1972 ATTEND YOUR COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

IN THIS ISSUE Capitol Report Page 3 Marketing Page 5 National Notes Page 7 Discussion Topic Page 10
The barrier of stories and discussion about food prices received by farmers still persists. According to most reports, farmers are enjoying increased prices for some of the food items they produce. Farmers should have the opportunity to earn an adequate income, the same as those engaged in other pursuits. So, why should produce and agricultural producers, get upset when farm prices increase?

In the first place, food prices aren't really unreasonable. Today's consumers spend only 15% of their after-tax income on food, which is the lowest percentage in the world at any time.

Farmers aren't really sharing in the food price increases. In the last decade, annual expenditures for food in the U.S. have risen $35.5 billion, but only $11.4 billion of that went to farmers. This means that the farmers' share of the consumer food dollar.

Another reason that consumers keep complaining about their "grocery bill" is that they fail to recognize the changes in today's merchandising techniques. Our modern supermarkets offer a wide range of products, ranging from bread and butter to lawn and garden supplies and a score of items in between. Last year's report shows that consumers spent the smallest percentage of their "grocery bill" for non-food items.

One reason that food price discussions continue is the necessary frequency of food shopping. Housewives face this task every week or so and can remember the prices paid for most items from week to week. One time she may be displeased by the price of meat, while complaining about the price of lettuce the next shopping trip and so on.

Another reason that consumers keep complaining about their "grocery bill" is that they fail to recognize the changes in today's merchandising techniques. Our modern supermarkets offer a wide range of products, ranging from bread and butter to lawn and garden supplies and a score of items in between. Last year's report shows that consumers spent the smallest percentage of their "grocery bill" for non-food items.

Three-fourths of all pet foods are sold through supermarkets, two-thirds of all toothpastes and over one-half of all paper products, magazines and paper supplies all get "lost" in our grocery budget, yet these are not food items.

Perhaps another reason for the continued play on food prices is this is an election year and politicians keep well tuned to any complaint. Consequently, they loudly champion the housewives' cause against so-called high food prices. It is an area that some politicians feel they can speak about and not get hurt at the polls, due to the fact the farmers are few in number.

Consumers don't seem to care or understand that farm prices fluctuate widely. Only a year or so ago, hog and cattle prices were down. Farmers lost money during this extended period. Today's consumer went down to the supermarket with broadmindedness and an unselfish attitude. We have realized in the past, and must realize in the future, that a few members. Let us keep in the forefront of our policy development procedure. We can do otherwise.

Farm Bureau members often point with justification to facts that consumers and farmers are always fighting over the price of food. Consumers have to be made to realize that food, as well as other prices, will continue to go up as long as our economy is in an inflationary period.

Carl F. Kentner
Property tax reform and the accompanying school finance reform combined create a most complicated issue involving Legislatures, courts and the taxpayer. There will be reform in one way or another - that is almost certain. But people are fed up with the property tax as a means of financing schools. It is equally obvious that the nation's courts are going to demand different systems of financing schools.

The present method of using property tax for school operation was first attacked in a California court case (Serrano vs. Priest). It has since spread across the nation to Texas, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio and other states. The issue of the constitutionality of the present property tax system is now before the Michigan Supreme Court. Verbal arguments have already been heard. The issue is also under appeal in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The basis for the decision is that the present use of property tax for school operation is not based on equal protection as required by the U.S. Constitution. For example, in a poor district with $5,000 valuation per pupil a mill of property tax yields only $5 per pupil. In a wealthier district, such as $25,000 valuation per pupil, it yields five times as much - or $25. The courts do not outlaw the use of the property tax, only how it is used, meaning that there must be equality of education and equity in the support of education.

The number of ways to meet the court's findings is limited. The most logical way is for the state to assume all responsibility for a statewide property tax for schools. It is reported that California is solving the problem in this manner. Many in Michigan prefer this system. In this event, the issue as a constitutional issue involving property tax for school operation would be cut to 29 mills. This is the present average property tax now collected for school operation. This would mean a heavy increase in school property taxes in some areas and a decrease in others. It would also limit any future opportunity to eliminate the school property tax barrier. Another method that could be used to meet the court rulings would be full district reorganization. This could be a kind of "reapportionment," as each district could be reorganized so that there would be equalized property values in order to assure equal property taxes. District lines would need to be redrawn from time to time. Even under this system, there would probably have to be a mandatory and uniform property tax.

Michigan voters will have an opportunity in November to solve the problem and to gain tremendous property tax relief by eliminating the property tax as a means of operating schools and shifting to the income tax as a major source of revenue for school operation. The inequities in the property tax are well known. It bears little resemblance to ability to pay. Farmers, in particular, are especially hard hit.

