Several land use bills will undoubtedly be introduced in the Legislature. One already introduced is H.B. 4186, 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.
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. 

In the agriculture in the year 2010: Government Controlled Family-Sized Farms? or 300 conglomerates producing the food for the nation? These are two extreme positions that will be covered during this special program.

Note: 
March 21, during the Farmers’ Week at Michigan State University.
Launch of 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, Mr. E. T. Chisnall, on their travels in Lansing 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 Philip 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 “a victory for the teamsters that was never 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 hire. The United Farm Workers union called it a “sweetheart” contract.

In Memoriam

Art Owen, president of the Lapeer County Farm Bureau, died suddenly on January 11 when he suffered an aneurysm at his home near Lapeer. He 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.
Robert E. Smith
to that level. This requirement runs for the full period of time. For example, for a district presently levying as low as 12 mills the state would require that this difference up to 18 mills for the 1973-74 year, one-third of the increase in their tax effort. School districts levying less than 18 mills would use a phase in period, be required to raise their local property tax rate.

It is generally believed that this proposal meets the requirements of the Supreme Court decision requiring equity in distribution of the property tax burden for school finance. The courts in Michigan have not ruled property taxes unconstitutional because they believe that property taxes have been levied and distributed in an unconstitutional manner. Governor Milliken has stated that his school finance proposal together with his tax relief program of property tax relief for the year 1973-74 would assure that this portion of the burden of property tax would be shared by all Michigan's citizens.

As an example of how the program might work, assume that a school district presently levying $7,000 has a property tax of $1,000. The districts has a property tax rate of $7,000, or $280. The excess burden of property tax would then be $720 ($1,000 - $280). The state would rebate 60% of this figure, or $432. The rebate, however, is limited to the differential in millages of the district which would have a reduction of their state income tax of $78. This revenue, added to the $400 property tax rebate, makes a total 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 to have the state reduce property taxes. However, if they live in a district levying less than 22 mills, the school property taxes would be raised, at least after the third year of the program. If one qualifies as senior citizens, eligible veterans or blind, the tax exemption would be greater using the first formula indicated above.

The testimony also pointed out that the mussels would have little or no impact on land use policies, such as the necessary funding of agricultural research and extension programs at Michigan State University, including monies for planning a new Plant-Science Research Park, and new environmental regulations such as HHFA, a new research project on crop yield. The testimony also pointed out that the mussels would have little or no impact on land use policies, such as the necessary funding of agricultural research and extension programs at Michigan State University, including monies for planning a new Plant-Science Research Park, and new environmental regulations such as HHFA, a new research project on crop yield.
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 buyers 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.

Rep. Ruppe

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. Esch

Congressman Esch was introduced on February 5, by Representative H.R. 3723 is 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 under way. 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 appropriated funds. 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 veto, thus adding fuel to the controversy.

In the first of a series of State of the Union reports making an attempt to discredit the President, Nixon referred to the impounded funds by stating, "Because our resources are not infinite, we face a critical choice. We may choose between the line in government spending and adopting a fiscally responsible program which will surely force up taxes and reduce 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 a bill (H.R. 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 for REAP in each fiscal year.

Farm Bureau 1973 national policies do not support government programs to make farmers pay for annual conservation practices such as drainage, tiling, liming and other practices. Farm Bureau supports cost-sharing for on-farm soil 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 of the House would then be required to override the veto.

Disaster Loans

On December 27, the Secretary of Agriculture announced that emergency disaster loans to farmers 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 loan.

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 re-establish 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 rate 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.

Water Pollution Permit Program

The Water Pollution Permit Program, last October, the 92nd Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments 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 all farmers to file a complicated application form with EPA or WRC if a permit was needed. The time for public comment on the proposed rules was limited to 15 days, but was later extended at Farm Bureau request for an additional 30 days.

During that time, EPA received a large number of comments, protesting the application of the Act to agriculture. EPA then invited representatives of numerous groups, including farmers, to participations to meetings for a discussion of the proposed rules. For these reasons Farm Bureau opposed H.R. 2107.

