

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

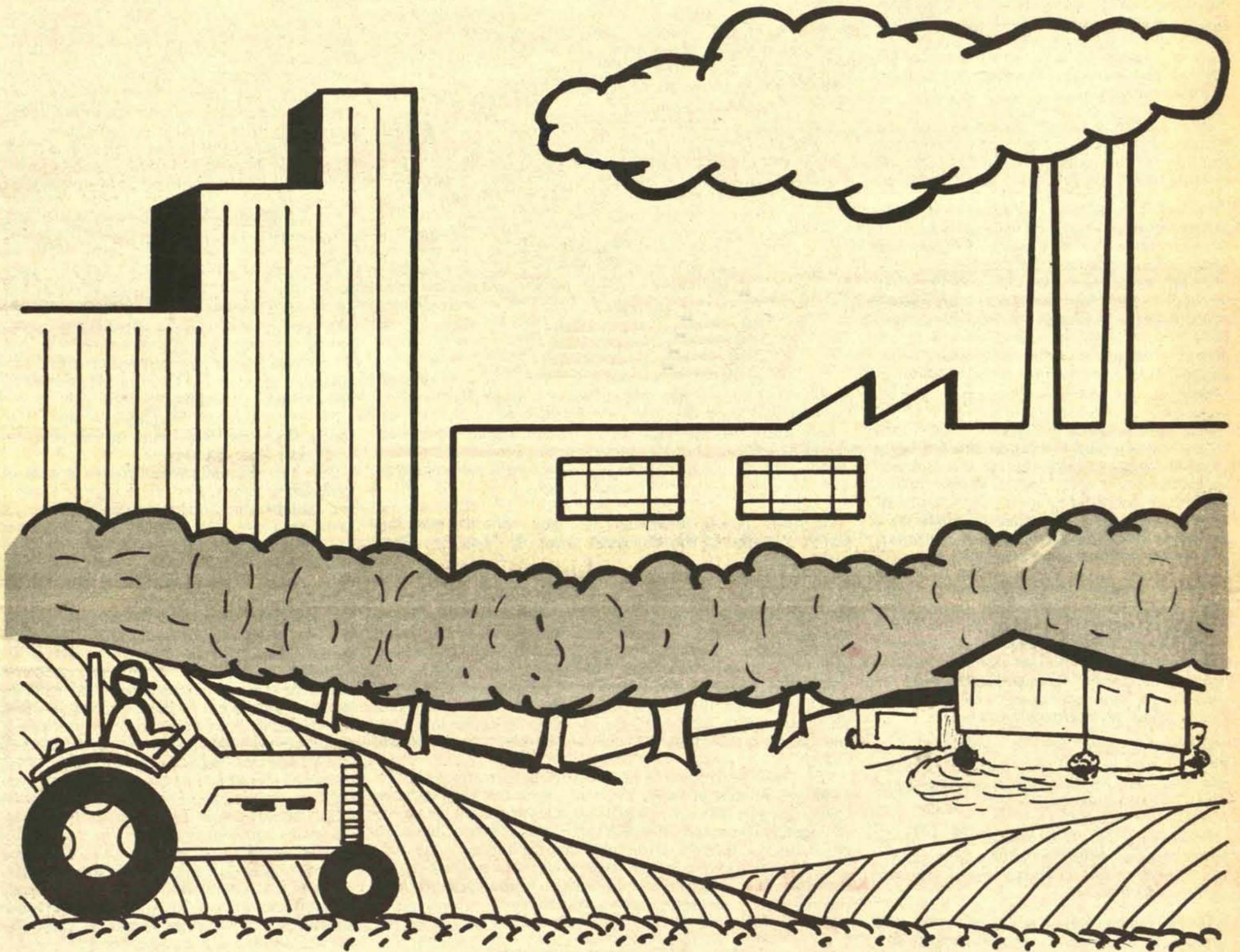


THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

VOL. 52 NO. 3

MAKE IT HAPPEN

MARCH 1, 1973



- Land Use -

Several land use bills will undoubtedly be introduced in the Legislature. One already introduced is H.B. 4188, by Rep. Smith (R-Ann Arbor) and others. This would create a five-member land use commission in the Department of Natural Resources to work with local governments in developing land management programs. It would develop a state land bank for land contracts that are designed to

preserve open space, etc. Copies of the bill are not yet available.

Rep. Mastin (D-Southfield) is also expected to introduce another land use bill similar to legislation he introduced a year ago. Rep. Mastin will also introduce legislation to encourage preservation of good agricultural land by using a tax incentive, probably with tax roll-back features. Rep. Mastin is a metropolitan legislator and

has testified in Washington on federal land use legislation. He pointed out at that time that Michigan faces the "loss of ever-increasing segments of her agricultural industry." He said that this results from taxation policies which assess the land on its potential use, rather than its agricultural use, and also zoning decisions which allow development of the best farm land.

Farm Bureau worked closely

with Rep. Mastin last year and helped organize the public hearings that were held throughout the state. These hearings were heavily attended by farmers, with specific examples of the problems which have affected them. Rep. Mastin used some of these examples in his Washington testimony.

Others speaking at the hearings also supported in principle Farm Bureau's effort

to achieve legislation to assess agricultural land on its use rather than potential value.

Sen. Ballenger (R-Lansing) also re-introduced similar legislation on assessment of farmland in the Senate.

This type of legislation is complex, even though it is gaining more support. The major problem is to pass legislation that will meet the stiff requirements of the Michigan Constitution.

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EDITORIAL.....



Environment

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

This is the opening paragraph of the Michigan Farm Bureau policy on environment adopted at the organization's 53rd annual meeting held in Grand Rapids last November.

Throughout history, agriculture has expressed a deep interest in the environment. Farmers were the first group to plan and conduct land conservation practices. By the very nature of their business, farmers have worked at stopping soil erosion and water runoff in order to protect the investment they have in land. They have also worked at improving the soil in order to produce more abundant crops on the same acreage year after year.

With the increased interest in the environment, new laws and regulations are being enacted. Today, existing federal laws provide that state laws relating to water and air quality, solid waste disposal and environmental quality, including noise and radioactive materials, must be consistent with federal laws and must provide for adequate enforcement.

Fears of complete federal domination in this field are being expressed. Laws and regulations could be imposed on the entire country which would not take local conditions into consideration. Rules set up for large cities of our nation cannot fit rural situations. By the same token, rules set up for rural areas may not fit urban or metropolitan areas.

Presently, some groups are seeking a "middle ground" on this issue. A position where we can improve our environment and use it at the same time.

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, newly-appointed counsellor for natural resources to the President, is optimistic about our environmental destiny.

Speaking before a group of environmental writers in Washington, D.C., Secretary Butz said that we can solve our problems without giving up our high standard of living, just as we've solved our problems in the past. We can continue to live well, and grow, preserving our quality of life and an environment at the same time. He spoke out against the zero growth concept, stating, "No business, no nation, gets anywhere just by treading water."

Butz called for help in putting the nation's environmental concerns into workable perspective.

Continued research is necessary if we are to solve the problem. Farm Bureau recommends federal research to develop solutions to the serious salinity problems of our nation's major river systems before standards or numerical limits are established by federal action. Also, studies should precede any federal or state proposals to establish environmental corridors.

Every Farm Bureau member should study the issue, get the facts and assist citizens, other organizations and public officials in understanding the interrelationship of a productive agriculture and decisions involving controls and regulations relating to the environment.

— Carl P. Kentner

Regional Victory Celebration Dates

Most of the county Farm Bureau's in the following regions are participating in Regional Victory Celebrations to recognize and award those members who actively participated in the 1973 membership campaign. The cost of these celebrations are financed by contributions from the participating county Farm Bureaus, Farm Bureau Insurance, Farm Bureau Services, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, and the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Saginaw Valley Region, March 2, 7:00 p.m., Lutheran School, Junction of I-75 and M-84, Dinner — Auction.

Thumb Region, March 9, 11:30 a.m., Sanilac County Farm Bureau, Sandusky, Lunch — Bogus Bucks Auction.

Northeast Region, March 10, 8:00 p.m., Gaylord High School, Gaylord, Rolls and Coffee — Auction.

West Central, March 10, 12:00 noon, Osceola Inn, Reed City, Lunch — Awards presentation.

West Region, March 17, 12:00 noon, Adrian's Rammona Terrace Inc., Comstock Park, Lunch — Awards presentation.

Northwest region, March 17, 12:00 noon, Holiday Inn, Traverse City, Dinner — Awards presentation.

Central Region, March 20, 11:00 a.m., Country House, Okemos, Dinner — Bogus Buck Auction.

Southwest Region, March 20, 7:00 p.m., Di-Juanco's, Decatur Exit at I-94 North, Dinner — Silent Auction.

Upper Peninsula Region, March 21, 12:00 noon, Chatham Town Hall, Potluck Lunch — Bogus Buck Auction.

— NOTES —

A special session on "Who Will Control U.S. Agriculture" will be held on Thursday morning of Farmers' Week, March 22 at the Michigan State University Kellogg Center.

Agriculture in the year 2010: Government Controlled Family-Sized Farms? or 300 conglomerates producing the food and fiber for the nation? These are the potential extremes that will be covered during the special program.

Michigan land use conflicts will be aired Wednesday morning, March 21, during the Farmers' Week at Michigan State University.

Launching the special session will be Dr. L.L. Boger, dean of MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and a member of the Governor's Commission on Land Use. "Land Use" was the matter of concern most often heard by Dr. Boger and his assistant deans when they toured Michigan in a series of "Listening Post" meetings in December.

