

Issues Aired for December Meeting

Albert Possible Executive

Ford Called Good Pick

Less than a week after the Michigan Farm Bureau sent a congratulatory telegram to Congressman Gerald R. Ford for his nomination as Vice President, a series of crises delayed what was expected to be a speedy confirmation.

In the telegram to Ford, MFB President Elton R. Smith showed his pleasure with Ford's nomination by saying, "We know that you will take with you in your new responsibilities your qualities of honesty, fairness, and desire to serve your fellow man."

"Farm Bureau members have appreciated your support in Congress on agricultural issues. As you enter your new position, you can be certain that you are doing so with the heartfelt appreciation, best wishes, pride and prayers of the farmers of Michigan."

Highly-respected by leaders of both parties, it was expected by most national observers that Ford's nomination would be confirmed.

However, Congress threatened to refuse to confirm Ford as Spiro Agnew's successor while the possibility of impeaching President Nixon was studied after the President had Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox dismissed, Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus fired and Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned increasing the chances of a second man coming to the chief White House post.

House Speaker Carl Albert would succeed Nixon if he was removed before a Vice President was named.

Carl Albert, a Democrat from Oklahoma, has been a member of Congress since 1947 and the Democratic Whip from 1955 through 1961. He was Majority Leader from 1962-1970, and has been Speaker since 1971, which means he wasn't able to vote on



Gerald R. Ford

many of the year's key issues.

But, Albert's voting record in 1971 includes "nay" votes on the Michel amendment to the Agricultural-Environment and Consumer Protection Appropriations Act which would have prohibited food stamps being made available to strikers.

He also voted no on the Findley amendment which would have prohibited OSHA inspection of firms employing 25 or fewer persons in the 1973 fiscal year. Yet, Albert also voted no on the Ruess Amendment to the Federal Water Pollution Control act, which required industries to use the "best available" water pollution control technology by 1981.

Ford's Record

Over the years Ford's voting record has had a lot going for Michigan agriculture. Not only was he a native son, but his compatibility with the

organization on such issues as the Minimum Wage Bill, diversion of highway trust funds, and the national Agriculture Marketing and Bargaining Bill was encouraging.

On several occasions this year Ford voiced support of Farm Bureau policy. He urged the Cost of Living Council to remove controls on fertilizer and on cherry prices, and voted in line with Farm Bureau's stand on proposed legislation which would have rolled back prices to the Jan. 10 level.

"If he doesn't run for office again in three years," said MFB counsel Albert Almy, "we'll be sorry to see him go."

In November, 1972, Ford was re-elected to his 13th consecutive term as a member of Congress, having served since January 3, 1949. He was chosen Minority Leader of the House of Representatives in 1965. In his 24-year tenure in Congress, he has maintained an attendance record of over 90%.

In October farmers considered the best ways to solve their problems through the Farm Bureau organization.

From individual farmers, community groups, commodity committees, policy development committees, resolutions regarding issues of importance to agriculture were formulated and acted upon at county Farm Bureau annual meetings throughout the state.

The next step in this grass-roots policy development procedure is the deliberation of these resolutions by the state PD Committee. The resulting package will be presented to the delegate body of the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in December, and the adopted resolutions become the policies of the organization. These stands on issues form the basis for policy execution and the effectiveness of this process can be measured by past "victories" gained by the organization.

'73 Success Stories

While farmers boast a long and admirable history of environmental concern, this year they were involved in several battles against what they considered to be "unrealistic" federal regulations. They had much at stake in these confrontations. If much of the proposed legislation had become law, the costs of complying would have put some farmers out of business.

The OSHA "emergency" re-entry pesticide standard was one of these and Farm Bureau won two legal battles to have it delayed. EPA's proposed "zero discharge" standards for feedlots had farmers fearing for the lives of average-size family enterprises, until pressures from agriculture brought a "clarification" that it would apply only to feedlots with 1,000 or more animal units.

The advent of MI-OSHA is closer to reality this year. With a Michigan administration and regulation of occupational safety, farmers believe that the accent will be more on training and education rather than on heavy-handed enforcement.

The passage of S. 1225, the Marketing and Bargaining Act, in 1972, on which Farm Bureau members worked diligently, was chalked up as another major victory. This year a board was appointed to implement the act and

is now in the process of setting up procedures and administrative rules.

Many other challenging issues were faced effectively by Farm Bureau in 1973, including the fight to keep Michigan's standards for comminuted meats, election reforms, and tax relief. Resolutions shaping future Farm Bureau action will be considered by the Policy Development Committee when it meets in Grand Rapids next month.

Labor

Labor problems will be a big concern to farmers in 1974. Some possible areas of consideration in this area include: lowering the base for Workmen's Compensation to \$1,000, premiums in terms of actual percentage of wages paid to seasonal help, reduction of minimum premium, and legitimization of piece rates.

Delegates will probably also ask for no further increase in the minimum wage, the elimination of secondary boycotts, more educational emphasis by OSHA, and the availability of safety equipment through Farm Bureau Services.

Transportation

Movement of agricultural products is heavily dependent upon railroads, trucks, airlines and water transportation. Expansion of costly regulations, loss of competition and shortage of transportation. Expansion of costly regulations, loss of competition and shortage of transportation equipment are serious problems for agriculture. This is an area where delegates' attention is certain to be focused.

Also likely to be considered will be mandatory bicycle training and certification, a 50 mph. speed limit on secondary roads as well as uniform traffic laws.

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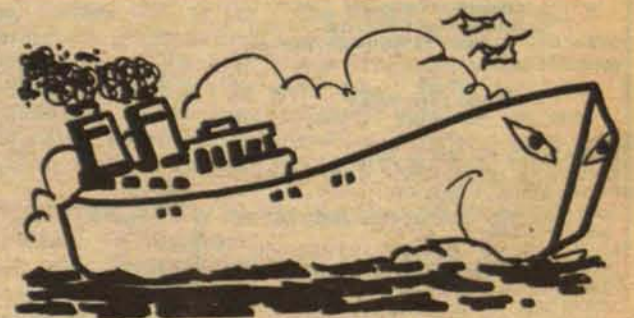
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Conservation Should be Thoughtful

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Newsweek magazine once described the environmental movement as "part religion, part science fiction and part suburban weekend frolic, with a pinch of Rachel Carson and a drop of spoiled oil, all stirred relentlessly by the news media."

Like so many causes that become movements, I'm afraid the ecology movement has become part of our social manners rather than a well thought out process for constructing a better society. A dangerous side effect of such a narrow movement is that people have been unable to realize that we not only must fight pollution but we must also meet the challenge of an age of scarcity. The result has been unrealistic pollution controls which threaten to worsen the food, product and energy shortages.

Long before the socially accepted environmental movement, farmers practiced what were known as conservation practices as part of their normal production methods. We did so quietly without fanfare and continue to act responsibly toward the land we depend on so much.

But agriculture is now looking in from the outside of the popular environmental movement and farmers are placed in the position of wearing the black hats by opposing pollution controls.

Consequently, convincing the public that farmers are concerned about our environment is not always easy. But, unrealistic controls have hit consumers at home in the cost of their food and they have realized a basic premise—that environmental controls cost money.

But this fight we're in the middle of -- being FOR environmental protection and AGAINST certain pollution controls that would squelch the productivity of American agriculture -- is bound to be a continuing one. It's not a comfortable situation and perhaps the time has come to preach what we practice. Maybe we've been too quiet about our stand in ecology.

Our record of soil and water conservation throughout the country is one of the greatest stories in the history of private land management. No segment of our economy or society has written a greater record of conservation and no government has managed land as capably as American farmers. We will continue to produce an abundant supply of safe food and fibre if we are permitted to apply new technology of equipment, new crop varieties, farm chemicals and pesticides.

The farmer is the custodian of large and irreplaceable portions of the earth's surface and he has been doing a good job of protecting that land for a long time. Good stewardship of the land has been a part of our heritage and each generation of farm families has felt its responsibility to pass the land to the next generation in at least as good, if not better, condition than it was received. This practice has done a great deal to improve the environment for all mankind, and has been done by the individual farmer at very little cost to the public.

We must continue to take our share of responsibility in our nation's efforts to protect the environment. As an organization, we need to be as actively involved FOR a high-quality environment as we are AGAINST unrealistic pollution control measures.

We can do this by taking the leadership in the search for solutions to our environmental problems, by supporting research to prevent or control any possible pollution from farming operations, and by continually using ecologically-sound methods in our individual farming operations.

underlines: TERRY CANUP Selling Farm Bureau

Young blood. That's what I figured we had when I found out I'd be working with Dave Cook and Kenn Wimmer on the Thumb area FB membership drive. They were both young fellas with fresh ideas, suitable for the space age, I figured.

Talk about a let down. You know what they wanted to do to get people to join Farm Bureau? They wanted to talk to people and tell them why it was worthwhile to join Farm Bureau.

"If we could just reason with people..." they said. "Reason with people!" I said, "Hey, man we are in the age of the electronic media. People don't want to be reasoned with. They don't understand things any more. They get impressions, ya know, feelings about things. It rubs 'em right or it rubs 'em wrong."

They were looking at me as if to say, "You punk, you're in your Farm Bureau diapers. What do you know?"

"Look," I said, "Do you realize that advertisers don't even take a minute on TV to tell people about their products anymore?"

"They take 30 seconds, 20 seconds, even 10 seconds. ZAP! They give the product name. ZAP! They leave an impression. Ya know, like love, laughter, youth, freedom; anything that'll rub the viewer right. So every time you see their product you get this good feeling. You can do it with anything. You can look at a box of Krunk's Corn Starch and feel freedom tingle in your bones if they advertise it right."

The boys thought I was nuts.

"Look," I told 'em, "Just give me a chance to write up a 30 second spot for local TV. Just let me write it up and see if you don't like it."

I went home and figured what I'd need. We'd have to have a rock band, with lotsa heavy bass and a group of men and women to sing and chant. That's all we'd need for the sound. Then I could set it up like this:

Seconds	Music	Video	Chorus
1	Bass alone with hard driving beat	Man on tractor tqkes off hat with FB emblem and looks up to the sky with a huge smile.	
2			LIVE!!!
3			
4			
5			
6	Band joins in with hard beat	A large group of young people with lotsa great looking chicks in bright colored shorts dance through the field, climb onto the tractor and carry the laughing driver away through the field.	LOVE!!
8			
10			
12			
14			

(By this time the music is getting to the viewer. His feet are tapping on the carpet and his shoulders are bouncing off the back of the couch.)

seconds	music	video	chorus
16	Rising in intensity	Scene switches to women at commodity promotion, laughing hysterically.	LIVE!!
17			
18			

(The viewer has jumped up from the couch, grabbed his wife and started dancing widly.)

seconds	music	video	chorus
20	Louder, faster	Young people dancing up the middle of Michigan Avenue carrying laughing tractor driver toward Capitol (symbolizing FB's legislative efforts).	LOVE!!
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26	Fever Pitch	Tractor driver thrown playfully into air by group.	fa-fa-fa-Farm Bureau!
27			
28			
29			
30			

The exhausted couple stop dancing and talk about what a great organization Farm Bureau would be to join.)

But Cook and Wimmer didn't like it. I don't know what's wrong with those guys.

DONNA

Getting Involved

Once upon a time there was a small gray mouse. He was a wise little fellow in some respects. He knew where the best corn was stored, he knew the coziest nook for a nest and he took pride that he was an up-and-coming member of his group.

There was, however, one area where the little fellow failed. When a controversial subject arose, he found it more to his liking to stay in his comfortable niche munching away on the tasty corn. He preferred to let somebody else get involved in finding a solution to the problem.

Thankfully, there are few gray mice types in the ranks of Farm Bureau members, especially when policies are developed for the organization. They get involved in policy development and policy execution because the issues they tackle involve them and their way of life. They don't believe in the "let George do it" philosophy (being wed to a George for 25 years, I can vouch for the fact that he doesn't get the laundry done).

This grass-roots member-involvement in the development of policies for an organization as big and effective as Farm Bureau never ceases to impress me even though I've seen it in operation for many years (would you believe Cedar Street and Mr. Brody?).

To those of you who will author the 1974 policy book, many thanks from one who constantly refers to its pages. It may not make the best-seller list, but at least one copy will be tattered, smudged, reference-checked, and coffee-stained.

Annals of the Past

In last month's Michigan Farm News, we announced the dance on Wednesday evening, December 12, as a "first" on the annual meeting agenda. Not so! Checking back in old issues of the Farm News, we find that in 1927, over 900 members attended the annual banquet and Old Time Dancing Party.

In 1928, the state annual meeting again featured a dance and banquet, with music provided by the Brody Farm Bureau Orchestra. That same year, an attempt was made to turn the annual banquet into a presidential political rally and delegates balked at endorsing former Illinois Governor Frank O. Lowden. Stunned delegates stayed up late that night, sitting in hotel lobbies debating national policies and expressing displeasure at the introduction of politics at the banquet.

Guess When

Can you guess the date of this event? The Women of Michigan Farm Bureau gained the distinction of having the largest attendance for any of the previous FB annual meetings. Nearly 2,000 women from 60 counties came to Michigan State College by cars and chartered buses for their sixth annual meeting.

