

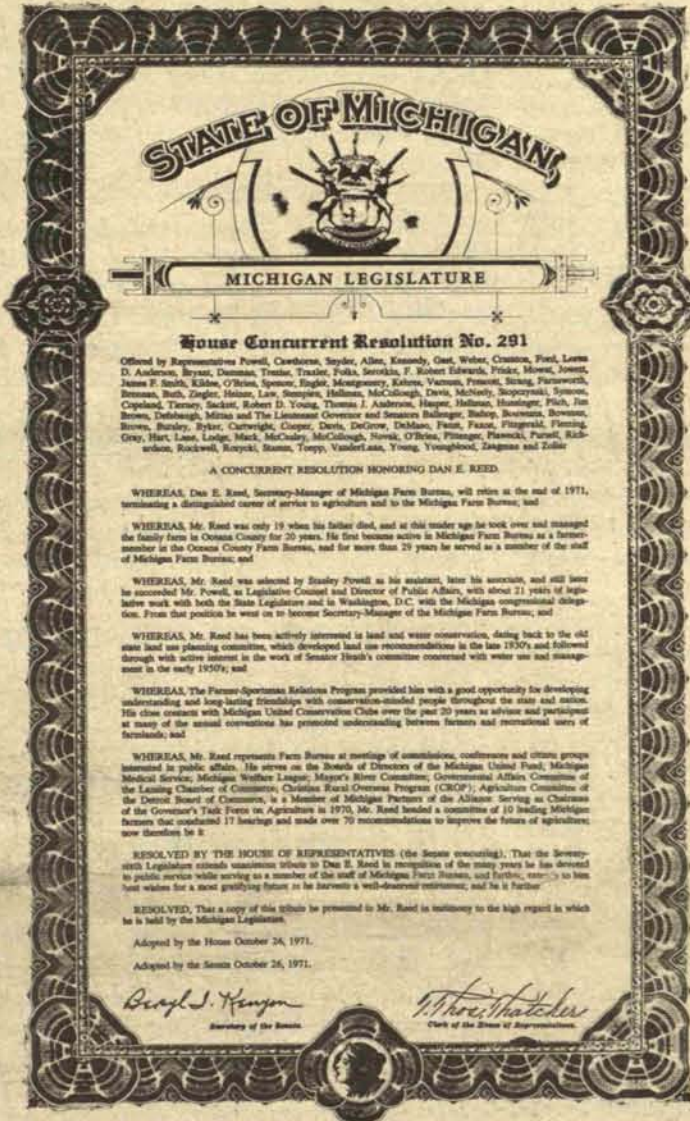
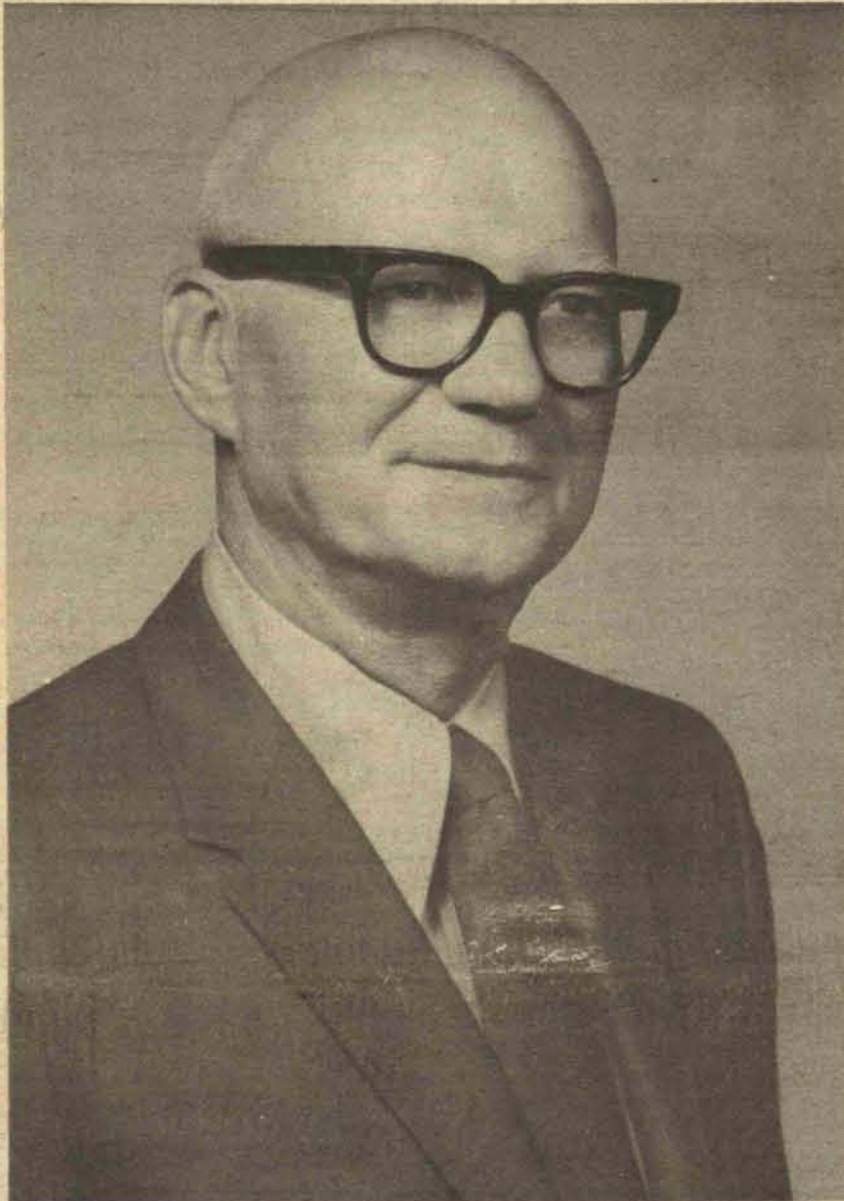
MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Vol. 50, No. 12

MAKE IT HAPPEN

December



MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU HONORS DAN E. REED LEADER, HUMANITARIAN, GENTLEMAN

Dan E. Reed, retiring secretary-manager of Michigan Farm Bureau, was honored at the Farm Bureau Banquet in Grand Rapids, November 8. On hand to join in the festivities and to pay tribute to Mr. Reed for his years of service to the state and the agricultural industry was Governor and Mrs. William G. Milliken. Rep. Stanley Powell, on behalf of the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives, presented Reed with a copy of the joint resolution passed by both houses which paid tribute to his long list of accomplishments. Elton R. Smith, president of Michigan Farm Bureau, presided in the presentation of the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for Mr. Reed's contribution to agriculture and his fellowman. Roger Fleming, secretary, American Farm Bureau Federation, was also among those taking part in the organization's tribute to a friend, leader and gentleman.



EDITORIAL . . .



Farm Bureau Policies

The policies of Michigan Farm Bureau on state issues and Farm Bureau functions, as adopted by the voting delegates at the 52nd annual meeting, are printed in this issue of Farm News.

May we suggest that you remove and save the center eight pages of this issue for your personal copy of the 1972 policies of your organization.

The recommendations on national issues have been omitted as they will be presented to the policy development committee of the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at the AFBF annual meeting which will be held in Chicago, Illinois, December 6-9.

Each year, every Farm Bureau member has the opportunity to participate in the policy development process. The process involves nearly 1100 community groups, 69 county or multi-county policy development committees representing 79 counties, statewide commodity advisory committees and a 20-member MFB policy development committee.

The final decisions of how your organization will stand on state issues and Farm Bureau functions was determined by the 512 voting delegates at the annual meeting held in Grand Rapids, November 8-10.

Dean Pridgeon, chairman of the MFB Policy Development Committee, said in the FOREWORD to the resolutions, "Farm Bureau members face an ever-changing society in a fast-moving world. Problems unthought of a few years ago concern us greatly. We live as a minority in a community that has new concerns. These concerns about environment, pollution, social changes and the problems of population density have their affects on us, the farm people of Michigan."

This year 1,047 resolutions were adopted by the county Farm Bureaus on issues facing farmers, rural people, our state and nation. The resolutions express the thinking of Farm Bureau members on the concerns outlined in Dean Pridgeon's FOREWORD.

For over fifty years farmers have had the opportunity and ability to make their voice heard on issues through their own organization. The policies adopted this year are a clear indication that the voice of farmers can and must be heard.

I know of no other organization that conducts such a thorough process in establishing its policies each year as the Farm Bureau. Many times in other organizations, policies are established by a small group, committee, a board or even the top elected officials, or hired management. Some organizations only take a position on an issue after it has been brought out in the limelight so they can be sure to be on the winning side.

This is certainly not true in Farm Bureau. Your organization looks at the issues, decides policy and then works to achieve its goals.

Farm Bureau is an organization that takes a positive approach to many issues. It decides annually what it stands for. It also informs others what it stands for and what it will do to help agriculture.

Farm Bureau is a positive organization!

—Carl P. Kentner

MFB Distinguished Service Award

Dan E. Reed was the recipient of this year's Michigan Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award which is presented to persons for outstanding service to agriculture and their fellowmen.

He was presented a plaque which reads, "Michigan Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for 1971 presented to Dan E. Reed for dedication to Michigan agriculture, service to Farm Bureau members, concern for good government and devotion to his fellowman."

Born in Chicago, Mr. Reed moved with his family to a farm in Oceana County at an early age. He left his fruit farm in 1942 to join the staff of the Michigan Farm Bureau as a district representative.

His experience in civic and political activities, and as a township supervisor gave Dan background knowledge which proved useful in legislative work. In 1951 he was transferred to the Lansing office and given the assignment of legislative counsel for the organization, where he has worked with both state and national issues. He represented Farm Bureau at meetings of commissions, conferences and citizen groups interested in public affairs.

He also serves or has served on the boards of directors of the Michigan United Fund; Michigan Medical Service; Michigan Welfare League; Mayor's River Committee; Governmental Affairs Committee of the Lansing Chamber of Commerce; Christian Rural Overseas Program. He is a member of the Agriculture Committee of the Detroit Board of Commerce, and the Michigan Partners of the Alliance. In 1970, he served as chairman of the Governor's Special Task Force on Agriculture. He is a member of the Lansing Capitol Club, the Methodist Church, and has been a Sunday School teacher for 20 years.

In 1966, Mr. Reed was appointed Secretary-Manager of Michigan Farm Bureau. Under his guidance, the organization's membership increased to over 58,000 members.

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In the near future, we will be changing our home address from Lansing to Paradise!

The Reeds are not leaving Farm Bureau — we're only changing our status to that of members of the Chippewa County Farm Bureau.

With the naming of Bob Braden as Administrative Director, the passing of the management responsibility of Michigan Farm Bureau has been accomplished. As announced by the Board of Directors, I will serve as Public Relations Director until my retirement next January.

It is always a comfortable feeling to know that the steering wheel is in good hands. We have worked closely together for the ten years Bob has served as Manager of MACMA, and I have learned to respect his judgment and ability.

Now, a word about our home in Paradise. Martha and I love the Tahquamenon area and built a home on Whitefish Bay in 1969. There is a good snow cover — last year the official record showed 246 inches of snowfall. But the roads are kept in good shape and we have good neighbors.

The real purpose of this note is to let you know how much your friendship and understanding has been appreciated during these past 30 years. Certainly, there have been problems, an occasional disappointment, but these have been greatly overshadowed by the good things — the good friends — the accomplishments.

Those of you who attended the recent MFB convention in Grand Rapids and participated in the banquet program know that the kind expressions of Farm Bureau's many friends were really a recognition of respect for the organization you have built — Farm Bureau — and not really deserved by any individual.

We appreciate the opportunity you have given us to work — for thirty years — with the finest people on earth . . . Michigan farm families!

Sincerely,
Dan and Marth Reed

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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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 given before the Michigan Farm Bureau delegation at the 1971 Annual Meeting in the Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium, Monday, November 8.

A great many things have happened in the Michigan Farm Bureau Family since we met a year ago and embarked on the New Ag Age. I'd like to review a few of these with you.

One of our outstanding accomplishments was on July 28 when we announced that for the fourth consecutive year, Michigan Farm Bureau had recorded a membership gain. Those who worked on membership made something happen that had never before happened in the history of our organization. We made our membership goal in a year when dues were increased.

There is no more accurate measure of member support for a voluntary organization than its membership record. No one has to join! And, when they do, as they did this year, it is worthy of note.

Michigan's 58,074 member families are part of the more than two million families nationwide that make up the largest farm organization the world has ever known. This is an all-time high for the American Farm Bureau Federation and an achievement of which all of us can be justifiably proud.

The strength of our organization lies in its members. The nearly sixteen hundred new member families, 30 years of age and under, who joined last year have many refreshing ideas which will only strengthen our organization in the years ahead.

The move of the Farm Bureau family into the new Farm Bureau Center building located west of Lansing, was an achievement in which all of you shared. It's the house your confidence built.

Ahead of us for the next three days lies the responsibility of adopting policies which will guide our organization in the years ahead. This is a task which cannot be taken lightly. Conclusions must be based on facts, not personal emotions.

It is up to you to read, study, examine, listen, and reflect upon the proposed resolutions. And from all of these, form ideas into which you put as much common sense as possible.

Someone once said, "Never cross a bridge 'till you come to it," but history shows that the success of Farm Bureau over the years has been the ability of its members to deal creatively with reality in their imagination miles ahead of others.

Too often people have the tendency to work on an emergency basis. But, we must project solutions for many years hence. We must give our young farmers of today an opportunity to be the food and fiber producers of the future.

The increasing complexity of our government system ever increases the responsibility we, as farmers, have in keeping abreast of what we face. Even though hard pressed economically by unreasonable taxes and government programs, Farm Bureau members have long realized the awesome obligation we have to our neighbors, the nation and the world. In our deliberations and discussions during this meeting may we not forget this . . . our situation is serious. The solutions to the many issues we discuss here cannot be evaded any longer. However, in my opinion the issue of overriding importance and urgency is property tax reform. Action must be taken, by constitutional amendment if necessary, to place a meaningful limit on total property taxes and to eliminate, as nearly as possible, property tax as a means of financing our schools. Farmers are for property tax reform now!

Yes, things have happened since last year, but many issues remain unsolved. The year ahead brings to us the challenge of finding the solutions. Then it's up to you to "Make It Happen."

Elton R. Smith

Season's
Greetings
from the employees
and staff of
Michigan Farm Bureau



CAPITOL REPORT

POLICY DECISIONS ARE MADE

Let's "Make It Happen"

Robert E. Smith

Farm Bureau's unique policy development procedure has been carried out. Every member, in one way or another, has had an opportunity to be part of this decision-making, such as through county committees, community groups or the county annual meeting. The state Policy Development Committee, made up of full-time farmers from throughout the entire state, made its recommendations according to the recommendations resulting from member actions at county annual meetings and from eight state advisory committees on individual commodities, farm labor and natural resources.

County annual meetings, again this year, resulted in another record number of recommendations to the state Policy Development Committee. The quality of recommendations indicated that Farm Bureau members had given a great deal of thought to the many issues facing agriculture.

The delegate body at the annual meeting in Grand Rapids made the final policy decisions. The discussion was good; many recommendations were changed through the amendatory route before the final decisions were made. It is now time to — "Make It Happen."

A pull-out section in this issue contains all of the state policies that were adopted. Every Farm Bureau member should save this section and take time to read these policies and be ready to help in any way to work toward the goals that have been set. As in previous years, these policies will be printed in booklet form and thousands distributed. (Governor's staff, all Legislators, departments of government, governmental agencies, numerous other types of organizations, Michigan State University and the Extension Service, Vocational Agricultural teachers, county Farm Bureau leaders and committees, etc., etc.)

Michigan's voting delegates will help determine Farm Bureau policies on national and international affairs at the national convention early in December.

In order to "Make It Happen" policies must be carried out by

the Farm Bureau legislative team. This team consists of a State Legislative Committee and 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 sources such as the Farm Bureau Women's Committees, Young Farmer Committees, county Boards of Directors and individual Farm Bureau members. It is only through a coordinated team effort that progress can be made toward reaching Farm Bureau policy goals.

Not all of Farm Bureau policies require legislation. Many can be accomplished in numerous ways; however, many do require state or national legislation.

The first year of the two-year 76th legislative session is nearing a close. The following outlines the progress that has been made on some Farm Bureau policies for this year—both legislatively and, in some cases, through the regulatory agencies of government. Much of it is still in progress in the Legislature, having been acted upon by only one house.

TAX ISSUE

Total tax reform continues to be one of the major issues, with emphasis on limiting property tax burdens. While this year has appeared to be legislatively frustrating, nonetheless, it has resulted in greater interest on the part of individual citizens.

The efforts in the Legislature to have HJR "GG" placed on the ballot failed in the Senate. This would have limited the property tax to not more than 26 mills by eliminating most of the school millages. However, the controversial part was making it possible for the Legislature to pass a graduated income tax.

Since then, Governor Milliken is leading a petition drive to put the property tax reform portion of the issue on the ballot in 1972. This would cut the present constitutional 50-mill ceiling down to 26 mills. Meetings will be held throughout the state by the Governor or the Lt. Governor to explain the program. (See policy on Constitutional Tax Reform.)

Several tax measures in line with Farm Bureau policies have passed or are in progress in the Legislature. The most important was the reinstatement of the property tax credit that had been repealed a year ago. The reinstatement is especially important to farmers and can be used this year as a credit against the state income tax.

The farmland assessment issue (H. 4100 and S. 130) is still very much alive. A good hearing was held on H. 4100 in March with a very large attendance with strong support not only from agriculture, but also environmental groups, urban people and others. The opposition came from the assessor organization and, later on, from developers. Twenty-six states now have some type of legislation requiring assessment of farmland on its agricultural value as long as it is used for that purpose. Most have some type of roll-back tax feature.

The Governor's Land Use Planning Commission has recognized this problem in its Interim Report. Farm Bureau was represented at all of the several hearings by the Land Use Commission.

New sales tax regulations were promulgated by the Treasury Department this year. Farm Bureau was active in assuring that the sales tax exemption for farm supplies, equipment, etc. was maintained, the same as in previous years.

SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM

With property tax reform would come school finance reform. There is no question but that major reform must be made in this area since the courts throughout the nation are demanding that inequities of the present finance system be resolved. A legal case similar to those in California, Minnesota and other states is presently before Michigan courts.

The state school aid act, this year, made some progress in that, for the first time, appropriations were made for vocational education. The state aid act, when it was finally approved, also contained some other improvements. (See policies on education.)

FARM LABOR

Introduction of H. 5100 this year, supported by Farm Bureau, would set up state guidelines to protect the interests of both the farmer and his employees in the event of organization of farm employees. Numerous other labor bills not in the best interest of agriculture are still alive, including major changes in the minimum wage, unemployment compensation, workmen's compensation, overtime payments, etc.

The Legislature continued the \$500,000 appropriation for a matching program to upgrade seasonal worker housing. This was initiated a year ago and has proved to be very successful. It is a program in which society is carrying a small portion of the cost of adequate housing for a segment of our population.

Passage of S. 40 permits the state to administer the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. This act affects all farmers and will permit the state Labor Department to administer the federal guidelines. As with the meat inspection, state administration of the federal mandatory provisions should prove to be more equitable and realistic to those affected.

MARKETING AND BARGAINING

Important bargaining legislation is on the front burner in

Washington. Other important bills are still alive in the state Legislature, including those on time payment for farm produce, filing of production contracts and poultry buyer bonding. In the coming legislative session, strong efforts will be made to carry out the marketing/bargaining resolution passed by the delegates at Grand Rapids (see this resolution in pull-out section).

AGRICULTURE

Michigan's Pesticide Law was amended this year, H. 4775, requiring those selling "restricted use" pesticides to be licensed.

Appropriations for 4-H and FFA programs were continued. The 4-H money was transferred from the Department of Agriculture to Michigan State University. However, Farm Bureau worked to continue appropriations of certain FFA monies, to be kept in the Department of Agriculture rather than transferred to the Department of Education. This was an important issue, with many ramifications.

S. 617 passed, permitting the quarantine of animals that have ingested noxious and harmful materials.

Farm Bureau testified on numerous regulatory issues this year, including one on regulations for payment of premiums to fairs; another on the elimination of required third party inspection of red tart cherries; another on the continuation for another year of volume measurement of cherries on a trial basis and another on designating approved feedlots for the feeding of mature breeding cattle before slaughter.

Legislation to permit poultry meat in sausage has passed the Senate and is still to be acted upon in the House.

A dairy bill, H. 5599, has passed the House and would eliminate much of the present protection for both the dairy industry and consumers. It eliminates the present requirement for oleo to be served in restaurants in a triangular shape, which distinguishes it from square butter pats. The restaurant would still be required to post on its menu and on a placard the fact that oleo is being used. This law was to be amended, but goes farther than intended. It came out of the House committee very rapidly and was passed by the House very suddenly; it is presently in the Senate Agriculture Committee, where Farm Bureau will make every effort to amend it in the best interest of the dairy industry. This bill suddenly takes on greater importance inasmuch as there are also efforts in the Congress to weaken federal requirements on oleo used in restaurants. This is a good example of the need for a two-house system rather than the unicameral system being promoted by some interests.

Appropriations were continued for numerous agricultural research programs at Michigan State University. These added up to a dozen or more, ranging from research on various fruit and vegetable problems to wheat and other field crops, along with animal and environmental research and weather and pesticide research, etc.

ENVIRONMENT

Farm Bureau supported the study committee set up in the House of Representatives to study livestock feedlots. This should present an opportunity to present the problems facing livestock producers, especially in the light of the recent court case involving a hog producer. Farm Bureau was

extremely active in this particular legal case in several different ways.

Legislation on Inland Lakes and streams (H. 4948) is still in committee, but will no doubt be acted upon next session. An amendment has been successfully added to exempt farm drainage projects. Efforts are in progress to achieve additional amendments to the act which would require permits for drainage projects from the Department of Natural Resources, along with a fee.

The Air Pollution Act, which has received considerable changes, including surveillance fees, has passed the House containing a Farm Bureau-supported amendment exempting livestock odors from livestock operations in agriculturally-zoned areas. It is now before a Senate committee.

Some progress was made on control of bottles through passage of H. 4152, requiring retailers of returnable bottled beverages to redeem returnable beer and carbonated beverage glass bottles.

Snowmobile legislation has been passed by both houses, although in different forms. Both are in line with Farm Bureau policy and would severely limit the use of snowmobiles between midnight and 6:00 a.m. within 100 feet of dwellings. It would also ban use on "farmland, farm woodlots or platted property" in southern Michigan without the owner's permission. It limits their use in deer hunting areas and in nurseries or forest areas where growing stock might be damaged. License fees will be increased considerably. Money is being used for new trails.

H. 709 is on its way through the Legislature and would help control soil erosion and sedimentation by setting up guidelines to be used in local ordinances, controlling especially the runoff created by highways, construction, development, etc.

Another bill still on the calendar, but in good shape as far as agriculture is concerned, involves the impoundment of waters, but still protects the farmer's right to dam up waters within certain limits.

MISCELLANEOUS

Miscellaneous and other legislative actions in line with Farm Bureau policy include the partial elimination of the \$1 fee for the Uninsured Motorist Vehicle Fund. This fee will not be charged unless the fund falls below a certain level set up in the law.

Amendments have all passed to the implied consent and drunk driving laws lowering the blood alcohol content to a level consistent with the federal requirements.

Legislation to provide a statewide building code contains some provisions exempting farm buildings. This legislation, however, is still under consideration by both houses.

The above is only a brief summary of some of the issues Farm Bureau has been involved with so far this legislative year. Other issues have been reported in previous columns. There are now approximately 1,000 bills in the Legislature that affect farmers in one way or another.

Some other activities of a legislative nature include testimony on the Michigan State University Admissions Policy as they affect agriculture and Extension Services, numerous special meetings held on labor and environmental issues, meetings with other types of organizations on issues of mutual concern, health issues as they apply to rural people, highway legislation, etc. etc.

Administrative Director Named



Robert E. Braden was appointed administrative director of Michigan Farm Bureau effective November 22, 1971 by unanimous action of the Board of Directors.

In making the announcement, Elton R. Smith, president of Michigan Farm Bureau, said,

"Braden has had real upbringing in Farm Bureau in the past ten years. He has a farm background and can work with farmers. I have no reservations but what our organization will continue to move ahead."

Mr. Braden has served as general manager of Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association and Michigan Agricultural Services Association, two Farm Bureau affiliates, since their organization in 1961 and 1966.

Braden majored in animal husbandry at MSU, receiving his B.S. degree in 1943. He served in the U.S. Army Infantry for four years, attaining the rank of captain.

He and his wife, Doris, have three children, Connie, Neil and Lisa. The family resides on a farm near Byron.

Dan E. Reed, former secretary-manager of Michigan Farm Bureau, assumed the position of public relations director until his retirement on January 31, 1972.

MACMA NAMES MANAGER



Noel W. Stuckman, East Lansing, has been appointed manager of Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, a Farm Bureau affiliate corporation, effective Monday, November 29, 1971.

The announcement was made by Elton R. Smith, president of the association who said, "I have every confidence that the membership will benefit from the experience, dedication and enthusiasm which Stuckman brings to this position."

Born and raised on a northern Indiana farm, Stuckman was active in 4-H and FFA activities. He graduated from Purdue University with a degree in agricultural economics, and obtained his masters degree in agricultural economics from Michigan State University in 1959.

Stuckman joined the Michigan Farm Bureau staff in 1960 from the Agricultural Economics Department of MSU where he was doing work in marketing research in dehydro canned and dehydro frozen apple slices.

Prior to his new appointment, Stuckman was manager of the Market Development Division of Michigan Farm Bureau.

Stuckman's appointment fills the vacancy created when Robert E. Braden was appointed administrative director of Michigan Farm Bureau to replace retiring Dan E. Reed.

DIEHL APPOINTED TO AFBF

William J. Kuhfuss, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, has appointed David M. Diehl, Dansville, to serve on the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee for a two year term.

Diehl, chairman of Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee and a Michigan Farm Bureau Board member, will represent the Midwest states in his national position. The national committee works with state Farm Bureaus on Young Farmers and Ranchers activities.

Dave, his wife Polly, and their two children, live on a 3,000 acre cash crop farm in Ingham County. The farm, operated in partnership with his father and brother-in-law, is a certified wheat, oats, barley and soybean seed and corn operation.

Before attending MSU, from which he graduated with a B.S. degree in Soil Science, Diehl participated in local 4-H and FFA activities. He was a member of Kellogg Young Farmer Study Program, Group V. Active in the Young Farmers program since 1967, he was appointed to the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee in 1969, and has served as chairman of the committee since November, 1970.

MFB OFFICERS REELECTED



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 more than 58,000 member organization.

Renamed vice-president was Dean Pridgeon, Branch County farm leader and swine producer. Jack Laurie, Tuscola County dairyman, was reelected as the third member of the executive committee. Other officers elected were William Wilkinson, secretary; Robert E. Braden, assistant secretary; and Max D. Dean, treasurer.

Six district directors were reelected at the three-day annual meeting of the state's largest farm organization: Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft, District 1; Andrew

Jackson, Howell, District 3; David Morris, Grand Ledge, District 5; Kenneth Bull, Bailey, District 7; Eugene Roberts, Lake City, District 9; and Frank Schwiderson, Dafer, District 11. Calvin Lutz, Kaleva, was reelected to a two-year term as director-at-large.

Other members of the 16-member board are Harvey Leuenberger, Saginaw; Richard Wieland, Ellsworth; Walter Frahm, Frankenmuth; James Sayre, Belleville; David Diehl, Jr., Dansville; and Mrs. Richard Wieland, Ellsworth.

David Diehl, Jr. represents the Michigan Farm Bureau's Young Farmers Committee having been reelected to serve a second one-year term. Mrs. Richard Wieland was elected chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee for a two-year term and will serve on the board representing the women.

MFB QUEEN — JACKIE SHADE



Miss Jackie Shade, 20, of Alto was selected to reign as the 1972 Michigan Farm Bureau Queen at the 52nd annual meeting held in Grand Rapids. Miss Shade, repre-

senting Kent County Farm Bureau, was selected from 33 candidates. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Shade and is majoring in animal husbandry at Michigan State University.

She is a graduate of Lowell High School where she participated in band, drama, Latin club, National Honor Society, debate and forensics.

She was a 4-H member for 10 years and a junior leader for 5 years.

Jackie is a member of the MSU Meat Judging Team, Block and Bridle Club and the Rodeo Club. In 1970, she was a member of the MSU Livestock and Horse Judging Teams. She was the first girl to win the MSU Hoof and Hock award for combined meats and livestock judging.

Queen Jackie will receive an all-expense paid trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation convention to be held in Chicago December 5-8.

Outstanding Young Farmer

Virgil F. Schmidt, 30, of Standish was designated by the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers as their first "Outstanding Young Farmer." He received the award at the annual Young Farmers banquet held at the Pantlind Hotel in Grand Rapids.

Schmidt and his wife, Alice, operate a 320 acre field crop operation specializing in sugar beets and navy beans.

They have three pre-school age children.

Schmidt serves as president of Arenac County Farm Bureau, is a trustee of Arenac County and a member of the county zoning and planning board.

Mrs. Schmidt is Arenac County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Chairman.

As part of the award, the Schmidts will receive an expense-paid trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation convention in Chicago, December 7, 8 and 9.

Receiving the runner-up awards were Donald W. Nugent, 30, of Frankfort and Stanley D. Poet, 29, of Manchester.



The Michigan Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farmer award was established this year to recognize the young farmer who has demonstrated outstanding qualities in farm management practices.

The annual recipient of the Michigan award will compete with other outstanding young farmers for the American Farm Bureau Federation's national Outstanding Young Farmer award.

MAFC Annual Meeting

The Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives (MAFC) Annual Meeting and State Co-op Clinic will be held on December 14, 1971.

The meeting will start at 9:30 with registration and refreshments at the Farm Bureau Center, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing. Call to order will be at 10:00 a.m. with Robert D. Partridge, general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Washington, D.C., speaking on "Your Responsibility in Strengthening Cooperatives." Partridge is the chief administration officer for NRECA and spokesman for the nearly one thousand rural electric systems that comprise its membership. Before joining the NRECA, he served for 15 years with the Rural Electrification Administration.



E. A. JAENKE

The luncheon and afternoon program will be held at the Steinhaus Restaurant and will include E. A. Jaenke, governor, Farm Credit Administration of Washington, D.C., speaking on "Agriculture and Credit." Jaenke was appointed governor of FCA by the Federal Farm Credit Board in March, 1969. He heads the independent agency which supervises nationally and in the public interest the farmer-owned Farm Credit System, through which farmers and their cooperatives borrow over \$12 million a year.

Sylvan Wittwer, director, Agricultural Experiment Station, MSU, will speak on "Agriculture and Our Environment."

L. A. Cheney, executive secretary, MAFC said, "An excellent program has been planned for the one-day meeting and we would like to extend a special invitation to County Extension directors and agents for full participation."

A tour of the new Farm Bureau Center will be included as part of the day's activities.



ROBERT D. PARTRIDGE

A special session for County Extension directors and agents is also planned for the morning program featuring Dr. Dale Hathaway of MSU discussing "Status of Co-op Marketing in Michigan."

Annual Report, MFB

Women's Committee Chm.

Maxine Topliff

As billowy gray clouds float across the sky and the sun shines on the leafless trees, we are reminded that summer is gone and winter is fast approaching. When we think of fall, we think of all the work that has been done during the summer and prepare for chilly days ahead. It's also Farm Bureau Annual Meeting time; a time to do business, make new friends and see old friends.

Each year, new officers are elected at county, district and state levels, and each election brings about many changes. Your officers can only accomplish what you are willing to help them do.

Being an officer takes a lot of cooperation from everyone. We should always be thankful for the cooperation of our husbands and families. When mom's not there to get the meals and tidy up the place, someone else does it and we, as officers, should always be thankful to them for their help and understanding.

Each year we should thank those who spend many hours seeking to guide their counties in worthwhile programs. It is the responsibility of the vice chairman to help select and guide programs. On the state level, it is done by the state program planning committee, which consists of district vice chairmen. These ladies spend long hours planning a worthwhile program of work to present to you ladies in the counties.

Much of the credit for your successful programs of work is due to the untiring efforts of your district chairmen, who make up your Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee. They are: District 1, Mrs. Robert (Alice) Burandt, whose farming operation is fruit; Mrs. Remus (Ruth) Rigg, representing District 2, has a dairy operation; as does Mrs. Andrew (Claudine) Jackson from District 3; Mrs. Gerald (Leora) Smith, District 4, adds poultry to their dairy operation, and has served as chairman of the sewing and crafts committee for the past two years; District 5 is represented by Mrs. Clifford (Maud) Bristol, crop farm; District 6 brings us Mrs. Howard (Doris) Mahaffy, whose operation is dairy; Mrs. Harold (Grace) Greenhoe from District 7 knows cows too and where milk comes from; from District 8 we have Mrs. Edmond (Lillian) Wonsey, whose operation is field crops; Mrs. Leon (Ruth) Cooper represents District 9, where they have a dairy operation; from District 10-East is Mrs. Doris Cordes who raises field crops; from District 10-West is

Mrs. William (Bertha) Parsons, where they have a dairy farm and also make maple syrup; as does Mrs. Raymond (Marie) Postma from District 11-East, who has also served as the third member of the executive committee for the past two years. Mrs. Kenneth (Millie) Corey, who is thinking about fruit trees, represents District 11-West. In addition to these ladies, we also have your elected vice chairman, Mrs. Richard (Doris) Wieland and myself as your chairman.

Today you will elect a new chairman and vice chairman to assume the charge of running your women's committee. And we couldn't get along nearly so well if we didn't have the untiring efforts of our very capable coordinator, Miss Helen Atwood.

Thanks, ladies, from the bottom of my heart for a tremendous job.

Some of us will be joining the ranks of "exes" this year. After four years, some might think we're experts, but let me tell you what the "egg lady" in District 4 said an expert is. "An ex is a has-been, and a spurt is a drop of water under pressure," so, we may not be experts. I'm sure these ladies would agree with me as I say we've learned more about Farm Bureau in working with a wonderful group of ladies than we could ever convey to anyone. We are richer for having had the privilege of serving you.

It has also been my pleasure to serve as your representative on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors—a great group of men dedicated to the business of farming. They are interested in the women's program and they know what it can do for our organization.

Let me also convey a special thanks to the following ladies: From District 2, Mrs. C. G. Lee; from District 6, Mrs. Harland Welke; from District 8, Mrs. Hugh Swindlehurst; and from District 10-East, Mrs. Robert J. Kartes. Thanks, gals, for your labors of love and I'm about to join you in the "ex" department. It's been great working with you.

Let's look at some "beams." You may well ask, "What do you mean, beams?" So, let's look at some of the meanings of the word, beam. One meaning of beam is to smile brightly. Let's try that one right now. Let's all turn to our right and then to our left and give our neighbor a warm, friendly smile and say "Hi" to someone at our table. Now, don't you feel better already? If we

start out our year with a smile, we're already on the road to success.

Another warm smile should be exchanged by the ladies who attend the ACWW Triennial in Oslo, Norway. Some of you have already heard their reports and probably many more of you are planning to share in their experiences in the future. We can say a smile knows no language barrier.

Another meaning of the word beam is to direct our aim. What are we doing about a target to aim at, do we set goals for our county programs? Think about it. Do you have a special interest group in your county? Maybe we could call them a special task group. This may be a small group of ladies who have a common interest and want to get a specific job done. We need this kind of activity in our counties. Do we meet with our county boards and ask direction from them for projects they would like the women to carry on? Let's always remember our membership is a family membership and we need to act as a family in carrying out the entire county program. Where can women work best in a total county program? Maybe the executive committee of the county board and the women's committee can meet together and suggest programs that are needed to make our entire county program better.

