

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Vol. 50, No. 6

THE NEW AGE

June 1, 1971

"June is Dairy Month"



AMERICAN DAIRY PRINCESS . . . Jane Logan will soon complete her year's reign. Jane, First Lady of the Dairy Industry, is the daughter of Ohio dairy farmers. Their Holstein dairy herd produces 950,000 pounds of milk annually, adding proof to the ADA statement that, "Dairy Foods ARE one of the 4 Basic Food Groups." (The other three are vegetables, meats and grains.)

WHAT IS AS PEACEFUL . . . as dairy cattle pasturing in a green meadow? Clarence Simon and his sons, Dave and Mike, Divine Highway, (north of Portland), are progressive dairy farmers, milking 98 head of Holstein cattle. All three are active Farm Bureau members.

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EDITORIAL . . .



**We
Have
Moved**

For the past sixteen years, 4000 North Grand River Avenue has been the center of much of the activity of Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies. But on May 21, 1971 large trucks arrived at the doors of the building signaling a giant move to the new Farm Bureau Center located at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing.

Desks, chairs, typewriters, adding machines, files, tables, computers and hundreds of boxes were wheeled out of the old building into the waiting trucks to make the five mile trip to the new location.

On August 10, 1955 an "open house" was conducted at the Grand River site to display the facilities that would house Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Services, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company and Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives. The slogan for the day was "The Beginning of a New Era." At that time the business volume of the affiliate companies totaled nearly \$30,000,000 a year.

Much history has passed through the doors of the building on Grand River as programs, projects, new services and even new affiliate companies were formed to meet the needs of Michigan farmers.

The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) was founded in 1961 to extend marketing services to growers.

The newest affiliate, Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) began in 1966 to provide assistance in procuring agricultural labor and assist farmers in research and information on current management rules and regulations concerning agricultural labor.

Through its marketing activities and the manufacture and distribution of farm supplies to more than 120 farm supply outlets, Farm Bureau Services now has a yearly business volume of over \$73 million.

Farmers Petroleum Cooperative serves as the farmers' "On the farm petroleum, battery, tire and accessories specialist" and has an annual volume of nearly \$11 million.

The Farm Bureau Insurance Group has kept pace with the growing insurance needs of farmers by extending the types of coverages offered and today provides a complete insurance package. It has assets of more than \$83 million.

On Monday, May 24 the management and daily work force of approximately 475 employees of the Farm Bureau family reported for work at the new Farm Bureau Center.

Conference rooms, which will be used for both member and employee meetings, are located throughout the building and a large lunchroom is provided for the convenience of employees.

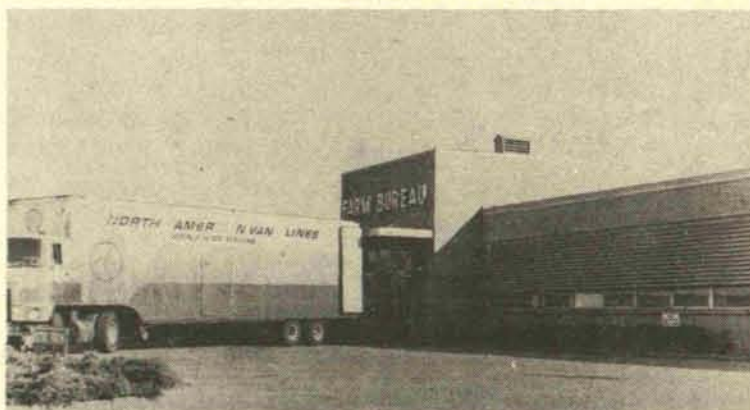
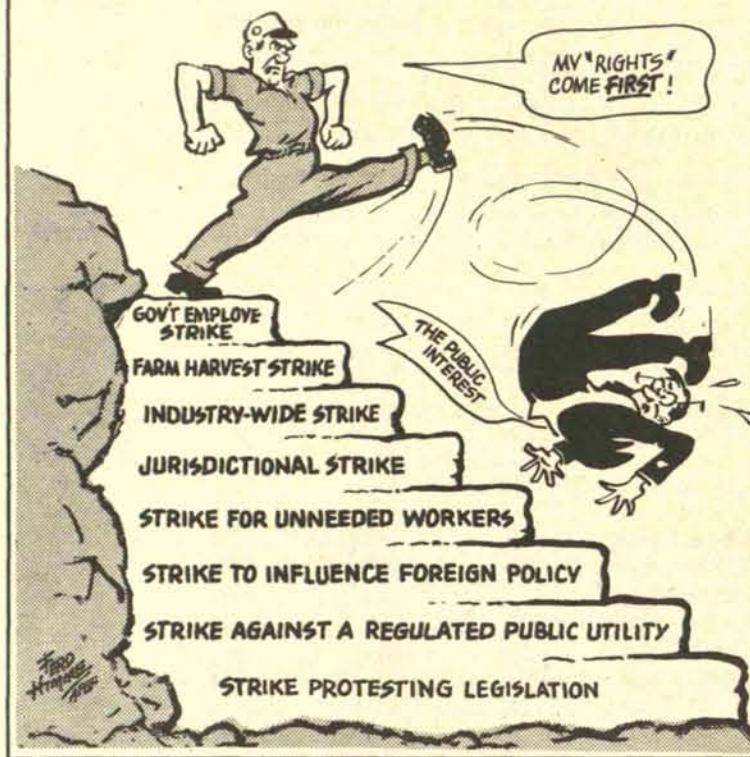
Yes, we have moved into a new building. Once again the growth of the largest farm organization in Michigan has begun another era. I am sure that the new structure will not become the symbol of the organization, but that service to farmers and a voice for agriculture will outshine the new structure.

Farm Bureau members, affiliate companies and employees can be proud of the new home of Farm Bureau in Michigan, just as they were in 1955 with the Grand River building and before that, the Cedar Street location.

When the new building is dedicated in late July, we will also be rededicating ourselves to even more services and many more years of history at the West Saginaw location on behalf of Michigan agriculture.

Carl Kentner

No Room For Both . . .



MOVING VANS . . . were lined up at all entrances to the Farm Bureau Center on N. Grand River Ave. early Friday morning. All signs were "Go" to the new office building at 7373 West Saginaw . . . the first trips of the scheduled four-day move.

Two Million Members or Bust!

The American Farm Bureau Federation is reaching for a two-million-member-mark this year. This would be a first for AFBF and is possible — with a little help from Michigan F.B. members and friends.

How do we stand as of June 1? We are short 650 members. Last year all Michigan counties were "gain" counties and it's hard to back up instead of going ahead, as we are used to doing.

What can present Farm Bureau members do to help? How about organizing a county wide meeting with a special speaker to give a message that could strike a responsive chord in a non-member guest? There are so many services offered to F.B. members that at least one should be the exact one needed by the non-member.

Plan an interesting Community Group meeting. Invite your non-member neighbor and get them involved in the discussion. A dinner meeting is always successful.

For three years, Michigan has been a leadership leader. Four is also a lucky number and will sound good at the AFBF annual meeting in Chicago this December.

Twelve states have made goal. Four are in the Midwest and Michigan cannot be left setting by the side of the road.

We have an outstanding program to sell . . . let's prove it by signing up new members. We need them . . . They need Farm Bureau.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



**New
Marketing
Road**

Which road farmers will take to market tomorrow is now being mapped out in Congress by debate of the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971.

The bill (H.R. 7597) was introduced recently by Representative B. F. Sisk (D) of California and requires a great deal of support. Our efforts as farmers in Michigan can help in this support by writing or visiting with our congressmen to assure that its significance will be understood so that a knowledgeable vote will be taken.

This legislation represents the promise that the nation's largest industry can come to peace with itself. Too long processors and producers have been at opposite ends. This legislation can improve these working relationships by establishing that there be a mutual duty to bargain in good faith on the part of both parties.

Both parties will share equally in power to work out the most equitable deal, contrary to past negotiations whereby some processors have ignored the farmers' marketing association.

Farmers need this legislation, because it will improve our bargaining position and bargaining power. With the passage of this bill, farmers for the first time will have a solid legal foundation for fair bargaining. Both farmers' representatives and processors will effectively and efficiently carry out the work of the market system with disregard to the present stumbling blocks that deter progressive businessmen.

The public interest will be upheld. An orderly marketing and bargaining procedure will better enable both processor and farmer to fulfill their growing responsibility to meet the food needs of consumers. It will help continue to give the public the luxury of taking their food supply for granted, (despite farmer efforts to erase the illusion).

The significance of this marketing and bargaining legislation is far reaching. Farming, as a free family enterprise, is being challenged.

Challenges to farming aren't new. We have been challenged by government, as well as conglomerate corporations, but yet the family farm continues to deliver. As an economic unit on the farm, efficiency and economy of production is unmatched. But it's off the farm in marketing and bargaining of the farm produce that the farmer is not being treated fairly.

And it's off the farm where farmers are working in their marketing and bargaining associations to get that fair shake. We farmers are striving to stay in business by organizing into effective industry-wide commodity marketing associations to protect our basic rights which this legislation will recognize.

We farmers are working for the right to decide for ourselves, to be decision makers, to escape from the fear of arbitrary loss of control of our crops by a big conglomerate.

We are working for the orderly supply of our production through long term contracts to guarantee the public unequalled food security.

We are working for the basic right to speak for ourselves as farmers and for the right to be heard, for the right to play a part, to have a say in the sale of our production, a voice that can be included not excluded.

As farmers, we need to contact our congressmen with our Farm Bureau member marketing policies, and discuss these needs and the support of the National Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971. Agriculture can provide the food for the world, but the best road to market will take the support of the many who dine at agriculture's table.

Elton Smith

GOVERNOR'S HEALTH CARE MESSAGE

A Minute With Maxine . . .

Governor Milliken has just presented a special message to the legislature on Health Care and the responsibilities that the state might have in this area, recognizing that Congress is considering numerous health care programs. The Governor especially pointed to the need for education and training programs for health care and urged that the legislature make it possible for expansion of the state's three medical schools. This would include permitting MSU to become a complete medical training facility.

Farm Bureau resolutions are in support of this concept inasmuch as a serious shortage of doctors exists in many areas of the state. County Farm Bureaus, along with Women's Committees in some cases, have been active in trying to attract competent doctors to rural areas.

He mentioned Western Michigan University's new Physician's Assistant Program, which was developed in cooperation with the state medical society. More than 600 applications have been received, proving that young people are interested in entering the health field. The Governor said that programs must be developed which will enable appropriate use of trained persons working under the supervision of qualified physicians to perform health functions which do not necessarily require the direct personal service of the doctor himself.

