

# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Vol. 51, No. 1

MAKE IT HAPPEN

January

january

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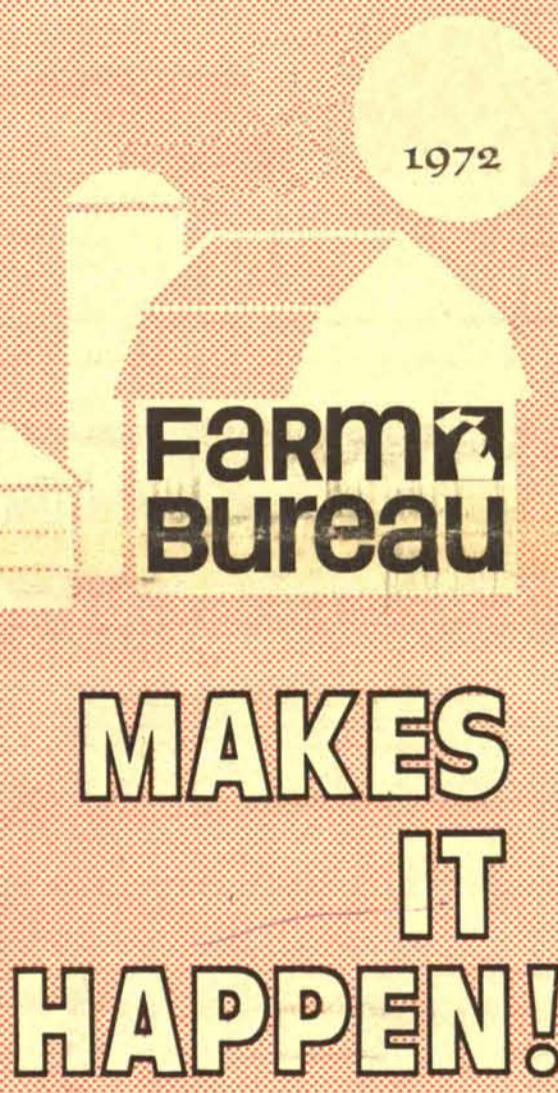
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**MAC-LUCE MAKES GOAL**



**Farm Bureau**

**MAKES IT HAPPEN!**

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## EDITORIAL . . .



## F.B. On The Move

Farmers from 49 states and Puerto Rico gathered together in Chicago for the 53rd annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation during the first full week in December to establish the policies for their organization.

Michigan was well represented by over 240 farmers who took time out from their daily farm chores to take part in this annual event of the world's largest farm organization. Over 7000 farmers and ranchers were in attendance.

From the opening vesper service on Sunday afternoon through the motion to adjourn on Thursday, Michigan members took an active part in the convention.

Michigan Farm Bureau Queen Miss Jackie Shade proudly represented us in the parade of queens at the large International Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton Hotel before thousands of people.

Michigan was one of three states to receive a four-star award, the highest given this year, at the "Gold Star Award" program. State Farm Bureaus were required to show a gain in membership over their 1970 total in order to qualify for the gold star program. Michigan is well qualified, having had a membership gain for four consecutive years. Other program areas of MFB to receive a "Gold Star Award" were young farmers, marketing and policy development.

Approximately 2800 county Farm Bureau presidents were on hand to help celebrate a new all-time-high membership record of 2,057,665 AFBF member families. This is an increase of 114,484 member families over last year and the largest increase in membership since 1947.

One of the major guest speakers at the general session was Earl L. Butz, recently appointed Secretary of Agriculture. Butz commented, "There are some real problems facing agriculture. Just to name a few; inadequate income, farm costs, over-production, farm labor, the use of farm chemicals, revitalization of our rural communities, maintaining family farms and access to foreign markets for U.S. farm products."

He informed the assembled group that he would need their help in finding answers to these problems.

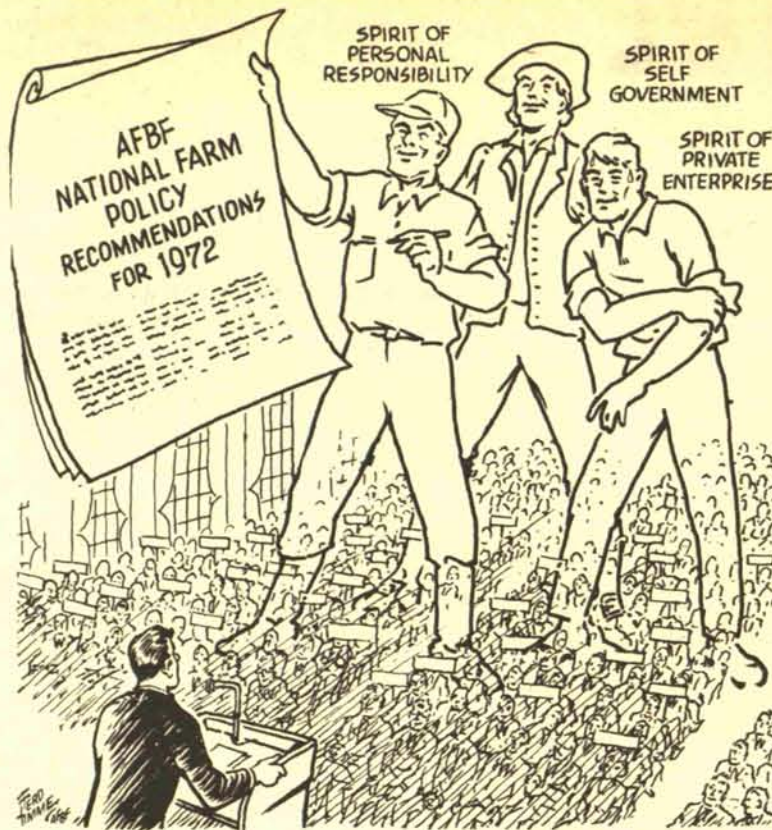
Butz also said, "I am on record regarding the right of farmers to bargain. I now go on record favoring the principles and methods of bargaining embodied in the Sisk Bill. At the proper time I shall support it, subject of course to any minor modification that may seem appropriate as testimony proceeds before the Committee."

In closing he said, "May I assure you that we have the full support of President Nixon and his staff in the White House as we move forward vigorously to preserve the family farm structure in American agriculture; and do our utmost to assure a level of income for farm folks that will let them share adequately in the great American affluence; we try to strengthen our rural communities all through America so that our young people may find good opportunities for purposeful employment and peaceful living in areas where they grew up; and finally, to bring to all of us in agriculture a deep inner sense of dignity and pride in our profession."

Farm Bureau is an action organization that is growing and meeting the needs of farmers. The decisions arrived at in the Chicago meeting will be heard loud and clear, far and wide, as it is the true VOICE of agriculture representing over two million members.

Carl P. Kentner

## THE AUTHORS . . . .



### FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE

January 15, 1972 is an important date to remember. It is the Farm Bureau membership deadline for you to retain your eligibility for high quality Blue Cross-Blue Shield health care benefits through Farm Bureau.

Blue Cross-Blue Shield is one of the many benefits available to eligible Farm Bureau members. It protects you and your family against the high cost of unexpected hospital and doctor bills.

Through united action, Farm Bureau, "Makes It Happen." Renew your Farm Bureau membership now.

## HOW WE STAND ON MEMBERSHIP

January is membership campaign time in Michigan. Voluntary workers will be contacting farmers who are not now members offering them the opportunity to join the largest farmers organization in Michigan and the United States.

Farm Bureau is an organization of-by-and-for farmers which is independent, non-governmental and voluntary. It is local, state-wide, national and international in its scope and influence.

Many Farm Bureau members have renewed their membership for 1972 and in some counties new members have signed up.

### REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDING

| Region         | December 16, 1971 |        |           | December 16, 1970 |        |           |
|----------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|--------|-----------|
|                | New               | Total  | % of Goal | New               | Total  | % of Goal |
| Northeast      | 60                | 1976   | 73.4      | 48                | 1560   | 58.5      |
| Northwest      | 59                | 2190   | 70.2      | 33                | 1905   | 59.9      |
| UP             | 58                | 602    | 65.5      | 23                | 417    | 46.4      |
| Saginaw Valley | 129               | 4283   | 63.9      | 78                | 3906   | 58.8      |
| Southwest      | 165               | 4938   | 61.4      | 91                | 4818   | 59.7      |
| Thumb          | 139               | 5839   | 60.4      | 74                | 5609   | 57.6      |
| West           | 94                | 4310   | 60.0      | 87                | 4014   | 56.3      |
| West Central   | 58                | 2199   | 58.1      | 28                | 1978   | 52.2      |
| Southeast      | 125               | 4160   | 56.9      | 116               | 3818   | 52.6      |
| Central        | 250               | 4538   | 52.0      | 163               | 4301   | 49.8      |
| State          | 1137              | 35,035 | 60.3      | 741               | 31,479 | 55.8      |

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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OFFICERS: Michigan Farm Bureau; President, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; Vice President, Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, R-1; Secretary-Manager, Dan E. Reed, Lansing.

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN . . .

## Marketing Opportunities



A Michigan State University survey of farmers' attitudes established that farmers are most strongly motivated to join a farm organization through the provision of tangible economic benefits.

Our experience in Michigan Farm Bureau substantiates this finding. As sound beneficial marketing programs have been developed, the membership has steadily increased.

To make profitable adjustments to the many changes arising in production and marketing, we must act through our own initiative to solve the problems confronting us today and in the future. We must seek to set standards for production and marketing problems which work directly for the benefit of farmer members.

One of the great triumphs of our free American agriculture has been its ability to fill market needs within very statistical limits — especially when one considers the unpredictable factors in production. In planning for the future, we must not overlook the threat of actions from well meaning people who, through ignorance, would orient production to something other than consumer needs or wants.

What farmers want from the marketing of their produce is expressed, as well as anywhere, in the preamble to the law that authorized farm cooperatives: "The intelligent and orderly marketing of agricultural products . . . to eliminate speculation and waste . . . to make the distribution of agricultural products between producers and consumers as direct as can be efficiently done; and to stabilize the marketing of agricultural products."

In this day and age we hear much of the need for communication. As we move into our 1972 membership activities, this communication becomes more and more important. Farm Bureau members, as well as non-members, must become informed about Farm Bureau producer owned and controlled marketing services.