There is another beam, too. "Any one of the principle pieces of timber, metal, etc., in a building that lie across the walls and serve to support the rafters." Let's take a look at this one.

There is a book called "I Dare You" written by William H. Danforth. This book says, "I dare you to think tall, stand tall, smile tall, and live tall." That's quite a challenge, isn't it? Mr. Danforth was one of the founders of the American Youth Foundation Leadership Training Camp at Stoney Lake near Shelby, Michigan. Camp Minawonca is based on a four-fold development—physical, social, mental and religious.

Let's apply these to our lives and to our county programs. How do we stack up? Do we dare to use our talents? Look about you. Everyone has at least one talent and most of us have many more. Are we using these talents in our county programs? You know, the more you give, the more you get. We might say the things that mean the most to us are the things we give away.

Let's all make a "checker" for ourselves. Make a square with all sides as equal as possible. Now, on the left hand, write "think tall physically." On the top side, "stand tall mentally" and "smile tall socially" on the right. At the base, write "live tall religiously." Let's label this "my checker," and initial it in the middle with our initials and put our county inside it, too.

Let this be a guide to challenge our personal lives, programs and projects we should do in our counties.

We need to involve more people. Shake off all those old ways and ask someone who doesn't know it can't be done, and I'll bet it can. Dare to give some new and younger blood in our family organization an opportunity to prove they know how to do a good job. Remember, we have many, many members who are not a part of a community group, and we should try to involve

NEW OFFICERS



NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee are (left to right) Chairman Mrs. Richard (Doris) Wieland, Ellsworth; and Mrs. Andrew (Claudine) Jackson, Howell, vice chairman.

Mrs. Richard (Doris) Wieland, Ellsworth, wife of an Antrim county farm leader and dairyman, was elected to a two-year term as chairman of the Women's Committee at the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids on November 8.

Mrs. Wieland will represent the women, replacing Mrs. Jerold Topliff, Eaton Rapids, who was not eligible for reelection, on the board of directors of the organization.

The Wielands live on a 700-acre dairy farm and have four children. They are active in local community activities and a number of conservation groups.

Elected vice chairman of the Women's Committee was Mrs. Andrew (Claudine) Jackson of Howell. Mrs. Raymond (Marie) Postma, Rudyard, was chosen as the third member of the Women's Executive Committee by the state Women's Committee.

Mrs. Wieland, who served two years as vice chairman of the Women's Committee, Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Postma were among the ladies who represented Michigan Farm Bureau at the Triennial meeting of the Associated

them. You'll have a better program if you do.

Let me challenge you again to "think tall, stand tall, smile tall, and live tall." I challenge you to take this formula back home and try it in your counties. I believe it will produce results that will make it very hard to determine who the award winners will be next year.

There are many other meanings of the word "beam." One is, the main piece of a plow to which the handles and colter are attached—the plow beam. We all know a plow beam is important, as plowing the ground is the first step in preparing the soil for planting, followed by tilling, planting and caring for, and finally harvesting the crop. Are we using this plow beam as a beginning for a successful program or project in our counties? A successful program or project doesn't just happen. It has been carefully planned with a complete follow-through to assure its success.

Many of you have heard the expression, "Get on the beam." Are we on the beam? I think we are. Commodity promotion, environmental quality, learning more about MASA and MACMA, farm tours, meetings with rural and urban friends and participation in sewing and handicraft contests—these are just a few of the activities we have carried out this year. We are surfacing new leaders and are doing a fine job of being on the beam. But we must remember, we need challenges to keep us on the beam.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with you ladies

Country Women of the World in Oslo, Norway last August.

Elton R. Smith, president, Michigan Farm Bureau, in his comments to more than 500 ladies who attended the Women's Luncheon, urged the ladies to gain "a sound understanding of the principles and theories by which effective marketing is accomplished" before prescribing remedies for it. As a participating and contributing member of the management team of their farming business, Smith pointed out, each lady should understand regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 which must be followed by agriculture.

Other highlights of the Women's activities included an address by the Rev. Charles Willey of Moline, Illinois, and a style review narrated by Farm Bureau Queen Judy Behrenwald of Lakeview.

Awards, in recognition for conducting outstanding activities in 1971, were presented to the Women's Committees of Chipewewa, Genesee, Ingham, Mackinaw-Luce, Montcalm and Oakland County Farm Bureaus.

at county, district, and state levels. Thanks to each one of you, for without you the program would be very small. I guess you can say many hands make light work. You're a great group of gals and I have one challenge I would like to leave with you. The challenge that is so well expressed in Douglas Malloch's poem, "Dare To Be The Best of Whatever You Are:"

If you can't be the pine on the top of the hill,

Be a scrub in the valley, but be
The best little scrub by the side
Of the rill.

Be a bush, if you can't be a
tree.

If you can't be a bush, be a
bit of grass,

Some highway happier make;

If you can't be a muskie, then
just be a bass—

But the liveliest bass in the
lake.

We can't all be captains, we've
got to be crew,

There's something for all of us
here,

There's big work to do, and
there's lesser to do,

And the task we must do is the
near.

If you can't be a highway, then
just be a trail,

If you can't be the sun, be a
star;

It isn't by size that you win or
you fail—

Be the best of whatever you
are.

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GET ACQUAINTED

With the change in leadership of a major labor organization, it is well to get better acquainted with the new management.

Following Walter Reuther's death, Leonard Woodcock became president of the United Automobile Workers. Recently, he appeared as guest speaker before the Detroit Economic Club talking about "The Economic Game Plan."

As part of an appearance before the Economic Club, it is customary for speakers to stand for questions. One of the questions asked of Mr. Woodcock was, "Why did you decide not to call out the UAW members to picket when the President of the United States was here (Detroit)?" The question referred to President Nixon's appearance at Cobo Hall in late September. Some labor leaders had threatened a massive picket line to protest unemployment, the war in Vietnam, and other matters.

Woodcock's answer was, "Well, very frankly, I was asked this question in the meeting with the students. Speaking individually, I was brought up on the notion that in our kind of democracy if you had something to say you went and hired a hall and tried to get people in to come and listen to you. And as one who has also been exposed to picket lines, I don't think they add very much to the democratic process."

It is interesting to know a little of Leonard Woodcock's background. In his present service on the President's Pay Board regarding Phase II of the so-called Economic Game Plan, Woodcock is an important factor in the economic future of our nation. He was born in Rhode Island in 1911. When he was three years old, his family moved to Germany where his father installed machinery sold by a Providence firm to a German plant.

With the outbreak of World War I later that year, Leonard and his mother were able to leave and go to England. The family was not reunited until after the war.

As a result of this experience, Leonard Woodcock received his early education in British schools. Woodcock attended Wayne State University, which was then known as Detroit City College. He also took training in accountancy.

The depression forced him to quit school and, following a clerical job with a company which failed. He was unemployed for almost a year. He became a union member in 1933 when he obtained work as a machine assembler in a division of Borg Warner Corporation. He became active in the union movement and in 1940 was appointed to the staff of the UAW and given the specific job of organizing the General Motors Fisher Body Plant in Grand Rapids. This task was successfully completed in 1941. He returned to work in the shop in 1944 as a punch press operator at Continental Motors in Muskegon.

In 1946 he became Administrative Assistant to Walter Reuther. In 1955 he was named Director of UAW's Agricultural Implementation Department. In December of that year he was named to head the union's General Motors Department. In 1959 he was elected to the Wayne State University Board of Governors and has served five one-year terms as Chairman of the Board.

WHAT IS OSHA?

By M. J. Buschlen
Operation Manager, MASA

This is the third in a three-part series of articles calling attention to the provisions of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). Part one appeared in the October issue of the Michigan Farm News, part two in the November issue.

SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS

Safety and Health Standards

By definition, "standard" means a standard which requires conditions, or the adoption or use of one or more practices, means, methods, operations, or processes, reasonably necessary or appropriate to provide safe or healthful employment and places of employment.

The act authorizes the Secretary of Labor, until April 28, 1973, to promulgate as occupational safety and health standards any existing federal standards or any national consensus standards. He may do this without complying with the rule-making requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act.

To date, the Secretary of Labor has announced four safety and health standards which apply to agriculture:

Temporary Labor Camps (1910.142) This standard is inconsistent in many respects with many of the rules and regulations of Michigan Public Act 289, an act to license and regulate agricultural labor camps.

In plain simple language Michigan farmers are now subject to two different laws. A farmer could obtain a legal agricultural labor camp license issued by the Michigan Department of Public Health and still be in violation of the (OSHA) "Temporary Labor Camp" standard, subject to citations and penalties under OSHA.

There is a provision in the law which provides that: "Any interested person may petition in writing the Assistant Secretary of Labor to promulgate, modify, or revoke a standard." On behalf of Michigan farmers, a petition has already been filed with the Labor Department to ask that the regulations of Michigan Public Act 289 be accepted as the OSHA standard in Michigan. It may be necessary at some future time to ask farmers to write letters in support of this request.

Storage and Handling of Anhydrous Ammonia (1910.11) This standard is intended to apply to the design, construction, location, installation, and operation of anhydrous ammonia systems, including refrigerated ammonia storage systems.

In general terms this standard would be classified as an equipment-safety standard. Anyone purchasing equipment to handle, store, or apply anhydrous ammonia should insist that the seller guarantee, in writing, that the equipment meets every requirement of the OSHA standard. The provisions of this standard are described and defined in detail in several printed pages. Dealers who handle and store anhydrous ammonia would be well advised to obtain copies of the entire

standard. Farmers who simply transport anhydrous ammonia to their farm and apply anhydrous ammonia to their fields would find Subpart (g) and (h) applicable to their operations. It is recommended that all farmers who use or intend to use anhydrous ammonia obtain a copy of the "standard" and comply with subpart (g) and (h) to avoid the penalties of a citation and to protect himself and his family, as well as employees, from the loss of life and limb. Anhydrous ammonia can be extremely dangerous if handled improperly.

Pulpwood Logging (1910.266)

This section applies to pulpwood logging operations, including but not limited to the operations of felling, limbing, marking, bucking, loading, skidding, prehauling, and other operations associated with the preparation and movement of pulpwood timber from the stump to the point of delivery. The provisions of this section do not apply to logging operations relating to saw logs, veneer bolts, poles, piling and other forest products.

The ordinary farmer who harvests a few logs from his farm woodlot may not be covered by this particular standard. However, there are many good safety practices which are contained in this standard.

It is recommended that every farmer read over these safety practices before cutting even a single tree. Personal safety equipment such as gloves, safety boots or shoes, safety helmets, eye and face protection and first aid kits may prove to be inexpensive insurance against the potential danger of felling a tree. Chain saws can be dangerous if improperly used.

Specifications for Accident Prevention Signs and Tags (1910.145)

In general terms this standard is similar to Michigan Public Act 163 of Public Acts of 1966, commonly known as the Slow Moving Vehicle (S.M.V.) law. The size, shape and color of the emblem required is the same.

The sign shall be mounted on the rear of the vehicle, broad base down, not less than three feet nor more than five feet above the ground and as near the center of the vehicle as possible. The use of this reflective device is restricted to use on slow moving vehicles and the use of such reflective device on any other type of vehicle or stationary object on the highways is prohibited.

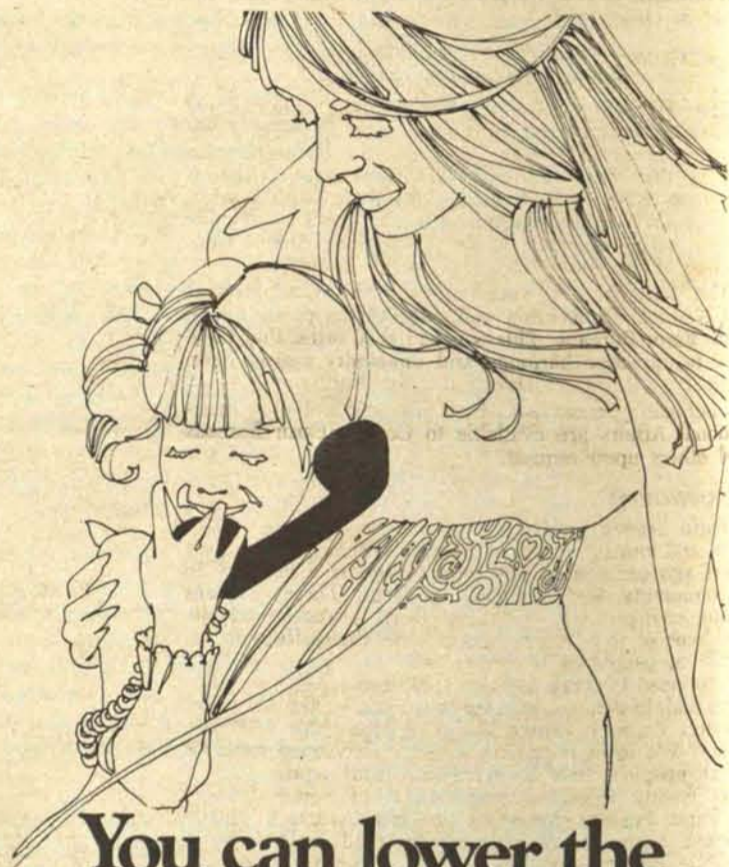
A slow moving vehicle is one which has a maximum potential speed of 25 miles an hour.

The Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) will provide program materials for informational type meetings where more detailed information concerning OSHA can be studied, than can be provided in newspaper articles. Contact your County Farm Bureau President, County Labor Committee Chairman, Young Farmer representatives, Womens Committee or write direct to MASA. Your Farm Bureau serves you some way every day!

MASA Hosts Meeting



DR. RICHARD PFISTER, assistant professor, Agriculture Engineering Department, MSU; Barry Brown, director, Michigan Department of Labor; and Charles Wilson, safety officer, OSHA, US Department of Labor, were the panel of experts explaining the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 at a safety conference jointly sponsored by the Michigan Department of Labor and the Michigan Agricultural Services Association.



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JOHN LAURIE
At Large

1. Further tax measures including the reinstatement of property tax credits.
2. Matching funds for upgrading housing for seasonal workers.
3. Partial elimination of \$1 fee for Uninsured Motorist Fund and amendments to implied consent and drunk driving laws.
4. Legislation to permit state administration of federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.
5. Inclusion, for the first time, of funds in the State Aid Act for vocational education.
6. Continued appropriations for several agricultural research programs at M.S.U.
7. Continued support of 4-H and FFA programs.
8. Amendments to the pesticide laws and animal health laws.
9. Legislation to help control bottles.
10. House Study Committee on livestock feedlots.

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 much proposed legislation not in the best interest of agriculture has not been adopted.

CONSTITUTIONAL TAX REFORM

Farm Bureau has consistently supported total tax reform for some years. While we believe that much has been accomplished and that the elements of a "balanced tax structure" are now available, we are convinced that meaningful and lasting reform can come

only through a basic constitutional change.

The burden of property tax continues to spiral upward. According to U.S.D.A. data, farm real estate taxes as a percent of net farm income, are now over 20 percent—burdens as high as 50 percent are not unusual.

We are convinced that continued voter rejection of voter proposals throughout the state clearly mandates the need for property tax reform and new approaches to school finance.

It is now obvious that the people must exercise their inherent power and amend the Michigan Constitution in order to provide a basis for long-range and meaningful total tax reform.

We are for property tax relief. The situation is serious. The solution of this issue cannot be evaded any longer. We continue to support a constitutional change to limit property tax levies. We will, if necessary, join with others who also recognize the seriousness and inequity of the property tax burden on the people of this state and will support a petition drive to place upon the ballot an amendment to limit total property taxes and to eliminate as nearly as possible property tax as a means of financing our schools.

TAX REFORM

Tax reform is a complex and continuing process. In addition to supporting constitutional limits on the property tax, we 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.

PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU

Farm Bureau is a free, independent, nongovernmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national and international in its scope and influence and is nonpartisan, nonsectarian, and non-secret in character.

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

Farm Bureau members face an ever-changing society in a fast-moving world. Problems unthought of a few years ago concern us greatly. We live as a minority in a community that has new concerns. These concerns about environment, pollution, social changes and the problems of population density have their effect on us, the farm people of Michigan.

The need to work together, compare ideas, seek solutions and, in general, face up to the challenges was never greater. Farmers cannot dodge a long-range land use policy. We must recognize a newly developed trend of urban people's drive to move into rural areas.

A greatly increased involvement of young farmers in Farm Bureau challenges our imagination to finally achieve a marketing program that will help bring a realistic and businesslike system of selling our farm produce.

Farming is a highly skilled profession, using great resources of capital, training and knowledge. We must be able to relate to the people outside agriculture. We do this best on a person-to-person basis, recognizing each of us is a public relations man for agriculture.

We are proud of our heritage of pride in our economic system, our system of self-determination in our farming operations and our concern and involvement in government.

Because of these and many other reasons we devote great effort to establishing a policy to guide our organization each year. Eleven hundred community groups, 69 county or regional Farm Bureau annual meetings, representing 77 counties; and ten statewide advisory committees contribute recommendations to our Policy Development Committee. The Committee, to better recommend policy to the delegate body, goes to great lengths to inform itself, using over 50 resource people in addition to all the resource available in our Farm Bureau and affiliate companies.

The Committee, after spending six days in deliberation, presents to the delegate body this, our annual report.

After consideration and adoption, this becomes the policy for 1972. Through the strength that comes from unity, we pledge to achieve our goals—together let's make it happen!

Dean Pridgeon, Chairman
MFB Policy Development Committee

PART I RECOMMENDATIONS ON STATE AFFAIRS

APPRECIATION

The first annual session of the 76th Michigan Legislature is drawing to a close. Significant progress has been made on several Farm Bureau policies and will be carried over into the 1972 session. Final action was completed on others, including:

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FARM BUREAU

the "MAKE IT HAPPEN" people.

- Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built.
- New methods of financing school systems, with strict limitations on property taxes for educational 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." Inability 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; at least 26 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 75th Michigan Legislature (1970) passed similar legislation based on laws operating successfully in other states. At the last moment the legislation was bottled up in a committee.