County Women's Committee's attending the session were urged to contact every radio network and ask that sports events be broadcast under other sponsorship than the liquor and tobacco interests.

The year -- 1950.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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Small Operators Free from Regulations

Err . . . Maybe

Michigan Farm Bureau was informed last month that the US Environmental Agency informed EPA regional heads that no discharge regulations for feedlots would only apply to a very few large commercial lots.

The "clarification" sent by the agency served more to confuse Farm Bureau, however. Albert Almy, MFB legislative counsel, noted that the directive was by no means official.

"There was even a rumor that one regional EPA director—not in our region -- was going to ignore the order," Almy said.

"Our next move," he said, "is to get the directive in black and white."

The guidelines that are written to apply to all feedlots would prohibit discharge into waterways unless rainfall exceeded the 24-hour high rainfall for a 10-year period.

The guidelines were to go into effect for all feedlots on Oct. 18, but Robert L. Sansom an EPA administrator announced an extension of the deadline on Oct. 16.

Sansom said that public comment on the proposed restriction would be allowed until Nov. 12 and the administrator reiterated that the regulations now being considered would only apply to large concerns that presently require permits for drainage.

"It is anticipated that effluent limitation guidelines for small feedlots smaller than the stated sizes will be established," Sansom said and added that time for comment would be allowed when such proposals materialize.

Even if the US Environmental Agency is sincerely wishing to limit presently proposed guidelines to large concerns, a court battle is challenging their right to do so.

Environmentalists have filed suit protesting the limit of permit requirements for drainage to large feedlots. The complaint claims

that legislation intends permits to be required for all feedlots.

If the Environmental Agency will not be allowed to limit permit

requirements to only large concerns, it may not be allowed to limit to proposed guidelines to large feedlots.

Saginaw Port Plans Offered for Dredging

After a long period of inaction, moves have been made toward deepening the strangling Saginaw Port, MFB Counsel Robert E. Smith reports.

State officials report that the Army Corps of Engineers have proposed dredging plans to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and it is now a matter of choosing one.

Smith believes the plans include extension of river mouth-shoreline or the making of islands with dredging spoils.

Action was started when Gov. William Milliken sent an open letter to the DNR asking for intensified efforts to solve the port problem and directing DNR head A.G. Gazlay to report to him personally when a solution was found.

Milliken said in the letter, "Concern about the future of shipping which must use the Bay County Port is shared by all citizens of the state's eastern area who grow agricultural products, who manufacture goods for sale throughout the nation and around

the world, and who work in affected enterprises. The state has a prime responsibility in this situation and we must fulfill it appropriately and urgently."

Speaking of progress being made, Robert Smith said, "It's moving fast, but it could stop at any time."

Smith noted that even if action continued unhampered, the project would be a long-term one. The fate of the port would depend on a race between the dropping water levels and the dredging operations.

Oil and Gas Leases: What to Know

An interview with Duane Cohoon, Manager, Crude Oil Division, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.

Farm News: Are farmers being hurt by signing oil and gas leases in Michigan?

Cohoon: By and large, I'd say no. There are cases where an individual may have been hurt because he didn't understand what the terms and conditions of the lease were when he signed it in the first place. But, there are very rigid rules under which the oil companies operate and Michigan's laws have been used as a model for several other states. So, the landowner really has a very good position from a legal standpoint. If he has trouble with an oil company, he may have to pursue it in the courts, but generally, he's going to win if he has a legitimate case. The oil and gas lease is nothing to be afraid of.

Farm News: Do farmers realize what they are signing away in an oil and gas lease?

Cohoon: This depends a little bit on who may contact them for the original lease. If a major oil company or a large independent contacts a farmer, he can pretty much rely on what he is told. There are cases, however, where fast buck promoters come in; especially where there is a drilling boom in an area. They will say almost anything to get a farmer to lease his land to him or sell part of his mineral rights. They use the old song and dance that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. In other words, sell half your mineral rights and have some money, rather than take a chance on not having anything.

But most people dealing in oil and gas contracts are reputable people.

Farm News: What are some of the other problems farm owners are surprised with after they sign a contract?

Cohoon: Well, one of the things is that a drilling operation uses up quite a bit of surface area. By the very nature of the beast it has to be this way. One of the biggest bones of contention after an oil company has left, is whether land has been returned to its original condition or not.

Many problems can be solved if a landowner finds out in the beginning who he should contact in case of problems. Usually in a corporation there is someone they can go to take care of things.

If a landowner deals with a lease broker, the contract, in its signable form, may be assigned two or three times before it gets to the people doing the drilling. The contact with the leasing agent is completely removed from the people

doing the drilling. I think this is one of the biggest problems.

Farm News: What are some of the best ways for a farmer to protect his own interests when signing a contract?

Cohoon: If he puts special provisions in the lease, he should decide what he wants, and he can have whatever he wants, but I would suggest he see an attorney. It may cost a few dollars to have an attorney look over a lease, but it will be the cheapest dollars he spends in the long run.

Farm News: Can a farmer change a form contract to meet his own needs?

Cohoon: Yes, very definitely. If a farm owner wishes to change any provisions of a contract, he can do so by deleting them or rewriting them. A lot of oil and gas lease forms are completely rewritten, using a basic form as a guide, but writing in special terms or provisions.

Farm News: Do you think it is wise for farm owners to do this?

Cohoon: In certain circumstances, yes. Everyone should evaluate an oil and gas lease in terms of their own situation.

I think the standard "procedure 88" form provides that you can't get any closer than 200 feet to buildings. If a landowner doesn't want anything closer than 600 feet, he can put it in the contract.

A farmer could insert a sentence saying that the oil company can't use any existing farm roads. In the spring of the year with heavy equipment it's possible for them to tear these roads up.

The length of the contract might be considered. A lot of leases are written on 10-year contracts. A man might be wise to consider limiting the time. A one or two year contract is impractical because it takes too long to put together a drilling deal. But a contract beyond five years is probably not needed by the company.

Now, these contracts can't be terminated before the designated period by the landowner, but the lessee can stop them at any time, simply by refusing to pay rent on the lease. This brings up another point to consider.

Most major oil companies will put a release on record when terminating a lease where most independent lessees will not. The lease is expired in either case, but most attorneys like to see a formal release when looking over titles to land to clear up title claims. A landowner could insist that a

formal release be put on record as a provision in the lease contract.

Farm News: Can a farmer receive any penalty payment for an early termination by the oil company?

Cohoon: He can put it in the contract that way.

Farm News: Do you think it's a reasonable request?

Cohoon: In all probability it could kill a deal. Most companies in drilling business work on many scattered lease blocs at the same time. Unless they have a real strong economic reason to bend over backwards, they'll walk away from such a deal.

Farm News: What's the standard royalty to a landowner?

Cohoon: An eighth of every barrel of oil taken, paid automatically by the company every month. And this is free. No drilling, operating or marketing costs are taken out. The eighth gallon, however, is subject to its share of a conservation and severance tax which amounts to about 4% on the gross. But the oil well and the equipment is assessed as the personal property of the oil company and doesn't enter the tax computation of the landowners property at all.

Farm News: Could farmers ask for more?

Cohoon: They could, but it wouldn't be practical in most cases. Say a company wants 2,000 acres and a man with a 40 acre tract within that bloc wants half royalties and no taxes. The oil company would say it wasn't interested. Everybody would lose. The company would place releases on record of all the leases they had in the area and stop paying rent.

Farm News: What is usually the basis for a rental figure: What the farmer can make on the leased land with his normal operations?

Cohoon: No, it's a matter of how desirable the lease is to the company. The price of an area where production of oil is close by may be worth ten times that where a company is going in cold.

Farm News: How can farmers get information so they'll know how much a lease is worth?

Cohoon: If they want specific information they can contact the Oil and Gas News in Mt. Pleasant. In fact, the Oil and Gas News which is owned by the Michigan Oil

and Gas Association, puts out a weekly newspaper. They carry an abbreviated drilling report in the

paper on each well that is active in Michigan. Farmers can have copies sent to them.



Cohoon: "The oil and gas lease is nothing to be afraid of."

Notice of Annual Meeting

The 54th Annual Meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau will be held December 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1973 at the Civic Auditorium-Pantlind Hotel Complex in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The meeting will be called to order at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11. The Annual Meetings of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. will also be held at the same location on Wednesday, December 12. Again this year there will be a Product Show in the Exhibit Hall of the Auditorium. Awards presentations and entertainment will be held Tuesday, December 11 at 8 p.m. the Annual Banquet will be held Thursday Evening, December 14. The purposes of the meeting include:

- (1) Election of Members of the Board of Directors. Odd numbered Districts will elect Directors for two-year terms. Also to be elected for a two-year term will be one Director-at-Large. One Director representing the Farm Bureau

Young Farmers' Committee will be elected for a one-year term. One Director representing the Farm Bureau Womens Committee will be elected for a two-year term.

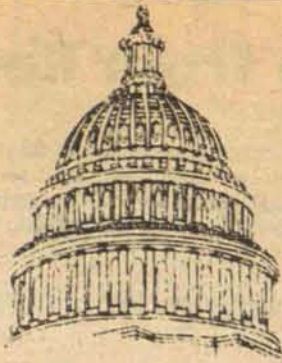
- (2) Reports of officers.
- (3) Consideration and action on the recommendations of the Policy Development Committee to determine action policies of Michigan Farm Bureau for the coming year.

(4) Consideration of proposed amendments to the Bylaws, if any. The Bylaws of Michigan Farm Bureau provide that each county Farm Bureau is entitled to at least two voting delegates, plus an additional delegate for each 100 members of major portion thereof in excess of the first 200 members of record August 31, 1973, not including Associate members.

Robert E. Braden
Administrative Director
William S. Wilkinson
Secretary

CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith



Assessment Bill Considered

During the Fall legislative session the farmland taxation issue will be considered by the Senate Taxation Committee. Early in the session H. 4244 passed the House by a heavy majority, setting up a farmland tax program to alleviate the hardships caused by assessment of farmland based on potential values instead of value for farm production purposes.

The Senate Taxation Committee has an Ad Hoc Committee representative of many interests writing substitute legislation. Farm Bureau represents agriculture on the Committee. The committee has worked throughout the summer and has developed at least five drafts for legislation.

The substitute bill would apply not only to farmland, but also to open space acreage and provides that an owner of property could apply to the County Board of Commissioners for acceptance in the program. If accepted by the County Board and the State Office of Land use, an easement would then be prepared which, in effect, removes the development rights for a period of 10 years.

The land would then be made of the value of the development rights at the time of entering the program. At the end of the easement period, the development rights value at that time would be determined and the difference between the value at the end of the period and the value at the beginning of the period would be shared between the owner, State, and local government if the land is then sold.

If not sold or changed in use, the amount would become a lien on the property but would only become due or collectable at such time as the land might change use or is sold for another purpose. There are, in effect, no tax rollbacks.

In addition, to reducing the value of the property for assessment purposes, the bill also provides that 80 percent of the tax on the land greater than 8 percent of the household income of the farmer would become a credit and rebatable to the land owner. The credit would be limited to \$2,000.

Incentives

Other incentives in the bill, as presently written, include exemption from special tax assessments for sewer, water, utilities, non-farm drainage, etc., and also exemption in so far as reasonable from nuisance laws and environmental legislation relating to natural farm odors and noise.

Further, the State or other government agencies must encourage maintenance of a viable agriculture on the lands coming under the act, and administrative rules and procedures must be modified so as not to unreasonably restrict or regulate farm structures or recommended farm practices. These incentives are similar to New York statute that is now in effect.

At the termination of the easement period, the development rights revert back to the owner without penalty, and the easement expires.

This is a short summary of some key points of the legislation, any of which may change through consideration by the Taxation Committee.

Gov. Milliken has also announced that he will introduce a plan to give farmers a rebate of all property taxes paid in excess of 8 percent of household income. To receive such a rebate, farmers

would be required to sign a contract for ten years pledging to keep the land in agriculture.

The application would be allowed unless the land is unsuitable for agricultural use or is scheduled for a change in use in an approved local development plan. Applications would be made to the Department of Agriculture, and heavy penalties would be provided if the land owner failed to carry out the provisions of the contract. This approach is simpler and applies only to agricultural land. Details at this writing are yet to be worked out.

Many legislative leaders feel that a comprehensive program for both farmland and open space land is needed and, therefore, may favor the broader Senate substitute for H. 4244. The goal is to achieve a compromise that can solve the problem of taxation of farmland beyond its value for agricultural use.

When the Fall session of the Legislature convened on Oct. 16 Gov. Milliken made a special address to a joint session. He commended the Legislature, both Democrats and Republicans, "for outstanding achievements so far this year. . ."

The Governor pointed out that the Legislature this year has lowered taxes more than they have been lowered ever before in the history of the state. He said that in enacting Michigan's biggest tax cut, "we have given Michigan one of the most progressive tax structures in the nation."

The Governor pointed to school finance reform as another milestone and "historic step forward in achieving equity in educational finance and equity in educational opportunity." Even with the tax cut, the School Aid Bill has the largest annual increase in state aid per student.

