

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

VOL. 51, No. 12

MAKE IT HAPPEN

DECEMBER

**M.F.B. Young Farmer
Award Winner
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Middleton**



**1973 Michigan
Farm Bureau Queen
Peggy Kingsbury**

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EDITORIAL . . .



Members Decide Policies

This year, just as in the past 53 years, the farmer members of Farm Bureau spoke out in discussion, amended and approved, by a majority vote, the policies for the coming year on state issues and Michigan Farm Bureau positions. They also made recommendations on national issues which will be presented to the policy development committee of the American Farm Bureau Federation at their meeting in Los Angeles in December.

I am sure it is quite difficult for anyone who has not attended a state annual meeting of the Farm Bureau to comprehend just how policies are decided.

Each year, every Farm Bureau member has the opportunity to participate in the policy development process. This process involves over 1000 community groups, 60 county or multi-county policy development committees representing 79 counties, county Farm Bureau annual meetings, statewide commodity advisory committees and a 20-member MFB policy development committee.

The final decision of what MFB would stand for in 1973 was determined by county voting delegates at the MFB annual meeting held in Grand Rapids on November 8, 9, and 10.

I know of no other organization that conducts such a thorough process, involving so many members, in establishing its policies each year as the Farm Bureau. In many other organizations, policies are established by a small group, committee, a board or even the top elected officials or hired management. Some organizations only take a position on an issue after it has been brought out in the limelight, so they can be sure to be on the winning side.

This is certainly not true in Farm Bureau. Your organization studies the issues, calls on resource people, decides by a majority vote at an open meeting and then works to achieve its goal.

The policies adopted this year are a clear indication that the voice of farmers can and must be heard.

Failure to obtain the desired results of the issues last year did not deter delegates at this year's annual meeting from again taking a strong, sound position.

Property tax relief will again be sought as members state in their policy, "The solution of the issue cannot be evaded any longer. We are convinced that the elements of a 'balanced tax structure' are now available and we will support meaningful and lasting reform through legislative process."

Among other major issues discussed was land use and the direction your organization will take was expressed in the policy adopted which spells out where guidelines are needed and what role members should take in helping to carry out these guidelines.

A complete set of policies were adopted which spell out Farm Bureau's position on issues such as educational finance reform, school curriculum and discipline, teacher tenure, agriculture education and the role of Michigan State University.

Concern was expressed about many other issues such as farmer rights to market and bargain through their own association, the right of farm laborers to vote on unionization, roads, etc.

The center part of this issue of the FARM NEWS contains a copy of the policies of the Michigan Farm Bureau. May we suggest that you remove the center eight pages and save them for the year.

The big challenge before each and every member of Farm Bureau is to read, study and understand the policies so we can speak intelligently and work to accomplish the goals our policies set for us.

Carl P. Kentner

Distinguished Service to Agriculture Awards

In announcing the two winners of this year's Distinguished Service to Agriculture awards presented at the 53rd annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Elton R. Smith said, "There are many people who spend uncountable hours for the betterment of agriculture, in providing leadership to those people within the great agriculture industry. These are the kind of people who have built voluntary organizations and helped create a modern miracle of the world -- American Agriculture. They are people who have served agriculture and their fellow farmers without thought of reward to themselves."

This year's award winners were R.W. (Wally) Peterson and Dr. and Mrs. Cyril Spike.

Wally Peterson, Montcalm County dairy farmer, and well-known soil conservationist, was presented the coveted agricultural award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Michigan agriculture through his leadership in the conservation of our natural resources.

For the first time in history, the award was given jointly to a husband and wife, Dr. and Mrs. Cyril Spike. Dr. Spike, a successful veterinarian and pure-bred Jersey herd breeder, was honored for his outstanding practical livestock health programs and leadership in state and local organizations.

Mrs. Spike was honored for her leadership contribution to agricultural organizations. She has been involved in the extension program of Michigan for 37 years and in 1970, was elected state chairman.

The Spikes have also been active in 4-H programs and local, county and state Farm Bureau programs.



MFB President Elton Smith offers congratulations to Wally Peterson upon receiving the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award.



Dr. and Mrs. Cyril Spike (R to L) receive the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award from MFB President Elton Smith.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN . . .



Editor's Note: This month's President's Column features excerpts from President Smith's annual address before the delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau 1972 annual meeting.

Yesterday we, the voters of this nation, expressed our views on important issues affecting the future of agriculture and our entire society. Our actions involved more than just choosing between candidates for important local, state and national offices. The election decided that agriculture should continue to have open access to foreign markets, that we in agriculture shall have freedom to manage our farming operations with less government influence and will have access to the marketplace for our products. Farmers spoke clearly with their vote at the polls and our influence has been felt.

Today is a sad day for property owners and especially Michigan Farm Bureau members. After a long hard struggle, Proposal C was defeated. However, we are not yet ready to retire from tax issues. We must continue to support tax reform and relief which will lead to a more equitable balancing of the Michigan tax structure.

Farmers are long overdue for a more equitable return for their contribution to national life. It's more than simply a matter of rewarding farmers for their unmatched growth in productivity, which enables Americans to eat better and at a lower cost than people anywhere else on earth. It's more than correcting the imbalance of 25 percent less between the average income of farmers and nonfarmers. American farm people must have profits if they are to continue supporting the highest standard of living in the world.

What agriculture does is taken for granted by those who don't understand, or appreciate, or wish to acknowledge, the significance of the contribution we in agriculture make to the nation. The importance of a strong agricultural foundation under our national economic structure cannot be over emphasized.

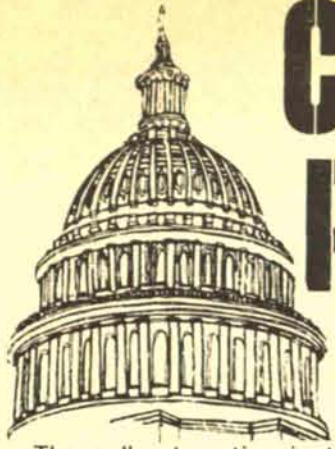
I could go down a list of current issues where you and I -- the farmers -- are being hauled before the court of public opinion; predator control, residues in food, migrant labor, corporate farming, vertical integration, feed lot run-off, open burning, pesticide use, worker housing, safety and health regulations, food prices. The technique used in bringing these issues before the public is to over play their importance. The reasoning is often emotional, the techniques lack what some would regard as intellectual discipline, the measurements are unscientific, the values are more social than economic.

What can we do about this new ball game? We have a choice. We cannot let ourselves be cast in the role of reactionaries who are against such things as wholesome food, clean air, clear water, decent housing, fair wages and safe use of pesticides. We cannot continue to let those on the other side cloak themselves in the mantle of white knights.

We can and must decide to do something about it. The decisions are made in the public minds, in the legislature, and in regulatory agencies -- with help from news columnists, commentators, educators, housewives, and even the clergy. And here the vote is often made with sentiment, sometimes out of ignorance, often as the result of pressure, and even from fear. We must redouble our efforts to create a better understanding among our non-farm population.

I am well aware that in the process of developing policies, there will be differences of opinion. But following adoption of the policies by the majority of you -- the voting delegate body -- all members must work in a united effort to carry out the policies to the best of our ability. Likewise, all agricultural groups should combine efforts to decrease the complex problems facing farmers.

Together, I am sure, we can make it happen.
Elton R. Smith



CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

The pull-out section in this issue contains all state policies adopted by the voting delegates representing County Farm Bureaus at the State Farm Bureau annual meeting held in Grand Rapids November 8-9-10, 1972.

Every member should save this section and take time to read these policies and be ready to help in any way toward the goals that have been set.

As in previous years, these policies will be printed in booklet form and thousands distributed . . . for instance, to the governor's staff, all legislators, departments of government, governmental agencies, numerous other types of organizations, Michigan State University Extension Service, vocational agriculture teachers, county Farm Bureau leaders and committees, etc.

The delegates at the annual meeting also passed numerous policy recommendations on national issues. Michigan's voting delegates will help determine policies on national and international affairs at the AFBF convention early in December.

In Farm Bureau, all policies are developed through a procedure whereby every member, in one way or another, has an opportunity to be part of the decision-making. This can be through county committees, community groups or the county annual meeting.

The State Policy Development Committee is made up of full-time farmers from throughout the state. Their recommendations to the delegates at the state annual meeting result from member actions at county annual meetings and some eight state advisory committees on individual commodities, farm labor and natural resources.

The policy decisions have been made. It is now time for Farm Bureau leaders and members to exert every effort to carry them out. This is accomplished through the Farm Bureau legislative team, consisting of a state legislative committee and legislative committees on state and national affairs in each county. The Minuteman in each community group is also an important link in this chain.

A great deal of assistance comes from various other sources, such as the Farm Bureau women's committees, young farmer committees, county boards of directors and individual Farm Bureau members.

It is only through such a

coordinated team effort that progress can be made in reaching policy goals.

Not all Farm Bureau policies require legislation . . . many can be accomplished in numerous other ways; however, many will require state and national legislation.

ELECTION RESULTS

Michigan voters made many decisions on November 7. Perhaps the most important were their decisions on the five proposals. In these cases their attitude seemed to be much the same as the attitude of voters across the nation—that is, in a mood to vote NO.

Only one of the Michigan proposals carried. That was Proposal A, changing Michigan to Daylight Savings Time during the summer months. The other proposals went down to defeat, including Proposal B, permitting abortions under certain conditions. This proposal was expected to pass according to all the polls until less than a week prior to the election.

Proposal C, for property tax relief, also had a strong lead in the polls until the very last week previous to election. The reason, perhaps, was the last-minute attacks that came from many sources, obviously designed to confuse the voter and raise questions in his mind. When this occurs, most people use the old rule of thumb which says "If you don't know, vote NO."

Proposal C probably had more support from a greater variety of organizations and governmental leaders than any proposal in many years. The strong support came not only from Farm Bureau but also from numerous other organizations representing education, agriculture, businesses, many labor unions, newspapers, political leaders, etc.

Proposal D, permitting changing Michigan's flat rate income tax to a graduated rate was not expected to have a chance of passing inasmuch as it has been turned down by the voters many times in the past. However, Proposal E, which would have provided various benefits for Vietnam war veterans was expected to pass by most everyone, but, here again, the voters' decision was NO.

A similar pattern existed throughout the country. For instance, in California a proposal similar to C—placing a ceiling on property taxes—was defeated. This was also true in Oregon and Colorado. Voters in Massachusetts also refused to permit their flat rate income

tax to be changed to a graduated system.

On the other hand, voters in Ohio had the opportunity to totally repeal their income tax and voted overwhelmingly to keep it.

Massachusetts voters did approve a proposal to permit farmland to be assessed at its value for agricultural purposes rather than potential value. The Massachusetts Farm Bureau was a leader in supporting this proposal, along with other types of organizations such as conservation and environmental groups.

Throughout the country voters seemed to be willing to vote large amounts of money for various types of bonding programs, especially those having to do with improving the environment.

As a result of the November 7 decisions, the Michigan House of Representatives will continue to be controlled by the Democrat Party, with a margin of 60-50. Republicans bemoan the fact that a total of only 1800 votes was the difference between controlling the Legislature and remaining the minority party. This comes about due to the fact that five or six races were extremely close and may result in recounts. On the other hand, the possibility of controlling the House was very remote due to the new redistricting based on the one man-one vote principle. The Democrat plan was approved by the Supreme Court and under that plan it was expected that the Republicans could possibly be left with not more than 42 seats.

One other change by Michigan voters deserves mention and that is the fact that for the first time in Michigan history, a woman will be become a Justice of the Supreme Court. Mrs. Mary Coleman, of Battle Creek, easily won one of the two positions. Mrs. Coleman is probably as well qualified as any justice ever elected, and perhaps is more qualified than most.

SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM

Some legislators maintain that the defeat of Proposal C indicates once and for all that the people do not object to the property tax, with all its inequities. Others continue to maintain that the property tax is outmoded and is an inequitable system of financing schools. Many point to the fact that property owners can no longer control through their vote whether taxes will rise inasmuch as the Supreme Court has ruled that any registered voter can vote on any issue. The fact remains that financing education is now a critical issue. For example, Detroit refused to vote the necessary millage to keep its schools open and now has one of the lowest school tax rates in the state.

Although it is estimated that approximately 60 other school districts are in similar situations, the fact remains that the youngster must be educated and that the present

State Constitution makes public education a responsibility of the State.

The Legislature can bail out these districts but this would be unpopular with the rest of the state, or the Legislature could grant the districts taxing authority without a vote of the people. This is entirely possible under the present State Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court decision in the Butcher Case.

A third alternative would be merely to allow the schools to close and shorten the school year. This is not likely to be permitted.

In any event, the status quo will not be maintained. The issue of how the property tax is used for educational purposes is presently before the Michigan Supreme Court and also before the U.S. Supreme Court. It is expected that these courts will no doubt reach a decision similar to that reached in other states, and that is that the property tax, as presently used, is inequitable and unconstitutional.

This means that some formula will need to be developed equalizing the yield of each mill from the property tax, or some other system that will guarantee a more equitable property tax structure. This does not necessarily mean property tax relief. However, it could result in a reduction in some areas and a considerable increase in others. In any event, the Michigan Legislature has a serious problem facing it which will be extremely controversial.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

The Michigan Legislature returned for a brief three-week session on November 27. Many important issues are to be considered; however, little may be done due to the fact that there are many "lame ducks" in the House and some Legislators will be attending a national conference. Those issues of primary concern to agriculture include:

Marketing Rights for Farmers — S. 1225 is to be considered by the House of Representatives. The legislation has already passed the Senate and, as enabling legislation, provides legal procedures whereby producer groups can form bargaining associations.

The House version clarifies the procedures and requires good faith bargaining on the part of both the producer and processor. Farm Bureau has

strongly supported the legislation, as have several other organizations and associations. Opposition continues to be extremely strong and is being led by the chain stores, canners and freezers and other processor groups.

The legislation is presently limited to fruits and vegetables. However, it is badly needed for those commodities and its passage would give an opportunity to try a new approach to realistic and fair prices and other terms of sale for farmers wishing to use its provisions.

Farmland Taxation — Before recessing, the House of Representatives passed H. 6229, providing interim legislation to help solve the problem of farmland being assessed and taxed on potential values rather than on values as farmland. It is a constitutional approach. An application would be required for those farmland owners wishing to use its provisions. It provides for a specific tax based on USDA land capability classes.

For example, land classes I and II would be \$9 per acre; class III \$7; class IV \$5; classes V, VI and VII \$3, Class VIII \$1. The bill provides for a five-year "rollback" tax and also certain penalties if the landowner changes the use of his land before it is withdrawn from the program. In many areas of the state farmland taxes per acre have reached levels of \$10 an acre and on up to \$40 or more, with examples of even \$100 per acre property tax. H. 6229 would provide relief for farmers in those areas and would serve to encourage the preservation of farmlands.

Farm Drainage — The Inland Lakes and Streams bill—H. 4948—is in the Senate Committee on Conservation. The original version in the House was of major concern to agriculture as it required a system of permits. Farm Bureau was a leader in amending the legislation to exempt on-farm drainage, farm ponds and pollution control systems.

Serious problems still exist with the bill and efforts must be made to further amend it in the Senate. In order to maintain local control on drainage, county drains and inter-county drains must be exempt and also small watershed projects, known as P.L. 566 as carried out by Soil Conservation Districts must also be exempted.



Members of the Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee at work during the consideration of proposed policies by voting delegates at Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting.



President Elton Smith presents Discussion Meet Winner Thomas Whitmore, Jr. the award plaque.

Y F Discussion Meet Winner

Thomas Whitmore, Jr., young farmer from Paw Paw in Van Buren County, was selected winner of the Michigan Farm Bureau Discussion Meet at the annual meeting.

Whitmore operates a 200-acre stock cattle and grain operation in partnership with his father. He is active in the Van Buren County Farm Bureau, serving on the Board of Directors, as membership chairman and on the Young Farmers Committee. Whitmore's plans for the future include building a successful sod farming business along with his present operation and running for political office.

Whitmore will receive an expense-paid trip to California to represent Michigan in the national contest in December at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Los Angeles.

The Discussion Meet has been a featured part of the annual meeting program for the past eight years. The program receives active participation at the county, district and state levels and serves as an excellent method of surfacing and developing leadership qualities of young farmers between the ages of 17 and 31.

Young Farmer Leaders Conference Scheduled

Young farmers throughout the state are urged to circle the dates of January 16-17-18 on their calendars as a reminder of an important conference. The 1973 Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Leaders Conference has been scheduled for those dates at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor, and is open to young farmers from all counties.

Sponsored, planned and conducted by the MFB Young Farmer Committee, the conference is designed especially for county committee chairmen and committee members, although attendance is not restricted to people in those leadership roles. According to participants in previous conferences, this meeting is one of the major highlights of the Young Farmer activities conducted during the year.

Considered one of the most beneficial activities for motivating young Farm Bureau members and developing their leadership potential, the Leaders' Conference will not be entirely a work session. Opportunity and facilities will be provided for recreation, relaxation, and getting to know the many other young farmers who will be in attendance.

A series of leadership classes on Farm Bureau history and philosophy; Young Farmers in Action, a program planning and implementation session; effective communication, and motivation will be included in the three-day conference. Resource people for these classes will be Larry Ewing, manager, Program Development Division and David Cook, director, Young Farmer Programs, Michigan Farm Bureau; and Terry Buckles, vice president of Communications and Public Relations, Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

For further information regarding the conference, or to indicate interest in participating, young farmers may contact their county Farm Bureau secretary or Young Farmer Committee chairman.

WORLD UNDERSTANDING

Imagine yourself in a foreign land at the holiday season. It gets pretty lonely. Ask any service man who has been abroad what Christmas is like when he is away from home. He will tell you it is a pretty lonely feeling.

Each year, there are thousands of foreign students in the United States who get that same feeling. For a number of years, Michigan State University has tried to relieve this feeling and at the same time create a better understanding of the United States. This is done through the Adventure in World Understanding Program.

Many of these foreign students would like to see a farm and visit someone in rural America. Farm Bureau

members in the counties surrounding MSU are asked to consider participating in the program.

It would mean picking up a student on Sunday afternoon, December 24 and returning the student to Michigan State University on the evening of December 25.

Understanding goes two ways. The foreign student learns about America and its customs. The host family learns about a foreign country, too. This would be a great experience for families with children.

If you would like to participate in this program, please write to the Program Development Division, Michigan Farm Bureau for more information.

A TRIP TO SPAIN

How much would it cost to spend a week in Spain? Far less than you would think.

Picture yourself the week of March 19, 1973, on a stretch of the Spanish coast where the sun shines almost every day of the year. Where winding roads lead to quaint fishing villages, and whitewashed houses cling to hills that overlook the sea.

All this is waiting for you on the Costa del Sol -- Spain's answer to the French Riviera. But while the French Riviera has only one season a year in the sun, the Costa del Sol keeps its beautiful climate all year.

Our group will fly from Grand Rapids to the Costa del Sol in a Trans World Airlines jet. And we'll have luxurious accommodations at a fabulous new resort in Torremolinos.

You'll stay in a beautiful suite, with a terrace and a view of the sea. Spacious living room and dining area, wood burning fireplace, built-in bar, and a bathroom with every bedroom.