There are presently in the Legislature two or more bills designed to meet this problem. At a House public hearing strong support came from various interests, including agricultural groups, environmental groups, government officials and others.

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

LAND USE

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."

Land is a necessary resource to those who make their living from the soil. It is also a vital resource to the economy of Michigan and to the well-being of every citizen. The production of food and fiber on our agricultural lands contributes nearly \$1 billion annually to the economy of our state. Although only one out of 100 Michigan citizens operates a farm, 27% derive some part of their income from agriculture.

Only 30% of Michigan's 36.3 million acres is in agriculture. Over eight million acres of Michigan's nearly 11 million acres of agricultural land are located in the 38 counties below the Bay City-Muskegon line. These southern counties have an average of 55% of their land areas devoted to agricultural uses and much of it is prime farmland.

Urban sprawl is moving steadily across much of our most productive farmland. Each year, over 50,000 acres of farmland is converted to urban use. Without intelligently planned growth, the fertile land in no less than 20 counties could virtually disappear within 30 years. This sprawl creates a number of conflicts to agriculture, such as permanent removal of prime farmland from production, unrealistic and confiscatory tax assessment of farmland, and a number of social and environmental problems. Current land use programs within our state foster the continuation of such conflicts.

We commend the Governor's Special Commission on Land Use for its efforts to study critical land use problems and to recommend effective solutions. Intelligent planning and programs for land use need to be given high priority.

We support the formation of a centralized state agency with responsibility for coordinating the development and implementation of broad statewide land use guidelines to include such areas as agricultural land, urban development, recreational land, unique areas, forestlands and utility and transportation corridors. Any statewide land

use program should identify and preserve prime agricultural land. Our state ranks fifth or higher in 22 farm products grown on a wide range of soils. Prime agricultural land should not be based solely on soil capability for one or two major crops.

The State should provide necessary guidelines and financial assistance to local governments to assure the implementation of adequate land use programs. The guidelines should be used to coordinate land use programs of local units of government. State land use programs should be instituted only if local land use programs cannot meet established guidelines. Local governments should be authorized to adopt stricter land use programs than those specified in the guidelines. The right of individual appeal must be maintained.

Assessment of farmland at its agricultural value rather than potential use should be implemented to begin intelligent land use. Thousands of acres of prime agricultural land have been taken because accelerating urban pressures have caused assessments to skyrocket beyond the capability of returns from agricultural use. This must not continue while a statewide land use program is being continued. We strongly support the assessment of farmland based on agricultural use and urge that it be given immediate attention.

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.

In 1970, the Legislature repealed most of those credits. However, this year, 1971, the Legislature reinstated the credits. We support the continuation of the property tax credits — at least until such time as total property tax reform can be achieved.

MICHIGAN TAX COMMISSION

This agency of government has many responsibilities, many of which must be carried out without adequate staff. It must carry out the constitutional requirements and state laws on property taxation. The property tax, with its numerous inherent faults, complicates the Commission's job.

One of the major areas of responsibility is proper state equalization of the value of each county within the state. This is the third step in the assessment and equalization process, beginning with the local assessor and Board of Review.

The Commission also has the responsibility of judging appeals from individual taxpayers, townships and counties. This is a difficult situation, as appeals often result from rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission.

We support legislation that would create an appeals procedure assuring individual taxpayers and local governments an efficient and impartial procedure, thereby freeing the Tax Commission for other essential duties, such as the equalization function.



RECEIVING SPECIAL RECOGNITION at the "Dedicated Dozen" breakfast, for being the first twelve counties to reach 1971 goal in their respective membership categories were the 1971 membership chairmen from Mackinaw-Luce, Calhoun, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clinton, Arenac, Oceana, St. Joseph, Montcalm, Saginaw and Washtenaw Counties.

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.

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 support legislative action to increase the fee to a level in relation to the property taxes paid by other homeowners.

EDUCATIONAL FINANCE REFORM

There is little question now that major reforms must be made in the financing of education. Courts throughout the nation are now recognizing the inequities of the present finance systems. Statewide educational opportunity cannot be achieved unless the method of finance is restructured to achieve equity. Property taxes for this purpose are obsolete and do not have the capability to expand to meet increasing needs, nor are they a good measure of ability to pay. Studies have proved this. For instance, during a seven-year period (1961-1968) one study points out that millage rates on property for schools increased 57%, along with an alarming rate of increasing assessed valuations. However, had an income tax been in effect during that same period, the rate could have remained the same and yielded more money than the property tax despite the alarming increases.

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 school purposes be strictly limited by law.
- The income tax be used as the major source of funds for our school systems.
- 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.

We believe it is possible to achieve educational finance reform without eroding the fundamental right of the local community to determine educational goals within broad general guidelines provided by law.

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.
- Whenever intermediate districts are reorganized the policy-making board should be representative of all local boards of education and all areas of the district.
- 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 young 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.
- Educational programs be constantly reevaluated to determine the priorities and needs of our economy and work force. Education at all levels must meet the constantly changing needs of society.
- State aid bill be passed early in the legislative session to permit proper planning by the school districts.

OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Many parents are concerned about the subjects being taught, the materials 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 and should so remain. However, parents should be interested in what is being taught and should work with local school board members in developing curriculum that upgrades educational 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 promote patriotic Americanism.

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. An integrated program can 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.

Too often, instructors, while they have a college degree, have no practical work experience in their field. We believe that vocational education teachers should be required to have such experience and also that consideration should be given to changing the certification law to permit those with specific skills to become teachers.

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 recognizing 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 five years. A study by the National Academy of Science indicates that three technicians are needed for every college graduate in the agricultural-related fields.

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 encourage the administration and faculty in our local school systems to use discipline necessary to instill this respect in the students. However, it must be pointed out that the basis of good school discipline rests on strong parental support.

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 either repealed or amended to require that all tenure positions be subject to a reevaluation of performance after a reasonable period of time, not to exceed each five years of service, with the opportunity to discharge undesirable or incompetent teachers.

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 resulted in better living for all our people, rural and urban.

The greatness of a university lies in its dedication to a search for truth and in serving all people regardless of race, creed or background. If Michigan State University sacrifices principles because of political pressure, then its greatness would diminish.

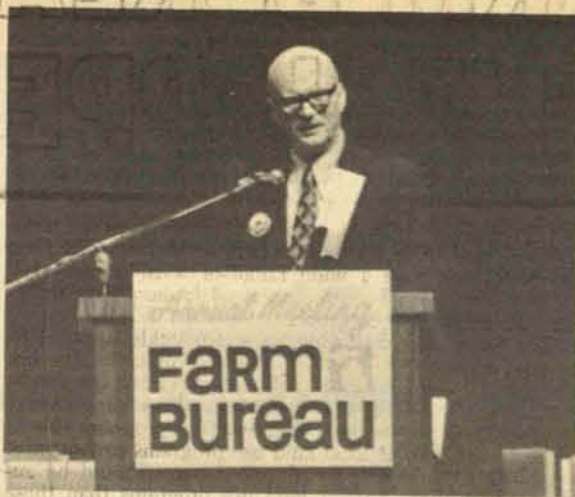
We believe that Michigan State University must continue to give prime consideration to these disciplines and recognize the great need for specialized training for agricultural-related occupations which may or may not lead to a degree, but can be met through the course work offered by the Institute of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

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 College of Human 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.



DAN E. REED, secretary-manager, gave an informative presentation of the programs and projects of Michigan Farm Bureau during the past year as he reported to the delegates at the opening session of the Annual Meeting, November 8.

4-H

During the past few years the emphasis in the 4-H Program has moved away from competition in club work. We believe that competition is basic in every endeavor that a person makes in his life.

We commend the Cooperative Extension Service on the steps taken to return the competitive spirit to the 4-H Program, and on the innovations, such as "Youth Exploration Days", with which the staff is experimenting.

UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE

We support a bicameral legislature for our state. We believe the system of checks and balances provided by the two houses is a safeguard, protecting our people against ill-considered legislation.

The proposal currently under discussion would give rural Michigan such scattered representation that voters would scarcely have an opportunity to see or know their legislator.

COUNTY HOME RULE

Legislation authorizing the establishment of county "Home Rule" should require a referendum vote by the people before the adoption of the plan in any county. The legislation should also provide for other sources of revenue than the property tax to support added costs.

COMPENSATION COMMISSION

In 1968, voters of the state amended the Constitution to provide that salaries of state officers and legislators be set each two years by an Officers Compensation Commission of seven members, appointed by the Governor. The determination of the Commission can be overturned by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature. At no time does the Commission have to face the voters.

We believe the 1968 amendment did not accomplish what the voters had in mind.

We urge study and discussion of methods by which the will of the voters may more effectively be registered.

COURT REFORM

The Michigan Legislature has created a special 36-member commission to study Michigan's court system and recommend constitutional changes to solve current problems. We believe that such a study is needed for many reasons. For example, the present delay in processing cases in all our courts is unfair to the people involved. It is a truism that "Justice delayed is justice denied."

We further believe that while Michigan's court system is called nonpartisan, the methods of nominating candidates for the Supreme Court and other courts are far from nonpartisan.

We believe that some form of the Missouri Non-Partisan Court Plan should be considered for Michigan. Since its adoption in 1940, more than 21 other states have adopted various versions. It provides for appointment of various judges by the Governor from nominations submitted by a nonpartisan Judicial Nominating Commission. It preserves the right of the people to have a voice in the selection of judges, as the judge is required to run solely on his record and not against other opponents in a general election. The people decide whether he should be retained.

We further believe that all judges should be prohibited from taking part, directly or indirectly, in any political campaign; further, that they should retire at age 65. However, as retirees, they should be available for appointment for limited periods of time to fill vacancies or assist during periods of heavy court loads. The abilities and experience of those able and wishing to serve when needed should not be lost.

VANDALISM

We hold to the basic concept that parents are responsible for the actions of their children. We, therefore, recommend that parents of juvenile offenders be held financially responsible and be required to personally assist in repairing the damage.

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 114,791 miles of roads and streets (44% inadequate). The State Highway Depart-

ment 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% (87,723 miles) of the total road system (44% inadequate). Of this total, 25,280 miles are classified as Primary Roads (37% inadequate) and 62,444 miles are classified as Local Roads (46% inadequate).

Of all bridges on local roads, 64% 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.



MISS JACKIE SHADE, Alto, selected Michigan Farm Bureau Queen for 1972, receives her crown and warm congratulations from Miss Judy Behrenwald, Lakeview, the immediate past Farm Bureau Queen.

- 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.
- There should be no further increases in weight, width and length limitations of trucks using any road system in the near future. 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.

The recently completed Highway Needs Study shows that 44.5% of all highway needs are within the county road system. Good local roads are essential if rural areas are to be developed to their fullest agricultural potential.

MOTOR VEHICLE FUNDS

Michigan's Constitution states that revenues derived from motor vehicles and motor fuels should be used exclusively for highway purposes as defined by law. The Motor Vehicle Fund, by formula, is used for state, county and municipal transportation systems.

We recognize that in some cases new systems of transportation may be preferable. We insist, however, that the portions of these funds for county and local use be maintained and increased in relation to the portion of the fund used for other jurisdictions. Such money should

not be used for any purpose that is not directly related to the construction, maintenance or financing of modern and adequate transportation 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.

SAFETY CONFERENCE

We support the Special Conference on the Problem Driver and Traffic Safety organized by Secretary of State Richard H. Austin. This conference is made up of leaders throughout the state, including three representatives of Farm Bureau, with technical assistance from various agencies of government and the private sector. The Task Force studies should result in broad and comprehensive action on the issue of traffic safety and the problem driver.

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 operate with headlight on, making them clearly visible to oncoming vehicles on all public roads.
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 hazards within road rights-of-way that obstruct 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.
7. Red and amber reflectors be banned as mailbox and driveway markers and only blue or green markers be used.
8. Slow-moving vehicle signs be used only on vehicles as intended by law.

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.

UNINSURED MOTORISTS' FUND

We commend the Legislature for its action this year increasing the contribution by the uninsured motorist from \$35 to \$45 and in modifying the requirement for a \$1 contribution by those who carry the required insurance. If and when additional funds are needed, we believe the uninsured motorist should provide those funds.

INSURANCE CANCELLATIONS

Insurance companies should be required by law or regulation to accompany a cancellation notice with an explanation as to the reason for the cancellation.

STATE GAS TAX REFUND

We believe that the state gas tax refund be handled in a manner similar to the federal gas tax refund by allowing a credit against the state income tax for any gas tax refunds due the farmer from gas purchases during the year which he hasn't filed for during the year.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY

In the exercise of "Eminent Domain" and obtaining rights-of-way for utilities, highways and other uses, we urge that procedures be as nearly uniform as possible. This would enable property owners to better understand and use the provisions to obtain fair and equitable settlements.

Utility companies should be restrained from unnecessarily destroying timber, orchards, farmland and property.

We urge Planning Commissions to coordinate the establishment of corridors for the use of utilities.

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 has been amended to include snowmobiles.

The all-terrain vehicle, trail bikes and similar machines are also very popular. We support legislation to include these vehicles under the Horton Trespass Act and other statutes presently applying to snowmobiles.

We also support legislation to limit the noise levels of these types of machines.

We commend the Department of Natural Resources for its efforts to develop more trails for these machines on public lands.

LITTERING

Littering is a costly nuisance and much of it is thrown on Michigan's farmlands. Cleanup of litter along highways is costly to taxpayers. Thousands of truckloads of bottles, cans, paper and other litter will be picked by hand along state highways this year alone.

The current Anti-Litter Law can help in curbing littering. The judge may levy a fine and costs and 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. Local political influence must not be permitted to hamper enforcement.

We urge the use of signs posted along state and county roads and in parks, stating the maximum fine for littering.

Farmers are urged to prevent agricultural wastes from littering when farm equipment and trucks are driven on highways.

We will support legislation to make the owner of a vehicle responsible for 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.

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 of any person convicted of a felony involving use of firearms.

WELFARE

Our present welfare programs have contributed greatly to the financial crisis at all levels of government. In Michigan alone, during 1971-1972, the estimated cost will be approximately \$1 billion. Present welfare programs may well contribute to a moral crisis that affects everyone.

We urge that a realistic reevaluation be conducted of the total welfare program, including the amounts of money spent, sources of this money, desirability of federal and state intervention at the local level, effectiveness in reducing the numbers of welfare recipients and the eligibility of employees on strike.

We support welfare benefits to those who are really in need of assistance. Welfare should not become a "way of life" or perpetuated in future generations. All

members of society must be motivated to sustain their self-esteem and self-respect by earning as much of their livelihood as possible.

FOOD STAMPS

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

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.

MEDICAL TRAINING

Many communities are faced with a shortage of physicians to provide needed medical services. Rural communities are especially affected by the shortage of physicians. Ample financial support must be given to training programs at our teaching hospitals so that more Michigan medical students will take their internship and residencies in Michigan. This would also help to attract top American medical graduates from nearby states to come to Michigan.

We encourage the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine to establish a Department of Family Practice. We support the development of Physician Assistant Programs to provide more readily available medical service.

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 are now permitted to seek treatment on their own initiative and are encouraged to do so.

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.

OPTICAL SERVICES

Despite an increasing population, Michigan has a steadily declining number of practicing optometrists. Michigan's licensing procedure for optometrists is a major factor in the shortage of practitioners in this important health care field.

We will support a reciprocal licensing procedure to permit out-of-state optometrists to obtain a license for practice in Michigan.

We also believe the State Board of Examiners in Optometry should be composed of both private practitioners and those representing group-owned optical clinics.



YOUR 1972 MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU Board of Directors and officers are: (front row, left to right) Andrew Jackson, Dist. 3; William Wilkinson, corporate secretary; Mrs. Richard (Doris) Wieland, women's chairman; Elton R. Smith, Dist. 4, president; Dean Pridgeon, Dist. 2, vice president; John Laurie, Dist. 6, third member of the Executive Committee. (Standing, left to right) David M. Diehl, chairman, Young Farmers; Kenneth Bull, Dist. 7; Calvin Lutz, director at large; Harvey Leuenberger, Dist. 8; Walter Frahm, director at large; Frank Schwiderson, Dist. 11; James Sayre, director at large; Richard Wieland, Dist. 10; Eugene Roberts, Dist. 9; David Morris, Dist. 5; and Arthur Bailey, Dist. 1.

Either party may terminate negotiations any time before the deadline. In the event that agreement on all terms of trade is not reached by the first day of the marketing period, the unresolved terms should be settled by arbitration.

We ask that the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act be given the highest priority.

MARKETING ASSOCIATION FEE COLLECTION

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, there is need for a system of marketing service fee payment that will provide adequate and sound financing of the association.

Some processors have recognized the value of marketing services and information provided and have cooperated in the collection of members' marketing service fees upon the association's and members' request. Other processors have refused this accommodation even though they purchase members' commodities. A uniform system of collecting marketing service fees at the 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 to legislation in force in New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio and Idaho.

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 in accordance with normal business practices.

We support legislation that would require processors purchasing fruits and vegetables from growers to make full payment within thirty days of the date of purchase, unless other provisions are made by written contract.

PROCESSORS PRODUCING OWN RAW PRODUCTS

Fruit and vegetable handlers and processors have integrated their operations to the extent that they are producing a significant percentage of their raw product supplies needed for processing. The costs of producing this raw material by processing companies is substantially above the average grower's cost of production. This extra cost factor is absorbed by the processor and the raw material used as a lever to force down the prices paid to growers.

We strongly urge the enactment of legislation which provides that processors who produce 10% or more of their own raw material supplies for processing, either directly, indirectly, by lease or contract, shall pay other growers on the basis of prices and contract terms not less than the processors' estimated cost of production.

PRICING BY UTILIZATION

There have been frequent situations whereby processors, handlers and buyers have purchased raw product from farmers at prices and grades based on a low value processed product use, such as juice, etc., but have, in fact, used the raw product for processing a higher valued product. This practice is extremely demoralizing to the market when such processed products are sold at substantially lower prices. We support development and passage of legislation and regulations to prevent this practice.

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.

