

# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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

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THE NEW **AGE**

May 1



**MICHIGAN WEEK  
MAY 15-22**

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## EDITORIAL . . .



## Farmer's Image?

Our society today is image conscious. We all tend to worry about what the other person thinks of us and what we are doing, and with good reason.

You can pick up just about any newspaper or magazine and read how some company or organization is trying to build a new image.

Farmers have the same concern and must strive to create a good image to gain acceptance by consumers of the food they produce. Farmers feed the nation, and yet they have been caught in a cross fire of controversy over use of chemicals such as pesticides which are indispensable to high food production.

Each time there is an investigation or a "sensational" news report about food, consumers of today become more alarmed and worried about the safeness of the food they eat. The farmers' image is under attack. When it is reported that a foreign country will not buy U. S. beef because producers use hormones in its production, the consumer wonders about the safeness of this meat. The farmers' image is questioned. When mercury is reported to be found in fish, the consumer doubts the safeness of food. The farmers' image is diminished. The use of pesticides in raising vegetables tends to cause fear in the consumer that may enjoy eating a salad. The farmers' image is at stake.

Today's consumer holds many misconceptions about the farmer; what he is or is not adding to or spraying on food, and how he is producing it.

Today, one man in agriculture can feed himself and 46 others. Even as the need for more food is being predicted as our population increases, agriculturists are facing many more restrictions in the development and use of agricultural chemicals. It has been reported that it now costs between \$3 and \$5 million to develop and register a new compound. Crop production has increased from 20 to 30 percent in the past 30 years. The judicious use of chemicals in agriculture has greatly assisted this increase in production.

The federal government assures consumers safe food and is assisted by many state agencies in providing adequate protection.

Many consumer questions are answered by Dr. Charles E. Edwards, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration in an exclusive interview reported in the April 19, 1971, U.S. News and World Report article "How Safe Is Your Food?" Following are excerpts from that interview:

*Q. How widespread are pesticide residues in food? A. This varies according to the type of pesticide you are talking about. By and large, though, our monitoring of the U. S. food supply shows that pesticide residues have been falling within the tolerances that we have established. Periodically we find residues that are in excess of acceptable levels, but, at this time, there are no immediate problem areas.*

*Q. Have pesticide residues in food caused any deaths? A. Not to my knowledge.*

*Q. Should Americans worry more about the safety of the food they eat and the pills they take? A. I don't think they need to worry. I think that they should continue to insist that we have a strong, potent Food and Drug Administration—that we have a strong, potent Environmental Protection Agency. If the U. S. has this assurance, then the American consumer doesn't need to worry about his food and his drugs and product safety.*

Consumers of today buy more than food when they shop at the food store—they buy health, energy, enjoyment, convenience and safety.

Carl Kentner

## May Is Moving Month

The new Farm Bureau Center, located at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, is nearing completion and occupancy will be the later part of May.

The new structure will be the home of Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Services, Farmers Petroleum Co-operative, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, Michigan Agricultural Services Association, and the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives.

The three-story building has a brown brick exterior and contains 114,000 square feet of floor space. The interior is decorated in eye pleasing earth tones with wood-grain partitions. In addition to office facilities, the new Center contains a lunch room for the convenience of employees.

An "open house" is being planned for mid-July in order to give all Farm Bureau members, customers and the public an opportunity to visit the new facility. The official dedication ceremony, tours, refreshments, and displays will highlight the day's program.

Farm Bureau Life, one of four firms which comprise Farm Bureau Insurance Group, is financing the project. Michigan Farm Bureau will direct building management and maintenance.

## REVIEW OF NEW FARM TRUCK DRIVER RULES

"The petition of the American Farm Bureau Federation has been submitted and is receiving careful consideration. Representatives of the Federation and Department officials have scheduled a meeting for April 1, 1971 to resolve any difficulties."

Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Congressmen and a number of Michigan farmers have received copies of a letter carrying this information from Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

The AFBF petition asked for consideration of needed changes in the regulations which had been issued by the Department of Transportation covering farm truck drivers. The regulations were ordered to become effective January 1, 1971. Farm Bureau had urged a suspension to permit hearings to be held on the drastic changes ordered by the Department.

### RULES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1971

Secretary Volpe's letter continued — "The present suspension of certain rules will expire on July 1, 1971, however, we are confident that the problems will be resolved in the best interest of safety of America's farmers and the motoring public."

The scheduled meeting was chaired by Dr. Robert Kaye, director of the Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety. Dr. Kaye indicated a willingness to take steps to exempt pickups and other small trucks with a gross weight of not more than 10,000 pounds. Other recommendations were discussed but no assurance was given that they would be considered favorably. There will, however, be further discussions and the door was not closed.

Of critical importance to farmers is the local hauling of farm products in trucks larger than the 10,000 pound gross weight. Farm Bureau is asking that local hauling be interpreted to be a radius of at least 100 miles from the farm.

### SAFETY RECORDS GOOD

No safety problem is at stake. Farm Bureau has offered facts to indicate that drivers 16-21 years of age can, and do, safely engage in the transportation of farm products.

"There is no information whatsoever to indicate that the safety record of farm boys under 21 driving trucks is poorer than that of other drivers." High school and college students make up the best and most competent part of the farm labor force. They should not be denied the kind of employment for which they are well qualified.

Farm Bureau is asking the Department of Transportation to consider completely lifting the limitation on interstate drivers from 18 years and up.

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## Positive Labor Proposal



When State Rep. Dennis O. Cawthorne (R-Manistee) publically announced he would introduce legislation extending the rights and responsibilities of collective bargaining and unionization to state agriculture, workers may not have known it but he also challenges all of agriculture, both farmers and workers, to fully understand the worthwhile contribution his action can effect.

Some key points to consider are:

- the right of farm workers to organize into labor unions of their own choosing and through them to engage in collective bargaining with farm owners

- the right of farm owners to manage, control, and conduct their own operations

- that it be unlawful to strike in agricultural labor disputes

- the right of either farm owner or farm employee to seek and obtain compulsory and binding arbitration as an alternative to the strike

- a ban on secondary boycotts of agricultural products

- creation of a five-man Agricultural Labor Relations Board within the State Department of Labor, to administer the new law

- a listing of unfair agricultural labor practices, with power in the Agricultural Labor Relations Board to obtain appropriate relief.

Rep. Cawthorne's action of meeting up to this agricultural bottleneck, cannot be estimated as anything less than courageous. Being recognized as a vanguard for orderly progress, Rep. Cawthorne was saluted by the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors. In mid April, the board released this written statement:

"We commend the courageous leadership of Representative Dennis O. Cawthorne, of Manistee, for his introduction of realistic agricultural labor legislation. Representative Cawthorne's approach indicates his understanding of the special problems in agriculture and the fact that separate legislation is necessary.

"His proposed legislation recognizes the rights of farm workers to organize and engage in collective bargaining if they so choose and also the rights of farm owners to manage their farm businesses. His proposal further recognizes the rights of the consumer to an uninterrupted supply of wholesome food products.

"The proposed alternative to strikes at harvest time and the banning of secondary boycotts of agricultural products recognizes that such techniques can result in economic disaster for both farm owners and farm workers and increased prices to consumers.

"The failure of Congress to act on this important agricultural issue, makes it necessary that the Legislature consider the merits of setting fair and equitable guidelines for special agricultural labor relations legislation."

The bill is closely in line with recommendations adopted by the delegates at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual convention last fall. We find Rep. Cawthorne's move commendable and a prime example of the action all agriculture needs. A portion of 1971 MFB Labor Policy concurs:

"We encourage members of the Legislature and leaders in agencies of government to be informed of the true agricultural labor situations so that understanding, reason and knowledge of the farm labor system and the agricultural situation, will guide the development of legislation and implementation of programs dealing with farming and farm labor."

Because this proposal can be so significant to agriculture, I encourage all farmers to talk over the different points of the bill with your farming neighbors.

Elton R. Smith



# FARM BUREAU IN ACTION . . .

# Notes From All Over . . .



## RECEIVES AWARD . . .

RECEIVES AWARD — Donald Armstrong (left), executive vice president of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum, Lansing, received an Outstanding Alumni Award during the Michigan State University Agricultural Technology Alumni Association annual banquet on the MSU campus March 24. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong accepted a token of the award from Dr. Harold Ecker, director of MSU's Institute of Agricultural Technology. Armstrong, a 1950 graduate of the elevator and farm supply short course at MSU, was recognized for his success in management.

