

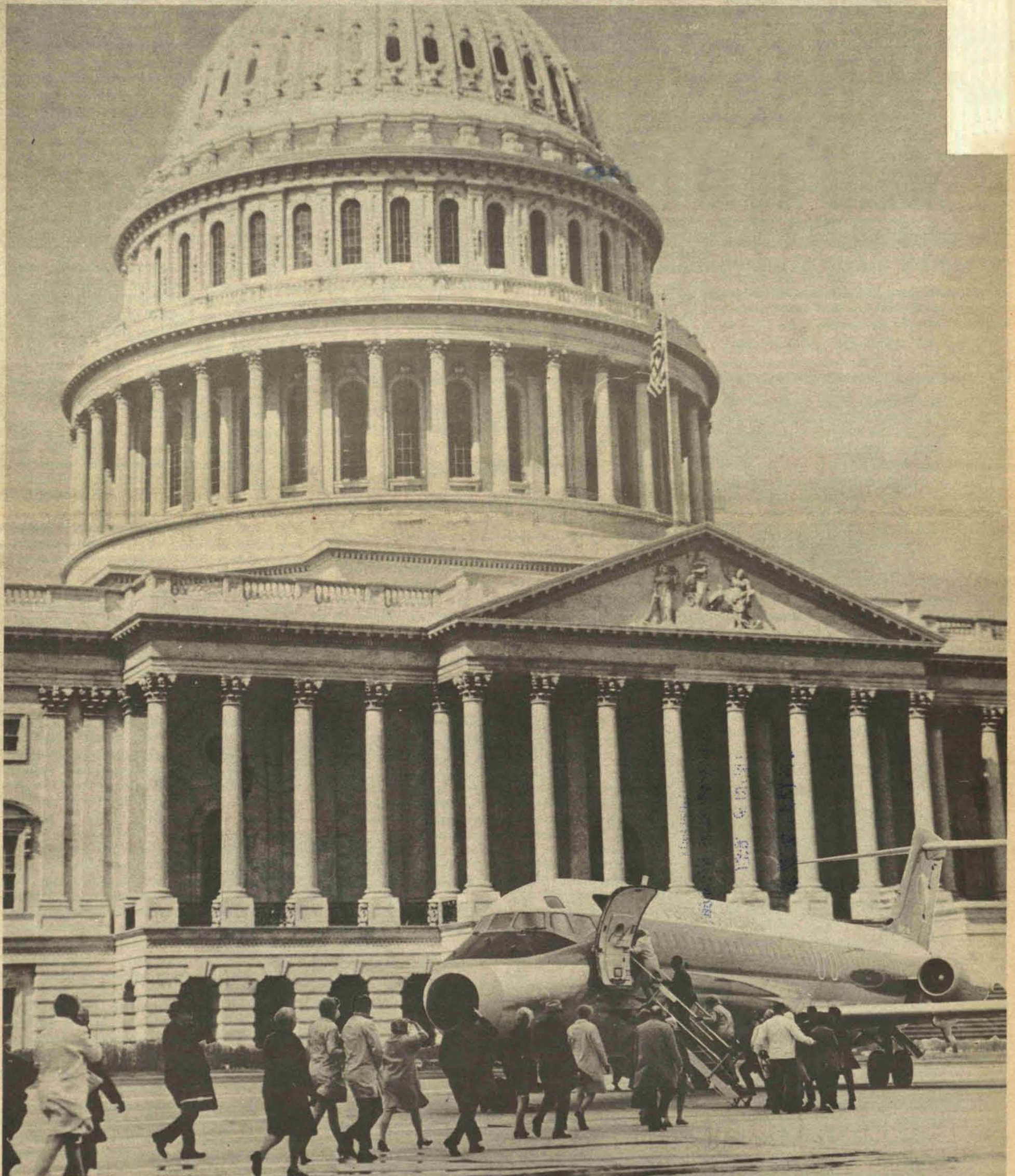
MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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

Vol. 50, No. 4

THE NEW **AGE**

April



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EDITORIAL . . .



The Nation's Capitol

People and buildings, buildings and people, that is what makes up the major part of our nation's capital, Washington, D. C. One must visit it and see the city first hand to fully understand how vast it is.

It is a city made up of tons of concrete in the shape of office buildings that house the hundreds, yes, even thousands of federal government financed and operated offices.

It is a city where men make statements that are heard around the world, statements that can have a bearing on the lives of every man, woman and child.

It is the city where the men and women we elect to federal offices meet and decide how large a tax bill we will have to pay, how much money will be spent to keep big government operating and how little, if any, of this tax bill might be returned to a local agency to conduct a program for the people.

It is the city where many laws and regulations are made and is the home of spokesmen for the millions of United States citizens.

It is a city of history. The history of the U.S.A. from its birth to the present day is displayed all around. The National Archives offer you the opportunity to read the original Constitution of the United States or you can stand and gaze at the Declaration of Independence and let your mind reenact the hardships our forefathers had in setting up this great nation. Historic Mount Vernon, the home of our first president, George Washington, can fill an afternoon visit. New money and stamps can be viewed as they roll out of the printing presses at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving or you can stand in silence at the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery.

A group of more than one-hundred Michigan farmers flew to our nation's capital on the 11th annual Washington D.C. air tour sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women.

Fifty-six members of this tour group were specially designated as "Legislative Leaders." They were selected by their county Farm Bureaus to be spokesmen for agriculture because they have the ability to understand the problems and issues facing farmers of today.

As spokesmen, they had the opportunity to meet with Michigan Congressman—first at a breakfast with the Republican members and at a luncheon for the Democrats, and later, individually in offices of congressmen from their own districts.

A special meeting with officials of the Department of Agriculture was a highlight of the tour. In a free discussion, farmers and U.S.D.A. officials spoke of the complex issues that agriculture faces.

Farmers voiced their opinions on such matters as the quality of the environment, farm labor management relations and the need for improved marketing and bargaining for agriculture.

Our Farm Bureau Women of Michigan should be congratulated for sponsoring this type of activity. It is a very effective way for Farm Bureau's voice to be personally heard by our congressmen.

Carl P. Kentner

Farm Bureau Philosophy

America's unparalleled progress is based on freedom and dignity of the individual, sustained by basic moral and religious concepts.

Freedom of the individual versus concentration of power which would destroy freedom is the central issue in all societies.

Economic progress, cultural advancement, and ethical and religious principles flourish best where men are free, responsible individuals.

We reaffirm our belief that freedom may best be secured through the following concepts and actions:

BASIC PRINCIPLES

We believe in the republican form of government as provided in the Constitution; in limitations upon government power; in maintenance of equal opportunity; in the right of each individual to worship as he chooses; in separation of church and state; and in freedom of speech, press, and peaceful assembly.

Property rights are among the human rights essential to the preservation of individual freedom.

Individuals have a moral responsibility to help preserve freedom for future generations by participating in public affairs and by helping to elect candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and principles.

THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the United States was well designed to secure individual liberty by a division of authority among the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches and the diffusion of government powers through the retention by the states and the people of those powers not specifically delegated to the federal government.

Stable and honest government with prescribed and limited powers is essential to freedom and progress.

The trend toward centralization of power and responsibility in the federal government violates Constitutional purpose. It has reached a point dangerous to state sovereignty and individual freedom and should be reversed.

The Constitutional prerogatives of each branch of the federal government should be preserved from encroachment by the other branches.

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Expansion of the power of the Executive Branch is undesirable. We recommend that the Executive Branch: (1) Exercise restraint in seeking broad, discretionary powers from Congress; (2) Refrain from pressuring individual members of Congress to obtain enactment of legislation; and (3) Avoid interpreting laws beyond the scope affirmatively spelled out by Congress. Government propagandizing of the electorate jeopardizes self-government and should be discontinued. We deplore the use of government financed agencies, organizations or committees to develop policy or promote legislation. The primary responsibility of the United States Department of Agriculture is to administer the laws and regulations affecting agriculture in an impartial and equitable manner. Secrecy in government affairs should be avoided except when essential to national security.

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Congress must assume the responsibility to preserve our federal system by reversing the trend toward centralization of authority in the Executive and Judicial Branches.

Federal programs should not be used as vehicles to force state and local governments to conform to federal authority.

We urge Congress to safeguard its legislative prerogatives by:

(1) Insisting that federal expenditures be approved by Congress on an annual basis; (2) Avoiding delegation of broad, discretionary powers to the Executive Branch; and (3) Enacting corrective or conforming legislation where the Supreme court has invaded the legislative area.

Congress should adopt a code of ethics which clearly delineates the conduct and activities that should be expected of its members.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Farmers Way To Market



It's been said that if freedom for us farmers were to be measured it could be done by adding up the number of alternatives available to us in selling our crops to processors.