MICHIGAN POTATO GRADE 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 marketed in packages and designated "Unclassified" should be packed in color-coded containers marked "Unclassified" in clear, visible lettering. We urge that the potato industry develop outlets, such as processing starch and feed, that will utilize inferior quality potatoes.

WINE GRAPE INDUSTRY

The Michigan wine and grape industry is regulated by the Liquor Control Commission and the Department of Agriculture, resulting in many governing rules and regulations. While these are intended to be helpful to the industry and the entire economy, the industry faces many problems in its efforts to expand.

We urge a study of the wine laws and regulations to assure that they are in the best interest of the wine grape producers.

MILK SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

Milk production is increasing in our state and nation. This increased production is occurring despite a down-

ward trend in per capita milk consumption.

We urge Farm Bureau to work with the dairy industry in the development and implementation of a supply-management program designed to keep milk production in line with the market needs for dairy products.

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 support legislative changes to the comminuted meat law to permit the addition of poultry meat in accordance with USDA standards.

FOOD SCARES AND THE CONSUMER

Today's consumer seems to be buffeted on every side by some governmental agencies and various organized groups constantly scaring him into believing that many of the everyday needs are harmful in one way or another. The most recent scare was the recall of green beans that were produced and canned in Michigan. Upon investigation it was proved that the beans were not contaminated and had not caused any illness. However, a great deal of damage is done — not only to the processor, but to the farmer who produced the food.

We believe in and support the enforcement of strict food standards in order to protect every individual; however, we would hope that responsible agencies would not issue scare-type warnings until they are sure that a problem exists. This has happened several times in the past few years and, in every case, has harmed the market for some of the products produced by American agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Agricultural research is essential to maintain the necessary quality and quantity and the efficiency of our 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 institutions have provided answers to many serious problems of production and have benefitted consumers as well as farmers.

We strongly support continued research to find better answers to agriculture's environmental concerns, acceptable controls for new diseases and insects, new varieties suited to mechanical handling and processing, and cultural practices to improve soil and water conservation.

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

CROP AND MARKET REPORTING

Some government crop and livestock estimates and market price forecasts have been costly to farmers and ranchers because of their inaccuracy.

Changes in the production and marketing patterns in agriculture make it imperative that these services be updated. Continued research is necessary in the use of new techniques to improve the accuracy of these reports. These new techniques must supplement the traditional voluntary mail sample questionnaires returned by individual farmers.

All farmers who receive questionnaires should make accurate reports promptly.

Consideration should be given to adding other commodities where producers wish to be included in the crop reporting program.

U.S.D.A. should not engage in price forecasting.

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.



VIRGIL F. SCHMIDT, Standish, was the recipient of the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers' "Outstanding Young Farmer" Award. His wife Alice looks on as Elton R. Smith, president, Michigan Farm Bureau, makes the presentation during the Young Farmers Banquet in Grand Rapids, November 9.

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, non-profit 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.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND BARGAINING ACT

The need for marketing and bargaining legislation has become extremely urgent because of a decline in the bargaining power of farmers due to the rapidly occurring changes in the system of food processing, distribution and marketing, and the great economic strength that has been attained by major industries and labor unions through large scale organization. Farmers need self-help legislation which would provide the necessary legal framework upon which commodity producers can build their own effective marketing and bargaining programs to attain parity of income comparable with other occupational groups in our nation.

We will work for and support a comprehensive Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act. This legislation should be available to the producers of all agricultural commodities if they, through their marketing organizations, desire to organize and operate through the provisions of the act. Based on the concept of majority rule, associations that demonstrate that they are supported by 51% of the producers with 51% or more of a commodity grown in a production area should be authorized to represent and to be supported by all producers in the area in the pricing and marketing of the commodity.

An Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board should administer the provisions of the act. The organizational rights of producers to voluntarily join associations without interference by handlers should be established and enforced through the authority of the Board.

The legislation should provide standards for recognition of an accredited bargaining association upon the Board's determination that the association (1) is a cooperative incorporated under state or federal law; (2) is controlled by and operated for farmers; (3) is capable of performing duties specified in agreements with members; (4) has member contracts that are binding under law, that specify the commodity for accreditation, and that appoint the association as members' exclusive sales agent; (5) has a commodity marketing committee authorized to negotiate with handlers and comprised of members under contract for the commodity and who are elected by members under similar agreement; and (6) controls sufficient quantity of the commodity to effectively negotiate with handlers. The quantity must be 51% or more of the amount grown in a production area excluding any quantity contracted by producers with processing cooperatives and any quantity produced by handlers.

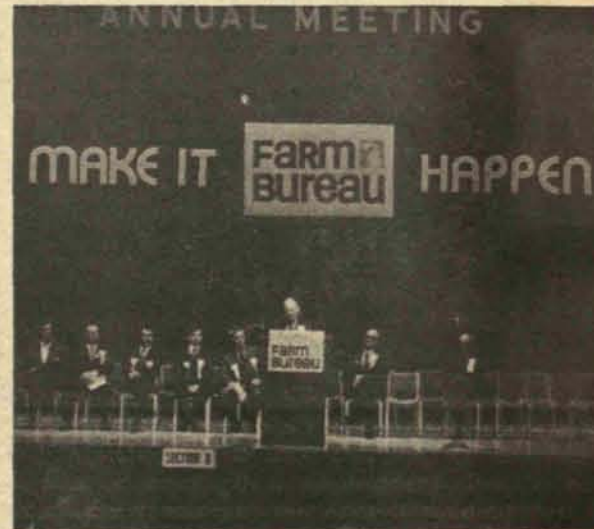
The procedure to be followed by the Board in accrediting an association should include a provision for producers to appeal the accreditation through a petition signed by at least 1/3 of the producers who produce at least 1/3 of the production of the commodity asking that the association not be accredited. The Board should then determine by referendum whether or not producers assent if 51% or more of those voting that produce 51% or more of the volume produced by those voting agree with the decision to accredit the association.

An accredited association should represent, as exclusive sales agent, all producers (members and nonmembers) of the commodity grown in the production area in negotiations with handlers. Handlers should be required to deduct marketing association service fees. An accredited association should file annual reports with the Board for evaluation on whether or not the association continues to meet the accreditation standards.

An association's accreditation could be revoked through a process similar to the accreditation procedure. Revocation should be considered by the Board (1) upon the request of the accredited association; (2) upon petition signed by at least 1/3 of the producers that produce at least 1/3 of the production of the commodity or (3) when the Board has evidence that the accredited association ceases to maintain the standards.

Bargaining should be the mutual obligation of handlers and accredited associations to meet at reasonable times and confer and negotiate in good faith. Negotiations may include all terms of trade between handlers and producers including prices, quality, quantity and related products and services.

Mediation services should be performed if requested. The Board should establish a deadline date which will be 30 days prior to the first day of the marketing period.



THE OPENING SESSION of the 52nd Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting with President Elton R. Smith presiding.

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

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.

ENVIRONMENT

Public concern for the environment shows every sign of continuing to be a powerful and growing force. This mounting concern poses serious implications to agriculture. The future of agriculture is dependent on air, water and land as natural tools of production. Agriculture has an important responsibility to improve the quality of our environment.

All persons engaged in agriculture should become informed of pollution sources and discipline themselves so as not to add to the problem. Good housekeeping and a good neighbor policy can do much to prevent environmental problems from occurring.

Continued research is necessary to find adequate answers to agricultural waste disposal problems. Much emphasis should be placed on developing recycling systems for agricultural wastes.

Agriculture should continue to be a voting member of the Air Pollution Control Commission and Water Resources Commission. We will continue to seek agricultural representation on the Natural Resources Commission.

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.

AIR POLLUTION

Legislation is pending to revise the existing Air Pollution Act. We support the amendment to exempt from the definition of air pollution those normal and usual animal odors associated with farms in agricultural areas and agricultural zoned areas. Producers need this amendment to the act to prevent legal harassment in the name of environmental quality. Farmers will, however, continue to be subject to the nuisance laws.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

State water pollution agencies are making rapid progress and are capable of doing their full and proper share in the water pollution control effort. In our state, the Water Resources Commission has developed a good program to protect and improve our abundant water resources.

However, the trend of Federal water pollution control legislation in recent years has been to reduce the authority and the responsibility of the states. If this trend continues, the capabilities of the states in the effort against water pollution will be nullified.

We support authority for water pollution control by state water pollution agencies and will work to protect this authority. We are opposed to Federal programs that threaten to reduce state water pollution control programs to a custodial level.

POLLUTION ABATEMENT PROGRAMS

Pollution abatement practices under the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) are contributing to the quality of man's environment. Pollution abatement practices are approved for every county in Michigan and funds are available to provide farms with financial assistance when installing approved practices. We believe REAP should continue to place 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 farm and animal wastes. Adequate manpower should be assured within the Soil Conservation Service to provide technical assistance for farmers planning projects that are cost-shared with REAP funds.

FEEDLOT REGULATIONS

Technological changes and environmental concerns dictate a need for study of any problems from concentrated livestock and poultry operations to determine the necessity of licensing them. We offer our assistance to the Social Study Committee on livestock feedlots appointed by the House of Representatives.

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Formation of the Agricultural Environmental Committee, composed of producers representing major commodity interests and agricultural groups, has assisted Michigan agriculture in meeting some of its environmental challenges. We support the activities of the Agricultural Environmental Committee.

SOIL CONSERVATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Good soil conservation practices, minimizing erosion and conserving water, is one of agriculture's most important contributions to a clean environment. However, 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 for food and most of their water.

The annual increase in our population places a definite responsibility on agriculture and the nation to safeguard our needed future food production resources. Agriculture, highway construction, pipelines, residential and commercial developers must be aware of the

need for intelligent use and conservation of our lands.

The Soil Conservation Districts now organized in Michigan are efficiently operated by elected directors serving without salary and are effective units of soil-saving activity. We pledge our support to work with Soil Conservation Districts to conserve soil and water through sound conservation practices.

LAND ACQUISITION

Private ownership and operation of land resources is in the best interests of our Nation. Acquisition of fee title or interest in land by government for a public use should require individual state legislating or congressional approval following clear demonstration of the need for such use. In these cases, every effort should be made to select less valuable land. We urge that state and federal government consider leasing of needed land or taking of easements rather than outright purchases.

DRAINAGE PROJECTS

Many acres of productive farmland would be lost without adequate drainage systems to handle excess water. Legislation has been proposed to require a permit and a fee for construction of drainage systems benefiting agriculture. We are opposed to legislation that would restrict agricultural drainage.

DEER HERD

We recommend that the Department of Natural Resources reevaluate its antlerless deer policy. We recommend the Legislature adopt a three-year moratorium on shooting of antlerless deer in the Upper Peninsula and northern areas of the Lower Peninsula.

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 farmlands 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.

CALFHOOD DISEASES

We support and encourage the Michigan Legislature to appropriate funds to the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station to be used specifically to conduct calf disease research to identify the virulent, deadly diseases of newborn calves and develop an effective cure or preventative for such diseases. The amount of such funds should be adequate to obtain a solution to this problem within a reasonable period of time.

VETERINARY SERVICES

The need for supplementary veterinary services exists in many areas. We will support legislation to allow a trained animal technician under the direction of a veterinarian to perform services of testing and vaccination.

BREEDING STOCK VACCINATION

Michigan presently requires calthood vaccination for brucellosis of female beef and dairy breeding stock imported into the state or sold from one farm to another within the state.

Since Michigan is brucellosis free, and one of only three states with this strict regulation. We believe we should maintain our present calthood vaccination program.

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.

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 of these pests.

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 and other control methods.

We commend and support the Michigan Department of Agriculture for its conscientious evaluation and scientifically localized treatment of insect infestations.

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 farmer-employers. Farmers have for years carried the burden for providing not only jobs for these people, but, while their own families are presently forced to live on 70% of parity (lowest since the depression of the thir-

ties), they 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 these seasonal employees, there are still problems inherent in migrating from state to state each year, particularly for those with a low general educational 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 Congress and the Legislature and leaders in agencies of the federal and state government to be informed of the true agricultural labor situation 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 our 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.

LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

We will continue to research all possibilities for establishing guidelines to assure the uninterrupted production, handling and sale of agricultural products.

The right of farm workers to organize and bargain collectively should be exercised with consideration for the public interest and the preservation of basic individual rights and freedoms.

We favor the general intent and purpose contained in H.B. 5100 which has been introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives.

WILLIAMS-STEIGER OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT (O.S.H.A.)

Farming is the nation's third most hazardous occupation. Michigan farmers share the national concern to provide safe working conditions for farm employees. Farmers have a vital concern in regulations that may be imposed upon them indiscriminately without concern for a proper phase-in adjustment period.

Every farmer who uses hired labor, regardless of number and including part-time and exchange work, is affected by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (O.S.H.A.). Violations result in a citation to the employer. He can pay the penalty or go to court.

While we recognize that the employer has a responsibility to his employees and must meet the safety standards, we believe that the employee also has a responsibility and should be subject to penalty for failure to observe the safety standards.

We believe the State of Michigan should assume the responsibility for development and enforcement of Occupational Safety and Health Standards relating to agriculture and that a special Agricultural Safety Advisory Board should be appointed to assist the Department of Labor in administering and establishing safety standards for agriculture.

Safety studies indicate that about 70% of the accidents and injuries which occur on the farm injure the owner-operator and/or his family. We would encourage all farmers to become aware of the occupational hazards and voluntarily adopt safety programs.

We further urge thorough research of the law and will provide informational and educational materials and hold special meetings, if necessary, to assist Farm Bureau members to understand what is required to comply and avoid the penalties.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

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.

Pressures are increasing on both the state and national levels to bring agriculture under unemployment compensation laws. Such efforts often ignore the difference between agriculture and industry and the heavy additional financial burden that would be imposed on producers.

Some national studies have been made to determine the feasibility of some type of unemployment compensation to farm workers.

Any program that might be developed should be nationwide in scope with full recognition that agriculture cannot easily pass on such added costs.

MINIMUM WAGES

Adjustments in the state minimum wage should take into consideration many factors that are often unknown or are ignored. It should be recognized 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 exceed the federal minimum wage for agricultural workers. 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.

We oppose efforts to extend overtime payments covering farm work by either legislative action or labor-management negotiations.

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. We oppose any further restrictions upon the employment of youth in agriculture.

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.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

The Workmen's Compensation Act, which covers farm workers, at the present time provides sufficient coverage for the workers who normally remain on the job for the full season of employment in Michigan.

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.

This program has proven to be a good public investment. For every one dollar appropriated, farm workers and society as a whole received \$2.40 of improved sanitary housing.

We urge continued funding of this Act until all seasonal labor camps can be brought up to the standards of the State Health Department.

We commend the State Health Department for the efficient manner in which they administered this grant program.

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.

We favor faster tax write-off of investments in farm labor housing. Obsolete, unused, abandoned farm labor housing should be removed from sight.

CENTER FOR RURAL MANPOWER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Center programs and activities have been labor management oriented to the benefit of both farm workers and farm employees. Recently, the programs have been extended to include rural health, rural poverty and rural taxation problems.

We support the work of the Rural Manpower and Public Affairs as a part of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University.

HARASSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS

In recent years Michigan farmers have been subject to many new farm labor laws and regulations. Most farmers are now beginning to understand how to adjust and comply with these statutes.

More recently, rural communities have been deluged with many different social and educational programs, oftentimes vigorously competing with one another.

During the last two years, the activities of the Migrant Legal Services Assistance Program has been particularly disturbing. Such experimentation by law students has cast a pall of fear and frustration upon many agricultural communities.

In many instances, farmers have been forced to defend themselves in lawsuits which have been filed against them by the Migrant Legal Assistance Programs. The lawsuits filed against farmers to date have been primarily based on technical violations of the law. Such harassment causes producers to question whether farm workers can be safely employed with the possibility of losing the entire farm investment as the result of such a lawsuit.

The loss of employment opportunities for seasonal farm workers has had the cumulative effect of a loss of spendable income to the workers, a reduction in the production of high-value crops which formerly occupied the land, and a needless increase in the cost of social services to care for needlessly unemployed workers and their families.

We support education and training programs to assist farm workers who are displaced, through normal attrition, in their transition to other employment.

However, we vigorously oppose the use of state and federal public funds, intended for such education and training, in a manner to create fear, frustration and threats to the agricultural employers.

We believe that all laws and regulations should be fully enforced by departments, agencies and others authorized by law. We urge administrators to do whatever possible to prevent harassment and persecution of agricultural employers.

BOYCOTTS OF 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.

No form of combat against a nation seems as misguided as the use of the secondary boycott when applied to food production, processing and distribution. It is rarely employed to insure justice to mistreated workers. It has been used by some labor leaders to force union membership upon farm workers who have repeatedly rejected voluntary unionism.

We urge that 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.

We favor more effective remedies to prevent secondary boycotts of farm products and processors of farm products as a means of forcing the compulsory unionization of farm workers.

PART II — OUR FARM BUREAU

FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Michigan Farm Bureau has increased for four consecutive years. Growth in membership is fundamental to the health and well-being of our organization. We encourage the leadership of Farm Bureau at all levels to keep the importance of membership work on a first priority basis.

We approve the 1972 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 benefited through the offering of some services of this kind in the past.

We feel that it is important for 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.

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. Community Groups should be utilized as a method for providing information to members in all Farm Bureau programs.
4. Possibilities for "service to member" programs for Community Group members only should be explored.

FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMER PROGRAM

Much of the success of Farm Bureau can be attributed to its ability to develop outstanding leadership. The Young Farmer Program has contributed greatly to this effort.

The importance of an effective leadership development program will continue to grow as the demand for skilled leaders in our organization grows. The opportunities to surface and develop new leaders continues to grow as the number of young members in the organization increases.

We believe that the Young Farmer Program should continue to receive strong emphasis as a member involvement and leadership training program.

A Young Farmer Program can only be successful if given the strong and active support of county leaders. We urge all counties to take advantage of this program by appointing a Young Farmer Committee. This committee should be responsible to the County Board. It should assist in evaluating the needs and interests of young farm people and developing projects and activities to meet these needs.