But the real allure of the Costa del Sol is outdoors. Under the soft Spanish sun you can soak up a tan on a private beach. Special

agricultural tours will also be available.

You can join a fishing party and bring in a fresh catch from the clear waters of the Mediterranean. Then have a cook-out on the beach.

In the evening have your own fiesta under the stars to the sound of gentle surf, or listen to international entertainers go on and on into the night at a beach-side cabaret.

A short trip takes you to the flowered plazas of Malaga. A little longer one to the Alhambra Palace in Granada, or a ferry can take you to the fabled Casbah in Tangier.

The cost is \$240 per person, including airfare, hotel and taxes. For more information, please send the coupon below to Program Development Div., Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing 48904.

Please send me information about the 1973 trip to Spain.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

MFB Queen Named



PEGGY KINGSBURY

Mrs. Vernon (Margaret) Kingsbury of Alpena was selected to reign as the 1973 Michigan Farm Bureau Queen at the 53rd annual meeting held in Grand Rapids. Mrs. Kingsbury, representing Alpena County Farm Bureau, was selected from 33 candidates.

She and her husband are in

partnership with his parents on a dairy farm. She is a graduate of St. John Vianney School, Flint, where she participated as a member of the school's choral group and various other school activities.

Peggy, as she prefers to be called, attended Flint Junior College and has worked as a medical assistant in Royal Oak and Flint. She is presently employed as a dental assistant in Alpena.

Peggy and her husband are members of the St. Bernard Parish where she is a Religious Education Associate Teacher. She is secretary of the Alpena County Young Farmer Committee, secretary of her local community group, and finds time to pursue her hobbies of tennis, guitar, bowling, gardening, fishing and decoupage.

One of Queen Peggy's first official functions will be representing Michigan Farm Bureau at the AFBF's national convention in Los Angeles in December.

Young Farmer Award Winner



THOMAS F. MIDDLETON

Thomas F. Middleton of Ortonville was designated by Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers to receive their Young Farmer Award. He received the award at the Farm Bureau banquet held at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids.

Middleton and his wife, Kathryn, farm 1600 acres, 400 of which they own, specializing in dairy, corn and hay.

They have two pre-school children.

Middleton serves on the Oakland County Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee, is

community committeeman for ASCS, a member of MDHIA state board, vice president of the Michigan Professional Dairy Farmers and a board member of Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative. Tom was honored last year by the Rochester Jaycees as the Outstanding Young Farmer for 1971-72.

As part of the award, the Middletons will receive an expense-paid trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation convention in Los Angeles December 10-14. While there, he will compete with other outstanding young farmers for the AFBF national Young Farmer Award.



THINK SHARP...
BUY FERTILIZER NOW

BOOK AND SAVE
Book your Farm Bureau fertilizer now and save over in-season prices.

TAKE AND SAVE EVEN MORE
If you take your fertilizer now, you will save all storage costs and have your fertilizer when you need it.

FREE POCKET KNIFE TOO
Book 20 tons or more of any Farm Bureau fertilizer from us now thru December 31, 1972 and get a personalized pocket knife, absolutely free.

DON'T DELAY. See your Farm Bureau Dealer today.

Farm Bureau
FARM BUREAU SERVICES INC.

F B Women Challenged

President Elton Smith challenged the Farm Bureau Women to "be where the action is!" at their annual meeting November 8, at the Civic Auditorium, Grand Rapids. After congratulating the women on their adopted "Program of Work" for 1973, the president urged them to activate the projects back in their home counties. "This program of work, as printed here, is now just an idea. Unless it is coupled with action, it will remain just a great idea. Don't let this happen with one of the best programs ever presented by Farm Bureau Women," he urged.

Mr. Smith pointed out that to many people, being where the action is means picketing, rioting and causing confusion. "I've noticed recently that there are two general types of people to whom that kind of activity appeals," he said, "those who have never had any pie and those who have had too much pie and lost the taste for it. Farm people fit in neither category and so take constructive action." Today, when farmers are becoming a minority even in rural America, they need to be informed, positive and active if they are to effectively influence our society, he concluded.

State Women's Committee

Chairman, Mrs. Doris Wieland of Ellsworth, asked the Farm Bureau Women if they were doing "their thing," as she talked about our changing world -- the change in agriculture, the role of women and how they can create change to make a better world. As she reviewed the past year's activities, Mrs. Wieland explained how Farm Bureau Women have helped create changes in the laws and policies that govern them through their important legislative activities. She pointed to the change in attitudes of young people after they had attended the Farm Bureau Young People's Citizenship Seminar; and the change in the image that urban people have of agriculture because of the women's effective rural-urban activities.

Farm Bureau Women must continue to "do their thing" as they tackle their program of work for the coming year, Mrs. Wieland said. "We have determined that we can change things for the better, that we can make our communities and our world a better place in which to live. I look forward to working with you to 'Make It Happen' in 1973."

County Farm Bureau

Women's Committees were in the spotlight during the presentation by Helen Atwood, Coordinator of Women's Activities for the Michigan Farm Bureau. Women from Chippewa, Montcalm and Lenawee Counties were honored for their outstanding activities during the past year, and each of the award-winning county chairmen -- Mrs. Faye Postma, Mrs. Doris Rader and Mrs. Barbara Kimerer, respectively, were presented with a certificate of merit and a \$50 check for their committees.

Chippewa Women, in addition to being active in the total membership campaign, jointly sponsored a "Meet the Candidates" meeting with the League of Women Voters. They circulated tax petitions twice and made a financial contribution to publicity for the tax reform issue. Farm Safety and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Act) information were emphasized, including newspaper articles and ads. In marketing projects, they promoted member participation in the livestock program of MACMA, and sponsored the sale of Florida citrus. They also wrote many letters supporting state and national marketing legislation.

In Montcalm County, several women worked on the membership campaign, in-

cluding an all-out membership day. They circulated many tax petitions and were responsible for writing letters to state legislators on S. 1225, the marketing legislation, and some of the women attended the hearing on this bill in Lansing. They were also responsible for getting OSHA information to members. The women sent five students to the Young People's Citizenship Seminar and presented their own scholarship of \$100 to a student attending Montcalm Community College. They sponsored a rural-urban day, and many women assisted with the Potato Festival by making and selling potato candies.

The women in Lenawee County were active in the membership campaign and in circulating tax petitions for signatures. They tried a new type of program with six project meetings, each involving new members. Several women worked on the marketing legislation S. 1225, first by holding an informational meeting, then by getting this information to other members, by sending many letters to state legislators and by attending the hearing on this bill in Lansing. They conducted an in-store promotion of pork and lamb, with store managers reporting a 25 percent increase in sales of these

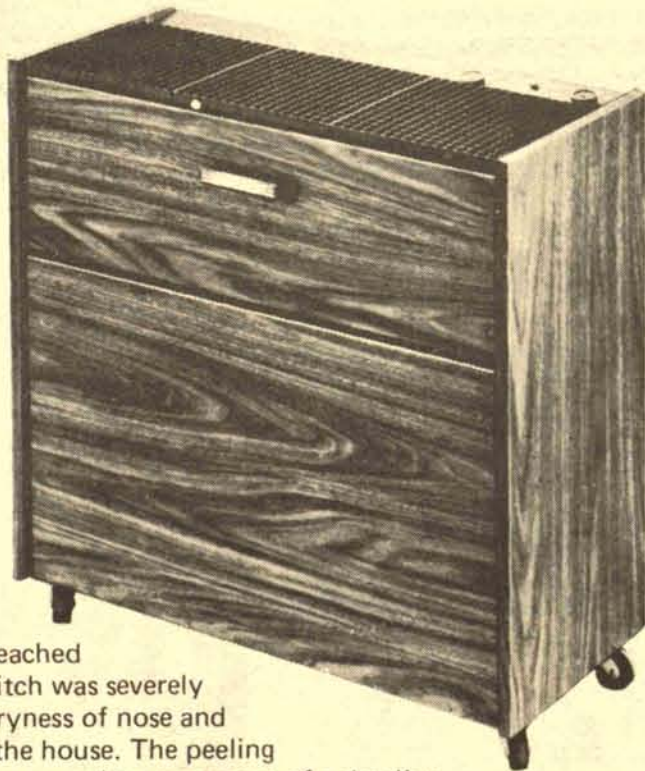
products during the promotion. They held informational meetings on OSHA regulations and farm labor. A food booth at the fair was a successful project and the women also conducted the sale of Florida citrus.

Miss Atwood challenged the women to make their organization even stronger than it is. "As we get to be more and more of a minority, it becomes even more important that ALL members of Farm Bureau be active members, working together to solve our farm problems," she said.

She urged the women to convince their county boards of directors that they are concerned, knowledgeable and qualified enough to be partners on boards and on various important committees.

Two "firsts" occurred at this year's Women's annual meeting. The Style Review, narrated by past state chairman, Mrs. Maxine Topliff, assisted by Mrs. Polly Diehl, had a welcome "new look" with the inclusion of four men. Also, for the first time, Farm Bureau Women had a display booth at the Product Show, featuring their First-Aid, First-Aid Training, and Profit-Making projects. They also cooperated with the Market Development Division in a Cheese Promotion booth and their fondue was a popular item with conventioners.

The Shocking Story about Winter



It was a stifling house.

The unwitting stranger who reached for the door knob or light switch was severely shocked. A strange, painful dryness of nose and throat beset all who tread in the house. The peeling wallpaper and cracked painting gave the appearance of a derelict. The furniture had come unglued and fell apart at a touch. And the piano howled discordantly when played.

Then the newcomer went to work. Quietly, efficiently moisturizing. The crushing heat was replaced by a pleasant warmth. The West Bend humidifier had once again made someone's life comfortable -- with higher humidity and lower heat bills. See one at your local Farmers Petroleum dealer . . . before it's too late.

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Profit Making Course

Farm Bureau Women's leaders in Michigan, concerned about helping to improve the farmer's image, announced a new project at this year's annual meeting -- "Profit Making." They believe that before agriculture's image can be improved, farmers themselves must have a better understanding of our basic economic system to be ready to discuss their business with others on a one-to-one basis and through a Speakers' Bureau.

A series of lessons on the general subject of economics, which groups of members can sign up for, are being prepared by the Market Development Division of Michigan Farm Bureau. The lessons may be offered on a county-wide basis, or for local groups of people, depending upon the amount of interest shown. Cost of the "Profit Making" course, which would include four required lessons and two optional, would be \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per couple. The six lessons planned are:

1. "Dollar Making" -- A basic approach to profit-making in agriculture, which will be designed to give a review and basic background to our free, competitive enterprise system in the United States.

2. "Wants and Gets" -- This lesson would cover demand and supply, how price encourages or discourages the production of certain goods and the number of buyers and the concentration of buying power in a few hands, and how this affects the demand for goods.

3. "What You Keep" -- This

lesson would cover investments and savings, insurance, estate planning and other subjects.

4. "Uncle Sam and U" -- This would cover taxes and government policies, including the use of taxes as a tool to control the money available for use by farmers. Government policy discussion should include ASCS programs, investment credit, and discussion of the pollution questions and the impact federal pollution standards may have on the economic farm size units.

5. "Shipping and Receiving" -- This lesson would cover trade and foreign markets -- imports and exports of farm and industrial commodities. Also a discussion of the commodity trading on the Chicago Board of Trade would be covered.

6. "80 Plus 5" -- A discussion of the Michigan State University project, "80 Plus 5," which describes agriculture as it likely will be in Michigan in the year 1985.

The project is planned to start by January 15, 1973, if sufficient interest is shown. Your positive response, places you under no obligation.

Please return to: Women's Department, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

I am interested in the series of lessons on "Profit-Making."

Name _____

County _____

Address _____



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Huron



SHIRLEY STEMPLER
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Co-Chairmen - Branch

1972-73 Membership Chairmen who will "MAKE IT HAPPEN"

DeVuyst New Director



Larry L. DeVuyst is the newly-elected District 8 Director on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He replaces Harvey J. Leuenberger, Saginaw.

DeVuyst, his wife, Joanne, and their four children live on a 600-acre farm in Gratiot County near Ithaca producing hogs.

He is presently serving his second term as president of Gratiot County Farm Bureau, which he joined in 1958. DeVuyst has served as manager of the membership campaign in his county, a member of the county legislative committee, county Young Farmer committee and on the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee.

He served as MFB Regional Representative in the Saginaw Valley region and was manager of the MACMA Feeder Pig Division. A member of the New Horizon Kellogg Young Farmer Program, he has served on the Farm Home Administration Committee for Gratiot and Clinton Counties; Gratiot County Agricultural Council; Gratiot County Board of Appeals for zoning and as a 4-H leader.

County Farm Bureaus Receive Recognition

Sixty-six county Farm Bureaus received special awards at the Farm Bureau Banquet on November 8. Counties received a special certificate and a gold star in recognition of outstanding achievement in membership, policy development, commodity, Farm Bureau Women and Young Farmer, information and community group activities.

Each county that obtained its 1972 membership goal received two stars. Additional gold stars were awarded for outstanding achievement in each of the additional program areas.

Saginaw County, the leader this year, received six stars for membership, policy development, commodity, information and community group activities.

Three counties received five star honors. Chippewa for membership, women, information and community group; Mackinaw-Luce for membership, policy development, commodity and community group; and Montcalm for membership, women, policy development and commodity.

Sanilac County was the only four star winner, receiving

stars for membership, young farmer and community group.

There were five three-star winners this year. Clinton for membership and community group; Lenawee for membership and women; Mecosta for membership and young farmer; Newaygo for membership and information; and Ottawa for membership and young farmer.

Counties receiving two star awards were Alcona, Allegan, Alpena, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Benzie, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Copper Country, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Hiawathaland, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco, Iron Range and Isabella.

Additional counties receiving two stars were Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Menominee, Midland, Missaukee, Monroe, Montmorency, Muskegon, Northwest Michigan, Oakland, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola and Otsego.

Completing the list of two-star winners are Presque Isle, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne and Wexford.

Smith Renamed MFB President

Elton R. Smith, Kent County dairyman, has been re-elected president of Michigan Farm Bureau. The action was taken at the annual reorganization meeting of the Board of Directors following the three-day annual meeting of the 59,600 member organization.

Renamed vice president was Dean Pridgeon, Branch County farm leader. John Laurie, Tuscola County dairyman, was re-elected to the Executive Committee. Others re-elected were William Wilkinson, secretary, and Max D. Dean, treasurer. Robert E. Braden was re-appointed administrative director and assistant secretary.

Four district directors were re-elected at the three-day meeting -- Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, District 2; Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, District 4; John Laurie, Cass City, District 6; and Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, District 10. Larry DeVuyst, Ithaca, was elected to represent District 8. Walter Frahm, Frankenmuth and James Sayre, Belleville, were re-elected to two-year terms as directors-at-large.

Other members of the 16-member board are Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft, District 1; Andrew Jackson, Howell, District 3; David Morris, Grand Ledge, District 5; Kenneth Bull, Bailey, District 7; Donald Nugent, Frankfort, District 9; Franklin Schwiderson, Dafer, District 11; and David Diehl, Dansville, director-at-large.

Mrs. Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, chairman, Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee, will serve the second year of a two-year term. She is also a member of the Board of Directors. Also serving on the Board will be William Spike, Owosso, re-elected chairman of the Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee.

The National Car Rental Systems, Inc., is discontinuing all "club and association cash discount card" programs. As of January 2, 1973, cash discount cards will no longer be honored.

MAFC Annual Meeting



Mrs. Erma Angevine, executive director of Consumer Federation of America, will be the luncheon speaker at the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives annual meeting and state Co-op Clinic to be held December 4 at the Hospitality Motor Inn, Lansing. Mrs. Angevine will present the consumers' view-point and discuss how cooperatives must adjust to meet consumers' wants. She is the chief executive officer, public spokesman, and official liaison with Federal agencies and the Congress for the CFA.

Her career started as an

English instructor at the University of Kansas. Later she served as associate editor and consumer columnist for Cooperative News Service. Prior to joining CFA, she was women's activities director and meeting coordinator for National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Mrs. Angevine is director of Western States Water and Power Consumer Conference and the Washington chapter of the National Health Foundation. She serves on advisory committees on consumer concerns to the American Dental Association, National Health Council, National Council of Senior Citizens, Conservation Foundation, and Corporation for Public Broadcasting. She is a member of the American Association of University Professors, American Council on Consumer Interests and the International Platform Association.

The program will also include a panel of managers and officers from Michigan Association of County Agricultural Agents, discussing programs available to cooperatives.

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"MAKE IT HAPPEN"

Adopted by the voting delegates at the 1972 Annual Meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau Grand Rapids, November 8-10, 1972

Purpose of Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau is a free, independent, nongovernmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national and international in its scope and influence and is nonpartisan, nonsectarian, and non-secret in character.

Recommendation on National and International Affairs

The recommendations on National and International Affairs adopted by the voting delegates have been forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for use by the National Resolutions Committee, which is made up of representatives of every State Farm Bureau. Michigan's recommendations will also serve as a guide for our voting delegates to the forthcoming Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The National and International Policies adopted at our National Convention will serve as the policy for all State Farm Bureaus.

This is essential in order that there may be effective harmony and unanimity among Farm Bureau organizations throughout the Nation.

Michigan's recommendations on National and International Affairs are available to County Farm Bureaus and others upon request.

FOREWORD

Farm Bureau members have just completed their most involved participation in our political system in a number of years. Our efforts in the tax petition drive and our all-out effort to secure passage of property tax reform has given us training in the political arena. Even though we are a minority, farmers, active politically, can be a group that receives recognition.

We live in a changing society with social pressures new to rural areas. Great numbers of people are leaving urban centers of population for the advantages of living outstate. This challenges us to preserve our agricultural land, conduct efficient agricultural practices and cope with the problems of increasing population.

Farm people traditionally have attained high social standards in their communities. They are noted for honesty, assuming community responsibility, involvement in local government and schools and support of local churches. The strength of any nation is no greater than the moral fibre of its people. Farmers' contribution to the greatness of America, with their attitudes, beliefs and skills is outstanding.

As we reflect on the progress of our Farm Bureau, great credit has to be given to the involvement of our young farmers and their contribution to our organization. This faith in Farm Bureau by young farmers inspires us to preserve an agriculture in Michigan that is permanent, can stand social pressure, has a fair tax system and encourages us to improve and attain a marketing system that returns to farmers a fair share of the market.

Because of these and other concerns, we put great effort into establishing policy for our organization. We are concerned that policy only has meaning when it truly reflects the opinions and concerns of our farmer-members. For this reason we put more effort into policy development than any other organization. Nearly 1,100 community groups, 69 county or regional Farm Bureau annual meetings representing 77 counties and ten statewide advisory committees contribute recommendations to our Policy Development Committee.

The committee, to better recommend policy, goes to great lengths to inform itself, using over 50 resource people in addition to all the resources available in our Farm Bureau and affiliate companies.

The committee, after spending six days in deliberation, presents to the delegate body this, our annual report.

After consideration and adoption, this becomes the policy for 1973. Through the strength that comes from unity, we pledge to achieve our goals. Together, let's make it happen!

