicken danced around with a sign, saying so.

SPACE CITY'S SPARKLING JEWEL



THE ASTRODOME . . . is part of the largest convention facility in the nation. More than a million square feet of exhibit space, 78,000 seats and parking for 30,000 cars fascinated the Michigan tourists while on a guided tour.





Take your polyphosphate fertilizer now... (and get a pocket watch free of extra cost with your order).

Take your corn, sugar beet and bean HURRYUP starter fertilizer now and make yourself some real money. Your order now guarantees you a price that's well below the price on March 1, 1971.

You can't lose. If our price drops, we rebate you. If our price goes up (it rose 22% in 1970), we eat the increase. It'll pay you well to find some bulk or bag storage room right now.

1 HURRYUP 8-36-10 Corn Starter - With new polyphosphate and fortified with zinc. Exclusively formulated for maximum phosphorus uptake for Michigan growing conditions. Boosts corn yield,

helps plant vigor and speeds maturity.

2 HURRYUP 10-22-14 Dry Bean Starter - Has all new polyphosphate, plus manganese and zinc to increase your bean yield more than any Michigan formulation known.

3 HURRYUP 7-28-18 Sugar Beet Starter - Formulated with new polyphosphate, boron and manganese to help insure you a heavier, higher quality sugar beet. Count on HURRYUP quality formulations for fewer fines and less dust. It's dry and hard, ideal for clog-free machine application, and stores well.

See your participating FARM BUREAU Dealer below for pre-season savings on HURRYUP fertilizer.



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- Bay City-Farm Bureau Services/893-3577
- Breckenridge-B&W Co-op/842-3104
- Buchanan-Buchanan Co-ops/695-6823, 683-5396
- Caro-Akron-Caro Farmers Co-op/673-3101, 691-4571
- Caledonia-Caledonia Farmers Elev./891-8108
- Cassopolis-Cass Co-ops 445-2401
- Coopersville-Coopersville Co-op/837-8051

- Elkton-Elkton Co-op 375-2281
- Falmouth, McBain, Merritt-Falmouth Co-op/826-4424 825-2301, 328-2341
- Greenville-Farm Bureau Services/754-4587
- Hart-Farm Bureau Services/873-2158
- Hemlock-Hemlock Farmers Co-op/642-5920
- Hastings-Farm Bureau Services/945-2223
- Hillsdale-Farm Bureau Services/437-4487
- Kalamazoo-Farm Bureau Services/381-0596
- Kent City-Sparta-Farm Bureau/887-5041, 678-5012

- Lapeer-Imlay City-County Co-op/664-2907, 724-4915
- Leslie-Leslie Co-op 589-2191
- Mt. Pleasant-Farm Bureau Services/773-3670
- Pinconning-Farm Bureau Services/879-3411
- Richmond-St. Clair-Macomb Co-op/727-3835
- Ruth-Farmers Elev. 864-3391
- Saginaw-Farm Bureau Supply Center/753-3457
- Sandusky-Farm Bureau Services/648-2422
- Scottville-Farm Bureau Services/757-2594

- Sebewaing-Farmers Co-op/881-2111
- Snover-Snover Co-op 672-9221
- Stanwood-Farm Bureau Services/823-2081
- Sterling-Farm Bureau Services/654-3142
- Three Oaks-Three Oaks Co-op/756-3631
- Traverse City-Farm Bureau Services/946-5836
- West Branch-Farmers Co-op/345-0428
- Yale-Jeddo-Farm Bureau St. Clair Co./387-2202, 327-6315

Michigan Blue Cross-Blue Shield

by Marlie Drew

The Michigan Farm Bureau's official 1971 theme is "The New Ag Age." And, because of the broad range of services available through membership in the Farm Bureau, thousands of farm families are looking forward to "The New Ag Age"—the chance to successfully compete with organized labor in the market place, or to keep up-to-date on time-saving technological advances and trends which strengthen your financial security.