The greater number of buyers, the greater the freedoms, because the farmer, through his own initiative, is freer to accomplish his goals. If this is true the farmers freedom now is more limited. They're fewer buyers to bargain with, which results in the farmer having less control in the sale of his crops. This shrinkage of buyer competition on the market gives the processor the upper hand in dealing, and as long as we farmers are unable to meet the processor on more equal terms this loss of control puts us on the short end of freedom's measuring stick.

Years back, if we farmers didn't agree with an offer from one processor, we could, in most commodities, go on to dozens of others until we got what we figured to be the best deal. This kind of competition kept the processor straight and helped farmers get a fairer shake.

Today as a lone farmer we can never expect to outduel the few powerful processors in head-on negotiations; one farmer just doesn't have the crop power.

Economic pressures have also forced the farmer to take undesirable alternatives. Vehicle integration is one example, where the farmer bows out when the processing company ends up owning all the tools of production, and hires the farmer as an employee to raise the crop. This is what has happened in the broiler industry in Arkansas. But for many farmers this may have been the only alternative available short of leaving the farm.

We face this challenge today because we farmers have been slower to adapt to the demands of the marketplace than has the processor. But farmers banding together in marketing and bargaining cooperatives is an available alternative we can use to regain many of the lost freedoms that the more powerful processor has learned to dominate.

Farm Bureau is taking action in this direction. The American Farm Bureau Board recently ironed out a plan called the "National Agricultural Bargaining Act of 1971" which will be introduced in Congress. In a thumbnail sketch, the bill provides for a national marketing and bargaining board to referee business between the processors and farmer representatives. It clearly draws requirements a bargaining cooperative must adhere to as a legitimate representative of farmers for the purpose of processor recognition. It further stipulates that the processor must work in good faith with bargaining cooperatives, that honest effort at bargaining must take place. So often processors have not recognized these co-ops as the agents of farmers, let alone bargain with them. These guidelines and the direction a national marketing and bargaining board can provide would give farmers restored freedoms in fair bargaining methods, and more so when we farmers join our crops with our neighbors in united effort. That's bargaining strength of the first caliber.

The bill also provides an exemption for farmers who already belong to processing cooperatives. We farmers can see that without it, this could be real cause for irritation in the bargaining process. If farmer members of processing cooperatives were to also belong to a marketing and bargaining cooperative with the same commodity it would be like bargaining against ourselves. This exemption would eliminate this type of entanglement.

Elton R. Smith

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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LEGISLATIVE NOTES

Robert E. Smith

Green-Acres Tax Bill Public Hearing

The public hearing held by the House Taxation Committee early in March was extremely well attended by farm people, environmentalists and others concerned with the assessing practices on farmland and preservation of farmland, open spaces and green areas.

The hearing was on a day when one of Farm Bureau's eight Legislative Seminars was being held. Over 150 Farm Bureau leaders were present from the Central Region. In addition, many other Farm Bureau leaders from throughout the state came especially for the hearing.

The hearing was on the House version of the land assessment bill, H.B. 4100 (an identical bill is in the Senate — S.B. 130). Rep. Roy Spencer (R-Attica) prime introducer of the House bill, explained the bill's intent, pointing out that it was intended to relieve the tax burden on agricultural land caused by present assessing practices and also to recognize the environmental problems being created by uncontrolled urban sprawl. Since the introduction of H-4100 and S-130 another farm bill H-359 has been introduced by Rep. De Strigter (R-Hudsonville).

Farm Bureau's testimony, by Legislative Counsel Bob Smith, expanded on this to point out that the problem is twofold. First, that many farmers are literally being taxed off their land, being forced to sell due to, in some cases, "blockbusting" techniques and unrealistic assessing practices. Second, is the need to encourage preservation of farmland for environmental purposes. USDA data was quoted to the committee indicating that Michigan farmers are now, on an average, spending more than 20 percent of their net income before taxes on property tax, as compared to three to five percent for other segments of the economy.

Farm Bureau testimony also referred to the systems used in several of the 24 states having similar legislation. Since the hearing, two other states have become involved in this kind of legislation — Maine and New Hampshire. It was also pointed out that, contrary to the opposition of many assessors and the Tax Commission, such legislation can easily be administered. Proof is in the fact that so many other states are presently doing it successfully.

Of all those testifying within the time limit, only one opposed the bill. This was a spokesman for the Assessors' Association. One County Equalization Director also testified, who while not necessarily taking sides tended to oppose the idea. The Michigan Municipal League, headed by Mr. Robert Fryer, neither supported nor opposed the bill at this time, but did raise many questions and did admit that they had opposed the bill in previous years.

Others supporting the concept of the bill included such experts as Dr. William Cooper, well known ecologist from M.S.U., who strongly supported the need

for maintaining good lands for future food and fiber needs and being helpful in the fight against air and water pollution.

Wally Petersen, a farmer from Montcalm County and also well known throughout the country for his work in Soil Conservation Districts and as a member of Governor Milliken's Land Use Commission, supported the bill in behalf of the commission.

Joa Penzien, Macomb County farmer and Farm Bureau member and also a member of the Governor's Task Force on Agriculture and a new member of the Michigan Commission on Agriculture, reported the support that he observed in the meetings held by the Task Force.

Dan Reed, Secretary-Manager of Michigan Farm Bureau and Chairman of the Task Force on Agriculture, along with Howard Tanner, Director of Natural Resources, M.S.U., Dr. Alvin House, Agricultural Economics, M.S.U., Dr. Raleigh Barlowe, Natural Resources expert, M.S.U., were told by Committee Chairman Montgomery that inasmuch as they were nearer to the Capitol they would be called upon by the committee at a later date for their testimony.

Others speaking for the bill were Larry Mainland, Farm Bureau member, fruit grower, member of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and immediate past chairman of SEMCOG. Mr. Mainland has great knowledge of the impact of urban sprawl and other metropolitan problems of the entire southeastern part of the state. Arthur Lucas, Ottawa County Farm Bureau President, made a presentation, as did Frank Smith, Jr., Monroe County Farm Bureau member, and Don Hill, Genesee County Farm Bureau President and fruit grower. Andrew Jackson, member of the Farm Bureau Board of Directors, a farmer and member of the Livingston County Board of Com-



NEW JERSEY DAIRYMEN . . . twin brothers Irving and Ray Winner own 130 acres and rent 500. After a fire destroyed their farm buildings years ago, the Winners rebuilt. They are quick to say, "New Jersey recognizes the fact that open spaces must be preserved and that farmland is assessed on its value for that purpose."

missioners, reported to the committee that Livingston County Board of Commissioners had gone on record previously as supporting this kind of legislation. Stan Mahaffey, Extension Agent of Genesee County, also reported to the committee similar action taken by the Genesee County Board of Commissioners a year ago in support of this concept.

Frank Bennett, Wayne County Planner, supported the legislation from the point of view of the need for maintaining open spaces in the Detroit and metropolitan area. Dr. Lawrence Libby, MSU, who has studied this type of legislation in other states, also testified. Strong support for the concept also came from others, including the Environmental Action Council headquartered in Grand Rapids and the Federated Organic Farmers and Gardeners Clubs.

Governor Milliken, of course, came out in support of this concept early in the year and Mrs. Milliken, who is well known as a landscape architect, has also made major supportive speeches.

It is impossible to list all those speaking on behalf of the bill at the hearing. It was unfortunate that time did not permit many that were present to give their views.

Numerous associations of various types have now adopted resolutions supporting the "green acres" concept.

Other Legislation

Rep. Stanley Powell (R-Ionia), along with 61 other co-sponsors, has introduced a resolution, HJR "N", to amend the Constitution to reverse the recent Supreme Court decision requiring local school districts to supply textbooks, paper, pencils and other supplies to all students. Mr. Powell said, in part, "Since this court decision, school districts have had to absorb this expense, which inevitably must be ultimately borne by the property tax payers since no additional state aid has been provided for this purpose." In order to be put on the ballot for decision by the voters, the resolution must pass both houses by a two-thirds vote. It is estimated that this has cost local school districts some \$20 million and that other legislation introduced is unlikely to pass due to present serious fiscal problems.

One controversial tax bill, S. 16, has had a public hearing and would permit nonresident owners of property to vote on all millage issues. This means that someone living in Detroit or some other city, owning a piece of property somewhere else in the state, would be permitted to vote on any issue requiring additional millage.

Farm marketing and bargaining bills are still in the developmental stage, but are expected to be introduced in the near future. This is also true of farm labor legislation to set guidelines fair to both farm employers and workers and to outlaw the possible boycott of a farm commodity.

Michigan Farm Bureau



CAPITOL REPORT

Green-Acres In Other States

Legislative Counsel Bob Smith and Bob Driscoll, director of Broadcast Services, visited with Maryland and New Jersey farmland assessments directors while on the recent Washington Legislative Seminar. They also talked with owners of a large dairy farm.



