

# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Vol. 51, No. 3

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Mar

## REACHING FOR STARDOM '72

**Honoring Michigan's own "Dedicated Dozen" FOR 1971-72 SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCES**

**Portrait 1:** BILL AND JUDY KISSANE, Clinton

**Portrait 2:** PAUL KOVIK, Cheboygan

**Portrait 3:** FRED PERCINSKE, Mac-Luce

**Portrait 4:** TOM KOPASZEWSKI, Arenac

**Portrait 5:** FRANK HENDERSON, Arenac

**Portrait 6:** HERB PERKINS, Montcalm

**Portrait 7:** HARVEY GOSEN, Saginaw

**Portrait 8:** RICHARD LEACH, JR., Saginaw

**Portrait 9:** WILBERT RASMUSSEN, Montcalm

**Portrait 10:** REINHARD LISKE, Alpena

**Portrait 11:** GUNTER KUSIG, Menominee

**Portrait 12:** RUSSELL GLOVER, Livingston

**Portrait 13:** BEAMAN SMITH, Montmorency

**Portrait 14:** GEORGE COPENHAVER, St. Joseph

**Portrait 15:** DARRYL DOSSON, Gratiot

**Map Counties:** Keweenaw, Houghton, Baraga, Ontonagon, Gogebic, Marquette, Iron, Dickinson, Delta, Alpena, Luce, Mackinac, Chippewa, Schoolcraft, Charlevoix, Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Montmorency, Alpena, Leelanau, Antrim, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Huron, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland, Bay, Tuscola, Sanilac, Muskegon, Montcalm, Gratiot, Saginaw, Genesee, Lapeer, Saint Clair, Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Clinton, Shiawassee, Oakland, Macomb, Allegan, Barry, Eaton, Ingham, Livingston, Wayne, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Jackson, Washtenaw, Wayne, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe.

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DEFICIT

If you are in the midst of recovering from the shock of figuring your income tax or still trying to muster up the energy to do it, you may not want to read further.

According to the Tax Foundation, Mr. Average American is married, has two children and makes about \$9,500 a year. Like you and me, he is burdened with an array of taxes. He pays federal income taxes, Social Security tax, state income tax, property tax and maybe a city income tax.

This is only the beginning. He also pays a multitude of other taxes such as sales, excise, gasoline and use taxes. The Tax Foundation claims if you add them all up, Mr. Average American pays an estimated \$3,000 a year in taxes of all kinds. He is constantly being asked to pay more taxes for services and programs, promoted by some groups, that do not directly benefit him.

On the Federal level when money is not readily available in the U.S. Treasury for the programs voted by Congress, the size of the national debt is increased.

During the last part of January, Congress was asked to approve the largest increase in the national debt ceiling — \$50 billion for a total of \$480 billion — since World War II.

On January 3, 1972, the amount of money that has been borrowed to operate our federal government had reached a grand total of \$423 billion. Currently, it is estimated that at the end of the next fiscal year, June 30, 1973, the figure may reach \$493.2 billion.

Our Federal debt is financed through the issuance of Government securities. In order to pay just the interest cost alone on this whopping debt, the federal government must budget the tidy sum of \$22 billion dollars for the new fiscal year.

Deficits in the federal budget are nothing new. For the past two decades the U.S. Government has only managed to balance its books four times.

Much more than impressive statistics is involved. As our federal budget gets increasingly expensive and larger, it will have a far-reaching effect on every American.

The need by the U.S. Treasury to borrow more and more money to cover the deficits could put upward pressure on interest rates. The present controls on wages and prices may have to be extended longer than planned. Additional tax increases will be looked at as a means to retard the increasing deficits. Larger deficits could add fuel to inflation.

Farm Bureau has had a longtime interest in monetary spending and tax policies.

Inflation is of major concern to farm people. They understand the root cause of inflation — excessive government spending resulting in huge federal deficits which have to be financed through expansion in the supply of money.

Day after day, month after month, and year after year, federal programs for this, that and everything are added to the books with little, if any, regard to how they shall be paid for. Mr. Average American is asked to dig into his wallet and pay more taxes.

We need to begin looking at all programs to see if they are needed and whether we can pay for them out of current income in order to balance the budget.

Carl Kentner



PRICES

Recent attacks on livestock producers and suggestions that all raw farm products should be included in price controls are, I feel, totally unfounded.

Farm prices go up and down in response to supply and demand. Most wage earners, on the other hand, are accustomed to periodic increases in their wages whether the production unit per man hour has increased or not.

Few wage earners have had the experience of facing cuts in their hourly wage rates. And they fail to realize that the prices we receive for agricultural raw products rise, if indeed at all, usually after a period of low prices. This is especially true in the livestock business.

We have all read articles proclaiming livestock prices are the highest paid in 20 years. To me the real significance of this statement isn't "highest prices in 20 years," but the fact that despite 20 years of steadily increasing production costs and family living expenses, the livestock producer has just now attained a price equal to that he was receiving in 1952 — 20 years ago.

It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to identify a manufactured product presently marketed at the same price it was 20 years ago.

Prices paid farmers for raw products have increased only 7 percent totally during the past 20-year period while, according to USDA, government employees' wages increased 430 percent, average wages increased 340 percent, business and professional income increased 200 percent and dividends increased 300 percent. During this same period, the average retail price of meat has advanced about 35 percent.

In 1971 consumers spent only about 16 percent of their disposable income for food and it has been projected that they will spend only 15.5 percent in 1972.

I can readily understand the concern about the fluctuations in food prices. But, I find it difficult to understand why the general public cannot understand that increases in wages are going to be reflected in food costs as well as in everything else they purchase.

Between the time we sell our raw farm products to the first handler and the time the housewife purchases her family's food at the local supermarket there is a long list of middlemen.

These range from shippers and processors, to meat cutters and merchandisers. Their increased wages and operating costs are reflected in the price consumers pay for foodstuff.

The effect of attempting to control meat prices, coupled with an ever-increasing demand for domestic meats, could lead to distorted distribution patterns, black market and less production.

The ease with which unscrupulous operators can go into the meat packing business is well documented. Such action leads to black markets and this in turn would deprive consumers of the protection provided by federal and state inspection.

Through increased productivity and efficiency, livestock producers have managed to stay in business. During the last 20 years many producers of farm commodities were put out of business as a result of low prices. If low price trends were to continue as the result of a price freeze on raw farm products, it appears to me that it is likely the livestock industry, among others, would all but disappear in the coming years.

Almost all foodstuffs, but meat especially, have been such an incredible bargain for decades that when prices start, at long last, to seek a natural level in line with the national economy, it looks like another inflationary spiral.

Elton R. Smith

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF FEBRUARY 18, 1972

COUNTY	NEW	% GOAL	COUNTY	NEW	% GOAL
1. Mac Luce	13	106.67	36. Tuscola	71	98.57
2. Menominee	17	104.29	37. Benzie	13	98.52
3. Hiawathaland	33	103.75	38. Ingham	93	98.31
4. Montmorency	18	103.37	39. Huron	78	98.12
5. Emmet	18	103.28	40. Hillsdale	68	98.03
6. Clinton	89	102.01	41. Washtenaw	82	97.97
7. Gratiot	75	101.63	42. Monroe	55	97.94
8. Cheboygan	28	101.57	43. Wexford	9	97.91
9. Iosco	13	101.53	44. Eaton	65	97.77
10. Ottawa	82	101.29	45. Barry	41	97.72
11. Montcalm	70	101.22	46. Kent	66	97.72
12. Copper Country	12	101.15	47. Ogemaw	14	97.71
13. Bay	101	101.13	48. Osceola	14	97.67
14. Shiawassee	83	101.08	49. Sanilac	73	97.00
15. Alpena	25	100.88	50. Missaukee	17	96.89
16. Gladwin	21	100.79	51. Kalamazoo	68	96.56
17. Saginaw	166	100.71	52. Oakland	35	96.49
18. Allegan	73	100.67	53. Otsego	7	96.26
19. Isabella	57	100.66	54. Cass	39	96.24
20. Arenac	32	100.64	55. Alcona	8	96.13
21. Branch	75	100.62	56. Wayne	21	96.11
22. St. Joseph	52	100.59	57. Presque Isle	14	96.02
23. St. Clair	82	100.54	58. Lapeer	44	95.95
24. Chippewa	19	100.43	59. Van Buren	55	95.89
25. Clare	19	100.42	60. Genesee	106	95.52
26. Newaygo	29	100.38	61. Kalkaska	3	95.45
27. Livingston	63	100.37	62. Berrien	50	95.43
28. N. W. Michigan	59	100.30	63. Muskegon	38	95.25
29. Oceana	42	100.00	64. Mecosta	21	93.96
30. Ionia	53	99.53	65. Charlevoix	14	93.83
31. Midland	34	99.13	66. Antrim	12	93.60
32. Calhoun	81	99.03	67. Manistee	9	90.71
33. Jackson	57	98.86	68. Mason	10	90.28
34. Macomb	60	98.73	69. Iron Range	2	86.54
35. Lenawee	74	98.71			

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

The MICHIGAN FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau, at its publication office at 109 N. Lafayette Street, Greenville, Michigan.

Editorial and general offices at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Post Office Box 960. Telephone, Lansing 485-8121, Extension 228. Subscription price, 50¢ per year.

Established January 13, 1923. Second Class Postage paid at Greenville, Michigan.

**EDITORIAL:** Editor, Carl P. Kentner; Artist, Norman Goodling.

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POSTMASTER: In using form 3579, mail to: Michigan Farm News, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904  
 Second class postage paid at Greenville, Michigan

# CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith



## Tax Reform Petitions Now Being Circulated

All Farm Bureau community group's received, with their Discussion Topic material, copies of Governor Milliken's petition to put tax reform on the ballot. The Democratic petition is still not available; however, when it becomes available community groups will also receive copies of that proposal. All county offices and secretaries have quantities of the Governor's petition and will also receive equal quantities of the Democratic petition.

All counties are proceeding with plans to circulate both petitions in order to assure that the tax reform issue will be on the ballot in the November, 1972 election and that electors will have an opportunity to assert their constitutional rights and determine whether tax reform will be achieved in Michigan. The Legislature has, so far, failed to agree on any plan for property tax reform and a shifting of the cost of school operation from property to other sources of revenue.

As reported previously, the Governor's proposal and the Democratic proposal are very similar in many ways. The cut in property taxes would be achieved by the elimination of the property tax for school operational cost.

Both would limit counties to not more than eight mills and townships raise taxes to this limit now. On the other hand, many others are much lower. Some townships do not raise any property tax inasmuch as the monies received back from the state income tax and other sources are sufficient to run the township.

Both proposals provide for four-and-one-half mills that can be used for special education, vocational education, compensatory education, etc. In most areas, now, millages for these purposes depend on whether these programs exist. The Governor's proposal guarantees this millage to be available for these uses; the Democratic proposal permits it to be used for these purposes or for general school purposes.

Both proposals permit six mills to be voted by the people for "enrichment" of school curriculum. The word enrichment meaning such millage could only be used for bettering the local school curriculum and could not be used for ordinary increasing costs.

Both proposals permit six mills that can be used by the county or township through a vote of the people.

These millages add up to 26 mills, which would be the limit for property taxes. Presently, the constitutional limit is 50 mills. In addition, provision is made for

the continuation of the use of the property taxes for industrial and commercial property. This would be used statewide and would be limited to not more than 26 mills. Residences and property used for agricultural purposes would be exempt from this provision.

A simple example of how to determine the effect of either of these proposals would be to look at your property tax statement this year. The portion of the tax for school operating purposes would be eliminated. In most cases there should be no need for the county or township taxes to change any more under the new constitutional provision than they might change under the present constitutional provision. As indicated above, there would be some opportunity to vote very limited millage for special school purposes.

The revenue lost by the property tax relief would be made up by the income tax in the case of individuals and farmers. In the case of industry and commercial properties the property tax could be continued for school purposes.

The major difference between the two proposals is that the Democratic proposal would require enactment of a graduated income tax in place of the present flat rate tax.

One thing that must be considered is that, in any event, major changes will occur in the financing of education in Michigan. Courts throughout the country are rapidly ruling that the property tax, as presently used for school purposes, is unconstitutional. This means that the property tax could continue to be used; however, it is expected that it would have to be levied at the same rate throughout the state. This could mean a continuation of the property tax burden.