The Governor's message also recognized one problem that is holding up such progress and is putting even heavier burdens on existing doctors and that is the constantly increasing numbers of malpractice suits. Doctors, in order to avoid possible suits, do not let their assistants do many of the things that they are trained for and also, due to the threat of malpractice suits, go to the added work and cost of often necessary tests and double checks. This leads to more and more records and, consequently, higher and higher actual costs.

(For example, in 1965 a Philadelphia hospital paid \$17,000 in malpractice insurance premiums, a cost passed on to the patients, Blue Cross and other health insurance companies at the rate of 60 cents per admission. Today, the same hospital pays \$265,000 in premiums, a cost to the patient and health insurers of \$7.95 per admission—an increase of more than 1,400 percent in five years. In addition to paying such staggering premiums, the hospital also self-insures the first \$200,000 in expenses resulting from malpractice claims filed against them—something that it did not do in 1965. Such costs are ultimately added to the patients' bills.)

The legislature has established a special committee to study malpractice action.

The Governor's special message also discussed mental health and the fact that more than 52,000 people were provided services during the past year, although there are only 22,000 beds for the mentally ill and retarded. Figures indicate the success of the state program in returning the patient to his community and home as quickly as possible.

His special message also mentioned that overuse of hospitals must be considered and that the cutting of the average stay in the hospital by one-half day could amount to \$4.2 million a year. He said that many people in hospitals really should be in nursing homes.

While it is always dangerous to talk in generalities, it should be pointed out that the average hospital stay has been dropping. For instance, according to Blue Cross statistics, in 1965 the average stay was 8.8 days and in 1970 the figure was 7.6 days. During that period of time, the admission per 1,000 members has dropped from 167.5 down to 140.1 and the days of care per 1,000 members has dropped from 1,474 days of care to 1,059. But, the average cost per day of care has risen from \$38.80 to \$78. Most of this is due to salaries and wages and improved techniques requiring better and more trained personnel. Hospitals, unlike industry, cannot automate. It still requires a great degree of personal care for each patient.

Many critics delight in saying that the United States trails some countries in various health statistics, but fail to point out that in overall health care the United States leads the world.

Hello! We do live in a wonderful world and country, and it's time we started thinking, acting and talking about some of many good things we are fortunate enough to have. As we listen to the radio our ears hear pollution problems, unrest, too many people, unemployment, and many other disaster threats. Isn't it about time we stopped being a part of the doom or disaster group and started promoting the good in people and the good things industry is doing? Why am I saying these things? Well, I recently read a speech given by Thomas R. Shepard, Jr., (publisher of LOOK, at the annual meeting of the Soap and Detergent Association. The things he talks about have been things I have thought for a long time, but didn't have the proof to show it. I'd like to toss some of these your way and hope you will think about them and then tell others too.

The first thing he points out is how industry is burning so much fuel all the time that the oxygen could be all used up and eventually we could all suffocate. Tests of air samples at 78 sites around the world were taken, and do you know what they showed? There is the same amount of oxygen in the air as there was 61 years ago. Someone greater than you and I is still in control.

Air pollution? The disaster team tells us it is much worse, but tests taken in several cities show that the air is less fouled up all the time. New York City's Dept. of Air Resources reports a year-by-year decrease in air pollutants since 1965 . . . 100 years ago New York City burned soft coal and they then had thick smog.

Water pollution, yes. Before industrialization the rivers were crystal clear, but some of them were the source of the worst cholera, yellow fever and typhoid epidemics we have ever had. Our waters may not be as pretty as they used to be, but they are much safer. How about mercury in fish? Scientists say that mercury comes from deposits in the earth. Fish that had been caught 44 years ago have been analyzed and it was found they contained twice as much mercury as those caught and processed this year.

These are only a few of Mr. Shepard's ideas, but I hope you will consider some of the many scares these "disaster people" toss out so freely. Think twice before you let them sway your faith in the people of this great country we call Home. If we remember that God is still in command of this world and try to live as this little verse by Helen Steiner Rice suggests, we too can be of greater value.

Show me the way,
not to fortune and fame,
Not how to win laurels
or praise for my name—
But Show Me The Way
to spread "The Great Story"
That "Thine is The Kingdom
and Power and Glory."

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Toppliff

F.B. Women's Committee Annual Meeting Key Spots

Always a highlight of the State Annual Meeting for the County Women's Committees is the presentation of awards earned by the Committees for their years' activities.

To be eligible for an award, a County Farm Bureau must make its 1971 membership goal.

Judging will also be based on the type of activities conducted by County Women's Committees.

A style review will again be part of the annual meeting program and the election of a state chairman and vice chairman are also on the agenda.

Annual Meetings Speaker Named



Rev. Charles H. Willey has accepted the invitations of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee and the Young Farmers Committee to be the speaker at their annual meetings in November.

Rev. Willey delivers an address that is entertaining as well as instructive—he makes people laugh and leaves them with a lesson learned. A world-traveler, he recently resigned his pastorate at the 1600-member First Christian Church in Moline, Ill., enabling him to devote more time to his many speaking engagements.

Rev. Willey has spoken to all types of meetings: business, women's, school groups, industrial, insurance, bank and loan groups as well as at state Farm Bureau annual meetings and at the National Young Ranchers and Farmers annual meeting in Iowa.

The State F. B. Women's annual meeting luncheon will be Monday, November 8 and the Young Farmers banquet, Tuesday, November 9 . . . both at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids.

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Michigan Farm Bureau



CAPITOL REPORT

by
ROBERT E. SMITH

Unless the legislature begins to move quickly on the number one issue of school aid and school finance, which in turn is tied closely to property taxation, the month of June can be most important. June 14 is election day in most school districts. In most every case, it will also be a day of determination as far as additional property taxes are concerned — either for school operation purposes or for new building purposes. It will be the voters' opportunity to exert real pressure on the legislature by rejecting increased property taxation for school purposes. Such a voter revolt has been evident for some time.

Governor Milliken, in his recommendation for complete elimination of property taxes for school operation, has accurately reflected the mood of the property tax payer. His request to the legislature would put this issue on a special election ballot in November, 1971. The proposal (expected to be introduced soon) not only would eliminate property taxes for school operational purposes, but would also cut the maximum millage permitted in the Constitution from the present 50 mills to somewhere between 30 and 40 mills.

So far this fiscal year, July, 1970 thru April 1971, 227 school districts have had votes on operational millage. Of this number, 124 passed and 103 were defeated. Generally speaking, votes on renewal of the same millage have tended to pass and votes on additional millage have generally been rejected. During this same period, 75 bond issues have been voted upon and 48 have failed. It should be pointed out that in some cases the issue has been on the ballot a number of times and in a few cases the voters did not approve operational millage until after school had begun and there was a definite threat that the school may have to close due to lack of necessary funds.

One legislator has recently received nearly 150 letters from a single high school district explaining to him why they voted against the school millage issue. In general, the letters agree that the school needs the money, but that they, as voters, have refused to allow the property tax to continue its upward spiral.

If the legislature would pass the necessary resolution to per-

mit the property tax issue to be on the ballot this fall, it is likely that voters would be more willing to pass operational millage proposals, knowing that it could be the last year that it would be necessary. In any event, on June 14, in most areas, the voters definitely have the upper hand and can exercise great leverage on the legislature through rejection of millage proposals.

Some legislators and others who have been associated with state government over long periods of time maintain that probably in no year in history has as little been done to date this year — especially in the area of appropriations, taxation measures and other essential legislation. The fiscal year for the state ends on June 30. Usually by this time, appropriations bills would at least have been through one house and receiving action in the other.

It's an interesting fact that over 200 bills have already been introduced that in some way affect education and not one concerns itself with the finances necessary to pay the cost involved. They range from a bill that would require that the "social graces" must be taught in every public school in Michigan to another proposal to require the teaching of environmental concerns and another to devote equal time to the biblical story of creation if the scientific theory of evolution is discussed in a public school.

TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION

The Governor's comprehensive transportation program is now taking shape in bill form and will soon be introduced. There are three bills — one dealing with urban transportation; another on airports; the third on the motor fuel tax.

The tax on motor fuels would be increased by 1.3 cents per gallon for the fuel used on the public highways. Eight-tenths of a cent per gallon would go to the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund and be divided, as presently, between the State Highway Department, County Road Commissions and cities and villages. One-half cent per gallon would be deposited to a new State Transportation Discretionary Fund. It is this fund that becomes controversial, as it would be used as a "means of solving urban transportation problems," which means mass transit system of one

Legislators at Legislative Seminar . . .



ALL OF THE MFB LEGISLATIVE SEMINARS . . . were well attended, as usual, this year. At the last session, one of the larger groups of state representatives were in attendance. Shown, at the West Central Region Seminar are, left to right, Rep. Edgar Geerlings, (Muskegon); Rep. Stanley Powell, (Ionia); Rep. John Engler, (Mt. Pleasant); Rep. Jelt Sietsema, (Grand Rapids); Rep. Thomas G. Ford, (Grand Rapids); Rep. Melvin DeStigter, (Hudsonville); Sen. William Ballenger, (Ovid); the late Rep. Edson Root, (Bangor) and Sen. Gary Byker, (Hudsonville). In attendance, but not in the picture were Rep. James S. Farnsworth, (Plainwell) and Rep. Gerrit C. Hasper, (Muskegon). (Rep. Root's untimely death, after 18 years of service, creates a vacancy on the House Ag. Committee.)

type or another. Those who have guarded the idea that gas taxes should be used only for highway purposes believe that such a diversion would continue to grow to the detriment of the rest of the state's highway system. There is agreement, however, that monies used on highways for bus transportation as a kind of mass transit would be acceptable.

Farm Bureau points out strongly that the interstate highway system now nearing completion in Michigan has created even greater highway burdens on counties and townships and that no funds should be diverted from these purposes — in fact, increased funds are needed. The only other source of money for local road purposes would be to return to the old property tax system.

Among the sources of new revenue that have received passage on one or both houses has to do with changing the gambling and lottery laws in Michigan. One would permit "off-track betting." Presently, betting on horse races is limited to the pari-mutuel system at the track that is licensed for that purpose.

Two lottery resolutions have passed — the Senate version, SJR "K", would put the issue on the ballot in 1972; the House version, HJR "V", would put the issue on the ballot in a special election November 2, 1971.

Rep. Swallow (R-Alpena) attempted to limit the operation of lotteries to governmental purposes or non-profit, charitable organizations. It was defeated inasmuch as the purpose of the resolution is to change the Constitution to permit lotteries and if that should happen the legislature would determine the type of lottery to be permitted.

State run lotteries in some states, notably New Jersey, are proving to be very lucrative sources of new state revenue.

ENVIRONMENT

Farm Bureau has appeared at another hearing on the bottle and litter problems (H. 4152, H. 4170, H. 4685) pointing out the long time support of bottle control legislation and the economic problems created for farmers through injuries to livestock and damage to expensive tractor and implement tires, loss of chopped feed and grain with glass in it — not to mention the unsightly

roadsides created by litterers and the labor of trying to keep roadside fields clean of bottles.

