

# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Vol. 51, No. 4

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Apr



## Congratulations: M.F.B. reaches membership goal

TO: ALL FARM BUREAU MEMBERS:

For the fifth consecutive year county Farm Bureau leaders throughout the state have combined their efforts for Michigan to achieve a membership gain.

Congratulations are in order for all roll-call managers, membership captains, workers, and county secretaries who contributed their time to this outstanding success for their teamwork and hard earned victory.

Acquisition of Farm Bureau membership is, at times, a low-key affair compared to the organization work done by some other groups. The only pressures used in Farm Bureau are those involving the individual farmer's own conscious. Yet, three out of every four farmers who belong to a farm organization belong to Farm Bureau.

The best part of our successful membership campaign is that the 58,075 family members joined without fear of coercion or compulsion. Those who have joined did so because they wanted to. They signed membership applications and paid their annual dues voluntarily to join a growing organization on the move, building the type of service farmers want and will need for the future.

Now the new members must be recognized and given a place within their organization. They must be introduced, at new member meetings, to fellow members. They must be invited to become active participants of a community group.

Most important of all, they should be made to understand that they have the privilege as well as the right to make their voice heard in developing policies which will shape the future of Farm Bureau.

We are, indeed, fortunate to have many ways we can be effective in Farm Bureau. Community groups, Women's activities, Young Farmers' programs and numerous action committees (Citizenship, Membership, Local Affairs, Political Education, National Affairs, State Affairs, etc.) appointed by each county Farm Bureau Board.

All too often, many Farm Bureau members seem to forget their vital role in the policy development process of their farm organization. When an individual member neglects to express his views on any policy of the organization or fails to exercise his voting privilege at a county annual meeting, he fails himself and his fellow farmers.

In this age, when all types of organizations are springing up like weeds, there is a definite need for active participation by all Farm Bureau members. Farm Bureau has, does and will continue to defend and challenge those activities not in the best interest of agriculture. But each individual member must be willing to stand up and be counted.

It is the right of every farmer to defend his right to conduct his business and make a livelihood. I sincerely hope new members will share with us the responsibilities which must be assumed as we work for the betterment of the agricultural industry and our entire society.

Elton R. Smith

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EDITORIAL . . .



**Time For Action**

For some time farmers have been asking for additional "tools" for marketing. Many farmers have stated that they are making less and less per year. Some even imply they are going broke.

From the beginning of time, farmers have sold their products for a "take what is offered" price, but have had to pay the asking price for the production items they purchased.

Many farm products are sold in a competitive open market. However, a growing volume of farm commodities is now produced and marketed under advance contracts between farmers and handlers.

Historically, contract terms have been developed by handlers and offered to farmers on a "take-it-or-leave-it" basis. This is obviously a one-sided deal which often pits a large, well-informed buyer against a farmer.

Faced with a growing concentration of power on the handlers side, farmers are seeking to develop sufficient strength and power through the formation of farmer marketing and bargaining associations to achieve a more equitable negotiating position.

Some of the producer associations have been successful in getting improved contracts with handlers. Others have run into a brick wall of unwilling handlers who will not even meet with farmers or their association representatives to discuss a contract.

Experience has demonstrated a definite need to improve the legal foundation upon which farmers can build their own effective marketing and bargaining programs.

On the federal level, the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971 (Sisk Bill) has been introduced by Congressman Sisk of California and sponsored by over one-hundred other congressmen.

The Sisk Bill is a moderate and temperate legislative approach which requires only that the processors bargain in good faith with representatives of qualified associations of producers. It does not insist that a contract be agreed to, but only requires that if producers wish to develop a qualified marketing and bargaining association to bargain for them, the processor must sit down and bargain in good faith. It also spells out what a qualified bargaining association would be. This proposed legislation applies only to contract negotiations and has no bearing upon the open competitive market.

Here in Michigan, legislation has been introduced in both houses dealing with marketing and bargaining. The Senate bill (S 1225) was introduced by Senators Zollar and Ballinger and the House Bill (H 595) was introduced by Representative Cawthorne.

The legislation provides a legal system for agricultural associations that can meet its requirements as means to bargain. It is based on the concept of majority rule, whereby if the producers' association is supported by 51 percent of the producers with 51 percent 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.

Among other items, the bill also provides mediation procedures in the event an agreement cannot be reached.

Both proposed legislative pieces can help solve some of today's agricultural problems.

Farmers need to study and understand these bills and then inform their congressmen and state legislators that they need the legislation.

If farmers mean what they say when asking for additional "tools" for marketing, now is the time for action.

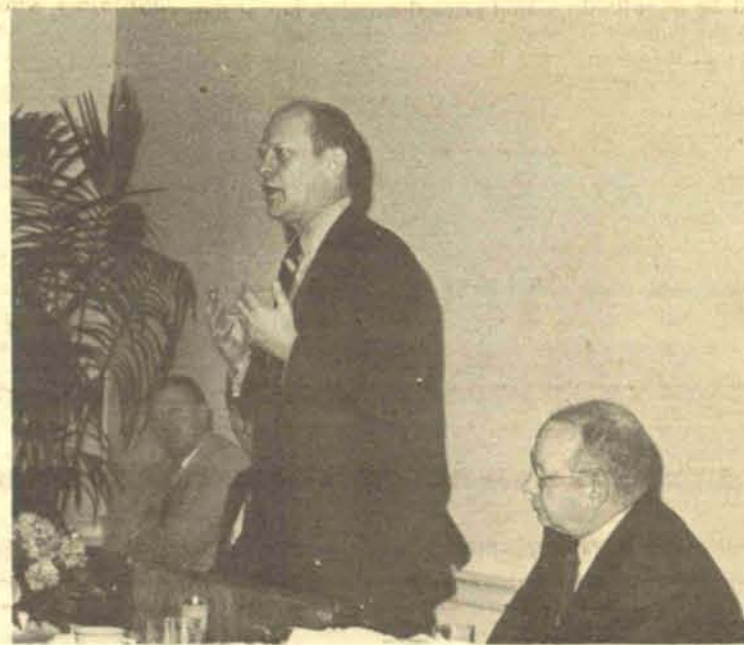
Carl Kentner



Michigan U.S. Senator Philip A. Hart is shown visiting with Farm Bureau Legislative Leaders during lunch.



Robert P. Griffin, U.S. Senator from Michigan, outlines actions of Congress of concern to Michigan farmers.



House minority leader — Michigan Representative Gerald Ford — talks to Farm Bureau leaders at breakfast. Seated (l to r) are Robert Braden, Administrative Director, MFB, Elton Smith, president, MFB.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN . . .



**Spokesmen For Agriculture**

Once again, this year's visit of Farm Bureau Legislative Leaders to Washington, D. C. provided many with their first glimpse of the growing complex bureaucracy which is the seat of our government.

After having met and visited with our Congressmen, attended formal briefings and hearings, I'm sure many departed with the feeling that our nation's capitol is a place which must be seen to be really appreciated.

Some expressed amazement that the system works. But it does, and the part which Farm Bureau members and agriculture have in our governmental system will long be remembered by the more than one-hundred members who took advantage of the opportunity to take part in the 1972 Washington Legislative Seminar and Heritage Tour.

The full-time farmers, selected as "Legislative Leaders," were the spokesmen for Michigan Agriculture during the four-day trip. It was they, being knowledgeable about the problems of Michigan's agriculture, who explained the need for legislation to support Farm Bureau policy as adopted at our last annual meeting.