Our Farm Bureau marketing efforts provide grain, dry edible bean and egg marketing services, a cooperative dry bean marketing program and a fowl marketing service. Commodity marketing programs serve growers of apples, asparagus, tart cherries, grapes, peaches, pears, plums and annual contract vegetable crops. Feeder cattle, feeder pigs and order buyer programs are operating for livestock producers.

As we have progressed in the marketing field, participating members have gained first-hand knowledge of markets and marketing techniques and experienced tangible success.

We certainly don't have the solutions to all of the marketing problems, but we have been and will continue working to conquer them.

The voice of members must be heard if marketing services and programs are to be what the majority of the members want. We must also listen to the non-member if we hope to have him as a member.

In the process of developing policy for the coming year, we have dedicated ourselves to working harder and more aggressively to make our present marketing programs more effective. Action was taken to "gear up" for future expansion into new fields of marketing. This positive action indicates the strong belief of the majority of the members in and support for Farm Bureau marketing programs.

There are many more agricultural marketing challenges and opportunities. But they still need research, development, and member support before they can be put into operation.

Together, through Farm Bureau, we have the strength to "Make It Happen."

Elton R. Smith

# CAPITOL REPORT



Robert E. Smith

## Constitutional Change Will Reform Property Tax and School Finance

Across the nation major changes are in process to finance schools. It is now becoming clear that property tax for this purpose is obsolete. The inequities are major, with property taxpayers in some school districts receiving as low as \$5 for every mill levied and, in other districts, as high as \$80 for every mill levied.

The courts in various states of the nation are now ruling that such inequities cannot continue. The most publicized court case is in California. Others are in Minnesota and other states, including Michigan where the courts are expected to rule in a similar manner, as the Michigan system is very close to the California situation.

While these conditions have existed for some time, Legislatures throughout the country, including Michigan, have failed to act in spite of the fact that good proposals have been made for the past few years. To assure property tax reform, it will be necessary for the people to exercise their inherent power and determine the course of taxation by constitutional amendment. Governor Milliken has asserted leadership in this area and is now leading a petition drive to amend the Constitution through a vote of the people in November, 1972. The Democratic Party also has announced that it intends to have a separate petition drive for the same purpose. It is not yet available.

The Governor's program is complete and now available. The constitutional amendment proposed by him would affect only property tax reform. After January 1, 1973, local school millage would no longer be levied for school operating costs. This feature permits the cutting of the present constitutional millage limit from 50 mills down not to exceed 26 mills. Millage for county and township purposes would also be limited to not more than eight mills for counties and not more than one-and-one-half mills for townships. Intermediate

districts, vocational education, special education, compensatory education, etc. would be limited to not more than four-and-one-half mills. Schools, by vote of the people, would be permitted up to an additional six mills for enrichment programs. Counties and townships, the same as at present, could also vote some additional millage; however, in no event, could the total for schools, counties and townships be greater than 26 mills. Capital outlay is not included in the limitation.

To replace the tax relief obtained by the major cut in property taxes, the personal income tax would need to be raised 2.3 percent. To replace the revenues lost by the tax cut on business would require a two percent Value Added Tax or increased income taxes. Or, under the amendment, such properties could continue under the property tax. Property used for residential purposes and property used for agricultural purposes would be exempt from this provision.

The most important consideration that any individual has on a new tax system is how it affects him. One simple example might indicate the importance of such a reform. Assume a farm assessed at \$40,000 and that the millage for school operation is presently at 26 mills (state average)—the present school tax would be \$1,040. With the passage of the amendment, this amount, the property tax for schools, would be eliminated. Assume that the owner has a personal income of \$8,000 and that there are four in the family. His additional tax under the 2.3 percent increase in the state personal income tax would be \$74, a net tax cut of \$966!

This is not an unusual example in farming areas. Tax bills have now been received and many areas are finding property taxes doubled and tripled over a year ago. Besides farmers, the elderly would also be greatly helped.

One question that often arises is whether elimination of the

property tax for school operation would remove local control over the schools. The answer is that local school boards would have as much control as ever. The fact is that schools presently only have the authority that is given them by the Legislature and are also under the authority of the State Board of Education.

School districts would no longer have to go to the voters continually to obtain approval for increased property tax millage. They would, however, continue to determine school policies, budgets, courses of study and textbooks, hire and direct staff, assign and promote students, negotiate with employees, request voter approval on new buildings and voter approval on any enrichment millage within the new limitations. State school aid formulas would assure equitable funding of all school districts in order to assure quality education for all pupils.

Such reform must come in one way or another—either by people determining tax goals or by court decree. If the Michigan court rules that the present property tax is inequitable, as courts have ruled in other states, it could be that under the present system there could be a high statewide property tax because the court rulings have not outlawed the property tax. They have merely said it must be equal to all and that one district cannot have a revenue advantage over another.

### Farm Bureau Position on Petition Drive

Farm Bureau has been one of the leaders in the promotion of property tax reform. The shifting of school costs from property taxes to other sources of revenue, recognizing that land creates no cost, adds no burden to the school system and also recognizing that because of spiraling costs, especially in education, farm property taxes have risen to an average of over 20 percent of farmers' net income before taxes. This is three or four times more than that paid by other segments of the population.

Farm Bureau policies adopted by the delegates again this year at the state annual meeting make it very clear that income tax should be used "as a major source of funds for our school systems." The specific policy on "Constitutional Tax Reform" states that it is "obvious that the people must exercise their inherent power and amend the Michigan Constitution in order to provide a basis for long-range and meaningful total tax reform." It states further that Farm Bureau members will "join with others who also recognize the seriousness and inequity of the property tax burden on the people of this state and will support a petition drive to place upon the ballot an amendment to limit total property taxes and to eliminate as nearly as possible the property tax as a means of financing our schools."

Petitions will soon be available and plans are being made to circulate the petitions by county Farm Bureaus and assure the people of Michigan an opportunity to vote on the issue. Any petition, in order to be put on the ballot, must have the valid signatures of 266,000 registered voters. In order to assure that many valid signatures it will be necessary to collect at least 350,000 signatures. The petition drive must be completed by the first part of July.

### Governor Milliken to Hold Public Meetings

Every citizen will have an opportunity to hear a complete explanation of Governor Milliken's petition drive on property tax reform and program for school finance reform. The Governor is now holding a series of meetings throughout the entire state to provide this opportunity. Two have been held—one in Grand Rapids, the other in Marquette. As many as 15 others are expected to be held. Notices will no doubt be in local newspapers.

Every citizen interested in good government and tax reform should make an effort to attend one of these meetings for a complete explanation by experts.

### 1972 Property Tax Calendar

December 31, 1971 is the tax day for 1972 assessments and taxes. Assessors throughout the state again begin the process of determining valuation of your property for tax purposes. It is a complicated procedure at best. Many factors should be considered; however, all too often assessments are based on limited information. Again this year, P.A. 276, passed in 1969, is being printed to assist the taxpayer to understand factors that assessors could consider in determining "cash value."

Sec. 27. The words "cash value," whenever used in this act, shall be held to mean the usual selling price at the place where the property to which the term is applied shall be at the time of assessment, being the price which could be obtained therefor at private sale, and not at forced or auction sale. Any sale or other disposition by the state or any agency or political subdivision thereof heretofore or hereafter made of lands acquired for delinquent taxes or any appraisal made in connection therewith shall not be considered as controlling evidence of true cash value for assessment purposes. In determining the value the assessor shall also consider the advantages and disadvantages of location, quality of soil, zoning, existing use, and present economic income of structures; quantity and value of standing timber, water power and privileges, mines, minerals, quarries or other valuable deposits known to be available therein and their value.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, except as hereinafter provided, property shall be assessed at 50% of its true cash value in accordance with article 9, section 3 of the constitution.

If you believe that your property is overassessed, the first step that you might take is to discuss the problem with your supervisor or assessor before he makes his 1972 recommendations to the Board of Review.

Your next step in the appeals process is to appear and protest before your local Board of Review. The first meeting of the Board of Review this year is on Tuesday, March 7. Protests are usually made at the second meeting, which this year will be on March 13 and 14. Local newspapers usually have the information on the time and place of the meeting.

If the local Board of Review does not make the adjustment to your assessment that you believe is proper you then have the right to appeal to the State Tax Commission. The process does not require a lawyer and can be started by a simple letter to the Commission in Lansing. Your letter

should state that you are appealing your assessment, indicate the number of assessments you are appealing and show the township and county, locating the properties. You should state the basis of your appeal, such as your feeling that the assessment is in excess of 50% of the value of the property or that it is inequitable when compared to other property in the township. There may also be other reasons. It is well to mention that you appeared before the local Board of Review and give the date.

All appeals to the State Tax Commission must be in their office before the first Monday in May (May 1). When your letter is received, the Tax Commission will send you forms on which to indicate the full basis of your appeal. The forms are rather simple and are not difficult to fill out. You will also receive a letter of instruction, giving time limits when the forms must be returned. It is essential in the process to be sure that all deadlines are met. Any appeal that is late cannot, by law, be considered.

If you have property in a city, the dates may vary according to the city charter.

### Property Tax Credits Reinstated

The legislation passed this year to increase the Michigan income taxes contained a provision reinstating the property tax credits which had been repealed a year ago. These credits can mean substantial tax savings to many people, especially farmers. The credits are deductible from the state income tax and are computed as follows: when property taxes are \$100 or less the credit is 20% of the tax; between \$100, but not over \$150, the credit is \$20 plus 10% of the excess over \$100; on taxes of \$150, but not over \$200, the credit is \$25 plus 5% of the amount over \$150; on property taxes of over \$200 the credit is \$27.50 plus 5% of the excess over \$200; if the property tax is over \$10,000 the credit is 4% of the tax.

As an example, let us assume a farm has a property tax of \$2,000, (which is not unusual) the tax credit in this case would be \$27.50 for the first \$200 of tax and 5% of the next \$1800, which would be \$90, making a total property tax credit of \$117.50. This amount would be deducted from the owner's actual state income tax.