The House has passed and sent to the Senate one litterbug bill, H. 4323, making it possible for a sportsman to lose his hunting and fishing privileges for two years and also to make the driver of a vehicle from which litter is thrown, responsible, even if the litter was actually thrown by a passenger in the car.

A senate bill that has been passed that is now in the House would permit the use of prisoners to work on state and county roads cleaning up litter. There was some effort to make this also apply to welfare recipients, but opposition developed, claiming that this legislation created "slave labor" and might eliminate jobs.

Farm Bureau is supporting legislation to regulate "restricted use of pesticides" through the licensing of the dealer, but opposed strong efforts to extend licensing and other restrictions to agriculture.

Farm Bureau has also testified in favor of amendments to H. 4260, which incorporates many of the regulations of the Air Pollution Commission into law. Industrial air pollution often contains particles that are detrimental to public health; however, this is not true of odors that are sometimes created by agricultural production. Other Farm Bureau amendments point out that enforcement agencies must be reasonable and allow a sufficient period of time to comply with standards.

Still other legislation in the works (H. 4313) would set up a revolving fund granting loans for the purpose of meeting pollution requirements. Farm Bureau will support amendments to such legislation to make sure that agriculture also will be eligible.

The question of limiting phosphates in detergent-type cleaners is under consideration (S. 443, S. 225, S. 20, H. 4114, H. 4401.) Farm Bureau points out that the dairy industry and other food industries must use such detergents and that no satisfactory alternatives have been found. Any limitation should be restricted to only the household detergents inasmuch as the great bulk of cleaning phosphates are used for that purpose and are more likely to be put into the waterways through city and town sewer sys-

tems. This is not probable on the farms.

One proposal supported by Farm Bureau for the past two or three years may get some action this year. S. 155 (Ballenger — R-Ovid), would set up a revolving fund for sewers crossing unimproved property to reach a development. Oftentimes extremely high assessments can become a heavy burden on farmland owners.

AGRICULTURE

Numerous agricultural bills have been introduced. One, S. 53 (Byker-R-Hudsonville) finally passed the Senate by a very close vote and would permit poultry to be used in certain types of sausage within U.S.D.A. standards. It could not be used in pork sausage, ground beef or hamburger.

Representative Powell (R-Ionia) has introduced two important bills. One, H. 5098, would license and bond poultry and egg dealers for the protection of producers. The other, H. 5097, would require processors to file contracts with the Department of Agriculture. This could be called a "Truth-in-Contract" bill.

S. 617 (Ballenger-R-Ovid), reported from the Senate Committee, would permit the quarantine of animals which have been exposed to chemicals which might make the meat injurious to health.

FARM LABOR

While there are dozens of bills that affect farm labor, little action has been taken on any of them. Representative Cawthorne's bill on agricultural labor relations has now been introduced (H. 5100). As indicated in previous reports, it would permit farm workers to organize but also guarantee the rights of the farm employer and prohibit strikes and ban the insidious secondary boycott of agricultural products that has been used on grapes and is presently being used on lettuce. A five-member Agricultural Labor Relations Board would be set up. Unfair agricultural labor practices are listed and provisions are made for compulsory and binding arbitration as an alternative to a strike.

Similar legislation is before Congress and in other State Legislatures. The state of Idaho has already passed a bill over the objections of unions.

FARM BUREAU MUTUAL FUND

Have you been thinking of investing in a Mutual Fund? If you have, then Farm Bureau Mutual Fund may be your answer.

Farm Bureau Mutual Fund, Inc. (a Maryland corporation incorporated February 26, 1965) is an open-end, diversified investment company organized by the American Farm Bureau Federation to provide a means for Farm Bureau members to achieve diversification and continuous supervision of equity investments. The Fund invests in a diversified portfolio of carefully selected common stocks.

Shares of Farm Bureau Mutual Fund are offered to Farm Bureau members at net asset value (without any sales charge) in minimum initial amounts of \$300. Minimum amount for subsequent purchases is \$200. The price of Fund shares vary with the market value of securities owned by the Fund. Price of shares (net asset value) is determined daily at the close of the New York Stock Exchange, and the Fund receives in full the amount paid per share by investors.

The principal underwriter is Scudder Fund Distributors, Inc., Lock Box #174, Chicago, Illinois 60690, to which all inquiries should be addressed. A prospectus and order form may be obtained by writing that address. County Farm Bureau secretaries also have these forms in limited quantity.

Montcalm County F.B. Member, Ag. Award Winner 1971

Raymond Sackett, Edmore, a Montcalm County potato grower and Farm Bureau member, received the Agriculture of the Year Award on May 19 as a part of Michigan Week observance.

Mr. Sackett received the reward for his development of a two windrow potato harvester which is capable of harvesting six to seven thousand cwt. of potatoes per day.

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AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

by Albert A. Almy



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 concludes a three-part series to provide members with information on agriculture and environmental concern. Parts 1 and 2 of this series were printed in the April and May issues of Michigan Farm News.

Pollution Abatement Problems

Installation and construction of agricultural pollution abatement measures can pose many problems to the farm operator. These problems will probably be greater to the owner of existing facilities than to the operator who is constructing new facilities. An existing operation may be boxed in by site location, system design and other permanent decisions made many years ago without consideration for pollution control. A new operation being planned can make many pollution-oriented decisions that will minimize future environmental problems before any capital is invested.

Limited information is available to a farm operator when considering anti-pollution practices. Neither the water nor air pollution agencies of state government currently have guidelines available to producers for controlling pollution sources. Few environmental regulations or standards exist with which agriculture must comply. Guidelines to assist producers with air and water pollution are being developed but are not yet available. Each producer is free to proceed according to his own opinions of the need for pollution control and hope that a pollution problem will not develop once the system is operating.

Considerable research has been done to develop efficient production systems. Little has been done to design systems that will efficiently manage and dispose of agricultural wastes for protection of the environment. Within the last year, the need for research to solve this problem has been recognized and many projects have been initiated. However, this research will take time and agriculture must use the time it will take, to provide answers wisely if additional pollution problems are to be avoided.

Compliance with pollution abatement orders by pollution agencies may require an investment of several thousand dollars. Credit institutions may be reluctant to finance this investment because it does not improve the profit position of the operation. Such an investment is basically an overhead expense that must be repaid from existing profits. Few farmers can dip into personal checkbook reserves to obtain the capital necessary to finance pollution abatement measures.

Full compliance with orders to abate agricultural pollution generally has been required within a one-year period of time. Several abatement measures may be required, such as diversion ditches, holding basins, monitoring wells and odor-control devices. A phase-in period for each program would relieve the demands on capital and lost production time experienced when the entire project must be implemented at one time.

Once a pollution abatement program has been completed, there is no guarantee that it will prevent further pollution in the future. Without this assurance, some producers will hesitate to invest large amounts of capital to control pollution and may discontinue farming. Others may invest money for control of water pollution and later find they are required to invest additional capital for odor control.

Producer Guidelines

Although formal anti-pollution guidelines are not available from pollution agencies, there are some steps producers can take to avoid pollution problems.

1. Recognize the public concern for environmental quality and accept responsibility to preserve and improve the quality of our environment. Failure to do this can result in legislation forcing a clean-up of the environment.
2. Plan the construction of new livestock production facilities well away from existing residences, lakes and streams. Proper location can be one of the biggest factors in avoiding pollution problems. The farther away from private dwellings, lakes and streams, the less chance for pollution complaints.
3. Consider and design environmental factors into new facilities or expansion of present facilities. Consult with water and air pollution agencies, University staff, other successful farmers, etc.
4. Once constructed, provide for plenty of space around livestock buildings. Before selling a residential building lot to that "nice person" remember that he could head up the "pure air committee for the removal of livestock farms."

5. Maintain a clean and neat looking farmstead. A pleasant visual appearance can result in fewer complaints than a farmstead choked with weeds and littered with trash.

6. Use discretion in the timing of manure disposal operations. Haul manure during cool weather, whenever possible. Avoid hot, muggy days. If manure is spread on open land, spread it thin and disk it under if there is any question as to odor. Consider wind direction. Avoid holidays and weekends when people are around, particularly if located near resort or recreation areas.

7. If animal wastes are allowed to accumulate or are stockpiled, take special precautions to prevent runoff from entering lakes or streams. A diversion ditch can be used to control runoff from areas containing manure. Holding basins can be used to catch runoff from diversion ditches. Avoid spreading manure on frozen ground where runoff will carry it into nearby lakes and streams.

8. If livestock are permitted access to surface waters of the State, confine the access to as small an area as possible. Trampling of stream banks and wastes deposited into the water by livestock should be kept to a minimum.

9. Practice sound and sensible public relations. Visit your neighbors and explain to them what you are doing to control odors, flies and rodents. Solicit their ideas or objections which will enable you to do a better job of pollution control. Invite your neighbors to see newborn farm animals. Allow them to develop a personal interest in your farm.

10. Seek and accept appointment to local zoning boards and land use planning commissions. Proper use of land can have significant impacts on the ability of agriculture to operate within a specific area.

11. Practice a sound fertilization program. Use soil tests to determine commercial fertilizer application rates. Avoid excessive rates of application. Whenever possible, apply fertilizers when growing plants are available to utilize the nutrients.

12. Consider filing for a new use statement of nearby surface waters. The WRC, acting in compliance with Federal legislation and its own basic Act, has established water quality standards and designated use areas, where such standards apply, for all the inland lakes and rivers in Michigan. These standards, depending on the designated use, restrict potential pollution contents of all uses of the State's waters for waste disposal.

13. If faced with a pollution complaint, "bend over backwards" to correct the situation which has produced the complaint. A sincere effort by the farmer to promptly correct the situation can help should the complaint be investigated by a pollution agency or go to court. Such action could lead to withdrawal of the complaint.

14. If faced with a complaint that results in your appearance before an air or water pollution commission or going to court, be prepared to defend your position. Obtain witnesses who will present favorable testimony in your behalf. Agribusiness representatives could be called upon to testify as to the caliber of management practices being followed—particularly in the area of manure handling. Make a special effort to point out the financial returns from your farm operation and the need for adequate time to develop and install a sound plan that will permit you to operate once the project is completed.

Summary

While it is a small part of total pollution, agriculture is a part of the pollution problem. Farmers must accept their responsibility to improve the quality of our environment. The alternative is to do nothing and let pollution enforcement agencies and the legislature force environmental protection upon agriculture.

Despite the lack of proven guidelines to avoid pollution problems, farmers can exercise judgment and planning for environmental factors in their individual operations. Such positive action will enable agriculture to successfully meet the environmental challenges of the 1970s.