BOB SMITH (LEFT) . . . and William G. Riley, Maryland's Supervisor of Assessments checked over the amendments to the Maryland law passed last year. Mr. Riley said, "Without the legislation there would be no farmland left in the state." The Maryland law changes include a roll-back tax and have been expanded to include development land. The latest amendments will use the method of capitalization of net income of farmland as a means of determining value for farm purposes.



BOB SMITH EXPRESSED . . . his appreciation to O. W. Freeman, Assessment Evaluator of the New Jersey Local Property Tax Bureau. Mr. Freeman stated, "There was little or no problem in administering the law. Assessors gave us the only serious objections. Assessment of much commercial property is based on capitalization of net income and in reality, the land assessment law merely extends a legitimate assessing method of capitalization of net income to farmland." An Advisory committee reports annually and determines the capitalization rate, Freeman said.

A Minute with Maxine . . .

Michigan Week — May 15 - 22

April Showers; after our blanket of white for so long, April showers will be welcome to bring the spring green. We can never say the seasons are monotonous here in Michigan, rather we should count our blessings for the variety of the seasons we enjoy.

Michigan Week is coming up in May. The dates are May 15-22 and it's not too early to be ordering your materials for any programs you may be planning. You can get order blanks and descriptions of materials available from Michigan Week State Committee, 809 Center St., P.O. Box 5096, Lansing, Michigan 48905. There are three aims of Michigan Week. I'd like you to think about these: 1. To give Michigan citizens greater knowledge and appreciation of their state. 2. To expound the state's assets and resources for industry, business, education and recreation and to afford the nation and the world an inspired view of Michigan's advantages and, 3. To foster a spirit of cooperation among all communities and people to the end that all of Michigan will work together to make the state even more liveable and attractive.

Some programs you might consider are: 1. Have a Michigan Program, either a speaker or a tour. 2. Adopt a Michigan Week project of your own, give a Michigan flag, do a history of your club emphasizing its contribution to community and state. 3. Take part in Michigan Week programs in your community. 4. Enlist and train your members as Michigan Minutemen. 5. Carry out a year-around Michigan program, a community betterment project as health, youth services, counseling, community clean-up, etc. 6. Michigan—Land of Hospitality, is the Michigan Week theme, so let's strive to make "Michigan" and "Hospitality" synonymous 365 days of every year.

For those of you who like poetry and would also like to increase your County Women's income, Warren Dobson (whom many of you may know as he has worked for Farm Bureau for many years), has a proposition. He has written rhymes for many years and recently had one collection published. They are very interesting to read and I know many people like poems for different occasions. If you want more details, Mr. Dobson's address is: Mr. Warren E. Dobson, 16343 Wood, Lansing, Michigan 48900. I close with Mr. Dobson's rhyme on Home.

*I do a bit of travel
On the highways near and far,
And my duties often take me
Off the main routes for a car;
Might incline to raise a question
'Bout some sites I chance to roam,
'Till I happen to remember
Every house is someone's home.*

FARM BUREAU WOMEN

*Some it's true are real auspicious,
With their trimmin's quite ornate,
Others are much less expansive,
Less pretentious they would rate;
Be they e'er so high and mighty
Or as common as plain loam,
Any spot where kinfolk gather —
Every house is someone's home.*

*So wherever duty calls me,
Or my gypsy feet may stray,
I'll not label it as back woods
E'en if far off main highway;
There are still some favored havens,
Far from any city's dome,
Be it e'er so meek and lowly —
Where the folks live — still is home.*

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

\$1.75; Res. to Mrs. Leo Semens, Lyons Rd., Corunna 48817, by April 14.

Dist. 6 . . . April 20, Bad Axe, Farm Bureau Center. Lunch \$1.75; Res. to Huron Co. F. B. office, 711 N. VanDyke, Bad Axe 48413, by April 15. China and Silver Show, Mrs. Sageman, Bad Axe.

Dist. 7 . . . May 4, Reed City, Osceola Hotel, lunch \$2.00; Res. to Mrs. Dale Carmichael, R#2, Evart 49631, by May 1. Ecology, Al Almy, MFB and Mrs. Hainley, Co. Dir., Eagle Boys Village.

Dist. 8 . . . April 14, Mt. Pleasant, Hotel Chiefton. Lunch \$2.25; Res. to Mrs. Minnie O'Brien, R#3, Mt. Pleasant 48858, by April 10. "Drug Abuse", Don Gould and Wig Demonstration.

Dist. 9 . . . April 1, Ogdensburg Meth. church. Lunch \$1.75; Res. were to be made by March 25 with Bess Tompkins.

Dist. 10-East . . . April 29, Ogemaw county (Place to be announced later) potluck lunch.

Dist. 10-West . . . April 28, The Palace, Central Lake. Lunch \$1.50. Speaker, George Kropp, retired Dis. Penal Dept.

Dist. 11-East — to be held in June.

Dist. 11-West — details to be announced later.

Women's Spring District Meets

Several topics of interest . . . Marketing and Bargaining, Use of Dairy Products, and foremost . . . the election of the district chairmen and vice-chairmen in the even-numbered districts (2, 4, 6, 8, 10 East and 10 West) . . . should bring out a record attendance of Farm Bureau Women to their District Spring meetings.

All meetings (except Dist. 10 West . . . 10:30 a.m. — registration — 10 a.m.) are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. with registration at 9:30.

Miss Richi Uhrlich, Food Publicist, American Dairy Ass'n., will be the main speaker at Districts 1, 2, 3 and 10 East meetings. All districts (except Dist. 7) will hear a program on "Marketing and Bargaining" as arranged by Noel Stuckman and Norman Veliquette, MFB Marketing Specialists. A schedule of meetings follows:

Dist. 1 . . . April 13, Centerville, United Meth. church, Lunch \$1.50, Res. to Mrs. Myron Ulrich, R#1, Constantine 49042, by April 7.

Dist. 2 . . . April 27, Jackson, Calvary Meth. church. Lunch \$1.75; Reservations to Jackson Co. Farm Bureau office, 1341 Parnell Rd., Jackson 49201, by April 20.

Dist. 3 . . . April 15, Monroe, Zion Lutheran church, Lunch \$1.75; Res. to Mrs. Marion Yoas, 9063 Swan Creek, Newport 48166, by April 10.

District 4 . . . April 21, Hastings, Leason Sharpe church, Lunch \$1.50; Res. to Mrs. Marion Pennock, R#3, Nashville 49073, by April 14. "Around the World Jewelry" and "Packing to Travel."

Dist. 5 . . . April 19, Corunna, First United Meth. church, Lunch

Blue Shield To Pay Chiropractors

The Michigan Blue Shield Enabling Act was amended to require recognition of chiropractors on December 21, 1970 when Governor Milliken signed Public Act 251. The Act requires Blue Shield to pay for medical and surgical care provided by chiropractors. Formerly, services of doctors of medicine, osteopathy, and podiatry were covered by Blue Shield but not chiropractic services.

This legislation means that Michigan Farm Bureau members can now receive benefits from Blue Shield for certain services performed by chiropractors. The benefits become part of the basic Blue Shield coverage now carried by members.

Detailed information has been provided to all licensed chiropractors by Michigan Blue Shield. For information, other than specific benefits, members should contact their county secretary regarding the benefits of the Blue Shield program.

TELEPHONE SAVES TIME AND EFFORT

Many Michigan farmers are now saving time, money and effort by using the telephone to take care of their Social Security matters.

From years of experience with personal contact and the use of the telephone, it was found that most Social Security matters can be completed by telephone and with greater savings for everyone concerned. You may do anything from requesting a Social Security account number to filing a claim for retirement, disability, survivors or Medicare benefits. There are any number of reports that can be made by telephone; change of address, change of name, stopping and starting work, marriage and many others.

Previously, a personal visit to the local Social Security office seemed to be the proper way of doing business. Filing a claim for Social Security benefits may appear so very complex and complicated that you might feel that it cannot be taken care of any other way.

MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

for
MICHIGAN RED TART CHERRY PRODUCERS
and
MICHIGAN ASPARAGUS GROWERS
JOIN

* MACMA

RED TART CHERRY & ASPARAGUS DIVISIONS

(A FARM BUREAU MARKET-ACTION PROGRAM)

Support MACMA and your Neighbors . . .


- * An Aggressive Marketing Organization.
- * Serving Michigan Commercial Asparagus and Tart Cherry Growers.
- * Concerned about Raw Product Grades. * Accurate Market Analysis.
- * "ON TARGET" Price Recommendations . . . Full Market Value.
- * Market Information to Members via Newsletters and Meetings.
- * Interested in Asparagus and Tart Cherry Production and Marketing Research.
- * Affiliated with Asparagus and Tart Cherry Growers in other states through AAMA.
- * Your support adds strength to MACMA and Greater Net Income for YOU.