## N.W. Region Membership Champ



AN AWARD . . . for signing up the most Farm Bureau members in the N. W. Region was presented at the Barnyard Bash to Mr. and Mrs. Garrit Drenth, Antrim county. Mr. Drenth was membership chairman. Dick Wieland, Dist. 10 Director, attended the March 13 event.

## Past Young Farmer Chm. Honored



STATE YOUNG FARMER CHAIRMAN . . . Karl Howard (right) and Mrs. Howard (center) Marlette were presented with gifts by the MFB Board of Directors at a recent board meeting, recognizing them for their many contributions to the program. Pres. Elton Smith (left) made the presentation and thanked the Howards for their many hours of dedicated service. David Diehl, Dansville, is the 1971 state YF chairman.

## NEW FFA PRESIDENT

Joe Fabian, senior at Coopersville High School and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe S. Fabian, was elected state president of the FFA at the annual FFA convention in late March.



JOE FABIAN

He will guide the nearly 10,000 blue jacketed FFA members for 1971, taking over the reins from John D. Young of Harbor Beach.

Joe's supervised agriculture program, under FAA Instructor Roger Peacock, includes swine, beef and corn. He is a member of Farm Bureau, a member of the county Young Farmer committee and was a delegate to the 1970 MFB sponsored Citizenship Seminar. At high school, he has served on the FFA Community Service, Leadership, State and National FFA committees, is a member of the Honor Society and Student Council in addition to several extra-curricular activities.

Joe plans to attend Grand Valley State College and take Pre-law.

## HEALTH CARE SURVEY RESULTS

What kind of a health care plan would you prefer? This was the basic question asked of over 2,000 Farm Bureau members in a survey distributed last February by Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

The survey was designed, primarily, to determine which of three proposed plans members would prefer. Because all respondents remained anonymous, it was impossible to reply to the questions asked by some replying to the survey. Please contact your County Farm Bureau Secretary, if you desire an answer. Participants were chosen utilizing a scientific sampling method designed to cover all areas of the state in an effort to obtain a good representative cross section of Farm Bureau members.

The three plans described in the survey included the following types of coverage:

A. The present plan which includes an optional \$50.00 deductible, hospital program with comprehensive Blue Shield or doctors coverage available primarily in the hospital and the out-patient department. No share-the-cost on contract benefits.

B. An alternate plan which provided the same benefits as Plan A but with the member paying the first \$50.00 on each adult hospital admission and 20% of all doctors benefits under the contract.

C. An alternate plan providing the same benefits as Plan B, but with a supplementary coverage giving unlimited hospital coverage and including a major medical type coverage in which the member pays \$100.00 deductible and a 20% co-insurance amount.

The alternate programs, which stressed share-the-cost features, represented a reduction in monthly rates of from 21% on a family for Plan B, to 16% for Plan C, in comparison to the rate for comprehensive semi-private family coverage under Plan A.

Of those individuals surveyed, we received almost double the number of responses necessary for an accurate analysis of the members. The results indicated that 97.7% of those surveyed wished to remain with the present program.

Due in part to the results of this survey, the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors decided to remain with the present Blue Cross and Blue Shield program. However, it should be stressed that Michigan Farm Bureau will continue to study alternative programs and when an acceptable plan becomes available, it will be offered to all members.

Henry Gleason, president of Kalamazoo Milk Producers Cooperative, was appointed to the Mich. Milk Producers Cooperative Board of Directors as the KMPC's representative. Mr. Gleason is active in the Michigan Farm Bureau, Grange, Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc., Mich. Animal Breeders Cooperative and the Michigan Livestock Exchange. He and a son, Jim, farm 780 acres and milk 152 registered Holsteins. His appointment is in effect until after the 1973 annual meeting. Art Lucas, Coopersville, was also elected to the MMPA as director-at-large for a three year term. He is active in Farm Bureau, Mich. Animal Breeders Cooperative, Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc. and is a member of other farm related groups. Mr. Lucas succeeds Max I. Graybiel of Capac.

Farm Bureau Insurance Group will receive the George Washington Honor Medal Award for the third consecutive year, recognizing the organization for its sponsorship of patriotic-theme essay contests. The Honorable John R. Dethmers, former Michigan Supreme Court Justice and a member of the Freedoms Foundation Trustees, will present the award to Nile Vermillion, F.B. Insurance Group Executive Vice-president, at a later date.

Earl Burtch has been appointed acting manager of Farm Bureau Services, Sterling Branch. The appointment was effective March 29. Earl has been employed at the Sterling Branch since 1968 as assistant manager and mill operator.

Saginaw County Young Farmers met recently in Saginaw, with 70 young couples attending. Howard Ebenhoeh, Saginaw County FB president and John Spero welcomed the guests. Speakers at the event were Larry Ewing, MFB, and YF State Chairman David Diehl. Saginaw County YF chairman Clifton Compton challenged the Young Farmers with "You people here today will be governing Farm Bureau in the near future and should become active in the development of Farm Bureau policy now." Mr. Diehl told the Young Farmers that "young people bring new ideas thus they can make Farm Bureau the kind of organization under which they themselves and future generations can successfully produce food and fibre for our nation."

Three Farm Bureau Services Retail Division personnel have made position changes, according to John Williamson. Lee Worley, assistant manager of the St. Johns Cooperative Company, will assume the management responsibilities of Kent County Farm Bureau effective May 10. Lee is an MSU elevator and farm supply short course graduate and has completed one year in veterinary medicine. The Worley's will move to the Kent City area soon.

El Crane, long time employee of Kent City Farm Bureau, is leaving the field of management but will remain at Kent City.

Ron Myers, manager of the Mt. Pleasant Branch of Farm Bureau Services, has left this position and is now with the Breckenridge Branch of Farmers Petroleum. Ron has been with FBS for eight years. He and his family will continue to live in Shepherd.

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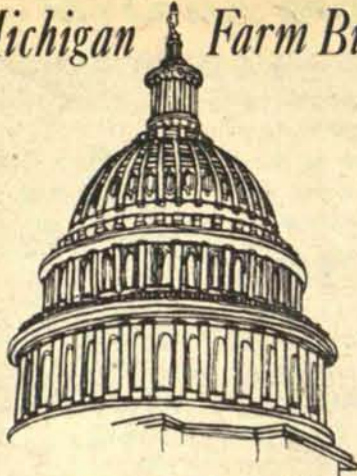
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STATEWIDE CONSTRUCTION

Non-profit organizations who wish information to develop group housing, please write the above address.



Michigan Farm Bureau



# CAPITOL REPORT

by

ROBERT E. SMITH

The list of bills being introduced is growing rapidly. During the last two year session of the legislature, out of over 7,000 bills, resolutions etc., Farm Bureau kept a list of more than 1,100 that affected farmers and rural areas in one way or another. Already this year, there are nearly 600 bills introduced that either directly or indirectly affect farmers and rural areas.

Within a recent two or three day period, major proposals were made directly affecting agriculture. For example —

## GOVERNOR MILLIKEN RECOMMENDED COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF PROPERTY TAXES FOR SCHOOL OPERATION

The Governor's special message on "equity in taxation" and "excellence in education" have been fairly well publicized. They are far-reaching, complete and complex. He did not suggest halfway measures. In the area of school finance reform, he called for complete elimination of the property tax for operation purposes, to be accomplished through a constitutional amendment in the fall of this year, 1971, and in the same amendment reduce constitutional limits on property taxes (now 50 mills) so that any relief would not be lost through increases in other property taxes. (It would be presumably possible to cut the constitutional limit down to as low as 25 or 30 mills.)

He recognized the growing taxpayer resistance as school operation millages continue to fail in many areas. He also specifically mentioned that the property tax falls heavily on farmers as well as certain people in other areas of the economy, such as senior citizens and other low income groups.

He did provide that even if total operation millage is repealed a district could vote millage up to a maximum of six mills. Such money, however, is to be limited only for "enrichment" of the school program, such as curriculum improvement, more courses and more teachers, but not to supplement salaries. He also insists that such millage be equalized in such a manner that each mill, wherever levied, would produce the same amount of money.

He made it very clear that such property tax relief would result in over \$1.1 billion (\$618 million on individual property taxes; \$500 million on business.) Such a loss could be made up by a 2.3 percent increase in the state income tax on individuals. To replace the revenue lost from business, he recommended a "value added tax" (VAT) of two percent. It is said that to make up the equivalent from the business income tax would mean rates as high as 20 percent. A true value added tax has been used in European countries, but has received little or no use in this country. Michigan's Business Activities Tax, which was repealed as part of tax reform in 1967, was a combination of the VAT and other tax factors and was considered to be a difficult tax because it was paid even though there might be no profit.