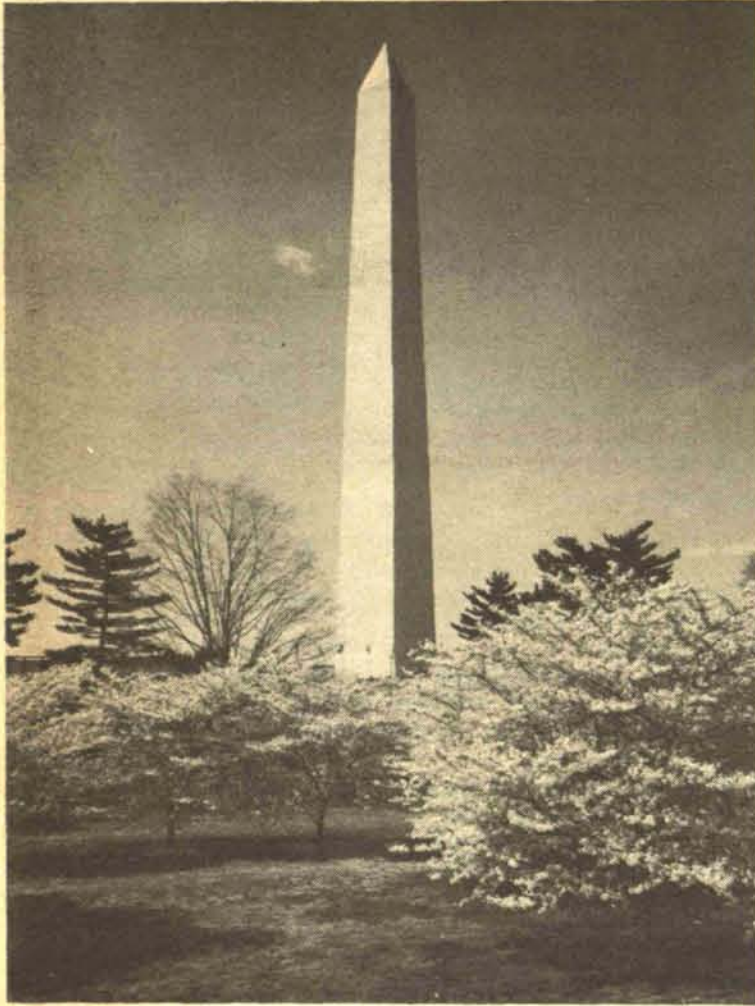
The bill provides for similar credits to those who pay city income tax and also those who rent. In the case of renters, property taxes are considered to be 17% of the gross rent paid.

Tax credits do not apply to corporations or financial institutions nor can a tax credit be allowed that is in excess of the income tax liability of the taxpayer.

As in the past, the bill continues to provide for a substantial share of the state income tax to be returned to local government on a per capita basis—one-half to counties and one-half to townships, cities, etc.

The bill containing tax credits and increased state income taxes contains an interesting provision that it expires on August 1, 1972 unless the Legislature has submitted to the electors constitutional amendments containing certain provisions relative to property tax relief and graduated income tax. Inasmuch as the Legislature has not taken such action, the whole issue of income tax will again be one of the most controversial issues of the session.

## Washington Seminar Tour



March 13-16 are the dates for the 12th annual Washington Legislative Seminar sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau Women. The main purpose of the seminar is to provide an opportunity for selected "Legislative Leaders" to be part of organized meetings with Michigan Congressmen to discuss current legislation.

County Farm Bureaus have been encouraged to recommend for selection as "Legislative Leaders" those individuals having the responsibility of helping to carry out Farm Bureau policy.

Combined with the congressional visits will be organized tours of the city of Washington and such interesting places as historical monuments, Washington Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Mount Vernon, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

All Farm Bureau members are invited to accompany their Legislative Leaders as part of the American Heritage Tour group. This offers them an excellent opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. comfortably and economically with other Farm Bureau members, and to enjoy the sights of that city and the surrounding area.

Travel will be by chartered plane from Lansing to Washington on March 13, returning on March 16. While in Washington, all participants will stay at the Quality Motel located near the Capitol Building. The cost of this seminar will be \$140.00 per person, which includes transportation, motel, one full day of touring, and one meal.

Reservations for the seminar must be in the Michigan Farm Bureau Lansing office not later than February 20, 1972. Any member interested in the American Heritage tour may get more information about it from their county Farm Bureau secretary. A check or money order, payable to Michigan Farm Bureau, in the amount of \$140.00 must accompany all requests for reservations.

Please include my reservation for the WASHINGTON HERITAGE TOUR sponsored by Farm Bureau Women. March 13-16, 1972

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

The cost of this Seminar is \$140.00 per person. Enclosed is my check in this amount, made payable to Michigan Farm Bureau.

Your reservation must be received not later than February 20 by:

Michigan Farm Bureau  
ATTN: Helen Atwood, Coordinator  
Women's Activities  
P.O. Box 960  
Lansing, Michigan 48904

## Women Projects Adopted

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee and the Women's Program Planning Committee met and planned their Program of Work for the year 1971-72.

Projects adopted by the MFB Women's Committee have been sent to county Women's Committees. Counties are encouraged to conduct special activities on these issues as well as on local issues as part of each county Farm Bureau Women's Program of Work for the coming year.

Among the numerous suggested projects under Farm Bureau Activities are: membership, community group promotion, policy development, policy execution, and political education programs.

Realizing that safety and health are of major concern to all farmwives and mothers, the recommended projects also include: Occupational Health and Safety Act, youth regulations, tractor safety, promotion of adequate health facilities, promotion of better nutrition education, and Project HOPE (which brings skills and techniques developed by American medical professions to other people of the world in their own environment).

The environment, which affects all, was considered an area in which the ladies of Farm Bureau could be effective, especially in promoting a better understanding

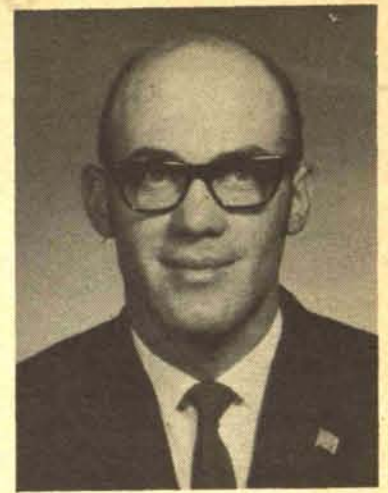
of agriculture's role. Some of the projects on this issue are: enforcement of litter laws, study of pesticides and herbicides, promotion of legislation on returnable bottles, beautification of farmsteads, agriculture's role in environmental quality, and farmers role in maintaining and improving environmental quality.

The recommendation that consideration should be given to the placement of Farm Bureau women on county Farm Bureau's Farm Labor Committees was also included among the suggested activities for the coming year. The goal of obtaining a better understanding of the need for and the maintenance of better farm labor records through the assistance offered by the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) was also suggested for serious consideration.

Issues in the field of tax reform, marketing and bargaining, and understanding and information were included too in the guidelines sent to Program Planning Committees throughout the state.

Farm Bureau Women have always played an active role in the organization. This year's program of work and the many local issues they are undertaking indicate that they have every intention of helping to "Make It Happen" this year.

## YOUNG FARMERS CHAIRMAN SELECTED



WILLIAM H. SPIKE

The selection of William H. Spike, Owosso, as chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee has been announced by President Elton R. Smith. He will represent Young Farmers on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Spike replaces David Diehl, who has been appointed to the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

Bill, his wife Mary Beth, and their two children, Jennifer and Patrick, live on a 1200 acre farm in Shiawassee County. In addition to handling a 100 cow dairy herd, they raise corn, soybeans and vegetables.

Active in 4-H and FFA activities, Spike graduated from Michigan State University in 1965 with a B.S. degree in dairying. He was a member of Kellogg Farmers Study Group IV.

He has served on the Shiawassee County Farm Bureau Board, been county Young Farmer Committee chairman, and has taken an active part in membership work. Appointed to the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee in 1969, Spike served as vice-chairman of the committee prior to his present appointment.

## SEWING AND CRAFT CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee will again sponsor a sewing and crafts contest this year and encourages all women's committees to conduct this project.

There will be no contest at the state level, nor will there be judging or prizes. Instead, each county is invited to have one article of clothing and one or more items for display at the Women's Annual Meeting in November, 1972.

Among the suggested rules and guidelines furnished County Farm Bureau Women's Committees were:

a. The contest could include: sewing, tailoring, crocheting, knitting, embroidery, needlepoint, rug making, quilt making, as well as ceramics, and any other crafts counties wish to include.

b. Entries must be from a Farm Bureau member or a member of a Farm Bureau family.

c. One contestant could enter any or all categories, but should be limited to one entry per category at the county level.

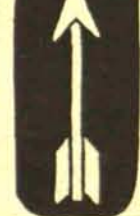
d. Articles entered must be made between October 1, 1971 and October, 1972.

e. Consideration should be given to mother-daughter, boy-girl, twin, etc. entries.

Many women's committees have found that this contest gives many members who may not be active in other Farm Bureau Women activities a chance to participate.

Farm Bureau ladies desiring more information about their local contest should contact their County Farm Bureau Women's Chairman.

## Mama's on the Warpath.



COUNTRY FOR REAL!!! The team of Freddy Lake and Harmonica Kate, from Little Rock, Ark., shares the glory that country music is enjoying today throughout the land. This sensational country couple have written and recorded many fine songs, including "Mama's on The War Path" spun by so many Dee Jay's at the Country radio stations. It is the predictions of some experts that the record may become a million seller. You may obtain your copy by sending \$1 to Raccoon Music, Box 9039, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209.

## Traverse City Site Y. F. Conference

Exciting Park Place Motor Inn, with its elaborate service and graciousness, is one of the favorite vacation spots in Michigan. It is here, in Traverse City, that the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers' Leaders Conference will be held January 18-20.

The conference, held annually at various locations in the state, is designed to inform, equip and motivate young farmers for additional participation in Farm Bureau's "Make It Happen" programs and activities.

Conference sessions will be conducted by Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee members and other resource personnel. Dr. Mike Kolivosky, Hillsdale College, will give his widely proclaimed "Motivating Others to Do" presentation.

Attendance, limited to two young farmer couples per county, is expected to reach an all time high at the rate reservations are being received.

# MARKETING AND COMMODITIES

## OVER-PRODUCTION THREATENS DAIRYMEN

The United States Department of Agriculture points out that the ratio of herd replacements to milk cows on farms is the highest since 1960. Cow numbers have declined less in the past year than in any year during the preceding 16-year period.

Milk production per cow and total milk produced continues to increase. Total milk production in 1971 will exceed 1970's total production by more than 1%. This will mark the second consecutive year of increasing supplies.

Dairy farm income in 1971 will be about \$6.8 billion — 36% above the \$5.0 billion of 1965. Economists believe the level of income in 1971 and lower feed costs in 1972 will provide continued incentive for increasing production.