Dean Pridgeon, Chairman
MFB Policy Development Committee



President Elton Smith is presented a special membership hat by Theron Summers, AFBF representative.

PART I APPRECIATION

The 76th Michigan Legislature acted favorably on several Farm Bureau policies, including:

1. Further tax and assessment measures, including reinstatement of property tax credits.
2. Livestock, dairy and crop measures, including beef promotion legislation and potato law changes.
3. Environmental legislation, including modification of Air Pollution Act, continuation of livestock feedlot study, exemption of farm ponds from certain permit requirements, pesticide legislation, progress on land use programs and bottle control legislation.
4. Legislation to permit the state administration of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act.
5. Increased funds in the State Aid Act for vocational education.
6. Continued appropriations for several agricultural research programs at Michigan State University.
7. Matching funds for upgrading housing for seasonal workers.
8. Continued support of 4-H and FFA programs.

We commend the Governor and the Legislature on enactment of these and several other measures we have supported which are important to agriculture and to the economy of the State of Michigan. We also appreciate the fact that much proposed legislation not in the best interest of agriculture has not been adopted.

TAX REFORM

Failure of Proposal C, amending the Constitution to further limit property taxes, does not in our opinion indicate that the public favors continuation of the present heavy reliance on the property tax. Continued voter rejection of school tax proposals throughout the state clearly mandates the need for property tax reform and new approaches to school finance.

The burden of property tax continues to spiral upward. According to USDA data, farm real estate taxes as a percent of net farm income are now over 23 percent. Burdens as high as 50 percent are not unusual. Not only are farmers faced with such burdens, but similar burdens are borne by retirees and others on fixed incomes.

We continue to support property tax relief. The solution of the issue cannot be evaded any longer. We are convinced that the elements of a "balanced tax structure" are now available and we will support meaningful and lasting reform through the legislative process.

We believe that the following will lead to a greater equity of taxation:

- New sources of revenue for local units of government in order to relieve property taxes.
- Improved assessment and equalization procedures.
- Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built.
- New methods of financing school systems, with strict limitations on property taxes for educational purposes.
- Use of the income tax as the major source of funds to finance schools.
- Assessment of agricultural land as farmland as long as it is so used instead of other possible potential value.
- Prevention of inequities arising from special assessments on property that receives no benefit from the project.

The balancing of Michigan's tax structure should result in every citizen paying his fair share toward the support of his schools and other local and state government services.

ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY

Legislation was enacted that required all counties to have Equalization Departments by 1969. That same year legislation was passed requiring training programs for local assessors with certification necessary in order for a local person to assess property. Both programs have been only partially successful. Some Equalization Directors are doing a good job while others have not been allowed to function. Some counties have all their supervisors certified to assess, while other counties only have a small percentage certified. We believe that property should be assessed by qualified, trained people working through a qualified County Equalization Director with the goal of having all property assessed fairly in a county and between neighboring counties.

We believe that well-qualified County Equalization Directors can assist properly certified local assessors whenever specialized knowledge is required. This will maintain local control and help assure equitable procedures.

We further believe that the Tax Commission should do a more adequate job of providing local assessors with practical guidelines together with a constant updating of the Assessors Manual.

AGRICULTURAL LAND ASSESSMENT

Confiscatory taxation and assessment of agricultural land has reached critical proportions. Latest published USDA data show that farm property taxes as a percentage of net income are now over 23 percent—four to five times higher than taxes paid by other segments of the economy! Open land, while being taxed to support services, creates no cost. It requires no services such as sewage, water or schools and actually helps moderate a service load to the community. Agriculture—the basic industry—is easily forgotten in land use planning, as it cannot be nucleated into great plants like steel and autos. It creates no commuting traffic jams and no parking problems. Farmers are the victims of an insidious "real estate roulette." Inability to pay the taxes forces selling, often to a developer with large financial resources who can afford to hold it for huge speculative profits.

Such tax confiscation of the value of land is no more acceptable than would be the confiscation of the value of other types of investment.

A proper tax structure can be an effective method of preserving the better farmland for future food needs. Such "green acres" and "open space" will also conserve water, help purify polluted air and provide for esthetic and recreational values.

Many progressive states have recognized this problem. At least 26 states have taken action to allow assessment of farmland on the basis of its value for agriculture rather than potential nonfarm uses. For instance, Maryland law states that it is "in the general public interest...to maintain a readily available

YOUR CONVENIENCE COPY OF THE '72 POLICIES...

source of food and dairy products close to the metropolitan areas of the state, to encourage the preservation of open spaces as an amenity necessary to human welfare and to prevent the forced conversion of such open space to more intensive uses as a result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of land at a rate or level incompatible with the practical use of such land for farming."

In other industrial states, urban interests, agricultural groups, environmental groups, government officials and others have strongly supported such laws.

We urge reintroduction of legislation to solve this problem. We shall continue to strongly support such legislation in the interest of tax equity and the present and future needs of our environment and exploding population.

LAND USE

We need to contemplate the wisdom of a Nigerian Chieftan when he said "I conceive that land belongs to a vast family of which many are dead, few are living, and countless numbers are unborn."

Land is a necessary resource to those who make their living from the soil. It is also a vital resource to the economy of Michigan and to the well-being of every citizen. The production of food and fiber on our agricultural lands contributes nearly \$1 billion annually to the economy of our state. Although only one out of 100 Michigan citizens operates a farm, 27 percent derive some part of their income from agriculture.

Only 30 percent of Michigan's 36.3 million acres is in agriculture. Over eight million acres of Michigan's nearly 11 million acres of agricultural land are located in the 38 counties below the Bay City-Muskegon line. These southern counties have an average of 55 percent of their land areas devoted to agricultural uses and much of it is prime farmland.

Urban sprawl is moving steadily across much of our most productive farmland. Each year, over 50,000 acres of farmland is converted to urban use. Without intelligently planned growth, the fertile land in no less than 20 counties could virtually disappear within 30 years. This sprawl creates a number of conflicts to agriculture, such as permanent removal of prime farmland from production, unrealistic and confiscatory tax assessment of farmland, and a number of social and environmental problems. Current land use programs within our state foster the continuation of such conflicts.

We commend Governor Milliken for establishing the Interim Office on Land Use and appointment of an Interim Land Use Commission. Sound planning and programs for land use must be given high priority.

We support the formation of a centralized state agency, with agricultural representation, with responsibility for coordinating the development and implementation of broad statewide land use guidelines to include such areas as agricultural land, urban development, recreational land, unique areas, forestlands and utility and transportation corridors. Any statewide land use program should identify and preserve prime agricultural land. Our state ranks fifth or higher in 19 farm products grown on a wide range of soils. Prime agricultural land should not be based solely on soil capability for one or two major crops.

The State should provide necessary guidelines and financial assistance to local governments to assure the implementation of adequate land use programs. The guidelines should be used to coordinate land use programs of local units of government. State land use programs should be instituted only if local land use programs cannot meet established guidelines. Local governments should be authorized to adopt stricter land use program than those specified in the guidelines. The right of individual appeal must be maintained.

Assessment of farmland at its agricultural value rather than potential use should be implemented to begin intelligent land use. Thousands of acres of prime agricultural land have been taken because accelerating urban pressures have caused assessments to skyrocket beyond the capability of returns from agricultural use. This must not continue while a statewide land use program is being developed. We strongly support the assessment of farmland based on agricultural use and urge that it be given immediate attention.

We urge Farm Bureau members to take an active part in any land use planning at all government levels.

MICHIGAN TAX COMMISSION

This agency of government has many responsibilities, many of which must be carried out without adequate staff. It must carry out the constitutional requirements and state laws on property taxation. The property tax, with its numerous inherent faults, complicates the Commission's job.

One of the major areas of responsibility is proper state equalization of the value of each county within the state. This is the third step in the assessment and equalization process, beginning with the local assessor and Board of Review.

The Commission also has the responsibility of judging appeals from individual taxpayers, townships and counties. This is a difficult situation, as appeals often result from rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission.

We support legislation that would create an appeals procedure assuring individual taxpayers and local governments an efficient and impartial procedure, thereby freeing the Tax Commission for other essential duties, such as the equalization function.

TAXATION OF MOBILE HOMES

Presently, mobile homes in trailer parks pay, in lieu of property taxes, a fee of \$3 per month. Two dollars of this amount goes to the school, 50 cents to the township and 50 cents to the county. This fee system, enacted in 1959, is no longer realistic. The increased value of trailer homes is not reflected, nor do they contribute a proper share of the cost of schools and local government.

We support legislative action to increase the fee to a level in relation to the property taxes paid by other homeowners.

We urge that the State of Michigan allow the school districts to keep the trailer park tax and not have it deducted from their state aid.

EDUCATIONAL FINANCE REFORM

There is little question now that major reforms must be made in the financing of education. Courts throughout the nation are now recognizing the inequities of the present finance systems. Statewide educational opportunity cannot be achieved unless the method of finance is restructured to achieve equity. Property taxes for this purpose are obsolete and do not have the capability to expand to meet increasing needs, nor are they a good measure of ability to pay. Studies have proved this. For instance, during a seven-year period (1961-1968) one study points out that millage rates on property for schools increased 57 percent along with an alarming rate of increasing assessed valuations. However, had an income tax been in effect during that same period, the rate could have remained the same and yielded more money than the property tax despite the alarming increases.

Continued voter rejection of millage proposals throughout the state clearly indicates the need for new approaches to school finance and for educational reforms.

We recommend:

- Property taxes for all school purposes be strictly limited by law.
- The income tax be used as the major source of funds for our school systems.
- A reasonable state aid formula be developed to assist districts in meeting the cost of building needed facilities.
- Sufficient funds should be appropriated to pay in full all state aid formulas.
- Legislation to require each taxpayer to identify his school district on his income tax form.

We believe it is possible to achieve educational finance reform without eroding the fundamental right of the local community to determine educational goals within broad general guidelines provided by law.

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

We believe the time has come for substantial reforms in our educational system.

We recommend that:

- The present State Board of Education should be replaced by a bipartisan, odd-numbered Education Commission appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, of which at least two are professional educators. The Commission should employ the Director of Education.
- Whenever intermediate districts are reorganized the policymaking board should be representative of all local boards of education and all areas of the district.
- Statewide testing and assessment of student progress and total evaluation of education should be continued and expanded.
- Reorganization of K-12 districts should continue to be voluntary. Required reorganization should be delayed until such time as assessment and evaluation tests provide factual information as to quality education programs for students.
- State funding for public schools should be sufficient to provide, as nearly as possible, equal educational opportunities within the local school concept for all students.
- In-service training for teachers be encouraged.
- Local school facilities be used to their fullest potential for educational purposes for both youth and adults. Year-round school would be feasible in many areas.
- Vocational-technical programs for both youth and adults be made available to all areas of the state. Existing educational facilities should be used wherever possible. The "World of Work" demands salable skills. Vocational programs, whenever feasible, should include on-the-job training with local business places for school credit.
- The use of performance contracting be encouraged.
- Special education programs be available to all handicapped children. It has been proved beyond a doubt that these children can be educated to lead productive lives with dignity and contribute to the economy.
- New and innovative instructional methods be researched and used wherever possible.
- Educational programs be constantly reevaluated to determine the priorities and needs of our economy and work force. Education at all levels must meet the constantly changing needs of society.
- State aid bill be passed early in the legislative session to permit proper planning by the school districts.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND DISCIPLINE

Many parents are concerned about the subjects being taught, the materials used in teaching, some of the suggested reading lists, and discipline in our schools.

School curriculum and discipline are primarily the responsibility of the local school board and should so remain. However, parents should be interested and should work with local school board members in developing curriculum that upgrades educational training in our schools. This can be done by:

- Reviewing present curriculum.
- Volunteering to serve on any review committees.
- Helping to elect the best qualified people to serve on local school boards.

We urge greater effort on the part of all institutions of public instruction to promote patriotic Americanism.

TEACHER TENURE

The inflexibility of the present Teacher Tenure Law makes it unreasonably difficult for school boards to discharge incompetent personnel. We believe the Tenure Act should be either repealed or amended to require that all tenure positions be subject to a reevaluation of performance after a reasonable period of time, not to exceed each five years of service.

SCHOOL BOARDS' COOPERATION

We believe that it is imperative that school boards work together in areas in an effort to effectively deal with the increasing problems of school districts, including the rising cost of education, teacher and employee contract negotiations, curriculum, etc.

We commend the Michigan Association of School Boards in its efforts to correlate the attitudes and positions of all school boards.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The demand for more teachers of vocational and technical agriculture continues with the advent of specialized programs on both secondary and post-secondary levels in vocational centers and community colleges. We urge capable students to consider this career opportunity.

The Institute of Agricultural Technology, MSU, reports a constantly increasing demand in many occupational fields for employees with agricultural background and training. The Federal Vocational Act of 1963, and 1968 amendments, finally recognized the urgent need for technical training in agriculture. Nationally, the number of students involved in technical training in agriculture has doubled in the past three years and is expected to double again in the next five years. A study by the National Academy of Science indicates that three technicians are needed for every college graduate in the agricultural-related fields.

We strongly urge that teachers of vocational agriculture continue to be employed on a 12-month basis. Summer months provide the opportunity for students to put into practice much of the vocational agricultural instruction provided during the school year. Providing this on-the-farm instruction to students is an important part of the vocational agriculture teacher's responsibilities. Vocational agriculture and FFA are unmatched in teaching "individual enterprise" through practical application of classroom training.

We continue to support these programs and urge that greater emphasis be given to the increasing opportunities in technical agriculture and agri-business.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

This pioneer land grant college has become a great university and has not lost sight of the fact that agriculture and agri-business is the foundation stone of nearly 30 percent of the economic base of our state and that the benefits of research of the College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Experiment Station, along with the Cooperative Extension Service, have resulted in better living for all our people, rural and urban.

The greatness of a university lies in its dedication to a search for truth and in serving all people regardless of race, creed or background. If Michigan State University sacrifices principles because of political pressure, then its greatness would diminish.

We believe that Michigan State University must continue to give prime consideration to those disciplines and recognize the great need for specialized training for agricultural-related occupations which may or may not lead to a degree, but can be met through the course work offered by the Institute of Agricultural Technology.

We believe that scholarships and loans should continue to be available to qualified students needing assistance.

It is obvious that there will be increasing further needs for emphasis in the areas covered by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Experiment Station, the Extension Service, the Institute of Agricultural Technology, the world-renowned Pesticide Research Center, as well as all other areas of agricultural studies.

Through the years, we have supported the expansion of many of the services of Michigan State University. We are now concerned with the critical shortage of medically-trained personnel and will continue to support the development of a complete College of Human Medicine.

We shall continue to support research and

educational programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, recognizing that the benefits accrue to the entire economy.

EXTENSION SERVICE

The Cooperative Extension Service has played a vital and successful role in the development of American agriculture. With the help of the Extension Service, American farmers have developed their operations into the most efficient industry in the world. This development has definitely been a financial benefit to the individual farmers, but more so has made it possible for the American consumer to spend a lower percent of his net income for food than any other consumer in the world, and this percentage continues to decrease.

Recent studies and so-called exposes have raised a good deal of criticism of the Extension Service in regard to their positions of equally serving not only all segments of agriculture, but also all segments of our total society, especially minority groups.

These criticisms have a marked effect on the direction of future programs of the Service and on who shall be served.

We, as agriculture, believe that every effort should be made to use successful Extension Service methods for all people in our society who desire them; however, at the same time we are concerned that this will be at the expense of Agricultural Extension Service and research programs.

In light of these considerations we recommend:

1. That any appropriations for nonagricultural programs be in addition to, not in place of, already existing appropriations.
2. That Agricultural Extension Service and research be continued at or in excess of the present rate.
3. That any requirement for special reports put upon the Extension Service be financed by the necessary appropriation, not by siphoning off a part of the already overtaxed budget.
4. That efforts be made to develop Extension-type programs for urban people where they are needed under the jurisdiction of the Extension Service with special appropriations being made for these programs.

SPECIALIZED EXTENSION AGENTS

Due to the transition from general farming to more specialized agriculture, we feel the movement in the Cooperative Extension Service to specialized multi-county Extension Agents will provide better service to all farmers.

We support this concept and urge the Cooperative Extension Service to continue to create these positions whenever feasible.

We encourage County Board of Commissioners to cooperate with the Extension Service in providing funds for these agents.

MSU PLANT SCIENCE BUILDING

The basis for all agriculture is in the ability to efficiently produce crops for food and fibre. Michigan State University is well known for outstanding research work in the area of plant science. Presently, the Plant Science and Horticultural divisions are scattered in several locations. There is a serious need for a Plant Science Building for greater efficiency.

We strongly support and will work for appropriations to plan and construct a new Plant Science Building at Michigan State University.

4-H

We compliment the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service for its role in the development of the 4-H Program. This program has proven valuable by providing educational opportunities to both rural and urban youth. We also commend the 4-H leadership for the new and exciting projects developed to gain interest and participation on the part of Michigan youth.

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

The St. Lawrence Seaway was a dream of imaginative men nearly 100 years ago and its accomplishment has turned the shores of the Great Lakes into the fourth coast of the United States. It brings to Michigan an opportunity for export trade direct to foreign customers. Michigan has become the second largest exporter of manufactured goods. It is a major shipper of agricultural produce and yet less than ten percent of our exports are shipped via the Seaway. Much of this is due to the need for port improvement in the City of Saginaw. The Saginaw River is not deep enough for oceangoing vessels.

We believe that this valuable economic asset should be used to its fullest and support the deepening of the waterway to accommodate oceangoing ships.

COURT REFORM

In 1971, the Legislature appointed a 36-member committee to study the judicial system in Michigan. That committee has now reported its findings to the Legislature.

The report contains sections on selection of judges, financing of courts, functions of courts, tenure for some judges and establishment of several new Circuit Courts.

The report contains a version of Supreme Court Justice selection known as a variation of the Missouri

Nonpartisan Court Plan. More than 21 other states have adopted various versions. Presently, Michigan's Supreme Court is called nonpartisan, but the method of nominating candidates is far from nonpartisan.

The recommendation of the committee provides for appointment of Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges; it preserves the right of the people to have a voice in the selection of judges, as the judge is required to run solely on his record and not against other opponents in a general election. The people decide whether he should be retained.

Circuit Judges, on the other hand, will continue to be nominated and elected at nonpartisan elections.

Further provision is made for justices and judges of all courts to retire at 65 years of age.

We believe these and other reforms should help lead to a better court system resulting in prompt and equitable justice to the citizens of Michigan.

ESTATE SETTLEMENT

Past experience has proven that the settlement of estates in Michigan can be a time-consuming, costly and demoralizing process.

Legislation has been introduced in the State Legislature which could correct this situation if properly administered. We recommend the Legislature give priority position to legislation providing for a uniform, prompt and equitable method of estate settlement.

BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE

We support a bicameral legislature for our state. We believe the system of checks and balances provided by the two houses is a safeguard, protecting our people against ill-considered legislation.

TELEPHONES

Electric power is sold at the same rates in urban and rural areas. Telephone companies are allowed to charge the rural subscriber a higher rate to cover charges for distance lived from the telephone centers. We urge that telephone companies of Michigan be required to charge equal rates for equal services in both rural and urban areas.