Through Farm Bureau membership, you can add to your financial security in still another way. You can protect your family and yourself against the high cost of unexpected hospital and doctor bills with Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield health care protection.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield offer eligible Farm Bureau members outstanding paid-in-full benefits at low, group rates. Benefits of a full year of hospital care, including all of the costly services you need to help you get well, paid-in-full regardless of cost. There are no separate riders for conditions such as heart trouble or arthritis.

Renew your Farm Bureau membership by January 15th and look forward to "The New Ag Age." At the same time, you qualify for complete paid-in-full Blue Cross and Blue Shield health care protection.

Muskegon County Reclaims Wasteland

Along with the problem of polluting the Great Lakes comes one of assuring the populous that there will be enough "pure" water for all—plenty of land to grow the needed crops and a means of utilizing land that is now termed "marginal" or at times, even "worthless." State and National governing bodies have long studied a means of solution to one of these problems. Muskegon County has seemingly found a solution to two of its' problems—wastewater and marginal land.

Muskegon County has been awarded more than \$2 million in Federal grants (for research, demonstration and research) to be applied towards a seven-year project that will attempt to turn its wastewaters into a valuable resource for reclaiming potentially valuable agricultural land.

In announcing the grants, Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel said, "With the help of these grants, Muskegon County will attempt total management of its' waste problems. Rather than considering its wastes as something undesirable to be disposed of as rapidly as possible in the nearest water, the County will attempt to give primary treatment of the area's entire daily output of 32 million gallons of wastewater, pump this to a central point for treatment in oxidation lagoon (two lagoons of 30 to 40 acres) and then after additional treatment, use this wastewater to irrigate 10,000 acres of marginal land."

With additional grants from the Interior Department's Federal Water Quality Administration—the entire project could cost \$30,000,000 before completed.

hurryup STARTER GUARANTEE

(See your dealer for minimum order needed to qualify)

Take this guarantee form to a participating dealer. Order your bulk or bag HURRYUP fertilizer at his pre-season price. Your dealer will fill-in the guarantee as to quantity and price (and give you a free pocket watch).

Starter bought (kind and amount) _____ Price _____ *

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Town _____ Zip _____

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

Volume Measurement of Cherries

Farm Bureau leaders recently met with the Michigan Agricultural Commission to present cherry growers' views on volume measurement of cherries. Statements of Farm Bureau representatives at the meeting reflected the policy established by delegates at the recent Farm Bureau state annual meeting in Grand Rapids.

Delegates at Grand Rapids asked that the Michigan Farm Bureau work for a year's extension of Regulation 548 permitting measurement and sale of red tart cherries suspended in water. Farm Bureau policy points out that handling and measuring cherries suspended in water has certain efficiencies and inducements to improve quality that are not shared with weight measuring techniques.

The Farm Bureau statement also pointed out certain problem areas that were not resolved in the first year of operation under the volume measurement regulation. For example, growers and processors lacked understanding as to pricing and receiving procedures for cherries suspended in water. Regulation 548 requires processors who receive cherries by volume to post prices on a volume basis and provide growers with receipts indicating the volume of cherries received.

Robert Smith, Michigan Farm Bureau legislative counsel, pointed out that while Farm Bureau policy asks for a one year extension of the regulation, the policy also supports enforcements of the pricing provisions. Also appearing at the meeting was Norman Veliquette, Farm Bureau Fruit Marketing Specialist. He stated the belief that while some variables exist and will always be open to question, acceptance of the practice will come when growers and processors become familiar with the concepts of cubic measurement of cherries.

Veliquette voiced confidence that growers will rapidly learn to think in terms of cubic feet of cherries. Cherry crop size may be reported in cubic feet. Cost of production may be calculated on a cubic foot basis and gross income will be determined by the number of cubic feet produced (multiplied by the price per cubic foot). "Volume measurement is a progressive practice that can enhance the quality of red tart cherries which is one of Michigan's most distinguished agricultural products. What is needed," he suggested, "is another year's operation under the regulation to allow growers and processors to work out the areas of disagreement."