The Farm Bureau Board of Directors, in session at the time the Governor announced his program, passed a resolution commending the Governor on his leadership in presenting a "broad and comprehensive educational reform program, and supported the opportunity for the voters of the state to make "any necessary constitutional changes at a special election in 1971." They further urged "immediate legislative action on educational finance reform." The statement made it clear that "the income tax is a more equitable method of taxation and should be the major source of school financing." Also, that Farm Bureau supports "the elimination of the property tax as nearly as possible as a means of financing our school systems" because "property taxation has become confiscatory on farmers and many others in our state." The Board's statement also pointed out that "educational finance reform must be given the highest priority."

The VAT that is recommended is being studied very carefully to determine whether it will apply to farmers or only to corporate-type businesses. The Governor's staff has not yet decided on the extent of this new tax. It could well be that if it applies to farmers it could be a tax burden that might wipe out much of the benefit gained from the elimination of part of the property tax.

There are a total of 15 general proposals on education as summarized by the Governor. Many of them are in direct relation to Farm Bureau policies on educational reform and finance reform.

It is easy for any individual to support elimination of the property tax for school purposes, but it becomes more difficult for an individual to determine whether he likes the steps that are necessary to replace such large amounts of revenue. A complete proposal, such as the Governor's, brings these problems into sharp focus. There will be, no doubt, many compromises. The Governor's program recognizes some of the ideas promoted by Representative Roy Spencer and many others and also the taxation petition idea promoted by Representative Roy Smith.

The entire program does challenge the legislature to action and makes it more likely that some kind of program will pass and will be more equitable than the present system of financing schools. Farm Bureau members must be alert to the individual portions of any program as to their total affect on agriculture and rural areas.

## "GREEN ACRES" TAX ASSESSMENT REFORM

With the possibility of major legislative action on school finance reform, some now say that H.B. 4100 and S.B. 130, which require assessment of farmland on the basis for that use rather than potential values, may not be necessary. This is not true. It is a separate and distinct problem and should be dealt with by passage of legislation. Even with significant school tax reform, farmers in many areas could still be in a position of paying higher and higher taxes due to spiraling assessments on their land based on potential values. Thus, forcing, through the power of taxation, prime farmland out of production and eliminating a basic natural resource.

The number of states taking action on this issue continues to grow. For instance, Virginia's Governor has just signed a bill similar to the New Jersey program, the legislatures in the states of New York, New Hampshire and Maine are considering such legislation and the number of states that have acted now total about 25.

## FARM LABOR

Representative Dennis Cawthorne (R-Manistee), in a most courageous demonstration of leadership, announced that he would introduce agricultural labor legislation, recognizing the rights of farm owners, workers and consumers. The comprehensive proposal, among other things, would ban the insidious and vicious secondary boycott. For further information see the President's Column in this issue.

There are at least 30 other labor bills in the legislature that could affect farmers directly or indirectly. They range from elimination of some of the exemptions in the Workmen's Compensation Act to increasing the minimum wage and bringing agriculture under some of the industrial-type labor legislation. For instance, one bill in the House, H.B. 4397, introduced by Mrs. Elliott (D-Detroit) and

David S. Holmes, Jr. (D-Detroit) would bring farm labor under provisions of the Employment Security Act. On the other hand, in the Senate, another bill, S.B. 93, introduced by Robert Davis (R-Gaylord) and Oscar Bouwsma (R-Muskegon), would definitely remove agricultural labor from under the coverage of the Employment Security Act.

An Attorney General's opinion, requested by Senator Plawewski (D-Dearborn), definitely permits "representatives of public and private organizations to enter and remain upon the premises of an agricultural labor camp for the purpose of visiting and associating with migrant agricultural workers . . ." without violating the trespass laws. This has been a controversial issue and the subject of some court action. It should be pointed out, however, that the worker also has the right of a tenant and can request any such people to leave if he so desires. The opinion apparently does not permit such visitation to the fields, but only to the licensed camp.

A workmen's compensation case now in the courts may bring farm employees paid on a piece rate basis under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act. A federal action was brought against the State of Michigan Labor Department. It has been transferred and is presently pending before the Michigan Court of Appeals.

## STATE-LOCAL TAX SHARING

The Governor, in his Economic Report, proposed a form of state-local revenue sharing, to apply only to certain revenues now shared with cities, villages and townships. They will receive this year an estimated \$138.3 million in unrestricted shared revenue, amounting to about \$15.63 for each resident. In 1969, 180 of the 1,248 townships did not levy a property tax (state aid apparently was sufficient), 239 levied less than one mill and 428 levied extra voted millage. It is said that townships, as a group, receive \$1.10 state aid for each dollar of locally-raised revenue. Cities and villages, as a group, receive 17 cents in state aid for each dollar of local revenue.

A formula has been proposed to determine the relative tax efforts by the local unit in relation to the tax efforts of all local units, meaning that a local unit of government, township, etc., making a tax effort greater than the state average would receive more money; those making less than the average would receive less money per person. For example, in 1971-72, the per person amount of state revenue from the income and intangibles taxes for townships, villages and cities was \$5.59 per person. A local unit with a tax effort twice the state average would receive that times two, or \$11.18 per person, and a local unit with a tax effort half the state average would receive \$2.79 per person. Local units would continue to receive an estimated \$12.36 per person from the sales tax, which is mandated by the constitution. It is provided that local governments will receive at least as much aid in future years as they received in 1970-71 from these particular taxes.

The effect is to give Detroit an estimated \$14.3 million more in 1971-72. Several other cities, such as Lansing, would receive over \$200,000 additionally, and others over \$100,000.

While it is true that some townships may have more than adequate money, others are struggling and in others redistribution would have little effect. Farm Bureau's position is that this concept cannot be supported at this time, as it does not take into consideration the fact that many townships, based on income ability, would be unable to increase taxes to qualify for full state sharing. Another factor is that in many cases townships are in the process of a rapid growth and may need a continuation of present systems of distribution.

## ENVIRONMENT

Farm Bureau has testified on two bills, one in the Senate and one in the House, providing for the eventual ban of phosphates in detergents. Farm Bureau pointed out that dairy farmers and other food processors must use phosphate-type detergents at least until other alternatives are available. The only other alternatives known at the present time are considered to be hazardous to health. (See the second part of the three-part series on Agriculture and Environmental Concern elsewhere in this issue.)



### A Minute With Maxine . . .

Spring! Yes, isn't the first green of spring a welcome sight after the grey and black of winter? Humming tractors are a common sound these days as the fields turn to a rich golden brown. Busy days are here, but let's not be too busy to exercise safety. Safety in the use of farm machinery, behind the wheel on the highway or in the sun, yes, the sun can cause severe burn when our skin is not conditioned. So take it easy when you are out in the sun.

It's time for roadside pickup or cleanup. After the snow melts, we find quite a collection of cans and bottles along our roadsides and they aren't pretty, so let's pick them up. It might even save a repair to a tractor tire.

Are you planning something special for Michigan Week? I hope so. I attended a meeting of the Michigan Week Committee recently and in my packet of materials, I found this poem. I would like to share it with you.

#### THE MIRACLE OF MICHIGAN

The story is old of how, long ago, shortly after the world began God looked down and smiled on a special place, for He had a wonderful plan.

He had given to all the nations on earth the finest of scenery; To some He gave mountains, to others great plains, to many a giant sea.

There were fertile farm lands, and forests and hills, and lovely rivers and lakes

Spread in vast panorama across the world — and God smiled at the beauty it makes.

But while He was putting each scene on its spot, His loving Hand touched a place

And there, just beyond, on a point of land, His scepter rested its base.

'Twas exactly the place He wanted to pause, in the midst of the world He'd planned,

And this site was blessed more than all the rest — for it bore the print of His Hand.

He had touched His world in this one dear space; and this is how it began

That the best of all places on earth should be our state of Michigan.

In this one fine state He'd concentrate a bit of all He'd done.

There'd be shifting dunes on the sandy shores like the deserts under His sun;

There'd be sparkling streams like miniatures of the giant rivers He'd formed,

And firm, rich land to grow the plants that weather and sunshine warmed.

There'd be lakes and mountains and forests great to beckon vacationing man —

And everything found in one bright place — our state of Michigan!