The property tax in Michigan now amounts to an average of over 23% of the farmers' net income. Other segments of the economy still average around the 5% figure. This results from the fact that personal income has been rising steadily and has kept pace with the increase in property taxes. It is not true, however, for farmers, the elderly and others on fixed income.

Property tax reform and school finance reform have been used as a political football for some years. Several good programs have been before the Legislature; however, it has never been possible to reach agreement on any program.

Changing the Constitution through the vote of the people in November will assure ceilings on the property tax that will last. The present 15-mill limitation, which in some cases can be up to 18 mills, would become a 14-mill limitation. The 50-mill limitation as a ceiling on the amount of property tax that can be raised would become 26 mills. The present 35 mills that can be voted would be cut to not more than 12 mills that could be voted.

As far as the individual is concerned, the cut in property taxes would be made up by a flat rate income tax of 2.3%. If a second income tax is added to the flat rate, which would permit the Legislature to vote in a graduated income tax, the rate would depend upon the individual's income bracket. Of the 36 or more states that have income taxes, Michigan has one of lowest rate - all the rest are graduated.

The important thing is that the two issues (property tax reform and the proposed income tax change) will be separate propositions. The voters on the November ballot. Each will stand on its own merit.

Contrary to some propaganda that is being circulated, school finance reform has absolutely nothing to do with the very controversial and emotional lasting issue. The busing issue is entirely separate.

The question raised on "local control" should be viewed very carefully. The Constitution makes it very clear that "the leadership and general supervision over all public education . . . is vested in a State Board of Education" and that the "Legislature shall maintain and support a system of free public elementary and secondary schools as defined by law." Local boards presently can do nothing that is not permitted either by law or by guidelines and regulations established by the State Department of Education.

Many schools already receive most of their financing from state aid. As a result, they have no more restrictions on them than those schools that are heavily locally financed. The one problem facing all school boards is the effort to continually push for voter approval of increased property tax.

One state in the nation is totally financed by state revenues - Hawaii. There are other states that are state financed as much as 75% or more - Delaware and North Carolina. Reports are that these states have as much local control of schools as other states.

The decision will either be made in November by the voters or it will be made in the near future by the courts. In Michigan, it truly can be repeated that the issue may be a statewide property tax vs. an income tax as the major source of revenue to operate the schools.
Women Hold Workshops

Representatives from 48 county Farm Bureau Women's Committees in the Lower Peninsula attended two multi-district leadership workshops in early August. The workshops were aimed at providing women's leadership information, ideas and inspiration to initiate action projects in their home counties involving the 1973 Michigan Farm Bureau Women's "Program of Work."

The leaders had a choice of four workshop areas in which to participate, each pertaining to the main areas of work to Farm Bureau Women during the coming year: Legislative Activities, Safety and Health, Reaching and Influencing People and Profit-Making. At the close of the day's program each county announced two projects to which they planned to devote much of their time and efforts during 1973.

The women were welcomed by State Women's Chairman, Doris Wieland, or State Vice-Chairman, Claudine Jackson. Both encouraged participants to activate and stimulate Farm Bureau Women to undertake action-projects "back home."

Lary Ewing, Manager of the Program Development Division for Michigan Farm Bureau, chose the intriguing title "P.I.C.S.-" for his presentation at the workshops. Emphasizing Projects, Involvement, Goals and Structure, he urged the women to take advantage of the uniqueness of people by finding out their interests, getting them involved in worthwhile projects, and giving them the satisfaction of reaching obtainable goals. "Most women crave action," he said, "and can fulfill their personal needs for growth and development at the same time they are helping the organization reach its goals, if leaders will get them involved in action projects of interest to them."

Similar workshops will be held for Farm Bureau Women in the Upper Peninsula in October.

Annual Meetings Planned

The Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids will again be the site of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative annual meetings, scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 8, 9 and 10.

President Ellen Smith will open the three-day event with his annual address on Wednesday morning. A combined social luncheon, featuring Dr. Harvey Hahn, guest lecturer for General Motors, is planned for those attending the Farm Bureau Women and Commodity sessions. Dr. Hahn has devoted much of his time and talents to providing all employees with special service programs to combat juvenile delinquency. A million-dollar community fund, paid for partly by honorsariums from his many speaking engagements, was dedicated in Dayton, Ohio, in 1963.

Sanilac Holds Young Farmer Night

A successful, well-attended Young Farmer night held recently in Sanilac County was a natural result in some family-type winning combinations. Two of the three pretty girls vying for the title of Sanilac County Farm Bureau Queen are sisters, and the third is daughter of one of the Discussion Meeting wives.

Seeking the Farm Bureau Queen title are Liz and Lou Ann Muir, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Muir of Brown City, and Elsie Hagel, wife of Dale Hagel of Marlette. Winners of the Discussion Meet were Dale Hagel and James Callender, also of Marlette. Topic of the discussion meet was "How can farmers create additional markets?" Dale and Jim will now enter the district competition at the Young Farmer Fall District 6 meeting on September 24. The queen candidates must wait until the Sanilac County Farm Bureau annual meeting in October before one of them claims the crown and enters the state contest at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in November.