JOIN YOUR MARKETING ASSOCIATION

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

"YOUR FARM BUREAU SERVES YOU SOME WAY EVERY DAY"





sale

SPRING SWEEPSTAKES

Telephone

Street, City and Zip

Name

ENTRY BLANK
 WIN... G. E. Porta Color T.V.,
 Zebco Rod and Reel outfits and Alpine Picnic Jugs
 Bring this entry blank to your participating dealer

Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC

sale
SPRING SWEEPSTAKES

At your participating FARM BUREAU Store NOW...

buy early, save big

Look for the big GREEN TAG Specials at your FARM BUREAU Store.

If it has a GREEN TAG...Then it's a GREAT BUY



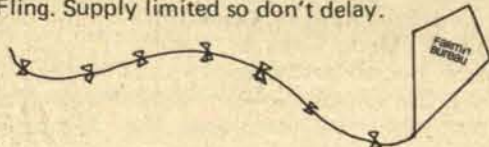
Farm-size Hot 'N Cold, Food 'N Beverage carry-all

This Gottkooler carry-all is made of polyethylene with urethane foam liner. Holds 2-gals. and has its own 5" food tray. This cooler can take rough treatment while keeping your bottles, cans or liquid cold or hot. Now only \$4.25 while the quantity lasts at your participating Farm Bureau dealer.



FREE Hi-Flyer Kites while they last.

Come early. Children accompanied by an adult customer can get a big 30" x 24" FARM BUREAU kite to fly. Have a Spring Fling. Supply limited so don't delay.



Win big Spring Sweepstakes

Every participating FARM BUREAU Store will have its own SWEEPSTAKES.

What you see is what you can win. No purchase necessary. Enter often.



1ST PRIZE

A beautiful G.E. Porta Color T.V.



2ND PRIZES

Zebco Rod & Reel outfits... balanced fishing tackle to land the big ones.

3RD PRIZES

Alpine Picnic Jugs... Good looking and durable.



ENTER OFTEN. WIN one of many prizes on display at each store. Anyone can enter the SWEEPSTAKES. No purchase is necessary. Fill in the ENTRY BLANK now and take it to your participating dealer. Look for other SPRING SALE SWEEPSTAKES ads in your local paper.

ENTRY BLANK

Bring in this entry blank to WIN...G.E. Porta Color T.V., Zebco Rod and Reel outfits and Alpine Picnic Jugs

Name _____

Street, City and Zip _____

Telephone _____

Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC

FARM BUREAU MEMBERS IN ACTION . . .

Passing of the Jug . . .



PRESENTATION OF THE . . . Little Brown Jug Award to Mac-Luce president James Gribbell is always a key part of their Victory Party. Reg. Rep. Hugo Kivi made the presentation acknowledging the fact that Mac-Luce was the first county in the Upper Peninsula to report goal. The traveling award was started in 1959 and this is the fourth time Mac-Luce has been able to take the award home. Ninety Farm Bureau members attended the March 6 Victory Party at Engadine.

MMPA Outstanding Dairy Couple



MR. AND MRS. KIRKPATRICK

A young, active Huron county Farm Bureau couple, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Kirkpatrick, Kinde, will wear the Michigan Milk Producers Outstanding Young Dairy Couple crown for 1971.

Elwood and Guydeane Kirkpatrick farm 690 acres with a 130-cow dairy herd. Elwood Kirkpatrick has served as a member of the Huron County Zoning Committee and is active in the Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative and Dairy Herd Improvement Association. His wife shares in the county and state Farm Bureau activities and in extension work. The Kirkpatricks have three children.

F.B. NAMES IN THE NEWS

Larry Cameron, formerly manager of the Sterling Branch, Farm Bureau Services, has been appointed manager of the Pinconning Branch. Mr. Cameron has worked for FBS since 1961 at Marcellus and Scottville and been manager at Sterling since 1965. Joseph Duley, Farm Advisor at the Pinconning Branch, will be the assistant manager. John Rice, formerly Pinconning Branch assistant manager, is the new Sterling Branch manager. Eugene Fischer, formerly manager of the Pinconning Branch, will assume the Farm Advisor and assistant manager positions of the Farm Bureau Centers Retail operation. All appointments were effective March 8.

Norbert Markel, 16, Marine City, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clair Markel, is the 1970 state award winner in the 4-H commodity marketing program. The Markels, dairy farmers in St. Clair county, are Farm Bureau members. Norbert has carried commodity marketing programs for five of his seven years in 4-H.

The Michigan Cattle Feeders Association have elected new and reelected directors to their board. Several Farm Bureau members are on the list. New directors are Jack Raymond, Seneca, Lenawee county and Jack Sill, Gaines, Genesee county. Earl Johnson, Flint, Genesee county continues as its president; Loren Spink, Mason, Ingham county, vice-president and Matt Engler, North Branch, Isabella county, secretary-treasurer. Directors reelected

included Farm Bureau members Lowell Corey, Livingston county; Bob Hafer, Isabella county; Jack McLean and Robert Thompson, Gratiot county and William Simmons, Lapeer county.

David Leaders, son of Farm Bureau members, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Leaders, Hillsdale, was one of two Michigan young men to be granted loans from Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. MRRC's Student Loan Program executive director, Nyle Katz, reports that he hopes this is just the beginning. It is hoped that 100 to 200 farm youths will receive loans by next fall. Dave plans to continue his education at Tri-State, Angola, Indiana. Anyone interested in applying for the loans can receive complete information by writing Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corp., P.O. Box 188, 150 1/2 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall, Michigan 49068.

John C. Sexson, Farm Bureau Services, Plant Food Department sales manager, was elected president of the Michigan Grain and Agri-Dealers Association at their 37th annual meeting held recently.

Bob Bunker, Manager of Risk Engineering for Farm Bureau Insurance Group, was recently named an officer of two safety organizations; the Michigan Insurance Inspectors Society and the Michigan Rural Safety Council.

Bunker joined Farm Bureau Insurance Group in 1960 and was appointed Manager of Risk Engineering in 1964.

Governor Accepts Task Force Report



THE FINAL REPORT . . . of the Governor's Task Force on Agriculture was presented to Governor William Milliken in his office recently. A preliminary report had been available to the Governor for use in developing his Message to the Legislature. The Task Force report resulted from 17 conferences held in areas of the state, with over 600 people participating. Spotlights were needed property tax reform, marketing and farm labor-management legislation, land use planning and agricultural representation on various boards, committees and commissions having to do with land and water resources. Members of the committee who were present in the Governor's office were, left to right, John Dempsey, Rep. Stanley Powell, Duane Baldwin, Joa Penzien, Gov. Milliken, chairman Dan E. Reed, Mrs. Eric Furu, Robert Craig, Sen. Chas. Zollar, Dr. Karl Wright (alternate for Dr. Arthur Mauch, retired.) Task Force member not present, Mrs. Rebecca Tompkins.

Farm Bureau members all have secrets for making "goal;" however, Oceana county members have put their recipe in writing and are willing to share it: Recipe For Making Goal in Oceana County . . . 1 heaping cup of *Positive Attitude*, 16 cups of *Active Day Workers*, 2 cups *Complete Information*, 1 cup *Supplies*; 1/2 cup current *Membership List* and 1/2 cup *Prospect List* (MACMA and Mutual Auto mixed.) Dissolve the positive attitude with the workers and add the remaining ingredients over coffee and donuts and knead until smooth. Let rise in a friendly atmosphere for one week . . . punching down every evening at six o'clock. After one week gather in a public place and examine the results. If you are not quite satisfied with the results, punch down again vigorously and give it 7 hours to successfully raise. In 7 hours when goal is reached, bake in moderate oven for 1 hour. Give the results tender, loving care for the next 365 days and have a big celebration.

RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT Hodges To Celebrate 50th



JOA PENZIEN

Joa Penzien of Mt. Clemens was appointed to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture for a four-year term by Governor William G. Milliken in mid-February.

Penzien operates a 500 acre farm in Macomb County, of which 200 acres is devoted to growing potatoes. He is also engaged in other vegetable production and general farming.

He is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Agriculture and past president of Macomb County Farm Bureau. He is chairman of the Democratic Agricultural Committee of Michigan, a director of the National Potato Council, Vegetable Growers of

While their mailing address has been Benson, Arizona, this past winter, Ward and Gladys Hodge, Sanilac county Farm Bureau members, will be on hand to greet well-wishers at their 50th wedding anniversary May 2 at the United Methodist Church in Marlette.