The Governor also pointed out that the "public attitude toward politics and government has plunged to a new low". He said we must "reverse this trend" and that democracy cannot function without "the confidence of the people".

The Governor then went on to outline his program for action during the coming weeks. He said that a special message would be presented recommending a series of reforms on the way campaign contributions and expenditures are reported and accounted for.

Also, he expects to suggest placing restrictions on cash contributions and ending the confusion resulting from numerous campaign finance committees, which is the present practice.

Judge Selection

In the special message the Governor expanded on his recommendation for judicial reform. He pointed out that under present law members of the Supreme Court are nominated by a partisan political convention and then are expected to run in the general election on a so-called non-partisan ballot.

He proposed that both the Supreme Court justices and judges on the Court of Appeals should be appointed by the Governor with names of six candidates submitted by the governor to a Special Judicial Qualifications Commission made up of members of the State Bar.

The Commission would review the legal background and qualifications of the candidates. He

further proposed that the people's right to reject a judge should be maintained. However, the judge would run on his own merit with the vote being a simple "yes" or "no" as to whether he should be retained in office. The Governor went on to support full financing of the court system from state funds and revision of the criminal code.

The Governor's message also included reference for action to place on the ballot in 1974 the provision for a bonus for Vietnam War veterans.

The Governor also mentioned the need for economic expansion as more jobs are needed in Michigan. He said that employment in Michigan has grown by more than 30 percent in 10 years, while population has grown less than 13 percent.

Consumer Protection

Gov. Milliken also mentioned major changes in consumer protection and that a special message outlining specific steps would be forthcoming. He would recommend the abolition of the present controversial Consumers' Council and the creation of a Consumers' Advisory Commission along with making the Department of Licensing and Regulations into a more consumer oriented department.

Political Ethics

Gov. Milliken mentioned briefly the work of the Bi-Partisan Special Senate Study Committee on Political Ethics. He also indicated that legislation had been drafted in cooperation with the Attorney General to incorporate the Board of Ethics and the Code of Conduct into law. These were originally created by an executive order last January.

Human Services

The Governor told the Legislature that he intends to issue an executive order combining many fragmented agencies into a single executive body to be called the Department of Human Services. This re-organization will include the present departments of Social Services, Public Health, and Mental Health along with other Rehabilitation from the Department of Education, Office of Economic Opportunity from the Department of Labor, Office of Health and Medical Affairs, and the Office of Service to the Aging from the Department of Management and Budget. He requested the Legislature to pass substitute H 4717 formerly establishing the new department.

In his message, the Governor briefly mentioned land use and environment and said that he would make specific proposals in a special message that would include "recommendations for farmland and green belt preservation". (Since the Governor's message, legislation to carry this item out began preparation.)

Studded Tires

Legislation banning studded tires continues to be an issue. The Senate passed a bill early in the year. The House has just passed the Senate bill but with major amendments.

The House version would permit studded tires from Dec. 1 to April 1, 1974, and the same period in 1974-75. This cuts two months off the present Nov. 1 - May 1 period.

Back in the Country

Governor Milliken (center) said he was trying to get a feel of the country when he visited the farm of Larry DeVuyst (right) a MFB Board member, last month.

Earlier that day Milliken announced his plan for farmland assessment (See Capitol Report).

Farmers Holding Risk

Farmers that lose property and expect to be fully reimbursed by their insurance company may be sorely disappointed this year.

Clauses in many policies require the insurance company to pay only in part when a farmer's property is valued well above his insurance policy value.

With the unexpected price gains farmers have made over the last year, farmers will find their property vastly outstripping their insurance coverage.

"Farmers are now dangerously under-insured," said Richard Talbot, FB Insurance director.

Verne Kenney, Fire claims manager for FB Insurance cited a recent case in which a farmer lost \$38,000 worth of livestock in a barn fire but was insured for only \$26,000.

"That was the total limit of his policy," Kenney said, "which at the time he wrote the policy was in order."

Farmers that were already under-insured could be in trouble even in case of partial losses. Insurance companies will only pay in proportion to the coverage a farmer has, when that coverage falls below penalty levels.

Issues are Made Known

(Continued from page 1)

Land Use

The issues at stake in land use include; should the DNR administer authority in this area? and what will be the role of the state?

Environment

This will be an area of continual concern to farmers as new restrictions are proposed. Although EPA has exempted small feedlot operations from the zero discharge guidelines, Farm Bureau is working to have that exemption written into the regulation.

Other issues on the delegates' agenda will probably include opposition to wolf planting,

bounties on fox and coyote, and compensation for proven crop damage by wildlife. A lifting of restrictions on the Alaskan pipeline to ease the fuel shortage may also be considered.

Taxation

The 1973 Legislature approved measures providing some property tax relief, yet property taxes paid by farmers continue to represent a high percentage of their net income. Farm Bureau will continue to work hard in support of legislation to assess farmland according to its actual use rather than potential use.

Delegates may also discuss consideration of fish producers as farmers so they can receive tax exemptions. They will likely oppose increased tax on capital gains and inheritance taxes, and support a depletion allowance for farmers for oil wells. Other items of discussion may be the elimination of food and drug sales tax, property owners only to vote on millage, and the earmarking of funds for specific disease studies by Agricultural Experiment Stations.

They may also consider policy on the elimination of more than one school election per year.

Other resolutions dealing with government spending, daylight savings time, court procedures, the teacher tenure act, and many other issues will be considered by the delegates.

The Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, during which the organization's policies for 1974 will be decided, is scheduled for December 11-15.

Dan Reed on Ecology Board

Dan Reed, retired Executive Secretary of Michigan Farm Bureau now residing in Paradise, Michigan, has been appointed by Gov. Milliken to serve on an important Environmental Review Board. The newly created Board consists of fifteen members, nine from the general public and six from departments of state government. A Senate confirmation is not required with these appointments.

Mr. Reed's background in agriculture and long service to the Michigan farmer will assure a voice at the highest level on behalf of agricultural problems resulting from environmental regulations.

Fertilizer Lid Considered by Council

The price ceiling on fertilizer may be lifted by the US Cost of Living Council after they were told that the control was causing a US fertilizer shortage.

Government officials had been warned by Farm Bureau that a fertilizer shortage would stifle the expansion of 1974 farm production that the Administration was hoping for in order to keep food prices down.

MFB legislative counsel Albert Almy said price controls encouraged some fertilizer companies to sell supplies overseas.

"Fertilizer has been selling in the export markets at \$25-\$35 per ton higher than in our price controlled market," he said.

Representative Gerald Ford and Senator Hubert Humphrey were among those in Washington that appealed for a lift of the price ceiling.

Humphrey told the Senate that 30% of US crop production was directly dependent on fertilizer and added that the fertilizer industry was dependent on natural gas and had to be assured natural gas supplies.

The National Council of Farmers' Cooperatives (NCFC) reported to the USDA that natural gas supplies for nitrogen are not encouraging and foreign sources of

nitrogen may have to be relied on, resulting in higher costs.

Farmer's buying fertilizer from Farm Bureau Services may not have felt the fertilizer pinch so badly since FBS supplier, CF Industries, pledged to sell only on the domestic market.

NCFC figures showed how investment-oriented producers had increased sales to the more lucrative foreign market.

Whereas export prices for

phosphate fertilizer were historically 10% lower than domestic prices, frozen US prices were surpassed as far back as 1970. As a result, phosphate fertilizer exports were 30% higher in 1973 than 1972. Dry nitrogen exports were up 31% and the story was similar for others. The USDA had predicted a shortage of one million tons of nitrogen fertilizer and 700,000 tons of phosphate fertilizer in 1974.

Dedicated Dozen Talking Big

Each year county Farm Bureaus compete to become members of a select group which is known as the Dedicated Dozen. Membership on this group is reserved for those counties who achieve their membership goal first in their respective membership categories of 1-300 members; 301-800 members; 801-1300 members; and over 1300 members.

Last year's winners made the following challenges for the upcoming year.

"In 1973 Clinton County was the first county to make goal in the

1301 and over membership category. This gave us first place in our category in the Dedicated Dozen. We are planning on filling that slot again in 1974. We are accepting any and all challenges for the honor." - Dave Pohl, Campaign Manager.

"We have over 30 percent of our membership in now. We will kick off Nov. 1 and will have our new member goal by Nov. 15. This will give us the extra edge to repeat our Number One position in 1974." - Bob Gregory, Campaign Manager, Northwest Michigan.

"Ottawa County vows to be the first county in the 801-1300 member category to make goal in 1974. We further accept any and all challenges in the race to obtain first." - Eleanor Busman, Campaign Manager.

"We plan to make it three in a row!" - Reinhard Liske, Campaign Manager, Alpena County.

"Everyone knows we are going to be Number 1." - Paul Koviak, Campaign Manager, Cheboygan County.

"We plan to do our level best to be first in the state in all categories!" - Royce Schlicher, Campaign Manager, Montmorency.

"The Upper Peninsula will be the first region to achieve goal in the state." - Otto Flatt, Campaign Manager, MacLuce.

How's all that for conceit?

NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

Freeing Natural Gas

The 1973 session of the 93rd Congress is rapidly drawing to a close. Many issues affecting agriculture have been considered during the first ten months of the session. Many more issues important to agriculture are still pending before Congress. These include export controls, international trade, marketing practices and fuel supplies.

Natural Gas

The Senate Commerce Committee has held hearings on legislation that would stop price regulations of natural gas at the wellhead.

This is important to the food production capacity of this country since natural gas is used by many farmers and elevators to dry grain.

Now that farmers are responding to the need for increased food production, shortages of natural gas and other crop-dryer fuels are particularly untimely.

The shortage of natural gas has in turn contributed to a shortage of nitrogen fertilizer since natural gas is the primary ingredient in nitrogen production.

Since 1954, the Federal Power Commission has regulated the price of natural gas at the wellhead. By 1970, exploratory drilling for natural gas declined 50 percent. Deregulation of natural gas would provide a much needed incentive for exploration and development of natural gas sources to meet the steadily growing domestic demand.

Egg Marketing Practices

A bill (HR 10547) has been introduced in the House that would transfer regulatory authority over the egg industry from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to the USDA's Packers and Stockyards Administration (P & SA).

The bill would make P & SA responsible for providing egg producers some degree of financial protection and to assure that unfair practices do not prevail within the egg industry.

The FTC has had jurisdiction over egg marketing practices since 1958 and has shown remarkably little interest in exercising its authority.

Since P & SA already has authority over various aspects of livestock and poultry marketing, including turkeys and fowl, the transfer of jurisdiction would be desirable.

HR 10547 is now pending before the Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee. Farm Bureau has called for prompt and favorable action by the Subcommittee.

Trade Reform Act

The 1973 Trade Reform Act (HR 10710) that would give the President special authority to enter into negotiations that could promote international trade is considered to be a top priority issue this year.

The bill, that should be acted upon soon by the house, has a provision that would expand the President's authority to take action against foreign countries that maintain unreasonable import restrictions or subsidize exports to America.

This provision is especially important to segments of agriculture, such as the dairy industry, that have difficulty competing with subsidized producers from abroad. Actions by the President under this authority would be subject to Congressional veto.

Michigan farm Bureau has contacted each member of the Michigan Congressional delegation to express that Farm Bureau international trade policy strongly supports the purpose of free world trade expressed in the bill. Two amendments, however, were recommended.

First, it was recommended that an explicit provision be added to require joint negotiations on agricultural and industrial products. Secondly, it was recommended that provisions allowing the US to participate in international commodity agreement be deleted from the bill.

Export Controls

On September 6, the House passed HR 8547, which would increase the Administration's authority to impose export controls on agricultural commodities. One harvested acre in four is exported and the net incomes of all allured producers would be adversely affected by a drop in exports.

Agricultural exports also represent the only bright spot in our country's balance of payments. In the fiscal year end June 30, the value of agricultural imports by \$5.6 billion. Foreign exchange used to pay for these agricultural products allows the United States to buy products that are in short supply here, such as petroleum.

Michigan's share of the nation's agricultural exports last year was \$182 million, representing a significant addition to the income of Michigan farmers and the state economy.

Agricultural exports for the nation reached an all-time record of \$12.9 billion last year.

Travel Deductions Illegal

Farm employers may be leaving themselves open to prosecution due to ignorance of US Department of Labor regulation. The rule, which even many USDL personnel aren't aware of, states that deductions from workers pay packets for transportation from point of hire are illegal.

The regulation came to light when a routine investigation revealed that a farm employer who had advanced bus and air fare to workers from Texas, Mississippi and Puerto Rico, used the well-established practice of deducting large amounts from the first checks of his workers in order to protect his investment. The employer was then cited when it was found that the deductions cut into the workers minimum wage.

"No one knew the administrative rules were in effect," said M.J. Buschlen of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association who was called in to counsel the employer.

But, wage and hour compliance officers will cite employers when their practices are contrary to the following statement issued by the USDL.

"For several years the USDL has been taking the position, and enforcing an administration rule that says, in effect, that transportation is part of the cost of recruitment and the cost of transportation is to be borne by the employer.

