Harvest time in Michigan

Membership goal is reached 57,960

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Agriculture is changing and so are the methods farmers use to produce and market crops. Agriculture's ability to produce man's most basic material need, food, is again confirmed in the USDA report that in 1970 one farmer produced enough to feed 47 persons.

Farmers have almost doubled their output per worker since 1950 and thus contributed greatly to our luxurious living standard.

Wes Ritchie explains in his Farm Profit article, "How Have Farmers Done It?": "Farmers have freed income. Fifty years ago, the average American had to spend about 60% of his income on the basic requirements of life — food, clothing and shelter. Today these essentials take less than 65%. So the average family spends only 35% of its take-home pay — instead of 20% — for travel, recreation, education, health, and the other luxuries that add life's quality.

"A major part of this gain in extra spendable income has come from a decline in the relative cost of food. Americans last year had to spend only 16 1/2% of their annual income on food. That compares with over 20% just 10 years ago and over 50% and more in eastern Europe and many developing countries.

"Anyway you look at it, Americans are buying food at bargain prices.

"Farmers have also freed time. The average work week was 51 hours in 1920, compared to 40 now. And paid vacations 50 years ago were few and far between.

"Many things have helped, but you can be sure that if food, fiber and shelter were still costing 80% of consumer spending, workers could not have reduced their work week.

In recent years we have harvested fewer than 300 million acres and our population has nearly doubled."

This ability of farmers to produce has resulted in many changes. Thanks to aviation, the Amplitheatre and many other points of interest in this famous historical city. A tour is being planned for regular Farm Bureau members only, to leave Detroit on February 25, 1972 and return to Detroit on March 3, 1972. The flight is aboard a DC8 Jet operated by the Allitalia Airlines, the regularly scheduled airlines between Detroit and Rome. To qualify for this tour, you must be a regular voting Farm Bureau member, or dependent of a regular voting Farm Bureau member as of August 31, 1971. Dependents include spouse, children and parents living in the same household as the Farm Bureau member.

For more information, please send the enclosed coupon to the Program Development Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau.
STATE LEGISLATIVE NOTES

The election of Mr. Bala E. Kennedy (R-Bingham) brings the House of Representatives back to its full strength of 110 members. Rep. Kennedy, a fruit farmer, fills the vacancy created by the untimely death of Edson V. Root. During this period, it took 55 votes to pass a bill; it now will require 56. Democrats control the House of Representatives 58-52.

Assessments

The opportunity provided by the special hearings on assessments being held throughout the state in some areas is being used by Farm Bureau leaders to express their concern on the assessing procedures of farmland. One more hearing was held — in Detroit on Monday, August 2.

State Fiscal Issues

As this is written, this area continues to be extremely confused with no real decisions yet made. The Legislature has until September 7 to decide what might appear on the ballot in November. Negotiations broke down late in July, with the special 12-member bipartisan legislative committee.

Environment

These issues continue to be a major issue as far as farmers are concerned. There is now a court case against a hog producer based on the legislation passed a year ago, which permits any person to sue another person who is or is likely to pollute. This first case will be a landmarks decision. Michigan Farm Bureau is working closely with the defendant and his lawyer in a case where every case so far was based on the old nuisance laws. Alleged odors are the basis of the suit. (See special articles in this issue on air pollution and ballot studies.)

Senate Bill 20, designed to limit the use of detergents containing phosphates, has passed the Senate; however, Farm Bureau's efforts to amend it have been unsuccessful. Food processing and the meat industry are concerned with the detergents necessary to do an adequate job of maintaining sanitation in dairies and other food production and processing facilities.

House Bill 4152, which passed the Senate, would require retailers to accept returnable bottles. Other bills with stiffer requirements have been stalled.

Farm Labor

Numerous labor bills that would be injurious to farmers have so far remained in committee. H. 5100 (Cawthorne), which would set up state guidelines for farm worker organization is a prime example, and is available in case labor problems arise.

It is expected that the Farm Bureau's protest funds will remain at last year's $500,000 level. It was expected that this might be cut considerably. Farm Bureau, at a hearing on June 20, supported the Health Department's rules on migrant housing and the matching fund program. The program has been successful and has encouraged upgrading of worker housing.

Agriculture

S. 53, permitting the use of poultry meat in sausage, has passed the Senate, but probably will not be considered in the House this year. This bill would permit the use of 15% poultry meat in some meat products with the exception of pork sausage, hamburger and ground beef.

Michigan grape growers have a great deal at stake in three different areas. While the sale of wine is increasing in Michigan, wine growers were introduced, their wine sales are declining. Farm Bureau supported the use of the Michigan Seal of Quality program for the Michigan wine industry and is opposing S. 904, which would permit the sale of 30% out-of-state wine. The law is extremely complicated, but passage of the bill would result in tremendous competition to Michigan wines and would be very injurious to that industry.