Appearing at the meeting representing MACMA was Peter C. Morrison Jr., Arthur Dowd and Harry A. Foster. Morrison, a grower from Williamsburg and Dowd, a Hartford grower are respectively chairman and vice chairman of the MACMA Red Tart Cherry Marketing Committee. Foster is manager of MACMA's red tart cherry division. MACMA presented a policy position in favor of continuing regulation 548.

Questions arose frequently regarding such variables as (1) the number of pounds of cherries per cubic foot, (2) the number of cubic feet per pallet tank (since tank shape may vary with handling through the season or from season to season), (3) how calibrating costs of tanks can be recovered (or who should bear the

MARKETING AND COMMODITIES

MACMA HONORED FOR MKT'G PROGRAMS



MACMA was honored by the American Agricultural Marketing Association during a jointly sponsored AAMA-American Farm Bureau Federation marketing conference in Houston, Texas. President Elton R. Smith received a plaque honoring MACMA for its aggressive marketing of apples, asparagus, grapes and vegetables. A total of twelve state marketing associations received awards.

MACMA was the only organization recognized in four commodity areas. All others were recognized for one commodity area. The marketing conference was held as part of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Michigan Farm Bureau and MACMA members are justifiably proud of MACMA.

Michigan Vegetable Growers To Meet

Educational programs keyed to commodity groups and a Tuesday evening banquet will be new features at the fourth Great Lakes Vegetable Growers annual convention, January 19-21, at the Lansing Civic Center.

The educational programs by commodity groups will supplement general sessions for all vegetable growers.

The banquet features University of Michigan economist, Dr. J. Philip Wernette, who will discuss "Getting Your Share of American Prosperity." Dr. Wernette has done financial advisory work around the world and is a registered investment broker.

The convention focuses on vegetable marketing this year but will also provide other vegetable information too.

General sessions will include: a panel discussion on successful ventures in organized marketing; "Methods of Achieving a More Equitable Price for our Products" by Dr. Eric Thor of the Farmer Cooperative Service, USDA; cost inputs for vegetable growers and evaluation of inputs to maximize profits; new farm laws; pesticide

costs). While solutions to various problems could not be determined at the meeting, Farm Bureau spokesmen believed that a trial continuation of regulation 548 would provide an opportunity to work out solutions by the industry.

Dale Ball, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture attended the meeting. His department is charged with issuing and administering the regulation under discussion. Also attending were representatives of the Division of Weights and Measures, the Federal-State Inspection Service, and the Crop Reporting Service.

Representative growers and staff of the Michigan Association of Cherry Producers presented views similar to Farm Bureau's views on regulation 548. John Willis, a former employee of both Michigan Farm Bureau and MACMA was on hand to represent MACP.

legislation; pollution; water

Potato sessions will cover: credit; business and money management; potato storage construction and design; corn borers, aphids and other problem insects; disease control; weed control and vine killing tools for 1971; new varieties for new markets and seed availability; the Speckle Leaf problem; and a consumer panel of 10 housewives discussing potatoes and prepared potato products.

Federal Marketing Order For Red Tart Cherries Approved

Tart cherry growers and handlers have approved the Federal Marketing Order for red tart cherries. Spokesmen of the USDA made the announcement after a referendum was conducted among cherry growers and handlers in the eight-state area of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. The USDA conducted the referendum during the last of November and early December.

Growers approved the proposed Marketing Order program, voting 75% in favor by volume and 71% in favor by number of those cherry producers voting on the program. A two-thirds majority was required in numbers or in volume, but not necessarily in both.

The margin of approval in both number and volume indicates solid support for the Marketing Order program, says Harry A. Foster, Manager, Red Tart Cherry Division, MACMA.

Tart cherry handlers approved the Market Order, voting 64% by volume in favor. Only 51% by volume was required for approval.

In the event that production of red tart cherries exceeds demand in 1971, it is anticipated that the Federal Market Order will be employed to stabilize and strengthen the market.