Any announcement or publicity concerning this administrative rule has been either non-existent or so limited that very few, if any, agricultural employers were aware of their obligation as the result of this rule.

The following statement was inserted in the Field Operations Handbook for USDL Wage and Hour Compliance Officers, 4/3/73.

30-c-06-Deductions From Wages of Migrant Farm Workers:

(a) The reasonable cost or fair value of board, lodging or other facilities furnished a migrant farm worker may constitute part of the Minimum Wage. Examples of permissible deductions from wages are meals actually eaten by the worker, off-the-job insurance authorized by the employee, canteen articles purchased by the worker, and lodging unless otherwise provided by the employment contract.

(b) No deduction that cuts into the minimum wage may be made for transportation of the worker from the point of hire and return to that point. This is an expense which the employer must bear as part of his recruitment costs.

Cash advances against wages are legally permissible deductions.

This announcement is to advise you that if you advance transportation to workers, you cannot legally deduct the transportation advances in any pay period which would result in a reduction of the earnings of an employee below the Federal Minimum Wage (presently \$1.30 per hour)."



Now Look Here!

M.J. Buschlen, operations manager of MASA, testified Oct. 2 at public hearings in Chicago dealing with proposed EPA standards on pesticides.

Closed hearings began before the House Forestry Committee in Washington late last month to determine if authority on pesticide control should be shifted to the Department of Agriculture.

Witchweed Scary to Field Crop Farmers

Few things are as pretty as a country field strewn with flowers. But a corn field dotted with the scarlet blossom of the witchweed plant is another matter.

The USDA is asking local farmers to help prevent the latter from occurring in this area. Why?

Although innocently beautiful, witchweed is a parasite that damages and destroys corn. It has plagued Carolina farmers for more than 16 years.

"This is America's only known infestation of witchweed," said Leo G.K. Iverson, of the USDA. "But, the potential exists for this weed to spread to the corn producing states of the Midwest. In fact, with our increasing national mobility, this may have already happened without being detected."

Look for Flowers

Witchweed's bright green plants - which can grow 18 inches high - flourish scarlet, or on rare occasion, yellow flowers. Under the ground, however, everything is not so lovely. Witchweeds attach themselves to corn, sorghum and other grass-like crops. Their octopus-like tentacles suck nourishment and water out of the host plant, stunting, wilting and eventually killing it.

"When farmers are in their fields, they should keep an eye cocked for witchweed's telltale

tiny red flowers," urged Mr. Iverson. "Witchweed will be flowering and seeding until it frosts. Any suspect plants discovered should be immediately reported to federal or state plant protection officials, or to your local county agent."

Iverson also emphasized that,

under no circumstances, should farmers bring witchweed plants in for identification.

"Pulling up a witchweed will kill that particular plant," Iverson continued, "but it may result in spreading hundreds of viable seeds. One plant can produce up to 500,000 seeds in a single year."

Witchweed entered the country from the Eastern Hemisphere - but no one knows how. It was discovered in 1956 in eastern counties of North and South Carolina, and has been confined to the same general area.

"Over the years, federal and state scientists have perfected

witchweed control techniques to the point where eradication may be possible," explained Mr. Iverson. "But, to achieve this goal we must first find and destroy every witchweed plant. Remember, report promptly any witchweeds you find - but leave their destruction to us."

Sleeping Sickness Vaccinations Needed

Owners of the state horse population became aware of sleeping sickness this summer when Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) struck without warning in Michigan, killing several horses.

While many horse owners have vaccinated stock against EEE and Western Encephalitis (WEE), the USDA warned that they have left their horses susceptible to a disease which draws the threat of the others. EEE and WEE have hit and run effects, with a virus transported from birds to horses

by mosquito. Often only a few horses in a herd are infected. Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE), however, is well-known for its sweeping epidemics that have spread to the US via Latin America.

In two years, between 1969 and '71, VEE epidemics bolted 2,500 miles from northern South America to southern Texas where it was finally contained after heavy losses to the horse population.

With over six million US horses not vaccinated for VEE, Dr. E.

Saulmon of the USDA worries about the possibilities.

"Knowing the ability of the VEE virus to migrate quickly," he said, "I strongly recommend that all horses be vaccinated for VEE as well as for the eastern and western types of equine encephalitis."

The doctor points out that a vaccination for one of these diseases offers no protection from the others. Saulmon adds that the severity of VEE epidemics that affect entire herds is due to the fact that the virus is transported

directly from horse to horse via mosquitoes. The 30 different mosquito-carriers that are found all over the US can maintain the virus for their entire lifespan, which may last months. Mosquitoes can also infect humans.

Vaccination is not the only precaution. The USDA has a US-Mexico border patrol that nets mosquitoes, freezes them and sends them to labs for detection of viruses. Fortunately, no VEE virus has been found recently.

OSHA Stat Sessions Set

Farm employers that don't quite know what information they must keep on record concerning employee injuries and illnesses can get help this December. Meetings will be held to inform employers on how they can best comply with OSHA requirements. The meetings are sponsored by the Michigan Department of Labor and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employers can attend one of four sessions offered at each location at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Date	City	Location
Monday Dec. 3, 1973	Alpena Grand Rapids West Branch Lansing Benton Harbor Detroit	Associated General Contractors, 2323 N. Larch Lake Michigan College, Room C216 Dept. of Labor Bldg., Room 403- 404, 7310 Woodward Avenue
Tuesday Dec. 4, 1973	Sault Saint Marie Cheboygan Holland Mt. Pleasant Howell Kalamazoo Ann Arbor Detroit	Dept. of Labor Bldg., Room 403- 404, 7310 Woodward Avenue
Wednesday Dec. 5, 1973	Marquette Traverse City Muskegon Flint Pontiac Coldwater Monroe Detroit	Dept. of Labor Bldg., Room 403- 404, 7310 Woodward Avenue
Thursday Dec. 6, 1973	Ontonagon Manistee Hart Sandusky Warren Jackson Detroit	Dept. of Labor Bldg., Room 403- 404, 7310 Woodward Avenue
Friday Dec. 7, 1973	Gaylord Big Rapids Saginaw Port Huron Battle Creek Detroit	Dept. of Labor Bldg., Room 403- 404, 7310 Woodward Avenue



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tour through the United Nations building.

Cost of this tour is \$183.53 from Grand Rapids, \$179.17 from Lansing, and \$149.39, including transportation, hotel accommodations for two nights in New York, sightseeing, admissions and tips. It does not include the convention hotel in Atlantic City or meals, except those served while in route by plane.

For full details, write today. Space is limited; get your reservation in early.

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Escape from Michigan's winter cold to the land of sunshine and tropical agriculture. A huge 707 chartered jet will take you non-stop from Detroit to picturesque Puerto Rico for five unforgettable days and nights.

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be the order of the day and you'll find it educational as well as fun.

There will also be additional optional tours available, including trips to El Yunque and Conquistador, and the famous St. Thomas.

Cost of this tour is only \$286.00 from Detroit, double occupancy. Included are transportation, hotel, tour of old and new San Juan, the farm tour, and tips. Not included are meals and optional tours. Reservations for this tour must be made by November 28, so don't delay!



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Michigan Marketing Outlook

By Greg Sheffield
Manager Marketing
Services

Wheat

Continued high wheat prices will hinge on exporting strength and excitement generated by speculators. Prices should also be affected by the size of foreign harvests.

Statistics from Canada show an increase in wheat production for the '73-74 crop year of 13% over '72-73. Such production would still be off 2% from the 10-year average. Canadian Spring wheat production is estimated at 590.6 million bu. based on a yield of 24.2 bu./acre. Last year's yield of 24.7 bu./acre produced 517.4 million bu.

It's predicted that there will be a carry-over of less than 100 million bu. of wheat in the United States. The national winter wheat crop figures were revised upward in September to 1.7 billion bu. -- a 12% increase over last year's record harvest, according to USDA statistics.

In Michigan about 80% of the intended winter acreage was planted by Oct. 10. Wheat planting went fast but was halted by rains during the planting period. Some slowness of planting in the southeastern counties was due to dry soils prior to the rains.

Corn

The Michigan Crop Reporting Service, as of Sept. 1, 1973, places Michigan corn at 132 million bu.

Silage corn was more than 70% harvested in the early part of October. The carry-over for corn is dwindling. At the start of the 1972 harvest, it was 1.126 billion bu. nationally. At the beginning of the '73 harvest, it was down to 775 million bu.

The USDA forecasts corn production at a record of 5.8 billion bu., 4% larger than last year's crop, and up 2% from the August estimate. Iowa expects a state average of 110 bu./acres, an all-time record crop of 1.25 billion bu.

The Oct. 12 USDA crop report reported 5.763 million bu. will be harvested which, forecast on Oct. 1 conditions, is 210 million bu. over the 1972 crop. Average yield is estimated at 93.7 bu. per acre, off three bu. from 1972.

Soybeans

On Oct. 10, a private survey reported the prospective soybean crop would be at 1.578 billion bu. nationally, down from the government's Sept. 1 prediction of 1.599 billion bu.

The Michigan Elevator Exchange reports no quick end to the current US soybean shortage from information gleaned at the National Soybean Processors Association meeting in Missouri. A forum there predicted further export controls will be needed to assure US livestock producers of an adequate soybean meal supply. Dr. Clifford Hardin, former US Secretary of Agriculture, said the US is not expected to have a surplus soybean production in 1975.

Foreign demand for soybeans ran the US supply so short last summer that the government imposed export limits, but few shipments resumed in September. The demand for soybeans depends on the Peruvian fish catch this winter. Fishmeal is the main competitor of soybean meal in foreign livestock rations.

Brazil, second to the US in soybean production, ordered an indefinite ban on soybean exports to assure "an adequate supply" for its domestic market, according to the Wall Street Journal. Soybean production is booming in Brazil, with 175 million bu. this year, compared to only 25 million bu. five years ago.

Egg Prices

Egg Marketing Division prices paid:

Period	Large	Medium
Sept. 21-27	.606	.50
Sept. 28-Oct. 4	.573	.489

Quotations based on average market as quoted by Urner Barry Co. Members' buying prices FOB farm.

Fowl Marketing

The Michigan Fowl Marketing Exchange was selling spent hens at about 21¢ lb. the last week in Sept. Michigan laying flocks produced 132 million eggs during August, 5% more than a year earlier. Layers on hand during August averaged nearly 6.5 million eggs, 2% above a year earlier.

The rate of lay on Sept. 1 averaged 66.0 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 63.9 a year earlier. The rate of egg-type chick hatch

for August totaled 700,000, up from 665,000 hatched during Aug., 1972.

Honey

Commercial apiaries in Michigan with 300 or more colonies expect to produce 3.9 million lbs. of honey in 1973, about 17% more than in 1972, but 8% less than 1971. The commercial apiaries had 56,000 colonies, 500 less than the year earlier. Yield per colony is expected to average 70 lbs., up 15 lbs. from 1972.

Commercial apiaries with 300 or more colonies in the 20 major honey producing states expect to produce 116 million lbs. of honey in 1973. This is 3% less than the commercial production in 1972, but

a fifth greater than in 1971, according to the Michigan Crop Reporting Service.

General

All agriculture commodity producers can expect to see increased world buying during the Mideast conflict. Past experience shows that buying jumps at the outset of wars and continues at a higher level.

Sales opportunities for all Michigan grain producers are being assisted by the coming of 100-car unit trains destined for export markets. These large rail movements come after a decline in the amount of rail-transported

grain in recent years. Two years ago rails accounted for a third of all grain delivered to dealers. Now, less than 10% of incoming shipments come in hopper cars.

During the official corn crop year -- Sept. 1, 1972 through Aug. 31, 1973 -- Michigan Elevator Exchange at Saginaw and Ottawa dispatched 21 unit trains to the eastern seaboard. Only seven were shipped in the previous crop year. Shipment of 100-car trains totaled 7.35 million bu., the bulk of which was Michigan corn, and also included some wheat and soybeans.

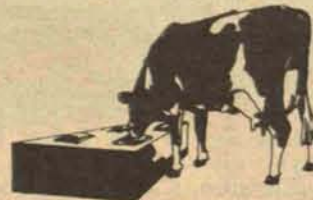
The MEE terminals are the only grain centers in the state which have the capacity to load the unit trains.

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Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC

Supply Report



Hardware

Farmers should order all hardware items containing steel now as there is a critical shortage and allocation plans continue. Allow plenty of lead time for lumber, twine and other building supplies.

Fuel

The fuel supply is extremely critical. President Nixon has announced mandatory rulings for government distribution and allocation of petroleum fuel oil for heating and diesel fuel. At the beginning of October, details were still not spelled out on priorities. It is felt agriculture will have a high priority along with rural home heating.

Gasoline continues to grow shorter in supply.

Anti-freeze is now very short. Of the total US fuel used by farmers, cooperatives are supplying about 28%.

Eggs and Poultry

Farm Bureau Services Egg Marketing Division is getting much interest and orders for started pullets, which are in strong demand, and for baby chicks - Shaver Starcross and H & H Nick-chicks available for day-old delivery.

Seeds

Staggering higher prices on alfalfa and clover are expected. Farmers formerly growing alfalfa and clover seed have switched to

wheat. Supplies are on a day-to-day spot-price basis.