In addition to the threat, on the other hand, be helpful to grape growers and the wine industry. It would tighten up a loophole that exists in present laws that are favorable to out-of-state wine interests and would, at the same time, mean about one-half the state's wine sales would be from out of state.

Farm truck license fees would increase a flat $5 if H. 5596 and H. 5597 pass in present form. The bills are supported by trucking interests. A strong attempt is being made to amend the bill to provide that the fees would be made to support federal marketing legislation generally known as the "Stik Bill." Michigan Congressmen Harvey, Brown and Cederberg are among the 80 or more introducers of the bill in the House. Twelve or more U.S. Senators have also introduced it.

"Green Acres Bill" Revived

by Robert E. Smith

Early in the legislative session, two bills were introduced deal- ing with the legislation that passed the last legislature on farmland preservation. One, passed in the House and S. 130 in the Senate. The House held a well-attended hearing on the bill. The only opposition to 4100 came from the State Assessors Association. Since that time, little has happened in the House, probably because of the possibility of elimi- nation of property tax for school operation and the general fiscal and tax controversy. However, a substitute has been written for S. 130 which broadens the "green acres" concept. If approved, the substitute would be known as the "Open Space and Farmland Preservation Act of 1971." It would apply to open space land, farm and agri- cultural land and timberland. Farm land of 20 acres or more used primarily for agriculture or horticulture could qualify. Parcels less than 50 acres could also qualify under certain conditions.

One bottle bill, H. 4152, has passed the House and would permit the use of "green acres" classified land would be on its value for that purpose and not on any possible tax use. The range of values for this purpose would be determined by "an open space and farmland evaluation committee." The members of this committee would be the director of the Department of Agriculture; the Dean of the College of Agri- culture, MSU; the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and the Chairman of the State Tax Commission. The primary objec- tive of this committee would be the determination of the values of land based only on its produc- tive capacity for agriculture and open agricultural and open spaces. The committee would also be asked to make a study of the value of agricultural land and open space uses as it deemed proper.

Under the bill as presently written, applications would be accepted for three years. The purpose of this restriction is to permit the state to determine the extent to which it might be used and whether it would work as a means of preserving land. If it prove a success, the legislature could extend the law by removing the time limit.

The acres bill, S. 130, as presently written, is a combin- ation of several states' systems, including California, Washington New Jersey and Connecticut. Some states have a three-year roll- back, others five, and still others a longer rollback. It is thought that the five-year rollback, along with the penalty provision to dis- courage land speculators, will aid the farms and homeowners who sincerely wishes to continue farming and pollution. This first case will be a landmark decision. Michigan Farm Bureau is working closely with the defendant and his lawyer in a case where every case so far was based on the old nuisance laws. Alleged odors are the basis of the suit. (See special articles in this issue on air pollution and ballot studies.)

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GARDENING CAN BE DANGEROUS!

Spring, summer, autumn, the yard-work seasons mean moving, lifting, and pounding. And for lots of people, they turn out to be seasons for hernias, back injuries, and pulled muscles. Raking, digging, gardening—these three activities can cause you as much muscle strain as lifting. Space jobs over a period of time and take rest breaks. Be sure your digging tools are sharp and in good repair. Raking is hard on your back if not done correctly. Stand straight. Have your tools the right length and weight.

DRINKING ... DRIVING, DON'T MIX

Chances are 80 to one that you'll be killed or injured by a drunk driver this year, but don't expect a drunk to do anything about drunk driving. If anything is going to be done about drunk driving, it'll have to be done by you.

With summer vacations and parties upon us, resolve not to be out on the highways if you have been drinking. And remember... when the number of accidents stop rising, so will your insurance rates. That's important to both you and Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

F.B. Women's Work Schedule

A full work schedule has been approved by the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors and accepted by the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee for 1971-72. The work program followed a joint meeting between the MFB Women's Committee and the State Women's Planning Committee.

In the Farm Bureau activities area, the women will concentrate their efforts on membership, community group promotion, policy development and execution, and the political education program.

In the tax reform area, it was decided to keep Farm Bureau members informed, inform legislators, support legislation, and work on zoning and welfare programs.

A program of work to promote MACMA, encourage good farm management, promote commodities, new product development and legislation will be utilized in their marketing and bargainining program.

The ladies will also be active in the U and I (Understanding and Information) program. They will work on a "welcome wagon" type project, conduct farm tours, will hold meetings with urban people and participate in community affairs, arrange fair exhibits, write letters to editors and work to keep all concerned informed and improve the farmers' image.