BOAT SAFETY

Is your boat safe? Is it well-built, well-maintained, well-equipped? The Coast Guard and many state boating safety commissions require at least a minimum of approved equipment, depending on the class of motorboat. These requirements, when met, can influence the amount of insurance coverage you can obtain, say Farm Bureau Insurance Group specialists.

For example, lights are required for all boats, as well as life saving devices for everyone on board. A whistle or horn aud-

ible up to half a mile is needed for all motorboats 16 to 25 feet long; a bell is a must on motorboats from 26 to 65 feet. At least one fire extinguisher is required on all but open outboards less than 26 feet long. Flame arresters are mandatory on all inboard gasoline engine carburetors.

Make sure your boat is safe. And for "Everything You Need" insurance protection for that boat, or travel trailer, or travel insurance, or car insurance, well... just about any insurance need, see your Farm Bureau Insurance Group agent.

F.B.S. Wins "Best Ad" Award

The best remembered advertisement, MICHIGAN FARMER magazine, November 21, 1970 issue, turns out to be Farm Bureau Services' advertisement captioned, "Where are you now that we've passed the great divide?"

The advertisement was rated by the independent Daniel Starch

Research Company, and a plaque was awarded to commemorate the honor. The ad discussed Farm Bureau's concern over the output-per-man-hour challenge and pointed out that cooperative purchases thru dealers can result in lower basic costs, extra discounts and dividends to farmers.

Notes From All Over . . .

There have been several changes in the American Farm Bureau Federation's staff. One of particular interest is that of Steve Van Slyke being named editor of Nation's Agriculture — the official AFBF publication. Steve is a former director of education and research and coordinator of broadcast services at Michigan Farm Bureau before joining the AFBF staff. Of interest to those in the market and research areas are the appointments of J. Troy Barton, Tom Moore and J. Donald Pollitt as assistant managers of the American Agricultural Marketing Association. The AAMA is an affiliate of the AFBF. A. William Jasper and Warren E. Collins have been named assistant secretaries of market development and research for AFBF. All appointees have extensive experience in their fields of agriculture and work consistently with state staff.

College Week for Women at Michigan State University is scheduled for June 15-18. At least 24 classes will be offered and speakers, named to date, include Dr. Clifton Wharton, president of MSU and Carylyn Kline, head of Continuing Education for Women, U. of Pittsburg. The Michigan Cooperative Extension Service sponsors the program. Additional information may be obtained by writing College Week for Women, 103 Human Ecology Bldg., MSU, East Lansing, Mich. 48823.

Kellie Allan assumed the management responsibility of the Sandusky Branch of Farm Bureau Services, effective May 17. Mr. Allan served F.B.S. as sales representative for the Remus and Stanwood branches the past year. Kellie graduated from the Elevator and Farm Supply Short courses at MSU and joined Farm Bureau Services in 1970.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .

We belong to a Farm Bureau group in Genesee County. At our recent Farm Bureau group meeting, we were informed to write to your office if we have had any tractor tires damaged by broken bottles or debris.

We have had three large tractor tires damaged beyond repair by debris. We have a small farm, so our tractors are not the large size, but only medium size tractors. On the average, it cost us about \$130 per tire to replace them. If we had larger tractors, it would be much more. This runs into a big expense because of somebody's carelessness in throwing out bottles into our fields.

We hope this information will be helpful to you in your effort to prevent this carelessness.

Sincerely,
John J. and Frances M. Simor

A CLOSE CALL

I realize that this may be considered "just another throw away bottle episode" by some people . . . but to the victim of circumstances it was truly "a matter of life and death."

On Saturday afternoon, April 24th, at approximately 4:30 p.m., my husband was driving our tractor on the highway. He was just north of Bradley Road on M-83, traveling in a northerly direction, when he noticed a "cream colored" car traveling in a southerly direction. Just by chance he noticed that a man in the back seat, on the opposite side of the car, was throwing something over the top of the car towards the tractor. My husband ducked, but not far enough, as the beer bottle that was thrown at the tractor still did plenty of damage. The bottle hit the muffler of the tractor and shattered all over my husband's face.

Fortunately, he was still able to get back home and when he walked into the house, I did not see a face . . . just a mass of blood. We were able to reach our family doctor who met us at his office to give emergency treatment. After cleaning off all the blood, picking the fragments of glass out of the skin and stitching up the cuts, we were able to return home and he was able to continue with his work.

We reported the incident to the police, but as he said, finding that "cream colored" car without having a license number would be like finding a needle in a haystack.

We are truly thankful that "luck" was on our side . . . but . . . let's just think a bit of what might have been.

The pieces of glass could have penetrated his eyes and blinded him for life . . . or . . . the bottle might have hit him directly in the head and knocked him out causing him to lose control of the tractor, thereby, endangering the lives of other people on the highway . . . or worse yet, he could have been killed.

What makes our people so heartless that they have to be destructive "just for kicks?" Our guess is that this fellow might have been waiting for several miles to find something "suitable" to practice hitting a target. Or, were these people really so tipsy by that time that this man might have been "dared," by someone else in the car, to try and hit that tractor?

Might YOU be that person in the "cream colored" car?

Mrs. Howard Roedel

Five Year Auto Insurance Protection Guaranteed

NOW you can have guaranteed auto insurance protection from July 1, 1971 to July 1, 1976. Farm Bureau members can receive a full five years of guaranteed auto insurance through the facilities of the Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

This newest member benefit applies not only to long-term Farm Bureau members and insurance policyholders, but also to new member-clients after their auto insurance is in force for 55 days.

In outlining this additional membership benefit, Nile L. Vermillion, Farm Bureau Insurance Group Executive Vice President, said, "When compared to other segments of the motoring public, Farm Bureau members continue to display safer driving records. This is why Farm Bureau members earned five years of guaranteed auto insurance protection."

Farm Bureau Mutual and Community Service Insurance Boards of Directors unanimously declared this valuable benefit in May. "Unfortunately," said Mr. Vermillion, "generally rising accidents and costs prohibit guaranteeing rates and classifications. However, we feel the five-year auto insurance guarantee is a big step forward."

Qualification for guaranteed auto insurance is validated by: 1) Continuous Farm Bureau membership; 2) prompt premium payments and 3), continuous maintenance of a Michigan driver's license.

"The insurance operation views Farm Bureau members as very special," said Vermillion. He outlined exclusive membership benefits offered by Farm Bureau Insurance Group: Accidental Death and Dismemberment; Arrest Bond Certificates; "Safety Group" Workmen's Compensation and now, five years of guaranteed auto insurance in addition to full insurance services and portfolios.

On July 1, 1971, all current Farm Bureau members insuring cars and trucks with Farm Bureau Insurance Group will be automatically enrolled in the five year guaranteed auto protection program.

6-Day Strike Pays Off For 500 at Gerber

It took a six-day strike to do it, but 500 members of Retail, Wholesale Local 530 at Gerber Products have won a 48 cents-an-hour pay hike in two annual steps, 28 cents now and 20 cents next year.

Workers at the famed baby food company returned to their jobs last month, ending the first strike at the plant since 1948. They gained not only wage increases, but substantial fringe benefits.

Vacations, this year, will be improved to give two weeks after three years instead of the previous five year requirement. Next year, workers with 18 years will be entitled to four weeks, and next year workers will gain Good Friday as a tenth, paid holiday.

There were immediate improvements made in the hospitalization program, and, effective in the second year of the agreement, there will be an increase of \$6 a day in hospital room and board allowance.

VOLUNTEER LEADER AWARD



A VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD . . . was presented to Michael Satchell, Caro, (left) active MFB Young Farmer representative, by Governor William G. Milliken at a joint session of the Michigan Legislature May 6. "Mike," one of ten honored for leadership in the state, is a past vice president and president of the State Young Farmer committee and was Michigan and the Midwest representative on the American Farm Bureau Federation's National Young Farmer committee. The Awards presentation was a part of the 1971 Michigan Week activities.

"Safety Group" Program Offered

Farm Bureau Insurance Group is offering Michigan Farm Bureau members another "First" by presenting to them the opportunity to earn a 5% to 45% return on their Workmen's Compensation insurance premium.

A unique "Safety Group" program for Farm Workmen's Compensation insurance has been created by Farm Bureau Insurance Group exclusively for Farm Bureau members.

"The philosophy of working together and sharing the rewards is basic to Farm Bureau's effectiveness. This is precisely why the Safety Group dividend program was created for Farm Workmen's Compensation policyholders," stated Nile L. Vermillion, Executive Vice President of the Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

The Safety Group program will become effective July 1, 1971. Currently, only Workmen's Compensation policies developing annual premiums of \$500 or more are eligible for dividends ranging up to 30%. The Safety Group plan will allow all participants to share in the profits. Dividends, if declared by the Board of Directors, can range from 5% to 45% of individual annual premium.

The dividend is determined by the safety experience of the entire group of participating Farm Bureau members. "Past experience," explained Mr. Vermillion, "has proven Farm Bureau members an extremely safety-conscious segment of the farm community."

To take advantage of the Safety Group Workmen's Compensation program, three simple requirements must be met: A Farm Bureau membership; actually joining the Safety Group; and agreement to a common July 1 effective date for individual Workmen's Compensation insurance policies.

Local Farm Bureau Insurance Group agents should be contacted for enrollment questions. Direct enrollment can be implemented by completing the coupon on the back page of this publication.

Farm Workers Vote Against UFWOC

Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (AFL-CIO) have lost decisively the first federally-supervised secret ballot election ever held for farm workers.

The election took place April 8, on the Heggblade-Marguleas-Tenneco asparagus operation in Shafter, California. It was supervised by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service after Chavez had rejected the offices of the California Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The election was called on the terms of the company's individual contract which, last summer, turned grape workers over to Chavez without elections but provided that any future union determination by Heggblade-Marguleas-Tenneco workers in other crops would be decided by secret ballot elections.

Margin of defeat for Chavez was reported at more than 2½ to 1 by company attorneys, who said that balloting followed two weeks of electioneering by UFW-

OC officials headed by UFWOC Vice-President Dolores Huerta, who visited workers in their homes. The company conducted no campaign.

Attorneys said that the Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee on Farm Labor which has supported Chavez's efforts was represented by Fresno Bishop Hugh Donohoe and Msgr. George Higgins of Washington, D. C.

In a related development, Mrs. Huerta told an UFWOC rally in Chicago on April 17 that boycotts are now planned against wine grape growers (many of whom already have UFWOC contracts) over the issue of mechanization — and also against strawberry and citrus growers. Mrs. Huerta called for continuation of a boycott against all lettuce not bearing UFWOC's "black eagle" label despite the recent "moratorium" reached between UFWOC and West Coast Teamsters involving jurisdiction of farm worker representation.