Following Boger will be Senator William Ballenger, sponsor of Michigan Senate Bill 130 on Land Use, and Representative Phillip Mastin, sponsor of House Bill 6256 on Land Use. After their presentations, they will field questions from the audience.

The Teamsters Union announced an agreement with 170 California-Arizona growers. In an AP story from Burlingame, California, a joint Teamsters-growers announcement called the re-negotiated contract "the best" agreement "ever achieved in the industry." It bans strikes until the expiration of the contract, but contains a union shop provision requiring membership within ten days of employment. United Farm Workers union called it a "sweetheart" contract.

In Memoriam

Stuart Owen, president of the Lapeer County Farm Bureau, died suddenly on January 11 when he suffered an aneurysm at his home near Lapeer.

The farm leader was serving his third year as county Farm Bureau president. He was among the MFB delegates who attended the AFBF annual meeting in Los Angeles last December.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN.....

Know The Issue



Last November the voters of Michigan failed to approve a constitutional amendment to limit property tax.

A few days later, the voting delegates at Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting expressed the need for meaningful and lasting tax reform through the legislative process. In the belief that there should be equity of taxation, the delegates recommended these approaches to a balanced tax structure.

" - New sources of revenue for local units of government in order to relieve property taxes.

" - Improved assessment and equalization procedures.

" - Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built.

" - New methods of financing school systems, with strict limitations on property taxes for educational purposes.

" - Use of the income tax as the major source of funds to finance schools.

" - Assessment of agricultural land as farmland as long as it is so used instead of other possible potential value.

" - Prevention of inequities arising from special assessments on property that receives no benefit from the project."

Our state legislators now have the task of formulating a method of financing our schools in a manner which meets the Supreme Court's ruling regarding the present inequities of the present system for financing schools. Most of the senators and representatives, I'm convinced, want to do what is right rather than what is politically expedient.

There is little question that major reforms must be made in financing education. But, statewide educational opportunity cannot be achieved unless the method of finance is restructured to achieve equity. Property taxes for this purpose are obsolete and do not have the capability to expand to meet increasing needs, nor are they a good measure of ability to pay. Educational finance reform can and must be achieved without eroding the fundamental right of the local community to determine educational goals within broad general guidelines provided by law.

There are going to be some vital decisions made concerning taxation in this session of the legislature whether we like it or not. Already several bills have been proposed and each sponsor has cogent reasons why his particular bill should be given consideration.

Plain common sense insists that all taxpayers should be concerned with attempting to hold back the ballooning growth and rising costs of government. It is the taxpayer who foots the bill. That is why every one of us should become knowledgeable about proposed financial legislation. To do otherwise shows a lack of desire to clearly understand the issues.

We must learn to look behind the complicated and remote-sounding facts and figures which seem to hang a web of obscurity around tax reform measures. We in agriculture want higher net farm income, not higher taxes. We, like all other consumers, desire reason in governmental budgets and expenditure of our tax dollars.

All kinds of discussion and debate are and will be taking place about taxation. One way or another, the arguments, pro and con, will have a bearing on agriculture. Our future, as farmers, is bound to be affected by the outcome of efforts to curb inflation and to avoid higher taxes.

We cannot afford to stick our heads in the sand, we must try to inject plain common sense into our spending policies. We can do this only when we have a thorough knowledge of the issues at hand.

Elton R. Smith

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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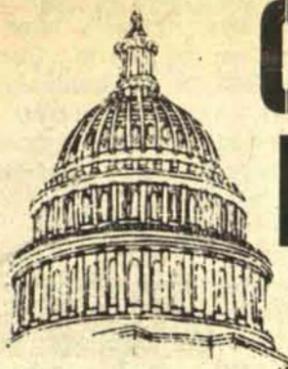
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CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FINANCE AND TAX RELIEF PROPOSALS

In his special message on education, Governor Milliken pointed out that school finance and other educational issues are a top priority concern this year. He said that this has been brought about by (1) the vote last November on Proposal C, (2) the December Supreme Court ruling on school funding and (3) the impending closings in Detroit and other areas with similar deficit problems. He said that the voters, in rejecting Proposal C, indicated they were unwilling to accept a major change in the method of collecting and distributing monies for education. He said that he accepted the voters' decision and would take a different approach to school financing.

His over-all proposal has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Bursley and others as S.B. 110. It can be described as "yield-equalizing" and is based on the idea that if two school districts exert equal millage effort they should receive equal aid, or one mill of tax effort should produce the same dollars per pupil as nearly as possible in every school district in the state. He said that presently some poor valuation districts level double the amount of millage to achieve the same dollars per pupil as wealthier districts. As an example of yield-equalizing, presently a school district with \$5,000 per pupil valuation receives \$5 per pupil for each mill of tax. Under the Governor's proposal, the state would allocate an additional \$33 per pupil, to bring each mill to a total of \$38. In contrast, a district with a valuation of \$30,000 per pupil would collect \$30 per mill and the state would add \$8 to bring it up to \$38 per pupil per mill. In this manner, if both districts levied 22 mills, they each would have \$836 per pupil in combined state and local revenue. Or, if each levied 20 mills, the amount would total \$760 per pupil. In other words, the program would guarantee \$38 per pupil per mill up to 22 mills to each district for the year 1973-74. The following year the amount would be \$39 per pupil per mill, up to 25 mills and in the third year the guarantee would be \$40 per pupil on unlimited millage.

Districts presently levying 18 or more mills would be guaranteed that there would be no reduction in their present state and local revenue. Districts levying less than 18 mills would be required to raise their millage

to that level. This requirement would be phased in over a period of time. For example, for a district presently levying as low as 12 mills the state would pay two-thirds of the difference up to 18 mills for the 1973-74 year, one-third of the difference the following year and nothing after that. In that period of time the district would be expected to bring its millage up to the required level.

With the 38 mill guarantee, every district would have the same income as a district with \$38,000 of valuation behind each pupil. In general, districts levying more than 22 mills would be able to cut their millages, while districts levying less than 18 mills would, after a phase in period, be required to raise their local property tax millage.

It is generally believed that this proposal meets the requirements of the State Supreme Court decision requiring equity in distribution of the property tax for school finance. The courts in Michigan have not ruled property taxes unconstitutional; only that property taxes have been levied and distributed in an unconstitutional manner.

It is necessary to consider the Governor's school finance proposal together with his tax relief program. Governor Milliken has stated that it is possible to cut state taxes \$370 million in the next two years. \$140 million of that amount would be cut in the next year and the rest the following year. He proposes that the income tax exemption be increased from \$1,200 to \$1,700 for each dependent. This is the equivalent of a rate reduction of approximately one-half of one percentage point. A family of four with an income of \$7,000 would have its state income tax reduced from \$86 to \$8, a cut of \$78.

Another part of the tax relief program is known as "excess burden property tax relief." The program replaces the present senior citizens, eligible veterans and blind homestead exemptions with a property tax relief based on income. In these cases, any property tax in excess of 3-1/2% of their household income would be returned to the property owner; this would be limited to \$500. For other individuals, 60% of the total property tax in excess of 4% of their total household income would be rebated. The limit in this case would be \$400. Provision would also be made for those individuals who rent; 17% of their rental payments would be treated the same as property taxes for the purpose of calculating a tax rebate.

Farm Bureau has been working with state officials to assure that this portion of the program of property tax relief would apply to farms. As is the case in many tax programs, farms are difficult to consider for many reasons. The program would apply to the farm "homestead" and other unoccupied real property. The intention is to include the entire farm under operation, even if some of the property is not contiguous. In the case of unoccupied farm land used for agriculture with the owner living elsewhere, it would be possible for that owner to qualify, provided the gross receipts from the farming operation exceed the household income of the non-resident owner. This provision would permit those who have retired from the farm and moved into town to qualify. It would, in most cases, prevent those who make their living at other work and merely own a farm for speculation purposes from qualifying unless the gross from the farm exceeds their regular household income. This is a unique provision.

As an example of how the program might work, assume that a family with a household income of \$7,000 has a property tax of \$1,000. The property tax limit is 4% of the \$7,000, or \$280. The excess burden of property tax would then be \$720 (\$1,000 minus \$280). The rebate would be 60% of this figure, or \$432. The rebate, however, is limited to \$400. In addition, the family would have a reduction of their state income tax of \$78. This, added to the \$400 property tax rebate, makes a total tax cut of \$478. If they live in a school district now levying more than 22 mills, it should, under the new school aid proposal, be possible for that district to reduce its school property taxes. However, if they live in a district levying less than 18 mills, it is likely that school property taxes would be raised, at least after a phase-in period. If the family qualifies as senior citizens, eligible veterans or blind, the tax relief would be greater, using the first formula indicated above.

FARM BUREAU VOICES CONCERN ON REORGANIZATION

Farm Bureau testified at a hearing held by the Senate State Affairs Committee regarding Governor Milliken's Executive Order 1973-2 which increases the authority of the Department of Natural Resources by transferring several agencies from other State departments.

Transfers to the Department of Natural Resources include inter-county drainage and watershed development, from the Department of Agriculture; several agencies from the Department of Public Health, including the Air Pollution Commission and sewage and solid waste management; the State Boundary Commission from the Department of Treasury and responsibility for

development of land use programs from the Executive Branch. Several other smaller agencies were also transferred. Also included in the order was the changing of the Water Resources, Air Pollution and Boundary Commissions to "Type II" commissions, meaning that these commissions lose their independence and become advisory in nature, with all decisions being made by the Natural Resources Commission.

Farm Bureau testimony strongly pointed out that in recent years "...agriculture has been subjected to many environmental regulations and restrictions, many of which are extremely costly ... it is no wonder farmers are concerned with where the authority and power for such regulations resides."