FARM BUREAU QUEEN

One successful program carried on by the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers' Committee has been the Queen Contest. The purpose of the contest is to involve members in conducting the contest as well as participating in it. This results in people being active in Farm Bureau. With the end result that the Queen creates favorable public relations for Farm Bureau and agriculture.

County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to participate in the Farm Bureau Queen Program. A contest should be held at the county level. The county Farm Bureau should take advantage of opportunities to be represented

by its Queen. These include such things as fairs, parades, and other local activities.

We believe that the value of the Queen's program has been demonstrated in 1971 by Miss Judy Behrenwald. Queen Judy has represented Farm Bureau on radio, television, in state contests, in parades, at Farm Bureau meetings and with many outside groups. She has been a credit to Farm Bureau and agriculture.

We, the members of Farm Bureau, thank Judy Behrenwald for her dedication and service to our organization and wish her well in the future.

FARM BUREAU STUDY

Farm Bureau has been a dynamic organization. It has kept pace with changing times by developing new programs and activities to serve members. Recent changes in our society affect our organization. One of these is the lowering of the legal age of majority to 18. Another is the increasing population of nonfarm people in rural areas. Social legislation affecting the health care needs of many people may allow the health care service offered to Farm Bureau members to be expanded or modified.

These factors suggest the need for our organization to analyze these changes and examine the Michigan Farm Bureau Bylaws and programs.

We ask the Board of Directors to study these developments and take action to keep our organization dynamic and "in tune with the times."

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. This must include personal activity and financial support. 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 are especially proud of our annual Citizenship Seminars for young people. This activity has helped hundreds of young people to understand the American economic and political system. They are better citizens and are able to influence other young people because of this Farm Bureau program.

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.

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.

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

We especially commend our dedicated staff members for their efforts, many times beyond the call of duty. Their assistance and guidance has helped make the Michigan Farm Bureau the effective voice of farmers.

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.

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 more people must have a better understanding of the efficient production of food and fiber by an ever-decreasing farm population. We commend the news media who now convey this message to the public.

We realize, though, that developing a real understanding lies with us as farm people. We must participate locally in nonfarm groups, such as church, civic activities, political parties, service clubs and other 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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMS

We welcome the initiative and encourage activity by Farm Bureau Women in the areas of farm and highway safety, and total family health.

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 contributes to immorality and delinquency.

Legislation has been enacted which permits persons to complete a form obtainable at local Post Office requesting their name be removed from mailing lists of persons and firms engaged in pornography. Failure of the person or firm to comply with the request can result in legal action to prevent further unsolicited mailings. This law will be effective in stopping the flow of pornographic material through the mail only if we are willing to use it.

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.

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.

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.

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. We must provide additional opportunities for more members to become active in their commodity interest areas within our organization.

To meet this goal, the American Farm Bureau Federation has developed the Commodity Division Approach. It has already established the American Soybean Producers as the first Division. It is currently considering the establishment of Dairy and Rice Divisions.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors has adopted the Commodity Division Approach and is in the process of developing a Soybean Division. County Farm Bureaus in the soybean-producing areas of Michigan have been asked to participate in this effort by establishing County Soybean Divisions.

We believe the Commodity Division Approach is an effective organizational method to serve the specialized needs of members. We ask that this approach be utilized and expanded within the Michigan Farm Bureau.

FARM BUREAU 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 farm family. We seek to establish standards for production and marketing programs to assure that they work directly for the benefit of farmer members.

Agricultural marketing is of major 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 assist and support the development and early operational phase of new marketing programs so that they can be financially sound. These marketing programs will be given our highest 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 marketing efforts. Farm Bureau Services continues to provide grain, dry edible bean and egg marketing services. Also, a cooperative dry edible bean marketing program and a fowl marketing service are now in operation. The Farm Bureau wheat marketing program has completed another successful year and is expanding. The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) is now operating nine commodity marketing programs. The fruit and vegetable divisions serve growers of apples, asparagus, tart cherries, grapes, peaches, pears, plums and annual contract vegetable crops. The feeder cattle, feeder pig and order buyer programs are the operating livestock divisions.

Members producing commodities for which Farm Bureau affiliates have marketing programs should become informed of these producer owned and operated marketing services and participate in these programs. Members must be willing to commit the commodities they produce through contracts with their marketing organizations, so that our affiliate marketing organizations can work to sell members' products through full supply contracts.

Successful marketing requires member discipline. When a majority of the producer members of a commodity decide upon a course of action, all producers must abide by the will of the majority.

We support and endorse the efforts of Farm Bureau affiliates to provide production and marketing member programs.

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 the need, economic feasibility and alternative methods of operation.

We ask the Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau to authorize the conduct of marketing studies as needs arise and resources permit. We believe that the following areas are worthy of research:

- Dairy herd replacement service. The MACMA Order Buyer Division might possibly be used to market and supply replacement heifers.
- Forest products marketing. Many of the 180,000 small woodlot owners in the state need assistance in marketing.
- Malting barley marketing. Producers have encountered uncertain market outlets and prices. The AFBF has a study under way.
- Hay marketing. Members having hay to sell are interested in developing an effective means of marketing hay to members wanting to purchase hay.
- Soft white wheat utilization. Significant changes in the production, utilization, exports and various demand factors are occurring.
- Roadside farm marketing. A greater share of the consumer's dollar can be obtained through retail sales by producers. The AFBF is conducting a study of the feasibility of a nationwide farm marketing program.
- Sweet cherry marketing. Although a study conducted four years ago revealed insufficient support for a marketing program, growers' profit situation and markets have changed significantly to a point where another study is warranted.
- Member to member marketing. Farm Bureau membership in Michigan and throughout the nation comprises a large market for food products produced by members. Opportunities exist for the development of a member to member food marketing system. Such a program may benefit our marketing and bargaining activities and help expand markets for Michigan-grown specialty food products.

PROCESSING AND HANDLING FACILITIES

An increasing amount of Michigan's high-value fruit and vegetable crops are being processed. They are of great economic importance to Michigan and vital to the continued success of many producers. The ability of present facilities to adequately process the volume of fruit and vegetables produced is of increasing concern to many producers. Many processing plants are inefficient, poorly financed and, in some cases, obsolete.

Modern, efficient processing and handling facilities in strategic locations are needed to serve this important segment of Michigan's agriculture.

We shall study the handling and processing industry problems and the feasibility of establishing the needed facilities.

We will support our marketing affiliates and members in the development of contracts and organization if it becomes necessary to establish the needed facilities.

FINANCING MARKETING PROGRAMS

Successful marketing and the establishment of sales prices and terms involve several disciplines. Bargaining associations and enabling marketing legislation have been effectively employed by growers and their organizations.

Marketing associations have found that by handling their members' products they can more effectively negotiate prices and terms, fulfill supply contracts and capitalize on alternative markets. This type of product handling operation requires that the organization have adequate equity capital. Major capital investments by members may be required where processing and handling facilities are needed.

Experience has shown that the major problem in marketing associations has been that they were inadequately financed.

We approve and support our affiliate companies in the raising of the necessary equity capital to establish and carry out the sales and marketing objectives of the members.

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.

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. Furthermore, Michigan Farm Bureau should strive to develop contractual production and marketing programs that assist in more orderly and effective marketing for livestock producers. A continued determined effort should be made to work with existing cooperatives to avoid duplication of services. The Michigan Farm Bureau-Michigan Livestock Exchange study committee should continue its study and offer recommendations as soon as practical.

We believe that MACMA should expand into contractual direct marketing of slaughter livestock as this type of marketing is not now available in Michigan.

MACMA ASPARAGUS MARKETING

The MACMA Asparagus Division has been instrumental in negotiating gradual price increases — from 16¢ per pound in 1966 to the 23½¢ level in 1971. MACMA members have appreciated the price increases, but want to be able to more effectively establish the price and terms prior to harvest time. They also want the organization to be able to capitalize on alternative markets. Members believe that these objectives can be met by MACMA handling the members' product.

We shall assist MACMA in initiating a pilot program in which MACMA operates receiving stations for MACMA members' asparagus grown in the Oceana County area. This program may be expanded to other areas if it is determined that this pilot program meets the marketing objectives and needs of members.

MICHIGAN FOWL MARKETING EXCHANGE

The Michigan Fowl Marketing Exchange of Farm Bureau Services is providing a valuable service to Farm Bureau member egg producers by procuring markets for fowl which are returning additional layer flock income.

Prices received for spent hens in Michigan since the inception of the marketing program in November of 1970 have been consistently higher than quoted marketing prices in other geographical locations throughout the country.

We commend the Michigan Fowl Marketing Exchange for the service that it is providing participating Farm Bureau members. By assigning nearly 2½ million birds to the program, these members have made possible the marketing of over 3 million pounds of liveweight fowl by the exchange at more favorable prices.

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 MASA for assisting farmers by recruiting labor when requested. In addition, MASA has represented farmers' interest at legislative labor hearings and in legislative actions.

The labor management newsletter service has provided valuable labor information for MASA members.

We urge that the service to members be continued.

BYLAW CHANGE

ARTICLE VII, Meetings — Section 1. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of this association shall be held during the month of November or December of each year, at the offices of the association, or at such other place as shall be determined by the Board of Directors and contained in the announcement or notice of the meeting. The notice of the meeting shall state the time and place of the meeting, and shall be mailed to the secretary or president of each county Farm Bureau unit at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such meeting.

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

Many Farm Bureau members provide their employees with health care coverage. Often a change in employment will be made throughout the year. The present waiting period for Farm Bureau members imposes a burden on the farmer-employer and prevents him from offering an employee immediate health care coverage.

We urge this problem be studied in order to find a workable solution.

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.

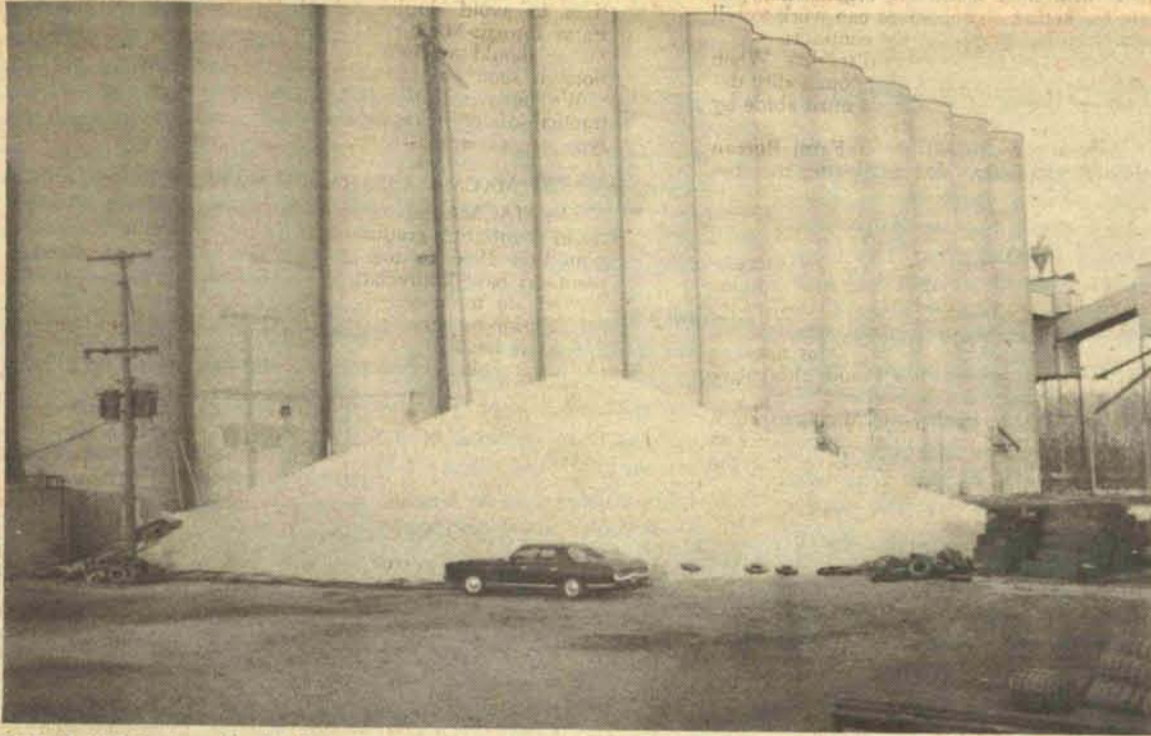
STATUS OF PREVIOUS POLICIES

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

Photo Glimpses of the "MAKE IT HAPPEN" People



PILE IT HIGH, but don't shut down was the motto of MEE at the Saginaw terminal as a home was needed for corn when other elevators had shut down.

COUNTIES RECEIVE AWARDS

Forty-four county Farm Bureaus were honored at the Farm Bureau banquet on November 8. Counties received a special certificate and a gold star in recognition of outstanding achievement in membership, policy development, commodity activities, Farm Bureau Women, Young Farmers, information and increased participation in Community Groups.

Each county that made its 1971 membership goal received two gold stars. Additional gold stars were given for each program achievement award.

Again this year, Chippewa County was the leader with seven gold stars. County President Ed DeWitt accepted the award for this outstanding county for the categories of membership, commodity, women, information, community groups and policy development.

Montcalm, with President Wayne Thomas, earned six gold stars for membership, policy, development, women, information and commodity efforts.

Saginaw, led by Howard Ebenhoeh, received five gold stars for information, commodity, membership and policy development.

Ingham received four gold stars for membership, young farmer and women's programs and Larry Sillsby accepted the award.

Three gold star winners were Clare with President Henry Eberhart for membership and young farmer activities; and Mackinaw-Luce with Jim Gribbel; and Washtenaw with President Armin Weidmayer for membership and community groups.

Two star award winners were: Allegan, Junior Hoffman; Alpena, Richard Stark; Antrim, Beverly Veliquette; Arenac, Tom Kocaczewski; Barry, Robert Bender; Bay, Herb Schmidt; Benzie, Don Nugent; and Calhoun, Lynn Smith.

Charlevoix, Wayne Saunders; Cheboygan, Gerald Brown; Clinton, Lee Ormston; Eaton, Lute Hartenburg; Genesee, Don Hill; Hillsdale, Alvin Wells; Hiawathaland, William Conine; Huron, Keith Sturm.



ALBERTO E. MARTINEZ GOTTBORG of Venezuela (right), a MSU student, presents his study "Inventory Management for Minimum Cost in Agribusiness Finance," based on the FBS feed plant, to Matthew Butzin, FBS accounting, and Richard Clemens, FBS controller.



FINALISTS in the Young Farmers Discussion Meet are (seated left to right) Thomas F. Atherton, Thomas Middleton, Robert Lee, Robert Harms, the moderator, Gene Veliquette; Thomas Benson, and Gary Steere.

Winner of the Young Farmer Discussion Meet was Thomas F. Atherton of Gaines. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1969 with a B.S. degree in dairy. He is president of the Genesee County Holstein Club.

Atherton and his father operate a 300 acre, 25 Holstein dairy partnership, raising corn, oats and hay.

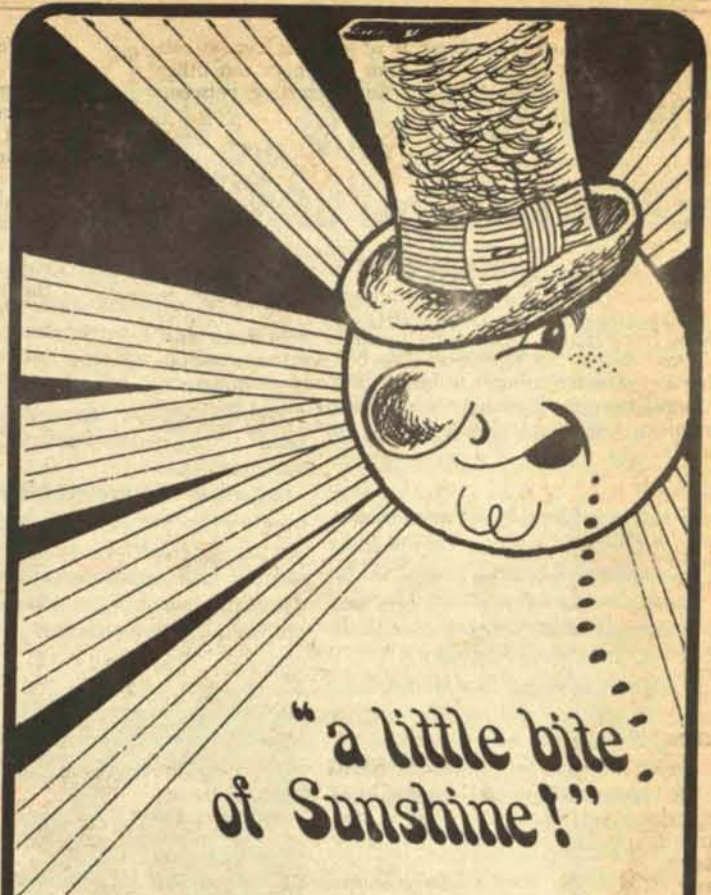
He will represent the Michigan Farm Bureau at the national Young Farmers Discussion Meet which will be held in conjunction with the American Farm Bureau annual convention in Chicago.

Iosco, Nelson Provoast; Iron Range, Frank Tuchowski; Jackson, John Pardee; Kalamazoo, Arthur Bailey; Kent, Leroy Klein; Lenawee, Lowell Eisenmann; Livingston, Russell Glover; and Macomb, Russell Koss.

Mason, Gordon Groth; Menominee, Roy Rasner; Monroe, Elmer Anderson; Montmorency,

Hilbert Schultze; Newaygo, David Chesebro; Oakland, Jim Vantine; Oceana, Francis Hawley; Otsego, Eugene Fleming.

Ottawa, Arthur Lucas; Presque Isle, Larry Karsten; St. Joseph, Myron Ulrich; Shiawassee, Richard Gilna and Tuscola, Dave Loomis.



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Backed by the Farm Bureau name for quality and integrity, this grove-fresh citrus made more than 65,000 farm families happy last year and there's no reason why you and your family should not experience true grove-fresh fruit practically at your doorstep.