In "safety and health" they will strive to emphasize farm safety projects, study health costs and promote adequate health facilities and better nutrition education and "Project Hope."

Good ecology will be one of the prime activities promoted. The Farm Bureau Women will endeavor to promote beautification projects, study pesticides and herbicides and promote legislation on returnable bottles. In farm labor, the Farm Bureau Women will promote MASA, promote the use of better farm labor records and encourage Farm Bureau Women to become active on county farm labor committees.

Additional information will be supplied to members throughout the year.

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INTEREST ON DEBENTURES

FOR $100.00 OR MORE YOU CAN PURCHASE
6% - 5 Year Maturity
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7%-15 Year Maturity

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MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU WOMEN’S COMMITTEE

MEMBERS OF THE . . . Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee are: seated, left to right: Mrs. Raymond (Marie) Postma, Rudyard, chairman, District 11-East; Mrs. Richard (Doris) Wieland, Ellsworth, state vice chairman; Mrs. Jerold (Marilyne) Topiloff, Eaton Rapids, state chairman; Helen Atwood, coordinator, Women's Activities, MFB; Mrs. Harold (Margaret) Welke, Maryville, retiring chairman, District 6, Standing, left to right: Mrs. C. G. (Aliee) Lee, Addison, retiring chairman, District 2; Mrs. Robert (Margaret) Kortes, West Branch, retiring chairman, District 6-East; Mrs. Howard (Doris) Mahaffy, Marlette, newly elected chairman, District 6; Mrs. Kenneth (Millie) Corey, Stephenson, chairman, District 11-West; Mrs. William (Bertha) Parsons, Charlevoix, chairman, District 10-West, Mrs. Leon (Ruth) Cooper, Mecosta, chairman, District 9; Mrs. Clifford (Maud) Budral, Durand, chairman, District 5; Mrs. Gerald (Leora) Smith, Hastings, chairman, District 4; Mrs. Andrew (Claudine) Jackson, Howell, chairman, District 3; Mrs. Hugh (Marie) Swindelhurst, Mecosta, newly elected chairman, District 8; Mrs. Harold (Grace) Greenhow, Carson City, chairman, District 7. Absent when the picture was taken were Mrs. Alice Burundi, chairman, District 1; Mrs. Remus (Ruth) Riggs, Coldwater, newly elected chairman, District 2.

State Farm Bureau Women's Planning Committee

MEMBERS OF THE . . . State Farm Bureau Women's Planning Committee are: seated left to right: Mrs. Paul (Nancy) Geiger, South Lyon, vice chairman, District 3; Mrs. Richard (Doris) Wieland, Ellsworth, state vice chairman and committee chairman; Mr. James (Faye) Grubbell, Lapeer, State Farm Bureau Insurance Group policies covering boating. The fast growing popularity of boating promises plenty of traffic on the lakes, rivers and coastal waters. Be sure to bone up on the "rules of the water," and examine your Farm Bureau Insurance Group policies covering boating. Among the most frequently cited faults of operators are excessive speed, overloading, improper loading, carelessness and recklessness, improper lockout, disregard of weather conditions, non-compliance with rules and regulations in sailing, improper installation or maintenance of equipment, bad judgment, proceeding with unsuitable craft, and introduction of explosive or combustible vapors or liquids on board. Motorboat owners may have their craft inspected for safety by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a volunteer, non-military organization created by Congress to promote safety in recreational boating. Your safety is the prime interest of Farm Bureau Insurance Group.
**MACA GATEWATCH A SUCCESS!**

MACA's 855 cherry members vigorously promoted processor's early offers for their 1971 cherry crop. This protest took the form of a diversion of all cherries away from the major Southwest Michigan processor, Michigan Fruit Canners. To make the diversion effective, MACA used a gatewatch at seven of the company's receiving points to meet growers and explain to them why an 11% price per pound at 92-94 grade was the true value of this year's crop. Michigan Fruit Canners and several other processors offered 10% per pound at a 92-94 grade.

According to Harry Foster, manager of the Red Tart Cherry Division, the gatewatch and diversion was effective! Members and others who watched this effort felt their full support. It was, of course, helped by the fact that MACA gatewatchers could offer growers other alternative markets at improved prices.

Foster proclaimed that the AAMA-MACMA's price position was vindicated by the fact that at least seven processors offered 10.5% per pound for 92-94 score cherries, and in many cases special deals above this price were made for top quality tree-run cherries that netted members in excess of 11%. The MACA Marketing Committee ordered the diversion and gatewatch into effect after Michigan Fruit Canners, a major price leader in the cherry industry, refused to make any concessions its original 10% offer. MACA had already reached tentative agreement on an 11-93% grade compromise with three processors but these deals were wiped out when the large company announced its 10%, 92-94 grade price.