Ward Hodge served as director and president of Sanilac county Farm Bureau, a member of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors for 20 years. Mr. Hodge served as president of the MFB board 1954 to 1958 and as president of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative as well as on all affiliated company boards in addition to many other local, state and national association boards.

Mr. and Mrs. Hodge have seven children, all married and living in Michigan.

America, Michigan Vegetable Council and Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Committee. He was named to the National Potato Advisory Committee by the late President John F. Kennedy.

Penzien is married, has two daughters, both married; and one son, James, who works with him on the family farm.

Distinguished Service to Agr.

During Farmers' Week, Michigan State University will again present three Distinguished Service to Agriculture Awards to men who have made outstanding contributions to Michigan's agricultural economy.

Henry Nelson, Ionia fruit grower and industrial leader, is actively involved in many agriculture-related organizations. He is a director of the Michigan Agricultural Conference, member of the Michigan Apple Commission, past president of the Federal Land Bank District and Michigan State Horticultural Society and many other rural-urban programs. Mr. Nelson has served as president of the Ionia-Montcalm Fruit Growers Association, chairman of the MFB State Fruit Advisory Committee and of the apple committee of MACMA and as a board member of the Mich. Certified Farm Markets organization. He received a degree in pomology from MSU and since 1952, the Nelson family has operated an orchard and a farm market on N. State Road, Ionia.

Another friend of Michigan Farm Bureau is Jack Barnes, general manager of the Michigan Milk Producers Association. He is a director of the National Milk Producers Federation and has served on the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives and as a director of the Michigan Dairy Products Association.

Wesley Pelkie in Copper County, Upper Peninsula, is the third Michigan farmer to be honored.

Dean L. L. Boger, MSU, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will make the presentation.



MR. AND MRS. HODGE

The Hodges extend an invitation to all their Farm Bureau friends to help them celebrate in Marlette at the United Methodist church, May 2, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. They request . . . No Gifts Please.

LITTERING? . . .

They're hard to spot — but once in a while it becomes costly to be a litterer!

Recently police spotted a car, about 12:15 a.m., near Harrison and Mt. Hope Roads, on the MSU campus. Beer bottles were flying from the window of the car.

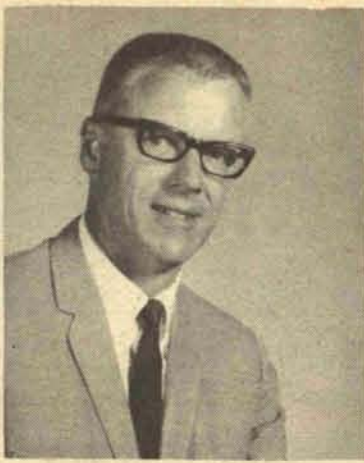
Robert R. Miller pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$45 and costs.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



MAX D. DEAN

MAX D. DEAN . . . has been appointed treasurer of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Services, Inc., and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., effective March 1. The announcement was made by MFB president Elton R. Smith. Mr. Dean has served as assistant treasurer and credit manager of FBS since 1969. Previous to joining Farm Bureau Services in 1952, he was employed by the Bank of Lansing. As treasurer, Dean will be directly responsible for all financial management and control for affiliated local cooperatives. He and his wife live in Okemos. Two married daughters live in the Lansing area.



DUANE COHOON

DUANE COHOON . . . was named to the position of assistant treasurer of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., according to an announcement by Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Mr. Cohoon is a graduate of Lansing Business University. He joined Farm Bureau Services in 1957 as a field auditor, later being named manager of the Crude Oil Division, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative. In addition to his new post, he is also vice president of the Crude Oil Division and assistant treasurer of FPC. The Cohoons and their two daughters reside in Lansing.



STANLEY J. TRAN

STANLEY J. TRAN . . . has been appointed credit manager of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. according to an announcement by Max D. Dean, treasurer. His responsibilities will also include management of the Loan Department. Tran has served as assistant credit manager of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. since 1960. He joined Farm Bureau Services in 1956 as a field auditor in the Accounting Department. Formerly, he had worked in the Bank of Lansing. Mr. Tran served in the U. S. Navy from 1952 to 1956. He completed a three-year course in Corporate Accounting offered by the Lansing Business University and resides with his wife, Janice, and three daughters in Lansing.

Gov. William Milliken has proclaimed April 18-25 as Arbor Week — a week set aside to mark the importance of trees in maintaining and improving the quality of man's environment. Michigan is the only state to observe Arbor Week instead of Arbor Day.

David C. Farley, Albion, the 1970 Michigan Farm Bureau state Young Farmer Discussion Meet winner, was elected director-at-large at the Michigan Association of Nurserymen, Inc. annual meeting.

"The Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee will be participating in the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Award Program this year," according to Dave Cook, MFB Young Farmer Director.

To be eligible to participate a person must be a Farm Bureau member of not more than 30 years of age as of December 31.

Three outstanding Young Farmers will be recognized at the National level. Further information regarding the state contest will be mailed to all county Farm Bureaus in April.

Agriculture and Environment Concern

by Al A. Almy

Voting delegates at the 1970 Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting adopted a policy entitled "Environmental Concerns." This policy reads in part — ". . . We urge all persons engaged in agriculture to become informed of pollution sources and discipline themselves so as not to add to the problem . . ."

The following article is Part I of a two-part series to provide members with information on agriculture and environmental concern. Part II will be published in a succeeding issue of *Michigan Farm News*.

Introduction

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 the use of air, water and land as natural tools of production. Agriculture has an important opportunity and responsibility to improve the quality of our environment.

Many farmers view agriculture's role in society as sacred — producing food for a hungry world — and do not believe sources of agricultural pollution affect environmental quality. Recent legal actions and public complaints citing water pollution and odors from farming operations indicate that agriculture will not be overlooked in the drive to clean up the environment.

Although some farmers may not accept the fact, agriculture does contribute to the pollution of our environment. Agricultural pollution can occur in many forms and in varying degrees on most farms. It can occur from soil erosion, excessive fertilization, animal wastes, odors and chemicals. It can occur on livestock farms, crop farms, fruit and vegetable farms, and poultry farms.

Agricultural pollution is but one part of a large state and national problem. When considered together with municipal, industrial, mining, marine and all other sources of pollution it becomes obvious that each segment must recognize and accept its own responsibility and to improve the environment if the problem is to be solved. The alternative is to do nothing and wait for state and national legislation to be enacted that will force a clean-up of the environment.

Sources of Agricultural Pollution

The sources of potential agricultural pollution which have been cited by the public most frequently are fertilizers, chemicals and animal wastes. Except for those farms where no livestock is kept, each of these pollution sources are common production inputs.

Fertilizers

The amount of commercial fertilizer applied to farmland for crop production has increased markedly in recent years. Declining market prices for crops have encouraged farmers to push for high yields to maximize profits. Commercial fertilizers have contributed to the ability of farmers to obtain crop yields that were considered impossible ten years ago.

In addition to the higher rates of commercial fertilizers, the method of application has tended to change also. It is common to

see fertilizer applied in the fall when growing crops are not present to utilize the nutrients. Heavy fall and early spring rains increase the likelihood that leaching and soil erosion may carry phosphates, nitrates and possibly other fertilizer nutrients into nearby lakes and streams.

Many critics view agricultural fertilizers as a major source of nutrients found in lakes and streams. A recently completed research study by Michigan State University provides an answer to these charges. The purpose of the study was to determine amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrients in drainage waters coming from purely agricultural land in order to evaluate the contribution of agriculture to the nutrients in the surface waters of Michigan. The study was conducted on five Michigan farms with varying soil types. Based on the results of this study, it was concluded that drainage waters from agricultural lands are remarkably low in nutrients considering the amounts of these nutrients in the soil naturally and the amounts that are added in the form of fertilizers for economic crop production.

Among the nutrients studied, it was found that phosphorus becomes rigidly attached to soil particles and does not enter surface waters unless soil erosion occurs. Comparisons have been made of the amount of phosphorus released into the environment by a human and an acre of cropland. The average annual loss of phosphorus from a human is approximately three pounds. Of this amount, one pound comes from human wastes and two pounds from household detergents. When compared on a per-acre-equivalent basis, each person is equal to 35 acres of farmland in terms of phosphorus release.

Chemicals

Chemicals have contributed greatly to the ability of the American farmer to produce the abundant supply of quality food products enjoyed by this Nation. Despite the use of chemicals, annual crop and livestock losses to pests approach \$20 billion in the United States. There is a rising and unreasoning fear, among many people, of scientific agriculture in particular and of agricultural chemicals specifically. Michigan farmers have been subjected to irresponsible and emotion-packed campaigns by many groups in the recent DDT controversy.