The production increases are developing in the face of declining sales, especially for butter, whole milk and cream. Loss of sales in these products this year equals almost 1.5 billion pounds of milk — 1¼% of all milk produced.

A bonanza export market for butter in 1971 perhaps temporarily delayed the crisis of the supply-demand situation of the dairy industry. The USDA had sold in excess of 100 million pounds of butter for export before the end of November. Dock strikes could impede additional shipments.

Dairy industry leaders warn that an imminent increase in milk production exists and that, in the face of declining sales, a serious threat to milk prices and milk marketing is developing.

## APPLE STUDY COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Ken Bull, of Bailey, and George Stover, of Berrien Springs, have been selected by William J. Kuhfuss to be members of the AFBF Apple Market Order Study Committee. The Committee is composed of two Michigan growers, two New York growers and one grower each from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

The Committee will explore the possibilities of using a Federal Marketing Order to aid in more orderly marketing of apples. It has long been recognized that orderly marketing benefits both grower and processor by establishing a more stable market situation.

The first meeting was held on December 16 in Corapolis, Pennsylvania. At this meeting the Committee recognized the need for more orderly marketing. They decided that the first step would be getting the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 amended so all areas producing apples could be covered by a Federal Marketing Order. The Committee also decided that the amendment should include all apples, as opposed to just apples for processing. They felt that many varieties of apples can be used for either fresh or processing and, without a marketing order covering both, there would still be too much uncertainty in the market.

## HAY LISTS DISTRIBUTED

Early in December, approximately 28 county Farm Bureaus in hay deficit areas received a Farm Bureau Hay List published by the Market Development Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau Hay Listing Service included nearly 3,000 tons of available hay in the first issue.

Information on the available hay and its sellers was assembled through the secretaries of county Farm Bureaus in the hay surplus areas of Michigan. Surplus hay production occurred mostly in northern and Upper Peninsula counties in 1971.

Fourteen county Farm Bureaus in the surplus area have indicated a willingness to participate by listing their members' hay. Members need only notify their county Farm Bureau secretary of their hay for sale, its quality, quantity, asking price and phone number.

Updated editions of the hay lists will be published if adequate participation continues. Farm Bureau members wishing to buy hay are encouraged to use the Farm Bureau Hay Listing Service as a source of information. Lists are available from the 28 participating county Farm Bureau offices.

## GRAPE GROWER SURVEY

The MFB Market Development Division and the Marketing Committee of the MACMA Processing Grape Division will soon review the results of the grape grower marketing survey conducted in mid-December.

The survey was designed to reveal grower's interest in various alternative approaches to marketing.

As this article went to press,

no tabulations had been made of the responses.

The Grape Marketing Committee of MACMA, consisting of leading growers, indicated by its conduct of the survey that serious discontent existed concerning the grape market. The survey is expected to reveal the extent to which growers agree or disagree as to what remedies can and should be developed.

## MACMA RECEIVES AWARD

The American Agricultural Marketing Association held its annual meeting on December 7, 1971 in Chicago. The meeting was held during the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual meeting. The meeting featured progress reports, marketing speakers and the presentation of awards.

The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) was presented an award for its outstanding red tart cherry marketing program. Elton R. Smith, MACMA President, was presented the award by AA-MA President, William Kuhfuss.

President Smith indicated that the MACMA Red Tart Cherry Division activities were the result of a spirited marketing committee, membership task force, and staff. He also indicated that plans are being developed for 1972.

This is an example of the results of good planning and organization, with members and staff working together to get results.

MACMA has an outstanding record which is admired by all of the other state Farm Bureau marketing associations, according to Smith.

## COUNTY SOYBEAN DIVISIONS BEING FORMED

As many as sixteen county Farm Bureaus have approved the formation of a commodity division among their soybean producing members.

Six of the counties have provided lists of their soybean producing members to the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Soybean growers who are members of Farm Bureau in counties approving the division will automatically become members of the soybean division. The Michigan Farm Bureau has also authorized the establishment of a statewide soybean division and will coordinate activities of the state division with those of county divisions.

The soybean division members will be identified and provided with membership cards to create awareness of the division and the opportunities of working on the specific commodity problems.

Soybeans, sometimes called the "wonder crop," increased in production in Michigan from 7 million bushels in 1964 to 11 million bushels in 1969. A growing demand has provided a market for the increased production. Approximately 50% of all soybeans produced in the U.S. are exported to other countries.

The issues of dock strikes, turmoil in the international monetary system, foreign trade policies, market development and promotion as well as policy development and research are all items that could be dealt with through soybean division programs. Counties hope to conduct organizational meetings of their soybean divisions in the near future. Formation of a statewide division is planned for the spring of 1972.



AFBF PRESIDENT KUHFUSS presents the AAMA cherry program award to MFB President Smith.



PRESIDENT ELTON R. SMITH, and Harry A. Foster, MACMA, examine the first of six loads of oranges and grapefruit delivered to Michigan Farm Bureau members. Approval of the quality echoed throughout the state at 27 county Farm Bureaus and Farm Bureau Center in Lansing.

## MORE FLORIDA CITRUS THAN MEMBERS

Michigan is one of over twenty state Farm Bureaus participating in the member to member sale of Florida oranges and grapefruit. Members in twenty-seven county Farm Bureaus and the Lansing Farm Bureau Center enjoyed the citrus.

The citrus moved quickly from the eighty-degree temperature in Florida Farm Bureau members' groves to the area packing sheds contracted by Florida Farm Bureau, onto trucks, and was delivered directly to county Farm Bureau delivery points in Michigan.

Five county Farm Bureaus sold an average of one or more cartons of citrus per member family. The leaders were: Mac-Luce, Iron Range, Copper Country, Benzie and Chippewa. The first three counties averaged 1½ to 2 cartons per member family, while the other two averaged one carton per member family.

There was outstanding effort on the part of all twenty-seven

counties. The delivery trucks were able to back-haul apples and other Michigan products to Florida and other states after the citrus was delivered in Michigan.

The objectives of the member to member sale were: to aid in the pricing of farm products for Farm Bureau members; to promote the sale of high-quality products produced by Farm Bureau members; and to gain experience in the development of a Farm Bureau marketing and distribution system.

It is expected that this type of member to member sales operation will evolve into a well-managed franchised roadside marketing system in the near future. The project has been very successful; members are already asking if county orders can be placed after the first of the year and again next winter. Counties will be notified regarding this matter as soon as the present project results have been analyzed.

## Kuhfuss Re-elected President Grant Chosen Vice-President

William J. Kuhfuss, Mackinaw, Illinois, livestock and grain farmer, was re-elected president of the American Farm Bureau Federation for a two-year term. Kuhfuss was elected president of the AFBF at the December, 1970, convention in Houston, Texas, to serve one-year of the unexpired term of Charles B. Shuman, Sullivan, Illinois, who retired at the 1970 convention after serving 16 years as president.

Prior to his election as Federation president, Kuhfuss was president of the Illinois Agricultural Association.

Allan Grant, Perry, California, president of the California Farm Bureau Federation, and a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors, was elected vice-president of the Federation for a two-year term. Grant succeeds David H. Sloan, Jr., Marion, South Carolina, former president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation. Sloan was elected Federation vice-president in December, 1969.

Grant, the new vice-president of the Federation, a livestock farmer, was selected president of the California Farm Bureau in 1963 and to the Federation board in December, 1963.

Grant is president of the state board of agriculture in California which is an advisory board to the director of agriculture and the governor of the state. He is a member of the board of regents of the University of California.

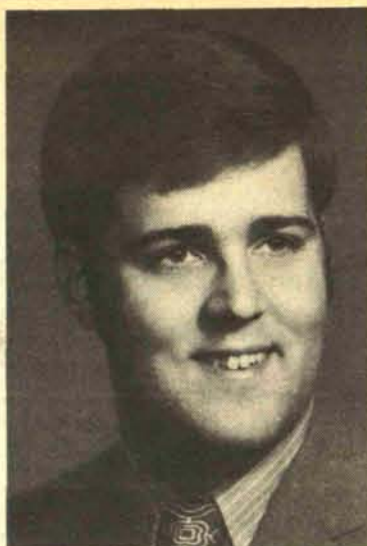
Three new members were elected to the board of directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation. They were Harold B. Steele, Illinois, president of the

Illinois Agricultural Association, who succeeds Roland Nelson, of Nebraska; Dave Flitner, Wyoming, to succeed Floyd Hawkins, of Arizona, and Norman Shurtliff, Nevada, to succeed Grant. All directors are presidents of their respective state Farm Bureaus.

Directors whose terms expired this year and were re-elected for two-year terms to the board of directors include: G. Allan Holmes, New Hampshire; Arthur West, New Jersey; George Doup, Indiana; C. R. Johnston, Missouri; Elton R. Smith, Michigan; Allan Grant, California; A. W. Lengeneger, New Mexico; James Craugnard, Louisiana; J. D. Hays, Alabama; and Boswell Stevens, Mississippi, and Robert Delano, Virginia.

The voting delegates also re-elected two members of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee whose terms expired. They were: Mrs. J. S. Van Wert, Hampton, Iowa, and Mrs. Gordon White, Bailey, Mississippi.

New chairman of the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee is Tom Simpson, 29, Las Cruces, New Mexico. He succeeds William Sprague, Sturgis, Kentucky. Simpson farms, in a partnership with his father, a 1,300 acre irrigated valley operation which includes a feedlot program with capacity of 4,000 cattle. Simpson as chairman of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee is an ex-officio member of the board of directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation.



DR. JAMES D. MCKEAN

Dr. James D. McKean will join the Farm Supply Division of Farm Bureau Services in January as a staff veterinarian, according to George M. Watson, Manager of Feed Production and Nutrition.

Dr. McKean received his D.V.M. from the University of Illinois in 1970 and will receive his masters degree in pathology from Michigan State University in early 1972.

He comes from a farm oriented family in Illinois where his father heads up the Feeder Pig Department of Inter-state Producers Livestock Marketing Company. He is a member of the American Veterinarian Medical Association and the American Association of Swine Practitioners.

Dr. McKean and his wife reside in Okemos, Michigan.

### COMMODITY AWARDS

Three County Farm Bureaus were presented Star Awards at the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting for outstanding commodity activities. Chippewa, Montcalm and Saginaw won the awards.

Each county submitting an entry competed with other counties of comparable membership size. Chippewa County with 230 members headed the category of counties having up to 400 members. Montcalm County with 984 members led the category having 401-1100 members and Saginaw outdistanced the competition for counties with over 1100 in membership. Saginaw County has 2,670 members, the largest county Farm Bureau in Michigan.

Judging for the Commodity Star Awards was done on the basis of over-all commodity activities conducted by the county Farm Bureau. Judges felt that the activities in the winning counties contributed significantly to serve Farm Bureau members' commodity interests, enhance the image of the Farm Bureau organization and promote the interests of the agricultural community.

### HOWARD APPOINTED

Karl Howard, of Marlette, has been appointed by Governor William Milliken to a three-year term on the Michigan Commission on Agricultural Labor. He succeeds Herbert Turner, of Saginaw.

Dr. Dale Hathaway, head of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University, and Duane Baldwin, of Stockbridge, were reappointed to three-year terms. Senate confirmation is necessary for service on the Commission.

Karl Howard is a former Chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee and was a member of the 1971 MFB Policy Development Committee.

## Four Receive Service Awards

Four prominent horticulturalists were presented Distinguished Service Awards at the Michigan State Horticultural Society's 101st annual meeting December 8, 1971.

Mrs. Seth Thompkins (Rebecca), Traverse City, was recognized for her broad interests, activities and service in behalf of migrant laborers, agriculture and the Michigan fruit industry.

Kenneth E. Bull, Bailey, received an award which stressed his unselfish service in the interest of agriculture and the Michigan fruit industry which he untiringly represented in many fruit and agricultural organizations.

His performance in representing Michigan's agriculture wisely, competently and loyally at meetings of commissions, conferences and citizens groups interested in public affairs earned Dan E. Reed, Paradise, his award.

The Michigan State Horticultural Society was also pleased to present its Distinguished Service award to Everett Wiles, Bangor, in recognition of his service on numerous fruit industry committees and his dedication to the improvement of the Michigan fruit industry.

## Virginia Visitors

Twenty-nine members of Virginia Farm Bureau Federation visited livestock operations in Michigan enroute to the AFBF annual meeting in Chicago last month.

The first stop on the tour was the Larry Wagner operation in Britton. There the Virginians had the opportunity to observe first hand Virginia feeder cattle which had been purchased earlier this fall through MACMA. Next stop was at the Robert Burgett and Son feedlot at Grass Lake. Mrs. Burgett served the group refreshments while they were told of the operation where Virginia bred cattle are also being fed.

Other points of interest seen by the group included the Calderon-Curran cow-calf lot where they observed, what is billed as the largest trench soil east of the Mississippi River, Hidden Gardens, and the Michigan International Speedway.

Luncheon for the group was prepared and served at the Jackson County Farm Bureau Office by the Jackson County Women's Committee.

A pamphlet summarizing the new snowmobile law will soon be available upon request. Persons desiring to obtain a copy of it should write the Law Enforcement Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stephen T. Mason Building, Lansing, Michigan 48901.



THREE EMPLOYEES with twenty-five years of service each were recently presented watches in appreciation for their years of service to their organizations. Don Armstrong, executive vice president, Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Co-operative (left) is shown with the recipients (left to right) Ralph Miller, transportation department, FPC; Marshall Warren, FBS Accounts Payable Division; and Robert Johnson, FPC retail store, St. Johns.



CHARLENE SCHMIDT, 18 year-old daughter of apple growers Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schmidt, Grand Rapids, was selected 1972 Michigan State Apple Queen. The 20th annual event took place as part of the activities of the Michigan State Horticultural Society's 101st convention held in Grand Rapids the first part of December.

The new queen, a willowy brownette, is a freshman at Grand Valley College. As queen, she will tour America promoting the Michigan apply industry; and she will compete for the title "Apple Queen, USA" in the national contest, which will be held next September in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

First runner-up for Michigan State Apple Queen was Rebecca Crane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crane of Fennville. Second runner-up was Barbara Ann Latus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Latus of Hartford.

## CENTENNIAL FARM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

10 A.M. • MARCH 21, 1972 • ROOM 106 • KELLOG CTR.  
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

Non-Members Welcome/Discussion of plans for future Assoc. activities  
Preview of new Centennial Farm Owner's Directory/Election of Officers  
Informal visit with our new Director of the Michigan Historical Commission, Dr. Martha M. Bigelow

MICHIGAN CENTENNIAL FARM ASSOC. J. C. Cahill, President

# Farm Bureau In Action

to

# "MAKE IT HAPPEN"

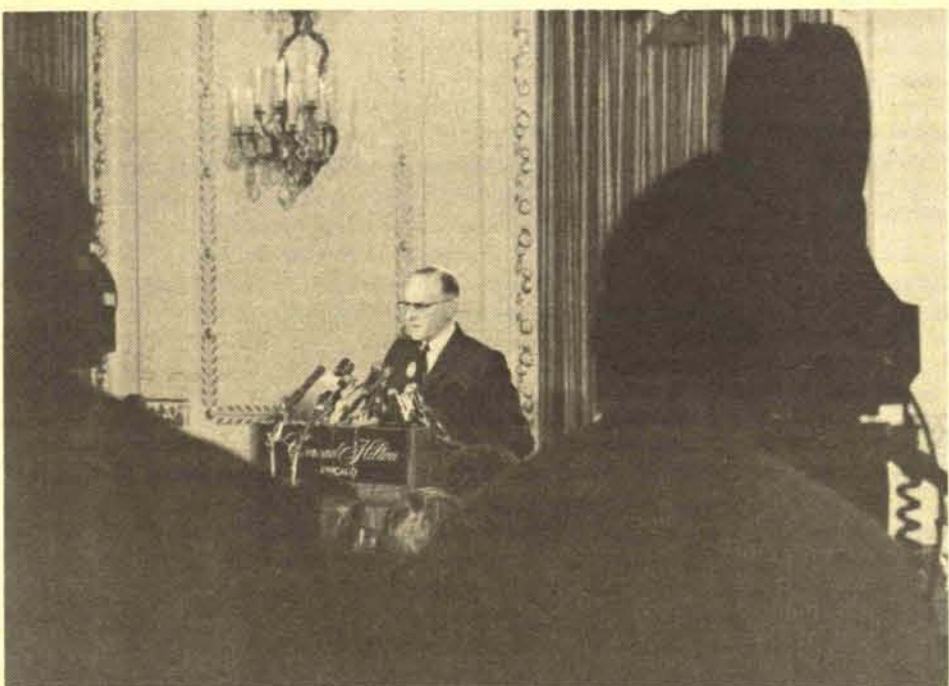
## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN



ORVEL ROGGENBUCK  
Sanilac County



WAYNE MUSBACH  
Ionia County



SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE Earl L. Butz at his first press conference since taking office which was held during the AFBF convention.



AFBF PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. KUHFUSS answers questions from the press concerning the Farm Bureau position on the dock strike and its impact on agriculture.



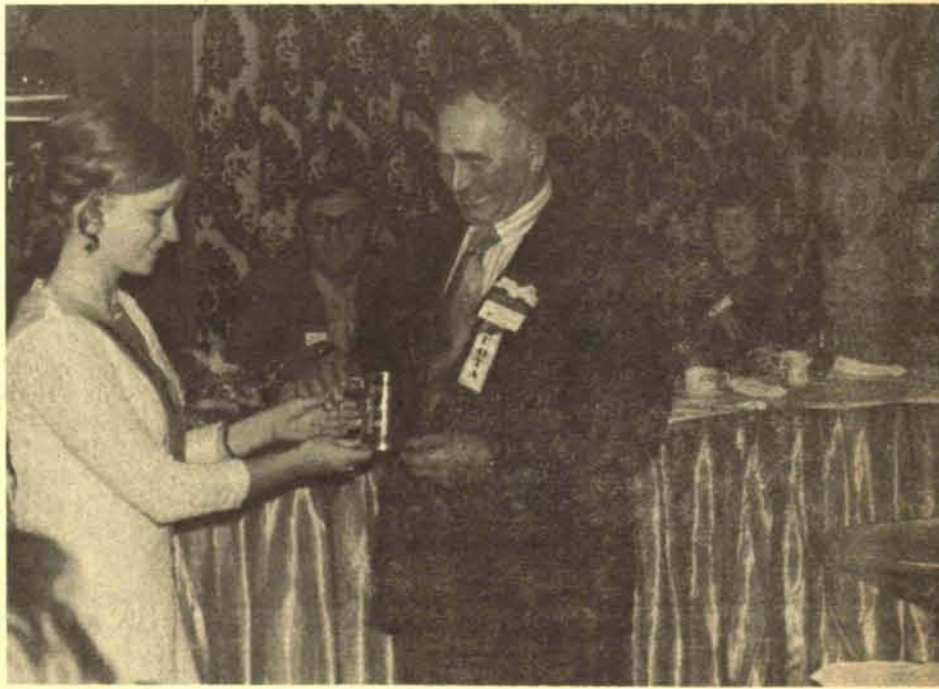
M.F.B. PRESIDENT ELTON R. SMITH, giving the introductory remarks, as chairman of the AFBF Dairy Conference in Chicago.



MISS JACKIE SHADE, Michigan Farm Bureau Queen (second from right), at the AFBF awards night "Parade of Queens."



MICHIGAN'S FIVE VOTING DELEGATES at the AFB annual meeting in Chicago. (Left to Right) Dean Pridgeon, Walter Frahm, Arthur Bailey, Eugene Roberts and President Elton Smith.



DURING THE MICHIGAN BREAKFAST held in Chicago, Queen Jackie presents a cup to Roy Rasner, president of Menominee County Farm Bureau for the highest percent of goal to date.

# DDT: SAINT OR SINNER?

The following item appeared in Michigan Challenge, the official publication of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce and is reprinted with permission.

By Dr. Sylvan Wittwer, Director  
Mich. Ag. Experiment Sta.  
MSU, East Lansing, Mich.

Agricultural pesticides and their residues are of great concern. Fertilizers, particularly nitrates, originating from crop production and animal feed lots have been labeled contributors to eutrophication of streams and lakes and reported as health hazards. The response has been one of over-reaction, rhetoric, heat and emotion, but with few facts and little light. Nitrates and their reduction products have been labeled as carcinogenic, mutagenic, and teratogenic. Bumper stickers on cars have been displayed calling for a total ban of DDT. There is a rapidly growing movement throughout the land in the production of health or nature foods grown the so-called organic way such as in the good old days. The belief is that nutrients derived from organic materials are different in their functions, values, and effects, from those that come from inorganic sources.

The World Health Organization has recently stated that the safety record of DDT is so great that despite its use by billions of people for control of insect vectors that carry disease, over the past 25 years there has not been a single fatality from its use alone. Alternatively, millions of lives have been saved. Replacement of DDT by the organic phosphates and related pesticides may often be a poor trade. When highly toxic (to man) parathion was substituted last year for the stable and persistent DDT, several unsuspecting Americans were killed. Last year in New England, New Jersey, and parts of New York and Pennsylvania a million acres of forests were denuded by the gypsy moth, until then kept under control by the use of DDT. Reported devastations in 1971 are even greater. Substitutes are more expensive, generally less effective, and greatly reduce the populations of domestic and wild bee colonies. To help solve such problems one of the current research efforts of highest priority in the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station is the integrated control of the cereal leaf beetle, the alfalfa weevil, and fruit pests, with the ultimate goal of substantially reducing the use of chemical pesticides in agriculture.

Nitrates have been widely assaulted as an environmental and health hazard. They may enter the human diet through food sources of water. There is an ever increasing use of nitrogen fertilizer in crop production. Livestock feeding and poultry operations are expanding. Nitrates and nitrites are used extensively for color enhancement and storage of processed meats. Drinking water from wells may also contain nitrates. Some vegetables such as beets and spinach that are processed for baby foods may accumulate up to 500 ppm of nitrate nitrogen.

The harmful effects of nitrates, nitrites and nitrosoamines appear to have been exaggerated. Processed baby foods have not been

implicated in any cases of methemoglobinemia ("blue babies") with infants. Over 350 million jars of canned spinach have been used in the United States and Canada during the past 20 years with not a single proven instance of methemoglobinemia. If there were causative factors, then some cases should have been reported for a disorder so easily recognizable. Most all instances of illness or death have been confined to very young infants fed with formulae after extensive boiling of well water which exceeded the standard of 45 ppm of nitrate. Nitrosoamines have caused carcinogenic, mutagenic, and teratogenic effects in experimental animals but at levels far above those to which man and livestock are exposed. Agriculture's contribution to increases in nitrates in lake and streams is not yet known but it appears less significant than those from municipal sewage and the byproducts of industry.

Most environmental problems can be handled by technologies now available. We have yet to establish, however, the social mechanisms and economic trade-offs — who will bear the costs, and just what is the public willing to forego. Reliable estimates are that if pesticides were banned, crop yields in this nation would drop 25 to 30 per cent, and food prices would shoot up 50 to 100 per cent. Thus, the per cent of our disposable income for food would rise from 16.5 to 33 per cent. The amount consumers spend for agricultural products would double or triple with an elimination of all agricultural chemicals. A selective reduction in the use of agricultural chemicals would reduce yields per acre 15 per cent and would increase consumer outlay for food by more than 20 per cent. Cost of food grown the organic or "Nature's way" is a conservative 50 per cent higher. If we were to go back to world-wide, organic gardening, then we must be willing to condemn to starvation half the people of the earth.

Agriculture is more than farming. It and associated industries constitute 20 per cent of our Gross National Product, or a total of \$200 billion. In Michigan it approximates an annual return to the producer of \$1 billion almost equally divided between crops and livestock. It is the base of a \$4 billion food processing industry.

Michigan is uniquely different from other neighboring states in its great agricultural diversification. The temperature moderating effects of the Great Lakes, which surround the state on three sides, gives us a semi-maritime climate that supports a highly diversified fruit and vegetable industry. The Great Lakes also provide a tremendous fresh water resource for a yet greater agricultural development through irrigation. A three-fold expansion in numbers of beef cattle in the last 20 years is creating new interest in feed grains, forages and pasture lands. Thriving sod and bedding plant industries now prevail which were non-existent 15 years ago.

The people of the earth, with the rapidly expanding population far beyond that heretofore experienced, are passing through an incredible transition. We are in

the midst of this change. Rapid urbanization, higher industrialization, and literally explosive recreational developments in Michigan are all competing for space, land, and water. Few states have more conflicting interests, or a greater proximity of crops, livestock, and people. Many environmental concerns and policies have had their origin in our state. Issues relating to land use, environmental quality, pesticides, and fertilizers are common to us all. A rapidly changing technology in agriculture has increased our living standards far beyond that enjoyed by any of our predecessors, but it has also contributed to problems of environmental degradation.

Many of the important technical advances that have had a positive impact on the solution of environmental issues have come from agriculturally oriented and sponsored research. An example is the Soil Conservation Service which has districts in every county of Michigan except one. There have been active programs for 40 years to conserve our soil and water through contour farming, strip cropping, and rotation. Nationally, over 50 per cent of the farm land is under conservation plans to make it more productive and beautiful. Millions of trees have been planted, two million ponds and five thousand lakes built. Once, the Great Plains — the "dust bowl" of the 1930s — were almost treeless. Today, there are shelter belts and other drought-resistant plantings to hold the soil in place. Wind erosion has been reduced to the lowest ever recorded in the USA.

There have been remarkable increases in the yields of major food crops during the last 40 years. Simultaneously, life expectancy has been substantially lengthened and the physical stature (height) of many races increased. This is particularly true in Japan where the most intensive use of agricultural chemicals occurs. If pesticides and fertilizers have done us harm, it is not revealed in vital statistics. One must accept the premise that there will be many more people on the earth than there are now before its population is stabilized. One must also accept the reality that food production can still be increased several fold, and this can be done within the context of avoiding environmental contamination.

A paradox of our times is that environmentalists generally come from relatively affluent, well-educated classes, whose environments are much better than those in the inner-city and the rural poor. The latter define an improved environment in terms of what the so-called higher classes already have. It's difficult to get people in less developed countries and those in our own state and nation whose main concern is still food, water, shelter, and clothing to share the environmental issues of our day. The immediate destiny of two-thirds of the world's population lies in a rising agricultural (food) production. Many other issues shrivel to irrelevance in the face of this fact.

## BOGUS BUCKS - BOGUS BUCKS

Once again it's time to start earning Bogus Bucks by participating in the 1972 membership campaign. Most county Farm Bureaus, the Michigan Farm Bureau and our affiliated companies are contributing toward the purchase of items to be awarded at the Regional Celebrations in March.

All members of participating counties who contact and sign up new members will receive Bogus Bucks to be used at the Regional Celebrations.

Each participating region has its own rules and plans for the celebration. Why not contact your campaign manager and help your county Farm Bureau reach its membership goal, and then join in the activities at the Regional Celebration.

Team effort will "Make It Happen."

Farmers Week, an annual event at Michigan State University featuring the latest agricultural developments, will be held March 20-24, according to Byron H. Good, MSU professor of animal husbandry and event chairman.

Theme for the 1972 show is "Now and 1985." The program will tie in with "Project 80 & 5," a study in which members of MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources have been taking a hard look at what rural Michigan will be like in 1985, with some additional glimpses at the year 2000.

Farmers Week is open to the public, and annually draws some 20,000 visitors to the MSU campus.

Information for people who rent their land to tenant farmers is available in a free booklet, "Farm Rental Income . . . Does It Count for Social Security Payments," at most social security offices.

Earnings of most owners who rent their land to tenants for farm production can be covered under social security if the owners are "materially participating" in the farm production.

That term "materially participating" often raises questions. Landowners frequently call to ask how much work they have to perform to have their earnings covered.

The social security leaflet answers such questions and describes "tests" that may be used to measure a landowner's involvement in the farm production.

The publication can be obtained by telephoning, writing or visiting your nearest social security office.

Shortly after the first of January 1972, the Bureau of Census will be mailing out "type of farm" survey report forms to a selected group of farmers.

There will be nine different survey forms used. One each for cash grain, tobacco, cotton, potatoes, sugar and other specialized field crops, vegetables, fruit, livestock, dairy, and poultry.

Each form is designed to collect information pertinent to that particular type of farm enterprise. Each form is designed by sections so that if the answer to the lead question is "no" the farmer may skip to the next section.

The trends shown in the 1969 Census of Agriculture indicate that there is an increasing degree of specialization. The completion of the "type of farm" survey report forms will help obtain a truer and more complete picture of this specialization and may set the pattern for future censuses of agriculture.



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## Special Announcement

to

### All Farm Bureau Members

Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance benefits for spouses of Farm Bureau members were raised 100% on January 1, by Farm Bureau Insurance Group, at no additional cost to participating county Farm Bureaus.

Because of the many hazards inherent in farming, Community Service Insurance Company, one of four firms comprising Farm Bureau Insurance Group, has made AD&D protection available to Farm Bureau members in those counties desiring to participate in this service to member program. St. Clair is the only county Farm Bureau not participating this year.

As the program developed, spouses became eligible for one-half the AD&D benefits accruing to individuals in whose name the Farm Bureau membership was listed. Now named members and their spouses are eligible for equal AD&D insurance benefits.

| Loss                          | Member/Spouse Benefit |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Life                          | \$1,000               |
| Two Hands                     | 1,000                 |
| Sight of Two Eyes             | 1,000                 |
| One hand and one foot         | 1,000                 |
| One hand and sight of one eye | 1,000                 |
| One foot and sight of one eye | 1,000                 |

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| One hand         | 500 |
| One foot         | 500 |
| Sight of one eye | 500 |
| One index finger | 250 |
| One thumb        | 250 |

Hopefully, the above listed AD&D benefits will never be needed. But, farming is one of the most hazardous occupations. Farm Bureau Insurance Group research and development specialists have noted two prime hazard areas. Since January 1, 1970, farm machinery and falls have been involved in 50% of all AD&D claims. Deaths and accidents inflicted by machinery accounted for 33% of AD&D claims . . . falls for 17%.

The most common farm activities hold dangers. Farm Bureau Insurance Group AD&D files reveal: death from choking on chicken bone; head struck on a counter top, death resulted; cow's tail hit eye, sight lost; thumb caught in well-drilling equipment; kicked in head by horse, death resulted; lost finger in gutter cleaner.

Farming is hazardous. That is the reason behind the increased protection — and another of the many services to member benefits offered by Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

## Elton R. Smith Receives Award

Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Services, was honored recently for "continued distinguished service and support for agriculture and extension programs in Michigan" by the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service.

He received extension's "Appreciation Award" which consists of a plaque and scroll.