Accent on Youth . . . Michigan State Fair



RICHARD D. BYRUM, ONONDAGA . . . is supervisor of Youth Activities for the Michigan State Fair. "Rich" is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Byrum and the brother of Bill, MFB Mkt'g. Specialist. He has a B.S. degree in Agriculture Business and was active in 4-H and FFA. He served as state, region and district president of the FFA and was awarded the American and State Farmer FFA degrees.

Michigan Youth have come into their own finally—at least at the 1971 Michigan State Fair. For the first time in the Fair's 122 year history, there will be five full days, Aug. 27-31, (of the total 17 days), devoted to youth and their projects.

"Rich" Byrum has been appointed to the supervisors position of the Youth Activities, according to E. J. Keirns, General Manager.

Mr. Byrum states, "We are working on a greatly expanded Youth Program and have added several new features as well as adding to existing ones. New features include the Junior Horse Show, (covering showmanship, horsemanship, equitation and pleasure classes), the junior horse judging contests and a sweepstakes showmanship contest for livestock, dairy and horses."

Garden exhibits, poultry and rabbits, a science fair, art show, junior achievement, fashion show, hobby show, educational exhibit program and horticulture, floriculture and landscaping are existing programs that are being improved upon.

Exhibitors will not be limited to FFA and 4-H members, but rather, all youths are being encouraged to participate. It has been pointed out that all 4-H judging contests will be held at

the State Fair this year, with the exception of the dairy contest that will continue to be held at MSU.

Mr. Byrum also said, "Dormitory facilities have been improved and existing ones renovated. We have made plans to greatly increase supervision and security and to offer educational tours and a Sunday morning worship service August 29 for those wishing to attend."

More than double the 1970, 1300 junior exhibitors are expected to participate with extensive awards and premiums being offered in all contests. To date, Farm Bureau Services, Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) and Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives (MAFC) are among the many prize donors.

(Additional information will be given in future Farm News issues.)



EAGER FACES . . . and a judge in a quandy is typical in many contests at the Michigan State Fair. A judge dislikes disappointing any of the contestants.

F.B. Ins. Group Opposes "No-Fault"

One of the state's major insurers has taken a strong stand against pending No-Fault legislation which would affect Michigan auto insurance regulations.

Spokesmen for Farm Bureau Insurance Group, a multiple-line firm headquartered in Lansing, have charged the No-Fault concept is being misrepresented to consumers. N. L. Vermillion, Executive Vice President, says the public has been led to believe proposed liability changes will automatically lower insurance premiums and eliminate claim settlement delays.

"There is no proof to substantiate implied claims made by proponents that a No-Fault insurance system will lower premium costs," Vermillion stated. "It is just as possible, perhaps more probable, that rates would have to be increased. Accidents would still have to be thoroughly reviewed and disputes would still have to be settled."

State and federal lawmakers are currently considering several No-Fault proposals. Most versions would add non-fault medical costs and income loss provisions to present liability coverages. Insureds would seek settlement from their own company, up to maximum amounts, regardless of who caused the accident.

Vermillion suggested the No-Fault principle is virtually untested in practical application and should be subjected to further study before legislation is passed.

The firm proposes a three-point investigation and information program including: 1) formation of a consumer-legislative-insurance industry committee to study effectiveness of the No-Fault program initiated recently in Massachusetts, 2) establishment of a "Test County" in Michigan for measuring No-Fault's potential effect on insurance rates and settlements and 3) development of a public information program.

Farm Bureau is currently distributing background material regarding the No-Fault issue throughout the state.

"The public has a right to know exactly what it can expect under the No-Fault concept—and ultimately, the right to vote yes or no. At this point, no one, including the insurance industry, knows what the ramifications would be," Vermillion concluded.

New Service-To-Member Program Announced - Auto Rustproofing

Automotive rust is an expensive eyecore.

But it also has some dangerous, not-too-often talked about side effects . . . such as the sound of loose or falling parts!

Ziebart Process Corporation, Detroit-based international automotive rustproofer, is trying to cut down on unsightliness, danger and noise by combatting the cause—rust!

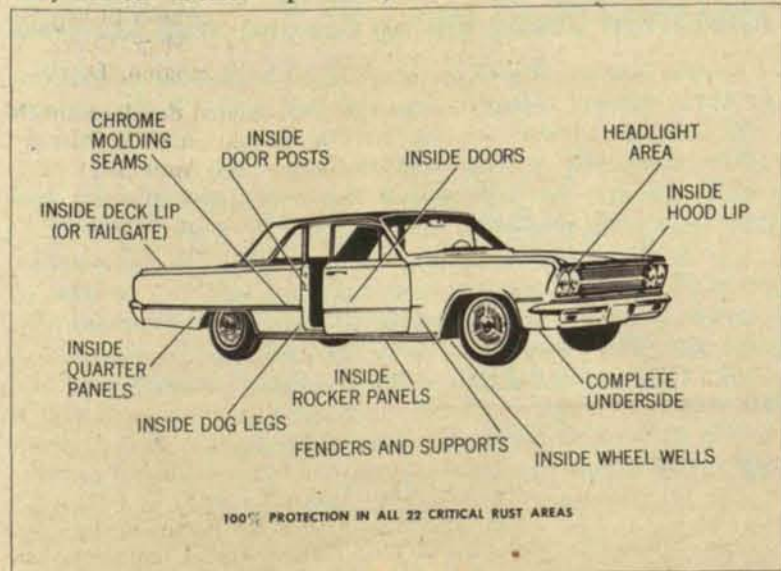
And Ziebart's Michigan Dealers plan to further wage their war on rust by offering all Michigan Farm Bureau members an exclusive 20% discount off list price, and backing their rustproofing with a 5-year, 50,000 mile guarantee for new cars and a 3-year, 30,000 mile guarantee for new pickup and stake trucks.

"The only sure way to prevent rust destruction is to protect the inside of a vehicle as well as the outside," notes E. Jan Hartmann, Ziebart president. "Our guaranteed system, as applied by factory-trained Dealer specialists,

rustproofs all rust-prone components of the car or truck including boxed-in sections. Complete protection is guaranteed by the metal-seeking penetrating properties of the Ziebart sealant used with its patented equipment."

Hartmann's statements are based on world-wide experience with rust conditions . . . as Ziebart rustproofing has stood up under some of the toughest conditions throughout the world. The Corporation has a network of 220 Dealers in the U. S., Canada, Hawaii, England, Germany, Japan, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Panama, South Africa, Taiwan, Guam and Okinawa.

By showing any of the listed Michigan Ziebart Dealers your Farm Bureau Membership card, you can have lasting beauty, higher resale value, soundproofing, dustproofing and increased safety added to your new car or truck—at a reduced cost—with the assurance of top quality workmanship.



ZIEBART AUTO & TRUCK RUSTPROOFING DEALERS

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Adrian, 49221
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James Pelloni, Jr., Owner
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Battle Creek, 49017
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Dan Lorenz, Owner
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Benton Harbor, 49022
(616) 927-3137

Harry Meyer, Owner
Don Wilson, Owner
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1038 W. 14 Mile Rd.
Clawson, 48017
(313) 585-8850

Nick Van Ryswyk, Owner
14960 - 68th Ave.
Coopersville, 49404
(616) 837-6947

Harry Meyer, Owner
Don Wilson, Owner
2900 E. 8 Mile Rd.
Detroit, 48234
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Auto Body Rustproofing, Inc.
George Krausmann, Manager
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Detroit, 48224
(313) 372-9884

Glenn C. Snow, Owner
15229 Mack Ave.
Detroit, 48224
(313) 882-6022

Alex Mashour, Owner
15551 W. Warren
Detroit, 48228
(313) 846-2252

Oswald L. Denys, Owner
Ziebart Auto Truck Rustproofing
of East Detroit
24509 Gratiot Avenue
East Detroit, 48021
(313) 772-5878

Earl Herweyer, Owner
Rust Prevention, Inc.
4144 Oak Park-Dr., S.E.
Grand Rapids, 49508
(616) 392-2235

Cliff Shinn, Owner
Paul Frey, Owner
1514 E. Michigan
Jackson, 49202
(517) 783-5354

Greg Mattison, Owner
534 S. Burdick
Kalamazoo, 49006
(616) 381-8414

Greg Mattison, Owner
Jim Pelloni, Owner
Dick Edmister, Manager
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(313) 383-8080

Robert Lowry, Owner
Robert McKeon, Owner
14583 S. Dixie
Monroe, 48161
(313) 242-3311

Jim Tuttle, Owner
1185 Third St.
Muskegon, 49440
(616) 726-5921

Dan Lorenz, Owner
919 Michigan
Niles, 49120
(616) 683-1740

Norman Schoenherr, Owner
821 Oakland
Pontiac, 48055
(313) 334-0502

Richard J. Francis, Owner
Donald A. Francis, Owner
Francis Ziebart Auto Truck
Rustproofing Co.
7821 US-23 South, Box 91
Ossineke, 49766
(517) 471-2356

Joseph Molinaro, Jr., Owner
Edward Kapus, Manager
704 Huron Avenue
Port Huron, 48060
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Harry Meyer, Owner
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Sterling Heights, 48078
(313) 739-0660

Earl Saunders, Owner
8250 E. Nine Mile Rd.
Warren, 48089
(313) 755-5260

Clyde Brown, Owner
27530 W. Warren
Westland, 48184
(313) 425-5175

Robert Lowry, Owner
800 Ecorse Road
Ypsilanti, 48197
(313) 483-2675

Dave Gephart, Owner
9 West 7th St.
Holland, 49423
(616) 392-2235

MARKETING AND COMMODITIES

MACMA SPRING CATTLE SALE

The week of May 8, MACMA few 475-550 lbs. 30.00-32.00.

held a Spring Stocker and Feeder Sale. Two hundred eighty two head of cattle were moved from the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula through the Rudyard facilities. The activities this spring were similar to the assemblies last fall with member producers receiving a fair price for their cattle. Compared to last fall, choice cattle over 500 lbs. were generally \$1.00 higher with lighter weight cattle ranging from about steady to \$1.00 higher. Prices received for cattle through the spring assembly were as follows:

Steers, Choice — few 380-400 lbs. 37.50-38.00, 400-450 lbs. 37.00-37.50, 450-525 lbs. 36.00-37.50, 525-600 lbs. 35.00-36.50, few 600-700 lbs. 32.00-35.00. **Good** — 350 to 425 lbs. 36.00-37.00, 425-500 lbs. 34.00-36.00.

Heifers, Choice — 450-500 lbs. 31.50-32.50, 500-550 lbs. 31.00-32.00, 550-625 lbs. 29.50 to 31.50. **Good** — 300-400 lbs. 30.00-32.00, 400-500 lbs. 29.00-31.00, 500-550 lbs. 28.50-30.00.