The progress of the petition drive will be watched very closely by political observers to find out whether citizens really mean it when they talk about tax reform and claim that the property tax is becoming too burdensome. If the petition drive does not gather steam, politicians can rightly say that people are not concerned with the property tax burden and its inequities.

Placement of the issue on the ballot by the petition route will require the utmost citizen involvement. Every Farm Bureau member should make every effort to circulate petitions and help in this drive. Any registered voter can circulate both petitions and any registered voter can sign both petitions. Both proposals can also be on the ballot, where the voters can make the final decision in November, 1972.

## Marketing and Bargaining Bills Introduced in Both Michigan Houses

Legislation carrying out the provisions of Farm Bureau marketing and bargaining policy as determined by the Michigan Farm Bureau voting delegates meeting in Grand Rapids November 8, 9 and 10, 1971, has been introduced in both the House and the Senate of the Michigan Legislature. The Senate bill is S. 1225 and the House bill is H. 5951 (for names of introducers see picture captions).

The legislation provides a legal system of marketing and bargaining that would be available to any agricultural association that can meet its requirements and desire to use its provisions. It is based on the concept of majority rule. If the producer organization is supported by 51% of the producers with 51% or more of the commodity grown in the production area the association would be authorized to represent and be supported by all the producers in the area in the pricing and marketing of the commodity.

The bill provides for a six-member board within the Department of Agriculture, appointed by the Governor, to administer its provisions. Not more than three of the members could be affiliated with one political party. The board would determine whether an association meets the requirements of the law and whether it could become "accredited" to represent the producers of the commodity involved. To qualify for accreditation the association must be a cooperative incorporated under federal or state statutes and operate under its own controls.

The bill makes it unlawful for any handler, processor, etc. to engage in certain unfair practices, such as coercion of any producer, discrimination against a producer, conspiring against a producer's rights, circulating untrue reports, etc., etc. The legislation provides for hearings giving all parties the right to be heard and provisions are made for a referendum on petition of the producers.

Once the association is accredited it may bargain and negotiate for the terms of sale of the commodity, including (1) prices and related terms of sale; (2) quality specifications; (3) quantity to be marketed and; (4) transactions involving products and services utilized by one party and provided to the other party. The handler of the product is required by law to bargain in good faith.

The bill also provides mediation procedures in the event an agreement cannot be reached. If mediation is not successful, provisions are made for arbitration by a three-member committee — one selected by the association, one by the handler and one selected by both the association and the handler. The decision of the Arbitration Committee is limited to either the last offer by the association or the last offer by the handler and would be final and binding on both parties.

The Board created by the legislation has the authority to enforce the agreement that is reached. Specific cases can be referred to a circuit court which shall have exclusive jurisdiction.



Senator Charles O. Zollar (R-Benton Harbor) has taken the leadership in the Michigan Legislature and has introduced the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act—S. 1225. The co-introducer is Senator William Ballenger (R-Ovid), Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee.

Senator Zollar, with a broad background in agriculture and the world of business and industry, is to be commended on his leadership in recognition of the fact that modern agriculture must have some of the legislative marketing tools that other segments of the economy enjoy.

Some time ago, he came out in full support of the Sisk Bill, now in Congress, recognizing that federal legislation is also needed. The bill in the State Legislature, S. 1225, can, however, go a long way toward solving agricultural marketing problems within the State of Michigan.



Representative Dennis O. Cawthorne (R-Manistee) has introduced the marketing and bargaining legislation in the Michigan House of Representatives—H. 5951. Others signing the bill are Representatives Gast (R-St. Joseph), Hellman (D-Dollar Bay), Ruth (R-Comstock Park), Powell (R-Ionia), Geerlings (R-Muskegon), Bradley (D-Detroit), Strang (R-Sturgis), Mowat (R-Adrian), Farnsworth (R-Plainwell), Mittan (R-Benton Harbor) and Kennedy (R-Bangor).

The introducers of this bill also recognize the problems facing Michigan agriculture, especially in the fruit and vegetable areas. It is identical to the Senate bill.

The legislation results from more than a year of study. Many of the provisions have been taken from other types of bargaining legislation that have proved to be successful in other parts of the country.

Senator Zollar, in introducing the bill in the Senate, said that agriculture has "... long needed a law such as this..." He said it will provide "a vehicle for sound distribution methods and will provide a means of working out any disputes that may arise between producers and handlers or processors of agricultural products."

Hearing on the bill will be held soon and all interested people will have an opportunity to have their views considered.

## NOTICE

**WANTED:** Letters from property owners who have suffered property damage from snowmobiles and other All Terrain Vehicles. An attempt is being made to compile specific examples of damages to property caused by snowmobiles and other ATV's. Members desiring to furnish such information are requested to send full details including date, time, place, extent of damages, and other pertinent information to the Information Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P. O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

# MARKETING AND COMMODITIES



PRESIDENT ELTON SMITH introduced U.S. Representative Sisk of California (seated) at the MACMA annual meeting.



NOEL STUCKMAN, general manager of MACMA, and Congressman Sisk chat at the MACMA annual meeting.

## Sisk Speaks at MACMA Annual

Congressman Bernie Sisk of California, the primary sponsor of the National Agricultural Marketing Act of 1971 (the Sisk Bill) addressed a combined luncheon of MACMA and MASA at their annual meeting held in Grand Rapids on February 16, 1972.

Congressman Sisk outlined three general areas of concern to agriculture producers. He spoke of the need for permanent legislation dealing with strikes that tie up the entire nation. Particularly the transportation industry in dealing with the recent dock strike.

He also called for federal legislation dealing with farm labor, citing recent problems in his home area of California with the United

Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

The major portion of his address dealt with the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971. According to Sisk, this bill will provide the necessary legal framework for farmers to bargain effectively for prices and other terms of trade through their own associations. This legislation would protect the individual rights of producers.

The legislation, commonly known as the Sisk Bill, has been introduced by Congressman Sisk and over one hundred other congressmen. Some have called it the most important and controversial piece of farm legislation to be introduced this decade.

rightly or wrongly, followed very closely to these prices.

There was another major market factor playing a big role during the period that raw apple prices were being formulated. This was the price freeze imposed by the U.S. Government to check our economic inflation. While raw fruit prices were exempt from the freeze, processors were very quick to point out that their processed fruit was not exempt. They told the MACMA grower committee making processor calls that their prices on applesauce were locked in at low prices due to last year's bountiful crop. With these same applesauce prices, there was just no way they could pay more for apples than they had last year. And, by-and-large, their opening prices reflected that attitude.

The stocks of applesauce and frozen slices are more favorable than they have been at any time in the last couple of years. The movement has also been very good this year.

At this time, a five-man subcommittee is at work discussing and exploring new approaches to give the MACMA Processing Apple Division more strength in marketing its members' apples.

### Processing Grape Division

The largest crop of grapes in several years was harvested in 1971. An estimated 68,000 tons were harvested in Michigan, compared to 62,000 tons in 1970. The total production for the major Concord states was up 20% over last year and above the recent five year average by 31%.

Sales outlets in Michigan were reduced this year as two wineries closed and a third winery cut its normal requirements by 50% due to acquisition of bulk wine inventory of one of the closed wineries. Three firms did not stem and crush because they were unable to secure orders from usual Eastern markets.

The MACMA Grape Marketing Committee recognizes that changes must be made in our marketing program if we are to be a strong influence in the grape market and have a financially strong marketing association. An all grower survey was conducted by the committee to get individual grower opinions regarding the MACMA marketing programs and possible changes. The Committee is now developing plans to implement a program to meet the needs of grape growers.

### Red Tart Cherry Division

Red tart cherries were one of the more profitable fruit crops for growers in 1971. Favorable price momentum was carried through by the Red Tart Cherry Division membership "task force" who signed up over 250 new members this past year.

MACMA and AAMA introduced a new pricing concept, the volume-value price scale. The basis for this volume-value price relationship scale was scientifically developed by agricultural economists at MSU.

The Red Tart Cherry Marketing Committee and industry leaders worked with AAMA staff and Farm Bureau economists to adapt the concept to the practical pricing of tart cherries. This pricing mechanism will be further developed in 1972, along with other price improvement and stability concepts.

The new price scale concept can be implemented now that the red tart cherry industry has adopted a federal marketing order

which can regulate the volume of cherries to be marketed each year. The market order, however, did not regulate cherries in 1971. MACMA had a major role in the drafting and industry acceptance of the new federal marketing order during 1969 and 1970. This marketing order allows the total industry to work together for orderly marketing of tart cherries.

The Red Tart Cherry Marketing Committee requested that a special committee be appointed to develop and implement a plan to cooperatively process and sell members' tart cherries in 1972.

### Multi-Fruit Division

The Multi-Fruit Division is one of the newest divisions in MACMA. It is designed to assist members in the sale of peaches, pears and plums. However, it has the flexibility to serve growers of other fruit crops.

The crop and market conditions of these crops in Michigan have fluctuated over the years. In recent years significant new plantings of peaches and plums have created over-supply problems. Our marketing and pricing good fortune for these crops depends upon crop failure in other major producing areas. Pears are being phased out by many growers in Michigan.

The Multi-Fruit Marketing Committee analyzed the crop and market conditions and worked aggressively to establish realistic prices for these crops in 1971. MACMA and processor agreement was reached on the crop, however, some processors then backed out of their commitment to accept delivery from growers. This created economic chaos for many members, since alternative markets were not readily available. Several members' crops went unharvested — some were even dumped after they were harvested and stored.

### Asparagus Division

The Asparagus Marketing Committee coordinates its relationship with other asparagus producing states through the AAMA and the AFBF. Each year a multi-state meeting is held to discuss and analyze the total asparagus market.

All demand and supply factors point to another successful year in 1972 for the Asparagus Division. The Committee plans to expand the Division membership again this year. Plans for marketing the 1972 crop will be announced in the near future.

### Vegetable Crops Division

The 1971 potato contract with Ore-Ida Foods at Greenville was negotiated and approved by members. The 1972 potato contract negotiations began early this year. Growers have given tentative approval to the contract.

Processing vegetable crops provide short-term crop alternatives and aid in crop rotation. The canning and pickling vegetable crops industry is important in Michigan. The income potential is significant to our members.

### Livestock Division

Livestock marketing services became a part of MACMA in 1969. MACMA also provides sales and management services for Hiawathaland Livestock Cooperative at Rudyard.

Feeders of feeder livestock are feeding more livestock on fewer farms each year and producers of feeder livestock are remaining nearly the same in size, since feeder livestock production is often a supplementary source of income. Small to medium-sized producers will continue to assemble livestock at some central point prior to price discovery. On the

other hand, as feedlot operators increase in size, they will seek more direct methods of selling.

Regardless of which system the farmer chooses, he will be concerned about the integrity, financial responsibility, reliability and ability to net him a fair return for his production. Auction markets will depend on reputation, innovative sales concepts and aggressive solicitation to get the job done. Commingling and direct sales services will be served when there are agreements between the producer and market agency defining the responsibilities of both parties.

### Feeder Pig Division

Presently, MACMA Feeder Pig Division members are located in the northwest and northeast Michigan. Feeder pigs are delivered every other week to leased assembly points at Atlanta and Lake City.

Objectives of the Feeder Pig Division are: (1) Increase the percent of feeder pigs marketed cooperatively; (2) provide a greater net return to members; (3) improve the equality of feeder pigs marketed; (4) to organize a supply of uniform pigs on a volume basis; and (5) expand the swine industry in Michigan.

Division members sign marketing agreements with MACMA giving us exclusive rights to market all of the members' pigs that are of acceptable quality. MACMA provides an orderly market, assembly facilities, consulting services and provides breeding stock for members.

### Feeder Cattle Division

The objectives of the Feeder Cattle Division program are: (1) To increase the production of feeder cattle in Michigan; (2) to organize present production into more valuable and useful packages of cattle; (3) improve the quality of feeder cattle produced; (4) assist cow-calf and stocker operators in receiving more for their cattle; and (5) increase the percent of feeder cattle marketed cooperatively.

Membership in the Feeder Cattle Division is located in the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula and the northeastern Lower Peninsula. Feeder Cattle assembly points are located at Rudyard and Atlanta.

A special preconditioning program was initiated for interested members in 1971. These cattle were sold at a special assembly and netted additional profits for the producer and provided cattle feeders with a source of started cattle. Started calves have less incidence of sickness and recover their weight faster in the feedlot. This program will be greatly expanded in 1972.