HIGHWAYS

Michigan has a total of 115,065 miles of roads and streets (46% inadequate). The State Highway Department has the responsibility to develop and maintain 9,251 miles of this total. This includes the 1,175 mile interstate highway system. Our excellent interstate system, as presently planned, is nearing completion. Extensive use of federal funds (90% federal-10% state), together with a bonding program, has made this possible; however, interstate roads constitute only 1% of the total mileage.

Michigan's 83 County Road Commissions are responsible for 76% (87,790 miles) of the total road system (44% inadequate). Of this total, 25,360 miles are classified as Primary Roads (40% inadequate) and 62,430 miles are classified as Local Roads (48% inadequate).

Of all bridges on local roads, 65% are considered inadequate. Most of these bridges were built in the 1890's for horse and buggy traffic and are unsafe for today's variety of traffic. Many are unsafe for school buses and other vehicles and have been so posted. In many cases, the return of state highways to the counties creates an additional burden. In spite of increasing revenue, little progress has been made in eliminating the deficiencies in most county road systems. Obsolescence and structural failures are occurring faster than the facilities can be replaced.

As a result of the rapid growth of the interstate system, counties have the additional costly job of fitting county roads into that system and to accommodate the increased traffic on our local roads caused by small industry, recreation users, etc., which create added stress on such roads and structures. The most desirable recreation areas are, in most cases, accessible only by county and local roads. Proper development of rural areas, including industrial expansion, is dependent on an adequate road system. For instance, the Class A or frost-free highway system permits trucks to carry the same weight the year around, but to service country areas they must often reload.

We recommend:

- Any needed increase in revenues be met through "user taxes" rather than a return to the old system of taxing property to build roads.
- Present matching requirements for local roads should be decreased. (Most local units of government are financially unable to increase their contributions.)
- Local bridge replacement and reconstruction matching should be eliminated or substantially reduced, as they represent a specific problem and are extremely costly.
- Local roads serving recreational areas should be maintained without local matching funds.
- Federal highway aid should be substantially increased for county and local needs inasmuch as the Michigan interstate system is near completion.
- State and Federal highway authorities should recognize the spiraling costs of maintenance and equipment and make proper provisions in maintenance contracts with County Road Commissions.
- Consideration be given to counties with large

areas of public recreation lands, not only because of the heavy financial burden placed on such counties, but adequate roads can also be part of an effective safety program.

- There should be no further increases in gross weight, width and length limitations of trucks using any road system in the near future. Most systems are inadequate to carry even the existing loads.
- Routes be chosen to avoid diagonal highways and the use of productive agricultural lands where feasible.
- Multiple use of highway rights-of-way for pipelines and other utilities.

The recently completed Highway Needs Study shows that 44.5% of all highway needs are within the county road system. Good local roads are essential if rural areas are to be developed to their fullest potential.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

Accidents on highways take many lives each year; many people are injured and much property damage occurs. To help reduce auto accidents, we recommend that:

1. Motorcycles be required to operate with headlight on, making them clearly visible to oncoming vehicles on all public roads.
2. Hard-top roads should be marked with center lines and side lines as an aid to safer nighttime driving.
3. STOP AHEAD signs should be placed an appropriate distance from every STOP sign, where a particular hazard exists.
4. County Road Commissions clear roadsides and intersections of hazards within road rights-of-way that obstruct the view of motorists.
5. Signs within the travelled lanes of any highway be the flexible or breakaway type.
6. School buses be equipped with distinctive markings on front and rear clearly visible during hours of darkness.
7. Red and amber reflectors be banned as mailbox and driveway markers and only blue or green markers be used.
8. Slow-moving vehicle signs be used only on vehicles as intended by law, with stricter enforcement and penalties for violators.
9. Bumpers on cars should be a standard distance from the ground.
10. The state make greater efforts to remove intoxicated drivers from our highways.
11. The checklane system be continued.

COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONS

The Board of County Road Commissioners is a unit of local government responsible for maintenance and construction of most roads within a county. The three-member Boards have six-year staggered terms and are, in most cases, appointed by the County Board of Commissioners.

We believe this system has insulated the jurisdiction of our county road systems from direct politics and has resulted in efficient highway management throughout the years. We continue to support the Road Commission concept and oppose any effort to shift control of county roads to some other agency. However, liaison between Commissioners and citizens is sometimes poor and we believe that citizens should have a direct procedure for complaint and corrective action.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY

In the exercise of "Eminent Domain" and obtaining rights-of-way for utilities, highways and other uses, we urge that procedures be as nearly uniform as possible. This would enable property owners to better understand and use the provisions to obtain fair and equitable settlements.

Utility companies should be restrained from unnecessarily destroying timber, orchards, farmland and property.

We urge Planning Commissions to coordinate the establishment of corridors for the use of utilities.

LAND ACQUISITION

Private ownership and operation of land resources is in the best interests of our Nation. Acquisition of fee title or interest in land by government for a public use should require individual state legislating or congressional approval following clear demonstration of the need for such use. In these cases, every effort should be made to select less valuable land. We urge that state and federal government consider leasing of needed land or taking of easements rather than outright purchases.

MOTOR VEHICLE FUNDS

Michigan's Constitution states that revenues derived from motor vehicles and motor fuels should be used exclusively for highway purposes as defined by law. The Motor Vehicle Fund, by formula, is used for state, county and municipal transportation systems.

We recognize that in some cases new systems of transportation may be preferable. We insist, however, that the portions of these funds for county and local use be maintained and increased in relation to the portion of the fund used for other jurisdictions. Such money should not be used for any purpose that is not directly related to the construction, maintenance or financing of modern and adequate transportation facilities.

Motor vehicle owners, in addition to specific highway use taxes, contribute millions of dollars annually to the

State General Fund through sales and use taxes on the purchase of vehicles, accessories, etc. These additional funds should be adequate to finance highway-related programs.

UNINSURED MOTORISTS' FUND

In 1973, Michigan will have "No Fault" automobile insurance. There are many unanswered questions concerning the operation of this program.

For example, some suggest that the \$61 million in the Uninsured Motorists' Fund should be transferred to the General Fund of the State. These suggestions are unwise, as there will still be suits filed against uninsured motorists.

We believe that the Uninsured Motorists' Fund should be retained until sufficient experience is gained rather than transfer the money into the State General Fund.

ROAD AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Michigan is prejudiced against tandem axle trucks by cutting gross weights per axle from 16,000 pounds per axle on Class A roads to 13,000 per axle on Class B roads. All other trucks are allowed the same gross weight per axle on both Class A and Class B roads. When these weight restrictions are enforced, they promote the nine-foot, spread-axle and tri-axles. These restrictions incur higher freight costs and taxes to farmers and the entire people of the state. It affects all freight entering and leaving Michigan. Therefore, we recommend the weight restrictions on tandem trucks be changed to 16,000 pounds per axle on all Class A and Class B roads.

RAILROAD CAR REFLECTORS

Many serious traffic accidents resulting in death, injuries and great monetary loss are occurring at unprotected railroad crossings. Most of these accidents are happening during the night hours. We believe that luminous paint or reflectors should be required on the sides of new or repainted railroad cars as a safety measure.

LITTERING

Littering is a costly nuisance and much of it is thrown on Michigan's farmlands. Cleanup of litter along highways is costly to taxpayers. Thousands of truckloads of bottles, cans, paper and other litter will be picked by hand along state highways this year alone.

The current Anti-Litter Law can help in curbing littering. The judge may levy a fine and costs and require the offender to pick up litter along a specified mileage of highway.

It is difficult to apprehend and identify litterers. Citizens must be willing to aid police officers in this difficult job. Local political influence must not be permitted to hamper enforcement.

We urge the use of signs posted along state and county roads and in parks, stating the maximum fine for littering.

Farmers are urged to prevent agricultural wastes from littering when farm equipment and trucks are driven on highways.

We will support legislation to make the owner of a vehicle responsible for litter thrown from his vehicle.

We commend television and radio stations and other media for their efforts to help "Keep Michigan Beautiful."

NONRETURNABLE BOTTLES

The nonreturnable bottle is a nuisance and a hazard. It is more than just "litter."

Farm implement tires, auto and truck tires, livestock and crops are being damaged or destroyed by broken glass, most of it in the form of throwaway bottles.

Time lost as a result of damage to a tire can mean many dollars of crop loss.

The seriousness of the problem has been recognized throughout the state.

The nonreturnables are thrown away where emptied and are not picked up for salvage because they have no return value. Our county and local roads and adjoining fields and woodlots are favored spots for beer parties and rubbish dumps.

We have worked for several years to obtain establishment of a mandatory return value on beverage throwaways. Legislation has been introduced, but has not yet been adopted.

We will continue to seek relief through:

1. Use of plastic-type decomposable containers; or
2. A required return value on glass beverage containers; or
3. A tax being placed on the manufacturers of these bottles to help cover the cost of cleaning them up from our roadsides.

TRESPASS

Farmers are concerned with the increasing disregard for private property rights by others and by the inability or unwillingness of local authorities to protect such rights.

We, therefore, encourage stricter enforcement of the Horton Trespass Act by local prosecution.

SNOWMOBILES AND ATVs

Many property owners report that the rapidly increasing number of snowmobiles is causing damage to crops, young trees and fences on private property. We should be aware of the fact that the Horton Trespass Act has been amended to include snowmobiles.

The all-terrain vehicle, trail bikes and similar machines are also very popular. We support legislation to include these vehicles under the Horton Trespass Act and other statutes presently applying to snowmobiles.

We also support legislation to limit the noise levels of these types of machines.

Snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, trail bikes and similar machines should be covered by mandatory liability and property damage insurance when operating on property other than that of the owner.

We commend the Department of Natural Resources for its efforts to develop more trails for these machines on public lands.

SAFETY CONFERENCE

The Special Conference on the Problem Driver and Traffic Safety, organized by Secretary of State Richard H. Austin, has completed its work. The Conference, made up of leaders throughout the state including three representatives of Farm Bureau, has issued a comprehensive study based on technical assistance from various agencies of government.

We will continue to cooperate with other organizations to carry out those recommendations that will result in a comprehensive action on the issue of safety and the problem driver.

WELFARE

Our present welfare programs have contributed greatly to the financial crisis at all levels of government. These programs provide the second largest cost of government, second only to education. In 1972-73, the State of Michigan will spend \$642 million on welfare programs. This is an increase of \$102 million from the preceding year. The state portion, combined with federal funds, will reach nearly \$1.3 billion.

We continue to urge that a realistic reevaluation be conducted of the total welfare program, including the amounts of money spent, sources of this money, desirability of federal and state intervention at the local level, effectiveness in reducing the numbers of welfare recipients and the eligibility of employees on strike.

We support welfare benefits to those who are really in need of assistance. Welfare should not become a "way of life" or perpetuated in future generations. All members of society must be motivated to sustain their self-esteem and self-respect by earning as much of their livelihood as possible and not be penalized when they are able to work part-time.

FOOD STAMPS

We support the food stamp programs as a means of helping those persons who are really in need of assistance. However, we believe there should be a complete investigation of the present procedures for distributing food stamps and that the procedures be revised so that equitable rules can be enforced. We further believe that college students, persons on strike or persons who refuse to work when offered employment should not be eligible for food stamps or surplus food commodities.

LAW AND ORDER

It is obvious that there is a lack of respect for law enforcement agencies in our society. We recognize the rights of citizens to dissent, but condemn acts of violence.

We urge:

1. The restoration of authority and respect for our enforcement agencies in our society.
2. Courts to support law enforcement agencies through prompt trial and after due process of law to administer realistic justice.
3. Citizens to carry out their responsibilities in helping law enforcement officers by offering pertinent information and assistance.
4. Support for our local police and keep them independent.

FIREARMS CONTROL

We believe our laws should place more emphasis on the crime and the criminal rather than on the gun.

1. We oppose further expansion of registration of firearms.
2. We would support mandatory imprisonment of any person convicted of a felony involving use of firearms.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

We support the special legislative committee that has been created to study Michigan's system of Juvenile Justice and are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau is represented on the committee. Such comprehensive studies can, we believe, lead to better and more coordinated legislation.

HEALTH CARE

We continue to be concerned over the increasing high cost of hospital and medical care. We recommend that all citizens be encouraged to participate in private health care plans through the use of federal income tax credits for premiums on such plans. Government assistance should be available to persons who do not have sufficient income to take full advantage of such credits. This approach would be preferable to a national health insurance program.

We urge County Farm Bureau to establish and promote a closer working relationship with medical and other agencies interested in developing better health care.

HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

We wish to commend the Health Planning Council of Michigan for the excellent work it is doing in helping to plan and coordinate health services throughout the state. This voluntary, nonprofit organization is assisting the people of Michigan in many communities in their efforts to provide optimum health care at the least possible cost through wise planning based on exhaustive and factual studies. It is also a strong voice in support of voluntarism in health planning.

MEDICAL TRAINING

Many communities are faced with a shortage of physicians to provide needed medical services. Rural communities are especially affected by the shortage of physicians. Ample financial support must be given to training programs at our teaching hospitals to encourage Michigan medical students to take their internship and residencies in Michigan.

NARCOTICS AND HARMFUL DRUGS

The rapidly growing use of narcotics and harmful drugs must be stopped. We encourage massive, direct and realistic educational efforts to inform youth, parents and others concerning the harmful effects of drug abuse. We oppose legalization of marijuana.

Courts should continue to strengthen penalties imposed on drug pushers.

Rehabilitation centers and drug information programs are now available to drug users in most parts of Michigan. Drug users should be encouraged to use these programs.

We support enforcement of laws to tighten the importation, manufacture and distribution of narcotics and harmful drugs.

MILK PROMOTION

Milk production is increasing in our state and nation. This increased production poses serious problems to the dairy industry. The increased production has been partially offset by increased consumer purchases of milk and dairy products this year.

In order to help continue the strong demand for dairy products, we support the UDIA concept of advertising and promotion for dairy products. However, dairy product promotion cannot be totally effective unless all quality standards are strictly enforced from the producer to the consumer.

DAIRY STANDARDS

We insist on strict enforcement of minimum butterfat and solids standards to assure consumers the highest quality dairy products.

MEAT STANDARDS

We support the Michigan Comminuted Meat Law which provides for skeletal meat only in comminuted meat products. Such standards are higher than provided by Federal law which permits lips, snouts, spleens, stomachs, eyes, ears, spinal cords, udders, melts, lungs, liver, cracklings, crackling meal and tongues in comminuted meat products.

We will oppose all legislation which would deny the right of a state to set ingredient, labeling and packaging standards higher than the minimum Federal standards. We support legislation to raise Federal standards to those of the Michigan Comminuted Meat Law.

COMMODITY PROMOTION PROGRAMS

Agricultural commodity promotion programs have, for many years, been funded and supported by producers. These programs have been developed and implemented by commodity groups for the purpose of advertising, promotion, new product development and expanded utilization.

The Michigan Legislature enacted into law the Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act in 1965, with the support of Michigan Farm Bureau and many commodity groups. This act permits producers to initiate a commodity promotion program which can be implemented with the approval of the specific commodity producers in a referendum.

Agricultural commodity promotion programs should be continued, provided that any such program includes provisions for a producer referendum before the establishment of the program and five-year periodic referendums thereafter.

The Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act is available to producers of any commodity. The Michigan Legislature enacted it into law to provide uniform and equitable procedures for such commodity programs and eliminate the need to seek separate legislation for each program.

We continue to support the intent of the Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act and urge commodity producers interested in establishing new programs to utilize the existing legislation.

ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR STATE MARKETING PROGRAMS

The Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act passed in 1965 has been utilized by producers of apples and cherries in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Producers of other commodities are also considering programs. However, various provisions of the act have recently been

challenged in court. Experience with this enabling legislation indicates a need for amendment and updating.

We will work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to initiate legislative amendments to the enabling act in order that its provisions will continue to be available to producers wishing to establish a program.

STATE MARKETING RIGHTS LEGISLATION (S. 1225)

The Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act (S. 1225) was passed by the Michigan Senate in April 1972 in spite of all-out opposition by the food processing, handling and retailing industries. It is scheduled for a vote in the Michigan House of Representatives on November 27, 1972 when the House reconvenes for a brief period before final adjournment of the Michigan Legislature.

We support the House Substitute for S. 1225 and urge its immediate passage by the House of Representatives. It is imperative that the bill be enacted into law during this session of the Michigan Legislature to enable producers and their marketing associations to use the act for effective marketing activities in 1973. Although the bill is limited to the producers of fruits and vegetables, we urge producers of all commodities and their organizations to support this landmark marketing rights legislation.

FILING PRODUCTION CONTRACTS

Michigan ranks high as a producer of processing vegetables. This important segment of Michigan agriculture should be expanded. Two of our major competitors, Wisconsin and North Carolina, have legislation which requires processors to file proof of financial responsibility and contract terms with the Department of Agriculture. In both states, farmers, processors and the industry have benefitted from this requirement and the industry has grown.

We recommend that all processors and handlers offering contracts to producers for the production of vegetables be required to file a copy of the contract offered, including contract terms and financial rating of contractor with Michigan Department of Agriculture before offering contracts to producers.

CENTRALIZED SALES AND MARKETING

Growers of seasonal commodities have traditionally marketed their produce on the basis of market conditions at harvest time. We believe that some growers will increasingly desire to spread the risks and opportunities of marketing over longer periods of time by owning their own produce after it has been processed. This spreading of risk is presently being used by several Farm Bureau members.

While the practice increases the opportunity for farmers, it also tends to increase the number of sellers on the market. We believe that the increased number of sellers will offset the possible gain, and that only through cooperative selling of the finished products can members truly gain an advantage from such a shift in marketing practices.

We support the concept of centralized cooperative sales and marketing which is being developed and implemented to merchandise grower-owned processed agricultural products, such as tart cherries.

PAYMENT FOR PRODUCE

We deplore the practice by some independent fruit and vegetable processors and handlers of operating on growers' money due to delayed payment for produce delivered. Sometimes this period extends for as long as a year or more. Growers must pay farm workers immediately after work is performed and are required to pay for other costs of production within a set period of time in accordance with normal business practices.

We support legislation that would require processors and handlers purchasing fruits and vegetables from growers to make full payment within thirty days of the date of purchase, unless other provisions are made by written contract.

MARKETING ASSOCIATION FEE COLLECTION

Farmers are joining cooperative marketing associations to improve their income and become better informed about marketing. With the expansions of marketing activities into previously unorganized commodities, there is need for a system of marketing service fee payment that will provide adequate and sound financing of the association.

Some processors have recognized the value of marketing services and the information provided and have cooperated in the collection of members' marketing service fees upon the association's and members' request. Other processors have refused this accommodation even though they purchase members' commodities.

We favor legislation requiring processors and other buyers to deduct marketing service fees from cooperative marketing association members' receipts upon official notification by the association verifying that such growers are members of the association and have voluntarily consented to the deduction.

A uniform system of collecting marketing service fees at the time of sale could provide a simple, efficient procedure that would benefit the association, the members and the processors. These deductions need to be made promptly and then forwarded to the association within a reasonable length of time. The legislation should be similar to legislation in force in New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio and Idaho.

SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN EGG

PROMOTION PROGRAM

The Michigan Egg Industry has developed a program for egg promotion within Michigan. This program is developed under existing enabling legislation and must be approved by a referendum of egg producers.