Guest speaker for Sandilac's Young Farmer Night was Larry Ewing, Manager of the Program Development Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, who urged the young farmers to make their views known through the organization and strive for the changes they need. "The more dedicated the farmer toward preserving quality for the consumer," he said, "the more dependable will be his future farm market."

Northern Michigan Cooperative

SCHEDULE OF SALES

October 9 — Paulding (Bruce Crossing) ... 1400 Yearlings and calves
October 10 — Rapid River ... 1200 Yearlings and calves
October 12 — Gaylord ... 1300 Yearlings and calves
October 17 — Alpena ... 1300 Yearlings and calves
October 18 — West Branch ... 1900 yearlings and calves
October 20 — Baldwin ... 1500 Yearlings and calves
All sales start at 12:00 Noon.

Cattle are graded by U.S.D.A. Standards and will be sold in lots of uniform grade, weight, sex and breed. Brochure available with description of cattle in each sale.

MICHIGAN FEEDER CATTLE PRODUCERS COUNCIL
POSEN, MICHIGAN 49976

FARM BUREAU EMPLOYEES recently donated 65 pints of blood to the Red Cross blood bank. Pictured is a nurse taking a sample for typing before employee makes donation.

FOUR

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

September 1, 1972

INTEREST ON DEBENTURES

FOR $100.00 OR MORE YOU CAN PURCHASE

% to 7 1/2%

6% - 5 Year Maturity
6%-10 Year Maturity
7%-15 Year Maturity

FOR $100.00 OR MORE YOU CAN PURCHASE

6%-10 Year Maturity

FOR $500.00 OR MORE YOU CAN PURCHASE

7%-15 Year Maturity

This is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy these securities. The offering is made only by the prospectus.

Clip and mail this coupon to:
MR. C. A. MORMILL
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, Inc.
P. O. Box 988
PENSON, MICHIGAN 49976
I would like a copy of the prospectus and a call by a registered sales agent.
NAME
ROAD
RFD #.
CITY
PHONE

Book Farm Bureau Feeds Now... Save $7 Per Ton All Year!

For the last 3 years Farm Bureau Booking Program has saved Michigan farmers an average of $7.00 per ton under market price on feed. Save, save and purchase feeds. You can get, too. Join our 1972-73 program now before Nov. 1 and you will also get a practical gift with your first order.

Available only at Farm Bureau Feed Dealers.
The Feeder Pig Division of MACMA expanded substantially during 1972, even though producers did not expand their own operations during this past period of higher prices. The large increase in number of pigs handled is primarily from new members joining this action program.

When the MACMA Feeder Pig Division was initiated three years ago, most of the production marketed through the Lake City assembly point was from within a 40 mile radius. During 1972 most of the expansion has come from northeastern Michigan and the Big Rapids and Clare areas. Recently, interest in the program has been shown by feeders in the Mecosta, Isabella and neighboring counties.

Late last year, a new assembly point was established at Atlanta.

This quality-oriented feeder pig program has been very successful. Many hog feeders are purchasing their pigs exclusively from MACMA because they can rely on the performance of these pigs besides enjoying all the benefits.

Michigan Farm Bureau has established its first commodity division, the soybean division. Purpose is to better serve the interests of soybean producers who belong to county Farm Bureau Soybean Divisions.

At the July meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors, a State Soybean Action Committee was named. This committee was appointed from nominations made in April by county delegates who attended a soybean organizational meeting.

Mr. Arlie Pickles, Lenawee County, has been designated chairman of the committee. Pickles also represented Michigan recently when the American Farm Bureau Soybean Division met in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Commodity Division approach is a new Farm Bureau organizational method designed to provide additional opportunities for members to become active in their commodity interest area. Another way, the Commodity Division approach will allow members to get special commodity problems solved directly through the Farm Bureau structure.

Michigan Farm Bureau 1972 programme calls for this approach to be utilized and expanded within the Michigan Farm Bureau.
Since its beginning over 12 years ago, Farm Bureau's radio programming has been gaining popularity across the state.

The Farm Bureau variety feature, Accent Agriculture, a 15-minute program on current issues and events, is being aired on 36 Michigan radio stations on a weekly basis around the farm news feature, "Farm News In Depth," is featured on a daily basis by 33 Michigan stations.

There is a new addition to Farm Bureau's list of broadcast service stations. The Michigan fruit and vegetable season, which started on May 1, is Farm Bureau's first commodity-oriented farm program. The new show is being broadcast over the Michigan Farm Bureau on several stations in the producing areas. Stations currently carrying the daily noon report include WPAG, Ann Arbor; WHFB, Benton Harbor; WJOR, South Haven; WROK, Rockford, WKLJ, Ludington; WMTE, Maniste; and WION, Marquette. Additional stations will be added.