These spokesmen for agriculture weren't in Washington to protest with pickets and signs, but rather to obtain understanding and to build a communication system between themselves and their respective legislators on issues facing their industry. Both houses of Congress were visited and the opportunity to observe firsthand our legislators at work left impressions which will long be remembered.

I was particularly pleased to see nearly all of Michigan's diversified agricultural products represented by the "Legislative Leaders." The size of their operations ranged from less than a hundred-acre fruit farm, to 13,000 laying hens, to over a thousand-acre cash grain operation, to sizable dairy, vegetable, swine and beef farms.

One impression, I'm sure, all these full-time farmers received was that our legislators are vitally interested in hearing from the people in their congressional districts. This was borne out not only in words, but by the number of legislators who took time to attend breakfast for Michigan's Republican Congressmen and the luncheon for the Democratic Congressmen from Michigan.

A special meeting with officials of the Department of Agriculture proved to be one of the educational highlights of the trip. While many were disappointed that Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz's schedule prevented him from being present, all of us received a vivid perception of the department's activities from Assistant Secretary for Rural Development and Conservation Thomas K. Crowden.

The trip was not all work, as one full day was devoted to a guided sight-seeing bus tour. Such places of interest as the Washington Cathedral, Bureau of Printing and Engraving, and Mt. Vernon, the home of our first President, were visited. This provided all of us a deeper sense of appreciation of our American heritage and history.

The Farm Bureau Women are to be congratulated for sponsoring this type of activity. It is a very effective way for Farm Bureau leaders to personally discuss and gain understanding of Farm Bureau policies with their Congressmen.

It also offers the member an opportunity to better understand his government, how it works and what it is doing for or against him.

Elton R. Smith

**MICHIGAN FARM NEWS**  
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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.

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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

## "SKY IS THE LIMIT" ON PROPERTY TAX

The Michigan Supreme Court has now confirmed what Farm Bureau has recognized for some time — that on capital outlay projects, such as county and township buildings, drainage districts, sewer systems, school buildings, etc., etc., the "sky is the limit" on the amount of property tax necessary to pay off the indebtedness. The Supreme Court went even further and indicated that this can be done without a vote of the people.

The decision resulted from a case started in 1970 regarding an assessment imposed by a drainage district board for a sewer system. This fact has existed for many years and has been assisted by numerous pieces of legislation, such as permitting the use of building authorities and also permitting schools, counties and other units of government to bond for capital outlay projects — often without a vote of the people. Once bonding has been accomplished there is no limit to the property tax rate that can be imposed to pay the indebtedness. The court's decision, along with heavy publicity in the news media, makes the need for property tax reform very clear.

As an immediate result of the court decision, both Governor Milliken and the Democratic Party announced that the tax petition drives would be stopped inasmuch as a section of the Constitution ruled on by the court is also a part of each petition.

Both Governor Milliken and Speaker of the House William Ryan stated that they hoped that the Legislature would take action and agree on a realistic constitutional amendment to achieve property tax reform and also assure that capital outlay projects would require a vote of the people, thus solving the problems created by the court decision.

The Governor also made it clear that if the Legislature again failed to arrive at a realistic agreement that he would rewrite his petition and that the new petition would be circulated to force the issue on the ballot and to change the Constitution to assure property tax reform. He said that the new petition would:

1. Cut the individual property tax almost in half and freeze the rate so it cannot creep up again.
2. Allow for more equitable collection of revenue for school support and a more equitable distribution for school aid.
3. Assure constitutional limits on the taxing power of local taxing units.

There is also a possibility that some type of coalition program can be agreed upon whereby there would be only one petition circulated.

People are beginning to realize the urgency of the situation and that property tax reform must be achieved and a lasting reform must come about through a vote of the people amending the Constitution.

### Special Commission Recommends Higher Taxes

A 38-member Commission on Local Government has finished a 17-month study and has come out with preliminary recommendations, among them being a recommendation that all local units of government should be permitted to levy taxes within wider limits and without voter approval. They said that townships, cities and villages should be permitted to impose 20 mills tax without a vote of the people and, therefore, be outside the 15-mill limitation.

They also recommended that counties be permitted to tax property up to 15 mills. This, added to the recommendation for township taxation, adds up to 35 mills! In addition, they recommend that an income tax up to a two percent total be permitted for local government, such as villages, townships and counties.

Other recommendations in the 60-page report include recommendations for such things as "county executives," a limitation on numbers of county offices and the elimination of numerous county commissions, boards, etc.

While the recommendations are meant to be "long range" in nature, it is an example of the thinking of many as to ways of increasing revenues by drastically increased use of the property tax. These are added reasons why property tax reform is needed now and that people must, if necessary, circulate petitions to force the reform on the ballot, where the voters can make a final decision.

The petition drives would strictly limit the use of the property tax to not more than 26 mills — down from the present 50-mill limit. Counties would be limited to not more than eight mills, townships to 1½ mills and certain school costs to not more than 4½ mills.

### Property Tax Assessment Study

Another special legislative study was recently completed and a report was submitted to the House Taxation Committee. The study was conducted by Representative Loren Anderson (D-Pontiac) and Roy Smith (R-Ypsilanti).

They found a wide disparity in tax assessments, ranging from

as low as four percent of the sale values to assessments several times higher than the actual sale values. In any event, it indicated that in many areas of the state assessed values can be increased considerably.

Many recommendations for refinement of the system were made, including speedup of equalization studies, requirements that sale prices of all land be given to the township assessor and county tax departments and various recommendations for changes in the Boards of Review. The report also recommended that property taxes for school purposes be removed.

### MARKETING AND BARGAINING BILLS PROGRESS

The marketing and bargaining legislation, which was reported in detail in the March issue of the Michigan Farm News, has progressed to final consideration by the Senate committee. The bills include S. 1225 in the Senate (Senator Zollar, et al) and H. 5951 in the House (Representative Cawthorne, et al).

Three large public hearings have been held, two on the Senate bill. One hearing was in St. Johns; the other in Benton Harbor. The hearing on the House bill was in Shelby. The turnout of farmers in each case was very good. There was nearly unanimous support for the self-help legislation.

Extremely strong processor opposition is beginning to appear from various sources. While processor spokesmen did not testify at the public hearings, they are extremely active around the Capitol and extremely active in other ways. The same old worn cliches are being used, such as farmers would price themselves out of the market, processors would move and that competition from other states would ruin Michigan agriculture.

This type of opposition is, in a way, an insult to growers' intelligence, as growers recognize, perhaps better than anyone else, that competition is involved and that it is possible to price a product out of the market.

The grower aim for such legislation is to have some opportunity to have a voice in the pricing of products and other terms of sale and to find the "right price." Legislation would set up the necessary guidelines and procedures to assure fairness and equity and would utilize the concept of majority rule, meaning that an association strong enough to represent more than 50 percent of the producers and also more than 50 percent of the product being produced and being able to meet the stringent requirements of the law would become the marketing and bargaining spokesman for all the producers of the commodity.

The law would prohibit many unfair trade practices. It also provides for mediation procedures and arbitration if agreements cannot be reached.

Being enabling legislation, it would not be used unless the producers of the commodity involved decided that its provisions could help them.

The vicious "cost-price squeeze" continues to spiral upward. Farm costs have reached an all-time record high and are 50 percent higher than 20 years ago; however, prices for products are in many cases not higher today. It is only through increasing technology and productivity that it has been possible to continue in



Marketing and bargaining legislation, S. 1225, was the topic of conversation between Senator Zollar and Farm Bureau leaders attending one of the eight Legislative Seminars held this year. At the luncheon meeting, the Senator explained his awareness of the problems facing farmers, especially those producing fruits and vegetables, and of his efforts to pass self-help legislation to permit farmers, through their associations, to effectively market and bargain with handlers. The legislation sets up guidelines and procedures to assure fairness in marketing and prevent unfair trade practices.