Farm Bureau has a long-standing policy encouraging self-help programs. We encourage all Michigan poultry producers to study the provisions of the egg promotion program and take part in the referendum.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Agricultural research is essential to maintain the necessary quality and quantity and the efficiency of our agricultural production. New problems continually arise in the production and marketing of agricultural crops (an example is the southern corn leaf blight) and in the field of farm management. Solution of these problems must be supplied through basic and applied research. This research can best be done by educational institutions such as Michigan State University.

The agricultural research facilities of our land grant institutions have provided answers to many serious problems of production and have benefitted consumers as well as farmers.

We strongly support continued research to find better answers to agriculture's environmental concerns, acceptable controls for new diseases and insects, new varieties suited to mechanical handling and processing, and cultural practices to improve soil and water conservation.

We commend the valuable work of the Agricultural Experiment Station at MSU and ask the Legislature to appropriate adequate funds for the continued research efforts by the Experiment Station.

RODENTS, BLACKBIRDS AND STARLINGS

Rodents, blackbirds and starlings are causing serious damage to crops and property in many areas. They are also a potential carrier of disease to humans and livestock. This problem is increasing over a wide geographic area.

We recommend continued intensive research efforts by state and federal agencies to find an effective method of control of these pests.

POLLUTION ABATEMENT PROGRAMS

Pollution abatement practices under the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) are contributing to the quality of man's environment. Pollution abatement practices are approved for every county in Michigan and funds are available to provide farms with financial assistance when installing approved practices. We believe REAP should continue to place emphasis on pollution abatement practices to control runoff from farm barnyards and feedlots, prevent sediment from reaching our streams, and encourage proper handling and disposal of farm and animal wastes. Adequate manpower should be assured within the Soil Conservation Service to provide technical assistance for farmers planning projects that are cost-shared with REAP funds.

DRAINAGE PROJECTS

Many acres of productive farmland would be lost without adequate drainage systems to handle excess water. Legislation has been proposed to require a permit and a fee for construction of drainage systems benefitting agriculture. We are opposed to legislation that would restrict agricultural drainage.

BREEDING STOCK VACCINATION

Michigan presently requires calfhood vaccination for brucellosis of female beef and dairy breeding stock imported into the state or sold from one farm to another within the state.

Since Michigan is brucellosis free, and one of only three states with this strict regulation, we believe we should maintain our present calfhood vaccination program.

VETERINARY SERVICES

The need for supplementary veterinary services exists in many areas. We will support legislation to allow a trained animal technician under the direction of a veterinarian to perform services of testing and vaccination.

ANIMAL HEALTH

The income from livestock and livestock products represents the largest segment of Michigan agriculture. We are concerned about the increasing incidence of diseases such as fatal diseases of newborn calves, IBR, BVD, and PI3. Little is known about these new diseases that cause a huge economic loss to Michigan agriculture.

We support research at the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station on these diseases and ask the Legislature to continue appropriations for this needed research.

ANTIBIOTICS AND FEED ADDITIVES

The use of antibiotics is essential to efficient modern-day animal husbandry and assists in the production of high quality animal products. Traces of antibiotics in farm products are usually the result of misuse or misinformation. In case of injectable antibiotics, government authorities have threatened to prohibit their use by farmers if residues show up in animal products.

We urge all farmers who use antibiotics and feed

additives to follow directions carefully and be judicious in their use. We support further research to determine proper tolerance levels and adequate safeguards.

SOYBEAN RESEARCH

Soybean acreage is increasing in our state. This crop is becoming an important factor in Michigan's farm income. We believe the research project on this crop should be intensified at our land grant college at East Lansing. This project should include the development of new varieties suitable to Michigan soils and climatic conditions, effects of row spacing, plant population and fertilization. Tests should also be run on oil content and protein content of the various soybean varieties produced in Michigan.

We encourage the Legislature to provide funds needed to conduct this research.

GRADE A MILK TEMPERATURES

The Michigan Department of Agriculture is considering a proposal that all Grade A raw milk be cooled to 40 degrees or less within two hours after milking. This milk must be at 40 degrees, with a 5 degree warm-up allowed at subsequent milkings. This maximum of 45 degrees is a change from the present 50 degree maximum.

We recommend that the Department of Agriculture conduct a thorough study of milk cooling facilities and practices as they relate to handling, storage and sales facilities. A review and updating of regulations on insulating standards for milk transport tanks is also needed, as there are no apparent standards at this time.

The study and analysis should be completed by the Department of Agriculture before recommending changes in the current regulations.

LOW-FAT DAIRY SPREAD

Due to consumer interest in "low-fat" foods, we recommend that a study be made on current regulations at both state and national levels to determine possibilities of marketing a low-fat dairy spread.

We would also encourage MSU to conduct additional research on low-fat dairy spreads and the possibilities of incorporating flavors into these spreads.

ENVIRONMENT

Public concern for the environment continues to be a powerful and growing force. This mounting concern poses serious implications to agriculture. The future of agriculture is dependent on air, water and land as natural tools of production. Agriculture has an important responsibility to improve the quality of our environment.

All persons engaged in agriculture should become informed of pollution sources and discipline themselves so as not to add to the problem. Good housekeeping and a good neighbor policy can do much to prevent environmental problems from occurring.

Continued research is necessary to find adequate answers to agricultural waste disposal problems. Much emphasis should be placed on developing recycling systems for agricultural wastes.

Agriculture should continue to be a voting member of the Air Pollution Control Commission and Water Resources Commission. We will continue to seek agricultural representation on the Natural Resources Commission.

AIR POLLUTION

We support an amendment to the Air Pollution Act that will exclude from the definition of air pollution those natural odors associated with agricultural pursuits exercising recommended management practices. Producers need this amendment to the Act to prevent legal harassment in the name of environmental quality. Farmers will, however, continue to be subject to common nuisance laws.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

The Water Resources Commission has made rapid progress in the water pollution control effort. The WRC has developed a good program to protect and improve our abundant water resources.

We appreciate the efforts of WRC personnel to work with agriculture in advising and informing farmers on water pollution issues. We will continue efforts to maintain this working relationship.

We support authority for water pollution control in Michigan by the WRC and will work to protect this authority.

We oppose Federal programs that threaten to reduce state water pollution control to a custodial level.

SOIL CONSERVATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Good soil conservation practices, minimizing erosion and conserving water, is one of agriculture's most important contributions to a clean environment. However, responsibility for the use and improvement of land and water resources rests on all citizens, urban as well as rural. Cities are dependent on rural lands for food and most of their water.

The annual increase in our population places a definite responsibility on agriculture and the nation to safeguard our needed future food production resources. Agriculture, highway construction, pipelines, residential and commercial developers must be aware of the need for intelligent use and conservation of our lands.

The Soil Conservation Districts now organized in every Michigan county are efficiently operated by

ected directors serving without salary and are effective units of soil-saving activity. We pledge our support to work with Soil Conservation Districts to conserve soil and water through sound conservation practices. We believe Soil Conservation Districts should remain under the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

FERTILIZER USAGE

Agriculture is one of the largest users of nitrogen and phosphorus in the United States. Fertilizers are an important tool for every farmer in obtaining profitable yields. Fertilizer nutrients are receiving increased attention as a cause of eutrophication of surface water. We commend Michigan State University for its research to determine the contribution of agriculture to the nutrients in the surface waters of Michigan. The research revealed that drainage water from agricultural lands is remarkably low in nutrients. We urge farmers to follow soil test recommendations in determining the amount of fertilizer to apply and that fertilizer not be applied on frozen ground in areas where it will run off and enter surface water.

FEEDLOT REGULATIONS

Presently, the Water Resources Commission and Air Pollution Control Commission have authority to administer various anti-pollution controls over concentrated livestock and poultry operations. Michigan producers have, for the most part, an excellent record of voluntarily minimizing pollution. A special legislative committee is studying and should be continued if necessary to determine whether there is a need for special feedlot licensing legislation. A special MSU task force is also studying the best techniques of minimizing pollution and providing this information to producers. Special federal programs (under REAP) are encouraging the use of latest technology. It must be recognized that much technology is extremely costly and often cannot be justified under the present cost-price squeeze.

However, technological changes and environmental concerns warrant the consideration of regulations for concentrated livestock and poultry operations. In view of agriculture's good environmental record and the need for additional research to determine feasible anti-pollution guidelines, we do not believe legislation establishing feedlot regulations should be implemented at this time. As such information becomes available we will assist in the development of regulations for concentrated livestock and poultry operations and support feasible regulations.

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Activities of the Agricultural Environmental Committee, composed of producers representing major commodity interests and agricultural groups, have assisted Michigan agriculture in meeting some of its environmental challenges. We support the activities of the Agricultural Environmental Committee.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Many actions of the Department of Natural Resources have tremendous effects on Michigan agriculture. We urge that a person with an active involvement in agriculture be appointed to the Natural Resources Commission.

PESTICIDES

Agricultural chemicals are one of the major reasons for agriculture's phenomenal ability to produce abundant and high quality food. New laws governing pesticides are placing more emphasis on user responsibility. Farmers have, and must continue to, use pesticides judiciously and only in the quantity necessary to assure control of disease and pests that affect agricultural products. Pesticides should not be banned unless complete proof to support such action is available.

We urge the State and Federal governments to fully fund programs for intensified control research and further development of alternative chemicals and other control methods.

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION AND AGRICULTURE

Wildlife is important to the economy of Michigan and its public recreational opportunities. Federal and state game refuge areas contribute much to the preservation of wildlife and migratory waterfowl.

Establishing new and expanding existing game refuge areas often creates serious local problems. These include acquisition of good farmlands, increased crop damage to surrounding farmlands and loss of local tax base. An example is the proposed Hayward Lake Goose Refuge in the Upper Peninsula.

We urge that practical safeguards, including advance notification to landowners in the affected and surrounding areas, be established to provide equitable protection to farmers against unreasonable land acquisition for federal-state game refuge areas and from damage caused by protected wildlife using these areas. Alternative site locations and compensation for crop damage by protected wildlife should be considered when establishing new or expanding present refuge areas.

DEER HERD

We support the deer habitat improvement program of the Department of Natural Resources. We urge that careful consideration be given to extending the current ban on the harvest of antlerless deer in the Upper Peninsula and the limited antlerless deer harvest in northern areas of the Lower Peninsula.

MINERAL RIGHTS

Owners of mineral rights who do not own surface rights should pay a proportionate share, not to exceed 50 percent, of the surface owner's annual property tax obligation. Payment of a proportionate share of the property tax by mineral right owners should not be required if the mineral rights are reverted to the surface owner within five years.

FARM LABOR

We are encouraged by the current arousing of social conscience and public awareness with regard to special problems related to seasonal farm workers. In the past, these special problems have been recognized only by farmer-employers. Farmers have for years carried the burden for providing not only jobs for these people, but while their own families are presently forced to live on 70 percent parity (lowest since the depression of the thirties), they have tried to provide housing and improved living conditions during the work period. They have increased farm wages at a faster rate than most other wage rates even as net farm incomes have decreased. In addition to increased wages, many farmers pay transportation costs for workers from their home states to the work state and provide loans and pay advances to support workers who reach the work area during times of a work shortage.

Even with the recent gains farm employers have provided for these seasonal employees, there are still problems inherent in migrating from state to state each year, particularly for those with a low general educational level and when a language barrier is sometimes present.

In light of these facts:

1. We commend leaders in government and civic organizations for realizing the presence of these special problems.
2. We encourage members of the Congress and the Legislature and leaders in agencies of the federal and state government to be informed of the true agricultural labor situation so that understanding, reason and knowledge of the farm labor system and the agricultural situation will guide the development of legislation and implementation of programs dealing with farming and farm labor.
3. We caution these leaders against reactionary approaches to emotion-packed allegations by certain pressure groups that would lead to the establishment of costly and unwise programs that would be of little value to our seasonal farm workers while causing unnecessary hardships on farm families.
4. We encourage state and federal regulatory agencies to work toward simplified interstate recruitment procedures so that workers will be encouraged to have employment arranged before they leave their home states.

WILLIAMS-STEIGER OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT (O.S.H.A.)

Farming is reputed to be the nation's third most hazardous occupation. Michigan farmers share the national concern to provide safe working conditions for farm employees. Farmers have a vital concern in federal and state regulations that may be imposed upon them indiscriminately without concern for the economic effects on a business operation and the managerial adjustments necessary to meet the regulations. We will work at both, the state and federal levels to assure equitable administration.

Now, after a year of operating under the Act:

1. We commend the administrators of the Act for recognizing the presence of some of the special problems which relate to the management of farming operations.
2. We encourage all farmers to become aware of the occupational hazards and voluntarily adopt safety programs.
3. Michigan Farm Bureau supports the proposed exemption of employers who had not more than seven employees at any one time during the previous calendar year from recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).
4. While we recognize that the employer has a responsibility to his employees and must meet the safety standards, we believe that the employee also has a responsibility and should be subject to penalty for failure to observe the safety standards.
5. We believe the general duty clause of the Act should be eliminated or substantially modified.
6. We believe it is essential to provide more clearly established and publicized procedures for informal handling of appeals cases by area offices. We also believe it is important that there appear on or with each notice of citation or penalty more specific information as to how the recipient may proceed if he thinks the action taken is unwarranted.

We favor modification of OSHA practice in this respect and any legislative provision or "oversight recommendation" that will help to provide a more practical procedure for farmers in this respect.

7. Section 6 (a) (2) of the Act provides that a period of thirty days shall be provided after preliminary publication of proposed regulations in the Federal Register, within which period interested persons may submit written data or comments. We believe this time is wholly inadequate.

We urge that this provision be changed to provide at least one year from the date of the

preliminary publication, within which period comments and recommendations may be received.

8. Provision should be made in Section 8 of the Act to permit an employer to request the Administration to make a voluntary inspection to determine whether he is in compliance with standards and what needs to be changed to be in compliance. The purpose of such voluntary inspection should be educational. No citations should be issued as a result of such requested inspections.
9. A basic premise of the Act is that employers know what is required of them. We believe this to be a faulty premise. Violations discovered at the first inspection of the operations of a farm should not ordinarily be subject to penalty. A summary of the violations should be supplied the employer with an opportunity to the employer to correct the situation within a reasonable period of time. It is imperative that judgment be exercised, particularly in those instances where capital expenditures are required to eliminate violations.
10. Many farmers interchange work with other farmers without wage compensation. We do not believe such exchange of work should be covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Although we have been verbally advised by OSHA that such employment is not considered to be covered, we recommend that this be clarified and established by statutory enactment.
11. There are presently two sets of standards which apply to farm labor housing. We doubt that the OSHA standard meets the consensus definition in the Act.

We strongly urge that OSHA provide hearings to establish a consensus standard to apply to farm labor housing.

In the meantime, while a consensus standard is being established, we recommend that farmers be exempt from the provisions of the farm labor housing standard presently promulgated under the OSHA Act.

12. We believe the State of Michigan should assume the responsibility for development and enforcement of Occupational Safety and Health Standards relating to agriculture and that a special Agricultural Safety Advisory Board should be appointed to assist the Department of Labor in administering and establishing safety standards for agriculture.
13. We recommend that informational and educational materials be prepared and distributed to all farmers.
14. We recommend continued consideration and development of educational programs related to OSHA. We ask that the distribution of this information be given high priority by Michigan Farm Bureau.

EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS IN AGRICULTURE

Youth should have the opportunity to obtain employment in agriculture.

In most instances the employment of minors in agriculture is socially and economically desirable. Work experience is an essential part of the educational process and develops self-reliance and self-respect.

The declaration of certain hazardous occupations by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor are acceptable. We oppose any further restrictions upon the employment of youth in agriculture.

The programs administered by the Agricultural Extension Service and vocational agricultural teachers for young workers have demonstrated that workers 14 and 15 years of age can be trained successfully in the safe operation of tractors and farm machinery. We recommend continuation of these training programs.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

The Workmen's Compensation Act, which covers farm workers, at the present time provides sufficient coverage for the workers who normally remain on the job for the full season of employment in Michigan.

Employers of farm workers in Michigan are having difficulty in adjusting to the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act as it applies to agricultural workers. It imposes a financial hardship upon farm employers who must meet competition from producers in other states where such coverage is not required. Unlike industry, farmers cannot pass on the cost. Any extension of the act will compound these serious farm economic problems.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Administration of state unemployment insurance programs should be subject to continuous review and scrutiny to prevent abuses, particularly the payment of benefits to those who can and should obtain employment.

Pressures are increasing on both the state and national levels to bring agriculture under unemployment compensation laws. Such efforts often ignore the difference between agriculture and industry and the heavy additional financial burden that would be imposed on producers.

Some national studies have been made to determine the feasibility of some type of unemployment compensation to farm workers.

Any program that might be developed should be nationwide in scope with full recognition that agriculture cannot easily pass on such added costs.

BOYCOTTS OF FOOD PRODUCTS

We are opposed to boycott techniques which result in the removal of products from the marketplace, such as in the case of California grapes.

We would emphasize that these methods of coercion and harassment were successfully employed on California produce and that the same tactic could be extended to any and every identifiable Michigan product.

No form of combat against a nation seems as misguided as the use of the secondary boycott when applied to food production, processing and distribution. It is rarely employed to insure justice to mistreated workers. It has been used by some labor leaders to force union membership upon farm workers who have repeatedly rejected voluntary unionism.

We urge that proper authorities be apprised of this situation so that proper legislative and legal action may be taken to protect the rights of producers, farm workers and consumers.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

We will continue to research all possibilities for establishing guidelines to assure the uninterrupted production, handling and sale of agricultural products.

The right of farm workers to organize and bargain collectively should be exercised with consideration for the public interest and the preservation of basic individual rights and freedoms.

We favor the general intent and purpose contained in legislation (H.B. 5100), which was introduced in the 76th session (1971-72) of the Michigan Legislature.

We recommend the adoption of this, or similar, Federal legislation at the appropriate time.

MINIMUM WAGES

Increasing the minimum wage rates will no doubt hasten mechanization. Requirements for labor with mechanical skills increase as wage rates increase, in order to facilitate operation of machines adopted to replace manual labor. Mechanization reduces employment opportunities for unskilled farm workers.

It would appear that the use of successive increases in minimum wage rates as a tool for alleviating poverty among farm workers may have some undesirable side effects. Used alone, these may result in increased, rather than reduced, incidence of poverty among the people they are intended to help. Alternative methods for relieving poverty among farm workers should be considered.

Adjustments in the state minimum wage should take into consideration many factors that are often unknown or are ignored. It should be recognized that many employees have gravitated to farm work because they are denied job opportunities in other segments of the economy, either through lack of skills or because they cannot meet production norms, health or other standards set up as conditions of employment.

Agricultural employment differs in many respects from industrial employment, such as occasional employment, family employment, substantial fringe benefits in addition to Social Security and Workmen's Compensation (e.g., housing, utilities, transportation costs, loans, etc.), minimum supervision and payment of wages by piece rate.

Minimum wage provisions must be flexible to fit these varying situations and differences. Piece rate provisions are essential to provide employment opportunities for workers who have handicaps which may prevent them from other employment and at the same time provide proficient workers much higher earning opportunities than do hourly rates.