The report includes up-to-date information on crop conditions, market factors, labor supply and regulations and technological trends. The Michigan Agricultural Marketing Service and the Michigan Agricultural Services Association are assisting in the production of the new feature.

All 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.

Following is a list of radio stations that carry the regular Farm Bureau programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Callsign</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WJRW</td>
<td>WLRC</td>
<td>1310 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WABC</td>
<td>WFYC</td>
<td>1340 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBAI</td>
<td>WXYZ</td>
<td>1390 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBAH</td>
<td>WLCW</td>
<td>1400 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBCK</td>
<td>WKFR</td>
<td>1400 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBMI</td>
<td>WBCM</td>
<td>1440 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBAY</td>
<td>WXOX</td>
<td>1450 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBBT</td>
<td>WBRN</td>
<td>1480 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WNCD</td>
<td>WWAM</td>
<td>1370 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCAR</td>
<td>WKOY</td>
<td>1390 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHGT</td>
<td>WCRF</td>
<td>1360 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHB</td>
<td>WCRH</td>
<td>1440 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHL</td>
<td>WKNR</td>
<td>1270 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCCN</td>
<td>WDBC</td>
<td>1310 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRH</td>
<td>WDRH</td>
<td>1430 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRB</td>
<td>WDDR</td>
<td>1400 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCAH</td>
<td>WGRD</td>
<td>1110 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHG</td>
<td>WGRN</td>
<td>1120 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHM</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1140 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRW</td>
<td>1170 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHS</td>
<td>WGRX</td>
<td>1190 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHI</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1200 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHD</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1210 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHD</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1220 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRC</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1230 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHR</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1240 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHT</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1250 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHT</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1260 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHW</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1270 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHY</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1280 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCHZ</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1290 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1300 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1310 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1320 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1330 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1340 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1350 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1360 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1370 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1380 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1390 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1400 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1410 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1420 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1430 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1440 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1450 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1460 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1470 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1480 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRA</td>
<td>WGRY</td>
<td>1490 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Farm Bureau Mutual Dividend Declared

(Editor's Note: The following article serves as an additional reminder of a fact which most of us take for granted. It pays to be a Farm Bureau member. It's been an outstanding "safety year" and members have earned another auto insurance dividend.)

Farm Bureau members throughout Michigan will again enjoy the experience of having their insurance company pay them. And there's no chain involved.

Each of Farm Bureau Mutual's auto insurance policyholders as of September 30, 1972 will receive a safety dividend equal to ten percent of his semi-annual premium. Checks totaling $439,000 will be mailed November 1.

The dividends were declared by Farm Bureau Mutual's Board of Directors on August 21. This is the 15th auto premium refund paid to members who insure their cars and trucks with Farm Bureau Mutual.

At approximately 35,000 Mutual auto policyholders will receive the dividend, according to Farm Bureau Insurance Group vice president Nile L. Vermillion. "We've simply continuing a long-standing policy of returning safety dividends to a deserving clientele."

Farm Bureau Mutual, along with Farm Bureau Life, Community Service Insurance and Community Service Acceptence Company, comprise Farm Bureau Insurance Group, Michigan's largest farm insurer.

During 23 years of existence, Farm Bureau Mutual has paid out its auto policyholders more than $3,400,000 in dividends.

"Our dividend program is quite simple," said Vermillion. "We offer a good product and good service. When the operational results are favorable, profits are shared with our clients. In a very real sense, our member-policyholders contribute to our success through their safety awareness, which in turn, they share the benefits of that success."

Farm Bureau Insurance Group is a multiple-line firm licensed to operate only in Michigan through 55 offices.

UUTZ NAMED

A highly successful farmer-businessman assumed the position at Michigan Farm Bureau as general manager of the USDA rural credit agency on August 6.

C. Calvin Uutz, owner-operator of a nursery at Kaleva, will be responsible for statewide activities of the credit agency, administration's varied loan and grant programs in support of family farms, rural housing and community facilities.

Mr. Uutz launched his farming operation in 1953 and now produces more than five million strawberries, annual grass hay, other perennials and annual flowers, he also operates a processing plant and nursery.

A native of Bear Lake, Michigan, Uutz attended Michigan State University where he majored in dairy physiology at the Manistee County Chamber of Commerce in 1969 and is a former board member of the Manistee PCA.

Mr. Uutz, who has served as a director at large on the MFBI Board of Directors for the past three years, has submitted his resignation for consideration at the board's next regularly scheduled meeting.