The World Health Organization in a recent report erases conjecture that DDT is harmful to human life. It says, "The safety of DDT is so great that despite its use by billions of people over the past 25 years there has not been a single fatality due to this compound alone. In the peak year of the malaria eradication campaign none of the 130,000 sprayers employed nor any of the 535 million inhabitants of treated houses then exposed showed, or subsequently have shown, adverse symptoms as a result of exposure to the insecticide."

The future will undoubtedly see many restrictions applied to the use of agricultural chemicals. Pesticides will likely be affected more by these restrictions than herbicides.

Many states have recently enacted laws requiring all pesticide dealers to be licensed. Some

of these states also require farmers to obtain permits before certain pesticides can be purchased or applied to crops. In some states, only licensed applicators can apply those pesticides which are considered highly toxic.

Further restrictions on pesticides are likely to be forthcoming at the Federal level. In December of 1970 the authority for registration of pesticides was transferred from USDA to the new Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has indicated a hard attitude towards pesticides and is now considering imposing a ban on DDT.

Michigan is fortunate to have one of the finest pesticide research facilities in the world. The Pesticide Research Center, located at Michigan State University, is conducting valuable research in biological pest control and development of pesticides that will quickly break down in the environment. While these programs offer great promise, they are long-range solutions to the current problems. In the short run, the ability of agriculture to produce an abundant supply of quality food at reasonable prices to the consumer will depend largely on the continued use of chemicals.

Animal Wastes

Solid wastes are probably the greatest pollution problem for many farmers today. Agriculture is the largest single source of solid wastes in this country. It accounts for over 50 percent — 2.3 billion tons — of all solid wastes. Approximately 1.7 billion tons come from livestock and poultry production operations. About one-half of this amount comes from concentrated livestock systems. The remaining .6 billion tons come from animal and slaughterhouse wastes, crop residues, vineyard and orchard prunings and greenhouse wastes.

Continued in May Issue

Biggest Refund Ever



The largest life insurance experience refund ever received by Farm Bureau Insurance Group was presented to the organization's officials at the Home Office early in March.

A \$94,384.50 check was presented to Executive Vice-President N. L. Vermillion, by Senior Reinsurance Representative of American United Life Insurance Company, Phil Hammond, C.L.U. "This check," said Hammond,

"is the largest refund check that I have ever delivered in my 10 years with American United Life Insurance."

Concerning the \$94 thousand plus refund, Mr. Vermillion said, "This is evidence of our fine Life Underwriting Department."

Don Jolliff, Vice-President of Research and Development, said that the large refund was a reflection of the fine work agents do as field underwriters.

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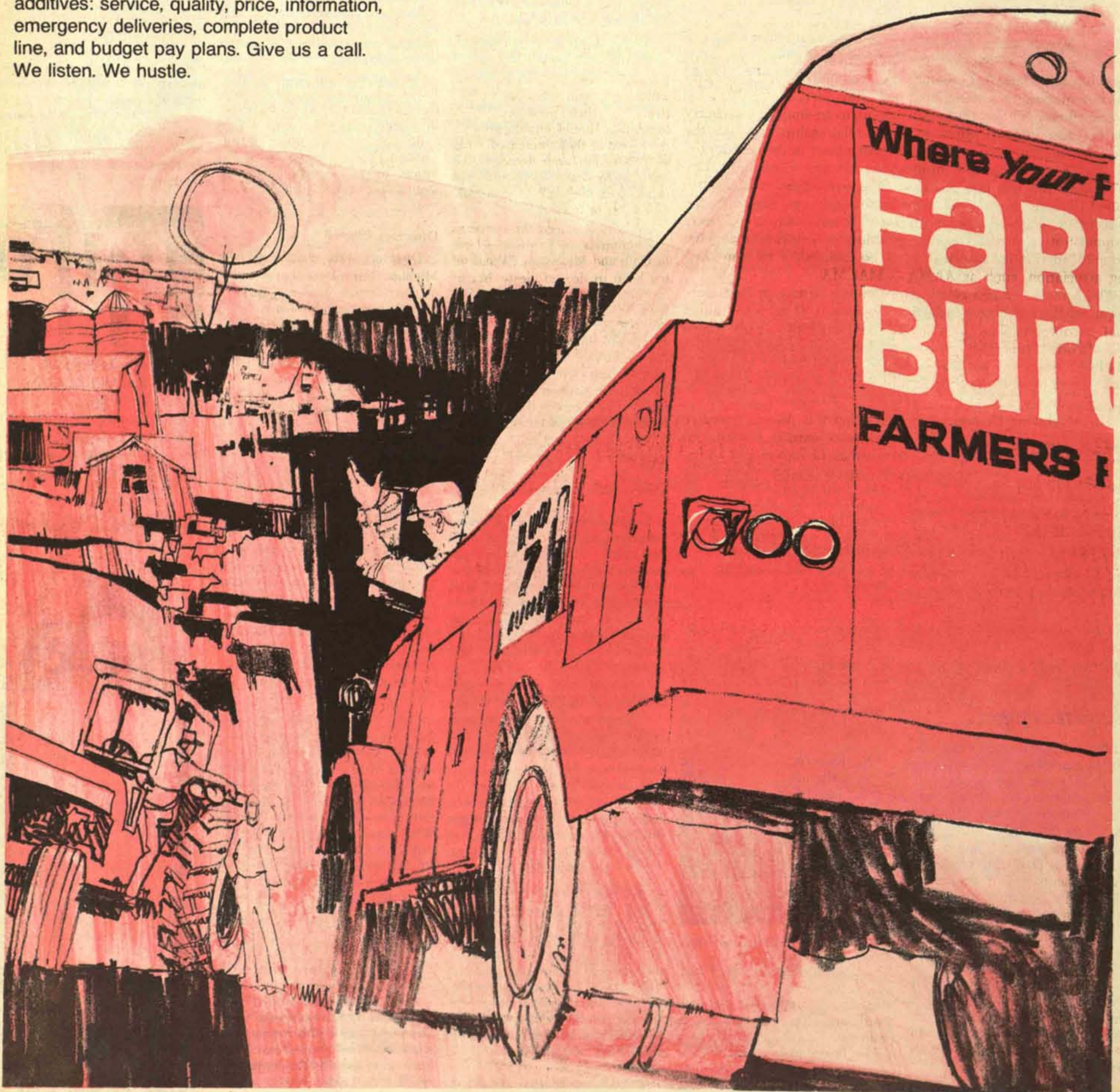
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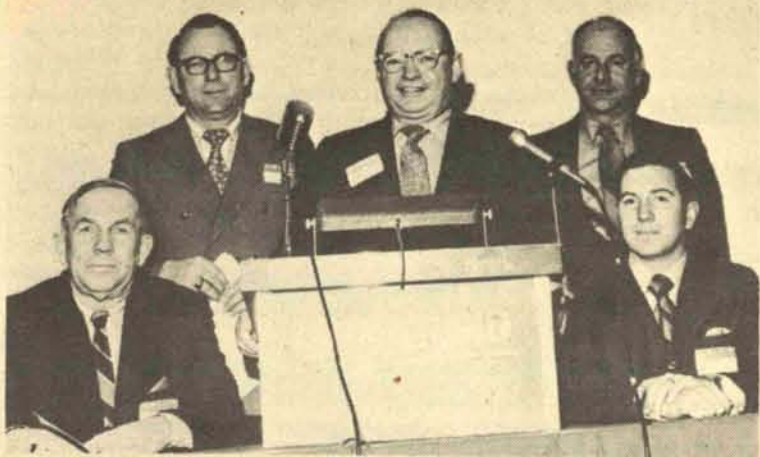
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1971 MASA BOARD . . .



MEMBERS AND OFFICERS . . . of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association are — seated, left, Kenneth Bull, Bailey, Muskegon county fruit farmer, vice-president; right, Les Dowd, Hartford, Van Buren county fruit farmer. Standing, left to right, Calvin Lutz, fruit grower, Kaleva, Manistee county; Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, Kent county dairy farmer, president and Paul Button, Farmington, Oakland county fruit grower. Not pictured are William Wilkinson, secretary; Robert E. Braden, general manager and Merrill J. Buschlen, operations manager.

MACMA Studies New Price Volume Relationship

The AAMA — MACMA Red Tart Cherry Marketing Committees plan to carry out activities for establishing the grower price for red tart cherries in 1971. AAMA is the American Agricultural Marketing Association, common agent for Farm Bureau marketing associations, including MACMA.

The Cherry Marketing Committee plans to analyze the cherry market and offer a price — volume relationship scale to the industry in mid-April. These activities are being conducted by AAMA — MACMA to supplement the new Federal Marketing Order for red tart cherries. The marketing order board, called the Cherry Administrative Board, can establish only the percentage of cherries to be marketed in any year. The Cherry Administrative Board cannot establish a grower price; the pricing function for raw fruit must be established by a marketing association, such as AAMA — MACMA.