Farm commodities produced in Michigan must compete with commodities produced in other areas of the United States and the world. Michigan minimum wage rates exceed the federal minimum wage for agricultural workers. Many states do not have state minimum wage laws applicable to agriculture.

Farmers themselves are at a serious disadvantage being the victims of ever-increasing costs and low prices. Unlike other segments of the economy, farmers are not in a position to readily pass increased costs on to the consumer.

We oppose efforts to extend overtime payments covering farm work by either legislative action or labor-management negotiations.

SEASONABLE LABOR HOUSING

We recommend that all migrant labor camps be inspected by trained employees of the State Health Department, so that all camps will be licensed according to the same interpretation of the rules and regulations as provided by Public Act 289.

We commend the Michigan Legislature and the Governor of the State of Michigan for recognizing that there are special problems with respect to housing for seasonal farm workers. The passage of Public Act 197, Public Acts of 1970, has provided much-needed assistance to farmers who provide housing for seasonal workers.

We urge continued funding of this Act until all seasonal labor camps can be brought to the standards of the State Health Department.

We commend the State Health Department for the efficient manner in which they administered this grant program.

At the present time, Public Act 289 places the full responsibility of maintaining a migrant labor camp upon the employer. We urge that Public Act 289 be

amended to require the occupants of a Farm Labor Camp to assume responsibility for the deterioration of a housing unit during their occupancy, except for normal wear and tear.

We favor faster tax write-off of investments in farm labor housing. Obsolete, unused, abandoned farm labor housing should be removed from sight.

We recommend that regulations be adopted which would require workers to leave a camp within a reasonable time (one week) after the work on the farm is completed.

CENTER FOR RURAL MANPOWER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Center programs and activities have been labor management oriented to the benefit of both farm workers and farm employers. Recently, the programs have been extended to include rural health, rural poverty and rural taxation problems.

We support the work of the Rural Manpower and Public Affairs as a part of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University.

PART II — OUR FARM BUREAU**MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN FARM BUREAU**

To receive the full value of an organization, members must become involved in it. They must have input into its policies, develop action programs and reap benefits from being organized.

In the past, Community Farm Bureaus provided these opportunities as well as social activities. Community groups provided a training ground for leadership development as well as a structure within the County Farm Bureau.

As communities change, agriculture changes too. The needs of farmers are different from the past and will be different in the future.

We ask that new programs within Farm Bureau be explored to involve members in addition, as well as in place of, the Community Group Program.

MEMBERSHIP GOAL

As a result of dedicated work on the part of hundreds of Farm Bureau members, membership in Michigan Farm Bureau has increased for five consecutive years. Growth in membership is fundamental to the strength and well-being of our organization. Even though the responsibility for membership growth lies primarily with County Farm Bureaus, we encourage Farm Bureau leadership at all levels to keep the importance of membership work on a first priority basis.

We approve the 1973 membership goal of a one-member increase for each County Farm Bureau, as well as a one-member increase for Michigan Farm Bureau.

SERVICE TO MEMBER PROGRAMS

The Michigan State University survey of farmer attitudes establishes that farmers are most strongly motivated to join a farm organization through the provision of tangible economic benefits. Our Farm Bureau experience has been that strength of membership has benefitted through the offering of some services of this kind in the past.

We feel that it is important for Michigan Farm Bureau to promote and develop specific new programs which will provide services to Farm Bureau members only. We must preserve to the fullest degree possible those service-to-member programs which fulfill the present and future needs of our members.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

We have in Farm Bureau a very democratic organization with the right to participate in making recommendations and decisions. This opportunity to participate is available to us by attending Community Group Meetings, County Annual Meetings and the State Annual Meeting. We are pleased that our members take this responsibility seriously.

We would point out that this right to participate carries with it the responsibility to support the decisions of the majority. This requires a sense of organization discipline which can only be self-imposed by the member.

We encourage our members to discuss, disagree and recommend changes in the policy when these actions are appropriate. **WE ALSO REQUEST THAT MEMBERS GIVE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT TO ALL MATTERS OF FARM BUREAU POLICY AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN PROPERLY APPROVED.**

We believe that the Young Farmer Program should continue to receive strong emphasis as a member involvement and leadership training program.

FARM BUREAU WOMEN

The women of our Farm Bureau families are a valuable and effective force. We encourage County Farm Bureaus to involve these women in the activities of the County Women's Committees, as well as other Farm Bureau activities. Farm Bureau women have real concerns about issues related to their families, communities and business.

We urge County Women's Committees to provide the opportunity for participation of women of all member families in action-type projects to resolve these issues and further the total program of the Farm Bureau at the local, county and state levels.

CITIZENSHIP

Good citizenship means more than voting, oratory and displaying patriotic symbols. It includes being informed on issues, willingness to defend and to explain our system of government, and courage to act within our political system.

We, in Farm Bureau, have conducted many activities to equip persons to meet their citizenship responsibilities. We will continue to do so. These include activities such as Legislative Seminars, Meet and Measure the Candidate Meetings, Young People's Citizenship Seminars, Heritage Tours and Freedom Conferences.

We urge members to participate in activities which will fulfill the responsibilities of good citizens.

LOCAL AFFAIRS

The strength of Farm Bureau comes from the strength of its local membership. Much of the work done by these members is local. Since this is so, it is suggested that a "Local Affairs" committee be appointed and made active in each county. These committees should be charged with the responsibility of involving Farm Bureau in local affairs and problems.

This committee should study local issues, including those of a controversial nature. It should assist in research work on such things as zoning and bonding issues. It should involve itself in local road, school, health, safety and finance matters, and work to improve local government.

FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMER PROGRAM

The Young Farmer Program is a proven method of surfacing and developing effective leaders. Effective leadership development programs will continue to grow in importance as the demand for skilled leaders in our organization grows.

Young farmers are eager for meaningful involvement in the vital issues confronting agriculture. We must seek to satisfy that desire through involvement of qualified young farmers in all Farm Bureau activities.

A Young Farmer Program can only be successful if given the strong and active support of county leaders. We urge all counties to take advantage of this program by appointing a Young Farmer Committee. This committee should be advisory and responsible to the county board.

AFFILIATE COMPANY AGREEMENTS

Agreements signed between County Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau affiliate companies have been used to clearly define the responsibilities of parties involved. It is of the utmost importance that every County Farm Bureau Board review these agreements yearly. This will create a more clear understanding of the duties of both parties and lessen the chance of misunderstanding.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMS

Because of our concern for the welfare of our families and employees we encourage the Farm Bureau Women to conduct action projects regarding Safety and Health. We urge their continuation of cooperation with the Michigan Agricultural Services Association to inform and assist members to meet the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. We believe the efforts of Farm Bureau Women in preparing farm families to meet emergency situations, the promotion of preventive health care and their goals of safety on the farm, in the home and on the highways, deserve the full support of all members.

We commend Farm Bureau Women for the fact that many Farm Bureau Women leaders are now serving on various state, regional and local commissions and committees regarding health and safety.

MEMBER-TO-MEMBER MARKETING

The sale of Michigan cherries, Florida citrus and other products has pioneered the new member-to-member marketing concept. These programs have received exceptional support from Farm Bureau members throughout the state and country.

We support the MACMA efforts to expand the direct sale of top quality products to Michigan Farm Bureau members.

We urge MACMA and Farm Bureau to explore and implement a sales program of Michigan products to Farm Bureau members in other states. The necessary resources should be budgeted to promote these product sales programs.

Member-to-member marketing holds a great future potential as a market for our products and as a service to our members, but *we must never forget that high quality control is vital to success.*

COMMODITY DIVISION APPROACH

Agricultural production and marketing is becoming more specialized. Farmers' problems are often commodity oriented. Farm Bureau, although defined as a general farm organization, serves the specific commodity interests of members in many ways. We must provide additional opportunities for more members to become active in their commodity interest areas within our organization.

To meet this goal, the American Farm Bureau Federation has developed the Commodity Division Approach. Operating Commodity Divisions are now being developed for several commodities, including soybeans, cotton, rice and dairy. Other Commodity Divisions are now under study.

The purpose of a Commodity Division is to provide new, more effective organizational tools within Farm Bureau. By means of this new method a system is

provided within Farm Bureau through which members may direct special emphasis to, and establish identity for, commodity problems and programs as a coordinated part of the overall Farm Bureau program. One initial function of a Commodity Division is to inform the County Farm Bureau through policy recommendations about problems of, and programs needed to better serve, the particular commodity interests of Farm Bureau members.

Since Commodity Divisions are organized within the Farm Bureau structure their activities must be separate from the marketing-bargaining functions of our affiliated Farm Bureau marketing associations. As commodity programs and activities are developed by the Commodity Division, they must be financed by division members in addition to regular Farm Bureau dues.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors has adopted the Commodity Division Approach. The first Commodity Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau, in Soybeans, has now been established. County Farm Bureaus in the major soybean-producing areas of Michigan have established County Soybean Divisions. State and County Soybean Action Committees have been named and are functioning.

We believe the Commodity Division Approach is an effective organizational method to serve the specialized needs of members. We ask that this approach be utilized and expanded within the Michigan Farm Bureau.

SOYBEAN MARKETING PROGRAM

In order to encourage more orderly marketing and larger exports of soybeans, we urge the American Farm Bureau Federation to study the feasibility of setting up a National or Regional Soybean Marketing Program.

GRAIN AND BEAN MARKETING

We commend the Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services for the development of programs to improve markets for Michigan farm products, including Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program, Cooperative Bean Marketing Agreement and Saginaw Valley Bean and Beet Research Farm.

We especially note their effective efforts in promoting export sales through participation on trade missions, development of a container terminal at Saginaw and use of 100-car trains.

APPLE AND GRAPE MARKETING

We commend the Processing Apple and Grape Division of MACMA for effectively influencing the 1972 grower price of these commodities.

The Processing Apple Division took aggressive action to resist low opening price offers and were successful in getting price adjustments of up to 25 percent. This brought prices close to MACMA pre-season target prices.

When the Processing Grape Division of MACMA could not obtain realistic price offers from local processors, they took action to sell substantial tonnages of grapes to out-of-state buyers at prices equivalent to their \$160 per ton target price. Local processors' offers of \$160 per ton were soon announced despite the fact that these processors had earlier indicated a top price of \$120 per ton. This additional \$40 per ton amounts to several million dollars additional income to Michigan grape growers.

FARM BUREAU MARKETING STUDIES

Farm Bureau affiliates are engaged in many successful marketing programs. Part of the reason for success has been that these programs were called for by members. Another reason has been that proper research has been done prior to establishing the service. This research includes the need, economic feasibility and alternative methods of operation.

We ask the Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau to authorize the conduct of marketing studies as needs arise and resources permit. We believe that the following areas are worthy of research:

- Soybean Marketing. In order to encourage more orderly marketing and expand exports, the feasibility of establishing a Soybean Marketing Program modeled after the Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program should be studied. If possible, this marketing program should be established on a multi-state basis.
- Processing and Handling Facilities. Modern, efficient fruit and vegetable processing and selling facilities are needed in several strategic locations in Michigan. A study of the problems of the processing industry and the feasibility of establishing needed facilities would be valuable.
- Wine Grape Industry. Wine laws and regulations are complicated and should be studied to ascertain if they are in the best interests of the wine grape producers.
- Asparagus Marketing. A study should be made of the feasibility of establishing MACMA-operated receiving stations for members' asparagus.

FARM BUREAU PRODUCTION AND MARKETING PROGRAMS

We believe that farmers should act through their own initiative to solve the problems confronting them today. Faced with low farm prices, the need for large amounts of capital to operate farming enterprises, the rapid changes in agricultural technology, and the interference of the Federal government in agriculture, we accept the challenge to shape the future to the

benefit of the farm family. We seek to establish standards for production and marketing programs to assure that they work directly for the benefit of farmer members.

Agricultural marketing is of major concern to farmers. We recognize the need to improve our present marketing methods if we are to receive a more equitable income. Farm Bureau - county, state and national - must assist and support the development and early operational phase of new marketing programs so that they can be financially sound. These marketing programs will be given our highest priority. We should continue to expand marketing activities in commodity areas when requested by members and where programs are economically feasible.

Members producing commodities for which Farm Bureau affiliates have marketing programs should become informed of these producer-owned-and-operated marketing services and participate in these programs. Members must be willing to commit the commodities they produce through contracts with their marketing organizations, so that our affiliate marketing organizations can work to sell members' products through full supply contracts.

EGG MARKETING DIVISION, FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

The Egg Marketing Division of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. has greatly assisted egg producers in Michigan. This service, for Farm Bureau members only, has proven successful.

We request, however, that the Farm Bureau Egg Marketing Division lead the way among Michigan processors to narrow the margin between prices quoted on the New York market and prices paid producers in Michigan.

FARM LABOR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Michigan farmers are concerned with the problems of hiring and retaining capable employees. Each year the competition for skilled workers from outside of agriculture has become more severe.

The manager of today's farm business needs assistance in avoiding labor problems and preparing to meet and deal with problems if they arise.

We commend MASA for recruiting labor, representing farmers' interest at legislative labor hearings and a labor management newsletter service.

We appreciate the leadership MASA is providing in the Farm Bureau "Save Our Food" program designed to move agricultural products to market when circumstances prevent normal access to markets.

WE COMMEND FOR UNSELFISH SERVICE

Many of our fellow farmers are serving agriculture and our State as members of boards, commissions, committees and advisory groups on which agricultural representation is important to all of us.

Often this service is rendered without any reimbursement for time and expenses involved.

We commend these people and recognize them for their unselfish service to agriculture.

We especially commend our committed County Farm Bureau leaders and dedicated staff members for their efforts, many times beyond the call of duty. Their assistance and guidance has helped make the Michigan Farm Bureau the effective voice of farmers.

WSAM

We commend the Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan (WSAM) for their successful efforts in informing the public of farmers' problems, aggressive support in obtaining realistic prices and working for the enactment of marketing rights legislation.

Members of WSAM, most of whom are also Farm Bureau members, have initiated unique methods in helping to focus attention on problems facing agriculture and have made a valuable contribution to strengthen Michigan agriculture.

PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

An ever-increasing percentage of our national population is becoming unfamiliar with agriculture, and as the pressure on our environment becomes greater the need for agriculture to tell its story increases.

We believe that farmers have a favorable image with most people; however, we must redouble our efforts to create a better understanding among our nonfarm population. They must understand that as our population increases they have a stake in the farmers' ability to efficiently produce ever-increasing quantities of food and fibre.

We, the farm people, must assume our share of this task. We can do this by participating locally with such nonfarm groups as urban, church and civic activities, political parties, service club and other nonfarm organizations.

We urge County Farm Bureaus to conduct rural-urban activities, farm visits, press relations meetings and other activities which will help create understanding between farm and nonfarm people.

We recognize and commend our organization for its efforts in behalf of good public relations, with 200 radio programs per week and news releases regularly printed in over 140 newspapers as well as periodic television news releases.

We, in order to meet the challenge, urge all Farm Bureau members and our entire staff to be public relations people for agriculture in our everyday relations with nonfarmers.

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

There is a need for a prepaid health care benefit plan for full-time farm employees of Farm Bureau members, which can be offered as a fringe benefit to new employees with an effective date as soon as actuarially practical. Various proposals are being studied. Therefore, we urge the study be continued in order to find a workable solution.

ORIENTATION OF EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

The employed representatives of the Michigan Farm Bureau and all of its affiliated companies represent Farm Bureau in general when contacting members around the state and the public at large.

Uninformed or misinformed employees or agents may contribute to a poor or weak image of Farm Bureau, either in answers given to questions or statements made to other people when the information involves companies other than their own. A lack of information shows a weak interest on their part toward Farm Bureau generally when inquiries are made.

We recognize that efforts are being made to inform all employees about the programs of Farm Bureau and all affiliates through a regular liaison program. In addition, new employee orientation programs are being held regularly to create an understanding of the objectives and philosophies of our Farm Bureau Family.

1973 ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting being moved to January, it is with grateful appreciation that we note that the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors has set the 1973 annual meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau for December 12-13-14, 1973.

YOUNG FARMERS' DISCUSSION MEET

The Young Farmers' Discussion Meet has developed into one of the outstanding events during the annual meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau. Members attending the annual meeting look forward to attending this program. We recommend that the Discussion Meet finals be held during the 1973 Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting at a time when voting delegates and others can attend.

BYLAW AMENDMENT I

Article III of the Bylaws presently reads, as follows:

"Place of Business

The office of this association, and its principal place of business shall be in Lansing, Michigan."

Resolved, that Article III of the Bylaws of this association shall read, as follows:

"Place of Business

The office of this association and its principal place of business shall be at Lansing, Michigan."

BYLAW AMENDMENT III

The second sentence of the second paragraph of Article VIII, Section 1 of the Bylaws presently reads in part, as follows:

"...provided, however, that a member of this association elected and serving as a supervisor on a county board of supervisors under Act No. 261 of the Public Acts of 1966, shall not be disqualified from serving as a member of the Board of Directors of this association or a delegate to its annual meeting."

Resolved, that Article VIII, Section 1 of the Bylaws of this association shall be amended by striking out the words "as a supervisor on a county board of supervisors under Act No. 261 of the Public Acts of 1966" in the second sentence of the second paragraph thereof, and inserting in its place, the following: "on a county board of commissioners."

BYLAW AMENDMENT IV

The Bylaws of the American Farm Bureau Federation require the President of the State Farm Bureau, in order to be eligible to serve on the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors, to have been nominated or elected to the office of President by delegate action at the annual meeting of the State Farm Bureau. It is important that the President of Michigan Farm Bureau be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The Michigan laws require the President to be elected by the Board of Directors, but the American Farm Bureau Federation Bylaws will be complied with if the delegate body nominates the President.

Resolved, that Article VIII, Section 3 of the Bylaws of this association shall be amended by adding the following sentence at the end thereof: "Commencing with the 1972 annual meeting, one director shall be named by the voting delegate body at each annual meeting as its nominee to be considered by the Board of Directors for the office of President."

STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

The policies adopted at the four previous annual meetings are hereby reaffirmed except insofar as they have been modified or supplemented by later policies, including those adopted at this annual meeting. All other policies shall be deemed to have lapsed except insofar as the Board of Directors may specifically find that such a prior policy provides the only basis for action on a current problem.

Marketing And Commodities



Lee Murry (center), representing the American Dairy Association of Michigan, was present at the Michigan Farm Bureau Cheese Promotion Booth in the Product Show at the annual meeting. Samples of various Michigan-produced cheeses and cheese fondue were available to the visiting delegates.



This group of 111 head of hereford-charolais steer calves were delivered to Dale Stoneman's feedlot near Breckenridge early in November. The calves, averaging 500 lbs., were supplied through the MACMA Order Buyer Division and originated from the Virginia Farm Bureau members. Both MACMA and the Virginia Farm Bureau Marketing Association are participants in the national AAMA Feeder Cattle Program.

Member to Member Sales

In the last couple of years, the term member-to-member sale has been used quite frequently. This is a new marketing concept in which Farm Bureau members sell their fruit crops directly to Farm Bureau members within the state or in other states. Member-to-member sales have been used in Michigan for the sale of tart cherries as well as canned sweet cherries. They have also been used on a broader scale by the Florida Farm Bureau in marketing their members' fresh citrus to other states.