So the story goes on the miracle that made the state we love; For it's blessed each day in a special way when God smiles down from above.

The print of His Hand still stretches out toward the mark His scepter left;

And around the two, the Great Lakes lie in the hollows He had cleft.

He favored our state with the best of all when He carried out His plan.

To leave His print for the world to see in our state of Michigan.

Marian Benedict Manwell

Happy Michigan Week! Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

### Spring District Meeting



NEARLY 80 MEMBERS . . . attended the MFB State Women's District V Spring meeting held in Corunna in mid-April. John Williamson (seated center) FBS Retail Div., was the morning speaker and Arden Peterson, MSU Extension Service, was the afternoon speaker. Visiting with Mr. Williamson are, seated (L to R) Mrs. Maud Britton and Mrs. Maxine Topliff, State Chairman. Standing, (L to R) Mrs. Marion Sutton and Mrs. Esther Seamans.

### John Spero To Young Farmer Committee

John A. Spero of Birch Run has been appointed by President Elton Smith to represent District 8 on the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee. John and his wife Dianne operate a 325 acre farm in Saginaw County.

The M.F.B. Young Farmer Committee has announced its program plans for the year which include the selection of a young lady as the Michigan Farm Bureau Queen, a "Discussion Meet," and a new program — the selection of an Outstanding Young Farm Family.

Each county Farm Bureau is encouraged to enter one queen contestant in the state contest which will be held in November at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting. Contestants may be single or married and must be at least 17 years of age and not have passed her 31st birthday. All contestants must be Farm Bureau members, or if younger than 21 years of age, parents must be members.

The Discussion Meet affords young, active farmers the opportunity to exchange ideas and information in an effort to solve problems. Topics at the district and state contests will deal with Michigan Farm Bureau policy in the areas of agricultural labor, taxation, land use and agriculture and the environment.

The selection of an Outstanding Young Farmer Family will be made at the M.F.B. annual meeting. Any Farm Bureau member family actively farming, the husband being no more than 30 years of age as of December 31, 1971, is eligible.

### Queen Judy in Miss Michigan Contest



Michigan Farm Bureau's 1971 queen, Judy Behrenwald, has tossed her hat (or crown) into the Miss Michigan pageant circle — hoping to add this star-studded crown to her collection.

Judy, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Behrenwald of Lakeview, Montcalm County Farm Bureau members, is a senior at Michigan State University, and will graduate this spring with a degree in education.

The Montcalm County Farm Bureau Young Farmers are sponsoring Judy's entry into the Miss Michigan contest. The following Montcalm County contributors have aided them in the project:

Farm Bureau Insurance Group, Stanton; Farm Bureau Services, Greenville; Allen's Farm Services, Vickeryville; Farm Bureau Petroleum, Sidney; H. J. Martin Corp., Carson City; Parr & Son Inc., McBride; Jerry's Barber Shop, Edmore; Central Bean & Grain, Carson City; Roy's Bay Service, Edmore; Crooks Farm Power, Edmore; Wilbert Rasmussen & Sons, Edmore; Keith Sackett & Sons, Edmore and Nathan Sackett & Son, Edmore.

Others are: James Quisenberry & Sons, Six Lakes; Leppinks, Lakeview; Herbert Perkins, Edmore; Montcalm Central Bank, Stanton, Edmore, Crystal and Sheridan; Bird Fertilizer Co., Edmore; Lakeview Ford-Mercury Sales & Service, Lakeview; Farmers Elevator, Lakeview; Leo Ervin, Edmore; P.C.A. of Alma, Lakeview; R. & C. C. Bollinger, Lakeview; Smith Hardware, Lakeview; Hyde Equipment, Lakeview; Morse Olds-Pontiac & GMC, Lakeview and Arthur Behrenwald & Sons, Lakeview.



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## AFBF-AAMA Advances Two of Staff



KENNETH HOOD



HAROLD J. HARTLEY

William J. Kuhfuss, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation and the American Agricultural Marketing Association (an affiliate of AFBF) has announced the promotion of two of its staff members, Kenneth Hood and Harold J. Hartley.

Kenneth Hood, general manager of the AAMA since 1966, has been named secretary of market development and research for the AFBF. He was also named to the board of directors of the American Management Board, Inc., a corporate affiliate of the Federation, which has the primary function to coordinate and correlate the activities of business affiliates of the AFBF.

Named to succeed Hood as the AAMA general manager is Harold J. Hartley. Mr. Hartley has served as manager of the AAMA's fruit and vegetable division since January, 1962.

Kenneth Hood taught marketing and farm management at Cornell University (N.Y.), later becoming professor of agricultural economics extension at Penn State. He joined AFBF in 1952, serving the organization in many capacities.

Harold Hartley joined the AFBF staff in 1959. He is a graduate of So. Illinois University, worked with the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, the Illinois Fruit Council and the National Peach Council previous to his AFBF affiliation.

## 1971 FEEDER PIG MARKETING COMMITTEE



NEWLY ELECTED . . . 1971 MACMA Feeder Pig Marketing Committee — seated, l to r — Murray Turnipseed, Kalkaska; Howard Seeley, Lake City; Arden Jenkins, Kalkaska; Duane Stevens, Hillman and William Haas, MACMA Feeder Pig manager. Standing, Donald Hower, Lake City, committee chairman.

## Poultry Commodity Committee



MEMBERS OF THE . . . Poultry Commodity Advisory Committee (with county designation) are seated, left to right, Dan Bushey, Delta county; Bill Byrum, MACMA, secretary; Gene Roberts, Misauke co., MFB board member, chairman; John Eichler, vice-chr., Huron; Charles Zeiler, Hillsdale. Standing, (l to r) are Robert Burke, Mason; Clayton Dick, Monroe; Austin Greenhoe, Montcalm; Alton Fisher, Gratiot; Al Cook, Ingham; Richard Reynnells, Van Buren; Bob Immink, Allegan and Sanford Yeomans, Ionia.

# MARKETING AND COMMODITIES

## MFB SOFT WHEAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



MEMBERS OF THE MFB . . . Soft Wheat Advisory Committee are seated, l to r, Francis Bingham, vice-chairman; George Dammon, Livingston, chairman, and Noel Stuckman, MFB Market Dev. Manager, secretary. Standing, l to r, James Clarke, Eaton; Dean Pridgeon, Branch; Donn Kunz, Michigan Elevator Exchange; Dwaine Voss, Montcalm; Stuart Reinbold, Saginaw and Alton Wattles, Branch county.

## USDA Adopts Poultry Marketing Regulations

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced adoption of poultry marketing regulations which were proposed and published in the Federal Register July 21, 1970, under provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act. They will be effective June 1, 1971.

These regulations are designed as guidelines for packers and live-poultry dealers and handlers in their dealings with poultry farmers.

The regulations are concerned with contracts, accounting, records and weighing of live poultry. They provide that the poultry farmer receive complete disclosure, in writing, of all factors affecting his payments.

Among these, the regulations provide that the farmer must be furnished with:

- (1) A written contract which includes all significant details, including duration, termination conditions, and payment terms; and
- (2) settlement sheets with all information necessary to compute payments due to the grower.

The regulations also require packers, live poultry dealers and handlers to:

- (1) retain for two full calendar years all books, records, and documents involving poultry transactions under the P&S Act;
- (2) use scales for weighing live poultry that are installed, maintained, and operated so as to insure accurate weights; and
- (3) furnish the grower or seller a copy of a scale ticket which contains all required information.

Packers, live poultry dealers and handlers are prohibited from making, issuing, or circulating false or misleading reports concerning live poultry prices or conditions.

These regulations, 201.100 through 201.110, were published in final form in the Federal Register on Jan. 23, 1971. Copies may be obtained from the Information Officer, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Wheat Producers To Receive Final Payment

Members participating in the Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program will receive about 40¢ per bushel final payment on 1970 crop wheat consigned to the program. This settlement will be in addition to the advance payment received at harvest time, which averaged \$1.10 for the state and varied according to the freight rate zone of the participating cooperative elevator that handled the wheat.

Producers will receive for their 1970 crop wheat the highest total amount paid during the four years the Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program has been operating. The harvest time payment was increased 7¢ per bushel over the previous year and was as high as \$1.15½ per bushel in one area of the state. The anticipated 40¢ per bushel final payment exceeds the 25.8¢ per bushel final settlement received by participating producers for their 1969 crop wheat.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Soft Wheat Advisory Committee met recently and recommended that the final payment be made to producers in early May.