Senator Arthur Cartwright (D-Detroit), one of the metropolitan legislators who attended the Farm Bureau Legislative Seminars. Senator Cartwright, knowledgeable in the problems facing farmers today, expressed his willingness to give farm related legislation his full consideration.

agriculture. Agricultural productivity has outstripped every other industry, with output per man hour 3.3 times higher than 20 years ago. During this same period, output per man hour in U.S. manufacturing has increased only 1.7 times.

One of the most rapidly rising costs is in property taxation, with that figure now at an average of over 23 percent of net income before taxes.

### LEGISLATIVE NOTES

**Lottery** — Michigan voters will decide at the May 16 presidential primary whether to legalize lotteries and bingo in this state. This has been a highly controversial issue; however, the final votes in both the House and the Senate were overwhelmingly in support of putting it on the ballot. Several states have legalized lotteries with varying degrees of success. It is estimated that the revenue for Michigan could be between \$40 million and \$50 million. Some maintain that this would be an invitation to increase crime and others maintain that gambling presently is controlled by the criminal element and that state control would reduce crime and be a revenue source. It will be a very controversial issue.

**Environment** — H. 4260, on air pollution controls, has passed the House and is still pending in the Senate. It contains amendments exempting animal odors providing the livestock is within an agriculturally zoned area. Farm Bureau is making every effort to expand the exemption to all natural agricultural odors.

H.B. 4948, on inland lakes and streams, is still in the House. It has been amended to exempt farmers from the requirement to obtain permits for drainage projects on the farmer's property. There are still problems with county drains and soil conservation district projects such as small watershed programs.

**Unclassified Potatoes** — Legislation has been introduced (H. 6010) by Representative Young (R-Saginaw), et al, to solve a problem in marketing unclassified potatoes. The bill would provide that the packages be color coded and marked "Unclassified." Such updating of the law should be helpful to the marketing of Michigan potatoes.

**Cat Licensing** — S. 1228 would have required that all cats be licensed, vaccinated and wear a collar with the metal license tag attached. Each cat would have required a certificate to prove vaccination. This was a serious bill, but finally was stopped. It is not unusual for farms to have a dozen cats or more. This could have been extremely expensive. It certainly was unrealistic as far as farms are concerned.

**SJR "Z" and SJR "AA"**, constitutional amendments introduced by Senators Toepp (R-Cadillac) and Gray (D-Warren), would be subject to vote of the people and would reduce the power of the State Board of Education to an advisory status. The power of the Legislature would be increased in the area of all public education.



## Ruppe Introduces Marketing Bill



CONGRESSMAN PHILIP E. RUPPE, (R) of Houghton, has introduced the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971 at H.R. 13818.

The National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act is strongly supported by Farm Bureau. The bill would create a legal framework for farmers to develop their own effective marketing and bargaining programs. It would establish a mutual duty to bargain in good faith on the part of processors and producers associations.

Public hearings have been held on the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act by both the House and Senate Agricultural Committees. The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing and Consumer Relations is now holding executive sessions on the bill.

Congressman Ruppe is the fourth member of Michigan's Congressional delegation to introduce the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act. Others include Garry Brown, Schoolcraft; Elford Cederberg, Bay City; and James Harvey, Saginaw.

## Search Is On

The search is on! Across the state people are looking for a Miss or Mrs. with charm, poise, personality and a spirit of adventure who likes to travel, meet new people and enjoy new experiences.

Plans for a county by county search for Queen contestants who will vie for the title of 1973 Michigan Farm Bureau Queen has been announced.

Contestants must be at least 17 years of age before November 1, 1972 and must not have passed their 31st birthday by that date. Contestants must be Farm Bureau members and may be either single or married. If unmarried, their parents must be Farm Bureau members.

The 1973 Queen, to be selected from county contestants, will be chosen at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in November. Judging will be on the basis of beauty, poise, personality, speaking ability, activities and overall effectiveness.

She will receive an expense paid trip to the AFBF annual meeting in Los Angeles, California in December, plus the opportunity to travel, meet people and appear on radio and TV programs.

Official rules and complete details of county Queen contests may be obtained from county Farm Bureau offices or by contacting a member of a county Young Farmers Committee.



Members of ACWW from Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and Michigan attended the informal dinner meeting at Kellogg Center, MSU, with the President of Associated Country Women of the World. Some of the Michigan ladies in attendance were (l to r) Mrs. Doris Wieland, Chairman, MFB Women's Committee; Mrs. F. G. Garrison, Detroit, ACWW Area Vice President of USA; Mrs. Olive L. Farquharson; and Mrs. Claudine Jackson, Vice Chairman, MFB Women's Committee.



Mrs. Olive L. Farquharson, Essex, England, president of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is interviewed by Tom Ray, WJIM-TV News, during her recent visit to Michigan.

## NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE NOTES

by Al Almy

### NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND BARGAINING ACT OF 1971

The National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1971 has been introduced by 88 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 on H.R. 7597 have been held by the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing and Consumer Relations. Public Hearings were completed November 23 on S. 1775 by a Senate Agriculture Committee. Closed committee executive sessions on H.R. 7597 are being held.

### TRANSPORTATION STRIKES

Settlement of the West Coast dock strike did not resolve the need for enactment of permanent legislation to prevent similar situations in the future.

New legislation has been introduced in the form of S. 3232 to provide a means of prompt and permanent settlement of transportation strikes. This Bill would permit an 80-day injunction to be obtained against transportation strikes in both regional and national emergencies.

In addition, the President could use one or more of the following options to settle a transportation strike: (1) Extend the 80-day injunction for an additional 15 days; (2) Limit the strike to specified portions of the total industry; and

(3) Provide for arbitration by a panel of arbiters which would choose either the final offer of management or the final offer of the union.

The Senate Labor Committee has indicated it will consider S. 3232 and report a bill.

### AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

The Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1971 (H.R. 10729) passed the House last November by a strong 288-91 vote. As approved by the House, H.R. 10729 would divide pesticides into "general-use" and "restricted-use" categories.

General-use pesticides would be those considered relatively safe under normal conditions and could be applied by anyone following usual precautions.

Restricted-use pesticides would be those that are considered toxic or hazardous under normal operating conditions.

Farmers and others applying restricted-use pesticides would be required to be licensed. States would have responsibility for licensing of restricted pesticide users.

Hearings on H.R. 10729 have been held by a Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

### POULTRY

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has reported on the Egg Industry Adjustment Act (S. 2895). An identical bill (H.R. 11913) has been introduced into the House.

This legislation would provide for a program requiring slaughter of a portion of each producer's total flock of egg-producing fowl. The mandatory slaughter would be put into effect when the Secretary of Agriculture determines

## Better Understanding

The Michigan Farm Bureau Affiliate Company Young Farmers Conference was held February 29 and March 1, 1972 at the University Inn, East Lansing. Purpose of the conference was to provide young Farm Bureau members with a better understanding of programs, products and services of the Michigan Farm Bureau and its family of affiliated companies.

Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate company managers and key personnel acted as speakers and resource people during the conference.

Fifty-four young farmers representing 26 counties were in attendance at the conference. Agricultural commodities represented included dairy, field crops, livestock and fruit. Eleven of the couples were new members in Farm Bureau this year and 20 of the couples were active members of their local community groups.

