

Sees them as Nixon Foes

Ford Slams The Big Spenders

If Farm Bureau policy is to have a chance, the Nixon presidency must survive, was Vice President Gerald Ford's comments to assembled AFBF conventioners in Atlantic City last month.

But many of the press people present were sent into whispers about a new counter-offensive as Ford embraced Farm Bureau with one arm while throwing haymakers at the Nixon opposition with the other.

After giving a warm greeting to old friend and MFB President, Elton Smith, Ford told those crowded in the convention hall that an all out attack was launched to crush Nixon and his philosophy in order to gain political power.

"Should that day ever come with the super-welfare-staters in control of Congress and the White House neutralized as a balancing force," he said, "we can expect an avalanche of fresh government intervention in our economy,

massive new federal spending, higher taxes and more rampant inflation.

"Should that day ever come," he said, "we can all kiss goodbye chances of reducing federal spending and increasing community and individual independence."

Ford said later that he thought those seeking impeachment of the President were those who wanted to significantly change American policy at home and abroad.

If they could not impeach the President, Ford claimed opponents would settle for stretching out the preliminaries to render the President powerless.

The Vice President targeted his sharp comments at the AF of L-CIO and Americans for Democratic Action in particular, stating that they were waging massive propaganda campaigns against Nixon.

Ford was as flattering to Farm

Bureau as he was aggressive towards Nixon opposition during his address. A long-time member of the Kent County Farm Bureau in Western Michigan, Ford fondly recalled meetings with community groups in his former Congressional district and gave special thanks to his fellow members and Elton Smith for their hospitality.

"I like to think that these meetings helped me to become a fair and effective spokesman for the unsung hero of our economy, the American Farmer," he said.

The former House minority leader's stands on Congressional issues have borne out his stand with Farm Bureau. Shortly before becoming Vice President, Ford sided with Farm Bureau and bucked the administration by voting against a bill which included provisions for making food stamps available to strikers.

The Vice President clearly drew an alignment with Farm Bureau by saying that time and time again what Farm Bureau members wanted was right for America.

In a press conference following the address, Ford again squared off against "super-welfare-staters" crediting Nixon for stopping federalization of agriculture, medicine and industry.

"I'll put faith in the individual



HELLO FRIEND. Vice President Gerald Ford (center) clasps MFB President Elton Smith as he is greeted by AFBF President William Kuhfuss (left). Smith, a constituent for 25 years in Ford's old Congressional district, has met Ford a number of times in Farm Bureau meetings.

farmer and community leader rather than federal bureaucrats in Washington," he said.

When asked to defend food price policy he said, "I think the best way to deal with runaway agricultural prices is to free the American farmer to produce more and give him the incentive to do so."

Concerning federal expenditures, Ford said he thought

the administration had a 50 percent chance of winning a victory for reduced federal spending through a favorable court decision concerning impoundment of appropriated funds.

The Vice President said, however, that the administration could accept a deficit budget if it would prevent repercussions that would result in high unemployment.

Speech Available on Tape

Vice President Gerald Ford's address to the AFBF conventioners in Atlantic City last month is available on cassette tape for any Farm Bureau member or group. Send \$2.00 to: Ford Tape, Information Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Be sure to include a return address. Tape or tapes will be received within two weeks of order.



Essential Reading

Governor Milliken receives his personal copy of the Michigan Farm Bureau Policy book at a Jan. 29 meeting. MFB officials that were there to encourage the Governor to refer to it often were (left to right) Albert Almy, MFB legislative counsel; Robert Braden, administrative director; Robert Smith, legislative counsel; President Elton Smith; and Vice President Dean Pridgeon.

Farmers Have Top Fuel Priority

Agriculture has obtained top priority status for allocation of diesel fuel to add to its category I ranking for gasoline, the Federal Energy Office announced last month.

Agriculture is now able to receive 100 percent of current needs for both types of fuel.

Bill Rocky of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative reminds farmers that they are only to receive 100 percent of needs for actual agricultural production.

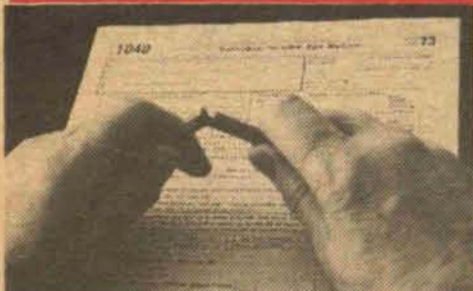
"But the farmer is the only one who cannot be cut back to a fraction of his allocation if his

supplier runs out," Rocky said. If such a thing happened, a farmer could appeal to the state for the rest of his needs.

Forms will be made available to farmers through FPC or the state ASCS office to stipulate requirements.

"There's a good chance that if farmers don't fill out the forms, their needs will be considered non-priority," Rocky said.

Rocky added that if farmers were going to retain top status, they would have to be sure not to abuse their rights to fuel.



Page 4 gives new taxation insight and hope



Counting on membership. An update of the FB League. Page 9



Keeping the recreation gates open. A Farm News interview. Page 13

PRESIDENT'S

COLUMN



Will Farm Bureau Policy Be Watergated to Death?