Turf grasses may be coming down from their unusually high prices. Blue grass seed is now more stable in price, as is creeping red fescue.

Fertilizer

The fertilizer shortage continues to worsen. Plans are being developed for a tightening up and allocating of all fertilizer. Even potash will be short and cost more because of the politics and economics surrounding the situation in Canada. Raw potash prices have doubled. The increased demand for all fertilizer and larger acreages being planted throughout the US, along with tremendous exports, are causing shortage problems.

CF Industries, owned by Farm Bureau Services and other regional cooperatives, is not shipping fertilizer overseas.

The Farm Bureau Services' forward contracting feed program for Michigan livestock and poultry growers experienced large sign-ups, but tentative commitments from farmers are only being taken until Nov. 9 at FBS dealers.

The initial agreement assures participants a guaranteed savings of \$5.00 per ton below open market prices during the month of December.

Some Farmers Were Losers

Profits are never guaranteed in the farming business. While record food prices make headlines and most people assume that farmers came into great wealth, there were still farmers who made small profits or even lost money.

Despite the fact that soybean prices hit new heights, some growers found their yields per acre down as much as 50 percent. Increased acreage kept national

production up, but increased the cost per bushel for farmers.

Some meat producers were victims of a sudden descent of prices after meat price ceilings were taken off.

Could the dip have been predicted?

"I don't think anybody foresaw the run-up in prices in August nor the later drop in prices," Ag Economist John Ferris said in a recent interview.

In retrospect, however, Ferris thinks there were just too many people thinking the same thing at the same time.

"The price ceilings changed the pattern of the hog and cattle market," he said.

"There was little effect from the freeze until about mid-July when some producers started withholding cattle from the market."

Meanwhile, he explained, scare buying took place as news of meat shortages were spread in the media.

"Live prices continued to climb," Ferris noted. "with stores willing to take a loss, just to get meat on the counters."

After the ceiling on beef was taken off, Ferris said, the producers had second thoughts about withholding their stock and cattle began to move on the market.

With everyone thinking similarly, the price dropped markedly.

When asked to summarize the effect of the price ceilings, Ferris said they caused sharper peaks in price and made the market more unpredictable.

And don't be surprised if you don't see a corresponding drop in meat prices at the retail levels.

"I wouldn't be surprised if retailers widen their margins," Ferris said, explaining that they would want to make up for the slim margins of the summer.

"But there is no clear-cut evidence that margins are out of line," Ferris said.

Soybean Growers Join Together

MFB soybean producers will be receiving offers to become members of the Michigan Soybean Producers when they receive their dues notice.

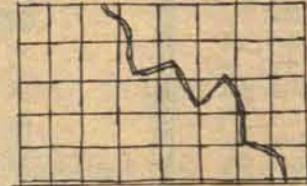
Manager of MFB marketing services, Dan Hall, emphasizes that this association is not a marketing representative like MACMA divisions.

"There are some major reasons why soybean producers would want to join," Hall said. "We offer much along the lines of marketing information and help give soybean producers a means of developing the type of Farm Bureau policy they need."

Membership forms will be sent to all known soybean producers that are presently Farm Bureau members, but Hall said MFB hasn't complete information on all members and will send information to any who are missed if supplied with names.

Farm Bureau dues plus a \$4.00 annual fee must be paid in order to become a member of the soybean producer group.

Marketing



Picture

Cooperative Marketing of Feeder Pigs a Success

When you go to the store you like to buy well-established, packaged brands of products, because you know what you're going to get.

The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) has decided to apply the principles of packaging and selling on reputation to livestock sales.

When MACMA recently opened its second assembly point for feeder pigs near Mt. Pleasant, about 400 tailless feeder pigs were dropped off at the MACMA holding facility but were destined only to stay for a few hours.

Feeder Pig Division head Bill Haas had arranged to sell most of the incoming stock before it had arrived.

How could a purchaser know he would want these pigs?

"We deal only in high quality feeder pigs," Bill Haas said. A series of quality control practices had already assured that nearly all of the 40-65 lb. pigs would have good muscling and proper leanness, but Haas inspected the lot of pigs once more. "A bad pig will bring down the average price for all the pigs," he said. "I've rejected pigs at assembly points, but after a while the producers know what to send and what not to send."

It's most likely that members in the feeder pig program had only quality pigs to sell. Before they were allowed to join the organization, a MACMA inspector

had to approve of their breeding stock. If it wasn't good enough, the Feeder Pig Division would find stock that was.

"We buy almost all the boars for our producers," Haas said, "from pure-bred boar producers."

The division is always at hand to make sure that the pigs they market will uphold a good reputation and therefore bring a good price.

Help in figuring feed rations and veterinarian visits are arranged through the division. "In fact, we will advise a farmer as he sets himself up in business as a feeder pig producer," Haas said.

Producers inform Haas about a week ahead that they will be dropping off their 8-9 week-old pigs

at the assembly point. This allows Haas to arrange order sales.

"The division supplies transportation of pigs from assembly points to the feed lots of customers which is something a little extra for those that patronize the MACMA outfit.

But since MACMA is a cooperative, the producer is still able to keep a larger amount of the profits for himself.

"We sell strictly on a commission basis," Haas said. "The

pocketed, middleman bargaining profits are ruled out. Yet, we do have bargaining power with buyers because as a cooperative we have large numbers of pigs."

With hopes of handling 20,000 feeder pigs annually in the future years, the feeder pig program is a good example of how a well organized cooperative effort can serve a large number of small producers while offering customers good volume buys.



..FORTY POUNDS OF TROUBLE. These high quality feeder pigs were among the first visitors to the new MACMA assembly point near Mt. Pleasant.

Photo by Terry Canup

The pigs were sold the same day in uniform lots of 40-65 lbs.



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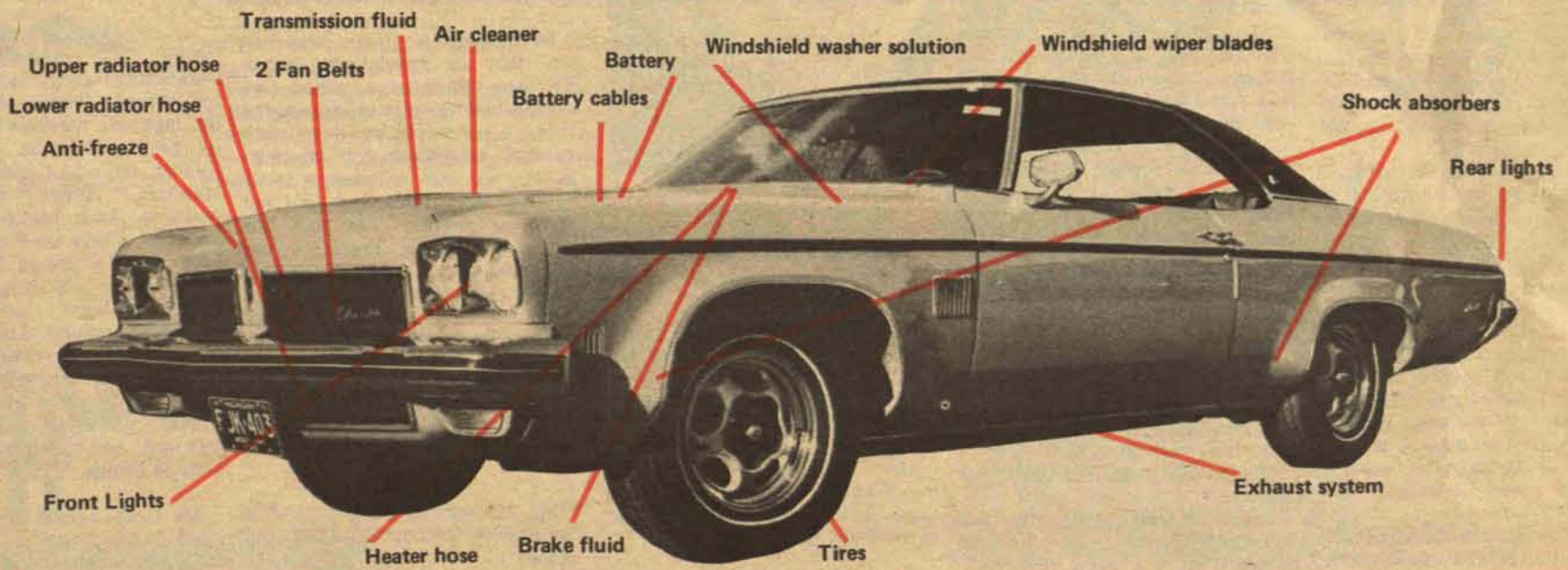
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Japanese Buyers Sound-off

Ten Japanese trading firms bring in 75% of Japan's agricultural imports. All ten of these merchant firms had representatives in Michigan last month as part of a Michigan Department of Agriculture tour. At a luncheon hosted by Farm Bureau Services, Farm News reporters were able to speak to four of the Japanese contingent in order to get a view of US export trade from the world's largest importer of foodstuffs; Japan.

The four included: Mr. H. Numata, Consul of Japan; Mr. M. Soejima, of the Japan Trade Center; Mr. J. Ueno, of Mitsubishi Corp.; and Mr. J. Takage of Mitsui Corp.

Farm News: Between 1971 and 1972 there was a \$50 million increase in sales of agricultural products from the US to Japan. Can Michigan farmers expect to enjoy even further increases in exports to Japan?

Mr. Takage: From Michigan we are shipping mainly navy beans and pinto beans, as far as agricultural products are concerned. These commodities should rightly compete with beans from Burma and South American countries as well as our production in Japan. Therefore, when focusing on the coming year, we should consider other supply sources, like Burma, Thailand and South America. It is very hard to tell you that the annual increase of trade would be say 5% or 6%, because, for instance, this coming year, Japan's new crops will be almost three times higher than last year. That's all crops.

So, there is no trading yet for new crops. Every buyer is still waiting and seeing. Then, I understand, we will go to split beans (from Michigan) and may have a market in Japan for them.

Farm News: What are the major obstacles confronting a Japanese

trader who wishes to increase imports from Michigan?

Mr. Takage: I moved to Chicago three years ago. At that time we had more frequent shipments coming into the Great Lakes because at that time we had shipments of iron, steel and metal pipes. But these boats coming into the Great Lakes are becoming scarce because the shipments coming from Japan can't get in - it's too shallow. Also one of the problems is that from late November to May no boats come in because of the ice.

Mr. Ueno: I might also comment that the freight rates are, as a rule of thumb, 25% higher out of the Lakes than at the Gulf ports. Now, the steamship companies have to charge this much extra because once they put a boat here in the Great Lakes, it stays here almost a month before it goes out again. So you have that overhead to cover.

Mr. Takage: As a trading company, we have to find out first if there are buyers in Europe or USSR for specialized commodities like cherries or canned cherries because the shipping rates are so expensive here.

have never heard the preferential tariffs mentioned.



Buyer Takage - Educating American Farmers.

JAPANESE LANDLORDS

Farm News: Since Japan is so limited in its land resources, do you know of any corporations who may be trying to assure food sources by getting a hand in the production or distribution of food in America or other countries?

Mr. Ueno: I think every large Japanese trading corporation has considered such a move. Some are actively in it like Mr. Takage's firm, which is in a joint venture in an Illinois grain elevator. I think our own company is in a joint venture in California.

I think every major trading company has some sort of joint venture in feedlot operations somewhere in the world, though not necessarily the US. I think right now all of us are in a stage where we are waiting to see how the other man is going to be successful and if a few succeed, I think you will have a lot more imitators.

Mr. Takage: As I have explained we deal in specialized items. Eleven years ago when we established the joint venture at the Illinois elevator we developed special soybeans for soybean paste. So, our interest was to develop new items and find out good commodities. We call this consent business. Therefore, we establish a grain elevator not only to buy grain, but to educate a farmer to make such a specialized bean to fit our market.

Farm News: Do you think we will see a great inflow of capital in the US?

Mr. Takage: Yes, it is expanding very much, fortunately. That's our pride.

Farm News: Is the government behind overseas ventures; for instance the influx of capital into the US?

Mr. Soejima: No. We are now 100% liberalized. It is up to private companies what to do. The government does have guidelines. We are now pushing for more investment into foreign countries because we want to correct the trade deficit between country and country.

Farm News: How much of a role does the government play in Japanese food policy?

Mr. Soejima: There are quotas for imports, but only 33 commodities remain under restrictions; a small number compared to European countries.

Mr. Ueno: There is pork price support for farmers and at the same time, a sort of consumer protection. When the domestic meat prices get above a point, the government will step in an allow imports on reduced duty basis. We do have government restrictions on agricultural imports basically to protect Japanese farmers.



J. Ueno - Bad American attitude.

MARKETING STRUCTURE

Farm News: What sort of marketing structure do you think will best serve Japan for an inflow of food?