In complimenting the Cherry Marketing Committee for this aggressive action, Bob Braden, MACA general manager, said, "We are proud that MACA members are ready to fight for realistic prices. Despite the fact that Michigan Fruit Canners did not adjust its announced price, we proved that we can divert product and we attained our objective of improved prices for our members."

With the harvest moving into the very important Northwest Michigan area, the MACA position became one of directing the members to the very best of offers available for their crop. This might mean a 10.5% price offer or it could mean a handling or run offer by processors to attract good blocks of cherries according to Braden.

MACA is also battling a few Northwest Michigan processors on the issue of grading methods. Some processors have in the past been deducting pounds from the gross weight according to the grade score and also paying on the price determined by the grade. This results in the double dockage to the producer. MACA is ready to expose this unfair practice if it should occur this season, Braden concluded.

### Fruit Commodity Adv. Committee

The 1971 MFB FRUIT...Commodity Advisory Committee is seated, left to right: Bob Braden, director; Norman Velliquette, Market Research Div., secretary; Kenneth Bull, Mushkegon, chairman and Ed Erwin, Oakland, vice chairman. Standing, left to right: Ed Hovelsrud, Great Lakes; John Phillips, Grotto; Lester Kober, Kent; Bob Rider, Oceana; Larry Seaman, Jackson; Bill Field, Oceana; George Stover, Berrien and Janet Sayers, MCHS.

### Wheat Program Sign-Up Ends

August 31 is the deadline for sign-up in the 1971 crop Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program.

Members can consign wheat to the program simply by delivering wheat to a local elevator and telling an elevator employee that the wheat is to be in the program. A Delivery and Settlement form is completed at the elevator. First-year participants will also need to sign an agreement.

A check for the advance payment will be sent to the member. Another check for final payment will be received at the end of the marketing year.

Wheat will not be accepted for consignment to the program after August 31.

### Marketing and Commodities

**Cost-Squeeze Getting Tighter... Farm Surpluses Declining**

Net farm income dropped more than 11 percent below year-earlier levels for the first quarter of 1971. Lower cash receipts and higher production costs combined to push incomes to the lowest depth in three years. Farm income may strengthen from first quarter levels during the balance of the year. Higher prices for livestock and several important crops appear likely. Gains in receipts, however, are expected to be nullified by continued rising costs and reduced government payments.

1971 net farm income is expected to fall short of the $15.8 billion realized in 1970—marking the second consecutive year of decline.

Production costs may increase at least $2 billion this year over last year's high expenditures. Prices of production items averaged six percent above a year ago in May. Larger quantities of cash grain, a reduced feed grain needed to plant the larger crop acreage this year will tend to boost costs.

Farmers are "operating on extremely thin margins," according to a high USDA official. The 600,000 large farms that each had gone into the production of butter and cheese have collectively supply about three-quarters of the nation's feed and fish fiber each year—are "extremely vulnerable to continued inflation, high federal income tax, and the non-income tax. These larger farm operators are especially vulnerable because of their high capitalization, high fixed overhead and relatively large hired labor requirements.

Feedlot Study Committee Named

The House of Representatives passed a resolution June 25 creating a special seven-member committee to study livestock feedlots. The resolution asks the committee to report its findings and recommendations to the 1971 Legislature for regulating livestock feedlots to protect environmental quality.

Members of the committee have been named by the Speaker of the House. Named to the committee are: Joe Ekren (D-Auburn), chairman; Richard Allen (R-Blissfield); Dain Algich (D-Drummondville); Tom Anderson (D-South St. Joe); tunnel (D-Detroit); George Piro (D-Detroit) and John Engler (R-Mt. Pleasant).

The committee is expected to begin its study with a general review of Michigan's total livestock industry. Farm Bureau has offered assistance and information to the committee that is relevant in the objective study of livestock feedlots.

### Cotton

Cotton is in tight supply worldwide. Soybean production is barely keeping pace with demand. The feed grain carryover at the end of October last year was 10.7 billion bushels, and the corn blight may shorten this year's crop. Cattle numbers are meeting demand and drawing a good price. Hogs, eggs and broilers have been in oversupply but adjustments are on the way. The supply-demand balance for milk is favorable but the increase in price support may encourage excess output.
Attend MAC Meeting

HAROLD BLAYLOCK ... (left), president of the Michigan Agri-cultural Conference and vice president of the Michigan Farm Producers Association, exchanged greetings with E. J. Kiernan, (right), Michigan State Fair manager, at a recent MAC meeting held on the Fairgrounds. Also attending were David Morris (second from left) MAC vice president and a Michigan Farm Bureau board of director member; Elton R. Smith, president of Michigan Farm Bureau and a MAC Executive Committee member, center, and Michigan State Fair Authority member, Del-mont L. Chapman, second from right.