The Farm Bureau members making up the Michigan delegation at the 1974 American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting were mighty proud of our native son, Vice President Gerald Ford. Vice President Ford was one of the main speakers at the convention. You no doubt heard, or read, some of the comments he made in his hard-hitting speech. As a part of the present administration, he strongly defended the administration's policy of reducing federal spending and federal intervention. He referred to the overall administration's position as the "Nixon Philosophy".

Secretary of Agriculture Butz, also a part of the present administration, has spoken out on behalf of farmers time and again. He has defended a hard working people at a time when we are finally receiving more realistic prices for our production.

Few people will argue with the present administration's foreign policy and its efforts toward world peace and understanding and expanded trade.

Now Farm Bureau is not a partisan organization, but we are an organization in which members establish policy position and then the organization sets out to gain support for these policies. It just so happens that some of our strongest long-time policy positions have been for:

1. Reduced government spending and balanced budget.
2. Less government intervention in the business of farming and life in general.
3. A strong voice expounding farmers' rights.
4. Expanded trade and stronger markets.

There is no question, the Watergate scandal is a dirty mess. It is indefensible. The guilty must be punished. But, it is regrettable that sound

administration position may well be smeared and pulled under by this unrelated event.

Here is where Vice President Ford drew the unfavorable editorial comments. He warned the Farm Bureau audience that if Mr. Nixon (the Nixon philosophy) were crushed, there were other groups ready to step in and take over. Groups bent on greater government spending, higher taxes and more government intervention.

Since we have relied on the execution of the Nixon philosophy in the past, it is of crucial importance that we insure the support of our policy with Congressmen and the public at a time when there is talk of a crippled presidency.

We should also remember that no matter how popular or unpopular a president, is, he only has a stipulated amount of power under the constitution. The remainder of his power is derived from influence over Congress and the public. It is in Congress and with the public that the "Nixon philosophy," and Farm Bureau policy, may suffer from Watergate if we don't work doubly hard to gain support for our policies.

With proper public and Congressional support, President Nixon will be able to obtain the goals of lower government spending, less government intervention and thereby fulfill objectives of Farm Bureau.

In the interest of our policies and in the interest of personal freedom, it is essential to preserve the division of authority in Washington as soon as possible.

Further delay in the impeachment process only serves the purposes of partisan politics and opportunism. We must insist that Congress decide once and for all whether or not there are grounds for impeachment and act accordingly.

underlines: Behind Strong Bargaining

Dave Wolfe, MFB Market Development

Michigan is now making landmark history in fruit and vegetable marketing and bargaining with PA 344. It can lay new cornerstones for marketing and bargaining nationwide because its concepts are relatively new and far reaching. The Act and its rules are very comprehensive and complicated, which were necessary to protect not only the producer, but the processor and ultimately, the consumer. The law was well thought out, but during passage, opponents to the Act put an expiration date of Sept., 1976 in the Act. It is imperative now to get behind the efforts for implementation and push together before that expiration.

The Michigan Asparagus Growers Division of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) has had its proposed bargaining unit approved by the Michigan Marketing and Bargaining Board. The Division has been given a preliminary declaration of accreditation from the Board with accreditation due to become effective on Feb. 21.

The Act sets the stage for all asparagus producers to bargain collectively for price and terms of trade with all asparagus processors, many of which are large corporate conglomerates. To achieve the strength to be effective the "exclusive agent cooperative concept" had to be part of the law. The Michigan Cannery and Freezers Association has retained a Grand Rapids law firm to represent them in opposition to the carrying out of PA 344. Their attorney has appeared at many of the hearings of the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board.

As a result of the importance of this Public Act 344, I would like to make clear these points about the law and MACMA's efforts with it:

1. Bargaining units are now being set up for many crops—some of which are apples, tart cherries, plums, potatoes for processing, Kraut cabbage and pickling cucumbers. These bargaining units as now being defined are not permanent, but may be changed and altered from year to year.

MACMA divisions proceeded as rapidly as possible to define the bargaining units and meet the requirements in order to move quickly through accreditation procedures in order to serve the producers in the marketing of crops in 1974.

2. An accredited association must maintain the right to represent the farmers of that commodity each year by filing a report showing the Board they still meet accreditation standards.

The accreditation of an association may be revoked by a petition bearing the signatures of at least one third of the producers in the bargaining unit who produce at one third of the bargaining unit production of the cooperative.

3. MACMA or any other association needs the support of every producer. This could become especially important if judicial action is initiated by the processors. Handlers may well try to divide the farmers to weaken the cooperative position.

When studying PA 344, I am impressed with the safeguards that are built into the Act and its basic concept of majority rule. Let's have patience and use positive, constructive suggestions for making the new Act function. It is worth the effort to make it work for the industry.

Farm Bureau members have all helped get this legislation enacted. Now all farmers need to stick together to face the organized processor resistance to implementation of the Act.

This Act solves the age-old problem of freeloading on the shirrtails of associations' bargaining efforts by requiring all producers in the bargaining unit to pay for the bargaining services. Yet the Act provides for flexibility and input into the exclusive agent bargaining association by use of the concept of majority rule of its independent producers.