The Federal Marketing Order program is the result of a great team effort, reports Foster. The industry has worked together for nearly two years to enact the Market Order. It is a real credit to the industry and MACMA. MACMA leaders and staff have worked on every phase of developing the Market Order, and MACMA members gave encouraging support throughout the effort.

Before the Marketing Order is operational, names of six growers and six handlers will be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture for appointment to the Market Order Cherry Administrative Board. District meetings will be called by the USDA for growers and handlers respectively to select their Board nominees.

Time will be required for the Cherry Administrative Board to employ a staff and develop operating policies. Many of the flexible provisions provided in the language of the Marketing Order must be readied for growers and handlers for the orderly marketing objectives to be achieved. The Marketing Order is a marketing tool to be used by the industry for the expansion of tart cherry markets and utilization and for improved profitability.



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Michigan Bell

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

They're Free say the Courts

The mid-summer State Supreme Court ruling stretched school budgets to the hilt when it declared that henceforth textbooks and other supplies must be provided free of charge to students.

Since school opened in September all of Michigan's over 600 school districts are surviving the costs of adhering to the state's interpretation of the "free education" concept.

"At least we haven't heard of any school districts closing down," said one high ranking official of the Michigan Education Association.

Estimates of the costs are called little more than "shots in the dark" and range anywhere from twelve to twenty million dollars. In Detroit alone an expected \$800,000 was to be needed. The city already had been providing free supplies for students up to the 10th grade.

The cost would have been estimated at a much greater figure if it were not for the fact that 30 percent of Michigan school districts had previously provided free textbooks before the high court ruling took effect.

While state school officials are surveying the effects of this ruling at the time of this writing, school budgets continue to be trimmed to meet the costs resulting from this court case that began back in 1966.

The suit began in Ann Arbor by Mrs. Lillian Bond, a cleaning woman and mother of five, along with Mr. Daniel Fufeld, a University of Michigan economics professor. Since the suit was filed in 1966 the State Supreme Court ruled that the city of Ann Arbor must return the general fees paid by parents of students which amounts to \$140,862 plus interest. What money is extracted for attorney's fees and what is left unclaimed by parents will be awarded to the plaintiffs.

The struggle to reach a decision by the court apparently centered around the concept of the word "free" in relation to education as stated in the 1963 State Constitution, Article 8, Section 2: "The legislature shall maintain and support a system of free public elementary and secondary schools as defined by law. Every school district shall provide for the education of its pupils without discrimination as to religion, creed, race, color or national origin."

In the reports that followed the court proceedings it was ruled, "The first rule a court should follow in ascertaining the meaning of words in a constitution is to give effect to the plain meaning of words as understood by the people who adopted it."

The court ruled, "Since we hold that the meaning of the word 'free' is plain as used in Art. 8, Constitution 1963, it is not necessary to resort to extrinsic evidence to determine the meaning of that word."

The outcome: "All Michigan school districts must refrain from charging fees for textbooks and materials in order to protect the concept of free public education." It was a unanimous decision.



If there was grumbling among teachers across the state over the mid-July ruling, it dealt more with the time element than the ruling itself. Teachers Voice, an education periodical, said they agreed with the principle, but believed it was impractical when many school districts are having trouble passing millages and since school districts had already established a budget for the coming year.

It wasn't until mid-August that interpretation of the ruling was released to school districts, subsequently much scrambling to meet the school opening deadline date was done by school administrators to fully comply with the law.

When school did open some complaints were of the skimpiness of supplies being provided. Those classes limiting students to one sheet of paper per class hour also drew criticism from some sources. The question in point is, what if a student needs more than one sheet of paper? Under the equal education ruling, if one student requires more than one sheet of paper, then all student should receive the additional sheet—then the budget goes haywire. Absurd as it may seem, such questions are fundamental for sound management practice especially under a tight budget.

In the confusion that developed over the ruling, it is reported that teachers either follow the ruling by doling out one sheet of paper per student and no more, while others may simply keep a stack of paper in the front of the room to be used as needed, whereby it is said that many students take woeful advantage of the privilege—again the budget can be knocked haywire.