Holstein Steers — 250-300 lbs. 35.00-36.00, 300-350 lbs. 34.00-35.00, 350-400 lbs. 33.00 to 34.00, 400-425 lbs. 32.00-33.00,

MACMA's next large assemblies will be this fall, similar to last year. However, MACMA will be moving cattle that are ready to go to the feedlot throughout the summer. Several large producers have yearling Holstein cattle that will be in the right condition and weight for the feedlot about mid-summer. Cattle feeders will be notified during the summer when the cattle will be hauled to Rudyard for weighing and delivery. There will be several loads of cattle moved in this manner before the fall assemblies.

Membership is on the increase. Bob McCrory, the Livestock Field Representative, has been acquiring new memberships and working with members on management practices. Membership is expected to be twice as large this fall as last year.

MACMA will add another facet to the Feeder Cattle Program by preconditioning cattle for the fall assemblies. The demand for preconditioned cattle is on the increase and MACMA members are willing to cooperate by offering such cattle for sale.

Beans Hold Buyers Interest

By Dale Kuenzli

One of the more interesting experiences for a bean merchandiser today is to go into a local elevator where he is not recognized and to lend an ear to the farmer discussions. Nearly every conceivable reason is given for beans being this high priced other than the outright demand/supply relationships.

One notion is because farmers now have to think about buying seed and this gimmick allows the elevator to charge more money. Others think it is to confuse the farmer so he will not know what to plant during 1971. Still a few suggest that demand must be a lot better with more units being needed each year.

Few mention the fact that the 1970 crop was shorter than normal at 5,299,000 estimated production. Many do not realize that the producer probably has done the finest job of marketing in many years by regularly selling some of his beans all through the year. This systematic procedure of selling on the increase has generally kept the marketing channels reasonably supplied with beans.

During March, the dealers had to continually increase the producer price to attract beans into a marketable position and to keep the price in a working relationship to the levels at which canners and processors have been willing to pay. As a result the mid-March levels were higher than anytime since the O.P.A. restrictions were lifted at the end of World War II.

It is believed that as of March 15, producers controlled less than 15% of the crop. This is about two months' supply.

In any case it is apparent that remaining supplies are in strong grower hands. The question that is asked is, "Will we run out of beans?" For some reason we never seem to run out. Price always seemingly weeds out those that are not committed to bean canning. Some beans are always available for the committed, at a price.

There is little doubt but what it will be more difficult for dealers to sell to canners as they go to minimum inventory and hand-to-mouth purchasing.

It appears most canners still have to cover their last four months of the year requirements. While traditionally this is smaller than each of the two previous four month periods, it represents significant needs for beans. Inspections for May through August have ranged from 1.3 million to 2.1 million for all purposes during the last four years. We would estimate approximately 1.3 million exist this year, assuming the crop report to be correct.

Already the speculators are asking for new crop prices on beans. We can attribute part of the success of the regular but increasing market for beans to the systematic marketing program carried on by the local cooperatives. If we continue to "market" as opposed to just produce and sell, beans can be an attractive Michigan crop.

Dairy Commodity Adv. Committee



DAIRY COMMODITY ADV. COMMITTEE . . . members and MFB staff are: seated, left to right, Norman Veliquette, secretary, MFB staff; Richard Wieland, chairman, Antrim; John Ybema, vice-chairman, Allegan and Franklin Schwiderson, Chippewa. Standing, left to right, are Arthur Forbush, Genesee; Hugh White, Calhoun; Max Graybiel, St. Clair; Dick Gilna, Shiawassee; John Philibeck, Menominee; Walter Core, Jr., Northwest Mich.; James Caister, Sanilac; Hollis Hatfield, Assistant Dir., Research Div. AFBF and James Quisenberry, Montcalm county.

Vegetable Commodity Advisory Comm.



MEMBERS OF THE MFB . . . Vegetable Commodity Advisory committee for 1971 are, seated, left to right, (by county) James Sayre, MFB Board of Director member, chairman, Wayne; Frank Smith, vice-chairman, Monroe and Noel Stuckman, secretary, MFB staff. Standing are (l. to r.) Harold Schutte, Arenac; Richard Skibbe, Berrien; Harvey Leuenberger, Saginaw; Robert Braden, Mgr. MACMA; Ron Brush, Allegan; Calvin Lutz, Manistee; Simon Scholtens, Newaygo; Bill Ruhlig, Wayne and Ferris Christensen, Montcalm county.

Wheat Program Final Payment . . . 40.4¢

The Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program has paid an additional 40.4¢ per bushel to members for their 1970 crop wheat. The final payment checks were sent to producers early in May.

The total net return per bushel received by participating members was substantially above the market price for wheat paid at elevators at harvest time. Every member with wheat consigned to the program received the 40.4¢ per bushel final payment. The advance payment rate varied according to the freight rate zone of the participating cooperative elevator that handled the wheat. The advance payments averaged \$1.10 per bushel for the state and were \$1.15½ in one area of the state.

The Wheat Marketing Program has completed its most successful marketing year since the program was started in 1967. Comparing the results of the 1970 crop program with the 1969 crop program, the advance payment was 7¢ per bushel higher and the final payment was 15¢ per bushel greater for the 1970 crop.

All members that produce wheat will be eligible to participate in the 1971 crop program. The advance payment rates will be announced prior to the start of harvest. Producers can sign up when their wheat is delivered to any of the local participating cooperative elevators.

Surplus Tart Cherries Grower Opportunity and Responsibility

The Federal Marketing Order for red tart cherries provides that the Cherry Administrative Board, comprised of six growers and six handler members, will determine the volume of cherries that can be successfully marketed each year. Tart cherries which are produced in excess of this amount will be considered surplus product.

If the C.A.B. determines that there is a surplus of tart cherries produced, the growers may place their surplus cherries in the reserve pool program. However, they will be responsible for the financing of their reserve pool cherries.

Growers may stay out of the reserve pool, however, by applying to the C.A.B. for a diversion certificate, which would permit the grower to follow a non-harvest plan for his surplus cherries.

For those growers who plan to participate in the reserve pool, there are financing alternatives available, such as the Production Credit Associations, individual banks, cooperative associations and private individuals. The grower is also permitted to sell his reserve pool equity.

Surplus tart cherries held in the reserve pool will be sold later in the marketing season, or in future short crop years, when there is apparent demand for the cherries. Cherry industry leaders believe that cherry markets and utilization can be expanded significantly with a good supply of quality cherries readily available.

Frank Owen of Lawrence, Michigan, has been employed by the Cherry Administrative Board as general manager of the Market Order. The C.A.B. will be announcing many operating policies to serve the industry for 1971 in the very near future.

TRUCKS: Senators James Pearson (R) of Kansas and George McGovern (D) of South Dakota have introduced bills (S. 1611 and S.1622) to exempt certain farm vehicles from federal regulation. The bills have been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee.

AAMA Cherry Advisory Committee



MEMBERS OF THE AAMA TART CHERRY . . . Advisory Committee are, front row, left to right: Mac Lott, Pennsylvania; Leon Anderson, Wisconsin; P. C. Morrison, Jr., Michigan and Willis Mohler, New York. Standing, back row, left to right are: Arthur Dowd, Michigan; Keith Moore, Michigan; John Minnema, Michigan; Max Kokz, Michigan and Mark Brownell, New York.

AAMA Tart Cherry Pricing Concept Well Received

Harold Hartley, American Agricultural Marketing Association (AAMA) general manager, has announced that early contacts with tart cherry processors indicate that the new AAMA volume-value relationship pricing scale is being well received. One major processor has commented that the proposed scale and procedure is an intelligent approach to raw product pricing.

The AAMA proposal is designed to establish the raw product price of red tart cherries in accordance with the volume of cherries which can be successfully sold for canning and freezing this year. The volume will be determined later by the Market Order Cherry Administrative Board (CAB), according to Mr. Hartley. Tart cherry industry spokesmen indicate that with a high-quality product and aggressive and orderly marketing, from 250 to 270 million pounds of cherries could be marketed in 1971.

Mr. Hartley reports that AAMA representatives are continuing to work with individual processors to obtain agreement on the proposed scale.

MACMA - 'Gras Processors Decide on Base Price

Alton C. Wendzel, Watervliet, Chairman of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association Asparagus Marketing Committee, recently announced that a 23.5 cent per pound base price agreement has been reached between MACMA and the Michigan asparagus processors. The base price is for asparagus which grades a 90 score.

He indicated that some processors pay a bonus for premium quality asparagus meeting their rigid specifications.

Mr. Wendzel said, "Informed growers working together through the MACMA organization, the marketing and bargaining affiliate of the Michigan Farm Bureau, can accomplish their marketing and pricing objectives."

The MACMA Asparagus Division represents over one-half of the commercial asparagus production in Michigan. The Asparagus Committee decided on the 23.5 cent per pound asking base price early in April after carefully analyzing crop production and market statistics, according to Harry A. Foster, secretary of the Committee and Manager of the MACMA Asparagus Division.

Mr. Foster noted that several factors indicated good demand for asparagus. In addition to its wholesome goodness and nutritional qualities, asparagus is one of the few foods that diet-conscious consumers can eat in unlimited quantities without counting calories.

The marketers of asparagus have made a profit in the past, and will continue to aggressively market asparagus this year, according to Foster.

The March 1 supply of canned and frozen asparagus was 40% below last year, and the asparagus acreage to be harvested in 1971 was approximately the same as a year earlier. This supply situation was an important influence that a price increase to growers could be realized this year.

The MACMA Asparagus Committee is comprised of Mr. Wendzel, chairman, Watervliet; Tom Greiner, vice chairman, Hart; Ronald Baiers, Watervliet; Roy Bisnett, Benton Harbor; Stanley Dowd, Hartford; Earnest Froehlich, Decatur; Jerry Nitz, Baroda; Paul Wicks, Dowagiac, Wayne Fleming, Shelbv; Gary Lewis, New Era; Mathew Kokx, Hart and John Brock, East Jordan.

DETECT TWISTERS ON TV

Is it important to know a tornado is on its way? Farm Bureau Insurance Group thinks so. After all, protecting you is their business. So . . . here's a very simple way of detecting tornadoes by turning on your TV. Every step must be followed exactly, and the system should be used when the weather appears threatening, and particularly if there is a tornado alert in the area. Here's what you do:

Turn on your television set and let it warm up . . . Turn to Channel 13. Using the brightness knob, darken the screen so it's almost black . . . Turn to Channel 2. Leave the set alone. DO NOT reset the brightness after the initial adjustment made on Channel 13 . . . A lightning storm will appear on the screen as horizontal streaks or flashes — the broader the bands, the more severe the storm. As long as the screen does not have a steady glow, the storm is NOT a tor-

First OS&H Regulations Are Issued . . . More Will Come

Employers, including farm employers, are covered by proposed regulations — published in the May 5 Federal Register — relating to the enforcement of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

Major provisions of the regulations are:

(1) Employers must post notices — to be furnished by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration—informing workers of the provisions of the Act.