We need to give the exclusive agent cooperatives, (MACMA and others), the Michigan Agricultural Marketing Board and the processors a chance to try out the law. There are only two seasons left to actually use the Act. The farmer needs to point out to

the final consumer of the product wherever possible that the Act is not monopolistic, it will protect and preserve the independent farmer in the food chain, providing a balance to huge processors and corporate retailers. In the long run, it will not cause higher prices for food because the use of the Act will stabilize and equalize prices in the short term. This allows the farmer, the processor, and the retailer to plan for handling of food logically and efficiently.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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Farm Bureau

DONNA

The Spirit is Willing

If you were a worker during the Membership Campaign and felt, at times, that there was a spirit sitting on each shoulder urging you ever onward — it was probably a couple of us here at Farm Bureau Center in Lansing. Each of the Michigan Farm Bureau staff, you see, is assigned as "waterboy" for a particular region during the campaign.

Perhaps you didn't realize it, but the efforts you put into the membership campaign are backed by genuine concern (if they don't make goal...), sweat — excuse me — perspiration and tears (... programs and staff will be cut...), and powerful prayers (... Dear Lord, let them make goal and save my job).

Seriously, your efforts are backed with enthusiasm and a spirit of friendly, but intense competition. The goal posts and colorful footballs on the wall of the Field Operations Division office at FB Center are studied each day. The movements of "our" regional footballs in their climb over the goal posts make or break the day.

Those whose regions are behind react either with dejection or determination, depending upon personalities. Those whose regions are ahead became puffed up and obnoxious, anxious to claim glory for their "waterboy" prowess.

This was my first year of being a Waterboy. My first step was to change from Waterboy to a Cheerleader (I'm a girl!). Next, I shook the moths out of the old high school cheerleading sweater, removed the crumbling "O" and replaced it with a "C" for Chiefs.

Being my first year, I took my responsibilities very seriously, even though I wasn't sure what they were. One thing I did know—a cheerleader leads cheers, and I'd better be prepared.

The years hadn't taken much of a toll on the voice box, but, alas, the double-jointed limberness which saw me through my early cheerleading days had deteriorated considerably. This discovery was quite a jolt because I didn't even know I couldn't do the splits anymore until I was halfway there, unable to complete my performance and, likewise, unable to terminate it.

You can imagine the look on my spouse's face when he rescued me from my predicament and I explained that it was all part of my job.

I should have kept the Waterboy title and convinced my partner, Bob Smith, to be the team Cheerleader. Our revered legislative counsel, capable of meeting all challenges, can probably do the splits.

FREE AD SPACE FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

Starting with the March issue of Farm News, MFB members will be entitled to a free 25 word classified ad per month. The Farm News reaches nearly 62,000 farm families in Michigan each month. Ads will be limited to one per month per membership.

Just send ads on a postcard to: Michigan Farm News, 7373 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Ads should be received by the 20th of each month to be included in the next edition.

Members who wish to advertise goods from retail outlets or dealerships should seek paid ads.



Charming Representative

Michigan Farm Bureau Queen Judy Larson stations herself behind the goodies as she is presented at the Michigan reception during the AFBF convention last month. Judy, who represented Michigan at the Atlantic City convention, will be doing some serious work for Farm Bureau in February. MFB Manager of Broadcasting Bob Driscoll said that radio and television engagements were being arranged for Judy to represent Farm Bureau. "She'll be just great," Driscoll said looking forward to her appearances.

Prices Upped

Fertilizer Outlook Not Promising

New price increases of \$5 - \$13 per ton for fertilizer materials became effective Feb. 1, said Bill Callum of the Farm Supply Division of FB Services.

In a report to fertilizer dealers Callum said there was little hope of any great increases of fertilizer quantities in Michigan as of yet, but that FB Services would be in better shape than most cooperative suppliers.

Callum said he thought cooperative fertilizer supplies would be outstripped by increased demand this spring.

"We do believe, however, that Farm Bureau Services and its dealer organization will have more than its share of available products."

While saying the severity of the shortage would depend on the weather and transportation situation this spring, Callum had definite ideas about how different supplies would fare.

"The long-range picture indicates that nitrogen products will continue to be short for the next several years," he reported.

Phosphate would also be short for two more springs but would be at surplus volumes thereafter, Callum said.

CF Industries, a producer owned partly by FB Services, revealed to Callum that nitrogen and phosphate products were unavailable to them from domestic sources.

Raw potash, on the other hand, was reported to be in more than adequate supply, though compaction capacity at mines in

Canada and transportation from there could be limiting factors.

Callum added that the 1.5 million tons of extra domestic fertilizer supply promised by American producers when fertilizer prices were deregulated in October will have negligible impact on Michigan.

Further details on the supply picture will be dealt with at "Open Line" FB Services meetings this month (see page 3).

Open Line Meets Tell Supply Story

Professionals from the staffs of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum will try to give farmers insight into the uncertain supply situations and market outlooks in Michigan this month.

Interested farmers are invited to come to one of two remaining meetings to hear Dr. John Ferris of Michigan State University comment upon world markets and how they relate to Michigan Agriculture.

Those planning to attend should contact county FB officials or Co-op dealers.

Both meetings will open with a coffee session at 9:30 a.m. before the program begins at 10:00. They will take place at McGuire's Restaurant in Cadillac on Feb. 7 and at Zehnders Restaurant in Frankenmuth on Feb. 8.

MFB Proposals Now Policy

Prepared by Albert Almy
MFB Legislative Counsel

As the possibility of fuel rationing looms nearer, Farm Bureau stands firmly opposed to coupon rationing for the man in the street.