CENTRAL REGION

Representative

WINSTON INGALLS

Winston Ingalls of Okemos has been named regional representative of the Central Region (Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham, Livingston, Oakland and Washtenaw Counties) effective September 1, according to Charles W. Winston, state Farm Bureau secretary. Ingalls will continue to serve as the board's next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. Ingalls was born and raised on a dairy farm in the Canadian province of Quebec. He received his B.S. degree in agricultural economics from McGill University, Montreal in 1968 and is currently completing his Masters Degree in Dairy Physiology at Michigan State University.

He has also been employed at M.S.U. as a field supervisor for a mastitis research project involving twenty-five dairy herds around the state.

Winston replaces Kenneth S. Wings, transferred to the Thumb Region in August.

Join Farm Bureau

This month, some Michigan Farm Bureau subscribers to Blue Cross and Blue Shield will receive a mailing regarding dependent on their contract who are nineteen years of age this year.

Dependents are recipients from the parents contract at the end of the calendar year in which they turn 19. However, the dependent meets the following eligibility requirements, the parent may carry on the coverage by applying for a Family Continuation rider.

- Ages between the ages of 19 and 25.
- Unmarried.
- Having legal residence with the parents.
- An income tax dependent and reported as such on the most recent return.

This will enable the dependent to 

For additional information contact your local county Farm Bureau secretary.

LC-BR Family Continuation Rider

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

September 1, 1972

BOOK FARM BUREAU FEEDS FEES NOW...

SAVE $7 PER TON ALL YEAR

For the last 3 years Farm Bureau Booking Program has used Michigan farmer's feed contracts to an extent of dairy, swine and poultry feeds. You can save, too. Join our 1972-73 program now before Nov. 1, and you will also get a practical gift at a special price from Farm Bureau. Available only at Farm Bureau Feed Dealers.
National Legislative Notes

By Albert A. Almy

Minimum Wage

Both the House and Senate have passed separate bills that would increase the Federal minimum wage. The House bill (H.R. 7130) would raise the minimum wage to $1.70 per hour. Existing coverage of farm workers would not be changed.

The Senate bill (S. 1861) would increase the farm minimum wage to $2.50 per hour in periodic steps. It would also reduce the scope of current agricultural minimum wage regulations.

On August 1, the House rejected a motion to ask the Senate for a conference on the different versions of the minimum wage bills. The motion was defeated by a vote of 198 to 190. The majority of the House felt that the conferees named would be those who did not support the House-passed lower minimum wage bill. This would increase the likelihood that the conferees would accept the more restrictive Senate bill. It is expected that the appointment of House conferees will be delayed until after the Labor Day recess.

Agricultural Chemicals

The Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1971, H.R. 10729, has passed the House. It 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 without restriction 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 these pesticides would be licensed. States would be permitted to administer licensing of such applicators.

Meat Inspection

The Senate has passed a bill, S. 1316, which would increase to 80 percent the amount that may be paid as the federal government's share of the cost of approved cooperative meat inspection programs carried out by the states.

The bill was later reported from the subcommittee on Livestock and Grains with an amendment that would have required Michigan to lower its high commuters' meat standards in order to qualify for 50 percent federal funding for meat inspection. The amendment required that states with any different marking, labeling, packaging or ingredient requirements than provided by federal law shall not be eligible for federal funds to conduct an approved inspection program.

Michigan's Committed Meat Law contains stricter ingredient standards for comminuted meats than federal law provides. Only skeletal meat is permitted in hot dogs, sausages, bologna, etc. without Michigan law while federal law permits livers, spleens, tripe, etc. to be used.

The House Agriculture Committee reported S. 1316 after removing the meat inspection provision. This would allow Michigan to continue its high standards for comminuted meats and qualify for 80 percent federal funding of its meat inspection program.

Congressman Charles E. Chambless (R-Ga.) introduced a bill (H.R. 10014) that would amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to prevent the use of lips, snouts, spleens, stomachs, ears, eyes, spinal cords, udders, humps, livers, cracklings or tongues in meat products. This bill would raise the Federal standards to Michigan's rigid meat standards. H.R. 10014 has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee.

Farm Labor Legislation

The Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1972 (H.R. 1921) would create an Agricultural Labor Relations Board with jurisdiction over agricultural labor disputes.

H.R. 1921 would permit the development of rules and regulations which recognize the needs of producers of perishable farm products and be fair to farm labor. It would prohibit secondary boycotts and prevent secret ballot elections to permit workers to decide for themselves whether or not to be represented.

The House Farm Labor Subcommittee has held opening hearings on H.R. 1921 and several other pieces of farm labor legislation. Michigan Farm Bureau has been granted time to testify at the hearings when they are resumed.

Federal Marketing Order for Apples

H.R. 15352 has been introduced and would authorize federal marketing orders for apples in all producing states. Apples used for the fresh market, canning and freezing would be eligible.

Current authorization for federal marketing orders for apples excludes several important apple-producing states. Apples produced in these states would be eligible for a federal marketing order if H.R. 15352 were enacted.