The committee concluded that the 1970 crop Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program was the most successful to date and asked that the Program be continued on the same operational basis for the 1971 wheat crop.

Marketing of the Program wheat was conducted by the Grain Department of the Michigan Elevator Exchange. The Michigan Farm Bureau Soft Wheat Advisory Committee, comprised of 11 wheat producers, advised on the operation of the Program and the marketing of Program wheat. Local cooperative elevators throughout the wheat producing areas of Michigan and the Michigan Elevator Exchange terminals received wheat from participating producers. These receiving elevators worked closely with the Exchange and the county Farm Bureau wheat committees.

Producers who were Farm Bureau members and had signed Program agreements were eligible to participate in the Program. They had the options of consigning all, a portion, or none of the wheat to the Program when their wheat crossed the scales at their local cooperative elevator. Producers who were not enrolled in the Program had fewer marketing alternatives.

## MACMA SPRING CATTLE SALE

The MACMA Feeder Cattle Division is expanding its service to members by holding a spring Stocker and Feeder Sale Saturday, May 8, at the MACMA facility in Rudyard. This sale will provide members with a good market for late summer and fall calves which were too young for last fall's sale or for heavier cattle carried through the winter. Many of the cattle have been on roughage and will be in good flesh to go directly to pasture.

Members of the Division are very enthusiastic about the progress being made. At the all-member meeting a month ago, members decided that buyers should be able to obtain members' cattle by three methods of private treaty used in MACMA's previous sales. These methods are (1) contracting for the cattle prior to the sale, (2) ordering by telephone before the sale and (3) buying over the gate on the day of the sale.



# AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

by Albert 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 II of a series to provide members with information on agriculture and environmental concern. Part I of this series was printed in the April issue of Michigan Farm News.

## Why Increase?

A major reason for the animal waste problem is the rapid increase of specialized production units. Herds of livestock, once left to graze over large open areas of land and scatter their wastes naturally, are now confined to feedlots and other minimum space areas. Concentrated livestock systems of this type permit a greater efficiency in animal production. However, these same systems also concentrate large volumes of animal wastes in small areas, which prevents their natural decomposition and assimilation on pastures as is done when animals are more widely dispersed.

It is now commonplace to see swine units marketing 300 to 1500 hogs per year. Poultry operations exceeding 25,000 birds are no longer considered large. Feedlots containing 2,500 steers are increasing in number. Dairy operations with milk cow populations of 50 to 200 are common.

A comparison of the daily waste output per animal unit with that of a human helps to put the animal waste problem into perspective. A cow creates as much waste as 16 people; a horse is equal to 11 people; a hog equals the waste output of two people; waste from a sheep is equal to that of 2.5 people; and approximately nine chickens produce as much solid waste as one person. Demand for a clean environment should make it clear that operation of a livestock system with an animal population producing as much solid waste as a city of 10,000 persons, without an adequate means of managing and disposing of these wastes, may create serious problems.

Within the past year, several court actions have been initiated against Michigan livestock operations on pollution charges. These actions have involved dairy, beef, and swine enterprises. In addition, increasing complaints are being received by pollution agencies citing odors from livestock production units. Most recently, two feedlot operators have been cited for water pollution and ordered to install extensive abatement measures costing several thousand dollars.

Agricultural pollution sources have not yet been subjected to close scrutiny by pollution agencies. Industrial and municipal pollution sources have received most of the attention. However, should agriculture be examined more closely for sources of pollution, livestock operations will likely be first.

## Anti-Pollution Legislation

During the 1969-70 session of the Michigan Legislature, a "landmark" anti-pollution bill was passed. This law could have a significant impact on agriculture.

The Environmental Protection Act of 1970 became effective October 1, 1970. It gives any person or governmental entity a means to sue any other person or government entity who is polluting or is likely to pollute the air, water and other natural resources.

Once a suit has been initiated, the defendant must show he is not polluting or likely to pollute. In effect, this reverses the normal system of jurisprudence in which a person is considered innocent until proven guilty.

Michigan is the first State to enact this concept into law. The net effect of this law could be to turn over to the courts jurisdiction over the environment and attempt to do by court decree what can better be done by an administrative agency.

Farmers, in particular, have reason to be concerned with this law. It can mean interference with the production of food by misinformed and irresponsible people. Many urban developments and private dwellings are springing up around farming operations. It is likely that these farming enterprises will be faced with suits by persons who do not like livestock odors, farm equipment noises, crop and pest sprays, and other factors related to production. Delays in many agricultural production operations could mean the loss of crops and large investments in labor and capital. Grain elevators, processing plants, livestock markets and other agribusiness firms may also experience operating difficulties from this law.

To date, a small but wide array of lawsuits have been filed under the new law. No court decisions have been issued in any of the suits. One of the defendants has challenged the constitutionality of the law. Court rulings in these early suits will undoubtedly determine how extensively individuals and groups will use the Environmental Protection Act of 1970.

## Water Resources Commission

In 1929, the Legislature created the Michigan Stream Control Commission to control water pollution. The Stream Control Commission's authority was strengthened in 1948 and the agency's name changed to the Water Resources Commission (WRC). In 1965, WRC was made a separate Commission within the Department of Natural Resources.

The WRC is the water pollution control agency of Michigan. It is under legislative mandate to protect and conserve the water resources and to have control over the pollution of any water of the State and the Great Lakes.

By law, there are seven members on the WRC. Three are citizens of the state appointed by the Governor with approval of the Senate. One of these members represents conservation interests, one represents industrial management and one represents municipalities. The remaining four members of the Commission are the heads or a representative of the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources and Department of State Highways. Members serve for terms of three years. The Commission meets monthly and publishes complete minutes and actions taken at each meeting. Members of the WRC

receive no salary but are entitled to actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.

The exercise of water pollution control, as well as other water management functions of the WRC, is by Michigan statute, judicial in nature. In effect, the Commission is a court. Before action can be taken it must decide on the basis of facts and proof that pollution, as defined by law, is occurring.

Pollution in Michigan, as defined by the Legislature, is any waste discharge which is or may become injurious to:

- Public health, safety or welfare
- Public water supply
- Recreation
- Fish and wildlife
- Agricultural, industrial and commercial water use
- Value of fish or game
- Aquatic life
- Riparian property

When the WRC finds that pollution is occurring, it issues abatement orders. If abatement orders are not obeyed, legal action is initiated through the Attorney General to seek enforcement in the Circuit Court. Whenever possible, pollution abatement is sought at the staff level by voluntary agreement rather than by a formal abatement order from the WRC. Legislation was enacted in 1970 which makes such voluntary agreements enforceable on the same basis as formal pollution abatement orders.

WRC orders can be appealed to a higher court on the matter of adequacy of pollution proof and validity of procedures.

Water pollution is detected by several means. These include investigation of complaints by trained staff, surveillance of industrial waste discharges, and monitoring of major river mouths,

bathing beaches and interstate waters. The WRC or any other agent has, by law, the right to enter at all reasonable times any private or public property for the purpose of inspecting and investigating conditions relating to the pollution of any waters of the State.

Headquarters for the WRC is located in the Stevens T. Mason Building, Lansing. There are also five District Headquarter Field Offices located at Rockwood, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Cadillac and Escanaba.

## Air Pollution Control Commission

The Air Pollution Control Commission (APCC) was created by the 1965 Legislature and operates within the Department of Health. It is empowered to promulgate and enforce rules and regulations for the control of air pollution. The APCC, or any agent, has the right to enter and inspect any property at reasonable times and places for the purpose of investigating actual or suspected sources of air pollution or determining compliance or noncompliance with any rule or regulation it promulgates.

As defined by law, air pollution means the presence in the outdoor atmosphere of air contaminants (dust, fumes, gas, mist, odor, smoke, vapor or any combination thereof) in such quantities and characteristics and under such conditions, circumstances and duration which are injurious to human life or property or which unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of life and property, and which are reasonably detrimental to plant and animal life in this State.

There are nine members on the APCC. Three members of the Commission are the heads or a representative of the Department of Health, Department of

Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources. The remaining six members are citizens of the state appointed by the Governor with approval of the Senate. Of these six citizens, two are representatives of industrial management, one of whom is a trained professional engineer with experience in air pollution problems; two are representatives of local government bodies, one of whom is a full-time air pollution control officer; and two are representatives of the general public, one of whom is a licensed doctor of medicine experienced in the toxicology of air contaminants. Members serve for terms of three years and receive no compensation other than for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of official duties.