The testimony also pointed out that the DNR has traditionally had as its primary responsibility management of fish, wildlife and areas of state-owned land. Members of that commission, therefore, have been chosen for "...their interest, dedication and expertise in that field." Because of the reorganization, that commission will find itself confronted with major decisions in the areas of land use, drainage, water and air pollution regulations, boundary issues, etc. all of which are extremely complicated areas of concern and perhaps beyond the ability of the commission to undertake as an additional burden. Commissioners do contribute their time.

Farm Bureau said that the down-grading of the present commissions to "Type II" commissions could result in the loss of services of highly qualified and dedicated people now serving, inasmuch as they would have little or no decision-making authority.

The Farm Bureau position pointed to the fact that the DNR would have the responsibility for developing a land use program and said that such an important function "...must have the expertise and involvement of all departments and citizen groups in the development of a workable program.

The testimony agreed with the recommendation to enlarge the Natural Resources Commission from five to seven members in order to permit the appointment of those knowledgeable in the expanded areas of responsibility, but pointed out that there was no guarantee that such a recommendation will be carried out by the Legislature.

The reorganization goes into effect in mid-March, unless it is rejected by majority vote of both Houses of the Legislature.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE

Governor Milliken's budget has been described as "rosy" because it projects a 12-1/2% increase in expected revenues due to the economic boom that is being enjoyed in Michigan. Revenue from income taxes is up sharply. Major strikes are

not anticipated this year, as was the case in 1970. The lottery is expected to bring in some \$60 million. Tickets are now selling at the rate of 5 million per week making Michigan's lottery the most successful in the nation. Since November, the state's share has accumulated to \$15 million, with another \$13.5 million being given out in prizes. Federal revenue sharing will provide an additional \$112 million in income. However, the dropping of some federal projects may require the state to fund some of these projects.

There are, in reality, two budgets. One is known as the general fund, and will be \$2.6 billion. This is the portion of the budget that the Legislature can control. The total budget, however, including special funds and federal revenue, will be \$5.02 billion. This includes revenues that are ear-marked for specific purposes, such as education, highways, etc., and cannot be otherwise spent by the Legislature. Because of this, it is possible that the Governor's state tax relief can be achieved.

As in previous years, more than 80% of state expenditures will be in three areas: education, social services and mental health. Expenditures for K-12 school aid will be increased \$110 million, for a total of over \$1.2 billion. Seventy-two million in additional monies will be added to social welfare costs, bringing it to a total of over \$1.28 billion. This includes the federal share. It is expected that \$35 million can be saved by weeding out up to 12,500 ineligible welfare recipients. Mental health expenditures will total \$264.8 million.

The breakdown of total state expenditures (\$5.02 billion) is \$1.86 billion for all education, \$1.53 billion for all social development and income assistance, \$703 million for transportation, \$252 million for health programs and all other programs over \$671 million.

The total revenue for the state of Michigan is broken down in this manner: 24.8%, income taxes; 24.4%, federal grants; 21.3%, sales and use taxes; 10.5%, motor vehicle taxes; 9.7%, other taxes and 9.3%, other revenue (fees, licenses, etc.).

The income breakdown for the general fund budget is considerably different percentage-wise. However, it is the total spending that is of most importance.

Within the budget there are numerous relatively small expenditures that have been supported by Farm Bureau policies, such as the necessary funding of agricultural research and extension programs at Michigan State University, including monies for planning a new Plant-Soil Sciences Building at MSU, 4-H, FFA, a new research project on calfhood mortality, continuation of other agricultural experiment work, migrant housing cost sharing and other budget items.

National Marketing Bill Introduced

Congressman Gerald Ford (R-Grand Rapids) has introduced H.R. 2834, known as the National Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1973. The bill would provide a legal foundation for producers to build their own effective marketing and bargaining programs. It would establish a mutual obligation of handlers and qualified producer associations to negotiate in good faith regarding agricultural products. Congressman Ford was elected to Congress in 1948 and has served continuously since that time. Since 1965, he has served as Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. He represents the 5th District, which includes all of Ionia County and portions of Kent, Montcalm, Barry, Clinton, Eaton Counties.

He represents the 2nd District, which includes portions of Monroe, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties.



REP. ESCH

Congressman Ruppe has served as a member of Congress since his initial election in 1966. He is a member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. He represents the 11th District, which includes all of the Upper Peninsula and several counties in the northern Lower Peninsula.



REP. FORD

A similar bill (H.R. 3723) was introduced on February 5, by Congressman B.F. Sisk (D-California) for himself and 23 others, including Congressmen Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor) and Philip Ruppe (R-Houghton).

Congressman Esch was elected to the 90th Congress in 1966 and has been reelected to each succeeding Congress. He is a member of the Education and Labor Committee and the Science and Astronautics Committee.



REP. RUPPE

Both H.R. 2834 and H.R. 3723 are supported by Farm Bureau. Congressmen Ford, Esch and Ruppe are to be congratulated for their support of this progressive agricultural legislation.

National Legislative Notes

By Albert A. Almy

The 93rd Congress is now well underway. Hundreds of bills have been introduced, committee sessions are being held to consider bills and both the House and Senate have acted upon some bills.

Controversy continues in the Executive-Legislative confrontation over the President's impoundment of appropriations voted by Congress. Bills have been introduced to reinstate several of the programs terminated by the President. It is expected that many of the bills will be vetoed by the President if passed by Congress. This may result in attempts by Congress to override the vetoes, thus adding fuel to the controversy.

In the first of a series of State of the Union reports to Congress, President Nixon referred to the impoundment of funds by stating, "Because our resources are not infinite, we also face a critical choice in 1973 between holding the line in government spending and adopting expensive programs which will surely force up taxes and refuel inflation."

Rural Environmental Assistance Program

As part of President Nixon's broad effort to reduce government expenditures, an announcement was made December 26 that funding of the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) was being terminated.

On February 7, the House passed, by a vote of 251 to 142, H.R. 2107, which would require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out REAP. It would also require the full expenditure of all funds appropriated by Congress for REAP in each fiscal year.

Farm Bureau 1973 national policies do not support government payments to farmers for annual conservation practices such as

drainage, tiling, liming and other practices which increase production. Farm Bureau does support cost-sharing for enduring soil and water conservation practices and pollution abatement structures which are not production oriented.

H.R. 2107 provides no opportunity for a constructive review and revision of REAP practices, but would force the expenditure of appropriated funds. For these reasons Farm Bureau opposed H.R. 2107.

Senate action on H.R. 2107 or a companion bill is expected soon. If approved by the Senate, a Presidential veto is expected. A two-thirds majority vote of Congress would then be required to override the veto.

Disaster Loans

On December 27, the Secretary of Agriculture announced that emergency disaster loans to farmers through the Farmers Home Administration had been terminated. Reasons given for the action were the provisions which excused the first \$5,000 of the disaster loans from repayment and the one percent interest rate charged on the balance of the loans.

This action poses serious problems to farmers faced with severe economic losses due to natural disasters. Such losses often prevent obtaining credit from customary commercial sources and the regular operating loans of FHA.

Legislation (H.R. 1795) has been approved by the House Agriculture Committee which would reinstate the disaster loan program through FHA. The \$5,000 forgiveness and one percent interest provisions would be repealed. Full repayment of disaster loans would be required and the Secretary of Agriculture would be granted authority to establish the interest rate at a level not to exceed six percent. Farm Bureau supports H.R. 1795, but has suggested that it be amended so that the interest rate cannot exceed the cost of money to the federal government as established periodically by the Secretary of the Treasury.

proposed rules was limited to 15 days, but was later extended at Farm Bureau request for an additional 30 days, expiring January 20. During that time, EPA received a large number of comments protesting the application of the rules to agriculture.

EPA then invited representatives of numerous agriculturally-related organizations to meetings for a discussion of the proposed rules. Considerable progress has been made in modification and clarification of the proposed rules as published on December 5.

Publication of the proposed rules as modified is expected about March 1. EPA will probably allow 30 days for comment on the new proposed rules and then take another 15 to 30 days to review the comments before publishing the final rules.

It is expected that the permit program will focus primarily on confined animal feeding operations of 1,000 animal units or equivalent size.

Grain Transportation

The Senate Agriculture Committee has held hearings on the present critical situation related to grain transportation and rail car supply.

The supply of rail cars is very tight due to large export sales, lack of ship loading facilities and manpower to handle rail cars at some ports, short locomotive fuel supply and adverse weather. The rail car shortage also poses problems to the delivery of 1973 spring fertilizer supplies.

Although the current situation is critical, it will be more serious if the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and the Pacific Maritime Association go on strike when their contracts expire June 30.

Farm Bureau testified to the Senate Agriculture Committee that Congress could help to solve the grain transportation crisis by providing loan guarantees for the purchase of rail cars and engines, a revision of the rail car incentive rental system to make it more effective and providing an orderly means of settling transportation strikes.

Water Pollution Permit Program

Last October, the 92nd Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act over President Nixon's veto. The Act prohibits the discharge of pollutants into surface waters from a "point source" unless authorized by a permit. The permits would be issued either by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Michigan Water Resources Commission (WRC) if its permit program was approved by EPA.