Ed Steffen Retires ... .

A gift of luggage to use on his travels was one of the gifts presented to Ed Steffen when he officially retired from Michigan Farm Bureau this past June. But one of the big surprises for Ed was the hanging of the name plates on the doors of the Farm Bureau Conference room, designating it the "Edwin F. Steffen Conference Room.

Ed Steffen joined MFB as general counsel in September 1945 and served in this capacity until 1966. In January 1968 he assumed the position of New Building coordinator — a position that involved the solving of countless ends of construction and legal problems.

Mr. Steffen is a former teacher, athletic coach and school principal at L'Anse, Tqunamings and in the Saginaw school system. He received his law degree from the University of Michigan.

Ed is well-known as a world traveler and photographer ... a hobby he is planning to pick up again now that the new building is occupied.

A reception for Ed was hosted by his fellow Farm Bureau employees.

Montcalm County Farm Bureau to Sponsor Art Linkletter Sept. 18

Montcalm County Farm Bureau, in cooperation with the Montcalm Community College, will present Art Linkletter, well-known radio and television star, September 18 in the Greenville High School gym.

Mr. Linkletter will speak on "Drug Abuse" ... a subject of extreme interest to him today since the death of his daughter, Diane, (supposedly from a drug overdose) recently. He writes, speaks and broadcasts from coast to coast in the fight against the drug epidemic threatening our nation.

Art Linkletter, undoubtedly, is best known in Michigan for his "House Party" and "People Are Funny" television shows and his best known book, "Kids Say The Dardest Things." He is also a member of several nationally known companies and presidential appointed committees.

Tickets at $3.00 each, are available at the Montcalm County Farm Bureau office, 101 W. Main Street, Stanwood, Michigan 48885.

One half of the proceeds will go into the Diane Linkletter Fund for the making of films on drug abuse.

MAFC OFFERS FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TWENTY-TWO MANAGERS ... of Michigan Cooperatives met at the Farm Bureau Center recently and participated in a special financial comparison study. It is hoped that the year-end review will enable the participants to reassess their operations. Attending the meeting were, seated, left to right, Ray Vance, Falmouth; Ed Wickes, Chesaning; Lee Worley, Kent City; Dwight Aungst, Williamston; Art Romig, St. Johns and Jim Bollenbacker. Cooperatives represented were [list of cooperatives].

Ray, director of Office Supply, presented a gold wrist watch to Edward L. Z Comstock, Maintenance Department manager; Dan E. Reed presented special jewelry awards to those having five or more years of employment. MFB president Elton Smith was present and congratulated Ray Thayer (center, pictured above) for his 25 years of service.

More than 100 years of dedicated service by Michigan Farm Bureau employees was recognized at a special meeting held in mid-June at the new Farm Bureau Center. MFB secretary-manager Dan E. Reed presented special jewelry awards to those having five or more years of employment.

MFB president Elton Smith was present and congratulated Ray Thayer (center, pictured above) for his 25 years of service.

New "Service-to-Members" Program Accepted

Another new "working together" Farm Bureau membership program ... "Safety Group Farm Workmen's Compensation Insurance" created by Farm Bureau Mutual, has gotten off to a fast start.

Over 1,700 Farm Bureau members are already enrolled in the Safety Group program which became effective July 1, 1971. Until now, only Workmen's Compensation policyholders paying $500 or more in premiums were eligible for dividends ranging from 2.5% to 30%.

The Safety Group plan allows all participants to share in the profits, regardless of the premiums they pay. Dividends can range from 5% to 45% of individual annual premiums if declared by Farm Bureau Mutual's Board of Directors. The dividend is determined by the Safety experience of participating Farm Bureau Members.

In describing this new program, Nile L. Vernimillion, Farm Bureau Insurance Group Executive Vice President, left to right: "The concept 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."

Safety is the key to lowering Workers' Compensation costs. There is a substantial savings if sound safety measures are initiated ... and Farm Bureau Insurance Group is prepared to recognize these measures and reward members accordingly. "Past experience," explained Mr. Ver-nimillion, "has proven Farm Bureau members an extremely safety-conscious segment of the farm community."

To take advantage of the Safety Group Workers' Compensation program, four simple requirements must be met: 1. Farm Bureau membership; 2. actively joining the Safety Group; 3. agreement to a common July 1, effective date for individual Workmen's Compensation insurance policies; and 4. the majority of employees must be farm employees.

HOSPITAL BEDS EMPTY; COSTS CLIMB

Hospital over-building in many places and great changes in the methods of medical care have created a sudden reversal of a 25-year shortage of hospital beds throughout our country.