### Order Buyer Division

The MACMA Order Buyer Division was established at the same time as the Feeder Cattle Division. The Order Buyer Division is a part of the nationally coordinated AAMA feeder cattle program.

Services of the division include a weekly market information letter and representing cattle feeders in purchasing feeder replacements in other states. Most feeder cattle are purchased from other state Farm Bureau marketing associations, with a few being purchased locally.

Efforts are now being made to develop a forward contract program that will assist us in tying up a number of feeders on ranches well in advance of shipping dates and to develop a grazing and stocker program that will tie up supplies of MACMA yearling cattle that will be moved direct to the feedlots each fall.

## MACMA ANNUAL REPORT

*Editor's Note: Following are random excerpts from the Management Report of Operations given at the 11th Annual meeting of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association on February 16, 1972.*

### General Activities

During 1971 MACMA membership grew to the greatest number in its history. Along with an increase in membership came an expansion of the volume of commodities marketed.

### Fruit and Vegetable Divisions

MACMA's eleven years began when growers of processing apples, asparagus and pickling cucumbers asked Farm Bureau to organize a marketing and bargaining association. The organization was, at that time, designed to serve the needs of Farm Bureau members in several commodity areas.

We have modified our programs over the years and are continuing to do so to have a more positive marketing approach

and to get desired pricing and sales results for our members.

Marketing committees are elected from each division's membership to negotiate the sales terms of our members' products. They also have the duty of membership acquisition and maintenance for their division.

Our marketing committees and staff are committed to the implementation of marketing programs to get profitable results. These programs need to be supported by an expanded membership. Legislative marketing aids will also be secured when necessary.

### Processing Apple Division

There was an adequate and manageable supply of processing apples in Michigan this past harvest season. Our supply was such that, with the current demand situation, we could have and would have had better grower prices. In Appalachia, however, there was a bumper crop and our finest disastrously low prices came out of that area, just as they did last year. Michigan processors,

## MASA Serves Agriculture

by M. J. Buschlen

*Editor's Note: Following are random excerpts from the annual report given to members of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) by M. J. Buschlen, operations manager, on February 16, 1972.*

### Information Newsletter Service

During 1971 all previous members were twice solicited for renewal subscriptions. Many publications carried news stories concerning MASA and appealed for membership support. It appears to be a difficult task to convince farmers that it is to their advantage to pay for labor management information.

Six newsletters and a Labor Management Manual were sent to all subscribers. The Cooperative Extension Service requested that twenty copies of the Labor Management Manual be sent to selected county agents. This information has been used extensively by the "Agricultural Extension Service" to assist farmers in solving farm labor management problems.

### Recruitment of Workers

It was nearly impossible to obtain government clearance orders for the workers ordered because of stringent labor camp licensing policies. All the initial requests for workers were filled. Some emergency placements were made by telephone by shifting groups of workers that were already working within the state.

### Research, Information and Public Relations

MASA is a member of the National Council of Agricultural Employers and now has a seat on the board of directors of the organization. The National Council of Agricultural Employers cooperates with the AFBF programs at the national level in legislative activity.

An industry-wide Agricultural Labor Committee was established and called into session several times, early in the year, to draft specific recommendations for consideration to be included in the state "farm labor management legislation."

Many hours of assistance were given to Representative Dennis Cawthorne, who prepared and introduced H.B. 5100 which would provide the Agricultural Labor Relations Act for Michigan. This bill rests quietly in the House Labor Committee. The introduction of this bill probably helped to reduce union activities by Cesar Chavez in Michigan during 1971.

MASA was called upon by the Indiana Marketing Association, the Ohio Agricultural Marketing Association and the National Cherry Growers and Industries Foundation to present a Farm Labor Management program for their respective memberships.

Michigan State University requested MASA's assistance with the course of study for Group 5 of the Kellogg Farmers program. In addition to the classroom programs, a tour was arranged for this group in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas where many of the seasonal farm workers live in the winter season.

A 34-page summary of reference material with respect to agricultural employment in the state was prepared and it has been used extensively by county farm labor advisory committees, county agricultural agents and high school agricultural teachers.

More than 80 hours were spent in research and the preparation of a defense for a MASA member who had been charged with violation of the Federal Wage and Housing Acts. It is hoped that the experience gained can be beneficial to other farmers in the future to avoid such difficulties.

Late in the summer, it was confirmed that 46 farmers would probably be brought to court by the UMOI student lawyers, on charges of failing to comply with the minimum wage laws and the migrant labor camp laws. A special eight-man committee was formed to appeal to the Governor to stop these intended court actions. Only one of the 46 was brought to court. No action has ever been taken on the other 45.

During the year, MASA agreed to serve as labor consultant to the membership of the Michigan Association of Nurserymen.

Late in July at a meeting in Chicago, the Occupational Safety and Health Act was announced. Since that time, a meeting of representatives of all agricultural interests in the state was held in the Farm Bureau office. A slide-tape presentation has been prepared for use by Farm Bureau Regional Representatives. Two brochures have been prepared for information and teaching guides and to be used as handout materials at meetings.

### Summary

Mechanization in harvesting fruits and vegetables will, in all likelihood, further reduce the need for seasonal hired labor especially those whose only farm-related employment is at harvest time. As mechanization in these crops increases, migrant workers will find their opportunities for employment reduced unless they are skilled or semi-skilled in harvesting machinery operation and maintenance.

The die has been cast. We can look forward to a gradual decline in the need for migrant farm workers. But let us not be misled by the mechanical myth. There will still be a need for seasonal workers. The human factor will continue to be an important factor in agricultural harvesting. There will be changes, however, in the demand requirements, both in quantity and skill requirements.

In short, the demand for workers in fruit and vegetable harvesting will continue to be strong for skilled year-round workers and for semi-skilled migrant workers recognizing that the over-all demand for seasonal workers in agriculture will decline significantly.

Compulsory unionism of farm workers must be challenged by farm employers, farm workers and the consuming public.

At the present time, it is possible for the union to use the power of a product and market boycott to compel farm workers to join a union if they wish to continue working on a farm where the product boycott has been invoked by the union.

It must become public concern that the uninterrupted production, packaging, processing, transporting and marketing of agricultural products be protected by some type of legislation providing rules of conduct to protect the rights of workers, of growers to produce and sell and to protect consumers against the mass destruction of our food supply and unnecessary excessive food costs.

## Citrus Sale

Michigan Farm Bureau was one of over twenty state Farm Bureaus participating in the Florida Farm Bureau member to member citrus sale. The sale provided direct movement of "Florida's Best" oranges and grapefruit from Farm Bureau members in Florida to thousands of Farm Bureau members in other states. The top-quality fruit and the manner in which the sales were handled in December have prompted additional orders from Farm Bureau members in February.

The success of any product and service can be measured by repeat business. If this is true, the Farm Bureau citrus sale has been another great success story.

Over 25 county Farm Bureaus in Michigan are participating in the sale of oranges and grapefruit. Over 7,500 cartons of citrus have been consumed by Michigan Farm Bureau members. Many favorable comments have been received on this pilot member project.

Members are ready and willing to build on this experience for the future. It has been pointed out many times that this direct sale of farm products can be an effective method of establishing realistic farm prices, as well as providing top-quality products to consumers. A number of members have expressed an interest in seeing Michigan products moving to other states. It should be noted that the trucks delivering citrus to Michigan in December and February returned to the southern states with apples and potatoes.

MACMA has given the Florida Farm Bureau information on tart cherries so that the Florida Farm Bureaus Marketing Association may develop a tart cherry sale for its members.

It is possible that other Michigan products will be marketed in a similar fashion.

## Blue Cross - Blue Shield Reopening

by Marlie Drew

Why not find out today how you can join the thousands of Farm Bureau members who enjoy the best possible protection against the high cost of illness or injury—Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

If you're not enrolled and are an eligible Farm Bureau member, you can sign up for Blue Cross and Blue Shield through your county Farm Bureau and take advantage of this coverage at the lowest possible group rates.

If you're already enrolled through county Farm Bureau, you can take advantage of this once a year opportunity to adjust your coverage to:

A. Comprehensive or deductible

B. Ward or Semi

Blue cross hospital care benefits provide all of the care you need no matter what the cost, and features liberalized benefits for physical therapy.

Blue Shield MVF (Michigan Variable Fee) benefits pay most doctor bills in full for covered services and offers added physician care benefits for mental conditions.

And if you're 65 or older, special Blue Cross and Blue Shield 65 programs are available which combine with government Medicare benefits to give you better coverage.

Contact your county Farm Bureau secretary today for details on how you can enroll in Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield. THE DEADLINE IS MARCH 15.

## Hutchinson Backs Sisk Bill

U. S. Congressman Edward Hutchinson, citing the economic problems of Southwestern Michigan fruit growers, has urged the leadership of a House of Representatives Agricultural Subcommittee to take prompt and favorable action on the proposed National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act.

The proposed legislation would allow farmers to voluntarily form cooperative marketing and bargaining associations for the purpose of negotiating contracts with handlers of agricultural products.

Hearings on the legislation, which was sponsored by Congressman B. F. Sisk (D-California) were completed last fall and the measure awaits action by the Domestic Marketing and Consumer Relations Subcommittee in the House.

The Sisk bill defines standards for recognition of qualified bargaining associations and provides "mutual obligation" for the cooperatives and handlers to "negotiate in good faith" with respect to price and terms of sale of the agricultural products.

Congressman Hutchinson addressed a letter of support for the bill to Representative Thomas S. Foley (D-Washington), Subcommittee Chairman, and to Representative George A. Goodling (R-Pa.), Ranking Minority Member.

In his letter, Hutchinson points out that he introduced similar legislation last June which has been referred to the subcommittee.

He said, "Since 1965 or 1966 it has become increasingly apparent to me that the economic survival of fruit growers in Western Michigan might well depend upon their ability to form successful marketing associations, and I have said as much on many occasions."

## "TASK FORCE" ORGANIZED

Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association marketing committees are again organizing a membership "task force" this year to involve more of our members in the activities of the marketing committees, such as pricing, new member sign up and other association responsibilities. The membership "task force" will be kept informed of all committee activities and actions.

MACMA pricing plans are a focal point of many activities. However, an informed membership working together to sign up other growers in the MACMA programs is also very important.

Last year the MACMA Red Tart Cherry Division led the way



HUTCHINSON

Hutchinson added, "There have been great changes in the fruit industry in recent years. Much of the old personal relationship which used to exist between the processor and the grower is fast disappearing. Where in time past a processor would agree to handle a grower's total production, now the processor will limit his fruit purchases to quantities which he believes he can profitably sell, leaving the grower to find a market for the balance of his output as best he can."

"As processors have become larger, their processing plants have been organized by labor unions, resulting in higher unit labor costs. At the same time the processors' customers have emerged as a few large grocery chains, with processed food items sharply competing for space on supermarket shelves. The fruit growers, unorganized and without economic clout, have become victims of an economic machinery in which they have little effective input," Hutchinson stated.

and formed a membership "task force." They were able to sign up 40% more new members and follow through on a successful price to the grower of over 10 cents per pound.

The successful tart cherry effort has led to the all-division membership "task force" for 1972. There are several priority program areas which are common to all divisions. Profitable prices and marketing and bargaining legislation are challenges common to all divisions.

"Task force" kickoff meetings will be held during March to begin the intensive MACMA marketing campaign this year.

## VICTORY PARTIES

Regional Victory Parties, celebrating the region attaining its membership goal and affording an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the work done by membership workers, have been growing in popularity and will again be held this year.

The dates that membership workers can spend the "Bogus Bucks" earned through their diligent efforts in the 1972 membership campaign have been set.

The Central Region's Award Victory Party will be held at 12 noon, March 9 at the Recreational Center in Howell.

Two regions will hold their annual Award Victory Party on March 11. The earliest one, Northwest Region, will commence with luncheon at 12 noon at the Holiday Inn, Traverse City. The Northeast Region will hold its Victory Party at the school in Gaylord in the evening.

The Farm Bureau office in Sandusky will be the site for the Thumb Region's Victory Party at 8 p.m. on March 13. Chatham Townhall, at 12 noon on March 18, will be the gathering place for the membership workers in the Upper Peninsula to celebrate having attained membership goal and the fact that they were the first region in the state to do so.

Saginaw Valley, the second region to reach its 1972 membership goal, will hold its Victory Party at the Monitor Township Hall, Bay City, on March 23. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. followed by the auction where only "Bogus Bucks" can be used.