Mr. Soejima: There are other items to consider besides agricultural products. Machinery for instance. There were 30 items for Japanese markets enumerated by Sen. Percy in Japan last August, including radio products, sporting items, computers, pollution and waste treatment products. There are many things to be exported to Japan. But till now, I think many US companies have been completely satisfied with domestic demand. And they have no intention of exporting to Japan. So, we are having a trade fair to encourage exports to Japan next month and I think your state will join in it. And maybe this will help change things.

Mr. Ueno: I don't think what you need is a change in marketing structure. I think what you need is a change in attitude of the people in the US. Heretofore, most of the manufacturers were satisfied with just the domestic marketing of their products. They failed to realize that the US needed to export and that if they have the product, they should make an effort to export their product anywhere in the world.

You need to have a better dollar balance. If for no other reason than patriotism you should export. It's going to be a hard earned dollar, that's for sure. You're going to have restrictive governmental regulations no matter what country you export to and it takes quite a bit of patience to overcome these. But organization will come later.

Mr. Soejima: Three years ago there were only two or three missions to Japan. But this year, there are already 24 missions to Japan. Every state now is pushing private firms to be export minded. I think matters will change.



Export Control Studied

Three bills that would allow export controls to be imposed with more ease are now being considered in the US Congress.

One bill has already been passed by the House and has joined two others in a Senate committee for consideration.

Any of the three would amend and broaden the powers in the Export Administration Act of 1969 which allowed the export controls on 40 different commodities this past summer.

The act allows agricultural commodities to be controlled if there is abnormal foreign demand, an excessive drain of scarce materials and inflationary pressures.

A bill introduced by Sen. John Tower (R-Tex.) would liberalize these criterion even further.

A second bill passed by the House would leave the Secretary of Commerce allocating export permits with the advice of the Secretary of Agriculture. Specific limitations would be imposed on unprocessed timber.

A bill introduced in the Senate by Jacob Javits (R-NY) would use a

formula which would allocate amounts of commodities for export after domestic consumption and carryover are subtracted from domestic production. Again, exporters would be licensed.

The American Farm Bureau Federation has opposed all three bills vigorously through testimonies at hearings and through letters to Congressmen and administrators.

AFBF legislative counsel Clifford McIntire, testified to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs that export controls "deal with symptoms of inflation and divert attention from the need for a direct attack on our economic problems through effective action to reduce government spending."

McIntire added that an upsurge in exports ultimately means lower food costs for consumers.

"The imposition of export controls earlier this year," McIntire said, was a disastrous mistake.

"The effectiveness of US representatives in trade negotiations has been reduced."



Consul Numata - Still friends.

'RELIABLE?'

Farm News: As you mentioned before, Mr. Numata, we've had some agricultural export bans. Does Japan still feel that the US is a reliable food source?

Mr. Numata: We depend so much on the US that 92% of our total soybean imports last year came from the US.

Farm News: Did the bans shake your faith in America as a food source?

Mr. Numata: Well, you see, we have many shocks and the soybean restraints were called the soybean shock in the newspapers. But though you did impose export restraints, we Japanese still feel friendly with the US and depend so much on them for the future.

Farm News: Does Japan resent the most favored marketing status proposed which would have preferential tariffs for the Russians?

Mr. Ueno: Since there is no direct comment, I don't think it has even entered the Japanese mind. I don't think there is an objection, though I suppose it works hardship price-wise on the Japanese as the recent agricultural situation has shown. We are paying more for pork and more for beef, purely through the feed grain prices. But I

Final agreements on tariff cuts aren't expected to be reached before the end of 1975.

Sino-Aussie Pact Signed

Australia and China have signed a long-term wheat agreement covering the sale of 4.7 million metric tons of Australian wheat to China over three years.

The shipments will begin with 600,000 tons being transported to China between Jan. 1 and June 30, 1974.

The agreement was signed Oct. 18 in Peking between the Australian Wheat Board and the China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuff Import and Export Corporation.

Tariff Cutters Meet

A special committee met in Geneva in late October to prepare for international negotiations aimed at cutting tariff barriers.

The committee was formed at the Ministerial Conference of the GATT talks (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) at Tokyo in September. Part of the committee's job is to set up special task forces to investigate various aspects of trade negotiations.

Unlike the Kennedy round (1964-67) this round of GATT will cover tariff agreements on agricultural products and therefore include negotiations with developing countries.

Neither the United States nor the European Economic Community delegates have received final negotiating instructions, so bargaining is not expected to start in earnest until the summer or fall of 1974.

Nominees Named for FB Women's Committee



Candidate Doris Wieland

Both incumbent officers of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee have been nominated for reelection to two-year terms. Doris Wieland of Ellsworth, current chairman of the Women's state committee and Claudine Jackson of Howell, vice-chairman, were nominated by their home counties, Antrim and Livingston.

Mrs. Wieland and Mrs. Jackson, who are the only announced candidates for office, were elected in November, 1971.

The election of officers is scheduled for the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's annual meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 12, in Grand Rapids.

The Wielands farm, a 700-acre dairy operation which is a partnership of her husband Dick, his brother, Tom, and their son, Dan. They have four children, two daughters and two sons, and one grandchild.

In addition to her Farm Bureau activities, Doris is active in 4-H, Extension, PTA, her church, and the Elk River Watershed Committee. Her hobbies are reading, sewing and antiques. Dick also serves on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors, representing District 10.

The Jacksons are also dairy farmers, milking 100 registered Holsteins on their 720-acre farm. They have one married daughter and a grandson. Claudine is involved in political, health, safety, church and historical society activities, Daughters of American Revolution, and is a member of the Consumers Alliance of Michigan.

Her hobbies include collecting demi-tasse spoons, stamps and Christmas plates, and travel. Andrew serves on the MFB board, representing District 3.

Both women have been delegates to the Associated Country Women of the World, and are members of the Farm Bureau Women's Speakers' Bureau.



Candidate Claudine Jackson



New Face

Donella Rosenboom adds to the number of bright women working in the Farm Bureau Organization. Donella was recently named the new secretary Berrien Co. Farm Bureau.

for FB Women

Mother, Administrator to Speak at Annual Meet

A farm girl who married before finishing high school, graduated from a university with two degrees 42 years later, and served as a state senator, will be the speaker at the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Annual Meeting in December.

Berta Lee White, chairman of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Women and director of the Southern Region Farm Bureau Women, will address the Michigan women at their session on Dec. 12 in Grand Rapids.

Agriculture and Farm Bureau are part of Mrs. White's heritage. Raising white-face Herefords and Black Angus cattle is the main enterprise on the White's 200-acre, Bailey, Mississippi, farm. One hundred acres was previously owned by her parents and grandparents and 100 acres formerly belonging to her husband's family.

Both of Mrs. White's parents were charter members of Farm Bureau, and when the county Farm Bureau was reorganized following World War II, Berta and her husband, Gordon, became active members. She was active in the county's membership drives for several years, until she was named state Women's chairman and state board member in 1953, positions she has held since that time.

The mother of four children, eight grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and one great-grandchild, Mrs. White received her bachelors degree in Political Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1970.

She was elected to the Mississippi Legislature as a Representative in 1964 and in 1968 was elected as a State Senator from a four-county district. She was re-elected in 1971 and has served on many committees, including Agriculture, Appropriations, Education, Penitentiary and Transportation Committees.

A 4-H leader for 30 years, she was named the "Outstanding 4-H Leader of Mississippi" in 1950. Her many other honors include "Citizen of the Year," "Woman of the Year" and "Woman of Achievement" titles by various organizations, and listing in "Who's Who of American Women."



Berta Lee White

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Get Some Today!



OFFICE CALLS

QUESTION: What is the relationship between the government Medicare program and Blue Cross and Blue Shield?

ANSWER: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan have been appointed by the government as one of a group of "fiscal intermediaries" to assist in the handling of Medicare claims and payments. Blue Cross and Blue Shield work with the Social Security Administration in verifying eligibility for benefits. Blue Cross and Blue

Shield then process claims and make payments in behalf of the government. This administration of Medicare by Blue Cross and Blue Shield is a separate and distinct operation from regular Blue Cross and Blue Shield business. As a part of its regular business, Blue Cross and Blue Shield offer coverage which helps extend and fill-in gaps in Medicare coverage for those who are eligible for Medicare. This is called "Complementary Coverage" and is in no way connected with the government Medicare appointment.

POSSIBILITIES

The Oregon (No Throw) Bottle Bill

Remember the old days when you had to carry around can openers and lug bottles back to the store. Well the answer was pull-tab cans and non-returnable bottles. The only trouble with that was that not only did people feel they didn't have to carry can openers but they didn't think they had to carry the containers from the point where they finished their beverage to a receptacle. The state highway department found itself spending \$827,000 a year for highway clean up.

The results were particularly bad for farmers. Traveling parties on county roads found adjoining fields perfect places to ditch bottles and cans which were not only unsightly but a costly hazard.

The Michigan Farm Bureau has received numerous letters from members complaining of problems due to the throw-away bottles, such as ruined tractor tires, calves with feet caught in glass, a crippled hunting dog and a huge clean-up of 150 bottles in one farmer's field.

In response Farm Bureau has supported legislation to either ban non-returnable bottles and containers or impose a mandatory deposit on both bottles and cans. It is now law, but unfortunately not in Michigan.

While such legislation failed in Michigan, Oregon lawmakers acted when they found out that beverage containers made up 62% of roadside litter. In October 1972 the Oregon legislature passed the Minimum Deposit Act, which has since become known as the "bottle bill." An EPA report on the results of the first six months of compliance with this law shows the law to be a success in most ways.

The opposition to such legislation was substantial in Oregon. Container manufacturers, brewers and soft drink manufacturers figured they all stood to lose. But an Oregon Circuit Court upheld the legislation as constitutional after these factions filed suit and the bill stood. It stated that there would be a minimum 2¢ deposit on beer and pop containers that could be reused by more than one manufacturer and minimum of 5¢ for all other beverage containers. Pull-tabs were also outlawed.

The first changes became apparent on the grocery shelves. Before the law was enacted, 8% of the soft drink containers were non-refillable bottles and 41% were cans. After the law refillable bottles made up all but a fraction of a percent of the soft drink containers, the remainder being cans.

The result was virtually the same for beer containers. Refillable bottles made up 99.5% of the containers with cans dropping from 35% of the share to 0.5%.

The effect of bottle deposits on littering was even more dramatic. The Oregon Highway Department studies showed that litter from beverage bottles and cans decreased 96% after the bill was put into effect. This figure discounted non-returnable litter that was bought before the law enactment or brought in from out of state.

Many of the fears of the opposition to the bill appeared unwarranted. There was neither a decrease in sales of beverages to harm the manufacturers, nor an increase in prices to upset the customer. There was in fact a small rise in beer sales during the period following the passage of the bottle bill.

Local industry was shown to have enjoyed a competitive advantage in some respects due to the bill. Brewers of the Pacific Northwest found it easier to ship refillable bottles to processing plants from collection points economically since they were closer to the stores they served.

Obviously, the metal container industry was harmed immediately by the Oregon bill and the glass container industry gained almost the entire market for beverage containers. But of course the bottle manufacturers had change-over expenses and if bottles continue to be reused several times they will not be riding as high as they were in the first few months after passage of the bottle bill.

Researchers think a sizeable number of jobs may be created in the bottling industry to make up for those lost in other areas and jobs will be created to handle bottles on the retailing level.



The bottle bill in Oregon has been described as a great success but there are important questions posed when considering the effects of the legislation in Oregon. One

obvious result of the legislation which banned pull-tabs and insisted on deposits for all beverage containers, was that more, not less, glass containers were made.

If glass containers are the most dangerous to farmers and their machinery, livestock and crops, an adverse effect could be predicted. But if Oregon's statistics are valid when they claim nearly a 100% drop in beverage litter with mandatory deposits, the law could be well worth the risk.

Farm Bureau has helped attain stricter littering laws, such as one

recently enacted that makes the driver of a vehicle responsible for any litter coming from his vehicle. However, Farm Bureau recognizes that because of enforcement problems, no law can replace one that gets at the source of the problem like the Oregon law and the Bureau will continue to push for such pin-pointed legislation in this state.

Paying for Land Kept in Farming

Today, people have to pay in order to stay in farming. With the prices developers are offering for land, it is literally money out of the pocket for a farmer who resists the temptation to sell and continue to farm.

Prof. William Kimball of Michigan State University and extension agent Boyd Wiggins foresee a day when farmers will be paid back that loss by the government.

"When you simply zone a farm and say it can't be developed, you're actually taking away money from the landowner," Kimball said, referring to potential cash value farmers could get for the land.

Both Wiggins and Kimball said that many older landowners wanted the option of selling their land after they were retired from farming.

Even if zoning boards wanted to give edicts of blanket agricultural zoning, it appears that the courts would not allow them to do so.

"One court decision in Pennsylvania even said that an area could not exclude residential settlement because it was in the natural path of urban development," Kimball said.

"According to recent rulings each zoning area (usually townships) has to allow space for every type of land use need - industrial, residential and agricultural.

Though neither of the land use specialists believe that property tax assessment should be evaluated on an area basis, they claimed that a Hillsdale Co. study showed that tax relief for farmers wasn't enough to keep all the farmers on their land.

To preserve farmlands they think agricultural areas will have to be designated and the farmers within the block compensated for keeping their land in agriculture.