An unoccupied hospital bed costs approximately two-thirds as much to maintain as one which is in use. The American Hospital Association says the bell for extra beds in New York City is running $10 million a day, or over $3 billion per year. The federal government and Blue Cross and other health plans pay most of this cost in higher rates for remaining patients.

Nationwide, hospital occupancy is down to about 78%. Last year 185,000 hospital beds in the United States stood empty on the average day.

In addition to over-building, other reasons for the empty beds include a decrease in the length of stay.
J. Ward Cooper, assistant direc-
tive of the American Farm Bu-
reau Federation’s Research Divi-
sion since 1964, has resigned.

J. WARD COOPER

Sec. Hardin in Sparta August 9

The appearance of Secretary of
Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin
in the Kent County community.
Rep. Gerald B. Ford and other state
and national dignitaries are
expected to attend an address
appearing with Secretary
Hardin.

The major address will be de-
hivered by Secretary Hardin
beginning at 3 p.m. at Bayleat Field
in downtown Sparta. Fruit Grower
Melvin Kraft will introduce Rep.
Ford and others at this occasion.
(Mr. Ford will, in turn, introduce
the secretary.)

His talk, which will be de-

tocked on labor, the price-cost

touch on labor, the price-cost

Theme of the Agricultural Day
will include floats, 4-H mem-
bers, FFA members, agricultural
queens and others.

Other events scheduled for the
Agricultural Day will include a
livestock show beginning at 9:30
in a.m. with Roger Saur,

ANNUAL PROGRAM
Numerous members have
utilized this service. If you are
interested, contact your Ziehl
dealer. Remember, this is a
20% discount program. Refer
to your June and July issues
of the Michigan Farm News
for a list of dealers.

MANAGEMENT TOUR ON WAY

J. WARD COOPER

NILE VERMILLION . . . (right)
executive vice president of Farm Bureau Insurance Group, con-
ducts a tour of the new Center for the Federal Reserve Division, Marketing Division.

Fifteenth 1971-72 Michigan
Farm Bureau State FFA officers were guests of the Michigan Association of
Farmer Cooperatives at the new
Farm Bureau Center early in July.
A tour of the building and din-
er with MFB staff and MAFC
officers is an annual event and
acquaints the newly elected of-
fers with the many services of-
fered by the cooperatives.

Part of the program included
the making of a radio tape to be
used by the FFA officer in his
home area, an address by MFB
president Elmer Bush, a report
by the Montague FFA and a slide
presentation of a past FFA of-
ficer’s trip to Germany.

Dr. James Sayre, Arthur Bailey
and MFB Staff Assistant Noel Stuckman. Standing, (left to right) Kenneth Bull, Richard Wieland, Walter Franhum and Eugene Roberts. The committee will analyze Farm Bureau affiliated commodity marketing activities currently operating in Michigan and will advise on Farm Bureau’s future role in marketing.

Notes From All Over . . .

Leon (Lee) Everett, Mason, has been appointed state LPS
Specialist according to an announcement by Don Shepard,
manager, Feed Department, Farm Bureau Services. LPS, a
liquid protein supplement, is a combination of essential in-
gredients that enables beef and dairy cattle to better utilize
home grown roughages and grains. He joined FBS in 1964
and worked for a time as manager of the FBS Centerville
branch store.

Henry T. Nelson, an Ionia county Farm Bureau member fruit
grower, has been reappointed to a three-year term on the
Michigan Apple Committee. Nelson is the immediate past
president of the Michigan State Horticultural Society. He has
also served as the chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau state
fruit advisory committee. Elwyn E. Olmstead, a Ludington
fruit grower, has been appointed to a three-year term on the
Michigan Apple Committee.

J. WARD COOPER

MFB MARKETING STUDY COMMITTEE

August 1, 1971

SIX MEMBERS OF THE . . . Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors are members of the Michi-
igan Farm Bureau Marketing Study Committee. Members are (left to right) seated, Chairman James Sayre, Arthur Bailey and MFB Staff Assistant Noel Stuckman. Standing, (left to right) Kenneth Bull, Richard Wieland, Walter Franhum and Eugene Roberts. The committee will analyze Farm Bureau affiliated commodity marketing activities currently operating in Michigan and will advise on Farm Bureau’s future role in marketing.

Five-Year Guaranteed Auto Protection Program Under Way

The guaranteed renewable auto insurance program, which
began July 1, was authorized by Farm Bureau Mutual and
Community Service Insurance Board of Directors, is slated
to run to June 30, 1976.

Essentially, the new plan offers guaranteed protection for
all Farm Bureau members whose auto insurance has been in
force for 55 days.