The interest and enthusiasm of the young members for farming as their way of life was evident throughout the conference.

average egg prices are below the cost of production for a ninety-day period. The program would be for a two-year period.

Farm Bureau policy supports the proposed Egg Industry Adjustment Act if amended to include provision for a producer referendum, limit the growing of pullets for egg production and the replacement of liquidated birds, and give a representative voice for the contract egg producer.

### STRAWBERRY IMPORTS

The Government of Mexico and the U.S. Government have reached a voluntary agreement on Mexican strawberry exports into the United States. The agreement establishes a voluntary quota of 82 million pounds of frozen strawberries, paste and pulp. The quota is for calendar year 1972 and will be open to renegotiation for 1973.

## F.B. Women Announce Speakers

All Farm Bureau women and their friends have the opportunity to avail themselves of the opportunity to hear knowledgeable speakers discuss current topics of interest.

Among the speakers scheduled for one or more of the Farm Bureau Women's District Spring Meetings are Robert E. Smith, M. J. Buschlen, Albert A. Almy, and Ed Morey.

Robert E. Smith, legislative counsel for Michigan Farm Bureau, will speak at several District Meetings on "Property Tax Reform — Now or Never." Mr. Smith has served Farm Bureau in many capacities including Livingston County Farm Bureau president, member, board of directors and vice president of Michigan Farm Bureau. Extremely active in civic affairs on the local, county and state levels, he recently received a legislative appointment to a special 35-member commission to study Article VI, Judiciary, of the Michigan Constitution for possible revision.

Mr. Buschlen, operations manager of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA), will comment on "Farm Labor and Safety Management." He is a graduate of Michigan State University and did graduate work at the University of Idaho. He was employed in the sugar beet industry for 18 years, attaining the position of assistant general manager of Great Lakes Sugar Company. Mr. Buschlen joined Farm Bureau Services in 1950, holding various management positions which he resigned to accept his present appointment.

The assistant legislative counsel for MFB, Al Almy, will speak on

"The Nation's Number One Ecologist" at one meeting and discuss the "Importance of Getting Active in Politics" at another. Al is a graduate of Western Michigan University and joined MFB in 1965 as a regional representative. He served as a marketing specialist before assuming his present position two years ago.

Ed Morey, Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army retired, spent 23 years in military service. Mr. Morey holds a B.A. degree from Michigan State University and studied law at the University of California. He is a Certified Life Underwriter and very active in civic affairs in Charlotte and Eaton County. Morey's topic at the spring meetings where he will speak is "Rules of the Game — An Insight into Communist Conspiracy."

In addition to the educational speakers mentioned and the normal business of the district which will be conducted, election of district officers (chairman, vice-chairman, secretary) will be held in Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. The officers elected will assume their duties at the fall meetings.

Dates on which District meetings will occur in the month of April are: April 4 — District 3; April 11 — District 5; April 12 — District 9; April 13 — District 4; April 18 — District 10-E; April 19 — District 10-W; April 20 — District 8; April 25 — District 2; April 26 — District 7; and April 27 — District 1.

Additional information concerning these meetings may be obtained from local newspapers, county Farm Bureau Women chairmen, district officers, and county Farm Bureau Secretaries.



## Hay Listing Concluded

The pilot project Farm Bureau Hay Listing has been concluded with an updated issue in early March. All Farm Bureau members in participating counties who wished to list hay were eligible to participate. Members who wish to buy hay through the listing can obtain a copy of the sellers through their county Farm Bureau office.

The Farm Bureau Hay Listing demonstrates a service that a county Farm Bureau can provide to members. The project originated at the initiative of the Chippewa County Farm Bureau in the Upper Peninsula. Many producers in Chippewa County harvested an excellent hay crop in 1971. Coincidentally, feed shortages occurred in various southern counties.

By coordinating information between hay surplus and hay deficit counties, Farm Bureau members in both areas benefitted. The hay supply moved from an area where it was in excess to an area of need.

The Michigan Farm Bureau participated in the Hay Listing Service as a coordinator and publisher of the hay lists. Four issues of the list were published: a December list, a supplementary list in each of the months of January and February, and a comprehensive updating of the list in March.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors directed that the project be carried out on a pilot basis and that an evaluation of the results be compiled. Counties that participated were requested during March to complete an evaluation form and return it to the Michigan Farm Bureau. Preliminary returns indicate a favorable attitude toward the project by Farm Bureau members.

The Hay Listing Service must be viewed as a program promoting member-to-member marketing. As members become greater specialists in producing their own commodities, member-to-member marketing opportunities continue to increase.

## Final Payment On Wheat Program

Members participating in the Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program will receive about 32.5 cents per bushel as their final payment on the 1971 crop wheat consigned to the Program. This settlement will be in addition to the advance payment received at harvest time, which averaged \$1.10 for the state and varied according to the freight rate zone of the participating cooperative elevator that handled the wheat. The 1971 Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program handled the highest percentage of the Michigan soft wheat production since the Program began operating.

The harvest time payment equalled the high of the previous year and was as high as \$1.155 per bushel in one area of the state. The total payment for the 1971 crop wheat represents a price that exceeded the net daily cash market throughout most of the year.

The Michigan Soft Wheat Advisory Committee met recently and recommended that the final payment be made to producers in

late March. The committee concluded that the 1971 Marketing Program was successful and asked that the program be continued for the wheat crop of 1972.

Marketing of the Program wheat was conducted by the Grain Department of the Michigan Elevator Exchange. The Michigan Farm Bureau Soft Wheat Committee, comprised of 11 wheat producers, advised on the operation of the Program and the marketing of the Program. Local cooperative elevators throughout the wheat producing areas of Michigan and the Michigan Elevator Exchange terminals received wheat from participating producers. These receiving elevators worked closely with the Exchange and the county Farm Bureau wheat committees.

Producers who were Farm Bureau members and had signed Program agreements were eligible to participate in the Program. They had the options of consigning all, a portion, or none of the wheat to the Program when their wheat crossed the scales at their local cooperative elevator. Producers who were not enrolled in the Program had fewer marketing alternatives.

## Feeder Pig Meeting Held

The MACMA Feeder Pig Division All Member Meeting was held at the Missaukee Resort in Lake City on March 9. This meeting is held once each year and affords an opportunity to gain a better understanding of their feeder pig program, to meet other members and to learn more about production. Member attendance was excellent and up substantially from the previous year.

The evening program centered around quality control through improved management and production practices. Discussing these practices were special guests John Brecheisen, swine specialist and Dr. James McKean, staff veterinarian from Farm Bureau Services. Also participating in the program were Bill Byrum, Bill Haas and Bob McCrory from the MACMA staff. They reviewed the activities in the three livestock divisions. Two films were shown. One was on "Jasper" the Grand Champion Barrow at the 1969 Chicago International Livestock Show, and the other was on Atgard, a swine wormer.

The Feeder Pig Division made significant progress during the past year and especially in recent months. Both membership and production have increased substantially with the most recent expansion being in the Big Rapids and Clare areas and in the north-eastern part of the state. The new assembly point at Atlanta was put into operation last fall. Members have made extra effort to improve the quality of their pigs. Buyers are reporting better performance and demand is excellent for native pigs which are sold on order bi-weekly.

The MACMA Feeder Pig Division has proven itself as an orderly marketing system for quality feeder pigs. Good feeder pig producers in other parts of the state are showing interest in MACMA expanding into their areas. As groups of knowledgeable feeder pig producers in localized areas request MACMA to provide marketing services for their production, consideration will be given to establishing new assembly points.

Members elected to the new Marketing Committee were Richard Cramer, Stanwood; Henry Meyering, McBain and John Palmer, Onaway. Committeemen with one year of service remaining are Howard Seeley, Moores-town and Murray Turnipseed, Kalkaska. The new committee will elect officers at the next committee meeting.

### COMMITTEES MEET

The six commodity advisory committees of the Michigan Farm Bureau met March 6 and 7 at the Farm Bureau Center for their spring meetings.

Highlighting the meeting of the Fruit, Field Crops and Poultry Advisory Committees on Monday, March 6 was a visit to the legislative hearing on Michigan's proposed agricultural marketing and bargaining act. The hearing was held by the Michigan Senate Agriculture and Consumers Affairs Committee of which Senator Balenger is a member and a co-sponsor of the bill in the Michigan Senate.

The state Dairy, Livestock and Vegetable Advisory Committees met March 7. A general session of the committees included a report on marketing and bargaining legislation which Farm Bureau supports, an explanation of the property tax reform petition drive and an outline of certain politico-environmental activities which may affect agriculture.

Each commodity advisory committee reviewed current issues facing producers and arrived at various recommendations which will be offered to the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

### Soybean Division Guidelines Set

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board has directed that an organizational meeting be held for a state soybean division when at least seven of Michigan's commercial soybean producing counties have organized. Norman Veliquette, marketing specialist in the Market Development Division, explained that in 1969, Michigan's 14 largest counties in soybean production had over 85 percent of the state's soybean acreage.	20,000 to 35,000	3
	10,000 to 20,000	2
	Less than 10,000	1

The most recent Census of Agriculture shall be used to determine the number of acres in each county and thus the number of voting representatives from each county.

Counties where soybean production exceeded 10,000 acres in 1969 were, in order of largest production to smallest: Lenawee, Monroe, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Branch, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Clinton, St. Joseph, Berrien, Washtenaw, Genesee, Cass and Wayne.

Identified soybean producing Farm Bureau members in participating counties are receiving soybean division membership cards and are invited to participate in the meetings and activities of the division within their own county.

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# DREAM of Hawaii



## Farm Leaders Receive Awards

Four top farm leaders in Michigan received Distinguished Service to Agriculture awards during Farmers' Week, March 20-24, at Michigan State University.

Kenneth Bull of Bailey, Basil McKenzie of Breckenridge and Richard and Jack DeWitt of the Holland area, were honored March 22 at a special awards luncheon in the MSU Kellogg Center.

An experienced fruit grower, Bull pioneered the use of controlled atmosphere storage for apples and was one of the first builders of model housing units for seasonal labor. He has served on several administrative and advisory boards of agricultural agencies at the national, state and local levels and has received an award for outstanding service in the area of soil conservation.

McKenzie is a certified seed grower who has been an outstanding leader in both civic and crop related organizations. He has played a key role in the organization and development of the Michigan Crop Improvement Association and the Michigan Bean Commission. He has promoted market development, industry cooperation and production research for the benefit of the Michigan cash crop industry.

The DeWitt brothers founded a small poultry hatchery in 1928 and built it into what experts consider to be one of the most integrated poultry enterprises in the United States. Now incorporated as Big Dutchman, the business includes an ultra-modern hatchery and poultry processing plant, plus an equipment manufacturing operation that produces automatic systems for poultry and livestock.

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## "The Road To Delano"

"The Road to Delano," a 16-mm, 30-minute motion picture expressing strong farm workers' opposition to Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, is now available for showing in Michigan.

The picture was filmed last October with workers from Delano visited by workers from the Watsonville area who had come to examine conditions of employment and job security after UFWOC's contract with Delano growers had been in force for nearly 18 months. Their findings are a severe indication of the contract and of farm labor conditions growing out of it.

Workers in the film charge they were signed over without an opportunity for elections or self-determination of any kind.

The film records that the only secret ballot election for farm workers ever conducted by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services was lost by Chavez and UFWOC at Shafter, California, in April 1971.

Father Michael Cross of Salinas, a Spanish-speaking workers' priest and the only nonfarm worker in the film, describes his own struggle to win the right of secret ballot elections for farm workers — in the face of all-out opposition by UFWOC.

Requests for use of the film should be directed to the Information Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing 48904. Requests must contain the name, street or road address (not just a route number), and phone number of the person to whom the film is to be sent; date desired; name of organization to which the film will be shown; and the Farm Bureau affiliation of the individual requesting the film.

Due to the number of booking dates scheduled, the film at present will not be available to any one individual or organization for more than one day at a time.

The film will be shipped from Lansing via United Parcel Service and must be returned at the user's expense personally or via Greyhound Bus immediately after showing. This procedure is necessary to ensure the film's availability for other showings.



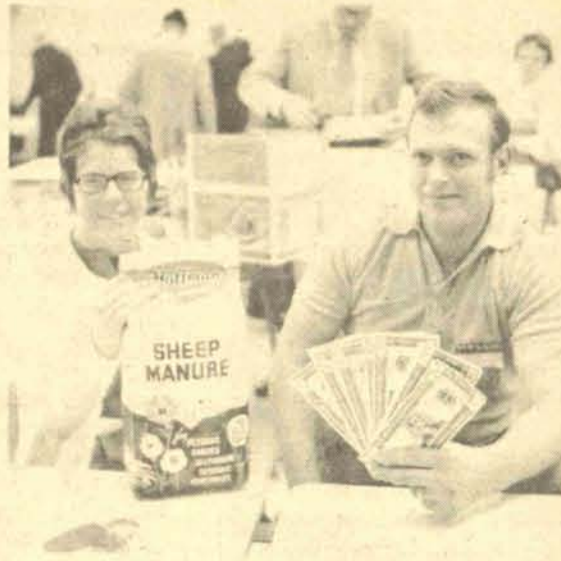
# MAKE IT HAPPEN MOMENTS



Elton R. Smith, president, Farm Bureau Services, Inc., addresses the more than 350 persons attending the Open Line Meeting last month in Lansing. This meeting, sponsored by Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau Services, afforded those interested in farm supplies and services an opportunity to get their questions answered and suggestions acted upon.



Better understanding of Farm Bureau continued even during the meals at the MFB Affiliate Company Young Farmers two-day conference.



Highest bidders for the last award, sheep manure, at the Central Region's Victory Party were Mr. and Mrs. William Vincent of Livingston County. Cost of the item, 10,000 Bogus Bucks.



Vada Martin, an employee of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., has not been late or absent from her desk for 20 years. She was recently presented with a TV in recognition of her outstanding attendance record. Shown with Mrs. Martin, who retires this month after 35 years of service to the organization, are (l to r) Richard Clemens, Comptroller, FBS, Inc.; Donald R. Armstrong, Executive Vice President, FBS, Inc.; and Max Dean, Treasurer, FBS, Inc.

# FARM BUREAU "ON THE AIR"

Accent Agriculture, Michigan Farm Bureau's authoritative radio program continues to reach thousands of farm and city listeners through the 58 stations which use the farm variety program. In addition, a new farm news information program, "Farm News in Depth" is being aired daily, Monday through Friday on 33 Michigan stations. A number of stations carry both programs.

Produced by the Information Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau, both programs include on-the-spot interviews with Farm Bureau and agri-business leaders and commentary concerning issues of importance to farmers.

The broadcasts are produced by Bob Driscoll, director of Broadcast Services for the Michigan Farm Bureau, using high-quality professional recording equipment and modern production techniques.

ADRIAN	WABJ	1490 AM
ALBION	WALM	1260 AM
ALMA	WFYC	1280 AM
ANN ARBOR	WPAG	1050 AM
BAD AXE	WLEW	1340 AM
BATTLE CREEK	WKFR	1400 AM
BAY CITY	WBCM	1440 AM
BAY CITY	WXOX	1250 AM
BENTON HARBOR	WHFB	1060 AM
BIG RAPIDS	WBRN	1460 AM
CARO	WKYO	1360 AM
CHARLOTTE	WCER	1390 AM
CHEBOYGAN	WCBY	1240 AM
CHICAGO, ILL.	WGN	720 AM
COLDWATER	WTVB	1590 AM
DETROIT	WWJ	950 AM
DOWAGIAC	WDOW	1440 AM
EAST LANSING	WKAR	870 AM
ELKHART, IND.	WCMR	1270 AM
ESCANABA	WDBC	680 AM
FREMONT	WSHN	1550 AM
GAYLORD	WATC	900 AM
GRAND HAVEN	WGHN	1370 AM
GRAND RAPIDS	WFUR	1570 AM
HASTINGS	WBCH	1220 AM
HILLSDALE	WCSR	1340 AM
HOLLAND	WJBL	1260 AM
HOUGHTON LAKE	WHGR	1290 AM
IONIA	WION	1430 AM
IRON RIVER	WIKB	1230 AM
JACKSON	WJCO	1510 AM
KALAMAZOO	WKPR	1420 AM
LAPEER	WMPC	1230 AM
LAPEER	WTHM	1530 AM
LUDINGTON	WKLA	1450 AM
MANISTEE	WMTE	1340 AM
MARINE CITY	WSMA	1590 AM
MARINETTE, WISC.	WMAM	570 AM
MARQUETTE	WDMJ	1320 AM
MENOMINEE	WAGN	1340 AM
MT. PLEASANT	WCEN	1150 AM
MUNISING	WGON	1400 AM
NILES	WNIL	1290 AM
OTSEGO	WAOP	980 AM
OWOSSO	WOAP	1080 AM
PETOSKEY	WJML	1110 AM
PORT HURON	WPHM	1380 AM
ROCKFORD	WJPW	810 AM
ROGERS CITY	WHAK	960 AM
SAGINAW	WKNX	1210 AM
ST. JOHNS	WRBJ	1580 AM
SANDUSKY	WMIC	1560 AM
SAULT ST. MARIE	WSOO	1230 AM
STURGIS	WSTR	1230 AM
THREE RIVERS	WLKM	1510 AM
TRAVERSE CITY	WCCW	1310 AM
TRAVERSE CITY	WLDR	101.9 FM
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**Special Announcement**

**Farm Bureau Endorses Petition Drive**

Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, announced that the state's largest farm organization would support the recently announced Michigan Education Association petition drive.

Smith said, "Our members have consistently supported total tax reform for some years. However, we are convinced that meaningful and lasting reform can come only through a basic Constitutional change."

Definite organizational direction was set last November when Farm Bureau's voting delegates adopted a tax policy calling for an amendment to the Michigan Constitution. The resolution also stated that the Bureau would join with others, who also recognize the seriousness and inequity of the property tax burden, in support of a petition drive to place upon the ballot an

amendment to limit total property taxes and to eliminate as nearly as possible property tax as a means of financing our schools.

Smith said, "It is unfortunate that the legislature has been unable to reach an agreement on an amendment to be placed on the ballot. However, it's essential that the people be permitted an opportunity to make this basic decision by their vote in the November 1972 election."

Farm Bureau distributed both Governor Milliken's petition and the Democratic Party petition. However, these petitions were withdrawn due to a Supreme Court decision. Smith said, "Farm Bureau would, therefore, join the coalition of groups supporting the MEA petitions." He said that both petitions — one containing property tax reform and the other permitting a graduated income tax — would be circulated.

**NOTES**

The State Police report that as of the end of the first week of March, Michigan motorists had killed 331 of their fellowmen since the first of the year. Deaths to that date were 30 more than the average for the past five years.

• • •

Additional meetings have been scheduled to afford farmers the opportunity to learn of and discuss the legal and practical applications of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act. A meeting will be held in Arenac County on April 7, in Macomb County April 12 under the sponsorship of the Wolverine Growers Association, and on April 18 at District 10-E Farm Bureau Women's Meeting. Additional information concerning these meetings may be obtained from county Farm Bureau secretaries.

• • •

Robert E. Braden, administrative director, Michigan Farm Bureau, has been appointed to the Michigan Blue Shield Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of Dan E. Reed.

• • •

"OPERATION IDENTIFICATION," an anti-burglary tactic of identifying valuables, will soon be available through many Farm Bureau Insurance Group representatives. An engraving machine will be loaned for two days during which time driver's license numbers can be marked on TV sets, radios, tape recorders, stereos, typewriters, cameras, jewelry, guns, electric tools, lawn mowers and other items most often burglarized. This makes all stolen valuables immediately traceable to their owner.

• • •

**"California Here We Come"**

"California here, we come!" That will be a familiar statement in Michigan this year.

"Farm Bureau members in Michigan will have an opportunity of a lifetime in December." This was among the remarks made recently by Larry Ewing, Manager of the Program Development Division. "With the American Farm Bureau Convention being held in Los Angeles, the Board of Directors authorized a tour to the Convention. We have a terrific package put together at a cost of \$140 per person. The regular round trip air fare from Grand Rapids is \$260."

Here are some details of the tour. Two planes have been chartered from United Airlines. They will leave from Grand Rapids on Sunday, December 10, returning Friday, December 15. Upon arrival in Los Angeles, the group will be taken by bus to the hotel.

The Convention lasts through Wednesday. On Thursday, the Michigan members will be taken by bus for a day at Disneyland. The transportation, admission and tickets for 10 rides are included in this package.

On Friday, the group will be taken by bus for a tour of Hollywood. This will feature a visit to the Universal motion picture studio. Then it's on to the airport to board the United jet back to Grand Rapids.

Not included in the package price is the hotel, meals and personal expenses.

We have 355 seats on our charter. They will go fast because it's a good bargain. Will you join us?

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# "Control of Farm Production"

## Discussion Topic

by KEN WILES

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

For decades, the most persistent characteristic of American agriculture has been the ability of farmers to produce in excess of the market demand, both foreign and domestic, despite programs designed to regulate production.

The First World War gave American agriculture a shot in the arm. Stimulated by high prices and patriotism, farmers continued to produce an abundance even though buying began to slacken and foreign nations enacted tariffs to protect their growing agriculture.

Agricultural prices broke in the early '20's and continued downward as production of food far exceeded demand. As prices declined, farmers increased their production more and more in an attempt to maintain their income.

In 1929 the Agricultural Marketing Act became law. It established a Federal Farm Board which was designed to stabilize farm prices. Its first efforts were limited to loans to cooperatives, but the drop in agricultural prices in 1929 caused it to organize stabilization corporations to purchase commodities and hold them off the market.

As the country moved into the Thirties, prices of agricultural commodities continued to fall until they dropped to levels lower than at any time after the Civil War. The Federal Farm Board demonstrated the futility of attempting to control prices through purchasing and withholding when no effective authority to control production was provided.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 provided production controls on wheat, cotton, rice, tobacco, corn, hogs and dairy products and authorized benefit payments to those producers who cooperated.

It was at this time, under the President's emergency powers, that the Community Credit Corporation (CCC) was created and given authority to purchase, hold, deal in, sell any and all agricultural commodities, and to lend money on them.

The Supreme Court declared the production control features of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 unconstitutional in 1936, and ruled against processing taxes on the ground that they were an inseparable feature of the production control plan. Later in the year, the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act became law, but it too was inadequate for production control.