The subcommittee on Domestic Marketing and Consumer Relations of the House Agriculture Committee has held hearings on H.R. 15352.

Occupational Health and Safety Act (OSH&E)

A revision of OSHA accident recordkeeping regulations and coverage proposed by Michigan Farm Bureau was introduced. The proposed revision would not exempt employees who were not paid as employees at any one time during the year from the requirement to keep accident record keeping and reporting requirements under OSHA.

Farm Bureau is recommending that the exemption be broadened to include any farm employer who has more than 500 man days of labor in any quarter of the preceding year. The exemption would be similar to that provided under the Fair Labor Standards Act. It would exempt all farmers who employ eight or more seasonal workers at one time for brief periods and whose total employment is smaller than the man days per year of seven or less regular workers.

National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1972

On May 15 a clarified version of the Sisk Bill was introduced. The new bill, H.R. 14087, is known as the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1972. It incorporates several amendments which clarify certain provisions of the original Sisk Bill without changing its purpose. H.R. 14087 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 grown under contract.

The Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing and Consumer Relations of the House Agriculture Committee held public hearings on the bill August 10-17.
When you warm cold winter with Farmers Petroleum Oil Heat, you'll discover that it's your hottest buy in heating. Farmers Petroleum Oil Heat gives you 7 advantages over other types of heating fuels. Oil heat is economical, clean, and the safest, most accident-free fuel. Oil heat is dependable, free from low-pressure problems and practical, with few parts to wear out. Farmers Petroleum also offers around-the-clock burner service and automatic fill up.

We've tried to make our product and service second to none. Our customers will verify that fact. Call your Farmers Petroleum Dealer. Do it today.

See your Farmers Petroleum dealer for his hottest purchase

Warm up Winter with our hottest bargain

OIL HEAT

When you warm cold winter with Farmers Petroleum Oil Heat, you'll discover that it's your hottest buy in heating. Farmers Petroleum Oil Heat gives you 7 advantages over other types of heating fuels. Oil heat is economical, clean, and the safest, most accident-free fuel. Oil heat is dependable, free from low-pressure problems and practical, with few parts to wear out. Farmers Petroleum also offers around-the-clock burner service and automatic fill up.

We've tried to make our product and service second to none. Our customers will verify that fact. Call your Farmers Petroleum Dealer. Do it today.
Crop and Supply Report

By Greg Sheffield
Farm Bureau Services

FIELD CROPS — Crops developing well with adequate to surplus moisture in most of the state. Small grain and hay harvest was slowed by wet weather. Soil moisture is adequate in some southwestern counties. Winter wheat harvest is complete in southeastern Michigan in central and northern Lower Peninsula. Most wheat is now harvested and about 25 percent of the oats. Corn is developing well and most acreage has tazed. Soybeans are growing fast and early planted fields have set pods. Dry edible beans is Michigan estimated up 7 percent from 1971. Acreage for harvest estimated at 630,000 and 1,150 lbs/acre giving a production estimate of 7,045,000 cwt. Armyworms have caused considerable damage to hay in the Upper Peninsula. Hay harvesting generally was delayed by wet weather. Pastures are average for feeding except in some southwestern and northeastern counties where they are poor. Selling at least $750 million in wheat, corn, and other grains to the Soviet Union over the next three years could push up prices. Soviets buy at world price levels and government subsidized exporters to make up difference of higher domestic prices. Nationally, the stocks of the four feed grains (corn, oats, barley and soybeans) are 35 percent more than in 1971, totaling 81.7 million tons. Total grain stocks in Michigan are about six percent greater than last year.

Supplies — Farmers of corn, small grains, sugarbeets, grasses should check fields for armyworms, also variagated cutworms on sugarbeets in Bay and Saginaw Counties, Michigan. In average supply, will get worms and aphids. Sevin is in shortage and can be used if aphids are no problem. Timing early fertilizer purchases for next year can result in savings for farmers with storage. Strong interest continues in grain drying equipment. Severe shortage of Generac and lonza seed wheat persists. Hurryup starter for wheat generally available.

SWINE — Michigan hogs per cwt. July 15, $28.10 and up $2.30 over June 15. This is more than $7.80 over July 15 of 1971. Total line weight of hogs slaughtered in Michigan was 292,000 pounds during January through May, an increase of 12 percent over last year, same period. Nationally, cash belly prices continue to advance although hog slaughter is.

CATTLE — Michigan beef per cwt. July 15, $31 and up $4.70 over July of last year. Total line weight of cattle slaughtered in Michigan during the January-May period was 281,900 pounds, 22 percent greater than same period. Calf slaughter at 7.6 million pounds was down 11 percent from 1971. Cooler weather improved the demand for beef.