On July 1, 1971, all current Farm Bureau members insur-
ing cars and trucks with Farm Bureau Insurance Group were
automatically enrolled in the five-year guaranteed auto pro-
tection. Qualification for guaranteed auto insurance is validated by:
1) continuous Farm Bureau membership; 2) prompt and con-
tinuous premium payment; and 3) maintaining a continuous
Michigan drivers license.

In outlining this additional member benefit, Nile L. Vermi-
llion, Farm Bureau Insurance Executive Vice President, said,
"Unfortunately, rising costs and an increase in accidents, pro-
hibit guaranteeing rates and classifications. However, we feel
the five-year auto insurance guarantee is a big step forward."
Reorganize federal government? That's on the agenda of the Nixon Administration's list of proposals for reform.

This particular proposal may be unique, however, the idea of federal reorganization to promote efficiency has been courted by government throughout the years. But this Administration has actually planted a seed for change and it is predicted that the season will bring the most agreeable political climate to make it grow in the making.

The legislation is being studied in committees of both houses of Congress.

What is Farm Bureau policy? As of yet there is none, but the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors has referred the subject to Farm Bureau members for consideration in the 1971 policy development process.

The skeletal structure of the plan is to take seven departments of federal government and shuffle them into four superdepartments of government. These four superdepartments would be named, Departments of Natural Resources, Human Resources, Community Development and Economic Affairs.

This vast reorganization will include the existing Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Labor, Commerce, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Health, Education and Welfare. Also a number of independent government agencies and commissions would become segments of these new departments.

In this plan, no changes are proposed for the Department of Defense, Justice, State and Treasury.

Why should farmers be concerned? Essentially because the Department of Agriculture as we now know it would be parcelled out among all four departments. On the federal level a farmer wanting to deal with the Soil Conservation Service would talk with the Department of Natural Resources. A farmer wanting to deal with the Rural Electrification Administration would knock on the door of the Department of Community Development. Likewise, if a farmer looked for the meat and poultry inspection people he would find them in the Department of Human Resources. If he wanted to talk with the Farmers Home Administration, he would have to seek out the Department of Economic Affairs. Farmers can best decide if this is favorable or unfavorable legislation.

Some current thoughts packed into the debate barrel:
- The plan would sharply alter the way federal agencies regulate business.
- A proposal to establish an administrative court is seen by some to be the key to make it work. Fifteen judges on 15 year staggered terms would unfold the problems and iron out the wrinkles fairly. Administrative courts would be no more immune to influence in judgment than the traditional agencies are.
- Either a business or the government can take any case that it loses before a regulatory body to a federal court. It can speed up the court process.
- Reorganization would streamline the present system which is too slow and rigid and can't keep up with change. Is not sufficiently accountable for its actions. Does not now attract the most "highly qualified" staffs. There is an imbalance of public interest and needs of regulated industry.
- The real problem is not a new structure in government but its purpose. More concentration should be directed to consumer protection than in promoting the business of managing.

- It is a plan to solve unreasonable government and unrestrained corporate power.
- The four superdepartments as proposed are likely to be more efficient and perhaps more sensitive to the public good.
- The public would have a clearer view of who is responsible, who to praise or blame. Meaning, "... things will get done.
- Presidential control will give the public more protection as the President is more free from industry pressure and congressional appropriation subversion.
- It will give too much control to the President.
- Farm families... a serious blow? Department of Agriculture has too much power and it is suggested that this may be the reason farmers can't afford to be without it.
- No service now rendered will be discontinued. Deal with the same people at the local level.
- USDA would not be charged with costs of Food for Peace and Food Stamp Program and is predicted to help the public image of agriculture.
- Foreign trade policies would be better coordinated. Reason present policies are not stronger.
- White House is hoping to gain more control of departments. As in the case of other departments, the USDA employs 100,000 persons owing a high degree of loyalty to the programs that pay their salaries. It is less pliable to the calls of the White House.
- It would make the federal regulating bodies more manageable.

Where will Farm Bureau stand? It is your decision to make.

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**DISCUSSION TOPIC**

**THE D.C. SHUFFLE**

- **REORGANIZATION OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENT PROPOSED**
- **USDA SHAKE-UP?**

**by**

GARY A. KLEINHENN, Director
Education & Research

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**A Farm Bureau policy development feature—**

**President Nixon’s proposals for government reorganization**

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JUNE DISCUSSION TOPIC SUMMARY

Groups returned 493 questionnaires to the June discussion topic, "Homeowner Sharing." These involved discussion by 4,126 individuals.

Main question: Do you believe the federal government will share funds with state and local governments with "no strings attached?" As usual, groups agreed. Twenty-two said yes.