National delegates to the AFBF Convention took this stand last month as part of their newly adopted national policy which included several recommendations from Michigan.

The AFBF delegation did, however, reject a Michigan proposal concerning unemployment compensation (UI) by flatly opposing any national legislation to put UI in effect.

The delegates in Atlantic City made it clear throughout their policy statements that much government involvement in the economy was unwanted.

Besides opposing coupon rationing, the delegates stated that mandatory government allocation of fuel, presently in use, should be used only as a temporary means of dealing with energy problems.

To free up fuel sources, it was suggested that environmental restrictions prohibiting the use of coal and other available energy sources should be reviewed and adjusted or revised where possible.

The delegates urged early establishment of a national energy policy, with an ultimate goal for developing domestic sources of energy to meet the energy needs of this nation.

Delegates called upon Congress to eliminate government pricing of natural gas and support was given to research and development of new technology by private enterprise to meet future energy needs.

Just as MFB delegates resolved, AFBF '74 policy says the production and distribution of food and fiber must be given the highest priority for fuels while allocation programs are in effect. High priority was also urged for the production and distribution of necessary agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and chemicals.

Trade Tied In

The food-for-crude concept was expounded, stating that large exports of food could pay for oil imports.

Policies on International trade followed Michigan recommendations closely, looking for

freer and expanded trade while seeking a fairer deal for dairymen.

Vigorous opposition was expressed to any proposal that would limit or control exports of US agricultural commodities. Delegates also opposed legislated import quotas as a solution to import problems. They said enactment of such quotas depends on whether enough political influence can be generated to pass a law and such quotas invite retaliation.

Dairy Issue Tackled

Strong support was given to a requirement that imported agricultural commodities must meet the same sanitary and quality standards applied to domestic products. Delegates noted that the level of dairy imports affects the well-being of the dairy industry and asked for legislative action to require that these levels be set on a milk equivalent basis.

Delegates also stated that countervailing duties should be imposed on imports from countries subsidizing their imports of agricultural products to the United States. The purpose of such countervailing duties should be to maintain the competitive position of domestic farmers.

MFB recommendations again became policy as AFBF delegates registered vigorous opposition to government-owned or controlled reserves of farm products and United States participation in any internationally controlled food reserves.

Delegates noted that the food and fibre needs of consumers are being protected through the tremendous productive capacity of American agriculture, stocks carried by farmers and the trade, wide geographic crop production and the flexibility that goes with a livestock economy.

Concern of Michigan farmland owners was echoed when strong support was given by delegates for a substantial increase in exemptions from the Federal Estate and Gift Taxes in recognition of the economic changes which have occurred since the present exemptions were provided. They asked that when estates were appraised for Federal Estate Tax purposes, their value should be

based on the use of the property at the time of the appraisal.

The delegates urged farmers to become involved in planning and development of zoning ordinances to protect private property rights. They stated that any land use plan should provide the right of appeal by individual landowners, protection for private property rights, and full indemnification to property owners for any restrictions brought about by the plan.

Environment Action

The delegates emphasized that land use planning can best be accomplished at the county or comparable level of government and by private landowners. They opposed federal assistance to states for land use planning except under a grant-in-aid program. Federal funds available to states were opposed as a weapon to enforce compliance with land use programs.

The national delegates stated that the 1985 goal of zero pollution as set forth in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 is impractical and unattainable. The delegates called for repeal or substantial modification of the zero pollution provision of the act.

Delegates emphasized the responsibility of all Farm Bureau members to make certain that governmental decisions are based on full and accurate information. They urged vigorous resistance to proposals of any government agency which would seriously jeopardize the production of agricultural commodities.

Delegates reaffirmed support for legislation designed to create a favorable climate for the negotiation of contract terms through good faith bargaining. They noted that such legislation is essential to assist farmers in building their net incomes. The essential requirement is good faith bargaining on the part of both producers and handlers.

The full text of these and other policies adopted by the voting delegates have been printed in the Official AFBF News Letter.

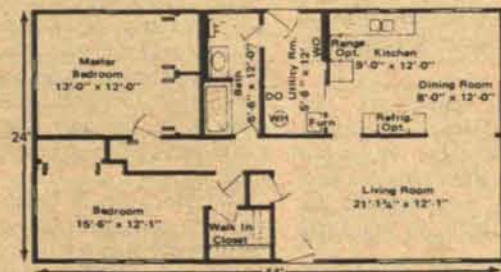
Copies of the 1974 National and International Policy Booklet will be sent to County Farm Bureaus and County National Affairs Committees when available from the printer.

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CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

Progress in Farm Assessment

Substitute H4244 is now before the Michigan Senate for action after having been favorably reported out of the Senate Taxation Committee chaired by Sen. DeMaso, (R) Battle Creek.

The substitute applies to both "farmland" and "open space" land with somewhat different provisions for each.

It is up to the individual landowner to decide whether he wishes to apply for the benefits of the act. The act.

Farmland is defined as 40 or more acres "devoted primarily to agricultural use" or five acres or more but less than 40 if it has a gross income of \$200 or more per acre per year, or "specialty farms" as designated by the Department of Agriculture and produces a gross income of \$2,000 or more.

Application for benefits is made to a "local governing body" (township, county, city, or village). Soil conservation districts and county and regional planning commissions are notified for recommendations.