(2) If the employer has been furnished copies of the Act or of standards issued under the Act, he must make such publications available to any employee upon request.

(3) Compliance officers may inspect places of employment, question employees and employers, and to review pertinent records — at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner. No advance notice need be given to insure the presence of employer and employees.

(4) A representative of workers and a representative of the employer may accompany compliance officers.

(5) Employees, or representatives of employees, who believe a violation exists may request an inspection by written notice. If the information provided indicates reasonable grounds to believe a violation exists, a special inspection will be made.

(6) Upon conclusion of any inspection the compliance officer shall confer with the employer and notify him of any apparent violations.

(7) The area director shall review reports of compliance officers and may issue a citation specifying abatement — and notice of a penalty, if any, proposed to be assessed.

(8) A copy of a citation must be posted by the employer.

(9) An employer may file a notice to contest the citation within 15 days. If he does not do so the citation is not subject to review.

(10) If an employer files notice that he contests a citation a hearing shall be provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

The new regulations are far more detailed than indicated here. There is nothing unexpected in their contents — since the Act spells out in much detail the procedures which must be followed.

As of April 28 the OS&H Administration had approved some 1500 pages of standards. This volume exceeded the capacity of the Federal Register. It is now expected that the standards will be published in the May 15 Federal Register.

nado . . . the signal of a tornado is a steady, bright white light filling the screen. Or, if there is a station in your area on Channel 2 and the darkened picture becomes increasingly visible and bright, a tornado is indicated. The television warning system will work with any television set, color or black and white.

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1971 Nat'l Agr. Mkt'g Bargaining Act Lacks Michigan Sponsors

Only one Michigan Congressman is listed among the 57 members of the House of Representatives who have introduced the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971.

The bill has brought bipartisan support, including 15 members of the House Agriculture Committee. It has also been introduced in the Senate by Senator John Tunney (D-California) and Senator Carl Curtis (R-Nebraska).

FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS

The bill is strongly supported by Farm Bureau and is designed to improve the bargaining position and the bargaining power of farmers. It would establish a mutual duty to bargain in good faith on the part of processors and associations of producers. Such a provision has long been a goal of all farm organizations and it is believed that the bill will not be opposed by any farm organizations.

While many believe a stronger bill would be desirable, it is felt that this bill may get bargaining by reluctant processors off dead-center.

An indication that the bill is drawing strong support comes from the evidence of opposition which is being mounted. The National Broiler Council, which represents the vertical integrators in the broiler industry, is complaining about the requirement to bargain.

BILL MAY GO TO FULL AG COMMITTEE

While the bill has a long road ahead of it, there is an indication that the House Agriculture Subcommittee to which it was assigned may be discharged so that the bill may come before the full House Committee on Agriculture at an earlier date.

Evidence that processors are building opposition to the bill is shown in the reluctance of Michigan Congressmen to serve as sponsors. Earlier evidences of interest and support have now faded, as shown by the list of introducers bearing the name of one Michigan Congressman, Rep. James Harvey.

IMPORTANT TO MICHIGAN FARMERS

Michigan farmers, because of the production of diversified processing crops, could be expected to be major users of the measure. Plagued by unprofitable prices and rising costs, farmers have sought to bargain for the sale of commodities.

The Administration, the Department of Agriculture and both political parties have given verbal support to the efforts of farmers to improve their condition.

A major stumbling block has been the unwillingness of some buyers to recognize and deal with bargaining associations. Another major block has been the ability of farmers who are not members of bargaining associations to profit from the association's activities without cost or without restriction.

LEGISLATIVE TOOLS NEEDED

Farmers now recognize that there is a need to improve the legal foundation on which to build their own effective marketing and bargaining programs. Government will need to play a role in assisting farmers to organize and operate their own self-help bargaining activities by providing the legislative tools necessary.

While some processors have supported voluntary bargaining by their actions, a major processor in Michigan who has consistently resisted doing business with MACMA, appears to be a key to the opposition now building in Congress. Claiming it must secure its products for processing at the lowest possible price, this same company recently, after a six-day strike, granted its employees a 48¢ per hour pay hike in two annual steps — 28¢ now and 20¢ next year. In addition, vacations were increased; the workers will enjoy ten paid holidays per year, and major improvements were made in the hospitalization program.

WHY NOT FARMERS?

Growers will wonder why the company can guarantee its workers such increases but cannot, or will not, even sit down across the table to discuss marketing arrangements.

Will growers be forced to take a "Sabbatical Year" and lay their farms aside for a year in order to get the attention of processors who are dependent on the growers for produce?

Michigan's aid to the unemployed is quite attractive now, with food stamps as an added benefit. Will farmers be forced on to these welfare rolls to attract the attention of an Administration and a Congress which promised aid to farmers in their efforts to bargain and market successfully? Or will Congressmen put their votes where their mouths are and give real support to farmers' bargaining efforts?

"Agriculture Day" Termed a Success

President Richard M. Nixon on May 2 called American agriculture "a keystone not only for our economic strength but also for our entire way of life." AFBF President William Kuhfuss was in attendance with more than 240 agricultural leaders from across the United States.

In a California speech asking the people of the nation to join in celebrating Salute To Agriculture Day on May 7, the President said "nothing I have seen anywhere on earth can even begin to compare with the success story written by the men and women of agriculture in our own country."

He called for an expansion of U. S. farm exports and set an annual goal of \$10 billion. He pledged to continue "our efforts to lower trading barriers to our farm exports around the world," and he noted that "our agricultural exports this year will be at an all-time high."

"ALL IN ALL, it is clear that the total income of American farmers will be higher this year than ever before in our history. But this brings me to another of the major difficulties which confront our farmers, the fact that increases in total income are not always reflected in more net income. Now, the reason, of course, is the high cost of farming."

"This is why the farmer has such a tremendous stake in the battle against inflation."

He announced an expansion in Farmers Home Administration loan funds and said he is asking Congress to provide an additional \$7.6 million for research on Southern corn blight and insect control.

He said he would provide additional funds for research on fire ants and gypsy moths; for the Soil Conservation Service; and for the insured loan program for building water and sewer systems in rural areas.

He expressed a willingness to have his Administration "work closely with farmers, with farm organizations, and with the Congress to serve agricultural America more effectively."

"Working together we can resolve difficult issues involved in pesticide control, farm labor, farm bargaining legislation, other complex matters, as well as the many aspects of other national policies that bear directly on the lives of farmers," he said.

"But even as I mention all of these government programs, I know that the agricultural community also shares my feeling that in the final analysis the problems of American agriculture can best be solved by those who know farming best, farm people themselves with government backup when necessary," President Nixon declared. "We are continuing our search for better methods of maximizing the receipt of farm income from the market."

"After all, some 60 percent of farm income comes from commodities that are not price supported and have not been supported in the past."

"We approach Salute to Agriculture Day in a spirit of gratitude with a sense of obligation to the farmers of this country," he said, noting that American farmers "have provided a spiritual strength for America, giving shape and substance to our national character from the very heartland of America."

NOW

IS THE TIME TO WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND OUR TWO MICHIGAN SENATORS TO INTRODUCE AND SUPPORT THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND BARGAINING ACT OF 1971.

You may also want to write President Nixon, thanking him for his Salute to Agriculture last month.

Address your Congressman: Address our two Senators:
House Office Building Senate House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515 Washington, D. C. 20510

Tax Reform? LOOK AT REVENUE SHARING

- FEDERAL - STATE - LOCAL COOPERATION
- SPECIAL AND GENERAL SHARING
- RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

REVENUE SHARING

Tax relief, tax reform—familiar topics to farm families, however, a new wrinkle in discussing these problems is offered in the new Revenue Sharing Plan proposed by the Nixon Administration. The plan is essentially an administrative revision to attempt to spend our tax dollars more efficiently. It won't reduce taxes, but it does predict that it will bolster the strength and responsibility of what many believe to be waning state and local government control.

The plan is an alternative designed to bring more order to a complex system of government spending. Its plan is to make more dollars more easily available to state and local government, while concurrently easing some of the economic strain on state and local governments.

Available will be \$16.1 billion. About \$6 billion represents new money.

The pressure for change stems from the rising costs in public services. Observers state that welfare probably is the most powerful underlying force pressuring state and local governments for more funds. Of course, elevating costs are being experienced in more law and order, education and transportation but welfare costs outstep them all in dollar demand.

In Michigan for instance, by fiscal year end, June 30, 1972, welfare costs will have vaulted to nearly \$475 million in federal aid, from only \$260 million in the 69-70 fiscal year.

Welfare's closest rival for dollars for fiscal 71-72 is highways wallowing way down on the list at approximately \$135 million. The total federal aid budget for Michigan is about \$828 million, of which welfare bites into nearly half.

The Michigan share of growing federal aid, however, is just a small hunk in comparison to the total share of the other 49 states, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Guam. But it is significant because from the states point of view it represents the growing need for more dollars for public service programs than can be raised at home. It is reported, for example, that state and local government costs are growing approximately 15 percent faster than tax revenues, the result, only—deeper in debt.

But the sun that promises to light the dark, advocates say, is the Administration's Revenue Sharing Plan, because federal government responds more quickly to national economic growth than state and local governments which enables it to increase its revenues and keep up with costs at a rate of almost 1.5 percent for each one percent increase in gross national product.

Revenue sharing is divided into two categories or divisions for administrative efficiency. First, approximately \$11.1 billion will be for special revenue. Second, over \$5 billion will be provided for general revenue sharing.

Advocates of the proposal state that the advantage of revenue sharing will come through the redistribution of monies that will restore a "proper" balance of power within the structure of state and local governments. Frankly, they say federal government is getting too big.

And they claim that this new system will revitalize all government on the state and local level. Citizens will participate to a greater degree because greater motivation will come from having a great deal more control of their own program, which until now has largely been in the hands of the federal government, controlled by its miles of red tape. Also, because present matching fund programs lock local communities to the actions of federal government.

REVENUE SHARING—Special and General

The two divisions of revenue sharing, special and general, are most distinct by their method of funding. Special revenue sharing with more than twice the budget of its counterpart at \$11.1 billion will gather most of its revenue from the 130 already existing federal grant programs to the states. These grant monies would be allotted to programs considered to be of high priority and a benefit to the nation.

These are proposed to be in six areas of concern: law enforcement, manpower, urban community development, rural community development, transportation and education.