At the decision of the Board of Directors of the majority of the counties involved, a regional party will not be held in the Southwest and Westcentral Regions this year.

## REFLECTIONS ON DDT

By Carlton B. Lees, Executive  
Director, Massachusetts  
Horticultural Society

It is nearly ten years since Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* startled us all into a new awareness of relationships between the natural world and pesticides. Conservationists, environmentalists, ecologists, and biologists existed long before *Silent Spring* but the book brought the environment into dramatic focus, and without doubt was a very real and influential force in launching the environmental ecological movement as we have witnessed it in very recent years.

The chief target of *Silent Spring* was DDT and its effects upon wildlife and upon people. DDT became a symbol and served as the rallying issue. In some ways DDT still has not lost its position as titular head of all that is considered detrimental. But time brings cooler heads than those of the Carson era, and the time for banner carriers and slogan shouters is passing. The judgment of responsible professionals is beginning to be heard, and we all are becoming increasingly aware of the complexity of the natural world and our relationship to it. Although the problems are alarming and, indeed, very real, we hopefully are arriving at the point of knowing that we cannot solve these problems by rash acts.

Cries for outright banning of DDT and other materials are evolving instead into programs of restriction and regulation. Our national philosophy is becoming one of weighing each material's hazards against its benefits. And that is as it should be. On a worldwide basis, for example, DDT must remain available for malaria control; not to use it as a valuable tool in this case would be less than human. While several states have banned the use of DDT it is interesting to note that Sweden, which also did so, has found it necessary to make an exception to the ban in order to control certain forest problems.

In a paper which he presented before the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in November, Norman E. Borlaug, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, predicted that if pesticides were banned in the United States crop losses would soar 50 percent and food prices would increase four or fivefold. Dr. Borlaug, who has worked as a forest ecologist and is director of a wheat improvement center in Mexico, went on to state: "The safety record of DDT is truly remarkable. . . . The only confirmed cases of injury have been the result of massive accidental or suicidal swallowing of DDT. There is no evidence in man that DDT is causing cancer or genetic change."

Dr. John A. Naegele of the Suburban Experiment Station of the University of Massachusetts at Waltham points out that our society exists today because of high productivity of a few grain plants: corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye. These are the basis of our existence. Within the next 30 years there will be twice as many people on earth as there are today. It is obvious that, if there are to be undisturbed mountains, lakes, prairies, and other open spaces for humans to enjoy, and enough land to house this population, the portion of the landscape which produces food must be used as efficiently as possible. According to the Associated Press, Dr. Borlaug "assailed 'extreme environmentalists who discredit science

## National Legislative Notes

by Al Almy

On December 8, 1971, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a Strategic Reserve Bill (H.R. 1163) by a narrow 182 to 170 vote.

H.R. 1163 provided for a government strategic reserve of 300 million bushels of wheat and 25 million tons of feed grains. It also provided for release of the reserves by the government at a price of 120% of the average price farmers received in the U.S. during the preceding five marketing years and for a 25% increase in the loan level of 1971-72 wheat and feed grain crops.

During Senate hearings on H.R. 1163, an Agriculture Subcommittee attached a Senate Joint Resolution (S.J.R. 172) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to reinstate acreage allotments for wheat and feed grains beginning with the 1972 crops.

Farm Bureau policy opposes government strategic reserves for several reasons: Strategic reserves are not necessary to protect the

public interest; acquisition and storage of the reserves would be costly to taxpayers; farmers would be subject to depressed market prices as a result of huge reserves hanging over the open market; unrealistic support would encourage over-production, thus further burdening the market system; the current farm program would be rendered ineffective.

On January 26 the full Senate Agriculture Committee rejected the Strategic Reserve Bill by a vote of 10 to 4. However, it is expected that further attempts will be made to report a revised version of S.J.R. 172.

### National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971

The National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971 has been introduced by 86 members of the House and 15 Senators. Generally known as the Sisk Bill, (H.R. 7597 and S. 1775) this legislation would establish a mutual obligation of a handler

and a qualified producers' association to meet at reasonable times and negotiate in good faith with respect to the production and sale of commodities under contract. The bills have been referred to the House and Senate Agricultural Committees. Public hearings and executive sessions on H.R. 7597 have been held by the House Agriculture Subcommittees on Domestic Marketing and Consumer Relations. Public hearings were completed November 23 on S. 1775 by a Senate Agriculture Subcommittee.

### Government Reorganization

Shortly after the 1971 session of the 92nd Congress began, plans were announced to reorganize the Executive Branch of government. As proposed, the USDA would have been abolished as a separate cabinet-level department along with the Secretary of Agriculture as a cabinet-level spokesman. USDA functions were to be divided among four new cabinet-level departments.

President Nixon announced last November that the USDA would not be abolished but would be retained as a cabinet-level department. However, some present

USDA functions would be transferred to new departments that would be created under the reorganization plan.

The Rural Electrification Administration and Farmers Home Administration grants and loans for water and waste disposal and rural housing would be transferred to a new Department of Community Development.

Human resources research of the Economic Research Service, human nutrition and consumer research programs of the Agricultural Research Service, the Food and Nutrition Service, and meat, poultry and egg inspection would be transferred to a new Department of Human Resources.

The Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, soil and water conservation division of ARS, natural resources economics division of ERS, and FHA watershed loans would be incorporated into a new Department of Natural Resources.

All other programs, such as the Cooperative Extension Service, ASCS, Foreign Agricultural Service, and others, would remain within USDA. The reorganization proposal is in the House Government Operations Committee.

and advocate a back to nature movement.' Such a policy, Borlaug said, is 'myopic and disastrous'."

Of comparatively recent discovery is a group of chemicals known as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) or plasticizers which are found in plastics, rubber tires, paving material, printers' inks, waterproofings, and carbon papers. From a chemical analyst's point of view this group of chemicals and DDT, a specific chemical, are difficult to separate. Dr. Robert M. Fitch, associate professor of polymer chemistry at the University of Connecticut, states: "Until recently, analytical methods (for residues) were not specific for DDT but rather for polychlorinated aromatic compounds as a class." This means, then, that residues in fatty tissues of birds and animals which have been attributed to DDT in the past may possibly have been from plasticizers. When plasticizers were consumed by hens the results — unhatchability of eggs — were the same as those attributed to DDT in wild birds. Try to visualize the plasticizers, left on highways by the incessant wear of tires, that are carried into swamps, ponds, and streams.

The current emphasis on recycling overlooks the fact that when we recycle desirable materials there may be undesirable components which are carried along and may be intensified. It is one thing to recycle paper itself but when one considers the plasticizer-containing inks one can immediately recognize the complexity of the problem. Some food products packaged in recycled paper have been contaminated by plasticizers which, somehow, are transferred from the container to the food product.

All this is not to say that DDT is necessarily blameless or that we know the long term effects of any of these materials. Control and restriction are needed. But outright bans may prove to be unwise. Dr. Frederick J. Stare, professor of nutrition and chairman of the department of nutrition, School of Public Health, Harvard University, has said: "There are no safe things, but rather safe ways of using what we have."

(Reprinted from HORTICULTURE, January, 1972, by special permission of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society)

# Open Line

meeting  
march 10  
9:30 am - 3:30 pm  
lansing  
civic center

Farm Market and Supply Discussion For Presidents,  
Boards, Leaders of Supply and Membership Co-ops



REGISTER HERE OR WITH YOUR CO-OP ORGANIZATION.

Mail to: Farm Bureau Services, Marketing Services Dept., P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Mich. 48904

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Co-op \_\_\_\_\_

**Farm  
Bureau**

## "Open Line" Meeting

A single, statewide "Open Line" meeting, replacing previous regional conferences, with "One-Stop Opportunity" as its farm-oriented theme will be held Friday, March 10, in Lansing's Civic Center.

Sponsored by Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, the meeting will attract hundreds of Michigan agricultural leaders for an informative, detailed discussion of 1972 farm supply and marketing developments, according to Donald R. Armstrong, executive vice president of both organizations.

Elton R. Smith, president of Farm Bureau Services, and Carl Heisler, president of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, will head an outstanding list of speakers discussing current farm market problems, price and wage freezes, volume incentive purchasing benefits, farm supply outlooks, and management developments.

The "One-Stop Opportunity" program will be designed to provide the latest, helpful informa-



A STATEWIDE OPEN LINE MEETING will be held March 10 at the Lansing Civic Center. Don Armstrong, executive vice president of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Co-op is pictured here at the last Open Line Meeting held in Clare.

tion. An invitation to attend is extended to young farmers, Farm Bureau leaders, farm cooperative officials, FBS and FPC branch personnel, and other agri-business leaders. The open discussion periods allow for interchange of ideas, opinions, and proposals for improvements of Michigan farm market opportunities.

"Although previous regional Open Line discussion meetings have proven highly successful, the 1972 plan for a single, statewide meeting offers greater opportunities to collectively discuss

and review up-to-date farm supply market situations with experts in every facet of farming operations at hand," declares Armstrong. "We fully expect the March 10 conference to be one of the most important for all Michigan agri-business representatives to be held during 1972."

The program will open at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee and the idea-packed session will conclude at 3:30 p.m. A complimentary luncheon will be served to participants.

## President's Conference

Fifty-two county Farm Bureau presidents attended the 1972 Presidents' Conference on February 10-11 in Lansing.

Keynote speaker was William J. Kuhfuss, president of American Farm Bureau Federation.

In his remarks, Kuhfuss stressed that being a leader in Farm Bureau at any level, county president or national president, carries with it a great deal of responsibility.

"The prestige of the Farm Bureau organization is at an all time high," said Kuhfuss. This has been demonstrated by the fact that he had been invited by President Nixon to meet with him five times in the past 14 months.

According to Kuhfuss, one out of every four acres of American agriculture production is exported. This means that to a great extent, agriculture is dependent on foreign trade. The recent dock strike, the longest in the history of our nation, has had dramatic effect detrimental to agriculture.

The low prices for corn and other grains in the fall of 1971 can be traced directly to the dock strike. The entire American economy is suffering from this tie-up in the shipping industry.

County Presidents were urged by Mr. Kuhfuss to write letters to congressmen asking for permanent legislation curbing nationwide dock strikes. He also urged them to see that all Farm Bureau members took similar action.

President Elton Smith also addressed the county leaders. He complimented the Presidents for the success to date in the membership campaign. He urged them to review programs at the county level, for this is where the strength of Farm Bureau lies.

President Smith indicated that a county must have goals. It must have projects which will be of benefit to farmers in the county. The responsibility for planning these projects rests with the county Farm Bureau president. The county president must see that members are involved in committee work and activity of importance within the Farm Bureau organization.

## HOLIDAY CAMP

Farm Bureau Women of Districts One and Two have announced their plans for a Holiday Camp to be on April 5 and 6 at Wesley Woods, Dowling, Michigan. All Farm Bureau women are invited to attend this two-day meeting both for information and education, and also for socialibility.

The cost of \$8.00 per person includes one overnight lodging, four meals, instruction, entertainment, and registration. Those who can attend only one day's meeting may purchase individual meals. Those staying overnight are requested to bring their own bedding, towels, soap, etc. Dress will be informal.

Reservations should be made in advance by completing the reservation blank on this page and returning it to Women's Department, Michigan Farm Bureau, P. O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904 not later than March 20.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The meeting will commence at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 5 after attendants have registered and been served coffee and rolls. The Wednesday forenoon program will include "Women's Activities in Farm Bureau" by Helen Atwood, coordinator of women activities, Michigan Farm Bureau and "Knowledge thru Immersion?" Kenneth Wiles from Michigan Farm Bureau.

Wednesday afternoon's program will feature Gary Parlin of Sturgis discussing "Overview of Economics and Government" and Mrs. Mildred Wendzel, a member of the Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan. Instruction in various crafts will be given on Wednesday afternoon.

Following dinner, a Vesper Service will be conducted by Mrs. Mary Jane Swartz. A "tasting" party with refreshments and exchange of recipes will conclude the evening program.

Thursday morning Trooper Smith from the Battle Creek State Police Post will discuss "Drugs." Also part of this Thursday morning program will be a review of Legislative Activities by Eugene Greenawalt, regional representative, Michigan Farm Bureau.

The Thursday afternoon speaker will be Helen Pelton of St. Joseph speaking on "Leader Dogs and the Blind."