If locally approved, the application is forwarded to the state land use agency for approval. If locally rejected, the owner can appeal to the state agency.

If approved, a "farmland development rights agreement" is prepared. This is a ten-year contractual arrangement in which control of the development rights rests equally with the landowner and state.

The agreement is filed with the Register of Deeds. The State Tax Commission makes an appraisal of the land in compliance with the agricultural section of the Assessor's Manual.

During the period of the agreement, property taxes in excess of seven percent of the owner's taxable income are refundable by the state.

At the termination of the agreement all rights are returned to the owner. A lien without penalty or interest is prepared as a "rollback" of the total credit allowed on the State Income Tax for the last seven years.

The lien is payable only if the owner sells the property or converts the land to a use prohibited by the former agreement.

This is a major difference from other states that use a "rollback". They require payment of the "rollback tax" when the farm comes out of the program. This is often a hardship.

Other Provisions:

- Owners of land under an agreement are required to notify the state or local governing body three years prior to the agreement's termination date of their future plans with respect to the land.

- During the term of the agreement cities, villages, townships, counties, or other governmental agencies cannot impose special assessments for sewers, water, lights, or non-farm drainage.

- In the event the land or a portion of it is condemned for other use, the development rights on the condemned land revert back to the owner without penalty or rollback.

- The landowner may apply for termination of the ten-year period. If permitted, a penalty lien of 25 percent of the land's market value plus repayment of the tax credits is imposed. The lien is subject to an annual interest rate of six percent compounded until paid.

- In the event of death or permanent disability, provisions are

made for release of the property during the contractual period without penalty.

Under this program, local government and schools would not lose revenue as the tax relief to the farmland owner would be a refund from the state.

If this bill passes, its provisions could be used by any farmer. It would mean that farmers, especially in areas where assessments are based on values for development purposes; will not be forced to sell because they can't pay the taxes.

Daylight Savings Time

Farm Bureau delegates at the annual meeting passed a policy to work to put Michigan in the Central Time Zone. About 98 percent of Michigan, geographically speaking, is in the Central Time Zone.

The passage of emergency legislation by Congress forcing the entire country on "Double" Daylight Saving Time the year round has created serious problems.

Several children going to school in the darkness have been injured or killed. One report is that some children were buried in snow by a snowplow because the operator could not see them standing by the road waiting for a school bus.

The placing of Michigan in the Central Time Zone would also solve problems for farmers during the summer. This, however, is a most complicated issue.

Farm Bureau, along with our allies on this issue (religious groups, restaurants, some unions, theaters, bowling alleys, PTA's, etc.), strongly urged Gov. Milliken to exempt Michigan from the federally mandated year round fast time.

It should be noted that the Governor's decision not to seek exemption was really his only choice as federal regulations prohibit exempting a state for only part of the year. It is impossible to exempt Michigan during the summer because of the vote by the people a year ago putting Michigan on "double" fast time during the summer months.

Several legislators, along with Farm Bureau leaders and others, are studying the issue and find it almost impossible to solve the problem.

Sen. Byker, (R) Hudsonville, has introduced two resolutions, both of which would request the US Congress to take special action to put Michigan in the Central Time Zone. Legally, this is the only way it can be done.

Rep. Van Singel has introduced a bill to exempt Michigan from the year round fast time. However, the Attorney General's opinion is being awaited as to whether this can be done. If so, the only effect the bill could have is to exempt the state next winter.

Consideration is being given by Farm Bureau and other groups to a petition drive to try to put the issue back on the ballot. This is a difficult and complicated route. Legal research is now taking place.

There are indications that several Congressmen are having second thoughts on the federal act, and bills have been introduced to repeal the emergency time act. However, such repeal is unlikely.

There are indications that in Michigan, at least due to "double" fast time, very little energy is being saved by power companies; and if the total energy is considered, perhaps no savings.



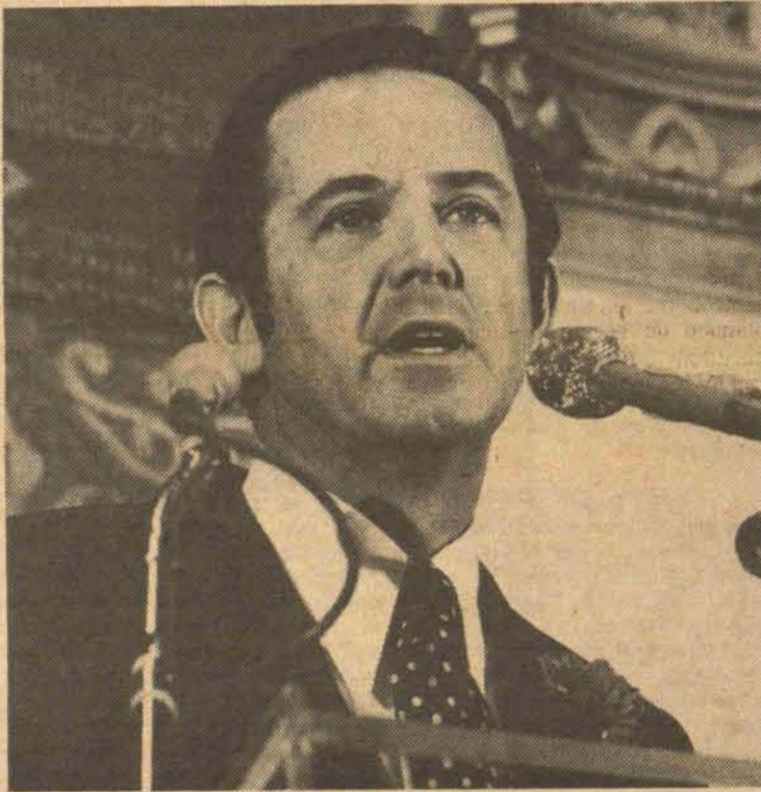
Throwaway Bottles

It appears that legislation may be possible this year to help solve the throwaway bottle and other litter problems.