On December 5, 1972, EPA published proposed rules to implement the permit program. The rules would have required virtually every farmer to file a complicated application form with EPA or WRC to determine if a permit was needed. The time for public comment on the

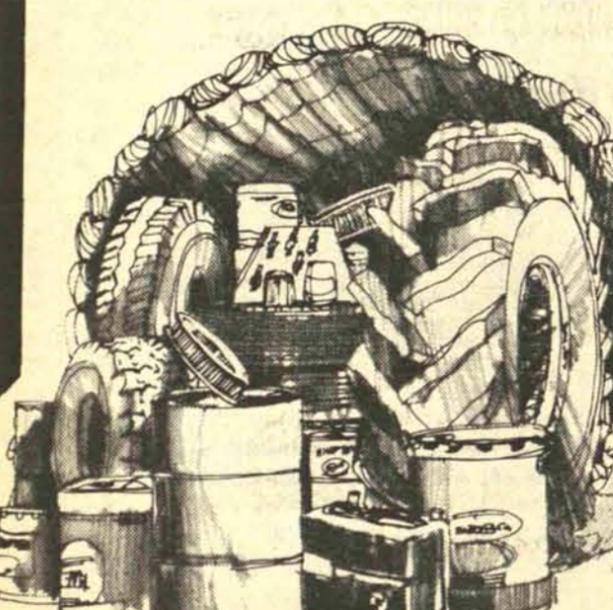
Comminuted Meat Standards

Several Michigan Congressmen have sponsored legislation (H.R. 1752) to permit Michigan to retain its high standards for comminuted meats. Federal standards permit the use of animal by-products while Michigan standards permit only skeletal meat to be used in hot dogs, sausages and lunch meats. A Federal Court ruling now being appealed to the US Supreme Court would force Michigan to lower its comminuted meat standards.

Michigan Congressmen sponsoring H.R. 1752, to allow higher state standards, include Congressmen William Ford, Nedzi, Esch, Ruppe, Broomfield, Dingell, O'Hara, Griffiths, Huber, Brown, Cederberg, Harvey and Reigle.

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If you're not enrolled and are an eligible Farm Bureau member, you can sign up, during the annual reopening period March 1-15, for Blue Cross and Blue Shield through your county Farm Bureau and take advantage of this coverage at the lowest possible group rates.

If you're already enrolled through your county Farm Bureau, you can take advantage of this once a year opportunity to adjust your coverage to comprehensive or deductible, or ward or semi. Blue Cross hospital care benefits provide all of the care you need no matter what the cost, and features liberalized benefits for physical therapy.

Blue Shield MVF (Michigan Variable Fee) benefits pay most doctor bills in full for covered services and offers added physician benefits to give you better coverage.

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

The deadline is March 15.

Pickle Growers Meet

This year, 1973, may prove to be more than interesting for Michigan pickle growers, according to Harry Foster, manager of the Processing Vegetable Division of Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association.

"Since the passage of the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act, pickle growers from around the state have been expressing interest in the possibility of using the new legislation," Foster said.

The Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act was passed by the House and Senate in the closing days of the last session and signed into law by Governor Milliken in January. The legislation received strong support by many agricultural organizations, including the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, an affiliate of Michigan Farm Bureau.

According to Foster, information and organization meetings have been held for the purpose of discussing the possible use of the new marketing act this year and to make plans for improved pickle contracts in 1973.

According to MACMA officials, the organization will be working for contract terms sufficient to return a \$5.00 per hundred weight average FOB at the farm for number one, two and three size pickles and a \$1.50 per hundred minimum

for all acceptable number four pickles.

Foster urged all pickling cucumber growers to use a pencil and figure out the net returns per acre on any proposed pickle contract. Processors' contract should contain a clause which eliminates the grower's responsibility or liability, resulting from chemical treatments in situations over which the grower has neither discretion nor control.

It was also suggested that contracts contain a "passed" acreage clause requiring processors to make 100 percent payment for acreage not harvested for any reason beyond grower control, such as over-contracting or poor scheduling of planting, harvesting, delivering or receiving. Growers should have notice of "intent not to harvest" with the right of third party arbitration within four hours of said notice to determine if proper judgement has been made or whether the crop should be under the "passed" acreage clause.

MACMA officials recommend that if a grower is able to sell his crops at a price equivalent to the contract price, processors should be released from liability. Samples should be taken within four hours of intent to by-pass with a determination of payment due to be made within 48 hours.

MACMA Holds Annual Meeting

Michigan's new Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act (Public Act 344) was one of the major topics discussed at the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association's annual meeting held Feb 23 at the Pantlind Hotel in Grand Rapids.

Dr. James Shaffer of Michigan State University reviewed the possible use of the new farm marketing rights act. Also on the program was Ralph Bunje, president of the California Canning Peach Association. Bunje discussed

new frontiers in marketing and bargaining legislation.

Special recognition was given to Senator Charles Zollar, Senator William Ballenger, Representative James Bradley, Representative Dennis Cawthorne, and five WSAM chapters for their efforts in the enactment of state farm marketing rights legislation.

"The Future is Yours" was the topic of Troy Barton, American Marketing Association, as he capped off the luncheon program.

Young People's Citizenship Seminar

Nearly 200 high school students are expected to participate in Michigan Farm Bureau's tenth annual Young People's Citizenship Seminar June 18-22 at Ferris State College, Big Rapids.

County Farm Bureaus have responsibility for selection of students and each has been invited to sponsor four students -- juniors or seniors in the 73-74 school year -- and additional students on a first-come, first served basis.

Emphasis will be placed on four major subject areas during the five-day seminar -- the American Way of Life; People and Governments Around the World; Economics in Everyday Use; and Our American Political System.

Outstanding and competent instructors have been obtained for the various sessions.

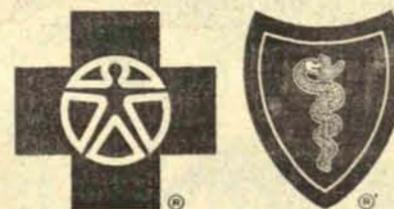
The Americanism program will be handled by Dr. Clifton Ganus, president of Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas.

The "People and Governments Around the World" study will be led by Dr. John Furbay, lecturer, author and global air commuter. The discussion on "Economic Systems" will be under the guidance of Dr. John A. Sparks, chairman, Department of Economics and Business Administration, Hillsdale College. A session on the Challenge of Leadership will be conducted by Art Holst, National Football League official. Larry Ewing, manager, MFB Program Development Division, will assist the students in becoming familiar with the U.S. political system as the basis for the American system of government, society and enterprise.

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Workmen's Compensation Questions

On December 21, 1972, the Supreme Court of Michigan ruled that the agricultural exemptions of the Workmen's Compensation Act were discriminatory and unconstitutional.

The following are questions asked by some farmers and brief answers to those questions. However, each farmer should secure information or specific facts regarding his own operation from his insurance agent to make sure he is adequately protected under the law.

What is workmen's compensation? An insurance system for work injuries in which employers purchase an insurance policy that provides specified medical and indemnity benefits to workers who sustain injuries in the course of and arising out of their employment.

When did it start? Workmen's compensation began in Michigan in 1912. Agriculture was excluded. In 1967, agriculture was included with certain specific exemptions.

Why does workmen's compensation exist? It is a substitute for the old negligence concept of liability. Before workmen's compensation, a worker who was injured might have to bring suit against his employer to recover damages for a work injury.

Under workmen's compensation, the cost of work injuries is a part of the cost of doing business. It is an item of expense in the same manner that supplies, payroll, etc., are items of expense. Fault is not a factor in workmen's compensation. It is immaterial as to whether the employer, the employee, or neither of the two caused the accident.

What brought about the change? On December 21, 1972, Michigan's Supreme Court ruled that the state's Workmen's Compensation Act is discriminatory in exempting

certain agricultural employers. As such, the exemptions were removed and now agricultural employers will be treated by the law the same as any other public employer.

How does this decision affect farmers? Farmers are now classified as private employers and required to provide Workmen's Compensation Insurance protection for their employees as follows: (a) all private employers who regularly employ three or more employees at one time; and (b) all private employers who regularly employ less than three employees if at least one of them has been regularly employed by that same employer for 35 or more hours per week for 13 weeks or longer during the preceding 52 weeks.

What are the benefits under the law? Basically, they are unlimited medical expenses, disability income, death benefits, and costs of rehabilitation.

In the event the injury causes the workman's death, specified benefits are payable to the dependents of the workman.

Occupational diseases are covered, as well as injuries. An occupational disease is one that is peculiar to the occupation.

What about failure to comply with the law? An employer who is subject to the Act and who does not carry workmen's compensation, may suffer very severe financial loss. If one of his employees is injured, the employee may sue the employer and recover the damages that he proves or may elect to file a claim under the compensation law. In such case, the employer is liable for the full amount of the award. One should never take a chance where compensation is involved.

Who is an employee? An employee - employer re-

lationship exists where there is a contract of hire between the parties. The contract may be written or oral and it may be express, or it may be implied from the circumstances. The law provides that it is to be construed liberally in favor of the employee.

The employer cannot provide coverage for himself and he is not counted as an employee. A member of the family might be an employee under unusual circumstances, but there must be a valid employee - employer relationship and such cases are carefully scrutinized.

Independent contractors are not employees. It is difficult to tell whether one is an employee or an independent contractor when the arrangement is made informally. Basically, it is a question of employer control. Who hires and discharges? Who directs the manner, time and method of doing the work? How is payment made? An independent contractor is a person who holds himself out to be in the business of providing the service that he performs. He usually receives a fixed sum for the service. He controls the manner of doing the job. He is responsible for an end result. He controls the persons who work with him. He hires and fires those who work with him. He generally sets the time for performing the work.

A farmer who is amenable to the law should be careful in hiring independent contractors who are amenable to the law. If the amenable independent contractor doesn't carry coverage, the farmer may have the cost of injuries to the employees of the independent contractor charged to his risk. You can protect yourself by requiring the independent contractor to furnish you a copy of his certificate of workmen's compensation coverage.

What about exchange labor? Exchange labor between farms

is a problem peculiar to farming. When two farmers agree to exchange labor, they usually do not consider themselves employees and they usually do not consider what the consequences of an injury would be.

All too often, a claim for injury as an employee may result in a contested workmen's compensation claim and a damaged friendship. In such cases, it is necessary to look at all of the circumstances and apply all of the tests for the existence of an employer-employee relationship to determine the validity of the claim. The safest approach to the problem is for the farmers to agree on the value of the services and report that value for premium payment purposes. The work should then be performed in a manner that would indicate an employer-employee relationship.

How are landlord and tenant relationships affected? Normally, the landlord-tenant relationship does not produce an employer-employee relationship. There can be no hard and fixed rule, however, because the landlord-tenant relationship varies so much. It may be an ordinary lease, a partnership, or a contract of hire, depending on the terms.

The relationships may exist concurrently. In a lease arrangement, the landlord may also hire the tenant to perform work on the landlord's account and thus have a contract of hire, in addition to the lease arrangement.

In the landlord-tenant situation, each should consider his amenability to workmen's compensation.

If a farm employer hires members of his own family to work on the farm, what is the situation? The law says: "Private employees; spouses, partners, minors. Every person in the service of another, under any contract of hire, express or implied, including aliens, any person regularly employed on a full-time basis by his spouse having specified hours of employment at a specified rate of pay, working members of partnerships receiving therefrom wages irrespective of profits, any person insured for whom and to the extent premiums are paid based on wages, earnings or profits, and minors, who shall be considered the same as and have the same power to contract as adult employees. Any minor under 18 years of age whose employment at the time of injury shall be shown to be illegal, in the absence of fraudulent use of permits or certificates of age in which case only single compensation shall be paid, shall receive compensation double that provided in this act."

"Exclusion of coverage of partner or spouse. Any policy or contract of workmen's compensation insurance, by indorsement may exclude coverage as to any one or more named partners or the spouse of an employer who is an individual. No such spouse or partner so excluded shall be subject to the provisions of this act."

Michigan Hay Shipped East

The Michigan Farm Bureau Market Development Division recently coordinated efforts to ship 36 tons of hay to Massachusetts at the request of the Farm Bureau Association of Massachusetts.

A serious shortage of feed supplies has developed on the Eastern Coast because Hurricane Agnes destroyed the major portion of feed crops early last summer. The situation has been further compounded by the high cost of moving feeds into the area due to weather and transportation problems.

Market Development Division personnel were able to locate the needed hay here in Michigan, secure railroad box cars and supervised the trucking and loading of the 1,500 bales of hay.

MACMA

Membership Drive Launched

The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) has launched a big membership drive, to sign up enough growers of processing apples, asparagus, tart cherries, grapes and pickling cucumbers, to qualify under the new marketing and bargaining law P.A. 344, according to Harry A. Foster, manager of MACMA's Fruit and Vegetable Divisions.

The new law goes into effect on April 1, Foster said, and MACMA wants to be prepared to petition as soon as the administrative arrangements can be readied for operation. "We recognize that these administrative functions may take a few days, but we want to be ready to move ahead," he said.

"Members of MACMA's Fruit and Vegetable Divisions already have 40 to 60 percent of Michigan's production of these crops, so we are near or just over the 50 percent production requirement in the law. What we need is a few more growers to put us over the top as far as the number of growers of a particular commodity is concerned," reports Foster.

He continued, "We are very close to the time when we can fulfill the raw product full market pricing objectives growers have been working for over the years. Price bargaining under the law sets up an orderly system to arrive at price and should eliminate the need for harvest holidays and related activities."

"Effective price bargaining is one of the many marketing tools which have been developed for the fruit and vegetable industry in Michigan. Other marketing tools include the state and federal marketing orders for orderly marketing and promotion and market development activities along with centralized marketing. When the industry works together we can come close to the total marketing system concept," he concluded.

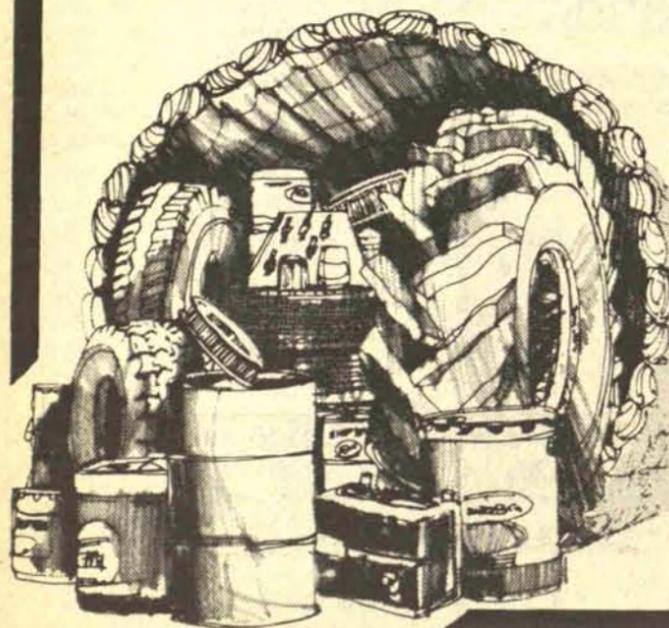
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Land Wastewater Disposal Plan Involves Prime Agricultural Land

A controversial proposal to manage wastewater from Southeastern Michigan by disposal on large areas of prime farmland is having a serious impact in counties affected by the proposed plan. Reports indicate that business activity, land values and other economic services have been hurt. How did this come about?

In 1970, Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop alternative ways to manage wastewater from metropolitan areas. As a result of this action

the Corps initiated feasibility studies in five metropolitan areas including Southeast Michigan.

Among the several alternatives that have been proposed to manage wastewater from the Southeast Michigan area is land disposal. The concept of land disposal of wastewater is simple, but very controversial.

Land disposal of Southeast Michigan wastewater as proposed by the Corps of Engineers would involve the collection and transporting of the wastewater to storage

lagoons. There the wastewater would receive secondary treatment and then be applied to land in Huron, Tuscola, St. Clair, Monroe and Lenawee Counties by irrigation systems. Crops would be grown to utilize available nutrients and the wastewater would be further purified as it percolated through the soil.

Proposals for land wastewater disposal appear to be designed primarily to achieve water quality goals. Public attitudes and individual property have not been major factors in designing the proposed land wastewater disposal system for Southeastern Michigan. Without such consideration the proposed system will remain highly controversial.

Rumors and unconfirmed reports often accompany controversial issues. Such is the case with the proposed Southeastern Michigan wastewater disposal plan.

When the current Corps of Engineers wastewater disposal studies are completed this summer, the report will be forwarded to the Governor for further action. The State of Michigan will make the final decision as to what use, if any, will be made of the Corps study. Citizens of this State should not forget that they can be a powerful and deciding force in such decisions.

County Farm Bureaus are actively involved in this issue. A special meeting was held at Sandusky on December 7 to brief county Farm Bureau

representatives on the issue. Constructive testimony was given by the Huron County Farm Bureau at the December 11 public hearing in Bad Axe. County Farm Bureaus have taken a firm but constructive position on the proposed land wastewater disposal system and are continuing their efforts on this important issue facing agriculture.

Membership

as of Feb. 16,

98.91%

COUNTY % GOAL

1. Menominee	106.08
2. Mac-Luce	104.54
3. Otsego	103.57
4. Montmorency	103.29
5. Cheboygan	103.27
6. Kalkaska	102.63
7. Alpena	102.59
8. Chippewa	102.53
9. N. W. Mich.	101.36
10. Osceola	101.14
11. Saginaw	101.13
12. Montcalm	101.07
13. Ottawa	101.02
14. Macomb	101.089
15. Berrien	101.082
16. Copper Ctry.	101.06
17. Sanilac	100.98
18. Newaygo	100.93
19. Arenac	100.83
20. Washtenaw	100.57
21. Kent	100.50
22. Clinton	100.41
23. Oceana	100.386
24. Bay	100.3856
25. Gratiot	100.3855
26. Livingston	100.36
27. St. Clair	100.33
28. Clare	100.00
29. Benzie	100.00
30. Emmet	100.00
31. Gladwin	100.00
32. Ogemaw	100.00
33. Iosco	100.00
34. Wexford	100.00
35. Tuscola	99.66
36. Shiawassee	99.65
37. Missaukee	99.38
38. Allegan	99.28
39. Oakland	98.96
40. Lenawee	98.60
41. Mason	98.41
42. Ionia	98.35
43. Eaton	98.33
44. Charlevoix	98.15
45. Van Buren	98.14
46. Monroe	97.91
47. Presque Isle	97.88
48. Barry	97.21
49. Alcona	97.14
50. Huron	97.10
51. Wayne	97.01
52. Ingham	96.96
53. Mecosta	96.90
54. Lapeer	96.84
55. Muskegon	96.78
56. Calhoun	96.63
57. St. Joseph	96.28
58. Cass	96.26
59. Isabella	96.04
60. Hillsdale	95.96
61. Antrim	95.91
62. Jackson	95.58
63. Genesee	95.27
64. Manistee	94.87
65. Midland	94.84
66. Branch	94.79
67. Hiawathaland	93.53
68. Kalamazoo	91.05
69. Iron Range	80.95



"When I buy seed and fertilizer for 1,000-acres, I get more than just a bill," says Gerry Elenbaum.

In 1955, Gerry Elenbaum started farming on 80 rented acres with borrowed tools. He was quick to realize that he needed more than just seed and fertilizer to grow. His Farm Bureau affiliated co-op was there with the kind of help he needed.

Gerry still turns to his co-op for advice on operating his 1000-acre Huron country farm. On his co-op's recommendation, he uses Farm Bureau's Hurrayup Bean Starter to improve crop yields. This year Gerry accidentally omitted Hurrayup Bean Starter on one row of navy beans. The row is only half as high and has been hardest hit by blight and water damage, proving Hurrayup's performance. Farm Bureau's feed specialist has helped Gerry improve his overweight dairy herd. The herd is now on Farm Bureau LPS free choice, along with Dairy 55% Premix and haylage. Both calving and milk production have improved.

Gerry agrees that he gets more than a bill from his co-op. Call your nearest Farm Bureau co-op. Find out about the services, technical help and marketing assistance that can make your farm more profitable.

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The Michigan Farm Bureau Dairy Advisory Committee recently met to discuss issues of importance to the dairy industry. Committeemen present were: Dist. 1, Harlow Bailey, Kalamazoo; Dist. 2, Marvin Wade, Branch; Dist. 3, Tom Middleton, Oakland; Dist. 4, Gerald Larson, Ionia; Dist. 5, Robert Grams, Clinton; Dist. 7, Wayne Johnson, Osceola; Dist. 8, Charles Kleinhardt, Clare; Dist. 10, Francis Themn, Charlevoix; Dist. 11, George Palmer, Menominee; Members At-Large: Art Forbush, Genesee; Charles Fisher, Allegan. Representing its MFB Board were: Richard Wieland, Franklin Schwiderson and Andrew Jackson. Discussion at the meeting included: The Environment, EPA Permits and Proposed Federal Standards for Milk. Craig Thomas, director, Commodity Activities Division, AFBF, spoke on the potential and limitations of a Dairy Commodity Division.



SENATE MAJORITY LEADER VANDERLANN (center) was one of the legislative leaders personally presented copies of the 1973 Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Books. Meeting with the Senator were (left to right) Robert Smith and Al Almy, legislative counsels; Administrative Director Robert Braden; Vice President Pridgeon and President Smith.



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE RYAN (center) looks at a copy of the 1973 Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Book delivered and discussed by (left to right) Administrative Director Robert Braden, Legislative Counsel Robert Smith, President Smith, Vice President Pridgeon and Legislative Counsel Al Almy.



PRESIDENT SMITH, Legislative Counsel Almy, Administrative Director Braden, Vice President Pridgeon, and Legislative Counsel Smith presented copies of the Michigan Farm Bureau 1973 Policy Book to House Minority Leader Smart.

Estate Planning Seminar Dates

Dates and locations for estate planning seminars have been set for much of the state. The seminars will feature several specialists in the field of estate planning... a lawyer, trust officer and an insurance estate planning specialist.

Regions where seminars are forthcoming are: Southwest, March 1, 1 p.m., Albion College Science Commons Auditorium; West Central, March 5, 1 p.m., Isabella County Building, Mt. Pleasant and 8:00 p.m., National Bank of Ludington; West, March 6, 8 P.M., Stanton Commons High School and March 7, 8 p.m., Kent County Farm Bureau Office, Comstock Park; Northwest, March 13, 1 p.m., First National Bank, Cadillac, and 8 p.m., PCA Building, Traverse City; Northeast, March 19 and 20 (tentative), Alpena, Gaylord, West Branch; and Southeast, March 15, 8 p.m., location to be announced later.

Farm Bureau Insurance Group's unique farm estate planning service will be discussed during the seminars. The insurance company's ideas include: how to keep the farm profitable for sons remaining on the farm while making an equitable inheritance provision for other children; family agreements for Social Security qualification; partnership business continuation agreements, in event of a partner's death or disability; estate analysis for reducing federal estate tax, Michigan inheritance tax and probate and transfer costs; how to estimate the number of acres it will "cost" to die and how to pay these costs within nine months after death; development of proper wills and trust agreements; and tax shelters available under current tax laws.



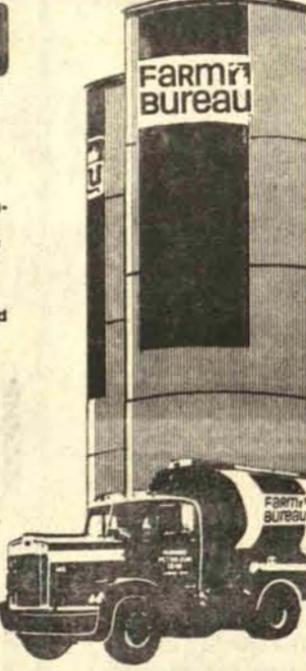
Miss Rita Ruby, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ruby, Ludington, smiled as she was crowned Mason County's 1973 Farm Bureau Queen by Elton R. Smith, president, Michigan Farm Bureau.

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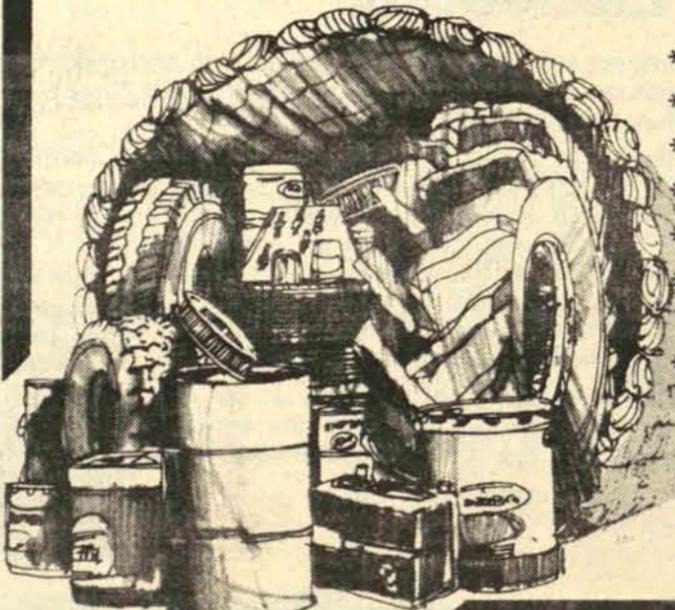
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Market Report

By Greg Sheffield,
Manager

FBS Marketing Services

Feed Ingredients. Feed grain usage is expected to increase nationally by ten percent this year. October 1 carryover could drop by 25 percent. Total feed grain this year is estimated nationally at a new high of 210 million tons. Carryover by October 1 may tumble to 25 percent or about 36 million tons, according to the February 8, USDA Feed Situation Summary. During January and the first half of February, wild trading at the Chicago Board of Trade pushed soybean and meal futures up the limits for several contracts day after day. Bullishness was at-

tributed to the worldwide lack of sufficient protein. Total stocks of Michigan grains, including soybeans, corn and wheat as of January 1 were larger than last year. Soybeans were up nearly 67 percent and showed the largest gain for the year. Oats, on the other hand, were down slightly, according to the Michigan Crop Reporting Service.

Corn stocks in all positions in the first of this year totaled 117.3 million bushels, up 16 percent from a year earlier. Farm stocks, at 100.1 million bushels are 35 percent more than last year, while total all-farm stocks at 117.2 million bushels, are down 36 percent. Total oat stocks, at 12.6 million bushels, are down four percent from January 1, 1972. The total on-farm stocks are down

slightly, while stocks off farms are down by 25 percent.

Soybean stocks in all positions as of January 1, 1973, totaled 10.03 million bushels, up 67 percent from a year earlier. The farm stocks, at 7.8 million bushels, are nearly double January of last year, while the total stocks off farms are up 15 percent.

Agricultural Prices. According to Michigan Crop Reporting Service, index of prices received by Michigan farmers rose three points to 135 percent of the 1967 average during the month ending January 15, 1973. Higher prices for eggs, hogs and cattle were responsible for much of the increase, but most items in the index were higher or unchanged from a month previous. The price of corn and

all hay declined during January. Prices received by farmers in Michigan, for January 15, 1973 were: corn per bushel, \$1.35, up \$.32 from last year; wheat per bu., \$2.54, up \$1.09 from last year; oats per bu., \$.97, up \$.21 from last year; dry beans per cwt., \$8.60, down \$4.20 from last year; hogs per cwt., \$32.50, up \$9.70 from last year; beef cattle per cwt., \$32.30, up \$5.50 from last year; calves per cwt., \$52.80, up \$9.80 from last year; lambs per cwt., \$32.50, up \$5.20 from last year; milk per cwt., \$6.50, up \$.30 from last year; eggs per dozen, \$.428, up \$.168; and wool per pound, \$.50, up \$.27.

Eggs. New Country Queen Peeled Hard-Cooked Eggs are getting fine market acceptance with major users such as

Michigan State University, the State of Michigan, United Airlines and others. Sales are increasing weekly as the product reaches institutional users.

Supplies. The big question mark at this time is rail transportation. Extreme rail car shortages are being experienced in Michigan and throughout the country due to the heavy grain shipments overseas.

Securing fertilizers and other supplies will be touch and go. Lumber is in very short supply. The situation for treated logs is critical in some areas.

Feed ingredients remain in short supply with high prices. Fruit growers should order their supplies of pesticides early this year because of shortages and shipping difficulties.

Technical Parathion will be in very short supply because manufacturers are converting it into Methyl Parathion and shipping it overseas for cotton insect use. Furadan 10G for soil insect control in corn will also be very short this year.

Corn Crop

Some 40 percent of Michigan's corn crop remained unharvested in fields at the start of the new year, according to Edward R. Powell, vice president of the Michigan Elevator Exchange division of Farm Bureau Services.

The slowness of harvest operations has broken all records and many farmers are feeling a severe economic pinch without returns from the cash crop.

Wet fall weather and muddy fields are blamed for delaying corn picking.

Because the corn harvest never reached peak volume, the coop elevators have been able to handle the 1972 crop without major hitches, but a current shortage of rail hopper cars is creating problems in some areas, Powell said.

Already some five 100-car trainloads of Michigan corn have been shipped east for export from the Ottawa Lake terminal and four similar 100-car trains have departed from the Saginaw terminal over the last several months. Each 100-car train carries about 350,000 bushels of corn.

Powell said that the 100-car trains were contracted far before harvest started which allowed us to have cars to load during the peak harvest period. Because of this forward contracting, we were able to continually receive corn even during the heaviest harvest period. Very few railroad cars were available in the conventional manner and without the forward contracting for 100-car trains, we would not have been able to receive corn every day.

Experts now fear that a portion of the 1972 corn crop will be lost due to field losses caused by ears falling off and stalks breaking down. However, corn can be harvested anytime the weather permits.

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Fertilizer Shortages, you remember the long lines that occurred last year. Well, with the predicted increase in crop acreage and phosphate shortages, your present source of supply might not have what you need, when you need it. Come see your nearest Farm Bureau dealer. He is fully stocked with the fertilizer you require. Your dealer can also help with modern spreading equipment you can rent.

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"ENERGY CRISIS" Discussion Topic

by **KEN WILES**

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

On November 9, 1965 in eight short minutes a near total electrical eclipse swept over much of the northeastern portion of the United States. An inconceivable event occurred as the quiet servant electricity unexpectedly resigned.

The Great Blackout, as it came to be known, was the first dramatic warning that the relationship between energy supply and demand had reached a precarious balance in the United States. Today, we know the problem as the energy crisis. We are only starting to realize its full dimensions and we may continue to feel its effects for a long time to come.

To many people, an energy crisis might mean no electricity to operate appliances, less heating fuel or less gasoline to operate the family car. But to farmers, an energy crisis can mean all of these plus a halt or a slow down in their farming operations.

Many farmers in Michigan first became aware or concerned about an energy crisis when elevators had to cease drying grain due to a shortage of natural gas. While the phrase "energy crisis" has become a household phrase in only the last few months, it has been developing for some time.

The United States, with six percent of the world's population, consumed nearly one-third of the globe's energy production during 1972. The demand for energy is expected to double or even triple within the next 15 to 20 years. The nation's farmers spend more than four billion dollars annually for fuel and lubricants. They also use some 33 billion kilowatt hours of electricity each year, which is more than the annual residential use in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and all the New England states combined.

Cause of the energy crisis is difficult to explain, as so many different factors are involved. But it appears that the basic reason is that the demand for energy has rapidly increased while economic controls combined with the new emphasis on ecology have hampered the incentive to meet the demand.

There are some who accuse the petroleum industry and power companies of "crying wolf" over the energy crisis in an effort to get rate increases for their products and tax advantages for their investors. This may be true to some extent, but it is also true that the petroleum and power people are using a line of reasoning which farmers can understand.

Farmers maintain that government price controls on food would kill the incentive for expanding agricultural production. Utilities and the petroleum industry are telling the same type of story. Phase Two price controls curtailed the incentive to drill for oil and natural gas.

Farmers are concerned that the push toward more strict rules and regulations in the name of ecology will hamper agricultural production techniques. Petroleum and utility companies say new rules and restrictions are keeping refineries from being built, cables from being strung, and pipes from being laid.

Farmer cooperative leaders at a recent meeting with government officials warned that the energy crisis will have a serious effect on food production in 1973 unless steps are taken to alleviate it.

In sessions with White House and USDA officials, the group told how fuel allocation programs are affecting their operations this winter. "Most cooperative refineries," they declared, "are operating well below capacity or on a hand-to-mouth basis right now."

"If the present situation of refineries running below capacity continues another 30 days, there won't be sufficient products available logistically to serve the spring needs of agriculture," they said. The group predicted these consequences in 1973 if relief isn't forthcoming: agricultural production failing to meet national goals; rising food costs because of insufficient supplies; lack of adequate grain supplies to fill export needs; a worsening of the balance of payments; and general confusion and discontent in the farm population.

Cooperative officials also predicted that farm demand for power fuels could increase approximately 25 percent this spring. This is due to a wet fall throughout the Midwest which caused late harvesting, and prevented fall plowing and planting in many areas; and 1973 government programs which will increase total plantings by some 40 million acres.

Energy Sources

Our national commitment to an energy-supported

way of life is a reality. The following portion of this article discusses the major energy sources available to the United States now, and sources which may become important supplements in the future.

COAL, our most abundant fossil fuel, is the main source of power for electric generators. America has enough underground coal reserves to last several centuries. After utilities began their courtship with nuclear power, many power plant operators passed up customary long-term contracts with coal companies, and the number of producing mines declined. Then when environmental and technical problems delayed atomic power, many utilities and industries started switching back to coal. Strict new mining and safety laws have closed some mines, and environmental restrictions of one kind or another have curtailed the use of coal in this country. The future of coal as a prime source of electrical power depends on developing ways to scrub out pollutants and finding better ways of mining and transporting the low-sulphur grades that are less polluting.

GAS consumption last year in the United States reached a staggering 23 trillion cubic feet. It is more widely in demand than ever before because of its reputation as a "clean" fuel. Proven domestic reserves, the gas we know is available in the ground, are down by one count to 247 trillion cubic feet, exclusive of the reserves in Alaska. For the last four years, discovery of new reserves has failed to keep pace with production. The Federal Power Commission projects a supply shortage of 3.6 trillion cubic feet in 1975 and a gas famine in the coming decades.

Although there is probably enough gas underground for a couple decades, exploration will be costly, and drillers sometimes will have to go down more than 5,000 feet to tap new sources. Present deficits are being reduced with pipeline imports from Canada and Mexico.

One school of thought is the gas shortage can be blamed on a 1954 Supreme Court decision giving the Federal Power Commission the right to set gas prices at the well head, although a liberalization of the rates is now being considered. This policy, the argument goes, has resulted in unrealistically low prices and subsequent reluctance of industry to invest in exploration.

OIL. In 1971, we burned 5.5 billion barrels of oil to run more than 90 million autos, to power jet fleets, to heat homes and to run a host of items from ships to chain saws. This is the equivalent of three gallons a day for every man, woman and child in the country. By 1985, demand will be around 27 million barrels a day, but domestic production, currently around 11 million barrels a day, will be only about ten million. Even if environmental concerns over the controversial pipeline from Alaska's rich North Slope can be overcome, it would add only an estimated two million barrels a day.

So a large part of America's oil must eventually come from abroad, mainly from the Middle East, richest source of this fuel. Projections for three years ahead already call for importing 39 percent of our oil, 14 percent above former import estimates for 1985.

The key to these supplies will be U.S. relations with oil-producing countries, which have been known to cut off the flow on a whim. International observers warn that powerful groups like the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries can easily allot oil to favored buyers and the U.S. bargaining position will be made no easier by the Japanese and European appetite for oil, now growing faster than our own. Foreign competition aside, the job of ferrying overseas oil here will be staggering, calling for an estimated 360 new supertankers costing billions of dollars.

NUCLEAR POWER, at one time considered the answer to energy needs, has been restricted by fear of radiation contamination and thermal pollution of water. Despite the problems, power plant operators are betting on the atom as a major source of tomorrow's electrical energy. Nuclear plants are projected to go from 28 operating today to 150 in 1980 and 450 by 1990, provided designs prove acceptable and enough uranium can be found to heat their boilers. The U.S. has stocked only 50,000 tons of uranium oxide, the raw material of nuclear power, with another 273,000 tons in estimated reserves. This would supply power plants into the 1980's when the Atomic Energy Commission must have additional enrichment facilities for processing uranium.

SYNTHETIC FUELS. A hunk of rock, a grain of sand and garbage are unlikely to bring petroleum to mind, but realistically they could. Certain forms of such unlikely elements produce "synthetic petroleum." Sometime in the future these synthetics could become important new sources of energy.

Future technology may someday provide answers to problems of extraction of fuel from these sources, but for the present, at least, synthetic fuels as major energy sources appear only as intriguing possibilities.

GEOTHERMAL POWER. Heat radiates constantly from the earth's core, sometimes concentrating in local hot spots near the surface. When underground water meets naturally heated underground rocks, steam results -- the same kind of steam that makes Old Faithful perform on schedule. By drilling into geothermally active areas, natural steam can be directed into the blades of turbines to produce low-cost electricity. Geothermal power has several advantages. It is clean -- no combustion products are emitted to the atmosphere. Plant construction costs are less than the cost of a fossil fuel plant, or a nuclear plant because no fuel handling facilities or high pressure boilers need be constructed. However, the plants and the power lines leading from them do destroy the natural beauty of the surrounding area. The Geysers, located north of San Francisco, is the U.S.'s first geothermal power project. It is estimated that by 1985 from one-half of one percent to about two percent of the U.S. energy demand may be provided by geothermal power.

OCEAN POWER. Breaking surf, tides, ocean currents, and cold water welling up to the surface have the potential for generating billions of megawatts of electricity, if they could be harnessed. Many of the schemes to channel the ocean's energy into power production are feasible from an engineering standpoint, but construction costs would be high and also production and transmission costs. Looked at quickly, oceanic power does not seem likely to arouse environmental opposition. It is, after all, a clean, natural, self-renewing power source. Yet, some unforeseen environmental consequences may result from using tidal power on a large scale. A few serious researchers have predicted that the imposition of large-scale tidal power plants would disturb the normal tidal ebb and flow, and would slow the earth's rotation. While power from the sea is alluring, it is also disappointing. Its cost, remoteness from large user areas, and unknown environmental effects are problems which must be solved before ocean power can become an important energy supplement. These solutions are not likely to be forthcoming for decades.