# Dependable Eptam stops weeds in dry beans

Selective Herbicide

Other bean weed killers, new or old, can't compare with Eptam herbicide for sure control of nightshade, nutgrass, pigweed and most other major grass and broadleaf weeds. And Eptam is economical, too. Boost your yields of clean stain-free dry beans with dependable, low-cost Eptam. See us now.



Where Your Farm Comes First

**Farm Bureau**  
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC

Reservation for Holiday Camp  
at Wesley Wood, Dowling, Michigan  
April 5-6, 1972

Name .....

Address .....

The following ladies will accompany me: .....

Approximate time of arrival: .....

Approximate time of departure: .....

Reservations due in MFB Office, Lansing, not later than March 20.

# Regional Legislative Seminars... MOST SUCCESSFUL!



REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT D. YOUNG (R-Saginaw), (r), of the 84th District, talks to constituents during the luncheon at a recent Legislative Seminar for Farm Bureau members.



Representative Alex Pilch (D-Dearborn), (standing), at a Regional Legislative Seminar. Pilch is chairman of a special seven-member committee of Representatives appointed to study livestock feedlots and to make recommendations for regulating feedlots to protect environmental quality. Seated is Edward Darnell, assistant to Senator Coleman A. Young (D-Detroit), who attended the seminar on behalf of the Senator.



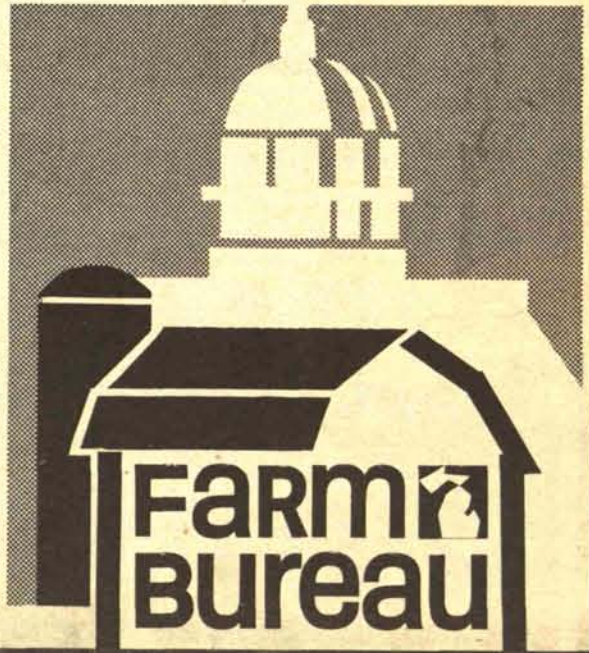
REPRESENTATIVE ROY L. SPENCER (R-Attica), (r), listens as Farm Bureau members from the 78th District express their views during the Thumb Region's Legislative Seminar.



REPRESENTATIVE DALE WARNER (R-Eaton Rapids), (l), representing the 56th District, converses with an interested Farm Bureau member during the Central Region's Legislative Seminar.

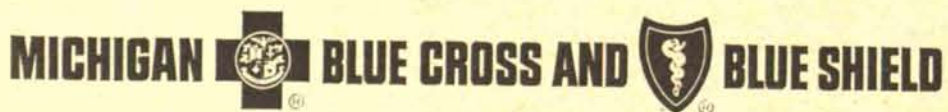


FARM BUREAU MEMBERS from the 102nd District greet Representative George N. Prescott (R-Tawas City), (r), with friendly smiles at a Legislative Seminar.



# In Michigan Farm Bureau members are the fourth largest Blue Cross-Blue Shield group JOIN THE CROWD

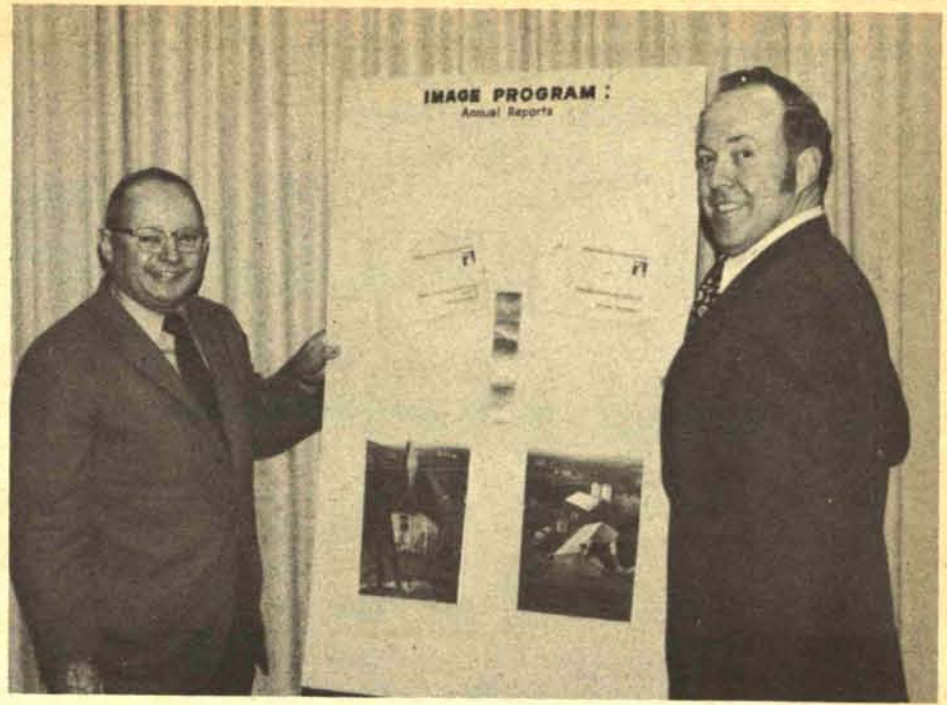
The deadline for enrolling is March 15. Effective date May 20.







MFB YOUNG FARMERS attended the national Leaders Conference in Indiana (seated L to R) Diane Spero, Polly Diehl, Bill Spike, chairman, MFB Young Farmers Committee; Maryann Carlson and Rosemary Dosson, (standing L to R) John Spero, Darryl Dosson, Bill Randall, David Cook, MFB Young Farmers Program director; Steve Carlson and Gill Van Wagonor.



ELTON SMITH, MFB president (L) and Don Armstrong, executive vice president of FBS and FPC, hold a display of FBS and FPC material that received the first place award for 1972 from the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.



AFBF PRESIDENT KUHFUSS makes a point during his speech at the 1972 Presidents' Conference.

## "Making It Happen," STATEWIDE



ROBERT BRADEN, administrative director, Michigan Farm Bureau, addresses county Farm Bureau secretaries at the recent Blue Cross-Blue Shield Seminar. Others shown who spoke to the secretaries are (L to R) B. J. McCarthy, president, Michigan Blue Cross; William S. McNary, consultant, (immediate past president, Michigan Blue Cross); and John McCabe, president, Michigan Blue Shield.



EVERY COUNTY PRESIDENT with membership goal was pinned with a "Smile Button." Being pinned by Susie Raff, MFB Field Operations Division, is Ray Rasner of Menominee County.



SHOWN TOURING the Blue Cross-Blue Shield office building in Detroit are (L to R) Dorothy Routson, Shiawassee County; Ellen Peppel, Bay County; Della Johnson, Osceola County; and Lennie Luther, Benzie and Wexford Counties. These county Farm Bureau secretaries were among the group of 52 secretaries who recently attended a Blue Cross-Blue Shield Seminar.



County presidents from fifty-two counties were on hand for the statewide Presidents' meeting.



SAGINAW COUNTY membership co-chairmen, (L to R) Harvey Gosen and Richard Leach, Jr., whoop it up at the county membership victory party.

# Talk to the Power People they have the seven additives you asked for.

Like all fuel companies, the Power People at Farmers Petroleum fell in love with their additives. The gasoline has HPA for extra kick. The diesel fuel has HPAD for extra pulling power.

You told Farmers Petroleum you wanted more than just High Performance fuels, so they added 7 more additives: service, quality, price, information, emergency deliveries, complete product line and budget pay plans. Talk to the Power People. They listen. They hustle.

Where Your Farm Comes First

**Farm**  
**Bureau**  
FARMERS PETROLEUM



## AWARD FOR SMITH

Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, was presented with the Michigan Association of Soil Conservation Districts Distinguished Service Award at their annual banquet held in Grand Rapids on January 28, 1972.

In presenting the award, Harold Webster, chairman of the awards committee stated, "Your interest and support of soil and water conservation programs is well known. You are recognized in your community as a true steward of the soil since you maintain an outstanding conservation plan on the land in your care."

"During your term as president, the Michigan Farm Bureau has

provided effective support to Michigan Soil Conservation Districts. Your support on behalf of the district Aide Program are especially appreciated. An excellent, corporative working relationship between our organizations has developed, allowing us to deal more effectively with common issues.

"It is a distinct honor to present this award for your continuing efforts on behalf of soil and water conservation."

The conservation group named Robert Moore of Elsie, Michigan, the "1972 Michigan Watershed Man-of-the-Year," for his outstanding accomplishments and dedicated service to conservation.

## Pollution Case Decided

by Al Almy

Agriculture won an important decision in the Circuit Court of Clinton County on February 14, 1972. The decision followed a three-day trial last October 13-14-15 involving alleged odors from a typical swine enterprise operated by a Grand Ledge producer.

Seven neighbors were asking the Court to award them \$10,000 damages under the common nuisance law and for an injunction against the producer under both the common nuisance law and Michigan's new Environmental Protection Act.

The outcome of this case is considered vital to the livestock industry of Michigan. This was the first time agriculture was faced with legal action by citizens using the Environmental Protec-

tion Act. The outcome of this case will help influence future cases against agriculture under the new law.

In reaching its opinion as to the nuisance charges, the Court recognized that the area involved was zoned agricultural and is a farming area. Farmers must adopt new methods of operation to keep operating costs in line with income from the sale of their products. The swine enterprise carried on by the producer was considered to be typical of modern commercial swine production. The swine building is properly drained and there is no rodent or insect infestation of surrounding property.

The Court was of the opinion that the producer conducted his swine operation in an acceptable

manner and was not negligent in its management. It was considered impractical to expect that the raising of swine in substantial numbers could be done in an odorless manner. The Michigan Department of Public Health was unable to substantiate complaints of odors.

The preponderance of evidence did not indicate the alleged odors caused a decline in the value of property owned by plaintiffs or that any health hazard was created. It was noted that the producer uses a successful chemical control program that, when properly used, substantially reduces the odors emitted from his swine operation.

The Court did not deny the right of citizens to seek injunctive relief and damages against livestock odors. It was recognized that odors from animal wastes are natural odors in an agricultural area. If the animal wastes are handled and disposed of in accordance with good farming practices then such odors could well be considered the result of normal farm operations and not a nuisance.

The court concluded that so long as the producer continues his operation carefully and with good management practices and uses such odor control products or devices as are made available, the balance of equities is in favor of the producer and he is not maintaining a nuisance.

In ruling on the Environmental Protection Act, the court strongly agreed that it does not exclude agricultural pursuits. However, the Act is interpreted to provide that some balance has to be maintained between absolutely no pollution and the carrying on of activities necessary to human existence. The raising of livestock to provide meat for human consumption is a lawful and necessary occupation that will result in the production of animal waste and odor.

Michigan's Air Pollution Control Act clearly includes livestock odors within the legal definition of air pollution. However, in this case the Court ruled that the odors would not be of such magnitude as to constitute air pollution.

Legal counsel for the producers argued that the Environmental Protection Act is unconstitutional as applied to the raising of livestock because it delegates legislative authority and responsibility to the court.

The court recognized that the legislature can delegate powers in accordance with guidelines established by the legislature itself. But in this case, the court would be required to determine that standards relating to the raising and maintaining of livestock are deficient because none exist. As a result, the court is being asked to create standards, direct their adoption and provide enforcement of standards. The court regarded this as making law and thus an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power as far as the raising of livestock is concerned.

In summary, the court decided this particular case strongly in favor of agriculture. However, Circuit Court decisions are not binding on other Circuit Courts and similar cases against agriculture should not expect such favorable ruling. It is imperative that producers do not relax their efforts to conduct their operations in a way that will minimize odors and prevent other types of agricultural pollution. Court litigation is an expensive, worrisome and uncertain approach to resolve environmental issues. The best way is to avoid such legal entanglements by good, conscientious farming practice.

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## WOMEN District Spring Meetings

Michigan Farm Bureau Women have scheduled their District Spring Meetings.