H4926 is supported by Farm Bureau along with many other groups and would ban throwaway bottles by requiring a deposit to encourage the return of such bottles and perhaps other containers.

One reason this law may have a better chance than in previous years is the fact that a similar and very strict law in effect in Oregon has proved to be effective in controlling litter. It also has survived at least one attack on its constitutionality in Oregon's lower courts.

In addition to being costly to be picked up along roadsides, such bottles are dangerous to livestock and farm tires. Cases have been reported of glass in livestock feed as a result of a bottle going through a chopper, etc.



TAXATION REFORM. Governor Milliken announced proposed taxation reforms that could relieve burdens on farmers and preserve farmland during his State of the State Message last month.

In Proposed Budget

Special Money for Ag

Prepared by Robert E. Smith

Governor William Milliken sent the Legislature his recommendations for the 1974-75 budget, including proposed appropriations for special agricultural programs.

A spray control program (\$482,000 of state and federal money) was recommended to control the spreading of infestation by the gypsy moth in Michigan. Also recommended was \$20,800 to improve weather data reporting. Other traditional agricultural expenditures are expected to remain in the budget.

It was also recommended that school aid be increased for 1974-75 through an extension of the yield equalizing formula passed last year.

The Governor also mentioned in his budget message the need of property tax relief for agriculture. Rebates would be paid by the State, thus preventing any loss of revenue to local government and schools.

In State of State Message

Milliken Defends Farm Position

Prepared by Robert E. Smith

Gov. Milliken has set the tone for the second session of the 77th Legislature in his State of the State Message followed by a Budget Message.

Agriculture was a prominent part of the address. The Governor said that while "our agriculture has become the economic envy of the world, the farmer all too often has been shortchanged."

The Governor said that more must be done in 1974 "to help the farmer." He pointed out that the property tax reduction program passed this year will help many farmers but that much more is needed as property taxes paid by farmers now average more than 25 percent of their income.

Gov. Milliken urged that the Legislature pass additional tax legislation in 1974 and urged the "prompt Senate passage of a modification of H 4244, which will give farmers a break on their taxes in return for a pledge to keep their land in agriculture."

"A farmer who signs such a contract with the State would be eligible for a substantial annual rebate on his property taxes."

Property Tax Relief

Again this year, the Governor recommended further property tax relief in addition to the large tax cut passed last year. He said that it would be possible to lower taxes an additional \$107 million over a 2-year period.

His recommendation is that families with incomes of less than \$13,000 would be granted a sliding-scale food sales tax credit on their income tax. Additional property tax relief is suggested for the blind, senior citizens, and the disabled.

Other relief measures would include reduction of the corporate franchise tax, permit freezes on industrial property tax assessment, and passage of the farmland tax bill, H 4244. These proposals would be part of the Economic Development Program to preserve jobs and encourage the creation of additional jobs. He urged passage of legislation to create a Job Development Authority.

Gov. Milliken pointed to the need to continue to increase foreign trade for Michigan products and noted that Michigan's overseas offices in Brussels and Tokyo have been very successful.

Land Use Cited

Environmental quality and land use continues to be a major legislative program. The Governor pointed out that Congress, no doubt, will pass a national land use policy act providing guidelines for states to follow. The Governor insisted that local control of programs must be maintained along with coordinated approaches. He mentioned the land use act (H 5055) now in committee, farmland preservation (H 4244), and the solid waste authority bill (S 946) along with several other pieces of environmental legislation.

The Governor said that he would submit other specific proposals in the coming weeks relating to agriculture, many of which were suggested by farmers themselves in the public meetings held throughout the state by the Governor's Task Force on the Future of Agriculture (Chairman of which was Mr. Dan Reed, retired Farm Bureau Executive Secretary).

Gov. Milliken also mentioned that the Mid-Western Governor's Conference also has a Bicentennial Task Force on the Future of Agriculture. This is a coordinated effort to compile information on land resources, trade, and other matters of concern to agriculture and will be part of the bicentennial celebration in 1976.

Court Reform Needed

Gov. Milliken called for judicial reform suggesting that judges of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court be appointed with the advice and assistance of a Judicial Qualifications Commission.

The voters would still have an opportunity to vote on the individual judge as to whether he should be retained in office. Politics in the judicial system could be fairly well eliminated.

In his recommendations on education the Governor said that in addition to the significant state aid reform legislation of last year, a study must be undertaken to alleviate the effects that strikes have had on the educational system, and methods must be developed to improve the collective bargaining process. He said that new recommendations on higher education would be made at a later date.