In the case of complaints or obvious violations of air pollution regulations, the APCC initiates an investigation. If the investigation indicates the complaint is valid or a regulation is being violated, a voluntary agreement for control of the emission is sought. In the event control cannot be reached by voluntary agreement, the Commission files a formal statement of charges and requires the defendant to answer the charges at a public hearing. Following the public hearing, the Commission will make such final determination as it deems appropriate under the circumstances and notify the defendant. Orders by the APCC can be appealed to the Circuit Court and the Commission shall have the burden of proving the correctness of such challenged rules, regulation or order of the Commission.

Few farmers are aware that a permit is required before facilities are constructed that could produce air pollution.

(To be continued in June Farm News)

## Agricultural Environmental Committee

REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL . . . commodity organizations met at Farm Bureau Center on February 25 to discuss agricultural waste disposal problems. Following the meeting, an Agricultural Environmental Committee was formed to assist in the solution of agricultural pollution issues. The committee met April 7 at Farm Bureau Center with representatives of the Office of the Governor, Water Resources Commission, Air Pollution Control Commission, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Michigan State University.

Members of the committee, and the commodity represented, are: Chairman Robert Norris, swine; Vice-Chairman William Brook, dairy; Keith Sackett, field crops; J. W. Erwin, fruit; Earl Johnson, beef; Sanford Yeomans, poultry; James Sayre, vegetables, and member of the MFB State Advisory Committee on Natural Resources. Albert Almy, MFB Public Affairs Division, was elected secretary.



ATTENDING A SPRING MEETING . . . at Farm Bureau Center were (left to right by Districts) L. Weisenberger, 8; G. Topping, 3; R. Brown, 1; D. Knirk, at-large; J. Sayre, MFB board member; R. Bender, 4; H. Tremblay, 5; R. Wieland, MFB board member; D. Howes, 9; R. Lee, at-large; L. Ruesink, 2; D. Ward, at-large; R. W. Peterson, 7; E. Roberts, MFB board member and A. Almy, MFB Public Affairs, secretary. Not pictured are F. Schwiderson, MFB board member; R. Baccus, 11; A. Rush, 6 and F. Foltz, Jr., 10.



## National Health Programs

Dan E. Reed

The role of national government in health care is becoming a major issue in this congress. It is not likely that a bill will be passed in the 1971 session. In this case, Farm Bureau members should give careful thought to policy recommendations to be considered at county, state and national Farm Bureau conventions this fall.

At least seven plans to provide various types of health coverage have been introduced or are approaching introduction—

1. **Health Security Act** . . . the most far-reaching proposal, provides cradle-to-the-grave type of coverage and is sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Representative Martha Griffiths (D-Michigan). Senator Kennedy estimates costs of the plan in the first year at \$41 billion. Administration spokesmen estimated the cost of a similar plan last year at nearly \$77 billion.

2. **Catastrophic Protection**—Senator Russell Long (D-Louisiana) introduced such a bill last year and has indicated he will re-introduce it this year. The program would not cover the first sixty days of hospital care and would not begin paying other medical expenses until \$2,000 of expense had been incurred by the family. The estimated cost is \$2½ billion, to be financed by payroll taxes on employers and employees.

3. **Medicredit**—proposed by the American Medical Association, would provide income tax credit for purchasing private health insurance. Persons with insufficient tax liability would receive a certificate which could be used in buying insurance. A.M.A. estimates cost of the program at about \$10 billion annually.

4. **National Health Care Act**—has been introduced by Representative Omar Burleson (D-Texas.) The plan has been developed by the Health Insurance Association of America, which represents insurance companies in the health coverage business. Cost of coverage in an approved company would be totally deductible from income tax both by employer and employee.

5. **Optional Extended Medicare**—Senator Jacob Javits (R-New York) has introduced a plan similar to Medicare but available to all persons, not only those over 65. Financing would be by federal subsidies and payroll tax, estimated to cost 10 percent of payroll by 1975.

6. **Ameriplan**—Developed by the American Hospital Association, the plan would set up a federal universal health insurance program. Federal funds would pay the cost of full care for the poor and some for the near-poor. It would include a health maintenance and catastrophic illness coverage. Cost not estimated.

7. **The Administration Plan**—consists of two major programs, one for workers and families and another for the poor. Under the first plan, all employers would be required to provide minimum health insurance to workers and families. Catastrophic coverage would require that benefits include not less than \$50,000 for each family member. Estimates of the cost for the minimum coverage would vary between \$300-\$500 per year. The second proposal would provide free health insurance for families of four with incomes of less than \$3,000 per year.

Medical care costs have risen faster than all other prices. Since 1966, doctors' fees have jumped 33 percent. Hospital care is the largest portion of health costs, reaching \$100 a day or more in many large cities.

### Marge Karker Scholarship Winners

Two young Michigan men have been named recipients of Marge Karker Farm Bureau Scholarships for 1971, according to Mrs. Andrew Jackson, chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Scholarship committee, sponsors of the scholarship program.

James R. Main, son of Farm Bureau members Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Main, Six Lakes, is a junior at Michigan State University, majoring in veterinary medicine. (He also received a Karker scholarship in 1970.) James was active in high school, in 4-H and FFA, church, community and county activities and is a Farm Bureau member. He graduated with honors from Lakeview High School, was an officer of the Student Council and a class officer.

John D. Young, Harbor Beach, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Young, will share in the scholarship honors. John graduated from Harbor Beach High School and is enrolled at MSU, majoring in Agricultural Technology. He was the 1970 State FFA president, has received the Outstanding Citizenship Award, received several FFA awards, was president of the National Honor Society and active in 4-H and school activities.

John is a member of the MSU Dairy Club, Ag. Ed. Club, Ag. Production Council, Mich. Ag. Council and of Mich. Pesticide Association.

Other members of the committee are Mrs. Harold Greenhoe, Mrs. Gerald Smith and ex-officio member, State Women's Committee chairman, Mrs. Jerold Topliff.

## Secretary Hardin Changed Milk Support Price

About two weeks after his announcement that dairy supports would continue at the same level, Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin changed his mind and announced an increase in the support price for manufacturing milk to \$4.93 per cwt.

### WHO GETS SHARING FUNDS?

The federal revenue sharing plan, recently proposed by the President, includes proposals specifically designed to implement rural development, about \$1.1 billion in federal funds would be made available in fiscal 1972. Only \$179 million of this amount would be in addition to already existing programs, including Extension Service and R.E.A.P. (formerly A.C.P.) funds.

Funds would be divided among the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. Three factors would determine each state's share—the state's rural population, the state's rural per capita income compared to the nation's average, and the state's change in rural population compared to the change in population of all states. By these criteria, Kentucky would receive the largest proportion—\$66 million. West Virginia and then Texas would receive the next largest proportions of the \$1.1 billion.

### From President Nixon's Address to the Nation, April 7, 1971

"If the United States should announce that we will quit, regardless of what the enemy does, we would have thrown away our principal bargaining counter to win the release of American prisoners of war; we would remove the enemy's strongest incentives to end the war sooner by negotiation, and we will have given enemy commanders the exact information they need to marshal their attacks against our remaining forces at their most vulnerable time."

In announcing the new higher support level, Hardin said—"Farmer costs have escalated sharply, particularly in concentrate feeds which have gone up \$10-20 per ton.

The original announcement had pegged the support level at \$4.66. At the time of the first announcement, it was reported that February milk production was up one percent from a year earlier; production per cow was up two percent from a year earlier, and that CCC had contracted in February

to buy 36½ million pounds of butter; 7.8 million pounds of cheese, and 28.2 million pounds of non-fat dry milk.

In 1970, purchases included no cheese; only four million pounds of non-fat milk, and 30 million pounds of butter.

Concern has been expressed by some dairy organizations that the new higher support level will cause an increase in government storage stocks, which may force a decline later.

### 1971 Annual Meeting Plans Progressing

November 8, 9 and 10 have been selected as the dates of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum annual meetings. Following the acceptance and good response to the 1970 annual meeting location, it has been decided to have the three-day meeting again at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids.

The Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum annual meetings will be Tuesday morning following the Monday night banquet. The MFB State Women's Committee annual meeting will be on Monday.

Plans are still to be completed on the Young Farmers Program, Commodity Day events and the numerous other events of the three-day meeting.

Special consideration is being given to the Product Show to enable all Farm Bureau members and delegates an opportunity to visit and view the many products that will be on display.