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- 6 1/2% - 10 Year Maturity
- 7% - 15 Year Maturity

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MARKETING AND COMMODITIES

Order A Carton of Sunshine

By Harry A. Foster

Member to member sales of farm products among Farm Bureau members have been developed here in Michigan and other states. Michigan cut its teeth on red tart cherries during recent years.

Florida Farm Bureau members started last year to ship tree-ripened oranges and grapefruit to Farm Bureau members in other states. It went so well that it is being expanded this year.

Michigan Farm Bureau leaders, at the recent annual meeting in Grand Rapids, were enthusiastic about the sales prospects for quality citrus. It should be noted that the Florida Farm Bureau members will ship their very best to us and their citrus is guaranteed to be "Florida's Best."

County Farm Bureaus have

been informed how to order a load of tree-ripened navel oranges and pink seedless grapefruit. The citrus can be ordered and delivered before Christmas. A carton of grapefruit or oranges would make a very nice family Christmas package.

Member to member sales have many advantages. It provides members in certain counties and states a high quality product produced by members in other areas, and can be an effective way to establish realistic farm prices. These sales also give the organization experience in product distribution and can help build a system to move Michigan products.

If you and members of your community are interested in this pilot member to member citrus project, contact your county Farm Bureau.

Hay Listing Service

A Hay Listing Service will soon be a reality for Farm Bureau members in participating County Farm Bureaus.

During November, members in participating counties where a surplus of hay exists listed their hay with their county Farm Bureau. The county secretaries, with the aid of a hay committee in some counties, compiled the hay lists.

At the end of November, the lists were sent to the Michigan Farm Bureau for final assembly and printing. Participating counties where a hay deficit exists will soon receive the hay lists for distribution to Farm Bureau members who wish to buy hay.

The Hay Listing Service is one of several benefits derived through an emerging concept of member marketing among Farm Bureau members. The hay lists are expected to be updated at the ends of December, January and February.

Members wishing to participate can find out from their county Farm Bureau secretary whether their county is providing the service. County secretaries ask that members who buy or sell hay as a result of information in the Farm Bureau Hay Listing Service notify the secretary of their transaction, in order to update their lists and evaluate the utilization of the service.

Apples Flow Into Michigan

As the Michigan apple harvest drew to a close, several Michigan apple processors were unable to obtain the quotas they had anticipated earlier for raw product procurement. While some of the processors had about what they wanted, others had only sixty percent of what they had hoped to obtain.

With our neighboring states producing record apple crops this year and no "home" for some of the apples, it did not take Michigan processors long to find additional sources of raw product. To date, about 85 semi-loads of apples have come into Michigan from out of state. However, the flow seems to have stopped at least temporarily.

Most of the loads came from New York, with lesser quantities

from Ohio. Greenings were the primary variety brought in, but a modest amount of Romes came from Ohio.

One innovative trucker hauled in a load of bulk, a common method of hauling juice apples. While the apples were of good quality before shipping, their quality was questionable upon delivery. In fact, they did resemble a load of juice apples at the plant.

The deal proved to be no boon for the out of state growers. True, many New York growers did not have a home for all of their apples and Michigan proved to be an additional outlet, but they received as little as \$1.50 per cwt. for 2 3/4" and up apples — a price which only helped them minimize their losses.

MACMA Leases Feeder Cattle Facility At Atlanta

The new leased facility at Atlanta was completed just in time for an October assembly of feeder cattle. The facility has been leased from the Montmorency County Fair Board with MACMA installing additional handling, penning and weighing facilities.

The facility serves as an assembly point for cattle handled by MACMA's Feeder Cattle Division for regularly scheduled as-

semblies primarily in the spring and fall of the year.

It will also be used in expanding the feeder pig marketing program in northeast Michigan. Feeder pigs will be assembled there every other week for Feeder Pig Division members. The feeder pig operation at Atlanta will be on the same basis as the present feeder pig operation in Lake City.

What Is Future For Grape Marketing?

The Processing Grape Committee of MACMA will attempt to find out what grape growers think about the future of grape marketing in Michigan. The Committee recently requested its management to conduct a survey of all Michigan grape growers.

With the questionnaire, grape growers will receive a sheet entitled "What Does the Future Hold?" It states that current economic forces suggest that agricultural producers who market their production under contract will have certain advantages over producers who depend on an open market. The same economic forces tend to exist for processors of agricultural products.

Probably the single most important economic force in favor of contractual production and processing is the necessity of adequate credit. Credit requires security and security can be improved through contracts.

Will the marketing system change? It probably will. Who will benefit most from the changes — processors or growers? If processors initiate the changes, their efforts will be to improve their position. If growers initiate the changes they can design a system to improve their position. Working together, growers and processors can perhaps mutually improve their industry. Example: the cherry industry through the Federal Market Order.

Today's market thinking generally equates processing not only with a mechanical operation but also with the speculative business transactions of buying raw products and selling finished products. The possibility exists that through contracts the function of processing can be separated from the functions of acquiring title to the product.

The questionnaire asks grape growers what they think about various marketing possibilities. It asks their opinion on basically six alternatives:

- 1) Form a single cooperative to both process and sell finished product.
- 2) Form only a cooperative to sell finished product.
- 3) Form a cooperative that would only process grapes for fee.
- 4) Form two cooperatives; one to process, the other to sell finished product.
- 5) Finance additional processing facilities for an existing cooperative.
- 6) Take no action.

Other questions on the questionnaire relate to financing new operations, bargaining and supply management.

The survey was prompted by a distressed situation in marketing the 1971 grape crop. Processors announced prices which were down 31% from the 1970 price level.

The low price level prevailed in spite of a crop size similar to last year, a strong demand for grape juice, an expanding wine market and the concerted efforts of the MACMA Processing Grape Marketing Committee.

The Committee is asking growers to complete and return the questionnaires by December 11, 1971.

Comprehensive Agricultural Bargaining Legislation Endorsed

County Farm Bureau delegates at the recent MFB Annual Meeting adopted a policy stating "We will work for and support a comprehensive Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act."

The legislation requested would cover many facets of organized marketing. The proposed legislation would be the most comprehensive considered yet as it would establish the:

- concept of majority rule
- mutual obligation of associations and handlers to bargain
- mediation and arbitration if necessary
- rights of producers to organize without interference of handlers.

The majority rule concept would mean that marketing associations that choose to operate under the proposed act would represent and be supported by all producers of the commodity if at least 51% of the producers with 51% or more of the commodity choose to belong to the association.

The proposed act would establish an Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board that would administer the provisions of the act. Associations wishing to be accredited would have to meet rigid

standards in addition to representing the majority of the producers. The Board would determine if the standards were met and that the accredited association continued to meet the standards.

Buyers of the commodity would be required to negotiate in good faith with an accredited association. In the event that negotiations could not be concluded or terminated to the satisfaction of both parties, mediation and arbitration services would be performed under the Board's direction.

Government would not be directly involved in commodity pricing or in any way controlling the marketing of agricultural products, but would permit farmers, through their own organizations, to be effective in marketing. This self-help legislation would provide the necessary legal framework.

The lengthy policy statement will guide the drafting and introduction of a bill in the Michigan Legislature. It has also been forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation Policy Development Committee for their consideration as they develop proposed policy to be acted upon at the AFBF Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Good Year for Feeder Cattle Div.

The MACMA Feeder Cattle Division has just completed 1971 sales of Michigan feeder cattle which are marketed for Farm Bureau members exclusively. Farm Bureau members are participating in the program by signing exclusive sales agreements with MACMA's Feeder Cattle Division, giving the division exclusive rights to market their feeder cattle and work with members on quality management programs to develop a reputable supply of quality feeder cattle. Two thousand head of feeder cattle were marketed this year.

Two new things developed in 1971 in the Feeder Cattle Division. One being the leasing and beginning operation of a new facility at Atlanta in the northeastern part of the Lower Peninsula. This facility was leased from the Montmorency County Fair Board and the additional penning and handling facilities were constructed by MACMA for the purpose of grading, sorting and weighing feeder cattle for division members in that area of the state. The facility was developed after comprehensive study and consultation with the Farm Bureau Board of Directors, producers and community groups.

As mentioned previously, 2,000 head of feeder cattle were marketed. Only a small number of

these were actually marketed at Atlanta, due to the late completion date of the facility.

The MACMA Feeder Cattle Division sold feeder cattle at spring assemblies and at the regularly scheduled fall assemblies and also some were marketed on an individual basis, as members desired.

A special feature of the program was the pre-condition assembly, held November 3. Division members participated in this program by pre-weaning their calves for 30 days and giving them IBR, BVD, PI3, Pasturella and black leg malignant edema shots. The calves were wormed and treated for grubs. Pre-conditioned cattle brought a premium above other calves and purchasers indicate these calves are healthier when put in the feedlot and start eating a lot sooner. This, of course, makes them more valuable.

The Feeder Cattle Division completed a very successful year, both in the development dimension of the program and the improvement of the quality of feeder cattle marketed.

Plans for 1972 include membership expansion, especially in the Atlanta area and eastern end of the Upper Peninsula, with increased member services and production.



YOUR LOCAL CO-OP SELLS AND SERVICES PORTABLE HEATERS

MRRC Offers Student Loans To Farm Youths

The Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, with its office in Marshall, Michigan, offers loans to any member of a farm family who has a good high school record, is ambitious, honest, healthy, and can furnish proof that financial assistance is needed but is not available from any other source.

If such a loan will help obtain additional training to provide a better life and living, M.R.R.C. can help. The loans can be secured for any kind of training that will make the borrower more skillful and more valuable to society as a whole.

Full four-year courses may be financed as well as shorter periods, such as high school completion, mechanical courses, etc. Applicants will be given individual consideration as to need and funds available. The applicant is not required to study agriculture and may attend any approved school or college in the State of Michigan. If the training is not available within the State, an exception may be made. It is not necessary for the borrower to stay in Michigan after completing his training.

Interest rates will be set at 6% per annum but may be adjusted

up or down by the Board of Directors of M.R.R.C. Systematic repayments of the loan will begin as soon as the student completes his training and is employed. In the case of dropouts, repayment begins at once.

Applications should be filed at least six weeks in advance of the opening of the school session.

The M.R.R.C. is governed by the Board of Directors composed of: Floyd Matteussen, Benton Harbor; Herbert Van Aken, Vice-president, Eaton Rapids; E. B. Hill, Secretary-Treasurer, East Lansing; Joa Penzion, Executive Committee Member, Mount Clemens; G. Elwood Bonine, East Lansing; Grover Grigsby, Lansing; Roy Howes, Kaleva; and Chester Johnson, Lakeview. Nile L. Katz is Executive Director.

Farm Bureau Mutual Adds "Environmental Endorsement"

A major innovation in the area of Environmental insurance is being made by Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan, one of four companies comprising Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

All Farmowners policies renewed on and after December 24, 1971, will provide Environmental protection under a "Personal Injury Liability Insurance Endorsement" which has been specially developed to meet growing needs of the Company's insureds. The coverage will also be made available to new policyholders after January 1, 1972.

Briefly, the endorsement includes personal injury protection for: 1) contamination or pollution, 2) assault and battery, 3) wrongful invasion of private occupancy, 4) libel and slander, 5) false arrest, imprisonment and wrongful eviction, detention. Farmowners policyholders are urged to review the new endorsement when it is received, noting carefully new coverages and restrictions.

Annual premium cost for the additional coverage is \$10 per policy. At the time of renewal, insureds will receive a notice indicating the \$10 charge has been added to that billing. If the additional coverage is not desired, it can be declined by the policyholder. Insureds whose policies do not come due in the near future should contact their agent if they want immediate coverage.

One of the most noted phenomenon of the past decade has been a growing concern with our "quality of life." This concern has now reached the countryside, aided considerably by a sudden influx of suburbanites. These people don't like the smell coming from the farm next door, the insecticides being used, the morning cock-a-doodle-doo of a rooster...

Long before contamination of our atmosphere and waterways was of concern to the average citizen, the farmer had recognized the serious danger that could result from inadvertent pollution. No one better understands the need for a harmonious relationship between nature and man, than the farmer. His livelihood hangs in that thin balance.

Today, although no physical damage may have occurred, many urban "transplants" are alleging they have suffered "personal injury" — including mental anguish and mental injury, bodily injury, sickness and disease — because their quality of life has been disturbed. Increasingly, they are turning to the courts to collect "damages" and stop the practice in question.

As a result, many farmers now face complicated lawsuits. And few have insurance which affords them any degree of protection. In many cases, insurance companies with vague personal injury liability protection are rewriting their policies to exclude such coverage. Farm Bureau Insurance Group is rewriting its policies to broaden protection.

In response to this changing need of Michigan farmers, Farm Bureau Insurance Group has developed the unique Environmental protection endorsement. It's a lot of coverage for just \$10 — coverage of vital importance to the farming industry.

Announcement

Inpatient Hospitalization

1. Patient will pay the first \$68.00 instead of \$60.00 for hospital services up to 90 days per "benefit period" and \$17.00 per day instead of \$15.00 from the 61st day through the 90th.

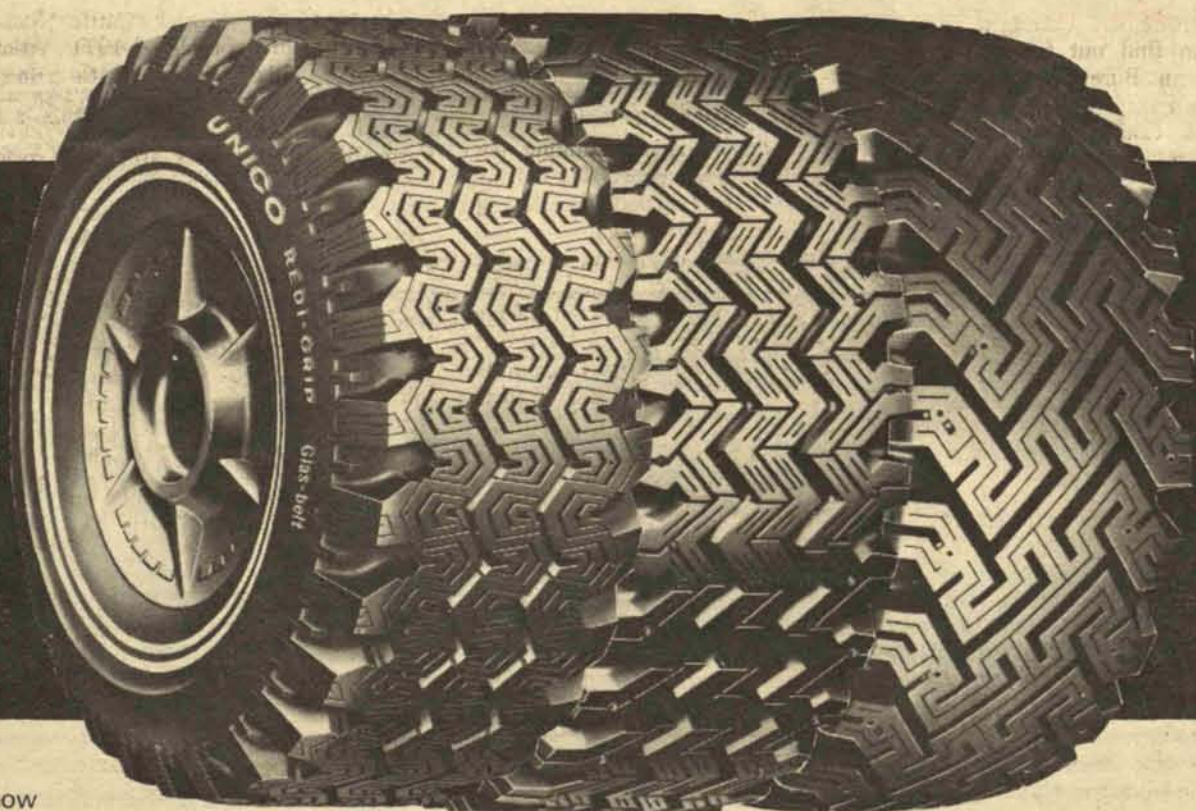
2. "Lifetime reserve" of 60 additional days, patient will pay \$34.00 per day instead of \$30.00.

Post-Hospital Extended Care

1. Patient will pay \$8.50 per day instead of \$7.50 for the 21st through the 100th day for care in a qualified extended care facility.

SNOW TIRES

SEASON SPECIALS ON YOUR CHOICE OF GLAS-BELT WT & WIDE MARK REDI-GRIPS...



REDI-GRIPS



SNOW TIRES WITH TRACTION ACTION

UNICO-REDI-GRIP Snow Tires are reverse molded to put more tire in contact with the road and to improve tire mileage as well as skid resistance. Generous slotted treads help prevent side-slip and improve TRACTION ACTION. Remember that 75% of braking effort can be on your front wheels. For the safest bad weather operation, get *four* REDI-GRIPS.

1. GLAS-BELT

These special ice-grip treads are designed for rugged duty mile-after-mile. Double polyester plies and double fiberglass belts under the tread insure more TRACTION ACTION all winter long.

2. WT SERIES

Counter-acting special treads minimize side slip on these rugged snow-goers. Each has a full, four plies of polyester cord for a longer-lasting, harder-working kind of performance this winter.

3. WIDE MARK

These WIDE MARK tires put more road-holding tread on the road and more ice-grip area on each tire. Fiberglass and polyester cord construction insure longest life and top performance on rugged driving.

Don't wait for that sad groan on that cold morn. Get a POLI-SUPREME.



UNICO BATTERY

You get twice the cranking power and 71% more reserve.

Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau
FARMERS PETROLEUM

UNICO MPI-44 PERMANENT FARM POWER ANTI-FREEZE.



Use it in your car, truck and tractor. It's the fill-it & forget-it anti-freeze from UNICO.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS



Snowmobiles & Mini-Bikes

The *Port Huron Times Herald*, analyzing motorcycle and minibike crashes in that community for the summer months, reported emergency rooms at two hospitals "were literally filled with motorcycle and minibike accident victims." During the four summer months, 153 persons were injured in motorcycle and 33 in minibike crashes. Twenty-five of the injured were 12 years of age and under — the youngest being all of seven years of age.