THE HEAT'S ON. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Russell Train takes questions from a panel of Farm Bureau members at a special meeting during the AFBF convention. MFB legislative counsel Albert Almy (second from right) drilled Train on feedlot runoff standards.

NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

Four Major Issues Confront Congress

The 1974 session of the 93rd Congress began on Jan. 21. Thousands of bills introduced during the 1973 session have been carried over and may be acted upon during this session. Following is a brief summary of some of the bills pending before Congress which are important to agriculture.

Trade Reform Act

On Dec. 11, the House passed the Trade Reform Act by a 272-140 vote. Michigan's Congressional delegation cast 12 YES and 6 NO votes.

The bill would give the President special authority for new trade negotiations. It would also increase the President's authority to take action against foreign countries which levy unreasonable import restrictions against United States commodities or subsidize exports of their commodities to our country. This is an important provision to segments of United States agriculture, such as the dairy industry, that have difficulty

competing against heavily subsidized foreign producers.

Before passing the Trade Reform Act, the House amended it to prohibit the President from authorizing equal trade concessions or credit terms to countries restricting emigration of their citizens.

This has direct effect on the USSR which under this provision would be denied equal trading considerations.

Farm Bureau supported the legislation, but opposed the amendments which would reduce trade opportunities. The bill is now awaiting Senate consideration.

Land Use Planning

The National Land Use Planning Act would encourage the development of state land use plans. Federal funds would be made available to states through a grant-in-aid program for land use planning purposes.

The Senate has already passed a similar bill and the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee is holding mark-up sessions on HR 10294.

The Committee has removed from the bill a provision authorizing sanctions against states not adopting a land use plan within a specified period of time. The sanctions would have resulted in the loss of a portion of federal grant monies for highway construction, airport construction and recreational development.

Farm Bureau opposes federal assistance to states for land use planning except under a grant-in-aid program.

The House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee is expected to report a land use planning bill during the 1974 session.

Controlled Use of DDT

The House Agriculture Committee has reported legislation which would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to permit the use of insect insecticides on forest and other agricultural lands.

Under the bill, USDA would make application to the Environmental Protection Agency for the registration of a product containing DDT. The registration request would have to comply with provisions of the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972. If these conditions were met, USDA would be allowed to license manufacturers to produce the insecticide.

Farm Bureau supports HR 10796 and has encouraged the House to give the bill favorable action.

Consumer Protection Agency Several bills to establish a Consumer Protection Agency are pending before the House Government Operations Subcommittee. Most of the bills would provide for an independent agency with power to intervene in formal and informal actions of virtually every other government agency.

During 1972, USDA prepared a list of its activities that would be affected by similar legislation. It listed 75 formal proceedings and 156 informal proceedings in which the Consumer Protection Agency could intervene as a full party and appeal results to the courts.

Farm Bureau is not opposed to protecting the rights of consumers; however, Farm Bureau does not support any of the bills that would establish a Consumer Protection Agency having other than advisory powers.

EPA Head Says

Ecologists Still Strong

Don't think environmental considerations are pushovers now that there is an energy crisis, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency told his audience at the AFBF convention.

"There are those who would have you believe that the good news in the energy crisis is that the environment is up for grabs again," said Administrator Russell Train.

"The good news about the energy crisis is that it confirms what environmentalists have been saying all along."

Terming the energy pinch a "crisis of demand," Train suggested that demand for fuel could be tapered by funneling funds into mass transit from excess profit taxes on oil producers.

However, Train found himself in great demand during the session to answer questions about controls on agriculture, such as, "Why would an aircraft company be chosen to study feedlot runoff?"

Train said the selection of an aircraft corporation division was none of his doing, but gave no indication that steps would be taken under his leadership to choose more appropriate researchers in the future.

"In many cases dealing with highly specialized industries there are very few consultants with the background and experience to do this kind of study," he said.

In later questioning Train said there were no plans to change feedlot regulations to include

operators of smaller feedlots than those presently covered.

"It is my intention to see to it that as we set rules that they are maintained for a period of time to give operators some real stability in planning," Train said. But the administrator said he couldn't promise regulations would remain constant for five or ten years.

Referring to other agricultural controls the administrator said he planned on seeing pesticide application certification programs run by individual states by Jan. 1, 1976.

"We're trying to keep restricted-pesticide lists as small as possible and hopefully keep to categories that do not conflict with pesticides in general use," he said.

Train admitted that restrictions placed on pesticides were inhibiting research into new chemicals by private firms which figured the business a bad risk and said this had been the subject of several meetings. The administrator thought part of the answer was for the Federal Government to assume more responsibility for research.

Train said EPA Research was underway concerning predator control out west using the chemical M-44 as a replacement of 10-80, the popular but banned coyote poison.

He said this program was being used only on private land since public lands were under Interior Department jurisdiction.

"I'm personally opposed to the use of 10-80," Train said, "The secondary effects, its effects on non-target species and long-lived quality make it undesirable."



New Rail Bill Is Possible Trouble

Better service but reduced track mileage will mark Michigan Railways now that the Northeastern Rail Services Act is law, says Gilbert Seely of the Michigan Elevator Exchange. The pruned rail lines, he warns, may mean trouble for some elevators.

Seely explains that the two-year ban on rail abandonments was dropped as the new bill reached final form. In addition, the US Supreme Court ruled that abandonment be permitted if a stretch of track does not accommodate 34 cars per mile, per year, each way.