Farm Bureau has given tentative approval to the rural development program. The official Farm Bureau newsletter says, "Under this proposal, the states would receive \$1.1 billion in bloc grants for rural grants for rural development in lieu of funds that currently are earmarked for a variety of specific programs—including the Extension Service, the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (formerly ACP), the Great Plains Conservation Program, the water bank program, rural water and waste disposal grants, forestry assistance grants, the Resource Conservation and Development Program, tree planting assistance, regional development commission programs economic development assistance, and the Appalachian Regional Commission." It would also include over one billion dollars of new money.

A complete copy of this article is included in the discussion leaders information packet.

General revenue sharing will be funded from dollars sent from the states to the federal government and then rerouted back to the states. The funds would be used to relieve present fiscal crises in state and local governments.

Observers debate that this could mean that states raising the most money won't necessarily get back all the money they contribute, just that they would receive a greater percentage of dollars contributed than states with less population and less revenue raising muscle.

Farm Bureau policy presents a desirable alternative through the use of tax credits. Monies raised for general revenue sharing in the state would remain in the states. This program allows tax credits toward federal income tax for individual and corporate income taxes and general sales taxes paid to the state and local governments. In other words, Farm Bureau supports the state and local governments using their taxing powers to obtain money for their own purposes.

Under the administration program, funds would be distributed to the states on a formula basis judged on the state's population, and the state's "revenue effort."

According to the formula, a state that is allotted \$100 million for both state and local governments would keep the percentage of total tax dollars it raised. Of the \$100 million for instance, if the state raised 52 percent of the revenue, it would keep \$52 million for its operations. The remaining \$48 million would be divided throughout the state's counties, cities and towns according to the amount of revenues raised by these local governments.

HOW WOULD THE MONEY BE SPENT?

But how will the monies be spent? This is one of the important keys which could determine the success or failure of the plan. It promises to restore greater strength to state and local governments by permitting these units to spend the money any way

they wish, no strings attached, as long as it is spent within the broad general area for which it is designated.

State and local governments, however, would have to report to the federal government after the money was spent. These reports would be used to analyze state and local programs for their impact, and to determine the levels of future funding. Furthermore, the reports would be a checking system against fraud and discrimination.

This plan would end the current matching funds program. However, it is explained that state or local government will have some say in the continuance of some present grants. Existing federal programs not included in revenue sharing would continue.

HOW WOULD STATES ADJUST TO CHANGES?

According to the proposal it would increase the capacity of state and local government to manage their own affairs. However, retraining in governmental operations would be needed to smoothly carry out the new system. Recognizing this, the administration proposes that \$100 million be allocated for planning management programs for state and local governments designed to help upgrade and expand administrative capabilities to provide public services.

WHAT IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE?

Other than collecting and redistributing revenue, the responsibility of federal government would cover three other areas. It would carry out research and analysis of regional and local problems. Second, it would experiment and demonstrate new ways to provide local public services to insure top efficiency. Third, it would collect and distribute information.

STUDYING THE PROGRAM

Observers point out there are some possible dangers that should be discussed before making decisions about the revenue sharing plan. One is that the general revenue plan could encourage tax hikes, because those states imposing higher taxes would get back more federal money.

Another problem is that the plan might create a larger federal deficit. The program, if initiated, in general revenue sharing would start at \$55 billion a year and would be expected to reach nearly \$10 billion a year by 1980. Its elevating costs, critics say, would be met either by increasing the national debt, which would fuel inflation, or by increasing taxes.

Yet another point offered for debate is the claim that federal revenues can more quickly respond to the need for funds than can state and local governments since the federal tax system produces a 1.5 percent increase in revenue for each one percent growth in gross national product. However, it is remarked that a review of the federal government's record of 24 deficits in the last 30 years is not very reassuring.

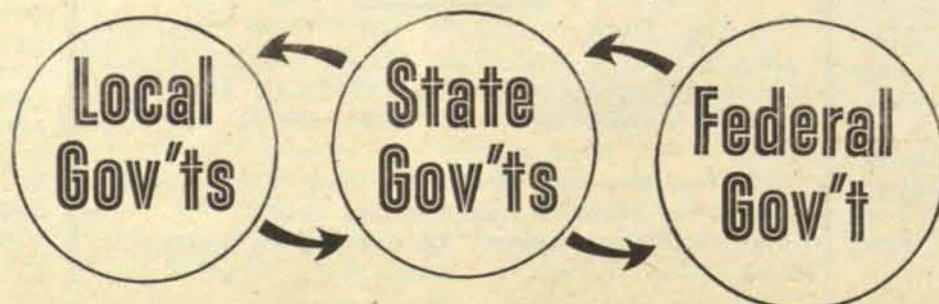
Yet others say it will not return greater power to state and local government since the federal government really will control the purse strings. In fact, some argue that this is only another guise for higher taxes and a hook to snag local control from states, counties, cities and towns.

However, advocates admit that the revenue sharing program proposal is not the end of state and local problems, but debate that it will give more power to state and local governments. Still, there will be future cost increases, new and better services, and pressure to raise property taxes and other levies.

The benefit, it is said, would be the increased ability state and local governments will have to meet their problems. Local voters would be expected to have more control and use of the funds than if the federal government set up programs or provided "earmarked" funds over which state and local officials had little or no control.

As you can see, revenue sharing is a hot topic, one we need to study and one we're sure is chuck full of compelling debate. It's your decision to make.

Sharing
TAX Dollars



Discussion Topic

By GARY A. KLEINHENN
Director, Education and Research

Why lose to FOOT ROT?

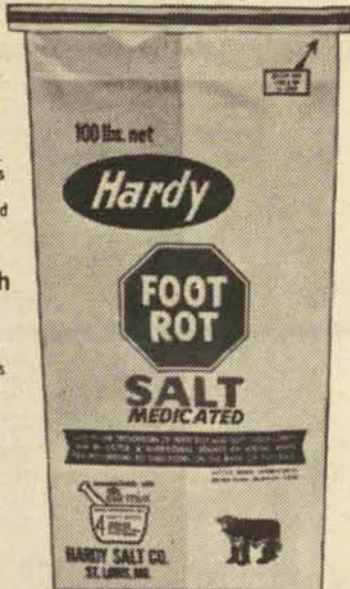
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DISCUSSION TOPIC SUMMARY—APRIL

Questionnaires returned indicate 559 groups, more than 6,500 members, discussed the topic.

Q. In what areas do you believe you are lacking in information about farm labor unionization? Response indicated a need for labor union information in all areas (170 groups) while others expressed a need for more information on writing, understanding and negotiation of contracts; effects of unionization on various farm operations, dairy, beef, etc.

Q. Are you willing to support an information program financially to get the needed information? Yes—140 groups, no—338 groups.

Q. Do you believe a farmers' organization should offer financial assistance to farmers who get involved in confrontations with unions? Yes—312, no—154.

Q. Do you belong to any organizations which to your knowledge are financially assisting labor unions directly or indirectly? Yes—146 groups... organizations given as examples were; churches through their support of the National Council of Churches, members who work in other industries and belong to labor and teachers unions, and government through taxes.

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26 POULTRY

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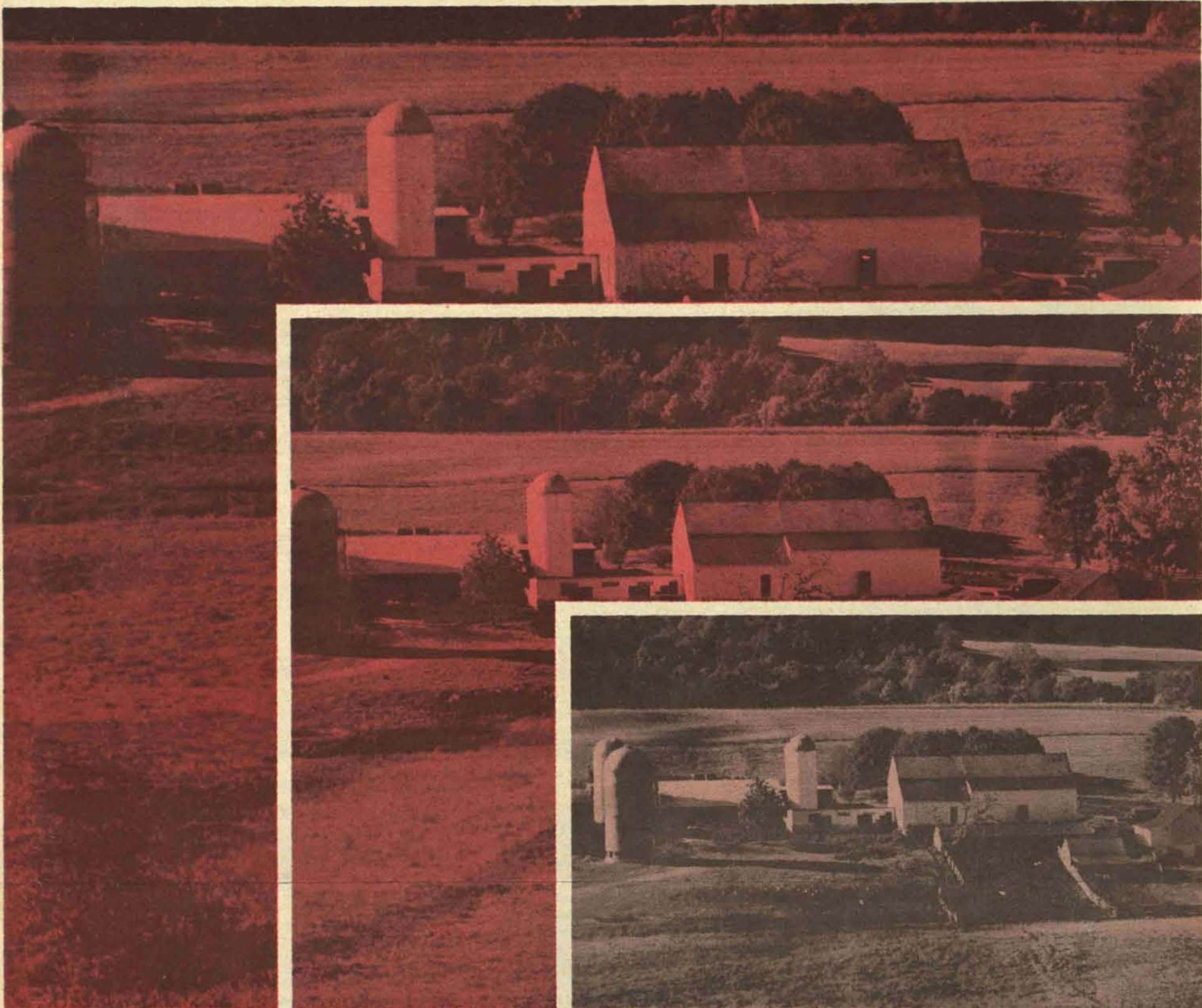
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