**District 6**—March 29, coffee hour at 9:30—meeting to start at 10 a.m.—Marlette Presbyterian Church. Luncheon reservations to Mrs. Margaret Boyd, Marlette, by March 20. In the morning Mr. Ed Morey will speak on "Rules of the Game—An Insight into Communist Conspiracy" and Wayne Ward and Bob Lutz will discuss the Young Farmers Program. In the afternoon Mr. Hanson, feature editor of the Saginaw News, will speak.

**District 3**—April 4, coffee hour at 9:30—meeting will commence at 10 a.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, Fowlerville. Luncheon will be served for \$1.75—reservations are due March 28 to Mrs. Ralph Peckens, 2854 Chase Lake Road, Howell 48843. Morning speaker will be Mr. Al Almy speaking on "The Importance of Getting Active in Politics." In the afternoon Mrs. Claudine Jackson will tell of her trip to the ACWW Triennial and Mrs. J. A. Needham will show and speak about her collection of paper weights.

**District 5**—April 11, place of meeting has not been confirmed. Morning speaker will be Mr. Ed Morey speaking on "Rules of the Game—An Insight into Communist Conspiracy." In the afternoon a representative of the American Dairy Association will present a dairy demonstration.

**District 9**—April 12, coffee hour at 9:30. Meeting will start at 10 a.m. at the Lutheran Church, Onokama. Luncheon, \$1.75. Reservations to Mrs. Ray Anderson, Chief 49624. During the morning session Mr. Robert Smith will discuss "Property Tax Reform—Now or Never." A representative of the American Dairy Association will present a dairy demonstration in the afternoon.

**District 4**—April 13, Ionia County Ladies will host at a place to be determined. Speakers will be Mr. Robert Smith speaking on "Property Tax Reform—Now or Never." and a representative from the American Dairy Association.

**District 10 East**—April 18, place to be announced at a later date. Speakers will include Mr. M. J. Buschlen, operations manager, Michigan Agricultural Services Association, speaking on "Farm Labor and Safety Management."

**District 10 West**—April 19, place to be announced at a later date. Speakers will include Mr. Ed Morey speaking on "Rules of the Game—An Insight into Communist Conspiracy."

**District 8**—April 20, coffee hour at 9:30. Meeting will commence at 10 a.m. at Roditchers Restaurant in Freeland. Luncheon, \$3.00. Reservations to Mrs. Robert Squanda, 5525 Indian-town Road, Saginaw 48601 by April 13. Mr. Robert Smith will discuss "Property Tax Reform—Now or Never" during the morning session and a style show will be presented in the afternoon.

**District 2**—April 25, coffee hour at 9:30. Meeting will start at 10 a.m. in the B. E. Henry Building, Marshall. Luncheon, \$2.00. Reservations to be made by April 19. Morning program will include Mr. Al Almy speaking on "Nation's Number One Ecologist." A travel log program is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon session.

**District 7**—April 26, place to be announced at a later date. Speakers will include Al Almy's discussion "The Importance of Getting Active in Politics."

**District 1**—April 27, General subjects to be discussed at this meeting will deal with "Marketing." Place and speakers will be announced at a later date.

**District 11**—East and West will hold their Spring Meetings on June 6 and 7 respectively. Places and speakers will be announced at a later date.

## Young Farmers At National Meet

Ten Michigan Young Farmers were among the 300 conferees from 35 states who attended the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Leaders Conference at Clarks-ville, Indiana.

The purpose of the Young Farmers and Ranchers program, which is carried on in forty states, is to provide opportunity for leadership education and participation in Farm Bureau. Through this program, young members are given leadership responsibilities and are encouraged to contribute their abilities to the total Farm Bureau program.

The Indiana conference, coordinated by the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee, held workshop sessions on Farm Organization Structures and Philosophy, Achievement Motivation, Farm Labor—Everyone's Concern, Effective Political Education and Action, Being Effective Legislatively, and Discussion Techniques and Conference Planning.

Michigan's representatives were Bill Spike, Chairman of the MFB Young Farmers Committee; and state committee members Mr. and Mrs. Steve Carlson; Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Dossan; Mr. and Mrs. John Spero; Bill Randall and Gill Van Wagoner. Also attending were Mrs. David Diehl, wife of a National Committee member; Dave Cook, director of MFB Young Farmers Programs; and M. J. Buschlen, operations manager of MASA, who conducted one of the sessions.

According to a custom, states provide table favors. Michigan presented each conferee with a white pine seedling, the State tree.

## Scholarship Available

The Marge Karker-Farm Bureau Scholarship is available to a student or students for the 1972-1973 academic year at Michigan State University after three terms at college or one year in an Agricultural Technical Course.

The scholarship was named to honor Mrs. Marjorie Karker, who was the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Coordinator at the time MFB Women initiated the program in 1945 and until 1964. Mrs. Karker is now affiliated with the Florida Farm Bureau.

Applicants must be from a Farm Bureau family; should have a scholastic average as indicated by MSU Scholarship Office of at least 2.6; and must be prepared to show financial need.

Additionally, students applying must also be enrolled at MSU in any of the following areas of education: Field of agriculture or related fields of food science, food marketing, leadership training in agriculture, journalism as related to agriculture, food packaging, horticulture, agricultural technical course, veterinary medicine, field of human medicine (including premedical, nursing, medical technology), or field of teaching (vocational agriculture and human ecology).

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Scholarship Committee will review all applications the latter part of March and personally interview students to determine the one or more students to whom they will present the gift scholarship.

Applications may be obtained by writing the Women's Department, Michigan Farm Bureau, P. O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Completed applications must be returned not later than March 20, 1972.

## AFBF STAFF PROMOTIONS



BILL EASTMAN

Norwood D. "Bill" Eastman, director of training programs for the American Farm Bureau Federation, has been named director of the field services division for the AFBF, William J. Kuhfuss, Federation president, announced.

Eastman succeeds Warren Newberry who resigned January 31 to become executive director for the Texas Farm Bureau.

Eastman joined the AFBF staff in July, 1959, as field service director for the midwest region, after serving as secretary-manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau. His service at the Michigan Farm Bureau started in August, 1950, where he served successively as director of the junior Farm Bureau program, organization director, manager of member service division and secretary-manager in 1958. He served as area field services director for the AFBF from 1959 until 1968 when he was named director of training programs.

A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, Eastman has a master of arts degree from the University of Michigan. Following graduation from Eastern Michigan University, Eastman taught at Cass City, Michigan, High School. In the fall of 1945, he moved to the staff at Eastern Michigan University.

Eastman was born and reared on a farm in the thumb area of Michigan. His parents operate a farm near Cass City.

He now resides in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, a western suburb of Chicago.

## Commodity Advisory Committees Appointed

President Elton R. Smith has appointed Michigan Farm Bureau's commodity advisory committees for 1972. In his letters of appointment, the president explained to appointees that they had been chosen from the list of nominees submitted to him by the county Farm Bureaus in the appointee's district.

There are six commodity advisory committees of the Michigan Farm Bureau: Dairy, Field Crops, Fruit, Livestock, Poultry and Vegetable. In order to serve on a Farm Bureau commodity advisory committee, a person must be a commercial producer of that commodity and a Farm Bureau member.

The purposes and objectives of the Michigan Farm Bureau commodity advisory committees are:

1. To advise the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors on matters in the area of production, marketing, transportation and utilization of specific agricultural commodities.



JERRY CORDREY

Jerry Cordrey, a member of the staff of the American Farm Bureau Federation since 1959, has been named training director of the AFBF.

Cordrey succeeds Norwood Eastman who was recently appointed director of the field services division.

In his new position, Cordrey will coordinate the planning and conducting of various management, staff and other volunteer training programs of the Federation's program development division.

Cordrey has been serving as assistant director of the program development division in the area of citizenship education, and leadership training. In 1965 he was assigned the major responsibility for the local affairs program in the division.

Prior to joining the Federation staff, Cordrey worked on the staff of the Michigan Farm Bureau in membership acquisition. He first started work for the Michigan Farm Bureau in September, 1951. Born on a farm in Hillsdale County, Michigan, Cordrey was graduated in 1951 from Hillsdale College.

During his high school and college years, he helped his father operate a 160-acre general farm. He served two years in the Navy (1946-48) following graduation from high school.

Cordrey is chairman of the planning committee of the Round Table of National Organizations for Better Schools, an affiliation of organizations that have an interest in education. He was selected by the Wheaton, Illinois, Junior Chamber of Commerce for the Outstanding Citizens Award in 1966 and in 1967 was selected for recognition in the book, "Outstanding Civic Leaders of America."

Mr. Cordrey and his wife, Eve, have four children. They reside in McHenry, Illinois.

2. To represent and permit greater service by the Michigan Farm Bureau to those members who are vitally interested in the production and marketing of agricultural commodities.

3. To develop a closer working relationship with existing commodity organizations through improved coordination of effort.

4. To suggest and encourage commodity research by the Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State University, government agencies, and others.

5. To consider county Farm Bureau resolutions that concern the commodity industries and, in turn, make recommendations to the Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee.

6. To outline programs for the Commodity Conferences at the annual meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau.

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## Blue Cross-Blue Shield Seminar

County Farm Bureau Secretaries from across the state attended a two-day Blue Cross-Blue Shield seminar in Detroit during the first part of February.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring the secretaries up to date on procedures to be followed during the annual reopening period—March 1-15, 1972—and to acquaint them first hand with changes in handling subscribers' inquiries.

Attending the conference were Carolyn Bouman, Allegan County; Dorothy Conant, Antrim County; Helen Brown, Branch County; Julie Bowen, Cass County; Jean Armentrout, Clare County; Norma Sanders, Eaton County; Muriel Vaurink, Emmet County; and Ella Vallender, Gladwin County.

Included in the 57 county Farm Bureau Secretaries and their assistants gaining first hand knowledge to better serve Farm Bureau

members were Jan Nietzke, Isabella County; Beatrice Leeke, Jackson County; Gwynth Hayward, Kalkaska County; Lucille Donner, Northwest Michigan; Norma Chamberlin, Oakland County; Barbara Fleming, Otsego County; Sue Terpstra, Ottawa County; and Martha Harker, St. Joseph County.

Doris Cordes, Alcona County; Lois Stange, Arenac County; Ellen Peppel, Bay County; Gertrude Rocheleau, Cheboygan County; Doris Walkling and Diane Johnson, Genesee County; Harriet Thomas, Hillsdale County; Agnes Schrepfer and Kathy Macklenburg, Livingston County; and Esther Flatt, Mac-Luce were also among the secretaries who met with the "Blues" personnel.

Also now better understanding their problems concerning Blue Cross-Blue Shield are Pearl Englebrecht, Macomb County; Audrey Quisenberry, Montcalm County; Dorothy Routson, Shiawassee

County; Evelyn Curry and Pat McNellis, Wayne County; Donna Morse, Calhoun County; Marilyn Knight and Dorothy Flak, Clinton County; Leona Vance, Gratiot County; Barbara Bouck, Huron County; Irma Covert, Ionia County; and Leona Harriman, Kent County.

Departing the two-day attitude adjustment and participation meeting with renewed insight, in addition to those previously mentioned, were Alice Abbott, Lapeer County; Bonnie Burkett, Missaukee County; Della Johnson, Osceola County; Hattie Lockhart, Chippewa County; Jean Scutt, Ingham County; Rita Williams, Kalamazoo County; Alice Collins and Elaine Marquis, Lenawee County; Betty Bliss and Pam Montri, Monroe County; Doris Girard, Saginaw County; Loretta Kirkpatrick, Tuscola County; Mary Dick, Van Buren County; Helen Shantz and Irene Mehler, Washtenaw County; and Barbara Cotey, Hiawathaland.

Michigan Farm Bureau employees attending the seminar included Marlie Drew, Virginia Almy, Barbara Sickles and the ten Regional Representatives.

## NOTES

The fifteenth annual Gratiot County Bean Smorgasbord is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 1972 at the Hamilton Commons on the Alma College Campus.

Dinner will be served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. followed by a program in the Dów Auditorium at 8:00 p.m.

A special part of the evening's program will be the crowning of the Gratiot County Bean Queen.

The special dinner features ham with a variety of bean dishes as the main course topped off by the bean dessert table with an array of cakes, sweet rolls, doughnuts, cookies and candies all made with bean puree.

Tickets are available at the Gratiot County Farm Bureau office or at the door.