The issue of paper supplies, let alone pencils and the like, have also produced new terminology. Some students have adopted the nickname of such supplies as "constitutional paper" or "constitutional pencils."

However, it should be pointed out that these are fragmented reports and perhaps do not draw a true picture of the statewide scene. Results of the ruling are still being studied by the State Department of Education at the time of this writing.

However, for discussion groups, the policy guidelines released by the State Board of Education are significant.

The interpretation of the Supreme Court ruling is:

1. School districts may not make charges for any required or elective course such as for:
 - a. General or registration fees
 - b. Course fees or materials ticket charges
 - c. Textbooks and school supplies
2. School districts may charge fees for extra-curricular activities when students are not graded or evaluated and academic credit is not given, or for any activity in which participation is not required for obtaining a diploma. Provision should be made on a reasonable basis so that students without financial means are not excluded.
3. School districts may charge for damages or loss of school property when such property has been provided to students without charge.
4. School districts may require students to place a deposit to cover damage to textbooks, non-consumable materials, and supplies provided free by the school district, for those economically able to pay as determined by school authorities, after consulting with the parent. These deposits must be reasonable and refundable.
5. School officials may determine the quality and quantity of school supplies such as textbooks, paper and pencils that are reasonable for the use of pupils, and determine the length of time such materials shall be provided. Likewise, pupils may voluntarily bring their own school supplies for any curricular subject.
6. School districts may require a person to pay for adult education courses offered by the public schools, provided that the adult is not earning credit toward a high school diploma and is not counted in membership for state aid purposes.
7. School districts may charge for summer school except where such activities are a part of a regularly scheduled year-around program.

8. School districts may require fees for clothing and food which are offered during the regular school programs.

These eight statements constitute the policy of the State Board of Education regarding the charging of fees to students enrolled in the elementary and secondary schools of the state.

In order to further help clarify some of the questions regarding fees charged to students which were raised by the Michigan Supreme Court decision in Bond, et al v. the Public Schools of the Ann Arbor School District, staff of the Michigan Department of Education solicited specific questions from local school administrators.

In accordance with the stated policy guidelines of the State Board of Education, some of the allowable and unallowable charges are provided below.

School districts must provide the following items free of charge for any required or elective course:

1. Pencils, paper, crayons
 2. Textbooks (regular or supplemental)
 3. Band instruments
 4. Weekly readers or other periodicals if required for classroom use
- School districts may not make charges related to any required or elective course for:
1. Towels
 2. Locks
 3. Lockers
 4. Shop materials
 5. Drafting supplies
 6. Home economics materials
 7. Workbooks
 8. Materials in science classes
 9. Book rental
 10. School educational trips that are required to successfully achieve course credit
 11. Vocational or special education

School districts may charge students for:

1. Class or organizational dues
- ## DISCUSSION TOPIC
- By GARY A. KLEINHENN,
Director, Education and Research
2. Admission fees to athletic contests, dances and plays
 3. Student activity cards on voluntary basis
 4. Fees for external tests, such as National Merit and college entrance
 5. Deductions for damage or loss of school-owned books and non-consumable supplies through the collection of reasonable refundable deposits
 6. Club dues (FFA, FHA, etc.)
 7. Lunch
 8. Yearbooks
 9. Football shoes
 10. Gym shoes
 11. Swimming suits
 12. Bus transportation for nonresident students
 13. School sponsored educational trips, unless such trips are a requirement of the course, in which case they must be provided without charge
 14. Shots (vaccinations)
 15. Summer school courses, when such courses (programs) are not a part of a scheduled year-around program
 16. Caps and gowns
 17. Insurance fees of interscholastic athletics consistent with present statutes

One editorial commenting on the ruling is, "that the free textbooks and school supplies are not free. Sooner or later the Legislature is certain to be called upon for supplemental or new appropriations to cover the costs to local school districts. This, in all probability, will mean increased taxes somewhere further down the line."