Publication of the proposed rules as modified is expected in the Federal Register. EPA probably allow 30 days for comment on the new proposed rules. It will be necessary for the public to respond 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. Such feedlots may affect thousands of animal units or equivalent size.

Grain Transportation

The Senate Agriculture Committee has held hearings on the critical situation related to grain transportation and rail cars supply. The supply of rail cars is very tight due to large export sales, lack of shipping facilities and manpower to handle rail cars at some ports, short ship loading facilities and adverse weather conditions. The rail car shortage has posed problems to the delivery of 1973 spring fertilizer supplies.

The current critical situation, it will be more serious if the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and the Pacific Maritime Association go on strike when their current collective bargaining agreements expire. Farm Bureau testified at the Senate Agriculture Committee that measures must be taken to solve the grain transportation crisis by providing loan guarantees to handle rail cars and extending a revision of the rail car incentive rental system to make railroads more effective and providing an orderly means of settling transportation strikes.

Comminated Meat Standards

Several Michigan Congressmen have sponsored legislation (H.R. 1752) to permit Michigan to retain its strong animal comminated meats. Federal standards permit the use of by-products of animals, while Michigan standards permit only skeletal meat to be used in hot dogs, sausages and deli meats. The courts have ruled against the Michigan standards, requiring the US Supreme Court to review the case. Michigan Congressman Ford, Ed兹ch, Ruppe, Griffiths, Huber, Brown and Reigle have sponsored H.R. 1752, to allow higher state standards, including Congressmen William Ford, Niedz, Esch, Ruppe, Griffiths, Huber, Brown, Cederberg, Harvey and Reigle.

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Enrollment

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

If you're not enrolled and are an eligible Farm Bureau member, you can sign up 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 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 MVP (Michigan Variable Fee) benefits pay most doctor bills in full for covered services and offer 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 Co-operative Marketing Association, an affiliate of Michigan Farm Bureau. According to Foster, in formation 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 marketing 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, and a $1.50 per hundred minimum for all acceptable number four pickles. Foster urged all picking cucumber growers to use a pencil and figure out the net returns per acre on any proposed pickling contract. Processors may want to contain a clause which eliminates the grower's responsibility or liability, resulting in a conflict of 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-planting, 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. Sample 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 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. Clifford 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. 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.
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 supplier, 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.

A new 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 workers’ 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 relationship exists where there is a contract of hire between the parties. The contract may be written or oral and it may be express or implied from the circumstances. The law provides that it is to be determined in favor of the employee.

The employer cannot provide coverage for himself 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.

Independent contractors are not employees. It is difficult to tell whether one is an employee or an independent contractor when the arrangement is made. 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 as being in the business of providing the service that he performs. He usually receives a fixed sum for the service. 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. He controls the 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.

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 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 situation. 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 to hire each other’s 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 create an employer-employee relationship. There can be no liability on the part of the landlord because the landlord-tenant relationship varies so much. It may be a rental lease, sharecropping, partnership, or a contract of hire, depending on the terms. It may exist concurrently. In a lease arrangement, the landlord may also hire the tenant to perform work on the farm, and thus have a contract of hire, in addition to the lease arrangement. In the landlord-tenant situation, each should consider the effect of the landlord-tenant arrangement.

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, or any person regularly in the service of another, under any contract of hire, who is a member of a family, or the family member of aliens, any person regularly employed on a full-time basis by his spouse or by any person regularly in the service of another, under any contract of hire, with the employer is an express exclusion of coverage of the person.

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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 value 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 would 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 effort on the important issue facing agriculture.