LAMB AND WOOL — Michigan lambs per cwt. July 15, $30.80 and down $1.60 from June 15, but up $2.30 over July last year. Our crop is nine percent lower than in 1971 with 154,000 head. Inventory of breeding ewes dropped eight percent to 144,000 head. Michigan wool per pound July 15, 30 cents and down five cents over June 15, and up five percent over last year. Boston fine staple up five cent and now at $1.26 pound.

DAIRY PRODUCTS — Our milk for June was about 438 million pounds, five percent above June a year ago. Output per cow averaged 600 pounds which was 35 pounds more than last year. There is only one percent more cows than last year with a total of 471,000 head. Milk prices averaged $3.51 cwt. in June and 21 cents higher than a year ago. American cheese in Michigan increased substantially, up from $4.96 cwt.

Supplies — Feed buying advantages to farmers now available with past savings averaging about $5 to $7 a ton per year to those signing up with participating Farm Bureau dealers. Michigan farmers paying $6.50 cwt. 44 percent soybean meal, July 15, down 20 cents from June 15. Mixed dairy feed, 16 percent protein at $82 ton, July 15. Mixed dairy feed, 40 percent protein at $136 ton. Beef cattle concentrate, 30 percent protein at $5.70. P D A ban on DES takes effect January 1, 1973. Implants are not included as yet. Cost of finishing might add five cent to retail beef price.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES — Red tart cherry harvest has been completed. A price of eight cents per pound prevailed. All cherries were harvested due to quality problems and marketing order diversion option. Volume apple harvest starts this month, with Michigan and U.S. crops slightly less than last year. Strong demand for frozen sliced, juice and apple sauce improves marketing prospects. The peach crop will be the smallest in years, 85 percent less than last year in Michigan. Peaches are being harvested and marketed at higher prices. Pear growers are harvesting a 24,000 ton crop, 25 percent more than last year. Pear market demand is improved because major west coast states are down 20 percent. A 40 percent smaller than last year crop of plums is being harvested. The freeze-damaged blueberry crop is moving at higher prices. Larger crops than last year are expected for onions, cantaloupes and sweet corn. Production of celery, slicing cucumbers, lettuce, peppers and mint are expected to be less than last year. Snap beans, cabbage, carrots and tomatoes are forecast as equal to 1971.

POULTRY AND EGGS — Michigan June egg production was down three percent from June, 1971. 122 million eggs. Layers on hand averaging 6.3 million birds, down 2.3 percent. Rate of lay remains the same.

Supplies — Michigan laying feed July 15, $84.00 ton; chick starter $107 ton; turkey grower $120 ton.
Take A Look

Some suggested guidelines for reviewing inheritance programs:

1. Has a proper will been drafted with the counsel of a competent lawyer?
2. Has the will been kept up-to-date to cover changes in the estate and heirs?
3. Is the will properly signed and witnessed? (Two witnesses to the maker's signature are required by Michigan law. Neither should be a beneficiary, this will prevent his later participation as a beneficiary of the will. The witnesses should preferably be younger than the maker of the will. Purpose of witnesses is only to witness the signature of the will. They need know nothing of its contents.)
4. Have all changes to the will been made in proper legal form? (Crossing out sections and writing new ones in may result in the will being rejected in court. Either a new will or properly prepared codicils are necessary.)
5. Have heirs been advised where the will has been kept? If there are minor children, has a proper guardian, young enough and capable of caring for them until they "come of age," been named?
6. Has a list of assets and liabilities been made so heirs can deal with them readily? Is this list known and handy to them?
7. Has a capable and reliable executor for the estate been named?
8. If there are minor children, has a proper guardian, young enough and capable of caring for them until they "come of age," been named?
9. Has a source of funds been provided to cover costs, debts, taxes, etc., so property will not be lost, split or burdened from this cause?

Should the answer to any or all of the above questions be "No," action to protect the inheritance might be in order.

Financial Loss

Various things happen to an estate when the owner dies. Its values can shrink seriously and suddenly unless proper steps have been taken by the owner to prevent it.

If the farm and its operation are to go on unhampered, the heirs must be able to meet the financial and legal hurdles that are sure to come.

The average farmer may be hard hit by this kind of loss because small estates normally suffer a larger percentage of "shrinkage" than large ones. Some of the costs are more or less fixed.

Sources of "shrinkage loss" are:
1. Any debts against the estate automatically become due and payable when the owner dies.
2. Final medical and/or funeral expenses and the like must be met before the estate can be claimed by the heirs.
3. Expenses for administration and lawyers fees involved in clearing the estate must be paid. Where there is no will, the situation may be more complicated and more costly.
4. All probate and inheritance taxes must be settled from the estate before it is free and clear to the heirs. If not paid, they remain as a lien against the estate.