Farmers Urged to Study Tax Changes

Recent changes in federal income tax laws could mean many dollars lost to farmers not aware of the changes, warns a Michigan State University agricultural economist.

"For estimating 1970 tax and making end-of-year purchase and sale adjustments, farmers should study the 1969 revisions in the federal tax codes," says Dr. M. P. Kelsey. "Many of these revisions went into effect this year."

The Tax Reform Act of 1969 contains nine provisions concerning farm income, according to Kelsey.

For depreciation taken after 1969, the income gain on sale of livestock purchased for draft, breeding, sporting or dairy purposes is treated as ordinary income rather than a capital gain, up to the full value of previous depreciation deductions.

This change puts livestock on the same tax base as other property used in business. Depreciation is normally recaptured at time of sale.

A second provision affecting livestock extends the holding period for certain animals before they can qualify for capital gains treatment. Cattle and horses acquired after Dec. 31, 1969, and used for draft, breeding, sporting or dairy purposes must be kept two years. The holding period for other livestock remains one year.

Another revision involves taxation of insurance received for crop damage or loss. The old law required farmers using the cash accounting method to include crop insurance proceeds in the year's income, even though the crop might not have been sold until the following year. Farmers selling crops in the year following harvest paid taxes on two crops in one year.

The 1969 law eliminates this hardship by allowing farmers to report indemnities the year after the loss, if they establish that under their usual practice, income from the damaged or destroyed crops would have been reported in the year after the year of the loss. This provision was effective for 1969 and following years.

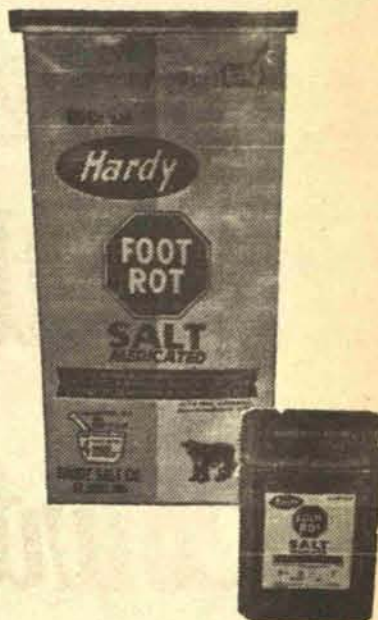
Other sections of the revised tax law concern limitation of farm losses, hobby losses, tax-free exchange of livestock of different sexes, recapture of soil and water conservation expenses and extension of the date for filing tax returns by farmers who do not file tax estimations.

"Year-end tax moves should be aimed at leveling taxable income between years," says Kelsey. "Deferring or accelerating income from year to year.

Contact the Internal Revenue Service for more details on the federal tax code and the county Cooperative Extension Service office for farm management information.

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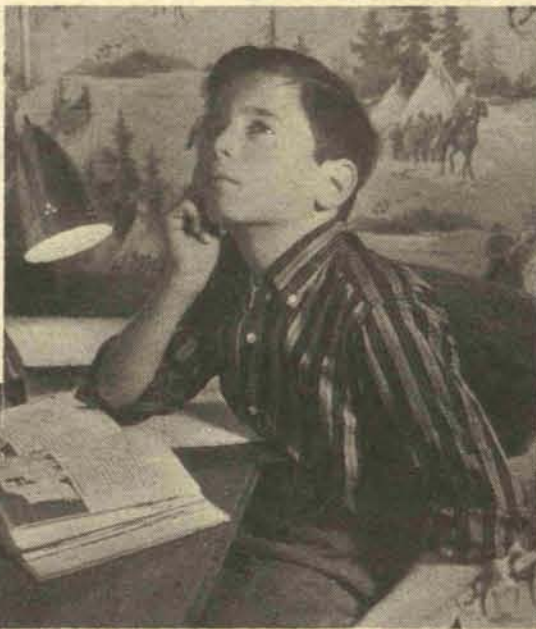
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