### FARMERS' WEEK — MARCH 20-24

A new addition to Farmers' Week is MSU Farm Business Management Day, on Thursday, March 23.

Beginning at 10 a.m. in the Kellogg Center Auditorium, agricultural economists, farm management specialists and experts in resource development will tackle such issues as financing future farm operations, trends in farm management and the future of the farm input supply business. The afternoon program will deal with how much debt a farmer can carry, the impact of reduced property taxes, and making more money in 1972.

The annual Farm Management Banquet, honoring outstanding Michigan farmers, will cap the day-long conference.

John A. Hannah, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development and past president of MSU, will speak at the evening banquet, which begins at 5:50 p.m.

Entertainment, presentation of Outstanding Young Farmer awards by the Michigan Jaycees, and recognition of farm managers of the year and 25 year cooperators will precede Dr. Hannah's talk.

Tickets for the banquet, which is open to the public, are \$4.75 each, and may be obtained from John C. Doneth, 27 Agricultural Hall, MSU, East Lansing, 48823.

Farm Bureau Services announced the sale of their Sandusky branch to the Snover Co-op Elevator Company effective February 1, 1972.

The combining of the two operations will greatly strengthen the operations of the Snover Co-op by eliminating the overlapping trading area and increasing the efficiency of equipment and labor. Combined sales for 1971 totaled almost \$1 million.

Snover Co-op Elevator is a stockholder-member and dealer of Farm Bureau Services. With this expanded trading area, they will continue to provide patrons of Sanilac County with Farm Bureau Services' supplies and services.

A special program designed to point out and offer possible solutions to problems facing rural Michigan will be held on Wednesday, March 22 in the MSU Engineering Building auditorium. The program titled "Rural Michigan Day" will feature items about "Rural Development; Rural Manpower Problems and Present Efforts Toward Their Solution; Meeting Rural Health Needs; and Rural Housing."

Governor William G. Milliken announced the appointment of three new members to the Michigan Bean Commission.

Receiving appointment for terms expiring December 31, 1974 are Maurice Gove, St. Johns, who succeeds Basil McKenzie of Breckenridge; Orville A. Gremel of Sebewaing, succeeding Edmund Good of Gogetown, both farmers; and Edward R. Powell, Lansing, vice president and assistant secretary of Farm Bureau Services and manager of the Michigan Elevator Exchange Division.

Powell replaces S. Stanley Sherman of Saginaw and will represent processors on the Commission. A native of Missaukee County and a graduate of MSU, Powell first joined the Michigan Elevator Exchange in 1950.

An increasing number of Michigan dairy and beef cattle producers are turning to the use of LPS (liquid protein supplement) in their feeding programs.

Already more than 3,000 tons of LPS, which is supplied in Michigan through Farm Bureau Services branches, has been delivered in the last seven months and the volume is expected to double within the next year, according to Don Shepard, Farm Bureau Services feed department manager.

Shepard reported that 25 Farm Bureau Services outlets are now prepared to serve cattle raisers and at least 12 more centers will be equipped by July 1 to deliver the highly successful feed supplement.

Labor-saving handling is one of the major advantages of LPS as well as its proven nutritional benefits for feeding both dairy and beef cattle, according to Shepard.

Approximately 80 Farm Bureau Services field personnel participated February 2 at Lansing in a special one-day seminar to explain benefits of LPS and its use in modern feed management.

The seminar program included latest information on feeding techniques by Dr. Gil Porter, research director of the Cooperative Research Farm at Syracuse, N. Y., and Dr. Donald Hillman, Michigan State University dairy specialist.

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Some people reason that Old Mother Nature is responsible, to a certain degree, for the variance in property values. The difference, they reason, in soil locations and other natural features have resulted in man placing the value different on that property he most values.

Early laws listed the kinds of property that was to be taxed. Anything not in the list was exempted. As the country grew the list of taxable property grew larger and larger, until this procedure was replaced by a "simple" policy that all property, not exempted, was taxable. From this emerged the general property tax — the concept that all property both real and personal, tangible and intangible, was taxable at a uniform rate in each taxing district, unless it was exempted.

The general property tax was the main support of state and local governments until the early part of the 20th century. As the public demand for more and more government services progressed the entire tax structure evolved into the highly complicated system we know today.

The outcome of this evolution is that the property tax has been reduced from its original design as a levy on the concept of wealth to one imposed mainly on the several parcels of real property in a given tax district.

Dependence on the property tax, coupled with the high degree of geographic fragmentation of government, causes problems in land utilization.

The Governor's Special Commission on Land Use recognized this when they submitted their report and two of their recommendations deal with property taxes. The recommendations read:

6. *"It is recommended that our present property tax law be modified to reflect use-value assessment rather than potential value assessment."*

"An important factor in plan implementation for open space preservation and desirable urban growth is the taxing and assessment policy of the governmental unit. As the urban fringe moves outward, one of the major pressures upon owners of open land is the increased tax burden caused by assessments which reflect the potential market value of the land if developed. Higher assessment valuations simply force open land to be developed — land which both the owner and the land use planner might have preferred to keep open. The disappearance of many rich, unique environmental, recreational, scenic and agricultural areas adjacent to growing urban areas can be attributed directly to these factors.

"The use-value form of property tax assessment will be necessary to the successful implementation of the open space district proposal.

"Use-value assessment laws provide that those lands which are actually used for agricultural and open space purposes, and such other lands as qualify under the specific terms of the law, should be assessed for property taxation purposes on the basis of their values of agriculture, recreational and open space uses. Other potential highest and best uses are to be ignored by the assessment officer. The criterion in assessment valuation is the value of the land in its present use, rather than in possible alternative uses. The use of nearby tracts of land for other purposes, and the potential for shifts to other uses which buyers would consider in market transactions should not be considered the determination of assessed values.

7. *"It is recommended that there be a shift from local property taxes as the major source of local government revenue."*

"The implementation of use-value assessment will reduce the pressure on open-space land, but as long as local units of government are dependent on local property taxes for revenue, urban sprawl will continue to exist. The pressure for an increased tax base, and thus competition for the more productive land use categories, lead to land use changes which are not necessarily consistent with good planning. In an effort to increase property tax revenue, many units of government seek to obtain high-tax-yield commercial and industrial land uses, even where open space uses may be fully recognizable as more appropriate to the characteristics of land, and to the needs of the larger association of communities or the state as a whole.

"The requirement of a comprehensive land use plan with state approval could ultimately alleviate these problems, but successful application of this process will depend on tax reform. Provision for local financial support from revenue sources other than the property tax will reduce the competitive pressures dictating many land uses, facilitating the implementation of state and local land use policies.

# TAX REFORM

by **KEN WILES**

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Specific provisions of the legislation to implement this recommendation must also protect against the use of low property taxes as a catalyst to land speculation."

For some years Farm Bureau has consistently supported total tax reform. While much has been accomplished and the elements of balanced tax structure are now available, the feeling prevails that meaningful and lasting reform can now come only through a basic constitutional change.

The property tax burden continues upward and the situation is becoming more serious every year as farmers are finding it more and more difficult to meet the tax bill. Continued voter rejection of proposals for additional taxes emphasizes the need for property tax reform and new approaches to school finances.

A great deal of lip service, but little action has been given by state legislators regarding tax reform. It appears, in some respects, they feel voters must be spoon fed and that they are not intelligent enough to decide for themselves the type of tax reform they want.

In order to provide a sound basis for long range and meaningful tax reform it now appears that in lieu of legislative action, what is needed is people action. The people of this state must exercise their inherent powers and amend the Michigan Constitution.

Tax reform is a complex and a continuing process. Farm Bureau members, through their delegates at the last annual meeting, pledged themselves to supporting constitutional limits on the property tax. They also expressed the belief that to achieve greater equity of taxation it is necessary to:

- Find new sources of revenue for local units of government in order to relieve property taxes.
- Improve assessment and equalization procedures.
- Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built.
- Find new methods of financing school systems, with strict limitations on property taxes for educational purposes.
- Use the income tax as the major source of funds to finance schools.
- Assess agricultural land as farmland as long as it is so used instead of on its possible potential value.
- Prevent 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.

## COURT CASE

The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to take jurisdiction of a suit filed by Governor Milliken and Attorney General Kelly challenging the constitutionality of school financing through local property taxes.

It can be expected that the court will rule that Michigan's property tax as presently used for schools is unconstitutional. This assumption is based on the fact that courts in other states, which have property tax similar to ours, have ruled in that manner.

Some wealthy school districts receive as much as \$80 for every mill that is levied in their districts. Some poorer districts receive as little as \$5 for every mill levied. Thus, according to some, our present tax system discriminates against and denies substantially equal educational opportunities to the students in Michigan's schools.

Should the court rule that the system presently used by local school districts is unconstitutional, then the Legislature could, as has been suggested

under various plans, impose a statewide property tax. This could result in higher school taxes on property outside the metropolitan areas of the state. Reasoning being that it is very unlikely that the operational funds of any school would be lowered, instead they'd all be brought up to the same level.

## PETITIONS

It is fairly obvious from reviewing previous action that little if any property tax reform can be expected to pass in the state legislature. This is, after all, an election year. The alternative, if people actually want property tax reform, is the use of the ballot to change the constitution. This would then require the Legislature to follow through with a realistic tax reform.

Governor Milliken has taken the leadership in this area and is leading a petition drive to amend the Constitution through a vote of the people in November, 1972. The Democratic Party has also announced its intention to have a separate petition drive for the same purpose.

The main difference between the two petitions is that the Democratic petition will contain provisions requiring a graduated income tax be adopted in Michigan.

The question thus boils down to two points. One, do the citizens of the state of Michigan desire property tax reform to the extent that they are willing to support both petition drives sufficiently to put proposals to a vote in November? And secondly, do the citizens of the state desire to determine for themselves whether they want a flat rate income tax or a graduated income tax?

## MICHIGAN TAX COMMISSION

The Michigan Tax Commission, which is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, is charged with many responsibilities.

Briefly the commission establishes the state equalized value of each assessing district; hears appeal from local units of government and from taxpayers; prepares assessment rolls of public utilities and approves claims for exemptions on air and water pollution, tools, dies, jigs, and fixtures.

As can be imagined, one of the major responsibilities of the commission is the proper state equalization of the value of each county within the state. This is the third step in the assessment and equalization process, which begins in each tax district with the local assessor and the Board of Review.

This responsibility is further complicated with the commission's responsibility of judging appeals. This at times becomes a difficult situation as the appeals are often the result of rules and regulations put into effect by the commission.

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 functions, has been suggested.

## LOCAL ASSESSOR

The key official in the determination of the taxable value of property is the tax assessor. Like many officials, even though he performs his duties fairly and according to rules and regulations imposed upon him his services are not appreciated.

Difference in valuation has been common, particularly where a levy has been placed on two or more tax districts, as in the case of school taxes.

The thought has been expressed that the Tax Commission should do a better job of providing local assessors with practical guidelines together with a constant updating of the Assessors' Manual. Legislation, passed in 1969, requiring training programs for local assessors was desirable in that local assessors can now acquire a uniform basic knowledge of assessment techniques. However, the policy, in some cases, of requiring the assessor to attend the training program at his own expense is questionable.

County Equalization Directors can and are assisting local assessors where specialized knowledge is required. This will help to maintain local control and help assure equitable procedures. However, the final decision should continue to remain with the local assessor.

## CONCLUSION

This article has dealt with the broad subject of tax reform and some of the persons or things which have a direct and indirect bearing on taxes. Any tax reform proposal is at best a complicated document. In the long run, it is up to the voters of this state, as it should be, to weigh the information and facts obtained from all sources at their disposal, and then decide whether property tax reform is in their best interest.

# Topic Summary

The January discussion topic was on Pollution. The following percentages reflect the answers to the questions:

- Which should have priority in fiscal policy; budget cuts to curb inflation or government spending to curb pollution?  
Budget cuts: 85% Government spending: 15%
- Should pollution be categorized as a crime in our society?  
Yes: 38% No: 62%
- To control pollution, are new laws needed or tougher enforcement of present laws?  
New Laws: 6% Enforcement: 94%
- Which is more important, the "quality" of life or the "quantity" of life?  
Quality: 94% Quantity: 6%
- Would tax incentives be sufficient for agriculture to alter production methods for pollution abatement and control?  
Yes: 25% No: 74%
- What effects will pollution controls have on future production, prices and capital investment of those engaged in agriculture? Raise prices for consumers; cut amount of farm products produced; increase amount of capital investment required; increase cost of production; put many farmers out of business; starvation.
- How can agricultural production methods be changed to prevent pollution? Can't be done; use fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, etc., wisely; control usage of animal wastes; research; organic farming; education; doesn't apply to agriculture as farmers are not major polluters.

# Discussion Exercise

At the suggestion of several Community Groups and individual members, the Discussion Topic Exercise and Report Sheet is being printed in the paper on a trial basis. If used by a Community Group, in lieu of report sheet furnished the Discussion Leader, please forward answers with minutes to 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 April 1, 1972.

## COMMUNITY FARM BUREAU Discussion Exercise and Report Sheet March, 1972

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

### TOPIC: Tax Reform

Note: Should your Community Group be composed of members from more than one tax area (different townships, school districts, counties) please indicate more than one answer to the first four questions.

- What is the total amount of mills presently levied in your school district for school purposes? .....
- How many mills, in addition to those levied for school purposes are levied by your township? ..... By your county? .....
- Do you feel that your property tax will continue upwards? ..... If yes, how much? .....
- Is the assessed valuation of your property, as shown on your tax statement, one-half of what you consider the fair value of your property? .....
- All of us enjoy some benefits from things provided by property taxes. Which one service provided by property taxes would you be willing to do without in order to lower property taxes? .....
- In your opinion, what property should be relieved, in whole or in part, of property tax? .....
- Comments: .....

# NEW MOTEL PROPOSED

A new \$4 million Hilton Motor Inn is planned for Lansing's westside in Delta township. Construction is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 1972 with completion earmarked for Spring, 1973. Co-investors in the new facility are Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan and Leisure Management Corporation.

In making the announcement, Robert Wiseman, vice president — Finance, Farm Bureau Life said, "This unique facility will, of course, be a valuable investment for our life insurance policyholders. But it will also bring convention dollars and community exposure to Lansing's westside, Grand Ledge and Delta township."

Proposed location is a nine-acre site at the southeast corner of Canal Road and Saginaw Highway (M-43), near the I-96 Interchange. The planned three-story, 150 room Motor Inn will feature an enclosed olympic-sized, four-seasons swimming pool, saunas, a specialty gourmet restaurant, lounge and banquet facilities for 500. The Hilton will cater to convention gatherings.

Farm Bureau Life is one of four companies which comprise Farm Bureau Insurance Group; others are Farm Bureau Mutual, Community Service Insurance, and Community Service Acceptance Company. Farm Bureau Insurance Group is a multiple-line firm licensed to operate in Michigan only, with 52 offices and some 380 agents.

Leisure Management Corporation, headquartered in Springfield, Missouri, is currently developing fourteen similar facilities throughout the midwest.

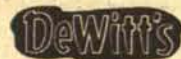
The Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliated companies moved into new headquarters last year, a three-story, T-shaped facility located just east of the planned Hilton Motor Inn site.

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# CENTENNIAL FARM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

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

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

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

# FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: 25 words for \$2.00 each edition. Additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word. NON-MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 20th of the month.

<p><b>8 FARM EQUIPMENT</b></p> <p>NEW AND USED PATZ MATERIAL handling equipment. Barn cleaners, cattle feeders, manure stackers, manure spreaders, silo unloaders, conveyors and other items. One of the best parts stock in Western Michigan. Individual parts or complete rebuilt like new ready to install — parts and units factory direct to farmers. Cow stalls and free stalls, 1/4 to 10 HP motors in stock. Booms Red &amp; White top silos at early order discount. 3 years to pay . . . 5% on unpaid balance. Wyngarden Equipment, Route # 3, Fremont, Michigan 49412. (tf-83b)</p> <p>CHAMPION CONCRETE DRAIN TILE MACHINE, 4", 5", 6" &amp; 8" attachments. R. C. Reed Mixer, Model 12750. One 3 HP and one 7 1/2 HP - AC motor Economy Engineering Elevator, 1500 lbs. capacity, 6' lift, 8 curing racks. All for \$1,600.00. Albert Jensen, Sawyer, Michigan. Phone 616-426-3132. (3-1t-45p)</p> <p>FREE BOOKLET: Wholesale Farm Filter Catalog plus farm equipment maintenance hints. J. A. Baldwin Manufacturing Company, Dept. 8, Kearney, Nebraska 68847. (2-4t-20p)</p>	<p><b>14 FOR SALE</b></p> <p>600 ASSORTED SWEET ONION PLANTS with free planting guide, \$4.80 postpaid. TONCO, "home of the sweet onion," Farmersville, Texas 75031. (1-4t-20b)</p> <p>FOR SALE: Asparagus Plants for the 1972 planting season; also Holland Transplanter, Model 1900. Green Tip Farm, Paw Paw, Mich. 49079. Call evenings 616-657-5003.</p> <p>FOR SALE: Broyhill Hydraulic Sprayer, 150 gallon tank, 9 horse engine, 200 feet hose, \$275.00. 16638 Dixon Road, Petersburg, Michigan. 313-279-1342. (3-1t-19p)</p> <p>FOR SALE: Fifty two coarse wool ewes, due April 10 and two purebred rams, \$25 each. Bradley Acres, Springport, Michigan 49284. Phone: 517-857-2968. (3-1t-19p)</p> <p>FOR SALE: Hay for beef cows or young cattle. Hubert Penn, Sturgis, Michigan. Phone: 651-3487. (3-1t-15p)</p>	<p><b>20 LIVESTOCK</b></p> <p>WANTED: Complete Milking Herd of 30 to 50 head of Holstein cows. John M. Smith, Box 63, Williamston, Michigan 48875. Phone (517) 655-1104. (3-1t-22b)</p> <p>HEREFORD BULLS — pure bred herd sires. Ready for service. Also, registered heifers and calves. Egypt Valley Hereford Farm, 6611 Knapp St., Ada, Michigan. Phone OR 6-1090. (Kent County) (11-tf-25b)</p> <p>STEWART YORKSHIRE AND HAMP-SHIRE SALE: Wednesday, March 15, 1:30 p.m. at farm four miles southeast of Frankfort, Indiana. 60 Purebred York and Hamp Boars. 60 Catalog Gilts of both breeds. 100 purebred commercial Gilts. 10 bred Gilts. At State Fair, we had the Champion Hamp, 2nd, 4th York and 2nd X-bred out of 300 Carcasses. Our hogs swept the 4-H State Fair York and Hamp Show. Validated Herd No. 9. Lunch available. Catalog on request. L. L. and Manford Stewart, R.R. #4, Frankfort, Indiana. (3-1t-80b)</p>	<p><b>26 POULTRY</b></p> <p>SHAVER STARCROSS 288 — Started pullets available most every month. Get wise and try these top profit makers as your next flock. MacPherson Hatchery, Route #3, Ionia, Michigan. Phone 527-0860. (tf-28b)</p> <p><b>36 MISCELLANEOUS</b></p> <p>STOP RUSTY WATER FROM RUINING WASH, staining fixtures. Proven filter keeps complete water system free of rust, sand, tastes, odors and other impurities. Uses economical, washable filters. 30 day trial offer. Free information. Write: RUSTRAP, 836-AC W. 79th, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420. (12-tf-41b)</p> <p>MICHIGAN'S NEW BROKER: Farm Bureau member 25 years — Saginaw County. Wanted: Farms, acreage, northern property, buyers waiting. We advertise. Harv Gosen Realty, 2870 West Verne Road, Burt, Michigan 48417. Phone: 517-755-2858. (2-2t-31b)</p>	<p><b>36 MISCELLANEOUS</b></p> <p>ENJOY GENUINE COUNTRY MUSIC: Two records and list \$1. Gospel 8T Cart-ridge \$4.95. Oatmora Stars, Box 9039, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209. (3-2t-21p)</p> <p>MAKE FLUFFY RUGS FROM OLD NYLONS AND PANTYHOSE! Illustrated instructions, construction samples show you how, \$1 postpaid. Margaret Davis, 1417-T Spaulding, San Angelo, Texas 76901. (3-2t-23p)</p> <p>CANNAS — Twenty Different Varieties — One of each, labeled. Total: Twenty Top Grade Bulbs, \$10.00 postpaid promptly. Absolute satisfaction guaranteed. List free. Neil J. Horn Canna Farm, Carnegie, Oklahoma 73015. (3-1t-30p)</p> <p>COUNTRY RECORDS — and tape cartridges — fiddle tunes — Blue Grass, etc. Free circular. Uncle Jim O'Neal, Box A-MFN, Arcadia, California 91006. (10-6t-25p)</p>
<p><b>14 FOR SALE</b></p> <p>FOR SALE AT LOW PRICES: Bryant 18" 2-fan hammermill with 60 h.p. motor; Clipper grain cleaner, 69D, excellent condition; Triumph #100 corn sheller, fair condition; two Kelly duplex feed mixers — one ton, one in excellent condition; Mist-o-matic seed treater; elevator legs, boots and distributor head in good condition; three sets scales; grain buggy, and other items. Call or write Charles Andringa, Wayland, Mich. 49348. 616-PY-2245. (2-2t-65b)</p> <p>FOR SALE: NORWEGIAN ELK HOUND PUPPIES, 5 months old, AKC registered. Have had puppy shots. \$75 each. Bob Baker, Elsie, Michigan. Phone: 517-862-5490. (3-2t-21b)</p>	<p><b>20 LIVESTOCK</b></p> <p>MILKING SHORTHORNS: Young Bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write for tabulated pedigrees or better yet, pay us a visit. Stanley M. Powell and Family, Ingleside Farm, Route #1, Box 238, Ionia, Michigan 48846. (7-tf-33b)</p> <p>SERVICE AGE YORKSHIRE, DUROC BOARS, AND OPEN GILTS. Sonoray information available on most of the boars. Robert Harper, R#1, Vicksburg, Michigan 49097. Phone: 616-649-2803. (12-6t-25p)</p> <p>REGISTERED YORKSHIRES and CHESTER WHITES — Top quality boars and gilts. Guaranteed to satisfy. Will deliver. Bill McCalla, 4100 Stone School Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Phone: 313-971-1804. (12-6t-27p)</p>	<p><b>26 POULTRY</b></p> <p>KLAGER'S DEKALB PROFIT PULLETS — Order your started pullets that have been raised on a proven growing program. The growing birds are inspected weekly by trained staff, vaccinated, debanded and delivered by us in clean crates. If you keep records, you will keep KLAGER DEKALBS, KLAGER HATCHERIES, Bridgewater, Michigan. Telephones: 313 429-7087 and 313 428-3034. (tf-50b)</p> <p>DAY OLD OR STARTED PULLETS — The DeKalb profit pullet. Accepted by the smart poultryman for high egg production, superior egg quality, greater feed efficiency. If you keep records, you'll keep DeKalbs. Write for prices and catalog. KLAGER HATCHERIES, Bridgewater, Michigan. Telephones: Saline Hazel 9-7087, Manchester GArden 8-3034. (tf-46b)</p>	<p>"HOME WORKERS" WANTED: Can earn \$100.00 weekly and up utilizing mail service opportunities. We'll send you circular listings from which you select. Send 25¢ and stamped, self-addressed business envelope to WJR Enterprises, Box 44068, Dept. M-7, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244. (1-tf-40p)</p> <p>"1000 THINGS FREE" (64-Page book) \$1 — MAILMART, Carrollton, Kentucky 42008. (1-tf-11b)</p> <p>Old style sleigh bells, 30-1 1/2" diameter heavy nickel plated 7' strap \$20.00. Red White Blue 10 ring spreader straps, \$10.00 pair. Alfred Jensen, Little Falls, Minnesota 56345, Phone: 612-632-8240. (1-6t-30p)</p>	<p>SEND FOR MAGNETIC REFRIGERATOR PATTERNS — Peacock, Pheasant, Stoves, Tea Pots, Burros, Deer, etc. \$1.25. Ask for Set 12. Mrs. Edwin Schroeder, Garner, Iowa 50438. (3-1t-24p)</p> <p>ANY MAKE WRIST WATCH cleaned, repaired, parts included, total price \$5.95. 7-day service. 20th year in mail order. Elgin trained experts. Send for free mailer. Hub's Service, 344 N. Alfred, Elgin, Illinois 60120. (1-4t-33p)</p> <p>BEER AND WINE MAKING SUPPLIES. Send for your free catalog. Wine King, Box 446, Standish, Michigan 48658. (3-2t-17p)</p>

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