The price — volume relationship scale is a new pricing technique for the tart cherry industry. However, it is not a technique that is completely original; several fruit marketing associations are already using this price — volume relationship scale successfully. In some cases, the volume of marketable product is established by a market order program such as that which the cherry industry will use.

The Marketing Committee believes that this price alternative provides the opportunity for those who market cherries to arrive at a realistic price well in advance of harvest.

The AAMA — MACMA offer will make it possible for growers (through their association) and a buyer to discuss, debate and agree upon a volume — price relationship weeks ahead of harvest. It can:

- (1) Help avoid inefficiencies caused by delayed harvest;
- (2) Allow growers and processors to proceed with plans to harvest, process and market the crop without controversy during early harvest days, and
- (3) Will enable a continuation of improved cherry marketing that has already begun by supplementing the market order program with a program for orderly pricing.

Asparagus . . .

The MACMA Asparagus Division Marketing Committee expects to meet early in April to formulate price and sales recommendations for Division members' asparagus for 1971.

The Asparagus Committee has represented Division members during the past four seasons in successfully negotiating the full market value for their asparagus.

The Asparagus Division represents over one-half of the commercial asparagus producers in Michigan. The Asparagus Marketing Committee is holding a membership sign-up campaign to further increase the strength and effectiveness of the MACMA asparagus program.

It is anticipated that price and other terms will be negotiated and agreed upon well in advance of harvest this year.

Cherry Administrative Board . . . C.A.B.

The Cherry Administrative Board is the administrative body of the new Federal Marketing Order for red tart cherries. Appointments to the Board were recently confirmed by the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture. (See last month's MICHIGAN FARM NEWS for names.)

As we went to press this month the Cherry Administrative Board planned to hold its first meeting Monday, March 29 in Detroit. The business of the first meeting was expected to deal primarily with the organization of the board and the selection of a chairman.

The board would also initiate operational procedures for administering the cherry marketing order. All tart cherry growers and handlers will need to follow the procedures established by the

MARKETING AND COMMODITIES

DR. SWANK ADDRESSES MACMA

"The power of agriculture must be harnessed — everyone related to agriculture — all harnessed together," said Dr. C. William Swank, Exec. V. P., Ohio Agricultural Marketing Association, in his address at the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) annual meeting held in Grand Rapids February 26.

Dr. Swank echoed the words of Elton R. Smith, president of MFB and its affiliate company MACMA, as well as those of Dr. Kenneth Hood, American Agricultural Marketing Association.

The occasion was the annual meetings of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) and MACMA, two Michigan Farm Bureau affiliated companies.

The MACMA president, a Caledonia dairy farmer said, "Michigan communities cannot afford to risk their well-being by allowing economically powerful food converters and distributors to exploit agricultural producers. Farmers need legislation which will permit them to bargain collectively for their products. Such legislation should enable producers to cover their increased costs of production and decrease the risk that food scarcity would ever result from the lack of economic incentives to farmers."

Dr. Swank voiced the concerns of thousands of farmers — both in Ohio and Michigan. "What do we have to do, business-wise, as farmers?" asked Dr. Swank. "We have to do our own bargaining, or we'll get the 'business.' 'Bargaining is the way of the future for farmers.'" "We need new legislation now — to help achieve a bargaining position in the business world. Farmers have suffered from 'leave-me-alone-ness' long

MACMA Tart Cherry Task Force Appointed

A task force of over 150 cherry grower members of the MACMA Red Tart Cherry Division was recently activated by the MACMA Cherry Marketing Committee chairman with assistance from other committeemen. The task force was appointed to assist the committee in the sign-up of new members in the division.

Five task force meetings were held in various locations throughout the cherry producing area during late March. The task force members accepted the challenge to substantially expand the division's membership. The division currently represents approximately 45% of the tart cherry production in Michigan. The Marketing Committee's goal is to represent over 70% of the tart cherry production well in advance of the 1971 harvest.

Early success stories of the task force would indicate that the membership goal can be realized.

Additional functions of the task force will be to assist in processor visitation and to serve as a liaison between the members of the Red Tart Cherry Division and their Marketing Committee.

Cherry Administrative Board; of course, it is important that all cherry producers and handlers know the operational procedures.

enough. Farmers need to take advantage of a grab-it-and-growl situation to get a share of the world."

Committees Report Operations

The members at the annual meetings received management reports from MACMA's nine marketing divisions. Policies and operation of each division are controlled by marketing committees. Each committee chairman gave a report for his committee.

Those reporting for their respective divisions were: Merlin C. Hauch and George Stover, processing apple division; John Babcock, grape division; P. C. Morrison Jr., red tart cherry division; Harold L. Fox, multi-fruit division; Harry A. Foster, processing vegetable division; Alton C. Wendzel, asparagus division; Donald Hower, feeder pig division; William D. Byrum, order buyer division; and Robert McCrory, feeder cattle division.

General manager of MACMA, Robert E. Braden, noted that three divisions were giving their first annual report. The multi-fruit division, the order buyer division and the feeder cattle division have all organized and begun operations within the past year.

Directors Elected

Directors were elected to two Michigan Farm Bureau companies at their annual meetings, February 26, in Grand Rapids.

Tom Greiner, Hart vegetable grower and Gordon Andrews, Upper Peninsula beef farmer, were elected to one-year terms on the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association board of directors at its tenth annual meeting and marketing conference. Donald Barden, South Haven fruit grower, was reelected to the board. Other board members are Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, president; Kenneth Bull, Bailey, vice-president; William Wilkinson, secretary; Dean Pridgeon, Montmorency; David Morris, Grand Ledge and Harvey Leuenberger, Saginaw. Other board members are Eugene Roberts, Lake City; Walter Frahm, Frankenmuth and Calvin Lutz, Kaleva. Robert E. Braden is general manager.

At the fifth annual meeting of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA), Leslie Dowd, Hartford fruit farmer, was elected to this board. Paul Button, Farmington, was reelected. Elton Smith is president; Kenneth Bull, vice-president and William Wilkinson, secretary. Also on the board is Calvin Lutz, Kaleva. Robert Braden is general manager and Merrill J. Buschlen, operations manager.

MASA's operation manager Merrill Buschlen, told the annual meeting that a lack of farm labor laws lets unions force farm workers into membership. Buschlen said that the public is apathetic; that it needs to become concerned about possible interruptions in growing, handling and marketing farm products. MASA, supported by Farm Bureau, favors legislation to provide for fair rules of conduct in farm labor-management issues.

NEW TO MACMA



ROBERT W. McCRORY . . . Dafter, (Chippewa county) beef cattle and Arabian horse farmer, is the new MACMA Livestock Field Representative. The appointment, announced by Robert Braden, MACMA manager, was effective March 1. Mr. McCrory has served as Chairman of the Feeder Cattle Marketing committee, a member of the Livestock committee and the State Affairs committee. He has a BS degree from MSU and graduate credits from U. of M. "Bob" McCrory has also served as a 4-H Agent and Agr. Agent in Washtenaw county (1961-68) and Co. Ext. Dir. in Chippewa co., 1968-1970. The McCrorys live on a 935 acre farm.

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Where Your Farm Comes First
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Discussion Topic

FARM LABOR

By GARY A. KLEINHENN
Director, Educational Research

- **Legislation**
- **Unionization**
- **Alternatives for farmers**

Unions hold the most potent weapon in the farm unionization struggle. Farmers are vulnerable to undue pressure through the use of secondary boycotts which block farm products from sale at retail outlets. Under national law affecting unions, secondary boycotts are outlawed, but in agriculture there is an absence of any such laws. And until guidelines come, union organizers will hold the edge in the tug of war to control the farm. Their action, therefore, can continue to cause havoc among the industry and force workers into compulsory unionism without the freedom to choose for themselves.

The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee spearheaded by Cesar Chavez and the funds of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. are fresh with victory in the California grape vineyards. They've taken their campaign to the California lettuce fields and currently are bogged down in a squabble with the Teamsters Union in arguing who will have the greater power to unionize the lettuce farms. Despite this slowdown, however, union packed lettuce is on the retail market, and onlooking farmers cannot rest easy thinking the two unions will offset the other. The tactics of union organizers will continue to be used and until equitable guidelines are passed the farmer and the farm laborer are handcuffed in the face of the union push.

Farmers are moving as best they can to gather support for legislation. Previous bills have died, but it is reported that the administration will soon propose a farm labor bill.

When and what it will contain is still in the guess-timate stage. On the other hand, introduction of a bill does not make a law. Long debate could be expected, and since it is predicted that a bipartisan vote will be needed for passage, further complication could set in. For instance, the A.F.L.-C.I.O., a powerful lobbying group, cannot be expected to push for legislation since its puppet U.F.W.O.C. has met with such success. Yet, politics make strange bed-fellows and any outcome is still up for grabs.