MACMA is in the formative stages of setting up a member-to-member sales program for fresh apples grown by Farm Bureau members in Michigan.

While Michigan members were sampling fresh, juicy oranges in Michigan, Florida members were able to sample fresh, crisp Michigan Flavor-

best apples, at their annual meeting provided by MACMA.

Presently, studies are being made in conjunction with the Florida Farm Bureau to determine the proper containers, varieties and sizes which would be most acceptable to the Florida Farm Bureau folks.

It is anticipated the first loads of fresh apples will be sent to the Florida Farm Bureau people some time prior to Christmas. We are also hopeful that more apples can be sent after Christmas, at which time apples from controlled atmosphere storages will be available.

This type of new program takes time to establish and put into operation. However, the establishing of the details this year will enable Michigan to promote apple sales to other states on a much broader basis in the future.

MACMA Makes Apple Growers \$2,000,000

By: Perry De Kryger, MACMA

The apple marketing season was very young when aggressive activity was undertaken by the MACMA Apple Committee in cooperation with WSAM and concerned apple growers to increase the juice apple price. After three days of 24-hour pickets, a \$2.00 per cwt. juice apple price was established across the state.

This represented at least a 50 cent per cwt. increase above what the juice apple price was and would have been. If the state apple production is 16.5 million bushels this season, approximately 5.1 million bushels or slightly more than 30 percent of this production will be processed into apple juice. This amounts to 214.2 million pounds of juice apples, a significant volume.

With the one-half cent per pound increase (50 cents per cwt.), apple growers will receive an additional \$1.1 million of revenue. This is the amount extra which growers would not have received had no activities been undertaken to get the 50 cent increase early in the season.

Since all juice apples were not marketed at the \$2.00 price, but are now being marketed at an amount greater than that, the additional revenue for growers of juice apples alone will exceed \$1.1 million.

The latest agricultural census, which was in 1969, indicated approximately 2,300 farms in the state of Michigan reporting production of apples. If 2,000 growers marketed juice apples, the additional income would be in excess of \$500 per grower.

The same analogy can be drawn for apples being processed into applesauce. Approximately 20 percent of the state's apple crop goes into applesauce, which amounts to 140 million pounds of apples. The activities of MACMA and other concerned apple growers again increased the price of sauce apples 50 cents above the prices which were first announced. One-half cent per pound times 140 million pounds equals \$700,000 of additional revenue for apple growers in Michigan on apples sold for applesauce. Assuming there are 2,000 apple growers in the state would mean that each grower received an additional \$350 this season.

It must be realized that many apple growers sell a greater percentage of their apples for processing than do other growers. Some growers sell no processing apples, therefore the amount of additional money received per grower selling processing apples is likely to be greater than the amounts indicated above.

These figures show that the time and effort put forth by some growers have yielded big dividends for all apple growers in the state.

— NOTES —

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has withdrawn its proposal to amend the U.S. grade standard for butter. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service proposed amending the standard to allow a very slight whey flavor in U.S. Grade A butter. The proposal was published in the October 7, 1972, Federal Register and comments or interested persons were invited. On the basis of comments received, the USDA has decided to make a more complete study of the standard with the view to making more extensive revisions, if necessary, at a later date.

* * * * *

Effective November 1, 1972, Janice Stuck was appointed acting manager at the Hillsdale branch of Farm Bureau Services. Janice has been Office Manager and Bookkeeper at the Hillsdale store since June, 1968, with the exception of a short period of time last year. Janice and her husband, Bill, have two children and live on a farm outside of Hillsdale.

* * * * *

Effective October 16, 1972, Dave Cranson was appointed manager at the Union City branch of Farm Bureau Services. Dave is a life-long resident of Branch County and has been employed at Branch County Farm Bureau Oil Company and the Farm Bureau Insurance office in Branch County.

* * * * *

Keep the "Merry" in "Merry Christmas" by keeping fire out of your holiday activities. Careful attention to the following Christmas fire safety recommendations will help keep the holiday a safe and happy one:

Select a firm, fresh tree and put it at once in a cool place with its base in water. Before setting it up, cut about an inch off the base, then place the tree in a sturdy stand containing water. Be sure the water level stays above the cut. Locate the tree away from heat and where it won't block exits. Take it down as soon as possible after Christmas.

Never use lighted candles on a tree or near any evergreen decorations. Check sets of electric lights closely, for worn insulation, broken plugs, loose bulb sockets, and use only sets with Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA) label. Use extension cords sparingly. Never hang sets of lights on a metallic artificial tree. Turn off all indoor tree and decorative lights when leaving the house or retiring for the night. Outdoor lights should have special wiring.

Use decorating materials which are non-combustible, such as glass and asbestos, or which are flame-retardant. Keep natural evergreens and polystyrene foam decorations away from candles, fireplaces, other open flames. Be sure holiday costumes and masks, such as Santa suits and whiskers and children's pageant outfits, are flameproofed.

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INTEREST ON DEBENTURES

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6 1/2% - 10 Year Maturity

7% - 15 Year Maturity

\$1,000.00 OR MORE

6 3/4% - 10 Year Maturity

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7 1/2% - 15 Year Maturity

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I would like a copy of the prospectus and a call by a registered sales agent.

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FPC Annual

The continued growth record exhibited by Farmers Petroleum Cooperative was highlighted at their annual meeting held in Grand Rapids on November 9.

Carl Heisler, president of the cooperative, remarked in his annual address, "Perhaps most significant, however, is the fact that more than 2000 new customers have been added to our rolls. In a period when our national petroleum supplies are severely taxed by growing demand, it is of paramount interest to observe that Farmers Petroleum is already preparing for the future."

Donald Armstrong, executive vice president of the cooperative, reported to the stockholders that margins before federal taxes were \$410,800. Also, \$73,000 had been paid in federal income taxes.

Armstrong also reported, "Custom diesel fuel, uniquely tailored to meet Michigan farm needs, continued as a product leader with a sales increase of nearly 11 percent." He pointed out the many improvements made to facilities during this past year in order to meet farmer demands.

Crude oil operations of the cooperative held steady during the year, but ended slightly ahead of last year's results.

Nine directors were seated to the Farmers Petroleum Board of Directors at the annual meeting, including two new members.

Incumbents re-elected were William Brewer, Clare County; Carl Heisler, Calhoun County; Alwin Marion, Washtenaw County; Wesley Prillwitz, Berrien County; Kenneth Bull, Muskegon County; Dean Pridgeon, Branch County; and Elton Smith, Kent County.

New directors elected were Arthur Bailey, Kalamazoo County and Richard Wieland, Antrim County.

Comminuted Meat Law Continues to be Enforced

The Michigan Comminuted Meat Law, enacted 20 years ago, continues to be enforced despite several recent actions to render it ineffective. The Comminuted Meat Law establishes ingredient standards for luncheon meats, bologna, sausage and hotdogs that are higher than federal standards.

Only skeletal meat is permitted in most comminuted meats under the Michigan law. However, the federal law permits several animal by-products such as udders, snouts, lips, stomach, spleens, salivary glands and other organs in comminuted meats. All comminuted meats sold in the state must meet the Michigan Comminuted Meat Law standards.

Efforts to overturn the strict Michigan comminuted meat standards began last year when three large meat packers--Wilson, Hormel and Armour--filed suit in federal district court claiming that the Michigan law cost them thousands of dollars each year. The district court judge ruled against Wilson, Hormel and Armour stating that the companies were solely concerned with maximizing profits. The ruling upheld Michigan's authority to set higher comminuted meat standards than required by federal law.

Another effort to defeat Michigan's Comminuted Meat Law came this summer in the form of legislation considered by Congress. A bill was introduced which would have increased the 50-50 federal-state funding of approved State meat inspection programs to an 80-20 funding arrangement. The bill passed the Senate and was referred to a House Agriculture Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee attached an amendment which would

have denied federal funds to any state which had labeling, packaging and ingredient standards stricter than the minimum federal standards. The amendment would have meant that Michigan could not enforce its comminuted meat standards if 80 percent federal funding of its meat inspection program was desired. Without federal funding Michigan would not be able to continue its meat inspection program, which costs approximately \$3.7 million annually.

Michigan Farm Bureau joined with several other concerned groups and government agency representatives by going to Washington and opposing the amendment. This action resulted in the full House Agriculture Committee deleting the words "ingredients" from the Subcommittee amendment by a 9-8 vote. This meant that under the bill Michigan could continue to enforce its comminuted meat standards and still be eligible to receive 80 percent federal funding of its meat inspection program. However, the bill was later defeated by the full House.

The latest attempt to overturn the Michigan Comminuted Meat Law came when Wilson, Hormel and Armour appealed the district court ruling to the Sixth U.S. Court of Appeals. In a move that stirred most Michigan citizens, the court of appeals reversed the district court opinion and ruled that Michigan could not establish higher comminuted meat standards than required by federal law.

This adverse ruling prompted Governor Milliken and the Michigan Department of Agriculture to obtain, on November 8, a stay of the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling. The stay will permit Michigan to continue enforcing its Comminuted Meat Law. An appeal will now be made through the Attorney General's office to the U.S. Supreme Court in an effort to maintain Michigan comminuted meat standards.

Depending on the outcome of the U. S. Supreme Court ruling, final victory to give states authority to establish higher comminuted meat standards may need to come from an amendment to the Federal Wholesome Meat Act by Congress. Congressman Charles Chamberlain (R-East Lansing) introduced such a bill this year but Congress did not consider the bill.

In a letter to Governor Milliken, President Elton Smith indicated Farm Bureau support and assistance to uphold the Michigan Comminuted Meat Law. Voting delegates to the 1972 MFB Annual Meeting unanimously approved a policy position supporting amendments to the Federal Wholesome Meat Act that will allow Michigan to maintain its rigid comminuted meat standards.



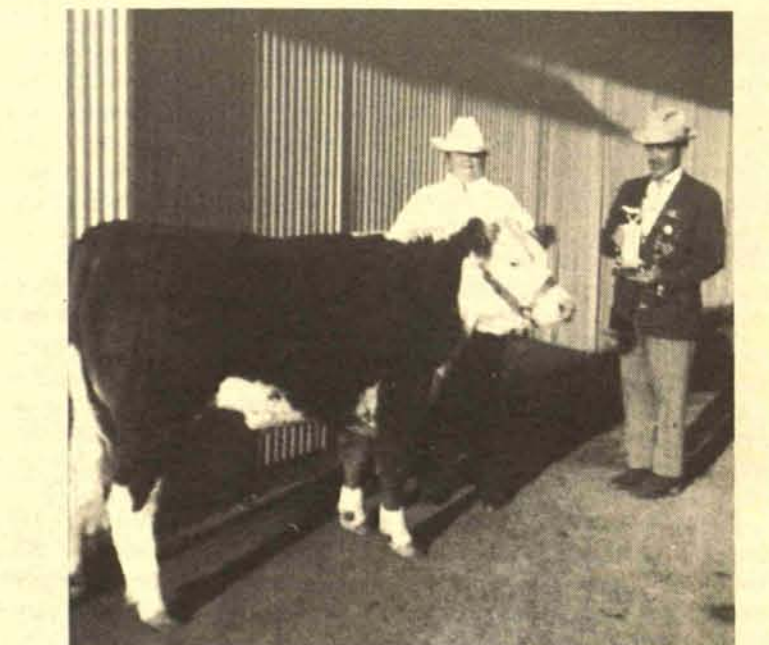
The Product Show afforded visitors an opportunity to view as well as learn more about "On the Farm" tire service available to customers of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.



Harry Foster, manager, Red Tart Cherry Division, MACMA, discusses the benefits of new marketing concepts to all Farm Bureau members with interested visitors to the joint MACMA-MAFC display booth at the Product Show.



A chance to show their skill on the putting green was enjoyed by many during the Product Show.



The Erskine Agency of Farm Bureau Insurance Group has a long-standing tradition of providing trophies for steer competition at the annual Saginaw County Fair. Jim Erskine (R), manager of the three-county agency, is shown presenting Mike Nolan, age 14, of Hemlock, with the Grand Champion Trophy.

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BOOK AND SAVE
Book your Farm Bureau fertilizer now and save over in-season prices.

TAKE AND SAVE EVEN MORE
If you take your fertilizer now, you will save all storage costs and have your fertilizer when you need it.

FREE POCKET KNIFE TOO
Book 20 tons or more of any Farm Bureau fertilizer from us now thru December 31, 1972 and get a personalized pocket knife, absolutely free.

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DON'T DELAY. See your Farm Bureau Dealer today.



Donald Shepard, manager, Farm Bureau Services Feed Department, checks the Feed Department's display booth at the Product Show held during the annual meetings of Farm Bureau Services, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative and Michigan Farm Bureau.



Michigan Farm Bureau Women demonstrated how they "Make It Happen" in Safety and Profit-Making at their display booth at the Product Show.

Crop and Supply Report

By Greg Sheffield
Manager, Marketing Services
Farm Bureau Services

By late October wheat was sold out and movement became the key factor. Rumors were that Russia requested a delay in shipments because of domestic transportation difficulties. Then, the Russians denied the rumor and want continuous shipment, which is straining both United States and Soviet transportation systems. A lag in Russian loading might make wheat available to China and perhaps, other foreign buyers. United States farmers are said to be planting six to ten percent more acreage to winter wheat with the size of the crop unknown until after December 22. Australia has the lowest wheat carry-over in its history. Argentina will have twice as much available for export, or about 110 to 130 million bushels. The domestic demand of wheat has been a little better than most traders anticipated, with exports known to be 50 million greater than a comparable period a year ago. So, the U.S. is mainly sold out, expected world demand is widely known and filled as far as we know. The United States does not have any huge saleable surplus, but the tail end of 1972 harvest reports do not indicate any new sizeable demand.

Michigan dry beans are forecasted at 7,560,000 cwt. for this year. This is 27 percent larger than the 1971 crop. A larger acreage and higher yield than last year contributed to the increase in production according to the Michigan Crop Reporting Service.

Wet fields have delayed the harvest of Michigan corn and soybeans. Only 21 percent of the grain and corn acreage was harvested by November 4, compared with nearly 70 percent a year ago. This year's corn crop is also expected to set new record highs for both yield and production, 135.3 million bushels forecast for corn. Eighty-three bushels per acre would be 17 percent larger than the 1971 crop.

Michigan Exchange Elevators are busy despite the slow field operations. Two 100-car trains and two boatloads of corn have already been shipped to east coast Canadian and U.S. ports for trans-shipment on ocean-going vessels to overseas destinations. Several more shipments, each ranging from 350,000 to 400,000 bushels are anticipated.

About 45 percent of Michigan soybeans were harvested, compared with two-thirds a year earlier. 1972 production for soybeans was raised to 16.92 million bushels as of November 1. Soybean production is expected to be 45 percent larger than last year. A record high acreage for harvest, plus a record high yield of 27 bushels per acre, both contribute to the larger

soybean production forecast (Michigan Crop Reporting Service).

Soybean meal is in heavy demand. In addition to meal production already committed, many consumers, both foreign and domestic, have been awaiting lower harvest prices which have yet to come. Cash prices for beans have held up extremely well and it's expected bean prices will strengthen after harvest is completed, with the price rise, perhaps, peaking out by mid-winter depending on the size of export sales. Some expect that the cash price for beans in Chicago will not work out much above \$3.50 a bushel this season.

Dairy prices have been holding up well, with milk prices generally running above a year ago nationally, with very strong demand for milk and most milk products. More than offsetting the increase in production, however, higher feed costs are expected to hold down some of the increases in net dairy income.

Hog slaughter is running below a year ago and may continue to do so through early 1973, but burdensome supplies of pork are not expected before next fall.

Egg Prices are holding up better than in some time. Increased prices for feeds and other expenses are keeping poultrymen's margins small. Turkey prices may be about the same as last year through the holidays.

Supply Situation

Early booking of fertilizer continues to be advised because of railroad tieups causing possible severe shortages. Farmers who can take delivery and store early are in the best position from the standpoints of saving money and having a supply on hand for spring planting.

The prospect of high soybean meal prices and other ingredients caused alert farmers to book early with dealers supplied by Farm Bureau.

F B Services Annual

Farm Bureau Services net sales reached a record level of \$95,983,000 in the recently completed fiscal year, president Elton R. Smith told stockholders and patrons at the cooperative's annual meeting November 9 in Grand Rapids.

The state-wide cooperative showed a net profit after taxes of \$303,000 compared with \$233,000 in 1971, marking the second year in a row that Farm Bureau Services improved its financial picture, Smith said.

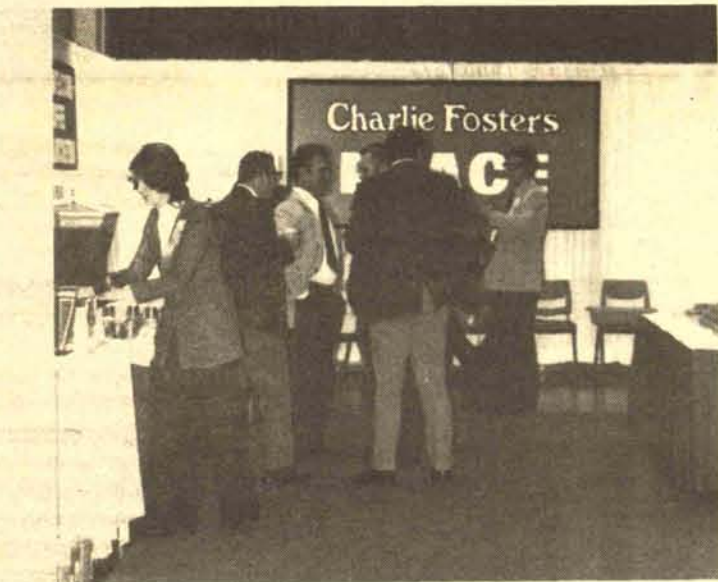
Goals for the coming year will include further efforts to expand services and marketing aids to Michigan farmers and improved communications with the state agricultural community, according to Donald R. Armstrong, executive vice president of Farm Bureau Services.

In addition to the financial gains during the past year, Armstrong noted that the cooperative has increased technological help and on-farm counseling to farmers with the objective of increasing profitability.

Thirteen directors were elected to the Farm Bureau Services Board of Directors at the annual meeting, which included ten farmers and three supply cooperative managers.

Incumbents re-elected include Loren Black, Grand Traverse County; Loren Gettel, Huron County; Harvey Leuenberger, Saginaw County; Larry Metzger, Sanilac County; Norman Schulze, Huron County; Elton Smith, Kent County; Arthur Bailey, Kalamazoo County; Kenneth Bull, Muskegon County; Walter Frahm, Saginaw County and Dean Pridgeon, Branch County.

New members of the board include Andrew Jackson, Livingston County; Richard Wieland, Antrim County; and Gerald Geiger, Huron County.



A popular spot at the MFB Annual Meeting was Charlie Foster's Place for free coffee, doughnuts and cider.



Dr. Larry Boger, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU, spoke at the first annual meeting kick-off luncheon.



Dale Butz, Secretary of Marketing, Illinois Agricultural Association, was a special commodity program speaker.



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BOOK AND SAVE
Book your Farm Bureau fertilizer now and save over in-season prices.