### California Farm Labor Bill Considered

Farm Bureau and other agricultural interests in California have introduced the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1971 in the State Legislature.

The bill proposes a five-member Agricultural Labor Relations Board, to be appointed by the Governor, and would grant California farm workers the right to determine whether or not they want to join a labor union.

Employers would manage and control their own operations and could speak freely and frankly with employees regarding labor matters but could not interfere with the rights of those employees to organize.

Secondary boycotts would be unlawful. Mass picketing and violent conduct aimed at preventing the handling or sale of agricultural products would be prohibited. Labor organizations would not be allowed to coerce or intimidate employees, picket their homes or injure their persons or property. Excessive or discriminatory membership fees would be unlawful. Jurisdictional strike activities would be prohibited.

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JOHN YOUNG

Where Your Farm Comes First

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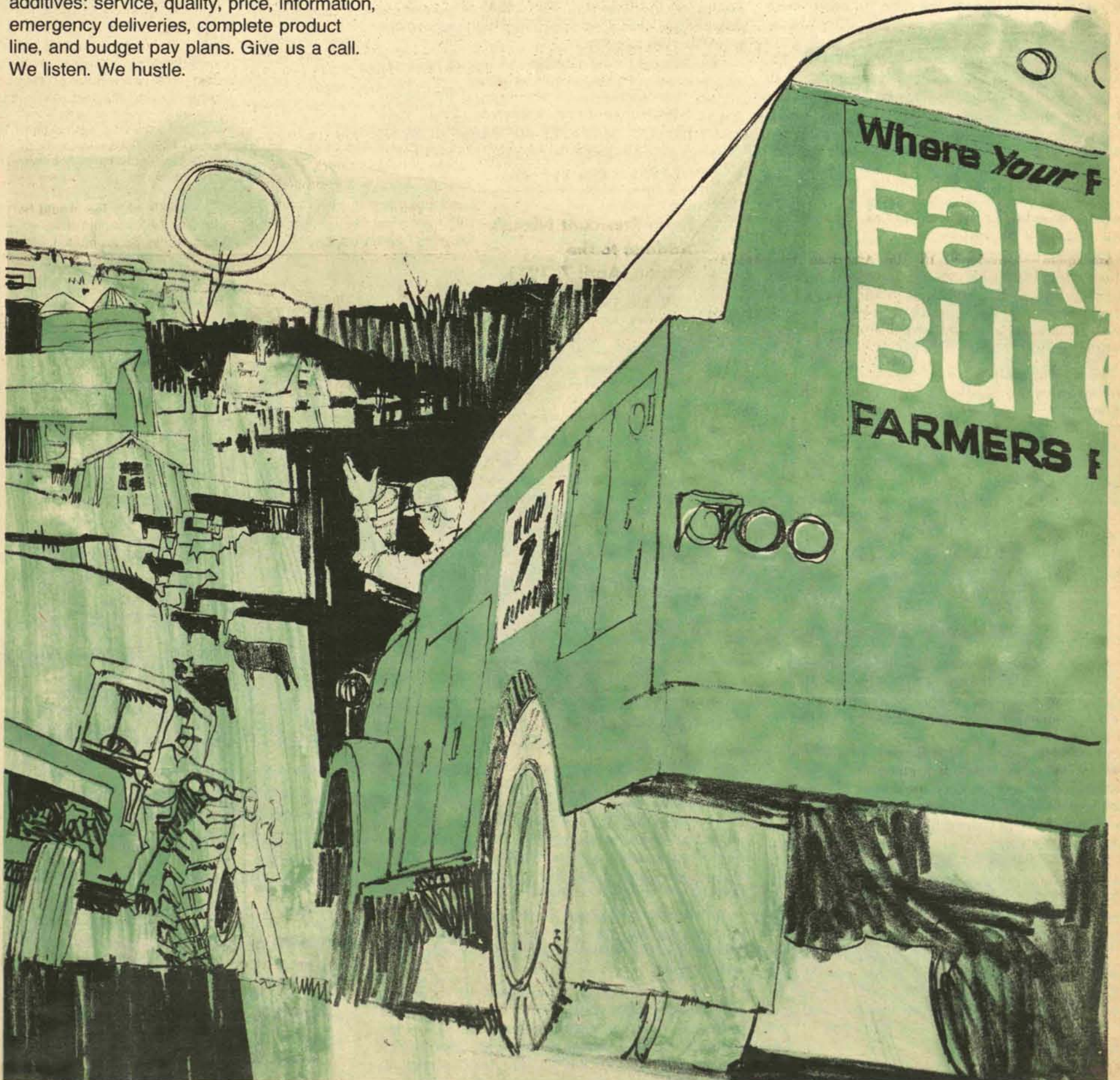


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Where Your Farm Comes First





## Discussion Topic

By **GARY A. KLEINHENN**  
Director, Education and Research

**YOU**, as a Farm Bureau member, are the most important person in all of Farm Bureau.

**YOU** are what makes Farm Bureau work.

**YOU** are the fuel for the engine, you as a member created.

**YOU** are the maintenance man, responsible to keep the engine running.

**YOU** decide whether Farm Bureau jets along or whether it chugs and sputters by your involvement in working to achieve what you, as a member, have decided must be done.

**YOUR** active participation, as a member in Farm Bureau, assures the continued success for your home, farm and your agricultural industry.

**YOUR** hand controls the throttle of all Farm Bureau.

But why . . .

I am a Farm Bureau member because . . . only you can complete the phrase because you are different. You are independent. No other farmer has exactly the same needs as you have.

"What knits farmers together," says Elton R. Smith, president of Michigan Farm Bureau, "is farmers wanting to speak for themselves." He said, at a recent Farm Bureau meeting, "In other words, we want to guide our own destinies. The way it's done is by farmers joining together to work for it. We farmers also want economic well-being. The solution? Farmers joining together to work for it."

But what about you? As we said, only you know the specific reasons why you joined Farm Bureau. Essentially, however, as Mr. Smith indicated, your answer will probably include the need for a greater voice in achieving your goals. Farm Bureau then is the tool that can make it possible because it not only represents the voice of farmers, but also because farmers have made their organization an effective tool to answer their specific farm needs.

Farm Bureau is evidence that when farmers are faced with a problem, they are working together to meet the challenge. Challenges in all areas, including marketing and bargaining, labor-management problems, taxation, natural resources, international trade, transportation and education.

The member is the maker and controller of Farm Bureau and its affiliate companies; Farmer's Petroleum Cooperative, Farm Bureau Services, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association and the Michigan Agricultural Services Association.

Making Farm Bureau work is the responsibility of the member. On this note, the State Discussion Topic Committee selected this topic because they believed it would be good to discuss membership responsibility as an introduction for new Farm Bureau members and as a health review for the faithful members who have become the backbone of Farm Bureau.

Member responsibility is underlined in the 1970 Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Book and although not reprinted in the 1971 state policies, it remains effective Farm Bureau Policy.

"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.**"

Farm Bureau, as a voluntary organization, has won many accolades and among the most lasting is, "Your Farm Bureau" (1958) McGraw-Hill, by Alice Sturgis. She is probably more widely known by the

non-farm public for her "Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure," of which Farm Bureau was the first nationwide pacesetter to adopt the method for more effective meeting procedures.

Mrs. Sturgis is one lady who hasn't waited for "Womens Liberation" as she is widely recognized as the foremost parliamentarian and as the leading authority on the actual workings of voluntary organizations . . .

The publisher reports, "This book marks a departure in Alice Sturgis' writing from the field of parliamentary procedure into the broader area of organizational structure and functioning—a field in which she is an authority. It is a milestone in member education and in adult-leadership training. By participating in this new type of enterprise, the Farm Bureau again leads the field."

### A COMMITMENT

Joining Farm Bureau is a commitment of each farmer to work for the betterment of agriculture and his local community. And as a member, to achieve these ends, you can expect the tools of Farm Bureau to be on hand to aid you. Mrs. Sturgis explains that these are rights each member is entitled to. Among the specific membership rights which you gain are:

1. To be notified of meetings.
2. To receive official Farm Bureau publications.
3. To attend meetings.
4. To present motions or resolutions for consideration by Farm Bureau members.
5. To discuss questions at Farm Bureau meetings and to advocate and work for whatever action you think best.
6. To vote.
7. To nominate candidates.
8. To be a candidate for Farm Bureau office.
9. To consult official records of the organization.
10. To insist on the enforcement of the rules and procedures of Farm Bureau.
11. To share equally in all benefits offered by Farm Bureau.