Heavy crops of wheat and cotton in 1937, which accentuated the problems of surpluses and low prices, led to passage of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. This Act continued the soil conservation plan as part of a much broader program, which included acreage allotments for basic crops, marketing quotas for extra-large basic crops, special payments to give the farmer "parity" prices, storage under the "ever-normal granary" plan, and crop insurance. Farmers could earn payments by complying with allotments and by completing conservation projects.

During World War II the AAA (with its title changed to Agricultural Adjustment Agency in reorganization in 1942) continued its program of soil conservation; it also stimulated production and assisted in war-time controls.

The Korean Conflict strengthened farm prices, and most of the stocks acquired by the CCC during the post war years of 1948 and 1949 were sold. Agricultural acts continued to provide flexible supports, but stocks of farm commodities continued to increase.

As an assist to farmers, to divert a part of their cropland from the production of excessive supplies, the Agricultural Act of 1956 provided for a Soil Bank Program. For the next few years controls were minimized and dependence was placed on the Soil Bank for diverting excess acreage from production. Acreage allotments for corn were discontinued, after they were rejected by producers in referendum in favor of lower supports and unlimited production.

And so over the years, Congress has enacted various Agricultural Adjustment Acts until production control has become a way of life and evolved to the status as we know it today.

Although legislation has changed, programs designed to bring about farm parity are not greatly different from those established during the Thirties. The programs have survived a succession of condi-

tions, including a world depression, dust-bowl, farm migrations, droughts, increases in demand, decline in farm income and the accumulation of new surpluses.

### DAIRY

One segment of agriculture which has fared much better than other agricultural commodities is the dairy industry. However, dairymen are becoming increasingly aware of production problems. Their concern is reflected in one of Michigan Farm Bureau's current policy statements which urges work with the dairy industry in the development and implementation of a supply-management program designed to keep milk production in line with the market needs for dairy products.

Dairymen's success has been due to the major economic adjustments within the industry during the mid 1960's, regulations on imports, successes on the political front and able leadership in price bargaining, according to Dr. Dale Hathaway, chairman of the Department of Economics at Michigan State University.

Dr. Hathaway, speaking at the National Milk Producers Federation Meeting, urged dairymen to take the initiative in solving the milk production situation before the problem becomes so serious that the roof literally falls in or before some other kind of approach to control production is forced upon them.

A possible production control mechanism being studied by dairy leaders is a new pricing system. Under the proposed new system, there would be one price for fluid milk, a price for normal manufacturing needs and a surplus milk price that, in theory at least, would be low enough to make production of large amounts of surplus milk uneconomical.

### POULTRY

There has been an increasingly drastic up-and-down price pattern in poultry and eggs and a serious price-cost relationship has existed during recent months. Extensive efforts by producers to correct these problems so far have met with little results.

The development of an orderly program to reduce the national laying flock might be the answer. However, such a program should make full use of producers participation in program development and administration, require a producer referendum, be consistent with the competitive market system, and be limited to an emergency and temporary period.

As it appears to some, poultry producers are unable to use voluntary agreement under the provisions of present legislation to achieve the necessary reduction in fowl numbers. New legislation has been introduced. Briefly, this proposed act would provide for the registration of all commercial egg producers. Then, after a decision by an industry advisory board, the Secretary of Agriculture could, if necessary, mandate a reduction in laying fowl, with violators subject to penalty.

The seriousness of the situation in the poultry industry is pointed up by the fact that the Secretary of Agriculture has already appointed a special committee to study ways to keep prices from varying so much. This committee has been charged with the responsibility of getting views from all concerned on the industry's marketing problems and making recommendations before summer's end as to how to improve their income.

### MARKETING QUOTAS

One method discussed to control crop production is marketing quotas. Marketing quotas can be defined to mean direct government regulation of quantities that can be marketed of a given commodity in total. Some economists accept the theory that the total farm income could be raised by an effective program of supply control of the total nationwide agricultural production.

Serious limitations of quota programs, as seen by some, would be the difficulty of adopting them on a piece-meal basis. Their reasoning being that a quota program limiting the number of acres of a particular crop with no provisions for limiting the future use of the land not planted would merely aggravate the income problem of the other commodity groups. They point out, as an example, the land taken out of corn production and planted to soybeans.

Thus, it is argued that so long as the income problem of agriculture arises from many sources, applying quotas on any major commodity alone would lend to little increase in total farm income.

A quota program that would encompass both grain and livestock products would appear to be very complex. It would seem safe to assume that the determination of the size of quotas to be distributed among the various livestock and feed grains would prove a severe test.

On the surface, a quota system for the feed-livestock economy that dealt only with feed grains might be feasible. After all, present and past control programs have operated under the assumption, even if not loudly mentioned, that livestock production will adjust to feed supplies and costs.

Another limitation apparent with quota programs relates to the problem of initial allocation and the subsequent transfer of marketing rights. Questions difficult to answer to the satisfaction of all concerned include: Should quotas be granted to landowners or to operators? If they are allocated equally, what about the landlord whose tenant leaves him? And, last but not far from least, what about the transfer of quotas?

### MARKETING ORDERS

Marketing orders grew out of problems faced by agriculture during the great depression of the 1930's. Although marketing orders were at first looked upon as temporary devices to boost prices and income, they became regarded as aids in dealing with marketing problems through good as well as bad times. They are now a permanent feature of our agricultural marketing institution and system.

The main purpose of agricultural marketing order programs is to increase producers' net returns. To achieve this objective, marketing orders include various types of provisions; control of volume marketed quality, size, grade, pack or container regulation and the prohibition of unfair trade practices. Each order may include one or more of these provisions.

Acceptance of federal marketing orders by farmers has been due to their application on a local or regional basis and the fact that they have not been used for the direct control of production. Farm Bureau's position is that these principles should be maintained and that federal marketing orders should be designed to provide for orderly marketing.

The position of the majority of Farm Bureau members regarding federal marketing orders is shown in the Bureau's current policy which reads:

"Orders should not be used to control production directly, establish closed markets, maintain artificially high prices, or collect funds for the purpose of agricultural products for diversion purposes.

"Any federal marketing order should meet the following criteria:

- (1) Be producer oriented.
- (2) Be market oriented and used to maintain and expand markets.
- (3) Provide opportunity for new producers to enter the industry.
- (4) Contain provision for periodic review through referenda to determine if the producers covered by a marketing order favor its continuation.
- (5) Allow a minority of producers to petition for rehearings or a new referendum.
- (6) Cover commodities which are produced for the same general market irrespective of the production area.
- (7) Provide that rejection of a proposed amendment shall not result in termination of the entire order.
- (8) Be administered by an advisory committee with the Secretary of Agriculture having the final authority to make sure the law is enforced.

"The law should be amended to provide that an order shall be terminated whenever more than 50 percent of those voting favor termination.

"Marketing orders for commodities produced for processing should not require processor approval when confined to raw agricultural products. We support an amendment to the Act to permit the development of orders for any agricultural commodity and its products when producers request it."

### SUMMARY

It is one thing to believe that it is necessary to control supply in general, and another to believe it is necessary to control the output that individual farmers market.

Farmers are dissatisfied with their income and believe that consumers should pay higher prices so farmers might have a more equitable income. They believe processors and retailers have an influence on the market.

Generally, farmers have expressed the idea that in an attempt to get higher prices, they must be able to control the output of individual farmers. However, the majority of farmers, as yet, have not expressed a willingness to actually accept restrictions on their own output.