Groups hundred eighty-seven agreed Farm Bureau's plan of tax credits from federal income tax would be a better plan. Forty-nine disagreed. Many lively comments were made on both plans. A typical comment on federal revenue sharing was, "Effective if fairly administered. Top heavy administration costs could offset benefits." On tax credit plan, "Good idea, we would see more money made on both plans. A typical
Small Family Farmers Could Be Crushed Too!

The 1971 version of Cesar Chavez’s grape boycott is likely to become a giant grape-crusher for thousands of Michigan farm workers, a farm labor spokesman has stated.

Dr. Clifton Ganus addressed the assembly on “Understanding and Preserving Our Heritage,” “What Them Is This Man?”, “The Moral Foundations of Freedom” and closed his day-long session with the “Pyramid of Freedom” on the first day of the schedule.

“Even Hugh Hefter and Play-Boy have flashed into the picture,” said Angell. “Hefter has reportedly called representatives of the boycotters to the White House and directed them to arrive at terms with Chavez—or lose la-ze, to be used to cut the grapes grown by 1700 workers who are “willing to bear an unchecked power ap-}
Accent On Youth

The accent is on youth this year, when the 1971 Michigan State Fair opens its gates on August 27th. Commenting on the Fair, which in its 122nd year is the oldest in the nation, manager E. J. "Jeff" Keirns said, "We've extended the Fair to 17 days for the first time, and part of the reason is to provide extra and well-deserved recognition to the youthful exhibitors from all over the State who will show during the 1971 Michigan State Fair.

The Youth Program, Keirns pointed out, is the designation given the first five days of the Fair ... August 27th through August 31st ... which will feature expanded livestock, home-making, art and hobby judging.

In recognition of the importance of the youth programs, Keirns announced earlier this year the appointment of Richard D. Byrum, a recent MSU Agriculture School grad, as Supervisor of Youth Exhibits. Byrum is directly responsible for the scheduling and co-ordinating of all the youth activities during the Fair.

"We have taken several steps to insuare that exhibitors at the Youth Program will enjoy the finest facilities and settings for their many activities," Byrum stated. He noted that several thousand dollars had been spent in dormitory improvements, including more toilet and shower facilities, and that the expanded number of accommodations available would again be assigned free of charge to exhibitors. Arrangements have also been made to provide meals at reduced cost to all exhibitors.

Keirns added that supervisory and security personnel have been increased this year, "which we think will guarantee the safety and comfort of all youth program personnel at the Fair."

Butter-Sales-To-Britain Causes Stir

Sales of U. S. surplus butter to England have many U. S. housewives asking, "why can the USDA sell cut rate butter to Britons when we have to pay as much as 90 cents per pound."

With CCC dairy purchases (milk equivalent) during the 1970-71 marketing year, 70 percent above those for the previous year, the USDA apparently considered it appropriate to reduce its surplus stockpile. The surplus has been cut back to date — which the CCC purchased at 69 cents a pound was sold to exporters at about 50 cents per pound.

Congress could become embroiled in the butter issue. Surplus butter sales to Britain could provide Congress with an opportunity to control the butter action by causing trouble on at least three fronts: Cost of dairy support program — USDA nets a loss of about 19 cents per pound on the purchase price of butter sold to Britain plus storage costs; Export dumping — Some countries might attack the butter sales as export dumping; and Consumer interests — A USDA spokesman stated that the surplus butter can not be sold to American consumers without hurting dairy farmers but consumers.

The numbers game may come into play — consumers vs. dairymen.

New Zealand butter prices on the British market have been increased to 45 cents a pound, the highest price ever charged.

The latest increase puts the price above the previous 44-cent record highs reached in 1954 and 1959.

The price increase follows action by the British Government on April 29, suspending the butter quota system for two months and allowing importers to buy butter from anywhere in the world except Rhodesia. The quota was suspended for 10 months and allowing importers to buy butter from anywhere in the world except Rhodesia. The quota was suspended for 10 months.

The increased butter sales to Britain caused a stir in the dairy industry, with many dairymen and dairy associations expressing concern over the effect on American dairy farmers.

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1500 michigan farmers enrolled in "safety group" workmen's comp plan...

... and the plan began just one month ago. The reason? When declared by the Board of Directors, dividends can range from 5% to 45% of individual premium for every "Safety Group" member no matter the size of their farm. It's that simple ... that impressive.

How do you qualify as a Workmen's Compensation "Safety Group" policyholder?

1. Hold a Farm Bureau membership.
2. Actually join the "Safety Group."
3. Agree to a common July 1 effective date for your Workmen's Compensation insurance policy.
4. The majority of your payroll is for agricultural employees.

Your local Farm Bureau Insurance Group Agent will be happy to enroll you.

ANOTHER REASON WHY WE'RE CALLED THE FARM EXPERTS!