Many minibikes have poor stability and lack ease of handling. Some have unsafe brakes, uncovered flywheels, and exhaust pipes dangerously close to the driver's left leg.

These were the conclusions reached following a safety study of more than 80 minibikes produced by the leading minibike manufacturers. Any of these questionable features could prove extremely hazardous when traveling the speed that many minibikes are capable of doing.

People often fail to keep in mind that miniature bikes should be handled with the same respect and common sense afforded full-sized motorcycles. They should be ridden off the street and only by those old enough and responsible enough to operate them safely. Protective clothing — full length trousers, long sleeves, full shoes or boots, and safety helmet which offer protection from abrasions and scratches — is designed to protect the riders and should not be left to deteriorate in the closet.

Some people dread the long hard winter with its tons of snow to shovel or push around, with its sub-freezing temperatures and long hours of darkness. Others, young and old alike, believe in using snow for good fellowship and fun.

Originally envisioned as a machine that would allow doctors, game wardens, trappers and hunters to reach their work, through the snow, power sleds have increased in number, within the last decade, to the point they are now considered a nuisance by some.

The snowmobile population in Michigan alone has tripled in the last two years to over 200,000. With this increase in machines, the number of crashes has also increased.

Snowmobile enthusiasts, champing at the bit and "thinking snow," would do well to spend a few minutes reflecting on last winter's accident record of their play machine.

In the 1970-71 winter season, the Michigan State Police report there were 1,923 snowmobile crashes reported, in which 23 persons were killed and 1,835 persons injured, 775 of them in the "incapacitating" category. A total of 533 crashes resulted from striking a fixed object and 922 of them occurred when the vehicle was running in the dark without lights.

An interesting footnote to these figures is that 298 of those injured were drivers under 15 years of age.

International Snowmobile Industry Association (ISIA) has safety engineers regularly working to develop safety standards for the industry. Their experience has led to the belief that generally those injured or killed are either braking the law or have over indulged in fermented beverages.

Medical scientists also are attempting to find ways of reducing the number of incidences and the severity of back injuries in snowmobile accidents.

A recently completed study by the University of Michigan Safety Research Institute found that 10 to 20 percent of the snowmobile injuries reported were compression fractures of the spine. This com-

"MEANS OR MENACE"

mon result of jumping the machines over ridges or dropoffs might be prevented by putting more energy-absorbing materials inside the seats.

Tests, to simulate the severe conditions encountered by snowmobilers who jump over ridges or dropoffs, indicate the weight of the rider increases from 20 to 30 times on landing. Thus, a 200 pound person would weigh up to 3 tons upon impact.

One safety precaution advocated is to kneel on one leg on the seat rather than straddle it. In this method, the knee acts as a shock absorber and the spine is not subject to sudden and violent bumping. Another safety precaution suggested, but not likely to be followed, is to avoid jumping snowmobiles.

Although many drivers of the powerful machines are reluctant to admit it, the noise and continuous roar of the engines have the potential of permanently damaging a person's hearing. With the backing of the snowmobile industry, attempts are being made to reduce the noise level on future machines.

Many farmers use snowmobiles for recreation to check on stock, fruit trees, and fences during the winter. They are now accepted, perhaps reluctantly by some, as almost a necessity in many parts of the state. Some farmers say they don't know how they got along without them.

During a deep snow or when roads aren't open, a snowmobile is often the only vehicle that can move. Utility companies have used them to repair downed lines and emergency squads have used them to get seriously ill persons to a doctor.

Many property owners report that the rapidly increasing number of snowmobiles is causing increasing damage to crops, young trees, and fences on private property.

The Horton Trespass Act, as passed in the 1969 Legislature, Act No. 164, has been amended and now specifically includes a section on snowmobiling. This section says that while operating a snowmobile, a person shall not enter in or remain upon premises under any of the following conditions:

- The premises are enclosed in a manner so designed to exclude intruders.
- the premises are fenced.
- The premises are posted in a conspicuous manner against entry.
- Notice against trespass is personally communicated to him by the owner or lessee of the land or other authorized person.

The Act goes on to specify that any person violating any of the provisions of the act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than \$10 nor more than \$50, and may be committed to the county jail until such fine and costs of the proceedings are paid for a period of not more than 30 days. Subsequent convictions may be punishable by a fine of not more than \$100 and an additional period of not more than 30 days in the county jail.

Snowmobilers might have to curb their activities somewhat and spend more money under proposed legislation which could become law this winter.

One bill, which has passed the Senate, bans snowmobiling on farmlands, farm woodlots or platted property in southern Michigan without permission. Snowmobiling in a forest nursery, planting area or public lands posted or reasonably identifiable as an area of forest reproduction where growing stock may be damaged, would also be unlawful.

Except during an emergency or to go to and from a permanent residence or hunting camp otherwise inaccessible by a conventional vehicle, snowmobiling in public deer hunting areas from 7-10 a.m. and 2-5 p.m. would be banned.

The bill would prohibit driving snowmobiles between midnight and 6 a.m. within 100 feet of a dwelling at a speed faster than that needed to maintain a forward motion. It would also prohibit any child under the age of 12 from operating a snowmobile except under the direct supervision of an adult or on land owned or under the control of his parents or legal guardian.

Under this proposed legislation, machine noise level at 50 feet at full throttle would be limited to 82 decibels for machines sold after February 1, 1972. The bill also provides that a township, village or city could pass local ordinances regulating snowmobile operation if the ordinance meets the minimum requirements of the state law.

Whether the proposed legislation, which confirms to the intent of the policy adopted by the delegates at Michigan Farm bureau's 1971 Annual Meeting, will clear both houses of the legislature and become law during this snowmobile season cannot be predicted. However, the regulations will be discussed in this publication if enacted into law.

In the meantime, one cannot argue that a machine which has opened up entire new fields of industry in the state is all bad. The benefits of the steadily increasing snowmobile industry brings millions of dollars into the general fund of the state.

Many snowmobilers would like to see this money used in their behalf. No specific appropriations have been made for snowmobilers, although the DNR has opened miles of trails on public lands.

Despite the problems they have caused, it appears that snowmobiles are here to stay. The exciting, roaring, noisy machines have brought many people out of hibernation during the winter months.

Though confused at times by which of the wide variety of two-cycle jungle creatures to purchase, snowmobilers can, by using good common sense, enjoy Michigan's winter wonderland.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

A total of 612 community groups, with 4,998 members participating, sent reports on the October topic "Unicameralism." These are the answers they gave to the questions:

1. Does your group feel that the check and balance system would be lost under the one-house legislature system?
 Yes — 464 No — 86
2. Would your group support an amendment to the Michigan Constitution to change Michigan from a two-house to a one-house, legislature?
 Yes — 85 No — 463
3. Would your group support the petition drive to place the issue of a one-house legislature before the voters in November, 1972?
 Yes — 132 No — 480
4. Does your group feel that the cost of operating Michigan's legislative body would be increased or decreased under the unicameral system?
 Increased — 334 Decreased — 110
5. What suggestions does your group have for improving Michigan's legislative system? Make legislators more responsible to the people; less politics and more work; good house cleaning; legislators should spend more time in session; more honest men in office; establish a retirement age; set wages according to amount of time spent on job.
6. How many of your group members attended your county Farm Bureau annual meeting this year? 2,481.

State-Wide Clinic

Fifty County Farm Bureau secretaries were in attendance at a clinic held October 21 and 22, 1971 in the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing. The clinic provided the secretaries and Michigan Farm Bureau office staff with an opportunity to get acquainted and to understand the roles and procedures of all persons involved in the mechanics of helping to make Farm Bureau the largest and strongest farm organization in the world.

Farm Bureau Center staff appreciated the opportunity to meet and visit with the county secretaries. It gave them a better perspective of responsibilities on the county level.

A highlight of the clinic was the presentation by President Smith of awards to the following secretaries for their outstanding contribution in the 1971 membership campaign: Mrs. Hattie Lockhart, Chippewa County; Mrs. Esther Flatt, Mackinac-Luce County; Mrs. Bonnie Burkett, Missaukee County; Mrs. Lennie Luther, Wexford County; Mrs. Gertrude Rocheleau, Cheboygan County; Mrs. Carol Curtis, Ogemaw County; Mrs. Marlene Boes, Newaygo County; Mrs. Mary Ann Hukill, Oceana County; Mrs. Ellen Peppel, Bay County; Mrs. Doris Girard, Saginaw County; Mrs. Marilyn Batkie, Sanilac County; Miss Loretta Kirkpatrick, Tuscola County; Mrs. Marilyn Knight, Clinton County; Mrs. Jean Scutt, Ingham County; Mrs. Audrey Quisenberry, Montcalm County; Mrs. Kay Robe, Kent County; Mrs. Marie Pianowski, St. Joseph County; Mrs. Betty Bliss, Monroe County; and Mrs. Evelyn Curry, Wayne County.

SEE ROME IN 1972



There is still time for Farm Bureau members to join in the fun of going to Rome in February, 1972. The tour leaves Detroit on February 25 and returns on March 3.

Space is still available in the Alitalia DC-8 for this economical tour. The cost is surprisingly low, only \$325 per person. This includes all air transportation, ground transportation from the airport to hotel and return, hotel lodging, and some meals. It also includes some sightseeing, and allows for some free time for members to do their own sightseeing.

This is the first international tour ever sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau. To obtain this low cost, a contract was signed to charter the Alitalia Airline. This resulted in a saving of \$110 in air transportation alone. To take advantage of this saving, however, the plane must be filled. If the plane is not filled, cost will be considerably higher. In view of this, if the plane is not filled by December 24, the contract will be cancelled and money returned to those members who have made their deposit for the tour. So, if you are interested in going to Rome, write for further information now. December 26 will be too late, as the plane will either be filled or the tour will be cancelled by that date.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to travel with people of similar interests and see the fabulous city of Rome and surrounding area for a low, economical price. Return the coupon today for further information.

COUPON

Program Development Division
 Michigan Farm Bureau
 P.O. Box 960
 Lansing, Michigan 48904

Yes, I am a Farm Bureau member and would like to know more about the proposed Farm Bureau tour to Rome.

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 PHONE: _____

Florida Hotel Discount

Can you imagine a discount at a Florida hotel in the winter time?

Thanks to potential group purchasing power of Farm Bureau, a discount at a Florida hotel is available to Farm Bureau Community Group members. A 10% savings on all rates at the Beach Club Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, are being offered.

The Beach Club has many plans available, ranging from a complete package of 7 nights lodging; including meals, a boat trip, smorgasbord, and social activities, to a small two-person room. No matter which plan the member chooses, he receives a 10% discount by showing his Farm Bureau membership card at the hotel.

The Beach Club Hotel, located in the heart of the great resort area of Fort Lauderdale, has complete facilities directly on the ocean with 300 feet of private beach. It also has an olympic-size swimming pool, dining rooms, and lounges.

Information about the hotel and the plans available are being sent to each Community Group in the state. Information is also being sent to County Farm Bureau offices.

Community Groups provide many opportunities for members to participate in their organization. They provide the basis for policy development and a real opportunity for communication between the member and his organization.

PAY YOUR F.B. DUES NOW

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

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

8 FARM EQUIPMENT

NEW AND USED PATZ MATERIAL handling equipment. Barn cleaners, cattle feeders, manure stackers, manure spreaders, silo unloaders, conveyors and other items. On of the best parts stock in Western Michigan. Individual parts or complete rebuilt like new ready to install — parts and units factory direct to farmers. Cow stalls and free stalls, 3/4 to 10 HP motors in stock, Booms Red & White top silos at early order discount. 3 years to pay . . . 5% on unpaid balance. Wynn-garden Equipment, Route # 3, Fremont, Michigan 49412. (6-6t-83b)

FARROWING STALLS \$26.75; Slide in Stock Racks \$119.50; Calf Creep Feeders, Single \$92.50 — Double \$137.50. Limited Dealerships available. Dolly Enterprises, 219 Main, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (12-1t-25p)

OLIVER 25 COMBINE, 10 ft. header, 2 row corn head, cab, excellent condition. Bill McCalla, 4100 Stone School Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Phone: 313-971-1804. (12-2t-25p)

14 FOR SALE

MAPLE GROVE APIARIES — processing plant, plus bees and 40 acres, other real estate. Call or write Harvey Gosen, Wolfgram Realty, 2870 West Verne Road, Burt, Michigan 48417. Phone: 517-755-2858. (11-2t-25p)

DALMATIAN PUPS — AKC registered. Good watch dogs. Bill McCalla, 4100 Stone School Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Phone: 313-971-1804. (12-2t-19p)

20 LIVESTOCK

MILKING SHORTHORNS: Young Bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write for tabulated pedigrees or better yet, pay us a visit. Stanley M. Powell and Family, Ingleside Farm, Route #1, Box 238, Ionia, Michigan 48846. (7-tf-33b)

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

REGISTERED DUROCS. Top quality boars and gilts. Production data and carcass information available. Byrum & Sons, RFD #1, Onondaga, Michigan. Phone 517-628-2641. (2-tf-25b)

FOR SALE: One Registered Romney Yearling Ram — \$75. Phone: 313-798-8290. Eldon C. Barclay Sr., Almont, Michigan 48003.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL BRED EWE SALE, Wednesday, December 29, 1971, 12 noon, Eastern Standard Time, Livestock Pavilion, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Seventy-five bred ewes — 10 breeds. Also 25 ewe lambs, 10 ram lambs. Write for catalog: Michigan Sheep Breeders Association, 104 Anthony Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48823. (12-1t-50b)

SERVICE AGE YORKSHIRE, DUROC BOARS, AND OPEN GILTS. Sonoray information available on most of the boars. Robert Harper, R#1, Vicksburg, Michigan 49097. Phone: 616-649-2803. (12-6t-25p)

20 LIVESTOCK

REGISTERED YORKSHIRES and CHESTER WHITES — Top quality boars and gilts. Guaranteed to satisfy. Will deliver. Bill McCalla, 4100 Stone School Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Phone: 313-971-1804. (12-6t-27p)

FOR SALE: Fifty Herford bred cows, to start calving in February. Bred to registered Herford bull and Charolais, cows are in fine condition. Priced to sell. For more information phone 616-238-9591. (12-1t-31p)

26 POULTRY

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

SHAVER STARCROSS 288 — Started pullets available most every month. Get wise and try these top profit makers as your next flock. MacPherson Hatchery, Route #3, Ionia, Michigan. Phone 527-0860.

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

36 MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED TO BUY: OLD COCA-COLA TIN SERVING TRAYS, the large ovals or rectangular, or the small miniature ovals. Also other old advertising trays with pictures. Old Tin Wind-up Toys, Old Iron Toys, Old Dolls, Glass Animals. Please describe and price. Write to: Ruth Blackford, Route #1, Nashport, Ohio 43830. (7-6t-47p)

MAKE YOUR "WILL"! Four forms, attorney's informative book . . . plus "Family Estate Planner." Send \$1. WILLS, Box 30188 (MFN), Cincinnati, Ohio 45230. (9-tf-20p)

WANTED HOMEWORKERS: \$100 weekly addressing envelopes. For details send 25¢ and large, stamped, self-addressed envelope to: WJR Enterprises, Box 44068, Department M7, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244. (12-tf-26b)

WANTED: ALLIS ROUND HAY BALER, any place, any condition. Alfred Roeder, Seneca, Kansas 66538. (9-4t-14p)

COUNTRY RECORDS — and tape cartridges — fiddle tunes — Blue Grass, etc. Free circular. Uncle Jim O'Neal, Box A-MFN, Arcadia, California 91006. (10-6t-25p)

HOMEWORKERS WANTED: Possible earnings \$100 weekly and up utilizing mail service opportunities. We'll send you circular listings from which you select. Send 25¢ and a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to: WJR Enterprises, Box 44068, Dept. M-7, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244. (12-tf-40b)

36 MISCELLANEOUS

FREE COMPLETE REFUND MANUAL (\$1 value) when subscribing to 40-page monthly refunding-contesting magazine, \$4 year plus this ad. Javbee, Box 39MI, Valley Park, Missouri 63088. (9-6t-25p)

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.

BIRD HOUSE PLANS — 10 New designs, easily built, ideal winter projects. Guaranteed, \$1. Chelsea, Box 110N, Germantown, Maryland 20767 (11-2t-18p)

MAKE YOUR "WILL"! Four forms, attorney's informative book . . . plus "Family Estate Planner." Send \$1. WILLS, Box 30188 (MFN), Cincinnati, Ohio 45230. (12-1t-21p)

INDIANHEAD & LINCOLN CENTS 1900 thru 1939, fifty different, \$4.95. Old two dollar bill \$2.98. Pricelists, Dime, Edel's, Carlyle, Illinois 62231. (12-1t-21p)

ORIGINAL SONGBOOK Michigan Water Winter Wonderland by Mary Leipprandt, A.S.C.A.P. writer, \$1.75. Member of "Lucky 50" Farm Bureau Group. Write: 3864 North Sturm, Pigeon, Michigan 48755. (11-2t-24p)

ANY MAKE WRIST WATCH CLEANED, repaired, parts included. Total price \$5.95. 7-day service. Our 19th year. Elgin trained experts. Send for free shipping box. Hub's Service, 344 N. Alfred, Elgin, Illinois 60120. (5-4t-31p)

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that brought
you...*

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**INCREASED ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT BENEFITS
AT NO ADDITIONAL COST**

Farming is one of the most hazardous occupations. We know it. That's why . . . back in April, 1967 . . . Community Service Insurance, Michigan Farm Bureau and County Farm Bureaus created Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) protection for you. And that's why AD&D benefits for spouses of Farm Bureau members will be increased 100% on January 1, 1972 . . . at no extra cost. Farm Bureau members and their spouses will be eligible for equal benefits: \$1,000 for loss of life or multiple limb loss; \$500 and \$250 for lesser disabilities. Check the facts today.

The Farm Bureau Family: working together for you!

**FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE
GROUP**