Membership as of Feb. 16, 98.91%

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“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 1,000-acre Huron country farm. On his co-op’s recommendation, he uses Farm Bureau’s Hurryup Bean Starter to improve crop yields. This year Gerry accidently omitted Hurryup 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 Hurryup’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 85% 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.
Farm Bureau Queen by Elton Ludington, smiled as she was crowned Mason County's 1973 Farm Bureau.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Dairy Advisory Committee recently met to discuss issues of importance to the dairy industry. Committee members present were: Dist. 1, Harlow Bailey, Kalamazoo; Dist. 2, Marvin Wade, Branch; Dist. 3, Tom Midleton, Oakland; Dist. 4, Gerald Larson, Ionia; Dist. 5, Robert Grans, Clinton; Dist. 7, Wayne Johnson, Osceola; Dist. 8, Charles Kleinhardt, Clare; Dist. 10, Francis Themm, Charlevoix; Dist. 11, George Palmer, Menominee; Members At-Large: Art Forbush, Genesee; Charles Fisher, Allegan. Representing its MFB Board were: Richard Wieland, Franklin; Wayne Johnson, Osceola; Dist. 8, Large: Art Forbush, Genesee; Charles Fisher, Allegan. Representing its MFB Board were: Richard Wieland, Franklin; Wayne Johnson, Osceola; Dist. 8, Large: Art Forbush, Genesee; Charles Fisher, Allegan.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Dairy Advisory Committee 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.

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.

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 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 6 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.

6% - 1 Year Maturity
(minimum subscription - $100)
6.5% - 10 Year Maturity
(minimum subscription - $100)
6.75% - 15 Year Maturity
(minimum subscription - $5,000)
7% - 15 Year Maturity
(minimum subscription - $100)
7.5% - 15 Year Maturity
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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 attributed 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 as of January 1, 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 of corn 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., $1.97, up $.21 from last year; dry beans per cwt., $6.60, down $4.20 from last year; hogs per cwt., $32.50, up $9.70 from last year; beef cattle per cwt., $32.20, up $5.50 from last year; calves per cwt., $52.80, up $9.80 from last year; lambs per cwt., $32.50, up $5.50 from last year; milk per cwt., $6.50, up $3.00 from last year; eggs per dozen, $4.28, up $.18; 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. All birds are experiencing increasing weekly as the product reaches institutional users.

Feed Ingredients. 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 heavy grain shipments overseas.

Securing fertilizers and other supplies will be touch and go. Your farm stock of supplies 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 have halted its use due to the acute shortage of rail hopper cars. Lumber is in very short supply 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 enough in advance which allowed us to have cars to load during the peak harvest period. Very few rail railroad cars were available in the conventional manner and without this 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 1973 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.
"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 and our way of life is a reality. The precious balance in the United States. Today, we know the problem as the energy crisis. We are only starting to realize how easy it will continue to feel its effects for a long time to come.

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

Many farmers in Michigan first felt 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 about 5 percent of the world's population, consumed nearly one-third of the globe's energy production during 1972. The demand for energy in the United States is expected to more than double by the year 1980. It is almost certain that the years 1975 to 1980 will be crucial years in determining whether we will have the energy to meet the increased demand of the next 15 or 20 years. The nation's farmers spend more than four billion dollars annually for fuels and lubricants. This translates to billions of hours of work, which is more than the annual residential use in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and the New England states combined.

The time is coming when energy planners, spread through sixty-some government agencies, must face the environmental and fuel needs on the other? 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 designed to use less fuel for heating and cooling. What would be ideal, of course, would be to convert solar energy to electric power. Solar energy is already being used as a source of heat. The sun's heat is free, and as long as the sun shines, it will absorb solar energy is the basis for the operation of several million domestic hot water systems. A more advanced system could be applied to homes and industrial cooling. What would be ideal, of course, would be to convert solar energy to electric power. Solar energy is being used to power a number of small devices. In the near future, solar energy could be used to power a number of small devices.

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**Discussion Topic Report Sheet**

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

**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 prepare if a fuel shortage occurs?

6. Earlier this year President Nixon appointed three presidential counselors with board authority over areas of domestic climate. One of the counselors was given responsibility for natural resources, including energy policy. What is this person’s name?

7. Comments:

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**FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE**

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM MEMBERS: 25 words for one word. NON-MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word.

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**LIVESTOCK**

**POULTRY**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

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Wills, trusts, tax-shelters, social security qualification... our specialists can help.

You've spent a lifetime creating your estate. Isn't it time you decided what will happen to it?

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP.