Standing weekly after nearly 10 hours of delegate sessions at the MFB Annual Meeting, Gerald Elenbaum told fellow members that the delegation's resolution to support specific moves to set up a central land use office and commission with proper legislation requiring that farmers appeal private land parcels was easily adopted. With large numbers of producers frustrated by overdue payment for produce from processors, the MFB delegates supported the idea of setting up a probate resolution that would support specific moves to set up a public means of settling estate matters through special county offices and thereby avoid lawyer fees.

While delegates questioned the legality of such specific moves, they did come out in favor of more equitable and prompt settlements.

Two new faces made their way on the MFB Board of Directors at the December annual meeting, but Elton Smith said, "You can never tell what the controversial issues will be at a Farm Bureau meeting."

Smith was reflecting on the constant scrutiny of the delegates which lead Smith to call the "73 assembly the best he ever chaired." While resolutions concerning such well publicized issues as land use, land waste disposal and international trade passed easily, resolutions on lesser known issues came under heavy fire.

The most volatile issue revolved around a newly proposed Michigan Department of Agriculture requirement to put recording thermometers on Farm Bulk milk tanks.

A number of delegates said, however, that under the present proposals the quality of the milk was not assured after it left the farm. A worked out solution was submitted to the delegation after the debate and it was accepted.

It stated that if recording thermometers will be required, they must be required in all segments of the industry and all imported dairy products must be handled under the same quality controls.

Delegates did act on some well known issues of the day. Reacting to the announcement that the country would go on daylight savings time in January, the delegates resolved that Michigan should go into the Central Time Zone.

An MFB resolution on land waste disposal was easily adopted. Many delegates had been helped in their decision by attending a standing-room-only seminar the day before which featured the pros and cons of land disposal.

The adopted resolution allowed that such disposal of wastewater could be beneficial to agriculture but insisted on voluntary, private participation of farmers and local governments with proper requirements for crop and land damage as well as flexibility in application schemes.

The delegates also supported the formation of a central land use office and commission with agricultural representation. The resolution made preservation of prime farmland and assessment of farmland at agricultural value as the basis for land use planning and the maintenance of compensation to and appeal private landowners.

A reworked solution was submitted to the delegation after the debate and it was accepted.

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The year 1973 provided issues that allowed our organization to flex its muscles and sharpen our opinions and skills. The Vietnam War and the energy crisis were two of the most pressing issues. The year started off with the war in Vietnam being a major focus. As the conflict continued, it became clear that the United States was committing too many resources to the fight. The energy crisis was also a major issue, with the price of oil quadrupling in 1973. This led to a shortage of gasoline and long lines at gas stations. The government responded by implementing price controls and rationing gasoline. These actions were controversial, and many felt that they were not enough to address the situation.

The following is a response to the editor Terry Canup's "Underlines" in the December issue in which he asked that the national anthem be taken a similar stand.

Dear Mr. Canup,

I am a great champion for a free press. The right to dissent in this case I feel it only fair to explain that the topic you chose is somewhat of a sacred cow.

About six years ago one of the noted directors of the Metropolitan Opera Company (his name escapes my memory just now) wrote an article for Life magazine similar to yours. It was later reprinted in the Readers Digest where I discovered it. So I wrote and wrote an essay on this article, categorically discussing his suggestions for a possible substitute. He mentioned America; America the Beautiful; God Bless America and the Battle Hymn of the Republic. All were rejected.

I sent my manuscript to Life magazine and it was returned with underlines: We like the Anthems.

I would like to devote a little space to commentary in my essay. (The manuscript should be in my archives somewhere; America the Beautiful is the best choice. It's got the sound, music and word composition would be the most suitable alternative. But America; America the Beautiful, while having stirring music, the lyrics are more of an evangelical chant than a patriotic purpose for reason of nationalism. And remember, it was written during and for a cause of a divisive war. Hardly a topic to inspire a feeling of unified patriotism. And the music was not composed to fit the lyrics. Rather, Julia Ward Howe parodied "John Brown's Body" when she wrote the words. Battle Hymn of the Republic is not public as an easy song to parodize.

Six years ago I was working in a plastics factory in Lansing. Towards the last, one of my daily jobs was to mix the chemicals to produce the types of resin we used. Towards the end of the workday, I would get my mixing job on the line was to write the lyrics (4 stanzas) "The Battle Hymn of the Laminators." In closing, I'd like to say I'm not a gifted performer, but I don't resent the musical difficulties in our anthem. In fact, I have been known to hum it to the best of my ability at every opportunity.

Stanley R. Pierce
Williamston

Please write one thousand times NO, NO, NO, NO. I disagree with you as strongly as I can protest our current condition on the National Anthem. I've heard that old and not obsolete about the beer drinking song, but that was several years ago, and no one is around who knows where the original is. But it is also several beloved hymns of our history. I do not love it, but I do love to lose it. I get chills up and down my backbone every time I hear it like it was the first time. I'm not much of a singer, but I love to sing it, and I love it most of all standing, regardless of what is happening around me, hearing 70,000 sing it together.

There are those who have taken a lot of things away from me that love... Don't try to take away a tune that is loved by millions just because a few folks find it hard to sing. It's a good song. They want the easy way out. They don't want to do away with the hard ones.

Sincerely,

Murray W. Director of Information Tennessee Farm Bureau

**Foreign Trade**

Statistics show that one out of every four acres of production goes into foreign markets. Foreign trade isn't a nice thing to have, it is a necessity.

**ALTERNATIVE FUELS**

Energy is another major concern to farmers. Government regulations, taxation, restrictive pricing policies and poorly drawn environmental legislation have caused many to look to alternative sources of power.

Other sources of energy will have to be used more fully. Using more coal, for example, could free up natural gas which is used to dry grain but more important in producing new chemical products.

To expand food production, we need to greatly expand ammonia production. This will require about 3 percent of our domestic gas supplies but 18 percent of our supply is being used to generate electricity.

We must make officials recognize that there is an alternative fuel.

**WHO TO SERVE**

Another basic question we must ask ourselves is which way will agriculture go. We are all familiar with the trend to the decrease in the number of farms and farmers of agricultural products, the increase in farm size, capital needed, investments, dollars per farm, and corporations entering agricultural production.

It becomes obvious that if these trends are to be modified, then we as farmers must act. Nothing less than the basic structure of agriculture is at stake. And farmers, we must decide what we want to have, when we want to have it, and then work to make our plan come true. We must act in regards to our own Farm Bureau. We must know where we want to go, what it should be, when we want it. And we should serve. This perhaps is one of the biggest challenges facing us.

**DONNA**

Community Group Booster Club

I'm partial to Community Groups. In fact, I've been the unofficial president of the Community Group Booster Club for well, let's say a long time. I have rarely had the time to pursue anything more than a career product used it (that's before computers), we had a system that worked remarkably well. No girl, regardless of her qualifications, started out as a secretary. She had to work her way up. At the bottom of the ladder was processing memberships—making groups—issuing receipts—stamping the member's card.

If you proved yourself capable of handling that you were a Community Group records keeper and really the bright ones earned their degrees in Blue Cross. With this system, we seldom turned out a secretary who wasn't ready to get a regular job, be it a file clerk, or Farm Bureau farm bureau. She knew the difference between a new member and a renewal, and that when the boss was out, "I'm a sister. I can do this.

We must use the Farm Bureau orientation—Community Group records—that I became a G.C. as a young woman, and that what the organization was really all about.

Here were real people, talking to me—and I listened. I heard their views on whatever topic was on the front burner, drooled over their homemade refreshments, and lauded their accomplishments. This particular chapter of my Farm Bureau education left such an impression on me that later I wrote my thesis on Community Groups, published in the widely circulated Michigan Farm News with a bold-face type by line. Community Groups, I disserted, are "the backbone" of Farm Bureau. But like many so-called "experts," I hadn't really been there. Just recently, that gap in the organization's continuing education course was filled when I became a new Community Group activist. I've been new in lots of ways—newly organized (and even a name yet), new to Farm Bureau, new in member-involvement. Most of them are also newly awakened, but there's one handsome, young bachelor to add an interesting flavor to the mix.

I learned that this group of young women are sent to the American Farm Bureau for three reasons: to learn what Farm Bureau is all about, and for its socialistic—beneficial to neighbors to get together once a month, to be acquainted with something, to enjoy fellowship with others who have common problems.

I also learned how to kill a skunk. The trick is to keep the feed trough from being shared, and what happens to city drivers who think they can be feed trough it is sharing, and what happens to city drivers who think they can be feed trough it is sharing? It's a public service. When I was going to college, I had to work my way through school and was something, to enjoy fellowship with others who have common problems.

**FARM BUREAU**

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Where We've Been
Where We're Going

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Where We're Going

Where We've Been

JANUARY-A LOOK BACK AND
FUTURE

TAXATION

Major property tax reform was accomplished this year, the largest change in Michigan's tax structure in 20 years. A look ahead at future legislation indicates that important amendment and could be

Agriculture has been a major political issue this year, with farm odors and the Special Task Force on Fuel Priority being the major topics. A look ahead at future legislation indicates that important amendment and could be

ENVIRONMENT

Several important proposals were passed consistent with Farm Bureau's position, including the updating of water pollution standards laws to permit increased use of pollution controls. A look ahead at future legislation indicates that important amendment and could be

Rail Bill Compromise in Works

A joint conference committee is trying to reconcile the differences between the House-passed bill and a Senate-passed bill for reorganization of the bankrupt Northeast Railways. The conference committee is working on provisions of the House and Senate bills and added amendments when they passed their version of the bill. An effort to exclude what have been called extravagant proposals for displaced worker compensation and other amendments was added, however, which has been strongly supported by the Michigan Farm Bureau's efforts in Washington expanded with especially successful efforts being made in the rejection of unrealistic regulations. A look ahead at future legislation indicates that important amendment and could be

Other land uses proposals by the task force headed by former MFB Secretary Manager Dan Reed include a suggestion that farmers be allowed to sell land for subdivision in parcels smaller than the presently stipulated 10-acre minimum. The task force recommended the principal of an area.

Super Sub

MASA manager M.J. Buschlen got quite a reputation for being the shining star of the people's movement last month. When snow left Under Secretary of Agriculture Gilbert Seely thinking that a Special Task Force on Fuel Priority would be on top of the list of priorities for the coming months. A look ahead at future legislation indicates that important amendment and could be

Agriculture has no real priority in the allocation of fuel priorities for the coming year, and the farming community groups including the Michigan Milk Producers Association, Glen Lake, and the National Farmers Union are not engineers that will be paid.

In other railroads developments, the East, West and South district railroads of the US have filed for a 10 percent increase in railroad rates for expert grain and a 5 percent increase in petroleum rates for non-effective Feb. 1. These increases would be beyond those that are already in effect and would directly increase in fuel costs which can only be passed on with 10 days notice.

Gilbert Seely thinks that some increase will be allowed though not as much as requested. "I think they will just increase the rates, not add the costs, and far more," Seely said.

There is no doubt about the oil shortage has not only increased the cost of fuel for railroads but has increased their business, as railways are being chosen over truck traffic in many cases. It is projected that the increase will soon reach about 15 percent of this factor.

Task Force Likes New York Land Use Bill

The task force headed by former MFB Secretary Manager Dan Reed include a suggestion that farmers be allowed to sell land for subdivision in parcels smaller than the presently stipulated 10-acre minimum. The task force recommended the principal of an area.

The task force tackled the immediate problems of fuel and transportation by asking for some assurance of the amounts of fuel which will be supplied to so farmers can plan accordingly. It also suggested that agriculture be given a stronger role in the marketing of fuel when making fuel available.

In regards to business practices, the task force recommended that farmers who buy agricultural goods be allowed to sign contracts with a provision that will be bonded by legislation and assurance farmers that they will be paid.
Accredited Bargaining Possible Before Spring

Farmer Bureau’s dream of having a united farm front bargain for prices with processors may be only weeks away from reality. Petitions concerning the issue are presently resting with the state’s newly formed Agricultural Marketing Bargaining Board even while processors are negotiating contracts for potatoes.

Harry Foster of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association thinks a state accredited bargaining association representing the majority of all sizeable potato growers could possibly get into these negotiations. This would obviously enhance the bargaining power of growers and of MACMA negotiators who are presently bargaining for their own members.

Bearing regarding the definition of a potato bargaining unit were held Dec. 11 in Lansing and MACMA officials are hoping for an early decision by the marketing bargaining board upon the area to be covered by such a bargaining unit and the size of operations to be included.

Asparagus Growers of MACMA have developed across the United States, and we can see no relief in sight for the next six months. Other surpluses are around and prices appear to be sufficient, but no closer call was reported when the roof of the plant sagged six feet under the weight of firemen, but none were injured.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**. These fire fighters are spending Christmas Eve battling a blaze that completely destroyed the FBS Egg Processing Plant despite the fact that they arrived only minutes after the blaze was discovered.

**Photo Courtesy of Grand Rapids Press**

**Demand to Control Soybean Market**

"I know full well the market is an entity unto itself," he said, "and it will behave as it alone determines." 

**Control of Futures Market Considered**

A bill has been introduced in the US House of Representatives which would set up a new commodity futures trading commission. For control of all future trading.

Sugar and propane gas are among the now unregulated commodities which would come under government control through the bill which was introduced by Rep. M.R. Paige (D-Tex.).

**The legislation which is directed at stabilizing future prices has a provision which requires that all contracts serve as a cushion against economic pressure. This de-emphasizes the speculative role in the current market.**

The new agency would be given authority to control futures trading, manipulate the market and give special emergency authority for meeting other public needs and activities. The agency would, however, be prohibited from fixing market prices or setting margin levels for contracts.

**A commodity investor protection corporation would also be set up under the bill to insure customers against losses and a grievance procedure for customers would be established.**

**The Secretary of Agriculture would serve as the chairman of the commission with two Democrats and two Republicans chosen from the general public by the president.**

**MBIF legislative counsel Al Almy said that MBIF has no major policy on the proposed bill but will be considering recommendations for passage as they are presented in Atlantic City, this month.**

**FBS Jenison Egg Facility In Ashes**

The Farm Bureau Services’ Egg Processing Plant at Jenison, Mich., was destroyed by fire Monday, Dec. 24.

Clyde Springer, Vice President of Farm Bureau Services’ Egg Marketing Division reported there were no injuries to employees.

"The expiration of eggs to customers and picking up eggs from farmers will continue with a minimum of interruption," he said.

"The egg industry has stepped in immediately to work with Farm Bureau Services. All of Services’ retail stores will receive full order of eggs.

Perhaps some delays will occur for about 10 days on certain grades, sizes, and types of packages. But, there will be no lack of eggs of farmers as they will be picked up promptly and processors great communicate the policy of promptness. Assistance from processors and the many offers of help from producers who have processing facilities. Patience and understanding for a short while will be appreciated," he concluded.

Prices of over $6.00/bu. for soybeans next year are not compatible with projected market trends, says the vice president of Mid-states Terminals of which the Michigan Elevator Exchange is a member.

The Vice President, Clayton Johnson, said that just as demand controlled the price trends in the bull market last year, supply will be the dominating factor this year.

Johnson, who spoke to Farm Bureau members and delegates at the MFIB annual meeting last month pointed to a possible carryout to 240 million bu. Johnson bases his predictions on the fact that experts are slipping and production is outstripping former estimates.

"I know full well the market is an entity unto itself," he said, "and it will behave as it alone determines."
Michigan Marketing Outlook

Wheat
Wheat supplies available to cash buyers are very tight in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. This situation is expected to continue through June with erratic future prices in Chicago. The US crop was estimated at the end of November to be 469 million tons which is almost 10 percent more than the 1972-73 crop. There’s a boost, too, predicted for 1973-74 of over 5 percent above the record 1972 season. While it is known that weather conditions improved, the large increase in grain production was not expected.

World wheat estimates are up according to APFB reports. Apparently only Argentina has been an exporter this year, while last year to the tune of 10-20 million metric tons (2204 lbs. per bushel). Hogs and cattle have not been expanding fast and the supply of potash for the U.S., has also put restrictions on exports and a recent Canadian rail strike has kept the supply of potash away from the U.S. market. The USSR is expected to be an exporter this year, while last year to the tune of 10-20 million metric tons (2204 lbs. per metric ton). There are huge increases reported also in Australia and Canada.

In fact, the USSR is expected to be an exporter this year, while last year its imports surpassed exports by 12 million metric tons. The downward drift in prices from summer highs has been the result of this worldwide picture.

A narrowing of the price gap between wheat and feed grains has exporters concerned.

Corn
Both corn and soybean producers are in their holding of ownership of their producers. Selling is expected to pick up at the beginning of 1974, a new tax year.


Nationally, old corn at the start of October totaled 797 million bu. and 97 percent less than year earlier. Corn stocks on farms at nearly 603 million bu., were 46 percent less than October of last year. Stocks in storage facilities were down 19 percent to 204 million bu.

Exports are expected to be reduced even if shipping problems are overcome. The total exports may be less than one billion bushels. Hogs and cattle have not been expanding fast and the carryover of corn this fall may be substantial, but prices are not expected to fall drastically.

Reaching' Back

Key Price stands in the spotlight and winds up one of his popular bullfights for those attending the Farm Bureau "ACT" evening. The evening was part of the activities during the MFB Annual Meeting last month.

The US supply including the carryover from last year is around 6.4 billion bu., 4 percent less than last year. Domestic use for oats is expected to decline for the fourth consecutive year to around 748 million bu. Michigan oats for 1972 were 13,793 million bu., down from 16,854 million bu. in 1972.

Soybeans
During the first part of December, export demands for soybeans were strong in both futures and cash. The energy crisis meant some confusion with a possibility of hexane shortages.

Hexane is a petroleum derivative essential in extracting soybean oil and its shortage would disrupt the production of oil and meal. The president of a large grain company said that with the increasing numbers of livestock in Western Europe and Japan there will be continued demand for US feed. Despite the record soybean production in 1973-74 of nearly 19.7 million tons, according to the USDA. The USDA forecasts an 8 percent increase in US feeding of soybean meal. Prices are forecast at about a third lower than last season's $220 per ton, December.

Cattle, Hogs, Lambs
Prices are expected for fed cattle during the 1974 first quarter because of fewer cattle numbers going to market. Later, the effects of the 6 percent larger calf crop should be felt. Consumer demand is down and job cutbacks plus recession bring more caution in their purchases. Later, by June, short supplies will be increased by almost 10 percent according to one source. Pork demand continues good and hog prices should hold for some time. Heavy slaughter into December is not expected to blunt even heavier slaughter later on. Lamb supplies are to be reduced by 10 percent according to a reliable source, and this will have effects well into March.

Michigan eggs produced during last October were 127 million or 2 percent less than during the same month a year earlier. The layers on hand were slightly less than 6.5 million, or down 2 percent from a year earlier. The egg clutch during October totaled 900,000 and down from 485,000 a year earlier. The accumulated January through October clutch of nearly 7.8 million was only up slightly from the 7.7 million hatched last year says the Michigan Crop Reporting Service. Farm Bureau Services, Egg Marketing Division, quotes for eggs P.O.B. farm for eggs picked up on December 3, 4, 5, 6, 1973 were 66.5 cents doz. for AA quality.

Here’s the Facts on the Fertilizer Supply

In the past few years, Farm Bureau Services has encouraged farmer patrons to take their fertilizer early to avoid seasonal supply problems. This year it has become even more critical with the energy shortages and thus contributing to the shortage of raw materials for fertilizer.

Additional land that has been put into farming in last year has increased the demand for fertilizer. This, coupled with governmental price controls instituted 2 years ago, has discouraged sales of fertilizer domestically. Canada, the major source of potash for the U.S., has put restrictions on exports and a recent Canadian rail strike has kept the supply of potash away from the U.S. market.

FARM BUREAU SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CF INDUSTRIES

Farm Bureau Services and 17 other regional farm cooperatives jointly own CF Industries, a multi-million dollar fertilizer corporation. Even during the last two years' when foreign prices were more favorable, CF Industries, the 15 million tons fertilizer was sold to its members. In fact, CF Industries have been taking steps to increase production capacity the past two years. A new phosphate plant with a capacity of 500,000 tons will be operating in the fall of next year. A 1,000 ton per day urea plant will also be producing in the fall of '74, and over 60,000 tons of additional urea warehouse capacity have been added. Farm Bureau also owns two additional urea plants at Carson City and Gagetown to better serve our patrons.

HERE’S SOME HELPFUL TIPS FOR SPRING

1. Have you land soil tested if it has been more than 3 years.
2. Follow the recommendations of your Farm Bureau dealer. He is knowledgeable in the types and amounts of fertilizer that will work best.
3. Plow in crop residues where possible.
4. Be careful of your crop rotation schedule.
5. Remember, proper timing of fertilizer application will reduce leaching problems.
6. Finally ... take your Farm Bureau fertilizer in December and January, the slower season for you and the dealer.

Through expansion of present and the building of new facilities, Farm Bureau Services will continue to be a leader in the Michigan market. We are proud of the confidence you have placed in us and we will continue to do everything possible to live up to this trust.

Where Your Farm Comes First

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC
Delegation Heard

(Continued from page 1)

Act which has been the source of numerous regulations for farm employers. The motion, made by George Stoffer of Berrien Co., was opposed by a meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau of a congressional study revealed last month.

Lawyers earned substantial fees in the past year, and a FAO department last month. The bill, which was strongly opposed by Farm Bureau, had been already passed by the House. It was shelved when the Banking Committee claimed that present legislation gave adequate power for export control.

The USDA concurred with this view by estimating that American grain exports could be cut 30 per cent by fuel shortages during this fiscal year. But Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz termed the projection an example of overreaction to the fuel crisis.

The Council, however, warned that the oil shortage could hamper shipping movement and therefore the level of trade.

The agricultural trade surplus corresponds very closely to projected increases in dollar sales and exports of beef, and pork and beef are expected to be up slightly as are other products, but dairy exports are expected to experience a slight decline. Dollar figures don't imply a great increase of quantities of overseas sales, according to government reports.

The FAS cited tight world grain supplies, improved world economic conditions and realigned world currencies as major factors in the price hikes. More trade with the USSR and mainland China has also been a great factor in recent trade.

The boom in feed grain prices isn't entirely a short-term effect. Higher standards of living creating a higher demand for meat and more modern agricultural methods are creating a long-term demand for feed grains from exporting countries.

Ireland is last becoming a classic example of the reasoning that if the government would restrain the livestock oriented country with exports of beef, mutton and hogs coming close to two-thirds of its agricultural exports.

But Ireland's entry into the European Economic Community has brought about a dramatic drop in livestock production and economists hope for increases between a third and 160 percent.

Expansion of livestock numbers always is dependent of amounts of grass and Ireland, depending on feed grains only as winter supplements.

Ireland has a department of food and agriculture which is now expanding wheat production through a world food reserve, as French representatives suggest.

MFB delegates say "No" to World Grain Control.

Shaken by a year of protein shortages in which America holds the only world food surplus and the threat of subsidization, Europeans are clamoring for world controls. Butz said the US would oppose such measures. Butz said past commodity agreements which set maximum and minimum prices have been workable and would only serve to freeze production patterns and limit trade growth.

Farm Bureau views such agreements in much the same way. Don Kursz of the Michigan Elevator Exchange claims that international agreements allow speculators to take advantage of the situation and have never been in the interest of the United States.

"The US is the only country with sizable reserves, and when the price goes down we're left holding the bag," he said. "The only time people remember this is when for the price goes up, other countries can liquidate their stocks and we're left holding the bag.

Concerning distribution control, Secretary Butz said the US would balk at giving an international agency control over any American food production through a world food reserve, as French representatives suggest.

Meanwhile, the US State Department took the initiative on price stabilization when Secretary of State Henry Kissinger proposed a special world food conference for next November.

This fall, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization approved the plan for the conference. But it is lacking adequate world food supplies.

An FAO conference report said the US and Canada made surpluses available to developing nations.

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Wheat Supply-demand Balance

Amidst talk of acute shortages of grain in the 1972-74 crop year, the International Wheat Council ruled out an embargo.

Leverage available to the Arabs through oil is significant. It can exceed any lever that might be available to the US through a food embargo, a Congressional study revealed last month.

It said $5-a-barrel wheat can easily be purchased by Arabs with $5-a-barrel oil. The report added that other grain supplies are available in sufficient quantities even though the Arabs might have to pay more dearly for them.

Experts have noted that it is unlikely that Western Europe or Japan would follow the US embargo since they would fear the crisis would be prolonged.

Delegation Heard

(Continued from page 1)

Labor Department personnel and state funding for such housing was encouraged to continue.

Finally, it was stated that farmers should not be held responsible for illegal alien employed by them as being suggested by some legislators.

Meat Packers Considered

Despite division, the delegates came out strongly against proposed federal requirements that meat packers be bonded. Gerald Elbeenbaum of the PD committee said that such bonding could put packers out of business. Larry Klein of Kent countered, saying that if packers were that shabby financially, they were a risk to sell to. But the issue was resolved with a reassuring voice vote.

A study of the livestock packing industry was also urged by the delegates to look into the ever narrowing alternative markets to take livestock in Michigan.

Butz Vows Against Subsidies

US Secretary of Agriculture, Earl Butz has made it clear that America would fight to prevent dumping of subsidized dairy products in the US in his meeting with European agricultural leaders.

Butz asked American dairymen to support a policy of countervailing duties to prevent dumping. "We must have some compensation mechanism that protects our farmers against the threat of subsidized competition." Butz said.

The Secretary is advocating a policy in which the US could impose tariffs on subsidized products, such as European butter, so that prices would at least reflect true costs of production.

Farm Bureau, while not advocating protectionist policies, supports tariffs that bring about fair competition. Procedures for bringing about such tariffs are already established by law.

Along with proposals on duties, Butz advocated free export of agricultural products upon his return from Europe. But if we were to restrict American agriculture from selling to the world economy," he said, "the shock was going to and then we're going to experience a serious curtailing of fuel supplies for the current year to fall below last year's level.

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He added that agricultural fuel needs will be given top priority.
Every Farm Bureau member has an opportunity to take part in Policy Development. This can be done through county committees, community groups, county annual meetings, etc.

This year, recommendations for policies were sent in by the local units. The committee has been busy for six days in deliberation, taking into consideration that policy only has meaning when it truly reflects the opinions of our members and the situation in our area, state, and region.

The committee, to better recommend policy, goes to neighboring counties. They present recommendations for our annual report, which will serve as the policy for all State Farm Bureaus.

In January, the Michigan Farm Bureau members will meet with the consuming public. They will present the farmers' story through public speaking, team presentations, demonstrations, and other activities throughout the state. The committee, after spending six days in deliberation, will then present the recommendations for our annual report, which will serve as the policy for all State Farm Bureaus.

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One of the major areas of responsibility is proper state equalization of the value of each county within the state. This is the major function and the most important process, beginning with the local assessor and Board of Review.

The Commission also has the responsibility of judging appeals from individual taxpayers, townships, and counties. The customers, therefore, are not infrequent. It is hoped often, the result from rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission.

We support:
-Legislation creating an appeals procedure assuring timely responses from local and state governments an effiecient and impartial procedure, thereby freeing the Tax Commissions from more essential duties such as the equalization function.
-Legislation requiring the Tax Commission and all units of government to implement an assessment process adher to a strict timetable in order to assure the prompt and fair consideration of appeals.

TAXATION OF MOBILE HOMES
Presently, mobile homes in trailer parks pay, in lieu of property taxes, a fee of $3 per month. Two dollars of this amount goes to the school, 50 cents to the township, and 50 cents to the municipality, enacted in the absence of a more realistic. The increased value of trailer homes is not reflected, nor do they contribute a proper share of the cost of schools and local government.

We support legislative action to increase the fee to a level commensurate to the property taxes paid by other homeowners.

GASTAX REFUND
We support legislation to amend the state so far a farmer may apply for a refund on his state gas tax at any period of time up to one year.

FISH FARMING
Fish farming is developing as a food production industry in the state of Michigan. It is regarded as a farming operation for tax purposes by the Internal Revenue Service as well as a number of other states. We support the view of the Michigan Agricultural Commission that could yield similar recognition to fish farming in Michigan.

EDUCATIONAL FINANCE
Major changes in the financing of education were made during the 1972 session of the legislature resulting in a "new equality in Michigan school finance." Reforms included the initiating of the "equalized millage" system and the establishment of a specific dollar yield for each mill of taxation, a new formula for funding intermediate districts, and a formula for assuring state funding for special education.

While these and other changes are highly commendable, the property tax remains the major source of local revenue for all areas of the district. Current proposals throughout the state clearly indicates the need for state assistance in school finance and for educational reforms. Property taxes for this purpose are obsolete and do not have the capability to expand to meet increasing needs.

We recommend:
-Consolidation to reduce and limit property taxes for school purposes.
-Increased use of the income tax as a major source of revenue.
-Expansion aid to assist in the cost of needed facilities.
-Subsidy funds appropriated to pay in full all state aid formulas.
-Legislation to require each taxpayer to identify his school district of origin.

We believe it is possible to achieve further educational finance reform without eroding the fundamental right of the local community to determine educational goals within broad general guidelines provided by law.

We believe that additional reforms should be made in our educational system.

We recommend:
-The present State Board of Education should be replaced by an elected and appointed Board of Education Commission appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.
-The Commission should employ the Director of Education.
-Intermediate school district reorganization should be voluntary within the state. The local policy board should be representative of all local boards of education in the same areas of the district.
-Statewide testing and assessment of student progress and total evaluation of education should be continued.
-Reorganization of K-12 districts should continue to be based on local determination and should be voluntary until such time as assessment and evaluation tests provide factual information as to quality education programs.
-State funding for public schools should be sufficient to provide, as nearly as possible, equal educational opportunities for all students.
-In-service training for teachers be encouraged.
-All school facilities be used to their fullest potential for educational purposes for both youth and adults.
-Vocational-technical education should be available in many schools.
-Vocational-technical programs for both youth and adults be made available to all areas of the state. Extension educational facilities should be used wherever possible. The "World of Work" demands salable skills.

The use of performance contracting be encouraged.
-Inter-fulfillment and funding of special education programs be reviewed.
-Problems of students that are overwhelmed by doubt that these children can be educated to productive lives with dignity and contribute to society.
-New and innovative instructional methods be researched.
-Educational programs be constantly re-evaluated to determine their effectiveness in the educational work force. Education at all levels must meet the constantly changing needs of society.
-State Board of Education to continue to exercise legislative session to permit proper planning by the school districts.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND DISCIPLINE
Many parents believe that the curriculum subjects being taught, the materials used in teaching, some of the suggested and approved textbooks, and the school class size are matters of concern. School curriculum and discipline are primarily the responsibility of the local school board and should so remain. However, it is important that board members work with local school board members in developing a curriculum that upgrades educational training in our schools.

The problems that schools have with children can be solved with body discipline. We believe:
-Reviewing present curricula
-Volunteering to serve on any review committees
-Helping to elect the best qualified people to serve on local school boards.
-We urge greater effort on the part of all institutions of public instruction to promote patriotic Americanism.

TEACHER TENURE
The inflexibility of the present Teacher Tenure Law makes it unreasonably difficult for school boards to discharge incompetent teachers. The Tenure Act should be amended to require that all tenure positions be subject to撤销 after a reasonable period of time, not to exceed each five years of service.

STRIKES BY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
In recent years, there have been many strikes by public employees such as school teachers. We believe these actions can be a threat to the well-being of communities affected by the strikes.

We believe school board members could help to end these strikes by public employees should be strictly enforced.

SCHOOL BOARD OPERATIONS
We believe it is imperative that school boards work together in areas in an effort to effectively deal with the increasing problems facing our schools. The rising cost of education, teacher and employee contract legislation, and the increasing number of students require cooperation.

We commend the Michigan Association of School Boards in its efforts to correlate the attitudes and positions of school boards throughout the state.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
Occupational fields for employees with agricultural background and training. The Federal Vocational Act of 1963, and 1968 amendments, finally recognized the urgent need for technical training in agriculture. Nationally, the need for technical training in agriculture has doubled in the past three years and is expected to continue. Virtually all such programs, and also the transportation of skilled people should be permitted to become instructors even though they may not meet the present certification requirements.

Where necessary, state minimum wage and child labor laws should be modified to provide the opportunity for individuals to become trained for the world of work.

The Legislature should adequately finance the construction of vocational education centers, the operation of all such programs and transportation of students. Local property cannot be expected to assume the total additional burden. The control of the center should remain in the hands of the local intermediate school district.

FARM EDUCATION
The demand for more teachers of vocational and technical agriculture continues with the advent of new crops and the growth of new areas of agricultural education. High school districts in many areas have developed their operations into a program of vocational and technical agriculture. The program has definitely been a financial benefit to individual farmers, but more so has helped make possible for the American consumer to buy a farm product at a net income for food than any other consumer in the world.

We urge greater effort on the part of all institutions of public instruction to promote patriotic Americanism.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND DISCIPLINE
The greatness of a university lies in its dedication to a constant concern with the needs of society.

The Agricultural Extension Experiments Stations have played a vital role in the development of agriculture in Michigan. American farmers have developed their operations into a diverse industry in Michigan. Presently, fish farming is recognized as a farming operation for tax purposes by the Internal Revenue Service as well as a number of other states. We support the view of the Michigan Agricultural Commission that could yield similar recognition to fish farming in Michigan.

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SPECIALIZED EXTENSION AGENTS
Due to the transition from general farming to more specialized aspects of agriculture, Specialized Extension Agents will provide better service to all farmers. We support this concept and urge the Cooperative Extension Service to employ more Specialized Extension Agents whenever feasible.

MSU PLANT SCIENCE BUILDING
The basic research facility is the only one with the ability to efficiently produce crops for food and fiber. Michigan State University is particularly valuable for this reason in the area of plant science. Presently, the Plant Science and Horticultural divisions are scattered in several locations. We urge that the decision to establish a new Plant Science building be made without unnecessary delay.

We appreciate the legislation appropriating the planning money for a new Plant Science Building at Michigan State University. We support further necessary appropriations to complete the project.

We are pleased that Michigan State University has given Dr. N.C. Shaw a high priority. We strongly urge that this priority be continued.

UNIVERSITY BOARDS OF CONTROL
Michigan's three major state-supported universities have boards of control nominated and elected through the political system. We believe this system could be improved. Too often, the nominations at political conventions for these positions are based on political reason rather than ability or dedication.

We believe that the State Constitution should be amended to require the appointment of Michigan State University, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Michigan Senate. This arrangement has worked well for the other colleges in the state.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE
At the present time, there is a severe shortage of optometrists in Michigan. Currently, there are 966 licensed optometrists, of which about 860 are practicing in Michigan, of which about 860 are practicing in Michigan. Students wishing to enter this profession must enroll in optometry college.

We are concerned about the increasing incidence of rodents, blackbirds, starlings, and monk parakeets. Since Michigan is brucellosis free and one of only three states in the nation to maintain our present calfhood vaccination program.

We encourage the Michigan Legislature to take action necessary to assure prompt and equitable court system resulting in justice to the people of Michigan.

We recommend that the Michigan Department of Agriculture conduct a thorough study of milk cooling facilities and laboratory standards for milk in order to provide a dependable and quality product. A review and updating of regulations in insuring standards for milk transport tanks is also needed, as there are no apparent standards at this time.

The study and analysis should be completed by the Department of Agriculture before recommencing the changes in the current regulations.

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We support the Extension Service for its role in the development of the 4-H Program. We encourage County Boards of Commissioners to cooperate with the Extension Service in providing funds for these agents.

We congratulate the Plant Science faculty and students for their efforts to better understand and control the problem of pests and diseases such as fatal diseases of newborn calves, IBR, and BVD. Since Michigan is brucellosis free and one of only three states in the nation to maintain our present calfhood vaccination program.

We believe that the Michigan Legislature should provide a checkoff for soybean breeding stock vaccination.

APPROPRIATIONS TO MICHIGAN"
LAND DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER
The use of land to dispose of industrial and municipal wastewater, as well as agricultural drainage water, has been a source of national concern because of its effect on national water pollution abatement goals established by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The supply of municipal wastewater from ever-increasing communities is a problem for the state of Michigan. Many counties have been requested to deal with the problem of disposing wastewaters from their communities on an adequate basis. Agricultural drainage water, due to its large volume, is a potential contributor to water quality degradation. The area of the state most seriously affected is the Huron River in Lenawee County. The Huron River is a tributary of the Detroit River and the problem is one that has already been addressed to the detriment of the water quality in the Detroit River.

FEEDLOT STANDARDS
Federal standards for feedlots and effluent guidelines for the feedlot industry have been proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. The standards and effluent guidelines would require that all runoff from feedlots be contained by the feedlot industry. Effluent from feedlots would be discharged into navigable waters. The feedlot standards would be based upon data concerning local conditions, total feedlot management factors, and be concise in economic terms.

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
The Agricultural Environmental Committee, composed of producers, agricultural groups, has conducted many activities to assist Michigan agriculture in meeting some of its environmental protection needs. This committee has worked in conjunction with the WRC to develop new programs for intensified control research and further development of alternative chemicals and other control methods.

PESTICIDES
Agricultural chemicals are one of the major causes for concern in the pollution of ground and surface waters and high quality food. New laws and regulations governing pesticides are placing more emphasis upon user responsibility. It is argued that this approach is a waste of time and money, simply in the quantity necessary to assure control of disease and pests that affect agricultural products. Pesticides should not be banned unless complete proof to support such actions is available.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
The Water Resources Commission has made rapid progress in the water pollution control effort. The WRC has developed a good program to protect and improve our abundant water resources.

SOIL CONSERVATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
Good soil conservation practice can accomplish erosion control and conserving water, is one of agriculture's most important contributions to a clean environment.

SAFETY
Highway Safety
Accidents on highways take many lives each year; many people are injured, and much property damage occurs. To help reduce auto accidents, we recommend that:
1. Motorcyclists be required to operate with headlight and identifying light on, making them clearly visible to other drivers.
2. Hard-top roads should be marked with center lines and side lines as an aid to safety and nighttime driving.
3. STOP AHEAD signs should be placed an appropriate distance from every STOP sign where a particular hazard exists.
4. County Road Commissions clear roadbeds and intersections of snow and ice thoroughly, being sure that such snow deposited on roads is well compacted and not packed to the point of darkness.

RITES-OF-WAY
Considerable progress has been made in more equitable sharing of the cost of public roads by the Department of Transportation and the counties. The cost sharing program provides an equitable cost sharing that is in line with the amount of benefit received from the road.

HIGHWAY VIOLATION FINES
Present local matching requirements for local roads should be continued to be used.

Highways, Safety, and Welfare
Highways

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Soil Conservation Service personnel provide valuable service to farmers, in particular, in implementing conservation and pollution abatement programs. "SCS assistance must be continued if farmers are to comply with increasing environmental regulations and continue their effective conservation practices. We support adequate funding, and additional personnel authorizations for the SCS.

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LAND ACQUISITION

Private ownership and operation of land resources is in the best interests of our nation. Acquisition of fee title or interest in land by government for a public use should represent the best interests of the public. The test of any proposal following clear demonstration of the need for such title or interest, the effort should be made to select as small an area as will do the job. We believe that state and federal government consider leasing of needed land or taking easements rather than outright purchases.

RAILROAD CAR REFLECTORS

Many serious traffic accidents resulting in death, injury and costly damages occur on railroad crossings. Providing protected railroad crossings. Most of these accidents are happening during the night hours. We believe that legislation should be adopted requiring installation of railroad reflectors on all sides of new or repainted railroad cars as a safety measure.

LITTERING

Littering is a costly nuisance, and much of it is thrown into Michigan's farmlands. Beaches of litter along roads and adjoining fields and woodlots are favored spots and a hazard. They are more than just "litter." Farmers are urged to prevent agricultural wastes from being dumped on farmlands. We commend television and radio stations and other media for their efforts to help "Keep Michigan Beautiful!"

GLASS AND METAL BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Glass and metal beverage containers are thrown away on farm implement tires, auto and truck tires, livestock and crops have been damaged or destroyed by such containers, much of the litter is thrown away by an untidy farm household.

The seriousness of the problem has been recognized throughout the state. Glass and metal beverage containers are thrown away where emptied and are not picked up for salvage because of the cost and value. They can be a nuisance and a hazard. They are more than just "litter."

Farm implement tires, auto and truck tires, livestock and crops have been damaged or destroyed by such containers, much of the litter is thrown away by an untidy farm household. It is difficult to apprehend and identify litterers.

Farmers are urged to prevent agricultural wastes from being dumped on farmlands. We commend television and radio stations and other media for their efforts to help "Keep Michigan Beautiful!"

TRESPASS

Farmers are concerned with the increasing disregard for private property rights by trespassers and the increased frequency of violations of such rights. Local police agencies should provide strict enforcement of the Horton Trespass Act. We support the Department of Natural Resources in implementing its new policy of arresting trespassers in these cases. We support legislation to make the owner of a vehicle responsible for litter thrown from his vehicle.

We also support legislation that would impose mandatory imprisonment of any convicted of a felony involving use of firearms around farm implement equipment and trucks are driven on highways.

We urge the use of signs posted along state and county roads to emphasize to farmers to retain the value and cost of the cost of cleaning them up from our roadsides.

MARKETING AND BARGAINING

Marketing and Bargaining

MARKETING AND BARGAINING

MILK PROMOTION AND DAIRY STANDARDS

In order to help continue the strong demand for dairy products, the milk industry is encouraging advertising and promotion for dairy products. However, dairy product advertising cannot be successful if not coupled with good production. All standards are strictly enforced from the producer to the consumer. We urge that strict enforcement of minimum butterfat and solids standards to assure consumers the highest quality of dairy products.

ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR STATE PROGRAMS

The Michigan Dairy Promotion and Marketing Act, passed in 1966, has been utilized by producers of apples and cherries in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Producers of other commodities and the Michigan Department of Agriculture have been authorized to establish state committees to continue the promotion program for their commodities. The agriculture department has moved to initiate legislative amendments to the Act to allow the establishment of state Committees to coordinate the promotion effort for Michigan's commodities. We urge the use of state programs to market and promote the economist of Michigan's dairy products.

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We recommend that the informational and educational materials be prepared and distributed to all farmers.

We recommend continuous development and commitment to the principles underlying these programs, and we recommend that the organization of such programs be reviewed and revised to meet the needs of the farmers in the events which the prices are effective. If new prices are subsequently posted which are lower than the previous prices, the new prices should not apply to any produce delivered or contracted before the posting of the new prices.

We support legislation that would require handlers or processors producing 10 percent or more of their own raw product to publish a MINIMUM CONTRACT PRICE. This would not only aid the grower in planning his marketing, but would encourage the grower to purchase that particular commodity a minimum price at least equal to the cost of production on the company's own acreage.

We believe that the general duty clause of the Act should impose a financial hardship upon farm employers who are not individually producers may be involved in a labor dispute or any other type of unemployment. We believe the present Michigan piece rate system is desirable that minors be allowed to work in agriculture, except those occupations which have been declared hazardous by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor.

We recommend that regulations be adopted which would require workers to leave a camp within a fixed time period following the posting of the new prices.

We ask that new programs within Farm Bureau be developed to involve members in addition to, as well as in place of, the Community Group Program.

We commend the State Health Department for the efficient and effective administration of the Agricultural Extension Service and vocational agricultural teachers for the employment of youth in agriculture.

We approve the 1974 membership goal of one-member per five acres. We recommend that the Michigan Legislation and Awareness Bureau has increased for six consecutive years. Growth in membership is fundamental to the strength and well-being of our organization. Even though the responsibility for the development as well as a structure within the County Farm Bureau is of our organization. Even though the responsibility for the development as well as a structure within the County Farm Bureau is of our organization. Even though the responsibility for the development as well as a structure within the County Farm Bureau is of our organization. Even though the responsibility for the development as well as a structure within the County Farm Bureau is of our organization. Even though the responsibility for the development as well as a structure within the County Farm Bureau is of our organization. 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Position of eminence in our State. For we are very proud of Michigan Farm Bureau, too, is caught up in this period of research and plan. Possible new programs will need to be researched and developed.

Our Farm Bureau is currently in a sound financial condition, a condition it must stay in to effectively serve its members. Evaluation and assessment of programs, both present and future, we must remember that Farm Bureau, too, is caught up in this period of severe inflation. As we have done periodically in the past, we will now be to:

We urge Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors to appoint a special study committee to:
1. Review programs and recommend adjustments.
2. Analyze membership make-up of Farm Bureau and relate it to service needs of farmers.
3. Develop a financial plan that will assure a strong viable Farm Bureau.

MEMBER INFORMATION
Farm operators have a vital concern in the regulations relating to farm production and the processing capacity of the state. Michigan Farm Bureau and MASA are to be commended for developing the understanding and consent of such regulations. In many cases, regulations become burdensome and costly. Detailed record keeping and additional paperwork add to the already high cost of food production, thus adding to the cost of the food item to the consumer. We urge that all regulations be practical and reasonable.

SERVICE-TO-MEMBER PROGRAMS
It is important for Michigan Farm Bureau to promote specific new programs which will provide services for Farm Bureau members only. We appreciate the extra efforts on the part of the Board of Directors to research and evaluate potential new programs. We commend Farm Bureau Women, Farm Bureau Services, and Farm Bureau Member Group Life program soon to be offered to members. We urge that we all strive to the fullest degree possible those service-to-member programs which fulfill the present and future service needs of farmers.

SERVICE TO FARMERS
In this changing agriculture, our affiliate service companies are constantly challenged to provide new and improved service to our farmers. Our companies have long demonstrated their ability to provide innovative approaches to the service needs of farmers.

We urge Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau Service companies to further the total program of the Farm Bureau at the local, county, and state level by offering educational and incentive awards to farmers. We recommend changes in the policy when these actions are appropriate. WE ALSO REQUEST THAT MEMBERS OF FARM BUREAU SERVICES, FARM BUREAU LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, AND FARMERS PETROLEUM COMPANY BE PROPERLY APPROVED.

AFFILIATE COMPANY AGREEMENTS
Agreements between Farm Bureau and affiliated companies are to be commended to develop marketing strategies; to both improve the service to our members and to provide additional opportunities for more members to become active in the political system.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY
Farm Bureau is a democratic organization with every member having an equal voice in making recommendations and decisions. This opportunity to participate will be increased as the Farm Bureau community Group Meetings, County Annual Meetings, and the State Annual Meeting. We are pleased that our members take this opportunity to participate.

We point out that this right to participate carries with it the responsibility for you and me to become informed. This requires a sense of organization discipline which can only be self-imposed by the member.

Our Farm Bureau Women, Farm Bureau District 2, and Farm Bureau Districts are to be commended to develop and recommend changes in the policy when these actions are appropriate. We encourage the growth of Farm Bureau Women to become an important organ of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Health and Safety
We support the efforts of the Farm Bureau to inform the general public and elected officials of the economic and social benefits of rural life.

MEMBER-TO-MEMBER MARKETING
The sale of Michigan cherries, apples, Florida citrus, citrus juice, and other products has pioneered a new member-to-member marketing concept. These programs have gone beyond the state line to the heart of the nation, and to other countries. The Michigan Farm Bureau Women have had a major role in the success of these efforts. We urge the Farm Bureau Board to authorize the conduct of marketing studies as a priority. It is more important than ever to inform the public of the good things we do for our citizens. These marketing programs should be given our full support.

MEMBER-TO-MEMBER MARKETING
FARM BUREAU MARKETING PROGRAMS
The purpose of a commodity division is to provide new, innovative approaches to the marketing of farm products. Operating commodity divisions are now being developed for soybeans, and additional opportunities for more members to become active in this major division of the Farm Bureau through which members may direct special emphasis to, and establish identity for, commodity programs and the Michigan Farm Bureau. We believe the commodity division approach is an effective organizational method to serve the specialized needs of our members and the requirements which are faced by this division.

FARM BUREAU LIVESTOCK PACKING STAY
The Michigan livestock industry continues to expand, and we are expanding marketing efforts, and the opportunity for participation of women of all member groups. We urge County Women's Committees to provide the leaders for this challenge.

COMMUNICATIONS STUDY
We request Michigan Farm Bureau to study the feasibility of establishing a communication system with County Farm Bureau in order that current market information and marketing services be available to our members.

FARM BUREAU MARKETING PROGRAMS
We recognize the need to improve our present marketing programs. The marketing programs which we are conducting under the Farm Bureau--county, state, and national--must assist and support the development and early operational phase of commodity-oriented marketing programs so that they can be expanded and expanded within the Michigan Farm Bureau.

COMMUNITY DIVISION APPROACH
Agricultural production is becoming more specialized. Farmers' problems are often commodity oriented. Farm Bureau, although defined as a general farm organization, serves the specific commodity interests of more than half of our membership. It is our responsibility to serve the needs of our members. In thebursting of the commodity division, they must be financed by division members in addition to regular Farm Bureau dues.

We urge Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors to adopt the commodity division approach for soybeans and dairy. The first commodity division organized by Michigan Farm Bureau, in soybeans, has now been established. County Farm Bureau in the major soybean-producing areas of Michigan have established Soybean Divisions. State and County Soybean Action Committees have been formed for implementation of the new division.

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activities in commodity areas when requested by members and where programs are economically feasible.

Members producing commodities for which Farm Bureau affiliates have marketing programs should be encouraged to participate in cooperatively-operated marketing services and participate in these programs. Members have an obligation to produce through contracts with their marketing organizations so that our affiliate marketing organization can market all the commodities of those opportunities. With the expansion of the Information Division in the state, the organization carried on many activities. There were 11 news conferences held in addition to 17 television filmings. These programs were designed to serve all members throughout the state. Personal appearances on television were also under way. We are in the process of two hour appearances on a Saturday night program in Detroit, with similar appearances on stations in Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Muskegon. These programs were given to outside groups on the economies of agriculture.

We note the effective efforts in the development of a container terminal at Saginaw, use of the relatively poor price received by growers for their crop in the last ten years and again in 1973. Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau leaders and dedicated staff members for their efforts to market Michigan's products. These included the so-called high price foods, the meat boycott, price freezes, and food shortages. These were opportunities to present the farmers’ story to the nonfarm population.

We are pleased that the Michigan Farm Bureau had reorganized their public relations office so it can make effective use of these opportunities. With the expansion of the Information Division in the state, the organization carried on many activities. There were 11 news conferences held in addition to 17 television filmings. These films were designed to serve all members throughout the state. Personal appearances on television were also under way. We are in the process of two hour appearances on a Saturday night program in Detroit, with similar appearances on stations in Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Muskegon. These programs were given to outside groups on the economies of agriculture.

Agronomic programs to improve markets for Michigan farm organizations can work to sell members' products through the best from an economic standpoint for Michigan farmers. The study should be statistically documented and the findings made available by January 1, 1975.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Michigan Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Services should be involved in the development of the local transportation storage and physical delivery and handling system for field crops. This study should make recommendations in the following areas:

1. What should be done to solve the physical handling problems?
2. How can the handling system be made to mesh more smoothly.
3. Recommend some of the alternatives which would be the best from an economic standpoint for Michigan farmers.

The study should be statistically documented and the findings made available by January 1, 1975.

FARM LABOR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
Michigan Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Services have worked together on many activities of hiring and retaining capable employees. Each year, the competition for skilled workers from outside of agriculture has been more severe.

The manager of today's farm business needs assistance in meeting the special tax problems that shall be solved by adequate tax funds to finance the growing marketing affiliate.

We urge all MACMA members to insure the financial strength of the Michigan Farm Bureau organization by purchasing MACMA preferred stock.

We commend the Farm Bureau leaders and dedicated staff members for their efforts to promote and encourage high standards in marketing by promoting the cooperative spirit among producers. We commend the efforts of the Farm Bureau leaders in carrying the age-old message correctly to both nonfarmers and farmers.

HEALTH CARE
Due to the high cost of food, drugs and other health care costs that are not covered by our present Blue Cross-Blue Shield policies, we urge every Farm Bureau member to consider the possibility of purchasing a Master Medical coverage which would pay for a major portion of the additional costs. The Farm Bureau can help in the possibility of deductible contracts up to $500.

ESTATE PLANNING
It is estimated that more than 50 percent of the population of the United States will die during the basic period, a will for the transfer of their property at death. State and federal laws are continually changing and the property can be devoured by taxes without proper planning. We recommend that Michigan Farm Bureau continue its program of information to members about estate planning problems and point out the many techniques of transferring property to meet the personal and financial obligations. It is becoming increasingly difficult to transfer farms from one generation to another.

We commend MASA for recruiting labor, representing the interests of the members, all the powers, rights and duties of this association, there are hereby created voting delegates. Such voting delegates, when duly accredited, shall have and exercise, as the representatives of the member organizations, all the rights and privileges of the members by whom they have been elected. A voting delegate must be in good standing of the association, and of the local unit which he represents, and shall fulfill the qualifications required of delegate of the organization. (As amended November 11, 1973)

We urge that Michigan Farm Bureau consider and provide the best from an economic standpoint for Michigan farmers. The study should be statistically documented and the findings made available by January 1, 1975.

We commend the Farm Bureau in general when contacting members around the state, as their requests are handled in a friendly and helpful manner.

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This year’s fuel shortage has brought great uncertainty for rural Michigan. During both the spring and fall seasons, farmers faced a short supply of fuel for farming.

As long as wasteful fuel practices continue in non-farm activities, such as — unnecessary trips, poor use of public transportation by urban population, tourist travel, inefficient office building heating etc., how can the American farmer be expected to produce food and fiber for the United States and the world? Let’s get our priorities straight. If we are going to eat, the farmer will have to have fuel ... not an allocation of part of his needs, but a PRIORITY on all his essential farm needs.

**PRIORITY FOR FARMERS**

Farmers Petroleum has been, and will continue to work hard to gain top priorities for farming activities. In fact, just recently the government did give agriculture some Priority Status in the distribution of petroleum supplies.

As a farmer owned and operated co-op, we are dedicated to helping farming in Michigan grow. During the heavy farming season of ’73 Farmers Petroleum shut down its retail pumps in order to assure adequate fuel to its farmer customers. As a member of the newly formed Energy Action Committee of the National Council of Farmers Cooperatives, Farmers Petroleum will actively work for larger fuel allocations and even higher priorities.

**HANDLE WITH CARE**

Rationing and other conservation measures will not increase the supply of fuel. Hopefully, through cut backs of non-farm, non-essential fuel consumption, there will be enough for the planting season next spring.

**HERE’S SOME HOT TIPS FROM YOUR WARM WINTER MEN...**

Do you know that, simply by insulating your attic floor, you can cut your fuel consumption by 20%. Wall insulation will result in additional savings. Putting up storm doors and windows can cut fuel usage by 15 to 20%.

Set your thermostat at 68° and leave it alone. Turn your thermostat to 65° when you retire at night or 55° if you are going to be gone a day or more. Maintain a humidity level of 45% to 50%, you will be comfortable at a lower temperature and healthier too. Close-off unused rooms, and close the curtains at night to keep heat in and open in the day to let in warming sunlight.

Remember, that a clean efficient heating plant will burn less fuel, and save you money. Get your furnace checked now and change the filters. Don’t forget your hot water system, too. A leaky faucet or uninsulated pipes will cost you dollars as well as waste precious fuel.

**SAVING POWER FOR TOMORROW**

In an effort to cut fuel consumption, your cooperative has instituted 8 conservation measures at all locations. Some of these include: A 50 MPH speed limit on company cars, reduction of thermostats to 68° in buildings, elimination of non-essential lighting in buildings during after business hours, and studies on further fuel conservation measures at all plants.

The present demand for heating fuel, is between 10% to 17% greater than the supply.

It is important that non-farm, wasteful uses of fuel be curtailed at once. Only through stringent fuel conservation of non-essential uses, will there be enough fuel for farming this spring.

You don’t like it and we don’t either. Fact is fact, there just isn’t enough heating oil to go around. This could result in some chilly temperatures in our homes.

It’s up to all of us ... to do all we can to ease this energy shortage situation.
outstanding young farmers. Converted into a calf barn with 14 individual stalls and one group pen for conveyors allow the Bloss' to fill the bunker without packing-and a newly installed Zero milking system with a 1,000 gallon tank. Four to six calves.

Computer analysis through Tel-farm as well as maintaining D.H.I.A. are members of the Genesee County Farm Bureau Board and Linda governmental policy through Farm Bureau, too. Both Linda and Roger are computerized production records on their cows.

Secured with the announcement that Roger and Linda Bloss of Swartz today's farm technology. The couple keep farm business records under "We believe if we are to produce milk we should take all the advantages possible from our cows," Roger says. Judy certainly will carry good credentials with her to Atlantic City, Jan. 13 Living on a dairy farm, Judy has shown cattle since she was nine years old. Presently she is a junior at Michigan State University and majoring in history which should prepare her for the volumes of book work that will be necessary to study criminal law as she hopes to do.

With that sort of a future planned, Judy's father wondered what good being chosen Farm Bureau Queen would be to her. But as Judy said, "I was smiling as big as anyone when I was chosen."

McDONALD'S CHOICE. A successful family on a successful family farm, is what McDonald's Dairy saw when the awarded Roger and Linda Bloss the Outstanding Young Cooperators award. The Bloss' have the old loose-housing cow barn has a bunker silo covered by a 50' free span rafter with a 25' x 150' barn with 14 individual stalls and one group pen for conveyors allow the Bloss' to fill the bunker without packing-and a newly installed Zero milking system with a 1,000 gallon tank. Four to six calves.

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**Four Star Counties Good Examples**

A four-star county in Farm Bureau is one that can be looked to as an example of a county organization that makes almost full use of its capabilities and that has maintained presence felt on many fronts in the community.

This year two County Farm Bureaus rated four stars receiving one for reaching their membership goal and one for each award winning program.

Both Chippewa and Newago County Farm Bureaus received laurels for their information and policy development programs with Chippewa also standing out in community group work and Newago in its Young Farmer activities.

Chippewa, under President Edwin DeWitt has an information program that is geared to both the member and toward public opinion. A concise and regular newsletter keeps members informed of their part in FB activities.

On the front the information committee is ready to contact seven area radio stations to set up interviews with FB members whenever an issue they think warrants special comment comes up. Through regular association with the news media FB news is well accepted.

Another form of public relations takes over through community groups that carry on commodity promotions and get involved in local issues that affect farmers.

Remembering where all FB stands begins, Chippewa members are extremely active in policy development. To assure even-handed decision making, all major commodity groups are represented on the County PD Committee and the organization has learned to accept ideas for recommendations from several different levels - community groups, commodity advisory committees, the women's committees and the Young Farmers committees.

The result was 24 well written resolutions covering both state and national affairs, that were submitted to the state PD Committee.

Newago County F.B.U., under the direction of Myron Koka, Jr. can show anyone how to take full advantage of local newspapers. Elise Kuenen puts the information program into action and writes a weekly column which is included in the county's public newspaper. Mrs. Kuenen also uses another credit agencies to create an award winning program.

**FB Claims Top Cooperators**

Farm Bureau thinks it can prove that forward thinking farmers are Farm Bureau members. Another piece of evidence has just been secured with the announcement that Roger and Linda Bloss of Swartz Creek are McDonald Dairy's outstanding young cooperators for 1973.

Roger and Linda, who are in a dairy farm partnership with Roger's father, P. F. Bloss, have shown that it pays to take full advantage of today's farm technology. The couple keep farm business records under computer analysis through Tel-farm as well as maintaining D.H.I.A. as computerized production records on their cows.

"We believe if we are to produce milk we should take all the advantages possible from our cows," Roger says. Obviously, the couple believes it is worthwhile being involved in governmental policy through Farm Bureau, too. Both Linda and Roger are members of the Genesee County Farm Bureau board and Linda was recently chosen County Farm Bureau Queen. The mother of three also finds time to be the secretary of the Women's Committee.

Developer of the chicken for Farmers Activist to his schedule, Roger manages to run a modern efficient operation.

The farm is a mixture of old and new. There is the old loose-housing barn which now houses the young cattle, the old parlor which has been converted into a calf barn with 14 individual stalls and one group pen for four to six calves.

The new includes a double-six herringbone parlor with dribble feeders and rubber lined calving stalls. There is also a zero milk handling system. The cow barn has a bunker silo covered by a 50' free span rafter with a 25' x 150' nursery barn with 14 individual stalls and one group pen for four to six calves.

The well done includes a double-six herringbone parlor with dribble feeders and rubber lined calving stalls. There is also a zero milk handling system. The cow barn has a bunker silo covered by a 50' free span rafter with a 25' x 150' nursery barn with 14 individual stalls and one group pen for four to six calves.

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Dairy Industry Dumped Upon

by Don VerWest
Economist, McDonald's Dairy Cooperative

Dairy farmers are concerned about greater imports of dairy products and they're concerned about expanded import quotas which the administration has allowed in 1973. Dairy farmers are suspicious and critical of government actions which operate contrary to their interests and consumers. The report suggests that US milk production which was 1972 billion lb. in 1973 could be cut to 104 billion lb. This would certainly be disruptive in Wisconsin and Minnesota where these commodities are produced.

But just because Michigan is a fluid milk state doesn't mean we'd be immune. Because there is interstate movement of milk and people in Wisconsin wouldn't give up that milk at 87 cents easily. There would be pressure on our market that would tend to lower prices.

Dairy farmers are afraid that administration actions indicate that they have accepted the Flanigan recommendations and are putting them into practice.

It is up to the Secretary of Agriculture to find a support level necessary to produce adequate supplies of milk. He determined the minimum of 75 percent parity last April and within a week the administration allowed millions of lbs. of foreign non-fat dry milk solids into this country with the argument that we should have short supplies. These actions are completely contradictory.

Dairymen are concerned and consumers should be concerned about the cost of these supplies. Butter prices in the EEC have ranged from $1.12 to $1.90 per lb. Right now they have millions of lbs. of surplus. Up to now they have had places they use export subsidies to get rid of it.

Butter is coming into the US now at port of entry at 69 cents lb. This was the cause of our butter markets.

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Butter is coming into the US now at port of entry at 69 cents lb. This was the cause of our butter markets. The following are not expressions of Farm Bureau policy.

Oil and Gas Leases to Be Favored

by Robert T. Mish
Blueberry Lane Plantation
Otter Lake

The interview with Duane Coborn "Oil and Gas Leases: What to Know" as published in the November issue was quite good. There are some points I would like to comment and expand on.

First, I disagree with the statement "The oil and gas lease is nothing to be feared of." This lease is written by the oil industry and for the oil industry and is certainly in their favor. I believe the lease is something to be feared of.

It may well be that there is some protection under the law but how many of us can afford an attorney and time to go to court to interpret the lease. Also, all the lease is a specialized subject in itself and most attorneys do not have the necessary experience in the details of oil law. It is doubtful that for one or two cases that the attorney can afford to acquire the necessary knowledge.

Mr. Coborn presented several excellent points to be considered by the farmer looking at a lease. I would like to add the following to his list:

1) That the oil company be required to have at least $500,000 liability insurance during drilling operations and $100,000 during the producing phase. Right now there is no protection to the farmer in case of blowout such as happened in Minneopa.

2) That there be a clause allowing the farmer to keep the lease in a clean, orderly manner and keep free of debris and unnecessary or dangerous equipment. This should include periodic painting of equipment. We farmers are proud of our farms and like to keep them looking nice.

3) As Mr. Coborn points out, a lease "may be assigned two or three times before it gets to the people doing the drilling." The farmer should have the right to approve each assignment. Most oil companies are reputable and the farmer would not have any problems. However, the assignment could be made to a company that the farmer does not want to deal with.

4) There are cases where the royalty does not cover the value of the crop that could be raised on the land used by the oil company.

5) After the initial term of the lease the land retained by the producing well should be limited to either 40 acres per well or as approved by the governmental orders. Thus a 40-acre well could not hold a 600-acre lease for extended periods of time.

I feel that an in-depth study would raise additional points that should be considered by the farmer. It is recommended that the Farm Bureau establish a committee to develop an oil and gas lease that is more suited to the farmer.

Outspoken

"There's no such thing as marginal farmland, just marginal farmers," was one of the uninhibited statements that marked Tom Semans's April 28th, 1974, trip to the Young Farmer discussion meet with his views on that subject at the MFB Annual Meeting last month in Grand Rapids.

Photo by Marcia Ditchie
A Fate After Death

by KEN WILES

Manager Member Relations

The November Discussion Topic

"There is not such a thing as a free lunch," from all reports received, was the topic for this month's discussion. Groups' responses to the questions were:

1. How do you think the law which allows you to transfer farms to one generation of each family is working? It is estimated that less than 40 percent of the population has not even lived on a farm, yet there is a will for the transfer of their property.

2. State and federal laws are such that a large percentage of the estate of a decedent might be spent for probate. How do you think the probate system could be simplified to reduce cost without proper planning. Inflationary pressures have increased at an alarming rate and some point where present federal estate laws might be modified in an agricultural enterprise out of business and prevent it from being passed along to others in the family.

3. Experience has proven that the settlement of estates in Michigan can be a time-consuming, expensive, and demoralizing process. Realizing this, the document offered by Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting last month adopted a policy recommending that: "The legislature give a priority position to legislation changing the probate procedure and fees in order to reduce costs and allow an agriculture enterprise to transfer farms from one generation of each family."

"Legislation be passed to update Michigan's Inheritance Tax laws. Present laws are outdated and should be increased consistent with inflationary pressures and inflationary costs." To better understand the need for a change in settling estates in Michigan, first a brief overview of the procedures involved in handling an estate will be outlined. While this is not a will, Research shows that probate in the rest of the county is even more complicated and consuming time and energy.

Probating a Will

The first step in handling an estate is the determination of who makes a will a death. The next step is the determination of whether a will or the executor of the will or any party involved in probate or administration of estates. In the event a will was filed in court, in fact, the last will and testament of the deceased, it is the county probate court that determines the validity of the will in question.

No matter what the will stipulates, interested parties can get involved in probate by necessity. The court must reevaluate the estate in a way agreeable to all of them. The court is not bound by a "will, test or compromise," said one court, "if will is not in line in law and in equity." When a will is a will, it is filed with the court and a hearing is held on the issues raised.

The usual issues are:

1. Whether the will was actually executed by the testator.
2. Whether the will was actually revoked by the testator.
3. Whether the will was signed by the testator.
4. Whether the testator was mentally able to execute the will and understand its contents.
5. Whether the will was properly witnessed.
6. Whether there was fraud in the procurement of the will.
7. Whether the will was revoked by the testator.

Once the issues have been framed, either side to a will has the right to a jury trial. A decision is made by the jury or by the judge sitting as a jury, and the will is returned to the probate court, which is bound by the verdict. The will’s execution occurs; only then can the will be approved vacated.

The usual reasons for filing a will are a will or an agreement in order to increase their net income, or to transfer a beneficiary is a will.

1. That the testator was a mother, either in whole or in part.
2. That the will was improperly probated.
3. That the will was written while the testator was subject to undue influence or fraud.
4. That the will offered was the basis of a subsequent modification or operation of law.
5. To be effective, a will must be filed within the time prescribed by law. Before a will can be probated before a probate judge, the court appoints an administrator pending litigation to handle the estate until the court determines the validity of the will in question.

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prospects," she said. "We say to
breakfast and talk about
no longer allow Mac-Luce to keep
their 130 member goal.
chairman from the area told FB
a goal of 1,000 you need to get 100
comfortable about their job.
Deadline.
JANUARY 1, 1974
Shield of Michigan.
advantage of membership - the opportunity to provide health care
for more than 50 years. That's because Farm Bureau is a large and
maternity care, laboratory services, and many other costly in-hospital
members in the Michigan Farm Bureau by the Jan. 15 membership
"You haven't been doing that have
vorkers how about taking this
"You need 10 percent of your goal
"And that's how it's done."
One of the reasons we're in business. For instance, our Estate Planning Service may save you valuable income tax dollars this year by helping you organize your entire estate ... your total net worth. And we have other ideas for solidifying your estate, like:

1. Keeping your farm profitable for sons remaining on the farm, while still making an equitable inheritance provision for other children.
2. Partnership business continuation agreements, in event of a partner's death or disability.
3. Estate analysis for minimizing Federal Estate tax, Michigan Inheritance tax, probate and transfer costs. 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?

You and Your Estate