Kimball insists that agriculture designation would not be a condemnation process.

"Area farmers will have to get together and agree that they want to get such designation," he said, "and petition land use boards for it."

Kimball says the biggest stumbling block to wise land use is the lack of goals on a national and state level and consequently lack of direction on local levels. And Kimball pointed out that Michigan was one of the last three states to have a land use planning office.

A number of researchers in resource development at MSU are trying to correct the lack of knowledge on land use in Michigan. One of the major projects is compiling fact books that relate information on land use that can be used by local planning boards.

"There was a case of one county that spent \$100,000 for information

that could have been obtained for about \$2,000 if they had used information that was already available in print," Kimball said.

It is Kimball's goal to have a township information system that will allow local planning boards to get the information they need to make land use decisions.

One of the most fascinating tools that will be used to appraise land use is remote sensing. This is basically the use of aerial photography from various altitudes ranging from hundreds of feet to space satellite heights.

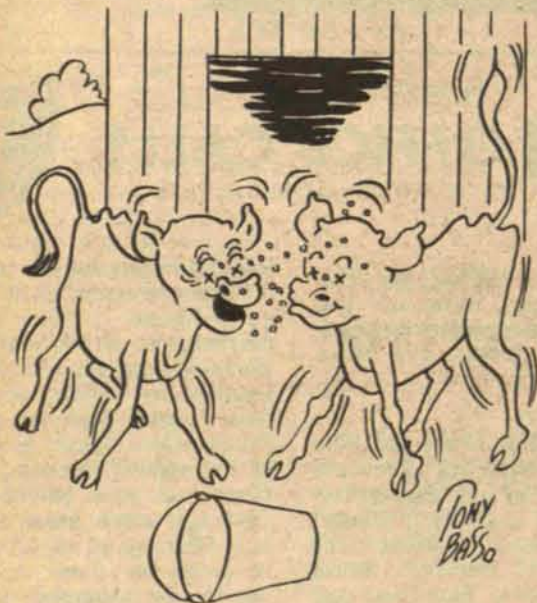
Remote sensing, should it live up to its expectations will be able to cut much of the work involved in obtaining needed information.

Instead of conducting extensive surveys or filing through endless records, an aerial view of an area may be able to provide instant information.

Remote sensing can detect high water tables, pollution and different crops. Hopefully in the future population will be able to be estimated from the air and crop yields estimated.

All this information may help local planning boards choose areas for designation as prime farmland according to a state plan.

Kimball feels that the future will bring a period of trade-offs between private good and public good. If so it can only be hoped that it is done wisely.



"HEY, HOW ABOUT THAT NEW MILK REPLACER HE GAVE US THIS MORNING!"

PRESENT ISSUES: The following are not expressions of Farm Bureau policy

Railroad Not Allowed to Function

Editor's Note: The following article is a collection of excerpts from Federal Railroad Administrator John Ingram's address to the Economic Club of Detroit this fall. Ingram spells out the Administration's rationale for paring down the Penn Central Railroad lines as suggested in the Department of Transportation reorganization plan.

Railroading is not a consumer-oriented industry. Railroad companies deal with shippers, with manufacturers, with rate bureaus and freight forwarders.

Yet, the transportation problems we face today have a very direct impact on the man-on-the-street and the quicker he realizes that the better. It is extremely unfortunate, but the fate of low-cost freight transportation in this country today rests in the hands of government -- all three branches of government -- and government is no more than the collective will of the people.

I won't go into a lot of historical detail, but it seems to me that certain segments of our society want the railroads to provide more than just transportation. If they'd be satisfied with just transportation, then we have sufficient technology, the equipment, the rights-of-way and the manpower.

But railroads over the years have been asked to provide social services as well. Railroads have been told to maintain non-productive segments of their business. They have been ordered to charge non-productive rates, and have been crippled frequently by rules and regulations that date back more than a century.

Railroads are being asked -- "ordered" is a better word -- to provide socially-desirable services at the expense of other parts of their business. The only problem today is that the "other parts" don't make any money now either.

Decisions such as those call for lengthy sessions before the Interstate Commerce Commission, sometimes taking five years just to change a tariff. Management simply has not had the opportunity to manage.

Railroads compete against each other and against other modes. There is just no way to say that the industry is profiting by monopoly, although monopoly-oriented regulatory procedures are very much in effect.

The Penn Central problems are simple -- too much track and too much manpower. The excess real estate not only has to be kept; management is also told by the government that it must be kept up. Instead of abandoning a losing branch line, you take part of your depleting resources and maintain that branch line; and that means you have fewer resources to maintain the money-making part of your company, the main line.

Service deteriorates because you have to go slow on the main line.

After you've done that long enough -- and have paid (indirectly, but, nevertheless, the hard way) for unprecedented truck production -- you find that by the end of the fourth quarter you'll be completely out of money. And the judge with whom your trustees are dealing says liquidate the property.

Out of the Wreck

The Administration's position is that large amounts of free Federal

money are not needed; that if we allow the railroad properties to be sensibly restructured so that a money-making business climbs out of the wreck of the Penn Central, it will attract investment and earn a sensible profit for the investors.

I suspect the best way to establish what's fair is to let people experiment. Let someone determine an area of experimentation in railroad rate-making, and not ask the industry to wait five years -- or, five months -- while the new rates are being agreed upon. In any event, no price should be required to be below cost.

Second, as I mentioned a moment ago, the physical aspect of the industry needs to be restructured.

Railroad tracks still reach out to areas that generate one truckload of goods a day -- goods that will fit in a truck and should go in a truck.

When you have three railroads, an Interstate Highway, two scheduled airlines, one of the Great Lakes and a pipeline network all in operation between Buffalo and Cleveland, maybe you don't need three railroads (two of them bankrupt).

Yet, intercity trackage isn't the only example of needless duplication. I doubt if there's a river city in America that doesn't have railroad yards on both sides of the river -- and in most of those locations the city fathers can think of a better use for the land on at least one side of the river.

Again, I'm avoiding specific detail. But as you probably know, officials of the Penn Central have already pinpointed some 9,000 miles of track they think they could do without. And they didn't consider duplication with other solvent lines. So a physical restructuring is quite obviously needed.

Third, there won't be a rail system left in the Northeast United States unless there is an infusion of new capital. I think I made myself clear when I suggested that this need not be Federal money derived from hard-working taxpayers.

Money Could Come

We run into a lot of flak on this when we go to Capitol Hill; some of our contacts there simply refuse to believe that any sane investor wants to put private money into a railroad. There are two answers to this.

First, a restructured Northeast Railroad Corporation has the potential to be one of the most profitable in the world. The rate structure is favorable on sufficient freight where shippers have been paying the price.

Second, this potentially-profitable system has many areas where improvements are needed -- improvements that will demonstrably improve the profitability of the system itself. Electrification, new yards, new signal systems allowing for more efficient utilization, not to mention rolling stock, will all help the railroad return a better dollar.

The Administration's proposal that went to Capitol Hill late in the Spring called for the establishment of just such a pared-down for-profit corporation -- issuing stock to the present creditors of the bankrupt railroads -- and getting started with a dose of Federal seed money and some two billion dollars in loan guarantees.

Feet in the Fire

Economist Eliot Janeway has recently written (and I quote) ... "putting the government on the spot to protect the investment it insures would keep its feet to the fire to develop a transportation policy that relied on the railroads to do their part of the overall job and permitted them to do it."

As one member of the government, I'd be delighted to have my feet to the fire as we work to develop a transportation policy that utilizes rail transport the way it should be used.

Our legislation, frankly, got dropped in the hopper and lost in the hopper. But similar legislation -- on both the House and Senate sides -- is now pending.

I look forward to a positive response from the Congress -- and the regulatory agencies -- in reaffirming that the American railroad business is neither ruthless nor stupid. I've come this far with the impression that America is the land of opportunity -- and I hope you will join me in working to keep the pathways of opportunity open to those who are willing to make the system work.

Answer to George Borgstrom

Farmers Know True Costs

In the September issue of Farm News Prof. Georg Borgstrom of Michigan State University claimed American agricultural practices were too costly in terms of ecology and energy. In the following article, a member takes issue with Borgstrom's suggestions.

Dear Mr. Borgstrom;

It is an excellent idea to raise the questions that you have asked concerning the true costs of food production, since too often people do take them for granted.

Your Iowa soybean field is a good example, however, farmers really do not raise those soybeans principally for their oil. Since few people are able to use tractor oil directly as food, it must be converted.

Therefore, oil powers the machinery to raise healthy soybeans for innumerable purposes, especially as a "meat by the bushel" ingredient speeding the growth of beef cattle, hogs and poultry.

Really, Mr. Borgstrom, farmers do not use any more fertilizer than they actually have to because it costs so much. Why, my Aunt Mary would not speak to my Uncle Fred for two weeks because he used a recommended application of nitrogen instead of buying her a new refrigerator. Uncle Fred said that his soil test showed the land was hungry and the following year he did have enough increase to buy her a bigger refrigerator than she had asked for.

Besides, you know, fertilizer dissolves in the least little bit of water or even a heavy dew and except in a torrential downpour goes only down to grow good trees and other crops. It cannot knock out nature's own nitrogen since it is the same thing, so it works with whatever is already there.

Cost stops too many of Uncle Fred's friends from putting on enough fertilizer or pesticide if the crop being grown has been priced too low. There are not too many farmers who can live without buying groceries too.

I am surprised that you consider hogs and poultry as food competitors. It seems to me that I heard somewhere that corn produced a very poor protein called zein, which is best fed to animals and even then has to be supplemented.

What kind of hogs do the people of China have? Do you really want to return to the high mortality rate and plagues which history shows prevailed when animals roamed the streets in the Middle Ages. You probably know better than I that the disease ridden rat follows loose animals in those streets. That rat gave Uncle Fred a lot of trouble in his barn too, until Uncle Fred found a good poison for him.

Maybe the Indian vegetable market you saw was somewhere other than in the India I have heard of, because the cows I heard tell of in India are protected by such a heavy religious taboo that no-one could touch the milk. That is, even

if those scrawny trash-fed cows produced any, which is unlikely.

You know, that is why so few of the Indians of India were able to use the dried milk we sent to prevent starvation. Since those babies do not have milk they lose the ability to digest it and milk makes them sick.

Really, I do not think farmers like my Uncle Fred are doing so badly. Each one feeds more than fifty city people. Their riches may be in the magnificence of their own sunset, but that is because they know the contrast and have watched the sun set in rain or hail or wind that destroyed their fruit or field or garden. Did you ever lose your whole year's income in a half hour?

Uncle Fred and his friends cannot protect themselves against natural disasters, yet. But they can and do help each other all over the world by figuring out how to add natural products to foods to make them better, protect them scientifically so that the natural vitamins are retained for the consumer and also by preserving foods to store or ship until and where needed.

Now, that is not so bad after all, is it?

Sincerely,
Deni L. Hooper
Hooper Farms
Traverse City

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MFB Annual Meetings
December 11-14

Reactions?

Send them to:

Farm News

P.O. Box 960

Lansing, 48904

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**
Manager Member Relations

TINSTAAFL

Sooner or later, any speculation on directions our society is taking and where we are likely to wind up at the end of this century gets down to the question of economic growth. The scale and direction of economic activities of any country determines its progress, stagnation or decline.

There has been a tendency to ignore or push aside the subject of economics. As a result, many people do not understand our basic economic system and extreme positions on the issue of economic growth have developed. On one side we have "utopians" who appear to believe that growth can solve all our present and future problems. On the other hand, we have the "cassandras" who prophesy that economic growth is the path to destruction. Both positions can be dangerous - one because it encourages unreasonable expectations, and the other because it fosters fatalism and submission.

However, these points of view do exist and must be reckoned with. It would seem the rational course of action falls somewhere between these extreme positions. A brief look at each of the positions might assist in understanding the alternatives. While the examples given may appear to be over simplified, it must be remembered that so too are some of the views.

The "utopians" have optimism. Economic utopianism goes back to the destruction by technology of the theory that gains of economic growth would be eliminated by population growth. Once the falsity of this theory was exploded by technological advances, the conclusion was reached that all the bonds of economic restraint had been broken and that there was no limit.

But, this conclusion ignores a basic economic law, a fundamental principal which governs all business, all our commerce - virtually everything we do. It is a factor when we buy, sell or trade anything. It is a factor that is just as true in a socialistic society as a capitalistic one - just as much in an emerging nation as in a highly industrialized one.

The principal is frequently denied by those who should know better. It is forgotten, tampered with and ignored. But it still remains a solid, sound and significant factor in society. The fundamental economic law is that there is no such thing as a free lunch - TINSTAAFL.