Thus, it appears that if farmers are going to be effective in developing a means of obtaining equity of income, they must first rethink some of their positions and evaluate some of their beliefs and values.



**TOPIC SUMMARY**

The February discussion topic dealt with "Zoning-Land Use." The following percentages reflect the answers given to the questions by those community groups which replied.

- Does your township have a zoning ordinance?  
Yes: 60% No: 40%
- Is a member of your group a member of a township or county zoning board or planning commission?  
Yes: 41% No: 59%
- Does your group feel that agriculture is sufficiently represented on zoning boards and planning commissions?  
Yes: 57% No: 43%
- Is there a land use plan in your county?  
Yes: 54% No: 46%
- In those townships or counties having a zoning ordinance, has it been recently updated to your knowledge?  
Yes: 61% No: 39%
- If your township does not have a zoning ordinance, would the majority of your group like your township to adopt one?  
Yes: 74% No: 26%
- It has been recommended that enforcement of state and local laws pertaining to land management programs be strengthened. What are some suggested ways that this can be accomplished?

Green Belt land assessing program would prevent urban sprawl; education of the public and real estate developers concerning sound land management practices is vital if wise laws are to be made and enforced; make officials do their jobs; too strict already; get citizens involved so that informed decisions can be made; more locally controlled — too much red tape; not let undue pressure by citizen groups influence board decisions; better enforcement; full support of local zoning board by all interested people; each township or area should have realistic programs for land management and laws governing the programs should be enforced.

**Discussion Topic**

The Discussion Topic and Report Sheet for the discussion topic on the opposite page is furnished for use of community group members who may wish to review it prior to their group meeting. 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 May 1, 1972.

**COMMUNITY FARM BUREAU  
Discussion Exercise and Report Sheet  
April 1, 1972**

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

**TOPIC: Control of Farm Production**

- Should government protect the public interest and prevent the price of raw agricultural products from increasing?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Should farmers reduce the total amount of products going to market in order to receive a higher price for their products?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Can farmers make their bargaining power felt without cutting off the available supply of processors? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- In your opinion, farm prices are largely determined by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- It has been said that agriculture could not survive without an export market. Should the U.S. drop all agricultural trade barriers with other countries in return for the same reductions by these countries? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- What are your group's suggestions for controlling the quantity of farm products in order to increase farmers' income?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ANY NUMBER CAN PLAY**

It's become a Great American Game — playing with numbers to prove a point. It often seems that everybody wants to get into the act, and usually does.

In health care discussions, the game has been raised to an art form. Mortality and morbidity statistics are cited as definitive measurements of the "health" of our health care system.

Those who speak in defense of our country's health care often decline to play the game, but not because they have no "ammunition." So, since anyone can play, let's hear a word on the positive side.

Doctors' fees, reportedly rising out of sight, actually rose just 8.5 percent more than the Consumer Price Index between 1967 and 1971.

The U.S. death rate from heart and blood vessel disease dropped 20 percent in as many years. Estimated lives saved from this progress: 51,000.

Statistics increasingly indicate that deaths from hardening of the arteries relate directly to cholesterol and saturated fats in diet. (In Finland, where diets are five percent higher in fats than in the U.S., the death rate from arteriosclerosis is 7.5 percent higher than in the U.S.)

An American worker now needs half as much time to earn the cost of a pneumonia hospitalization as in 1950. The daily cost is higher, but the hospital stay is only one-quarter as long. Between 1957 and 1966, U.S. male life expectancy rose 11.4 percent. Between 1950 and 1969, deaths per 100,000 dropped from 40.5 to 21.3 for infant diseases, and from 22.5 to 2.6 for tuberculosis.

The numbers game can be very informative. Our health care system has its problems, but has it really failed us as some believe? We don't think so.

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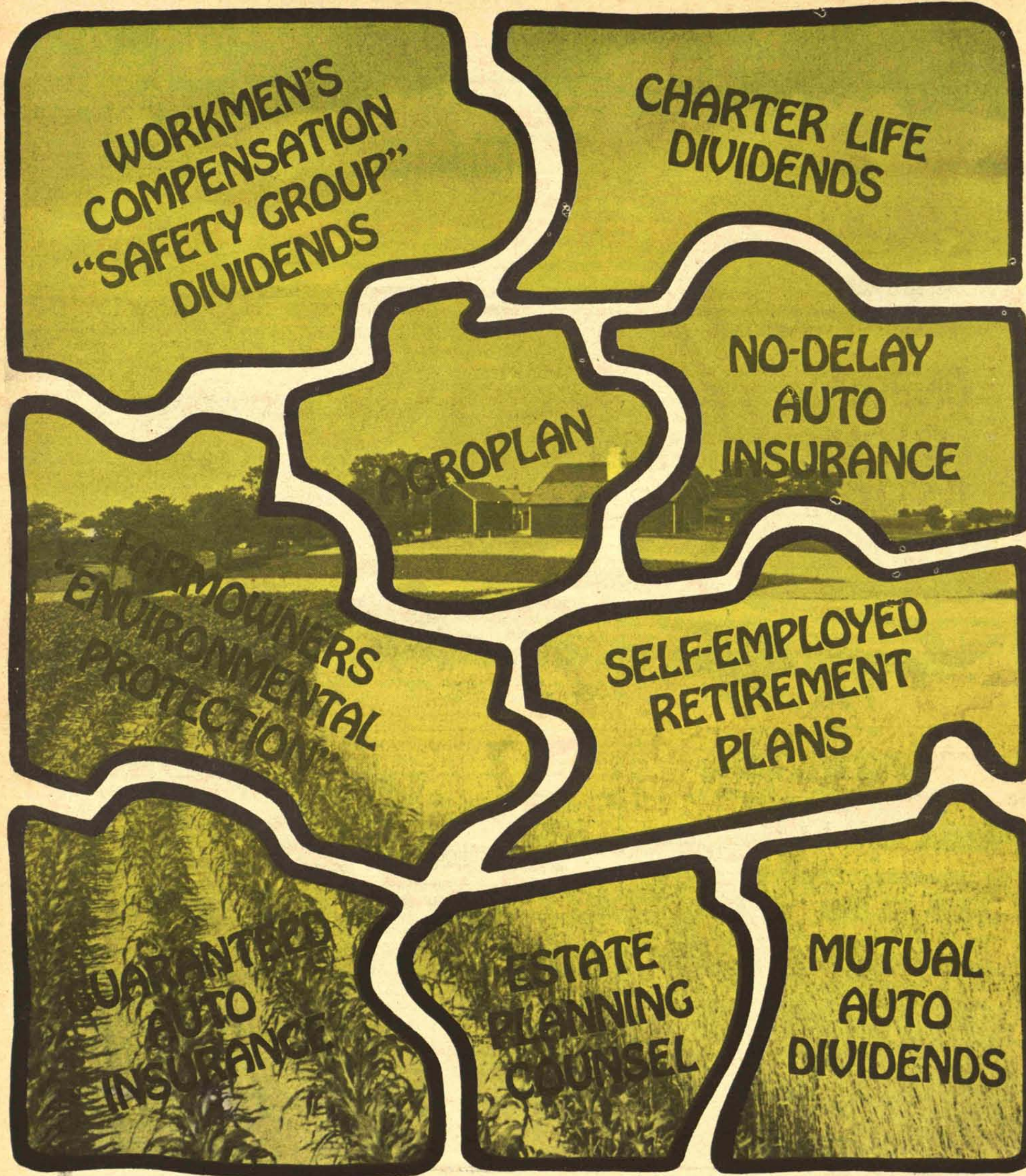
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