Another alternative for labor guidelines could come from the respective states. Ideally, state legislation takes second place to effective national rules, because unionization will affect all farmers nationwide, whether they farm alone, or have many workers, and it will affect all workers whether they are permanent employees on one farm, or whether workers migrate from farm to farm, or from state to state.

State legislation, therefore, could create a climate for fair labor negotiations in those respective states. Secondly it could spur federal lawmakers onward to see the need for effective national legislation.

Farm Bureau members are actively working for equitable laws governing unionization. Members adopted county, state and national policies at their annual meetings to work vigorously for these goals. Member committees are presently working at all levels to confront the issue. Continued strong farmer support is needed, however.

The Michigan Agricultural Services Association is the Michigan Farm Bureau arm on the labor front. Its services include guidelines to members concerning union efforts and what can be done. Farmers belonging to M.A.S.A. receive leadership through M. J. Buschlen, the Associations operations manager.

Mr. Buschlen offers us greater understanding of the labor issue in the following chronology of labor management and labor union developments and suggests what effect it will have on agriculture, and what farmers can do.

Trade unions began to appear in some large cities in the United States as early as the 1790's.

Management resisted unionization because they feared a loss of their complete autonomy over their employees.

The early unions opposed such practices as imprisonment for debt, favored free schools, and the ten hour day.

Unions Existed Before N.L.R.A.

Clayton Act (1914) was the first major piece of legislation which recognized associations or committees as business entities, instituted for the purpose of mutual help, including such organizations

as farm bureaus and committees or associations representing workers. The law did not require anyone to recognize them or the program they developed. The law simply permitted them to exist. Specifically employers were not required to recognize, committees or unions claiming to represent workers as their bargaining agent.

Many rather large and powerful unions developed by exerting economic pressures upon employers. Strikes, fires, dynamiting, threats and coercions of all types were employed because, no laws existed that established unfair labor practices.

National Legislation Regulating Unions

In 1935 the National Labor Relations Act (N.L.R.A.) came into being designed, to among other things, cause employers to recognize labor organizations as the collective bargaining agent for their members.

In 1947 the N.L.R.A. was amended by the Labor Management Relations (Taft Hartley) Act, to diminish the causes of labor disputes burdening or obstructing interstate and foreign commerce, to create a National Labor Relations Board, and for other purposes.

In 1959 the N.L.R.A. was further amended by the "Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure (Landrum-Griffin) Act, to have the effect of making the unions act in a financially responsible manner with respect to their members, employers and the general public.

The National Labor Relations Board (N.L.R.B.) was created to, among other things, establish rules of conduct, provide for elections and rule on disputes between employers and employees. The decision of the N.L.R.B. have established, among other things, what have become known as unfair labor practices.

Agriculture and agricultural employees have been excluded from the National Labor Relations Act and the N.L.R.B. has no jurisdiction.

The Questions that Need to be Reviewed:

How did it happen, what effect will it have on agriculture as a business and what should agriculture be doing to respond to this new and added dimension to labor management on the farm?

Chavez's United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (U.F.W.O.C.) is forced to operate outside the provisions of the N.L.R.A. and simply falls back on the 1914 legislation which permits them to exist and fight their way to a position of recognition.

U.F.W.O.C. is in a position to use whatever legal means they can develop to pressure growers into recognizing the union and signing a contract, whether they do or do not in fact represent all the workers.

Chavez obtained financing for his movement from several different unions, various social agencies and church groups.

In the beginning there was very little reaction on the part of agriculture to this financial support. However during the last two years an effort was made by agricultural interest to point out that church monies were being misused by Chavez.

Chavez and his organization dredged up some of the worst living conditions that he could find, or fake, and claimed that these conditions represented the living conditions of all workers.

Agricultural interests countered with as much information as possible to prove the fallacy of the information and to present the constructive work which had been done to alleviate the poor living conditions among the migrant workers.

Cesar Chavez obtained personal exposure over nationwide television and radio programs.

Farmers and farmers' representatives refuted his arguments through the news media and by any other means possible pointing out that his statements were based upon distorted facts, innuendoes, half truths and untruths.

During this period which began in 1963 Cesar Chavez was winning the sympathy of the general public for the plight of the migrant workers.

Agricultural interests were hopeful that the general public would see that the issues had been inaccurately stated and that the methods used were unethical and were hopeful that the workers would not sign union contracts with Chavez's union.

Chavez attempted to sign workers into his union. Agricultural interests pointed out that through 1967 less than 2,000 workers had been signed into union membership and therefore Chavez did not truly represent farm workers.

However, it should be noted that U.F.W.O.C. does not need to show membership strength. The present law under which they operate permits the organization (U.F.W.O.C.) to exist and it is up to the organization to find ways to be recognized as an organization.

The grape boycott was begun as a means of putting economic pressure on the employers.

In the name of Social Justice the public responded by supporting the grape boycott. The pronouncements by clergy, politicians and ordinary people that the grape workers were suffering at the hands of greedy land owners.

For about five years, the retail stores, principally supermarkets, have been the focal point of the grape boycott. Many stores that sold grapes had pickets in front of their stores, leaflets were passed out hinting at poisonous pesticides on grapes being sold, sit-ins inside stores, pray-ins, merchandise damaged or destroyed. It is reported some congressmen wrote to retailers condemning them for selling grapes.

Retail stores and many chains succumbed to these pressures and the sale of grapes was adversely affected in many areas.

Growers attempted to find new markets but eventually the pressure became too great. Some contracts have now been signed.

A final blow was dealt by lending institutions when they reminded farmers "you can't pay debts with rotten grapes. Better sign whatever they ask and get your notes paid."

What Effect will Unionization Efforts under the Present System have on Agriculture as a Business?

It is difficult to predict with certainty the ultimate changes which will occur in agriculture. However, there are some rather obvious actions and reactions which will continue to occur until U.F.W.O.C. and all other agricultural labor unions are brought under the controls of legislation.

What has happened to grapes (boycott) can happen to almost any other food product. It is now happening in lettuce.

Farm workers will be forced into union membership without benefit of free elections.

The cost of production will increase.

Capital in the form of mechanical devices will be substituted for hand labor if and when the crop will yield to the machines.

Some crops will diminish in acreage grown, some may even disappear entirely.

Imports of certain food products will probably increase.

The value of farm family labor will increase. This will hasten the shift to, two general types of farm operations. Namely small family operations with little or no hired labor and large operations which can manage to take advantage of the benefit of the economy of size.

What Effect will Unionization Efforts have on Agriculture when Legislation is Enacted to Regulate Unions Representing Farm Workers?

Production cost will increase, and more emphasis will be given to mechanization.

Farmers may still be frustrated and angry but it will be possible to negotiate labor contracts with some degree of equity between employers and employees.

Farmers will probably become more aware of the value of strong united bargaining associations for obtaining reasonable and profitable returns at the farm prices for the products they produce.

What can Farmers do to meet this New Dimension in Labor Management?

Farmers should recognize that the unionization of some farm workers is inevitable.

Farmers should begin to study union contracts and become familiar with the bargaining process. We fear most those things we are not familiar with and most farmers have refused to become concerned about union labor contracts.

Farmers should vigorously push for national legislation that permits the unionization of farm workers under rules which develop equity and a balance of power between employers and employees.

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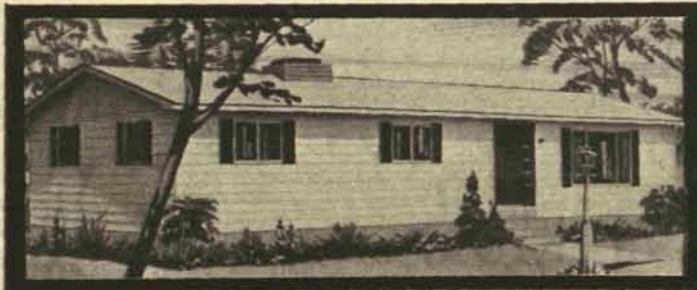


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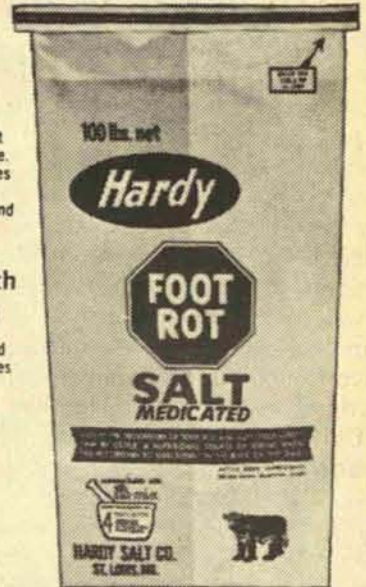
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