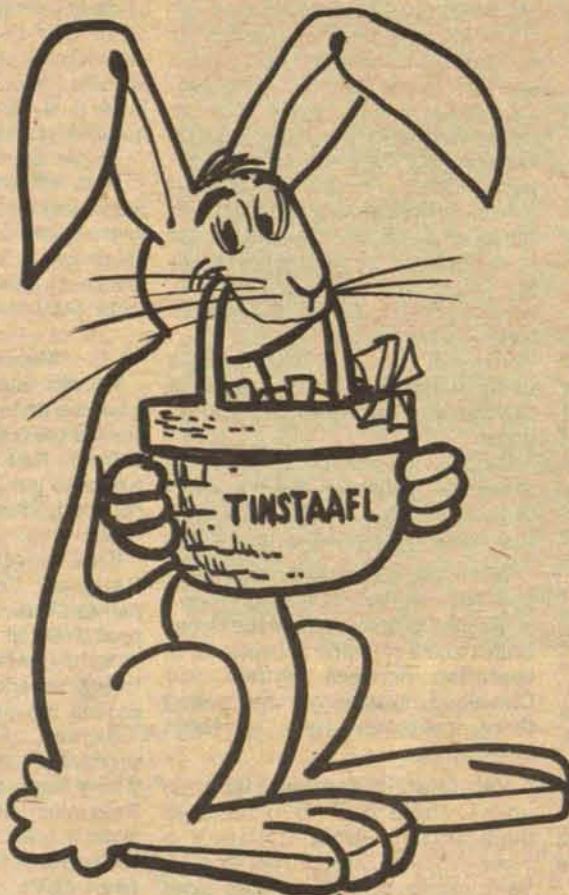
Tinstaaf is such a basic law, and the principle appears so obvious that one wonders why more people don't accept it; why schools don't teach it; why do we forget; why have so many learned it the hard way, and some have never learned it at all.

Believing in Santa

We were taught just the opposite when we were children. The idea that there could be something for nothing from Santa, the Easter Bunny or the tooth fairy was planted in our heads. Most of us grew up and learned that Santa and the Easter Bunny were "make believe." But a lot of people continue through life expecting that they really can get something for nothing.

Tinstaaf is a harsh idea. And most people are slow to realize that they have to work for all they get or take advantage of another's toil. It would really be nice if once in a while one could get a little free lunch, but this is just not economically possible.

It can be argued that there is such a thing as free lunch for those willing to profit from the industry of others.



There are apples to pick, berries to gather, and fish to catch. These things don't cost money unless the law catches one appropriating another's fruit. However, even in this situation, the meal is not free - one has to expend the effort to pick, gather or catch.

Work is the basis of economy and the starting point for any and everything we have. Someone had to work to invent, someone worked to gather raw materials, someone worked to pay for materials and someone worked to put it together. Some people may obtain their "lunches" with a lot less effort than others, but somebody pays for each and every lunch.

Unfortunately, the fact that we must pay our way, collectively as well as individually, is not always obvious in our complex society, and it has become possible for many individuals to reach the conclusion that this country is somehow so advanced that TINSTAAFL no longer applies.

Too Great Expectations

The utopian vision has led to promises to eliminate poverty, rebuild our cities, eliminate pollution, and to work a series of other miracles. All this had led to what some people consider undesirable results. The expectations of various groups have been raised to such levels that even progress toward such objectives is dismissed as inadequate, thus creating widespread dissatisfaction. The other unpleasant outcome has been a major contribution to an unending series of federal deficits, leading to accelerated inflation, loss of confidence in the dollar abroad, and the ungluing of the international monetary system.

No free lunch applies just as unflinchingly, just as unbending, just as surely in government as in any facet of our society. Despite all the evidence to the contrary, there are many who believe that the government, in the final analysis, can provide free lunches. But the trusty old economic law - tinstaaf - still applies just as vigorously in Washington, in Lansing, or in local government. When Congress, state legislators or local officials approve expenditures, it is the taxpayers' money they spend.

The "cassandras" argue that growth itself contains the seeds of our destruction. In recent years it has become fashionable to take a pessimistic view regarding the future of mankind. Negative attitudes toward what lies ahead extend from students to political figures.

According to one report, the growth of capital investment, as well as population, a computer study has indicated that the highest possible standard of living this planet can afford is one that stagnates at half the level found today in North America, and that this un-

satisfactory living standard should be shared equally among a stabilized world population. Some time before the end of the next century, according to the computer printout, the world system will reach a point where the population can no longer be supported by existing resources, and catastrophic population decline is the projected result.

The End is Nigh?

This gloomy prognosis has been highly publicized. Some have greeted it with despair and others have challenged it. Common sense would seem to tell us that there is some merit in the warning for it would appear that today's accelerating pace of economic growth will have to run into shortages of supply in some particular items at some point in time.

Yet, the record shows that raw material supplies can also be increased. It is quite possible that breakthroughs to fusion and harness solar power will enable us to extract minerals from rocks. Foreseeable new technology may release agriculture from its reliance on unharnessed sunpower and sharply raise the supply of food.

The magnitude of the disasters outlined by the "doomsday" approach provides a breeding ground for drastic measures proposed by more excitable elements, some of which could prove to be irrelevant or harmful. A further objection is that the doomsday approach tends to cast science and technology as villains, whereas this appears to be the major hope for solution. Living creatures have survived and evolved on this planet over a period of several billion years, but only in recent years has any perceptible expansion of human freedom or improvement in human conditions been seen - and most of this is directly attributable to technology.

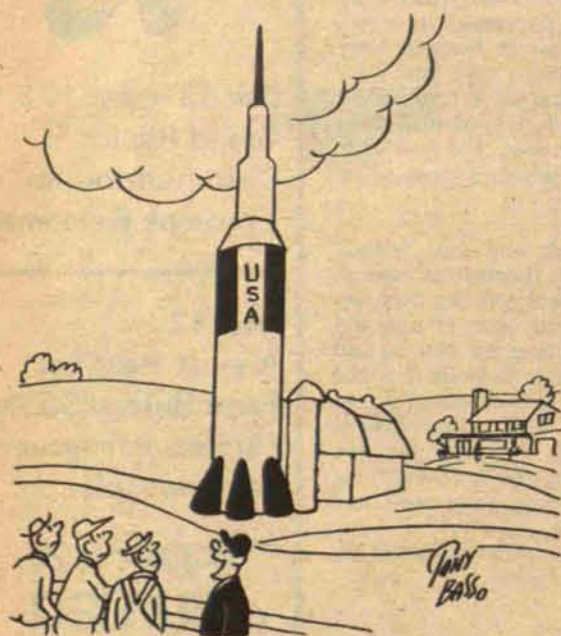
This is not to say that some reappraisals of our directions are not in order. What has to be developed is a technology higher in social benefits and lower in social costs. There is a need to develop a new standard of measurements for the impact of technological change, and there is a pressing need to bring about a more rational balance between the frequently contradictory demands of economic growth and environmental preservation. There is growing recognition of the need to devote greater attention to the quality of life, rather than merely quantitative and material aspects. However, the foundation of progress in any of these areas will have to be economic growth.

In short, if options are exercised wisely, there is every reason for the next generation and those which follow to have prospects as promising as any which have preceded.

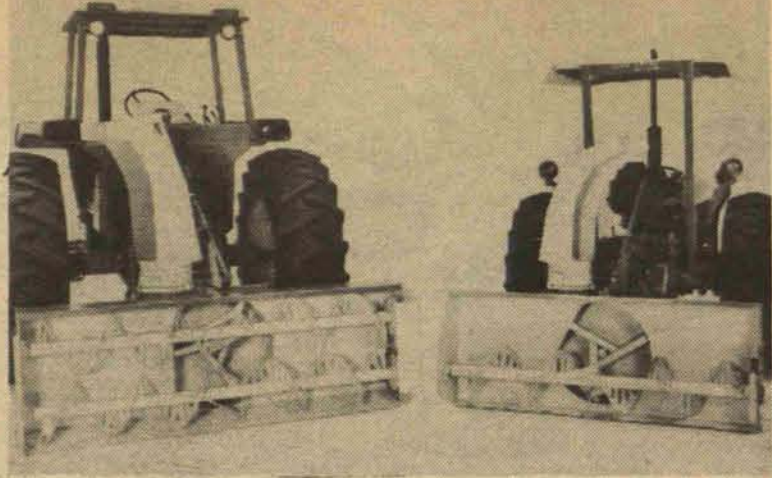
Topic Summary

The replies received on September's discussion dealing with No-Fault insurance indicate that Farm Bureau Insurance agents were guests of many of the groups' meetings. They were able to answer many questions and greatly helped the members in understanding the subject matter. Following is the tabulation of the replies to the questions.

1. Some people have expressed the thought that No-Fault insurance represents an immoral and coercive inroad into one of the few remaining citadels of free choice. Do you agree with this? Yes: 47 percent No: 53 percent
2. In your opinion, will No-Fault insurance encourage bad driving? Yes: 16 percent No: 84 percent
3. The Consumers Federation of America has been credited with saying that Michigan has the only acceptable No-Fault insurance. Do you feel this is advantageous for Michigan residents? Yes: 75 percent No: 25 percent
4. In your opinion, will No-Fault insurance be instrumental in discouraging negligent conduct on the part of drivers? Yes: 39 percent No: 61 percent
5. Comments: "Had our insurance agent speak and now we understand it better"; "let's give no-fault a fair try"; "it would be a good idea for all states to have the same insurance laws"; "right of free choice is hampered when it is made compulsory."



"I UNDERSTAND HE GOT IT FROM GOVERNMENT SURPLUS FOR HALF THE PRICE OF A REGULAR SILO."



Deere Me!

John Deere has expanded its line of rotary snow plows to include a new, economy model and a large unit with dual augers to utilize the power available in tractors of up to 125-hp.

The Model 240 mounts on the rear of tractors in the up-to-60-hp range equipped with a 540-rpm PTO and Category 1 3-point hitch. It is six feet wide. The discharge spout may be equipped with either manual or hydraulic controls; a manual deflector is also available

to control the pitch of snow as it is blown to either side.

The Model 275 is 93 inches wide. Dual 13-inch fluted augers and big 27-inch rotor provide capacity for fast removal of snow even after relatively heavy storms. The Model 275 can be mounted on the rear of tractors of up to 125-hp equipped with either Category 1 or 2 3-point hitch; or, with frames and brackets available as extra equipment, can be mounted on the front of similarly powered tractors equipped with a mid-PTO.

ON THE MARKET



For this Winter

Heavy-duty and powerful, with automatic safety shut-off. Produces 150,000 BTU's of circulated heat. Built-in thermostat for temperature control.

Big job heater for indoors or outdoors. Produces 180,000 BTU's of circulating, odorless heat. Equipped with solid state ignition system and safety shut-off.

Dare Products has introduced a farm stock tank valve that is conventional in outward appearance but radically different internally.

The floating unit is a heavy walled, linear polyethylene bottle

with a thick, circular pure rubber seal to shut off the water. The neck of the bottle acts as the hinge. Thus, there are no internal metal working parts to rust or corrode. Rotating the bottle prolongs the life of the rubber seal.

The water inlet orifice is a separate molded part and can be easily and inexpensively replaced if it becomes damaged. Outer housing is molded of a special all-weather plastic compound.

Height of the valve over the edge of the tank can be adjusted. Metal hanging straps are plated against rust.

Remember

Ray Price

Dec. 11 at the MFB Annual Meeting

See Your County Secretary for Tickets

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SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: 25 words for \$2.00 each edition. Additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word. NON-MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 20th of the month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm News, P. O. Box 960, Lansing, MI 48904. Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

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ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS Ac and DC by Pincor. Tractor PTO. Portable and Stationary Engine Plants, Camper Units, Battery Chargers. Designed for Heavy Duty Motor startups. Also Electric Motors. Heavy Duty for Home, Farms or Industry. Discount priced. Decatur Electric Motor Service, Rt.1, Box 281, Decatur, Michigan 49045. (5-4f-48b)

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AUTO INSURANCE
IS HERE**

*and you
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If you're insured with Farm Bureau, you now have the *right* No-Fault coverages. Automatically. And, as always, you can expect the right service. At the right price.

For example, here are a few of the ways your new No-Fault insurance protects you:

- 1** Effective October 1, if you are injured in a traffic accident, you are paid by your own insurance company.
- 2** If you are hit by another driver . . . even an out-of-state driver or a hit and run driver, you're eligible for benefits.
- 3** If you're a passenger in someone else's car, in a taxi, bus or airport limousine; you receive your benefits either from your own company or from the company insuring the owner of the vehicle in which you were riding.
- 4** If you're injured as a pedestrian, you collect from your own company or the insurer of the car involved.
- 5** If you're a pedestrian who doesn't own a car (so, you don't have auto insurance) and you're struck by a hit and run driver or uninsured motorist, you receive benefits from a special fund set up to cover just such situations. This is the Assigned Claims Fund. It's operated by the Secretary of State's office and is financed by all auto insurance companies that do business in Michigan.
- 6** A Michigan non-resident who has an accident in this state will receive No-Fault benefits *if* his insurer has extended his policy to include them.
- 7** Finally, your No-Fault policy covers you, your spouse and any relatives on either side, provided that they are living in your household and not merely visiting.

No-Fault auto insurance is law . . . enacted by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Milliken. Now Michigan drivers must live with it, understand it. We're trying to help. If your church, social, community or school group would like to schedule a special No-Fault slide presentation, just ask your local Farm Bureau Insurance agent.

**FARM BUREAU
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