TAKE AND SAVE EVEN MORE
If you take your fertilizer now, you will save all storage costs and have your fertilizer when you need it.

FREE POCKET KNIFE TOO
Book 20 tons or more of any Farm Bureau fertilizer from us now thru December 31, 1972 and get a personalized pocket knife, absolutely free.

DON'T DELAY. See your Farm Bureau Dealer today.

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Line Fences

Discussion Topic

by KEN WILES

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

When two persons use something jointly, there is possibility of a quarrel. Line fences, or partition fences as they are referred to in state laws, are no exception and have caused many disagreements, some rather silly, among farmers.

A growing number of land parcels bordering farms are being sold to individuals with no previous experience with or knowledge of line fence laws. This has caused many farmers to inquire as to the course of action they can take if and when problems arise.

Under Michigan law, fence viewers act as "referees" in disputes arising over line fences. Their decisions are final and binding. Prior to the adoption of Michigan's present Constitution in 1963, fence viewers were justices of the peace -- this duty now falls to township trustees.

The Michigan Line Fence Law, enacted in 1846, is not as complex as some laws, but in addition to the statute there are many court cases and Attorney General's opinions relating to specific instances. This article quotes portions of the line fence law and interpretations of it as rendered by the courts and the Attorney General.

Dividing Line Fences

It is generally believed that the law requires line fences to be divided so each land owner will have the part to his right as he stands on his own land and faces the fence. This is a common custom and is considered a good rule to follow, but there is no law requiring it. Since there is no law, neighbors, or fence viewers, can use any plan they wish to divide a line fence, so long as they divide it fairly.

Legal Fence

"All fences four and one-half feet high and in good repair, consisting of rails, timber, wire or stone walls or any combination thereof, and all brooks, rivers, ponds, creeks, ditches and hedges, or other things which shall be considered equivalent thereto, in the judgement of the fence viewers, within whose jurisdiction the same may be, shall be deemed legal and sufficient fences." In 1956, an Attorney General's opinion defined the term "fence" to mean "a fence capable of turning livestock as the particular circumstances may require." An opinion by the Attorney General in 1955 read, "line fence need not be capable of restraining hogs and sheep."

Partition Fences

"The respective occupants of lands enclosed with fences shall keep up and maintain partition fences between their own and the next adjoining enclosures, in equal shares, so long as one party continues to improve the same: Provided that the occupants of private ways and the occupants of the next adjoining enclosed lands shall keep up and maintain partition fences between such ways and such next adjoining lands, in equal shares, so long as such ways are used and such lands are improved: Provided further, that the conservation commission shall keep up and maintain partition fences between lands under its jurisdiction south of the counties of Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland and Arenac and the next adjoining enclosure, in equal shares, so long as the owner or occupant of said adjoining enclosure maintains and continues to improve the same."

The Michigan Supreme Court has ruled "where a boundary line has been recognized and acquiesced in for fifteen years, it will not be disturbed by reason of a new survey."

Neglect

"In case any party shall neglect to repair or rebuild any partition fence, which of right he ought to maintain, the aggrieved party may complain to two or more fence viewers of the township, who, after due notice to each party, shall proceed to examine the same; and if they shall determine that the fence is insufficient, they shall signify the same in writing to the delinquent occupant of the land, and direct him to repair or rebuild the same within such time as they shall judge reasonable; and if such fence shall not be repaired or rebuilt accordingly, it shall be lawful for the complainant to repair or rebuild the same."

Legal Share

"When any deficient fence built up or repaired by any complainant, as provided in the preceding section, shall be adjudged sufficient by two or more of the fence viewers and the value of such repairing or building up, together with their fees, shall be ascertained by a certificate under their hands, the complainant shall have a right to demand either of the occupant or owner of the land where the fence was deficient, the sum so ascertained. And in case of neglect or refusal to pay the sum so due on or before the first day of the next succeeding October, after demand thereof is made, the sum so due shall report the same to the supervisor of the township, on or before the first day of November next thereafter, who shall cause the same to be spread upon the assessment roll, in a separate column for that purpose, opposite the description of the land owned or occupied by the person or persons neglecting to pay the same, the said tax to be collected in the same manner that other taxes are collected and paid over to the complainant upon the order of the township board."

Controversy

"When any controversy shall arise about the rights of the respective occupants, in partition fences, or their obligation to maintain the same, either party may apply to two or more fence viewers of the township where the lands lie, who, after due notice to each party, may in writing assign to each his share thereof, and direct the time within which each party shall erect or repair his share of the fence in the manner before provided; which assignment, being recorded in the township clerk's office, shall be binding upon the parties, and upon all the succeeding occupants of the land; and they shall be obliged always thereafter to maintain their respective portions of said fence."

Assigned Portion

"In case any party shall refuse or neglect to erect and maintain the part of any fence assigned to him by the fence viewers, the same may be erected and maintained by the aggrieved party in the manner before provided, and he shall be entitled to the value thereof ascertained in the manner aforesaid, and to be recovered in like manner."

Proportionate Reimbursement

"When in any controversy that may arise between occupants of adjoining lands as to their respective rights in any partition fence it shall appear to the fence viewers that either of the occupants, had, before any complaint made to the, voluntarily erected the whole fence, or more than his share of the same or otherwise become proprietor thereof, the other occupant shall pay for so much as may be assigned to him to repair or maintain, the value of which shall be ascertained and collected in the manner provided. . ."

Repair

"All partition fences shall be kept in good repair throughout the year, unless the occupants of the lands on both sides shall otherwise mutually agree."

Boundary in Stream

"When lands of different persons, which are required to be fenced, are bounded upon, or divided by, any river, brook, pond or creek, which of itself, in the judgement of the fence viewers, is not a sufficient fence, and it is, in their opinion, impracticable, without unreasonable expense, for the partition fence to be made in such waters, in the place where the true boundary line is, if in such case the occupant of the land on the one side shall refuse or neglect to join with the occupant of the land on the other side in making a partition fence on the one side or the other, or if such persons shall disagree respecting the same, then two or more fence viewers of the township wherein such lands lie, on application to them made, shall forthwith proceed to view such river, brook, pond or creek."

Fence Viewers' Proceedings

"If such fence viewers shall determine such river, brook, pond or creek in the preceding section mentioned, not to answer the purpose of a sufficient fence, and that it is impracticable, without unreasonable expense, to build a fence on the true boundary line, they shall, after giving notice to the parties, determine how, or on which side thereof the fence shall be set up and maintained, or whether partly on one side and partly on the other side, as to them shall appear just, and shall reduce such determination to writing, and sign the same; and if either party shall refuse or neglect to make and maintain his part of the fence, according to the determination of the fence viewers, the same may be made and maintained by the other party as before provided. . . and the delinquent party shall be subject to the same charges and costs, to be recovered in like manner."

Partition of Severalty Land Occupied in Common

"When any lands, belonging to different persons in severalty, shall have been occupied in common, without a partition fence between them, and one of the occupants shall be desirous to occupy his part in severalty, and the other occupant shall refuse or neglect, on demand, to divide with him the line where the fence ought to be built, or to build a sufficient fence on his part of the line when divided, the party desiring it may have the same divided and assigned by two or more fence viewers of the same township, in the manner provided. . ."

Time Limits

"Upon the division and assignment as provided in the preceding section the fence viewers may, in writing under their hands, assign a reasonable time for making the fence, having regard to the season of the year, and if either party shall not make his part of the fence within the time so assigned, the other party may, after having completed his own part of the fence, make the part of the other, and recover the ascertained expenses thereof, together with the fees of the fence viewers, in the manner provided. . ."

Removal of Partition Fence

"When one party shall cease to improve his land, or shall open his enclosure, he shall not take away any part of the partition fence belonging to him and adjoining the next enclosure, if the owner or occupant of such adjoining enclosure will, within two months after the same shall be ascertained, pay therefor such sum as two or more fence viewers shall, in writing under their hands, determine to be the value of such partition fence belonging to such party."

Payment for One-Half

"When any enclosed improved farm land shall be afterwards enclosed, the occupant or owner thereof shall pay for one-half of each partition fence standing upon the line between his land and the enclosure of any other occupant or owner, and the occupant or owner of the adjoining lands whether improved or unimproved shall for one-half of such partition fence, and the value thereof shall be ascertained by two or more fence viewers of the township, in writing under their hands, in case the parties do not agree, and if such occupant or owner shall neglect or refuse for thirty days after the value has been so ascertained and demand made to pay for one-half of such partition fence, the same shall be assessed and collected, together with the costs of ascertaining the same as provided. . ."

Township Line

"In all cases where the line, upon which a partition fence is to be made, or to be divided, is the boundary line between townships, or partly in one township and partly in another, a fence viewer shall be taken from each township."

Across Water

"Where a partition fence running into the water is necessary to be made, the same shall be done in equal shares, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, and in case either party shall refuse or neglect to make or maintain the share belonging to him, similar proceedings shall be had, as in case of other fences, and with the like effect."

Unimproved Lands

"In all cases where the line, upon which a partition fence is to be built between unimproved lands, has been divided by the fence viewers, or by agreements in writing between the owners of such lands, recorded in the office of the clerk of the township, or of one of the townships where such lands lie, the several owners thereof, and their heirs and assigns forever, shall erect and support said fences, agreeable to such division."

Avoiding Liability

"If any person shall determine not to improve any part of his lands adjoining any partition fence that may have been divided according to the provisions of this chapter, and shall give six months notice of such determination to all the adjoining occupants of lands, he shall not be required to keep up or support any part of such fence during the time his lands shall lie open and unimproved: Provided, that this section shall not apply where the land owned by the adjoining occupants is improved farm land."

Compensation to Fence Viewers

"Each fence viewer shall be paid by the person employing him, at the rate of \$5.00 per day for the time he shall be so employed; and if such person shall neglect to pay the same within 30 days after the service shall have been performed, each fence viewer having performed any such service may recover in an action of assumpsit double the amount of such fees."

Discussion Topic Report Sheet

The Discussion Topic and Report Sheet for the discussion topic on the opposite page is furnished for use of community group members who may wish to review it prior to their group meetings. If used by a Community Group, in lieu of report sheet furnished the Discussion Leader, please forward answers with minutes to Program Development Division, Michigan Farm Bureau. If used by individuals, please forward answers to Information Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904 on or before January 1, 1973.

COMMUNITY FARM BUREAU

Discussion Exercise and Report Sheet December, 1972

Community Farm Bureau _____ County _____
Please indicate the number of people taking part in this discussion

TOPIC: Line Fence Laws

1. Do the members of your community group know their township fence viewers? Yes ___ No ___
2. Do the members of your community group think that problems concerning line fences are increasing? Yes ___ No ___
3. How many members of your group have had problems with line fences within the last five years? _____
4. In the opinion of your group, are Michigan's fence laws adequate? Yes ___ No ___
5. What changes, if any, would you recommend in the present line fence laws? _____
7. Comments: _____



OFFICE CALLS



QUESTION: What does it mean to enroll in Blue Cross & Blue Shield by "family status?"

ANSWER: The Michigan Farm Bureau requires that you enroll by "family status" which means that you enroll all eligible family members for Blue Cross & Blue Shield Coverage. This includes your wife or husband, your children by birth, legal adoption or legal guardianship while they are in your custody and dependent upon you. Also included are the children of your spouse while they reside in and are members of your household. Dependent children must be unmarried and age 19 or less. For eligible children over 19, you may, at your option, select a Family Continuation Rider to extend coverage to age 25.

A Good Reason to Renew Membership

There are a lot of good reasons why you should join or renew your membership in the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Through personalized service, for example, this large and dynamic nonprofit organization can help you keep up-to-date on the latest advances in farm technology and to stay abreast of current marketing trends.

Through collective action and group strength, Farm Bureau members have a powerful voice in the legislative decisions so vital to the farm community.

And, there's still another important advantage of Farm Bureau membership you should know about. It entitles you to high quality health care protection through Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield

with broad, group benefits and special group rates.

Like Farm Bureau, Blue Cross and Blue Shield is a large and dynamic nonprofit organization established to provide service to its membership. And Farm Bureau members know they can rely on Blue Cross and Blue Shield because Farm Bureau is represented on its governing board.

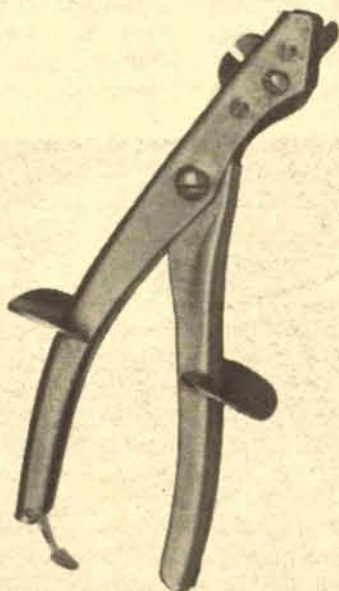
Blue Cross covers the full cost of your hospital care. Room, meals, treatment rooms, maternity care, and emergency services, plus all of the other hospital services you need to help you get well are all part of your coverage. Even burn and intensive care units are covered in full.

Blue Shield MVF (Michigan Variable Fee) benefits pay

doctor bills in full for covered services. Full medical and surgical care while hospitalized, consultations, anesthesia, x-rays, and many other key physicians' services are all covered by the program.

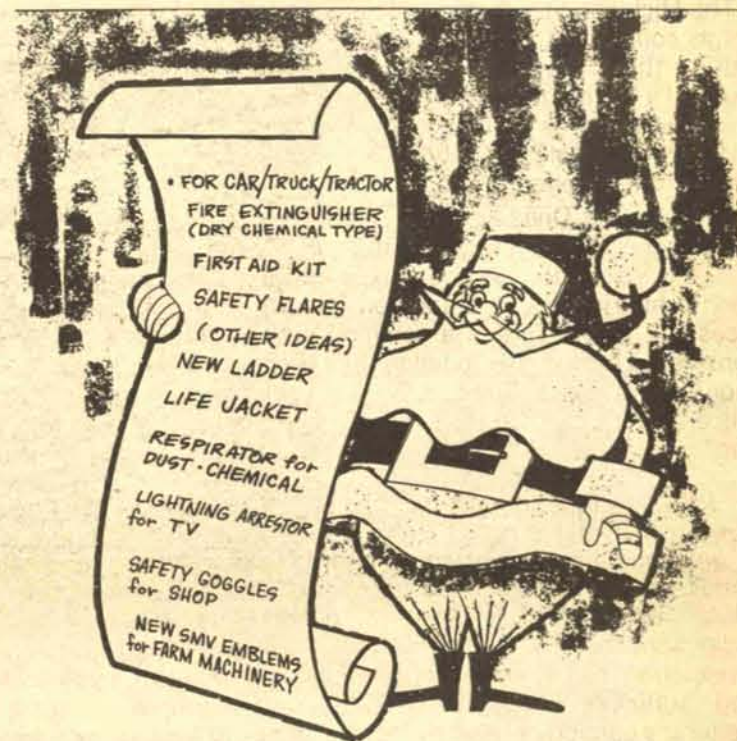
If you're 65 or older, Blue Cross and Blue Shield have designed special "65" programs which combine with government Medicare benefits to give you more complete protection.

The Farm Bureau theme this year is "Make It Happen." Why not contact the Farm Bureau county secretary in your area for details on how you can join or renew your Farm Bureau membership and enjoy its many advantages -- including Blue Cross and Blue Shield group health care protection. January 15 is the deadline for membership.



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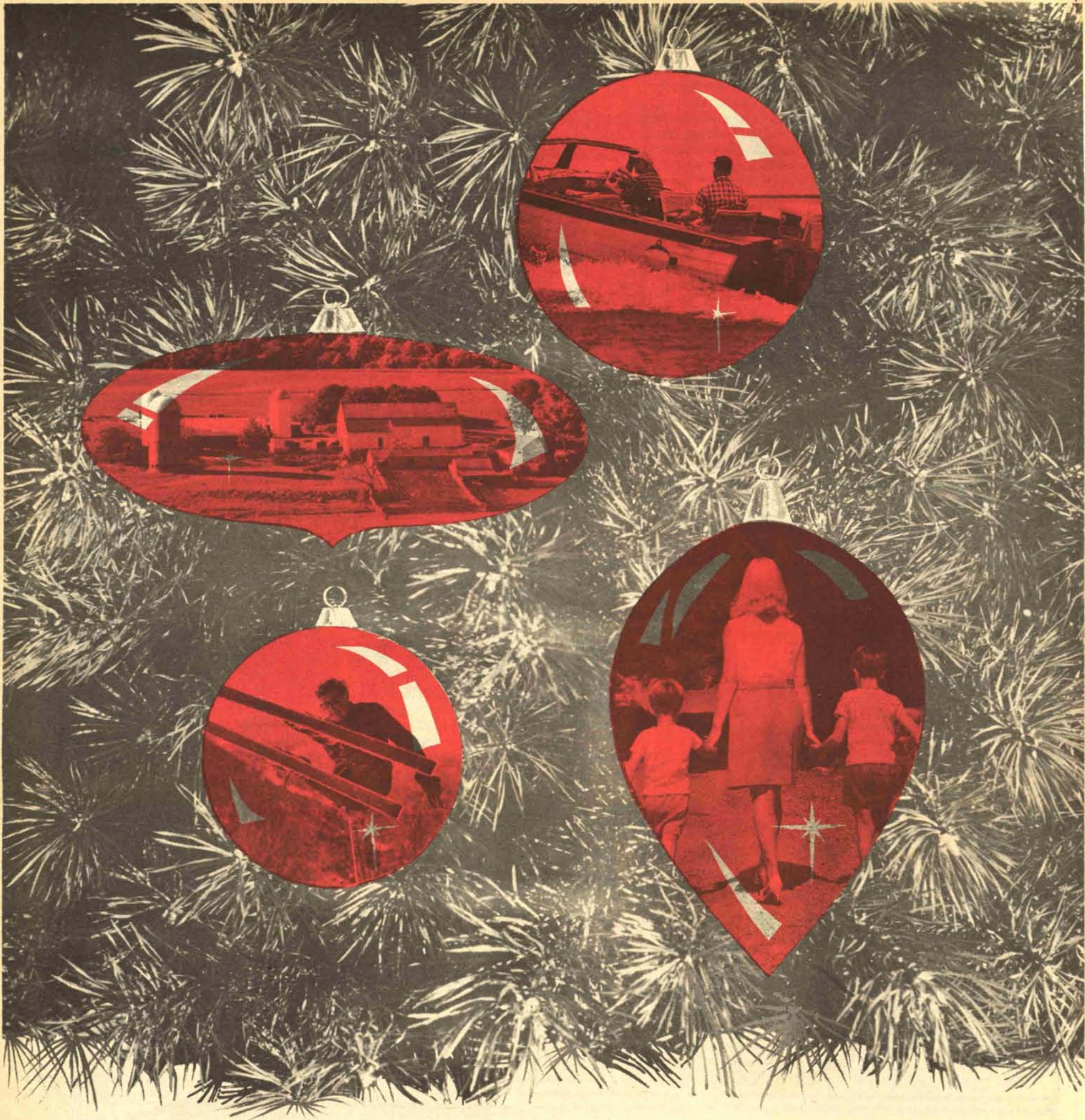
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