Paying Debts

The cash with which to pay such debts may come from:
1. It might be necessary to sell off livestock, equipment, etc., to raise the funds. This could cripple the farm operation for some time to come. It could even cause the heirs to decide to sell out the operation. The owner may not have planned that any such thing should happen.
2. The deceased owner may have left money in banks. He may have had bonds. Some money might come from accounts receivable. But in most cases, adequate cash of this kind is lacking.
3. The administrator of the estate might borrow money to settle these debts and expenses. It is clear, however, that this action will leave the heirs with a burden of debt. It could well prove fatal to future success of the operation.
4. The owner may, during his lifetime, provide a guaranteed source of money to cover these costs and expenses.

The modern business approach uses a program of "planned inheritance." The owner can estimate the amount that will be needed to offset estate expenses. He can then cover this amount with life insurance taken on himself and written to the benefit of his heirs. The cash from such policies can put the family "in the clear" to continue with the farm as it was before the owner's passing.

If desired, such a program can also be used to expand the farm operation for a son or daughter.

Partnerships

"Planned inheritance" can be used to solve the problems of a farm partnership, too.

When a partner dies, the partnership ceases to exist. An accounting of all the debts of the partner must be made. But the major problem is that the surviving partner may lack the funds to buy out the share owned by the deceased. This share is now the property of the heirs of the dead partner.

Such a situation can be met by foresight. If the

Legal Documents
**Topic Summary**

While the number of responses were down, the message came through loud and clear that members are not satisfied with the present welfare situation as they see it. Suggestions for correcting the situation should be forwarded to Community Farm Bureau secretaries for consideration by Policy Development Committee. Tabled are the replies to the questions to enable community groups to compare their reply with other groups.

1. **Should welfare recipients be required to furnish proof of their financial condition as a requirement for eligibility?** Yes: 99.9% No: 0.1%

2. **Does your group think that welfare has become self-perpetuating?** Yes: 99.9% No: 0.1%

3. **Do you believe welfare programs should be funded and administered solely by the State or Federal Government agencies?** State: 51% Federal: 20% Local: 29%

4. **Should free child care services for children of AFDC families be provided when within the adult family member(s) participate in a job training or employment program?** Yes: 51% No: 49%

5. **Should after-work training programs for heads of working low income families plus other adults with low earning powers be initiated on a voluntary basis?** Yes: 75% No: 25%

6. **Should governmental jobs be provided for AFDC adults when private jobs are lacking in preference to other individuals?** Yes: 29% No: 71%

7. **Comments: Anyone on welfare who is physically should be required to work; strikers should not receive welfare or food stamps; would be more thorough investigation before they get welfare; CCC; it should be for the elderly, sick or disabled, not the lazy; encouragement to view welfare as a disgrace; little difference between farmers being paid not to grow crops and welfare; publish names of those on welfare; those administering the programs encourage people to apply so they can retain their high paying salaries; unity regulations.**

**Discussion Topic Report Sheet**

The Discussion Topic and Report Sheet for the discussion topic on the opposite page is furnished for use of community group members who 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 Program Development Division, Michigan Farm Bureau. If used by individuals, please forward answers to Information Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 906, Lansing, Michigan 48904 or on or before October 1, 1972.

COMMUNITY FARM BUREAU Discussion Exercise and Report Sheet September, 1972

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

**TOPIC: Legal Documents**

1. **How many individuals in your community group now have a current will drawn up by a competent attorney?**

2. **How many families in your group have had professional estate planning assistance?**

3. **How many partnerships are represented by the families in your group?**

4. **Are all of these partnership agreements in writing?**

5. **In case of the untimely death of the major farm operator, has adequate provision been made to take care of the estate taxes and other current expenses so the farm can remain in the family and continue operation?**

6. **Do you think seminars conducted in your locality dealing with estate planning would be worthwhile?**

7. **Comments**

---

**FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE**

**SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS**

25 words for $2.00 per 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.

---

**LIVESTOCK**

**Herd of a Thousand Acre Farm.**

**POULTRY**

**POTATOES**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**REAL ESTATE**

---

**FARM EQUIPMENT**

**LIVESTOCK**

**POULTRY**

**POTATOES**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE**

**SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS**

25 words for $2.00 per 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.
AN INCREASINGLY VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP.

CHARTER LIFE DIVIDENDS RAISED TO 45%...

... of original premium. This 12th Charter Life dividend increase (raised from the 1971 level of 37%) is effective September 20. Combined Charter and regular dividends now pay up to 82% of the Charter Life annual premium for policyholders.

When Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan was founded... on these Charter policies... we pledged strong investment returns. We will continue to fulfill that pledge. Providing maximum policyholder benefits and service has always been and will continue to be our prime objective.

ANOTHER REASON WHY WE'RE CALLED THE FARM EXPERTS!

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP™

Farm Bureau Mutual • Farm Bureau Life • Community Service Insurance • Community Service Acceptance