Smith, who operates a 500-acre dairy farm near Caledonia, is currently serving his fifth term as president of the Michigan Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Services. He is a member of the National Agricultural Research Advisory Committee, and is listed in the World Who's Who in Business and Finance.

His association with Michigan State University began with graduation from MSU's Institute of Agricultural Technology in 1931.

In 1963, MSU honored Smith with its "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award. That same year, he was named "Michigan Dairyman of the Year."

## 'Butterine' Can Build Milk Market

Farmers in attendance at the dairy conference of the 53rd annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago this month were told that butterfat combined with vegetable fat in a low-cost spread has competed favorably with margarine in sales to consumers.

Dr. Truman Graf, professor of dairy marketing at the University of Wisconsin, told the group that a product labelled "butterine," developed six years ago, contained half butterfat and half vegetable fat. Legalized by the Wisconsin legislature, butterine sales have competed favorably with low quality butter but were no competition to high quality Wisconsin butter.

GRAF SUGGESTED that dairymen are primarily interested in selling butterfat — in any form. Manufacturers of butter who included vegetable fats to produce the low cost spread experienced an increased total sale of butterfat by nearly five percent.

Also appearing on the program was Dr. Edward Schilf, senior staff veterinarian at the USDA's Hyattsville, Maryland, station.

Speaking on achieving eradication of bovine brucellosis, Dr. Schilf pointed out that more than half the states are certified brucellosis free — a remarkable achievement over the past ten years. In 1952, 27 percent of the nation's dairy herds were termed "suspicious" in milk ring tests for brucellosis.

Through the familiar brucellosis ring test (BRT) and blood tests, the dread disease has been all but eliminated in the U.S. To complete the task of eradicating brucellosis, calthood vaccination must eventually be eliminated, Dr. Schilf said. This would mean termination of the use of what is known as strain 19 vaccine.

## National Legislation Notes

by Al Almy  
Assistant Legislative Counsel

### Marketing and Bargaining

The National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971 has been introduced by 86 members of the House and 15 Senators. Generally known as the Sisk Bill (H.R. 7597 and S. 1775) this legislation would establish a mutual obligation of a handler and a qualified producers' association to meet at reasonable times and negotiate in good faith with respect to the production and sale of commodities under contract. The bills have been referred to the House and Senate Agricultural Committees. Public hearings and executive sessions on H.R. 7597 have been held by the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing and Consumer Relations. Public hearings were completed November 23 on S. 1775 by a Senate Agriculture Subcommittee.

### Agricultural Chemicals

The House of Representatives recently passed the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1971 (H.R. 10729) and sent it to the Senate. The House passed bill would divide pesticides into "general-use" and "restricted-use" categories. General use pesticides would be considered relatively safe under normal conditions and could be applied by anyone without restrictions. Restricted-use pesticides would be those that are considered toxic or hazardous under normal operating conditions. Farmers and others applying restricted-use pesticides would be required to be licensed. States would have responsibility for licensing of restricted pesticide users.

### Transportation Strikes

Settlement of controversies between transportation companies and transportation unions would

be provided for by S. 560 and H.R. 3596. Senate hearings have been held. Transportation strikes adversely affect millions of people, especially farmers, far removed from the controversy. Presently, available remedies are generally inadequate and temporary. A major feature of S. 560 and H.R. 3596 is the provision of an arbitration procedure in which arbiters choose between the final offers of the two parties. This would encourage both parties to be reasonable in their demands and reach a mutually satisfactory agreement by negotiation rather than a strike.

### Transportation Policy

S. 2362 and H.R. 11207 would increase the scope of transportation regulation. Current exemptions from economic regulation applicable to the transportation of farm products would be narrowed by eliminating as exempt commodities livestock, processed poultry, processed milk products, processed eggs and certain other farm products. The effect would be that farmers and other local haulers would not be permitted to transport for-hire any of these products. Only common carriers would be authorized to haul these products.

At stake is the fundamental question of whether farmers want transportation policy to move in the direction of greater government regulation. Also, there is the more specialized issue of preservation of the right of farmers and other local people to use their trucks to haul farm products for others.

The Senate Commerce Committee has held hearings and is expected to hold additional hearings. No hearings have been held by the House Commerce Committee.

## A RARE OPPORTUNITY

by Nebraska Attorney  
Dan Whiteside

Fortunate indeed is the attorney who has a hand in shaping decisions protecting the freedom of America's citizens, an opportunity that rarely visits the lives of most of us.

I have had that opportunity — and with it the chance to translate an amorphous ideal into something very concrete. It started in 1966. A courageous worker named Dale Richardson withdrew his membership from an Omaha labor union, Local #7495, Communications Workers of America. Reason: He had sought an accounting of union funds which he believed had been used to underwrite a trip to New Orleans for the union president's wife.

After Dale withdrew from the union — as was his privilege since Nebraska is a Right to Work state — seven months of terror tactics were unleashed against him. These included tire slashings, late night phone calls, physical assaults, threats, insulting remarks about Dale's wife.

Finally, Dale was fired by his employer, Western Electric Co., which had exhibited complete indifference to the tactics of the union goons.

I agreed to represent Dale in court. A terrible injustice had been done, a fact affirmed by an Omaha federal court jury in 1969; and a federal appeals court and another Omaha federal court jury in 1971. The result was a verdict for Dale against the company and union.

Thus, those responsible for the "invidious discrimination" (the court's description) against Dale for his non-membership in a la-

bor organization were ordered to pay damages of \$342,000.

The verdict was gratifying. And it raised several questions: Isn't it possible that the payment of just compensation to victims such as Dale might act as a potent force toward employer-union compliance with Right to Work laws?

Applying the sociological test, won't this case help to "rehabilitate" offenders? Won't it help dampen the enthusiasm of the would-be tire slasher?

I believe so. But remember, the verdicts were made possible by Nebraska's Right to Work law, which protects the right of workers to join or not to join and pay dues to unions.

Some 19 states have similar laws, but what of those which don't? Dale could have been legally fired, with no recourse, in any of those other 31 states where compulsory unionism is permitted.

As Dale told me following the verdict, "I'm certainly grateful for the help I've received in securing my rights." (His case was backed by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation.) "These five years invested in this case are bound to pay off with stricter enforcement of state Right to Work laws. And that can't be anything but good news to American workers."

And this is why it is a good idea, of benefit to the unions, employers, workers and the public, for the United States to adopt a National Right to Work law. The Dale Richardson case presents an irrefutable argument for such a law and its strict enforcement.

I am happy, and proud, to have had a part in shaping that decision.

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## DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES

### DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Stories on pollution and deterioration of the environment have appeared in most newspapers and magazines, have been heard on numerous radio programs, and even on "kiddie shows" via the visual electronic media.

In the vast majority of cases agriculture is pictured as a Dr. Jekyll—polluting the environment. So let's direct our attention this month to the question: Are farmers concerned with ecology and doing anything to improve the environment?

Improving the environment will probably be a major issue in the forthcoming election year. What aspirant for a political office, either local, state or national, can afford to be soft on pollution? However, there are perils in mixing politics, facts and emotions.

A good case in point is U.S. Senate Bill S-2770 which passed the Senate on November 2, 1971. The proposed legislation provides substantial funds which establishes as goals water quality that will permit fish propagation and swimming in all waters by 1981 and no pollution of any waterways after 1984.

There is no argument that the intention of the bill has merit, but . . . the bill also requires all waters of every kind to be recycled. To comply with this requirement, it has been estimated that the city of New York, for example, would need a settling basin nearly the size of the state of Connecticut.

Agricultural pollution is also mentioned in this legislation. Where agriculture can be the source of pollutants it can expect the same pollution restrictions which apply and must be met by other industries.

There are a lot of plans and discussion regarding the disposal of sewage effluent from cities and industry to farmland through irrigation systems. But, little attention has been given to such elements as salts, the heavy metals or boron contained in the sewage. Agriculture once flourished, so historians tell us, on land that is now barren. Would the elements in sewage so affect fertile farmland? Some say no, others have doubts — if it's not too late, time will tell.

The use of fertilizers has increased while pollution has become a "national movement." Without substantiating evidence, many consumers are convinced that nitrogen and phosphorus, used by agriculture to produce the food they eat, are a major cause of water pollution.

In the mid-west, where most of the grain and meat are produced, large amounts of fertilizers are applied. This is the region where publicity on the detrimental affects of phosphates and nitrates on water pollution is strong.

The statements of alarmists concerning the hazards of phosphorus and nitrogen from animal manures and fertilizers to water have readily been printed, while their advantages to mankind have difficulty finding a publisher.

During the present period of adequate food supply, the environmentalists have, for the most part, ignored the part soil nutrients have in food production. It appears that articles condemning the use of fertilizers in the production of food are eagerly and willingly accepted as facts by those who take their daily food supply for granted.

The predicted consequences to society unless the use of fertilizers in crop production are prohibited appear to be made by those with little factual knowledge of soil chemistry or plant nutrition. Yet, there is ample sound research evidence that fertilizers, when properly applied, can reduce runoff and erosion.

There is a large legume industry in this state. Normally, they are referred to as field beans, navy beans or kidney beans. Their relationship in terms of the environment is often overlooked. Beans and other legumes have nodules on their roots, the nodules have bacteria, and the bacteria attracts the nitrogen from the atmosphere. Biological nitrogen fixation is a reality with the legumes of the earth.

Dr. Sylvan H. Wittwer, director, Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, MSU, recently commented that a number of scientists are working to transfer nodules found on roots of legumes to other crops. This then could perhaps be the means of bypassing some of the problems encountered in the application of fertilizers.

On the other hand, George E. Smith, director, Water Resources Research Center, University of Missouri, commented on tests made at that facility. These tests, he said, have shown the amount of nitrates and phosphates entering water supplies can be larger when crops are produced from the nitrogen provided only by legumes and manures and the nutrients released from decomposition of soil humus and weathering from the salt of soils.

Plant nutrients in fertilizer can be credited for more than a third of the food production in this country. Cut-backs in the application of fertilizers could make the United States a food deficit nation and the protein in diets would be drastically reduced.

Many ecologists call for a return to organic farming in place of chemical fertilizers. This might be satisfactory for small areas such as garden plots or limited farm areas. But where is the supply of organic material, that can only partly furnish the nutrients required to produce food, going to come from? Tests have shown that a high-yielding crop of well fertilized corn, where only the grain is removed, adds more organic material to the soil than any other cropping system.