These are your rights as a Farm Bureau member. However, in assuming these rights we also assume responsibilities.

1. To study and vote on Farm Bureau issues.
2. To participate in developing Farm Bureau policies.
3. To abide by the decisions of the majority of the members.
4. To support Farm Bureau policies.
5. To carry out duties which may be assigned to you.
6. To work within the structure of the organization and according to its policies and rules.

"Your Farm Bureau" states, "You as a member must face and undertake your share of the responsibilities which you assume when you join Farm Bureau. You can't shift or dodge or bypass the responsibilities of membership. They are obligations which must be met if you as a member and Farm Bureau as an organization, are to advance."

...what are a  
**FARM BUREAU**  
member's  
responsibilities?

### TESTS OF A GOOD MEMBER

These questions, according to Mrs. Sturgis, may help you to determine for yourself how good a member you can be, as judged by the standards of membership:

1. **Do you attend meetings regularly?** The power and the productivity of Farm Bureau is created and nourished in its meetings. The members who attend are the ones who propose, discuss, and decide important issues.

2. **Do you usually serve on committees if appointed?** Committees do most of the work of Farm Bureau. It is through committee work that you become well-acquainted with other members and grow to understand your organization intimately. If you are appointed it is because your fellow members have confidence in what you can contribute. If you actually can't take a committee job this year, perhaps you can plan to accept one next year.

3. **Do you offer constructive suggestions?** The member who can offer helpful ideas builds up and stimulates the group. It is easy to criticize adversely and to find fault. It takes neither skill nor brains to sit on the sidelines and grumble. On the other hand, it requires thought and intelligence to offer sound helpful ideas and plans. If you do find fault, it is your duty to suggest a remedy.

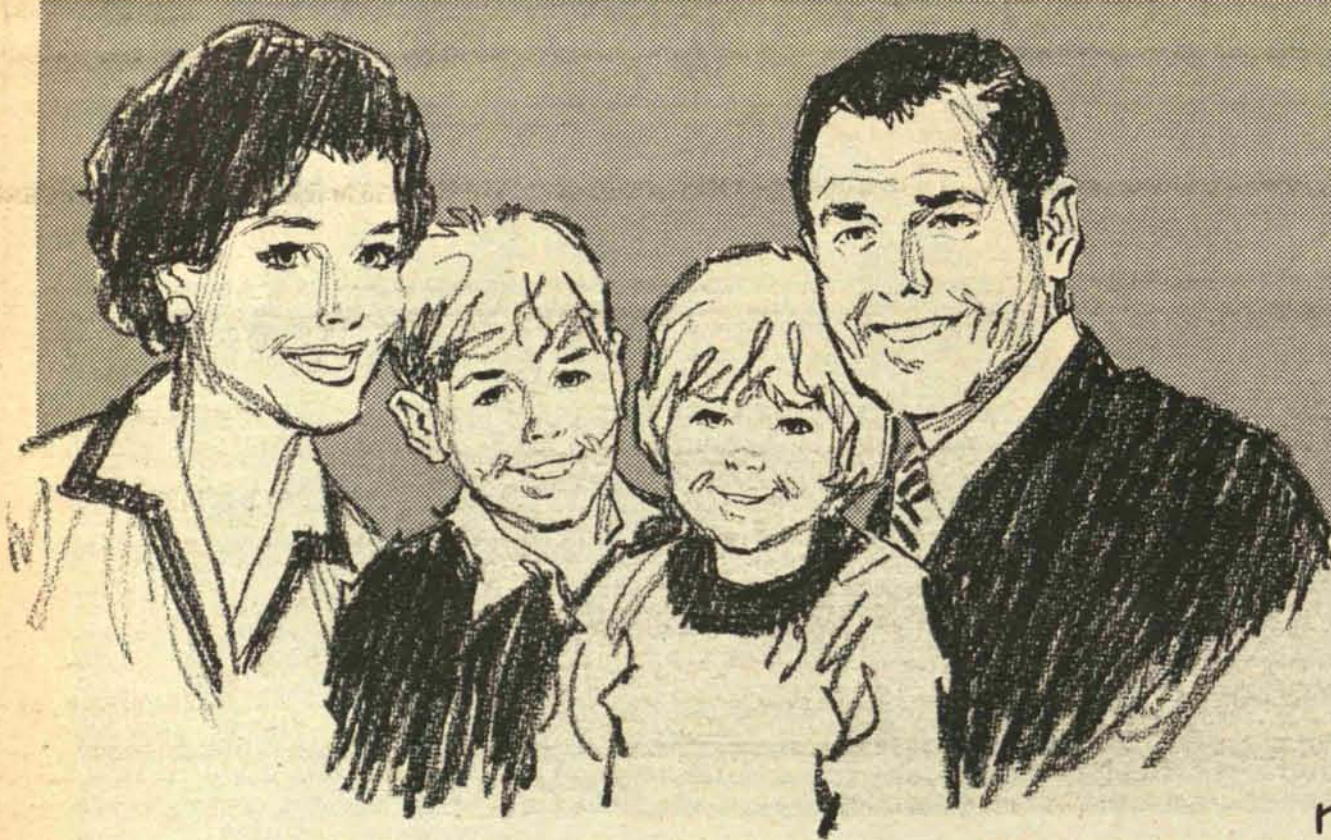
4. **Do you understand cooperation?** Most of us are born individualists. We have to learn to exercise self-discipline before we can work cooperatively with a group.

5. **Do you encourage other members?** Or do you take the work that others do for granted? Do you remember to congratulate the chairman who is responsible for an excellent program, the speaker who has offered a constructive thought, and the committee chairman who has presented an exceptional report?

6. **Do you assume responsibility without being asked?** For example, if someone who is not a member misunderstands what Farm Bureau is doing, do you courteously set him right on facts?

7. **Do you save Farm Bureau time and money whenever you can?** For example, do you wait until you get a bill for your Farm Bureau dues, or do you send a check promptly at the beginning of the fiscal year?

Did you take the test? A perfect score, we think, is impossible. But, it is a vital goal in building the strength of Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau is people . . . the member . . . the voice of agriculture. If there is a motto, a slogan, a few words to underline the basic philosophy of the farmers organization, the members can truthfully say, "We are Farm Bureau."





**Discussion  
Topic Summary**

Six hundred twelve groups returned questionnaires; approximately 6,360 members. Survey results: (Numerals indicate number of groups.) Q. Should pesticide users be licensed? A. Yes 53; no 560; no opinion 18.

Those who agreed with licensing said: If only licensed people were allowed to use pesticides, it would stop the lawn and garden

users who don't use the proper amounts—licensing should require training. (15)

Those not agreeing: Licensing would be too complicated, involve too much red tape and require expensive administration in addition to being impossible to enforce (298); just buying a license wouldn't make anyone more careful (66); and commercial operators (for hire) should be licensed (65); restrictions or licensing should be on the pesticide, manufacturer and/or distributor rather than user (45); and an educational

program is preferable to licensing (28).

Q. As farmers, what can your community group do to help establish positive attitudes towards the safe use of chemicals in controlling pests? A. Encourage everyone to read carefully and follow directions and to consult county agent if in doubt about what or amount to use (215); and put forth an educational program concerning pesticides to stress the need and how cautious a farmer is in handling them and to generally create a good image (217).

Farm Bureau supports President Nixon's rural community development revenue sharing proposal. Under this proposal, the respective states would receive bloc grants for rural development in lieu of funds that currently are earmarked for a variety of specific programs. The total amount of federal funds available for state rural development activities would be increased; matching requirements would be eliminated; and states would be allowed to determine the way in which federal grants are to be used to advance rural development.

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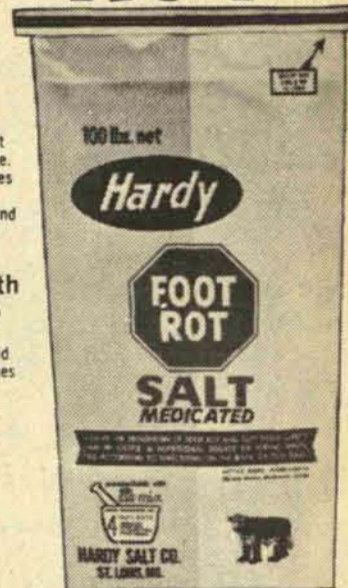
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