SOLAR ENERGY. Since its beginning, life has depended upon the sun to sustain a hospitable climate on earth. Now, the use of solar energy is beginning to be viewed as a potentially attractive, abundant, and non-polluting means of supplementing our present energy resources. Solar energy is already being used as a source of heat. The principle that a blackened surface exposed to the sun will absorb solar energy is the basis for the operation of several million domestic hot water heaters used in a dozen countries. A more advanced system could be applied to home heating and cooling. What would be ideal, of course, would be to convert solar energy to electric power. Satellites could microwave solar energy back to earth and in this way realize six to eight times more solar energy than would be available in the best location in the U.S. As yet, it is too early to state what bets should be placed on this optional energy source, but its potential for supplementing our present sources is an exciting one.

The Future

Can we ease our energy crisis by cutting down on fuel waste right now? Certainly. Cars could be built to get more mileage per gallon, buildings could be better insulated and most appliances could be designed to produce less waste heat. An ordinary light bulb converts into light only about ten percent of the electricity it burns, and most air conditioners are far less efficient than they might be.

There is a basic need to improve the techniques of generating, storing and transmitting electricity, too. Power plants are around 30 percent to 40 percent efficient.

The time is coming when energy planners, spread through sixty-some government agencies, must face up to the crucial question: Can America create a sensible policy that meets today's energy demands on one hand, and provide for tomorrow's environmental and fuel needs on the other?

Nobody thinks the answers will come easily. But the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, William Ruckelshaus, states optimistically, "Right now, energy and environment are on a collision course. But that need not be. We have the power to change directions. With common sense, goodwill and a desire to modify the hallowed habits of the past, we can not only survive, but prosper."

Discussion Topic Report Sheet

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

COMMUNITY FARM BUREAU Discussion Exercise and Report Sheet March, 1973

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

TOPIC: ENERGY CRISIS

1. What can individuals do to help conserve energy supplies? _____
2. Do you agree with the Administration's action which suspended oil import quotas through April 30 and set higher limits for imports of crude oil through 1973? Yes: _____ No: _____
Explain: _____
3. What preparations do you suggest farmers make to assure themselves an adequate supply of energy needs for their farming operations? _____
4. What is the present situation with your fuel and electric supplies? _____
5. Are the suppliers of the energy you use attempting to help you be prepared if a fuel shortage occurs? _____
6. Earlier this year President Nixon appointed three presidential counselors with board authority over areas of domestic concern. One of the counselors was given responsibility for natural resources, including energy policy. What is this person's name? _____
7. Comments: _____

Topic Summary

Replies to the January Discussion Topic on the Metric System showed a majority of those replying in favor of the metric system, but opposed to making it mandatory. Generally speaking, those with little previous contact with the metric system could see no reason to learn a new measurement language. For their purposes, the customary system is far better than the metric system because they already know it.

1. In your opinion, which system, the metric or the customary, makes calculations easier? Metric: 51% Customary: 49%
2. In your opinion, is increased metric usage in the best interest of the United States? Yes: 75% No: 25%
3. Do you think it is feasible for the United States to completely convert to the metric system? Yes: 52% No: 48%
4. Since conversion to the metric system is legal, should it be made mandatory? Yes: 43% No: 57%
5. If conversion to the metric system becomes mandatory, what time span should be allowed for the complete conversion? The suggested time span ranged from five to ten years, but the vast majority favored ten years.
6. Do you think the general public is almost forgotten in the proposed change to the metric system? Yes: 77% No: 23%
7. Comments: Let's get it over with; any change is difficult to accept; you can teach old dogs new tricks; old dogs can learn new tricks; metric system is more accurate; too confusing for our age; confusing, but then so is most everything else these days.

Clinic Dates

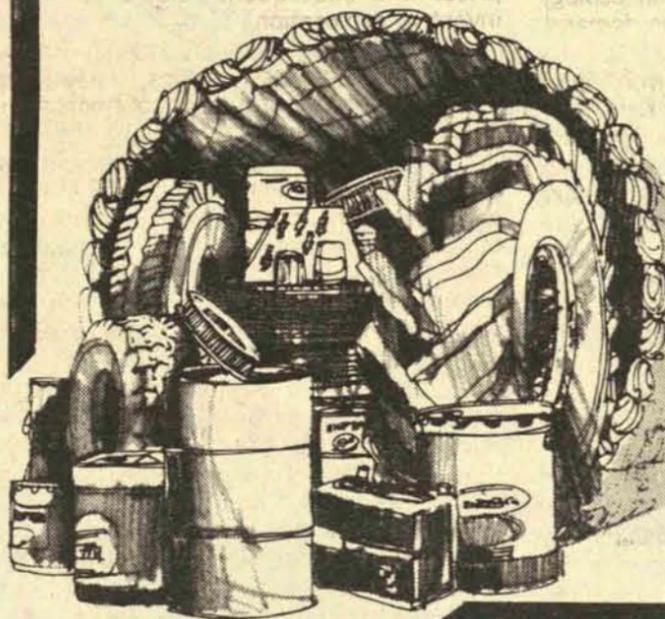
County Farm Bureau Board members have been invited to attend one of the series of clinic meetings for managers and directors of cooperatives.

The clinics, sponsored by Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives, will be held in areas where cooperatives have recently added new facilities. In addition to touring the new facilities, the program will include discussions on "Changes Taking Place in Agriculture" and "Adjustments Cooperatives are Making to Meet the Needs of Agriculture."

The clinics are scheduled March 6, Buchanan Co-op, Buchanan; March 8, Comet Restaurant, Grand Rapids; March 14, Michigan Livestock Exchange, Manchester; March 15, East Jordan Co-op, East Jordan.

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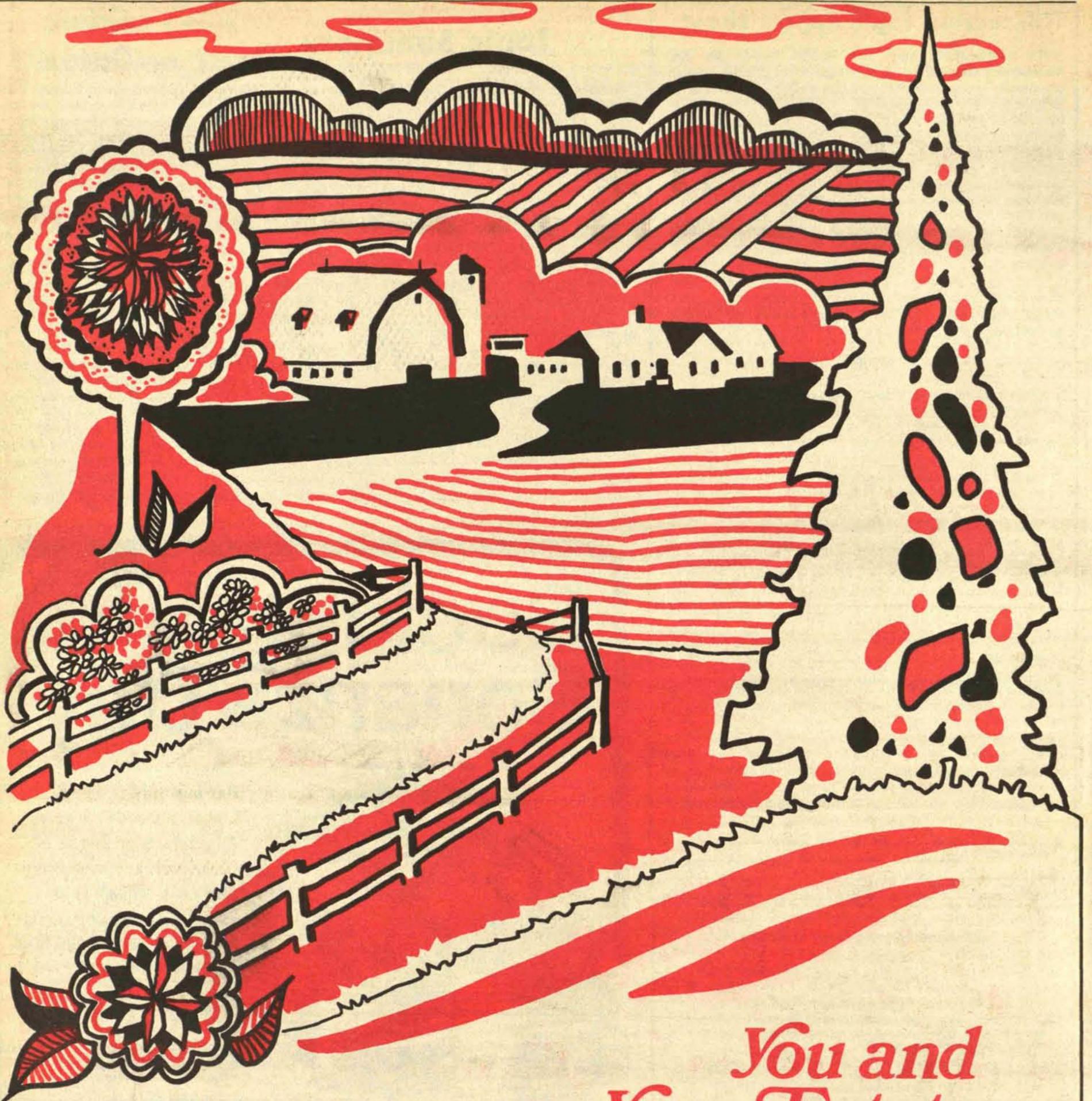
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