If chemicals were completely banned, agricultural scientists say, some crop yields would be reduced by as much as 40 per cent, and only the wealthy would be able to afford to eat. If the ban went into effect immediately, say the experts, there would still be enough food for the U.S. population, but ALL marginal land in the country would have to be used for farming. By the end of the century — only 28 years away — there would be starvation in the land because estimates indicate the U.S. population is expected to increase by 100 million persons.

Nobel Peace Prize Winner Dr. Norman E. Borlaug has been quoted as saying that if we could go back to organic farming the "environmentalists could forget about wildlife and recreation — there'd be no land left for this because then it becomes a struggle for survival."

Nitrogen and phosphorus are key elements in feed quality and contribute to the quality, as well as the quantity of food and feeds.

Dairy farmers are well aware that when rations for dairy cows contain forage and grains with a high content of minerals and proteins the milk fever problem at calving diminishes and veterinary expenses are reduced.

Statistics by USDA for fiscal year 1970 show that about 20 per cent of the 714 million tons of nitrogen used as chemical fertilizer in the United States were used for non-farm purposes — lawns, golf courses, parks, etc. The rate of application normally is several times higher than is used for crop production and tests along the Grand River have shown percent-

Texas, if they had to depend on manure and other organic fertilizers, and discontinue the use of chemicals for insect control, agricultural experts have warned.

It's an undisputed fact that our agriculture is the basic strength of America. About 5 per cent of our people are farmers, and they feed 200 million people in this country, plus many millions in other parts of the world. The production of one acre out of five goes abroad to feed less fortunate nations. Thanks to modern agriculture, our nation is the envy of most of the world for the quantity and quality of its food.

Agriculture has some faults, as does everyone else; and most will be willing to admit that the use of insecticides was overdone when these insect killers first came on the market in the 1940's and 1950's. Mistakes were made, but so were great strides. The answer lies in controlled use of chemical additives and in careful research — not in complete banning of the materials needed to produce food.

Agriculture should not expect to be immune from criticism. But agriculture has a positive story to tell!

Long before the current wave of concern, farmers were leaders in promoting the cause of conservation. Starting in the early 30's, local soil and water conservation districts were organized. Locally-elected directors, mostly farmers, served without pay, in the interests of better soil and water management.

Cleaner air? People, factories, and vehicles are using up our oxygen and creating an ever-increasing amount of carbon dioxide. Modern agriculture helps to clean up this air, by converting carbon dioxide back to oxygen.

The air over farmland contains tons of nitrogen, oxygen, and carbon dioxide. When a green plant grows in sunlight, with adequate nutrients and water, it converts carbon dioxide to food and fiber and releases oxygen to the atmosphere.

An average adult requires about two pounds of oxygen per day. An acre yielding 100 bushels of corn produces enough oxygen in a year for 12 people. If fertility is increased so that an acre yields 150 bushels, enough oxygen is released for 18 people.

Modern agriculture minimizes the number of acres which need to be cultivated. It has been estimated that without fertilizers and chemicals 50 per cent more acres of cropland would be needed. This would mean exposing many millions of additional acres to wind and water erosion. Much of this acreage would be lower quality and have steeper slopes than present farmlands. The problems of sedimentation of streams and lakes would be greatly aggravated.

There is also the question of improving the quality of our priceless resource — the land. For more than



# POLLUTION

a two-sided subject

age lost from lawns is much higher and finds its way into waterways much faster than that applied to agricultural land.

It has been estimated that if all nitrogen used in agriculture was applied equally to the some 350 million acres of crop and hay land in the country, it would amount to only 34 pounds per acre.

Our abundant supply of food in this country is the result of improved genetic strains of plants and animals — plants that have the capacity to use greater quantities of properly balanced fertilizers and produce greater yields; animals with the ability to convert nutritious grains and forages into milk, meat and eggs.

It can't be claimed that all our increase in food production is due to fertilizer usage, but increased production of the magnitude that has occurred could not have been accomplished on the soil management program practiced by producers three decades ago.

American farmers couldn't grow enough crops to feed the populations of New York, California and

200 years the "old" agriculture was depleting our soils. It is only within recent history that agriculture has reached the stage where it is putting more into the soil than it is taking out. Modern agriculture is a soil-builder rather than a soil-miner.

Yes, farmers are concerned about ecology. Modern agriculture is much more friend than foe to our environment, and to the people in it. It appears doubtful that any other industry, in its day to day operation, can lay claim to doing as much to improve the environment.

There are many other pollution issues facing agriculture than has been discussed in this article. They cannot be ignored or expected to go away. However, by using facts and logic instead of emotions in solving them, agriculture can survive.

Zoning and effective land use planning may be a tool which, if properly used, can benefit not only agriculture, but our entire society. That we'll discuss in February.

### Report On November Topic

A total of 523 community groups, with 5,375 members participating, reported on the November topic "Auto Safety." These are the answers they gave to the questions.

1. Should multiple use be made of highway rights-of-way for pipelines and other utilities? *Yes: 414 No: 64*
2. Should Michigan have compulsory motor vehicle inspection? *Yes: 275 No: 223*
3. Should increase in weight, and length limitations of trucks using any road system be allowed? *Yes: 41 No: 446*
4. Should tests for new drivers' licenses be made tougher? *Yes: 72 No: 337*
5. Should tests for renewal of driver licenses be made tougher? *Yes: 75 No: 427*
6. What are some suggestions for improving highway safety in your local community? More stop and/or yield signs; elimination of blind corners; better rural roads; better enforcement of laws; more restrictions on drunk drivers; plain common courtesies; less horsepower in cars.

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### Special Letter

The following letter was received from the Indiana State Police concerning Mr. Bud Ekema, a Farm Bureau Services truck driver.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to your company for the aid rendered at the scene of an accident by one of your employees.

This morning at approximately 7:00 a.m., we were sent to the scene of an accident in which a tanker trailer had jumped a guard rail and rolled down an embankment.

Mr. Bud Ekema, who works out of your Jenison, Michigan Office, agreed to aid the wrecker crew in pulling the truck up to the roadway. Mr. Ekema was detained at the scene more than an hour while his vehicle was being used as an anchor. We realize your vehicles are run on a tight schedule and that your drivers do not have an excess of time. However, Mr. Ekema gave of his time to clear the accident scene and help direct traffic. This expedited our efforts to quickly make the highways safe for travel by our citizens.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated by our Department.

Albert D. Hartmen,  
Lieutenant Commander,  
Dunes Park District #11

### Florida Hotel Discount



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

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

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

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

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

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

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#### 36 MISCELLANEOUS

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#### 36 MISCELLANEOUS

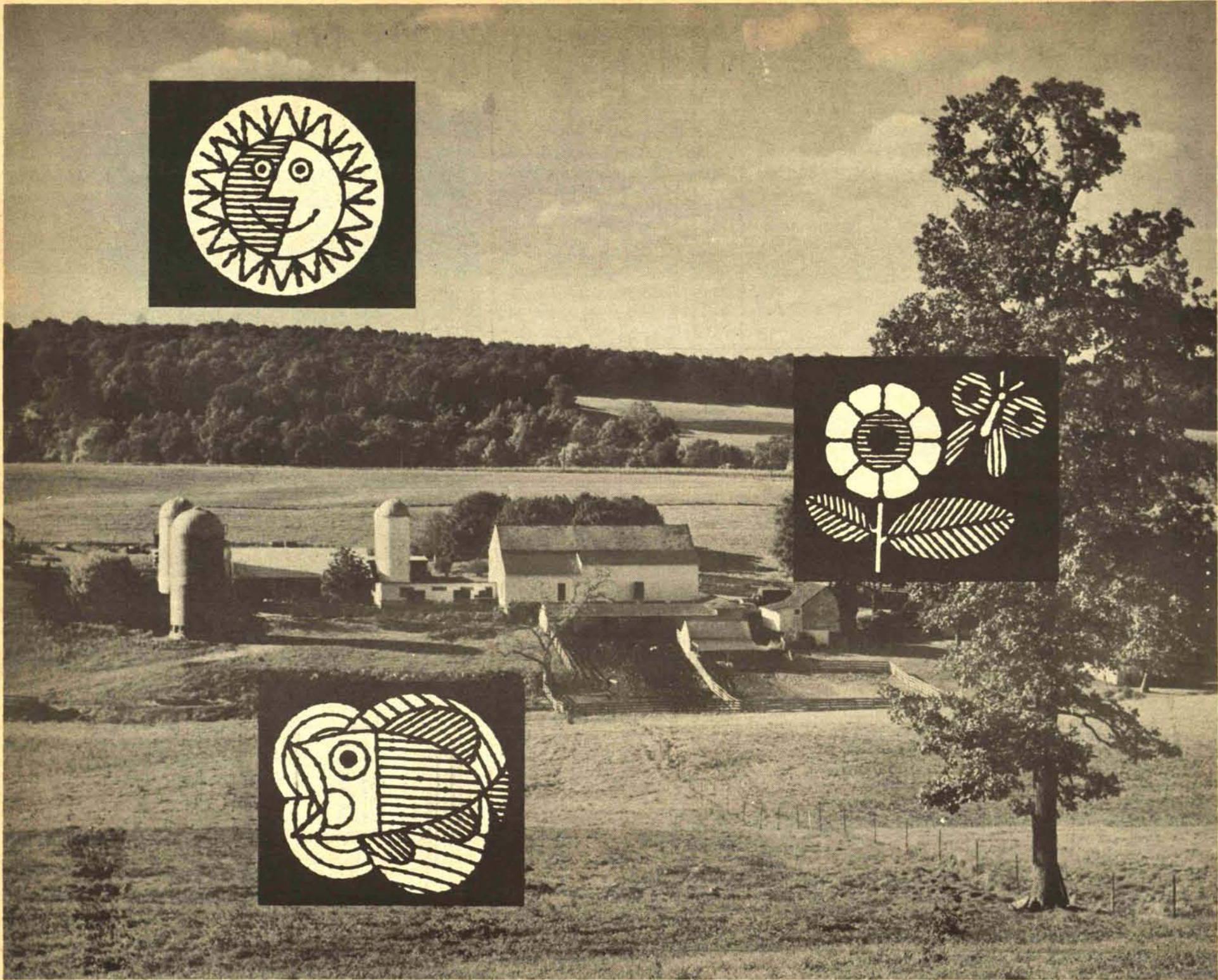
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