"Local elevators are going to be hurt," Seely says. Track heading from Imlay City through Pigeon to Caseville could be in immediate danger and coops in Chesaning, Coldwater and Charlotte may have to make adjustments.

An alternative for some co-ops will be to truck grain to larger elevators on main lines, Seely says. Only elevators who can load three, four and five car loads will be able to use rail-service.

Seely adds that not all problems are on the co-op end. Many grain receivers, such as millers, are on branch lines that could be abandoned.

The Michigan Agriculture Commission has adopted policy opposing use of the 34-car standard in favor of ruling according to circumstance. The Commission accepted a Michigan Department of Agriculture proposal stating that abandonment could be opposed by considering such factors as the economic and environmental impact on a region and the availability of other forms of transport. Special circumstances including fuel shortages and load restrictions on roads could also be used to defend the maintenance of a line under these recommendations.

The Commission also asked that rail users be given "notice of intention" one to two years before an abandonment move is proposed to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Late this year the Northeast Railroads' new reorganization plan will be submitted to the US Railway Association just established by the Rail Services Act. Interested parties will then have 60 days to comment at public hearings. Two months notice will be required before actual abandonment under the reorganization plan may proceed.

Localities may be able to borrow from the Federal Government up to 70 percent of the funds necessary to maintain local lines.

Also, financial assistance to States of up to 70 percent of needed funds for rail service maintenance will be available after the final Northeast Rail System is in effect.

Until that time, the Federal Government is putting up \$85 million in grants to keep the present system going.

Also, the new law provides a monthly displacement allowance for railroad employees adversely affected by reorganization.

OSHA Re-entry Rules Thrown Out by Court

An emergency pesticide re-entry standard issued last summer to regulate the use of organophosphates has been declared invalid by a court ruling last month.

The ruling is a result of a long battle by Farm Bureau and other groups against the edict issued through the Occupational Safety and Health Act. The original standard that was to go into effect against 21 different chemicals on June 18 was blocked by court action initiated by AFBF. A less stringent regulation covering 12 organophosphates was to take hold last July 13 but was again held off by an injunction.

The AFBF suit, that followed resulted in a final rebuttal of the emergency standard last month. In its 21 page opinion, the court stated:

"We find no substantial evidence in the record considered as a whole to support the determination of the Secretary of Labor that emergency temporary standards were necessary... There is an abundance of evidence that emergency standards are not necessary."

"Extraordinary power is delivered to the Secretary of Labor under the emergency provisions of the OSHA. That power should be delicately exercised and only in those emergency situations which require it."

More Dairy Imports for 1974 Official Says

Richard Bell would probably have preferred selling pornography in a church lobby when he was faced with the unenviable duty of telling a room-full of dairymen that the government would continue importing dairy products from Europe in 1974.

Richard the Lion Hearted also had the courage to tell the assembly at the AFBF Convention that he was one of the authors of the much-maligned Flanigan report which is said to be unsympathetic to dairymen.



"Why dairy imports," a dairyman asks.

Filling in for the man the report was named for, Peter Flanigan, the Foreign Agricultural Service, (FAS) official did admit that a countervailing duty against subsidized imports or a hard line on quotas would have to be adopted very soon.

Countervailing duties were urged by AFBF delegates at the convention.

Bell said that recommendations for enforcement of countervailing duties were forwarded to Secretary of the Treasury George Schultz, but that Federal bureaucrats have balked at using such measures for over 30 years.

Bell claimed that the government was working on ways to monitor dairy imports, so they would conform to US health standards, but that it was a new problem.

"Only in the last year to a year and a half have we had sufficient dairy imports to warrant a monitoring system," he said. "With another year of slight decline in dairy production the system should be where it belongs."

The FAS official admitted that the import situation of 1973 was not perfect.

"The only way you can turn production around is to quit knocking dairy farmers in the head by dumping dairy products on the market just when things are starting to look better," he said.

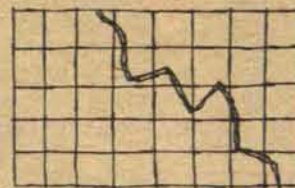
But he claimed the purpose behind 1973 imports was to fulfill demand, not dampen prices.

"I think if you'll look at the series of imports in 1973 with the exception of butter, you'll see we did a fairly decent job of keeping things in balance," he said.



FAS official Bell -- "It's not our intention to dampen prices."

Marketing



Picture

MACMA Annual Set for Feb. 15

The Annual Meeting for the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) is set for Feb. 15 at the Pantlind Hotel in Grand Rapids.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 15 in the Pantlind Hotel lobby with the program starting at 10:00. Lunch will be served at noon.

Supply



Report

By Greg Sheffield, Marketing Manager FBS

Petroleum

New mandatory petroleum product regulations were issued on Jan. 11. Essentially this will mean farmers now have a priority in distribution of gasoline for farming uses and it's pegged to 100 per cent of their current requirements. However, middle distillates, including diesel fuel for agriculture, have been put into Category II which works out to be a relatively low priority considering the needs of Michigan.

Therefore, both Farmers Petroleum and Michigan Farm Bureau have voiced their objections to the federal government. With farmers expected to produce more food as well as overcome food shortages, they will need more fuel, not less, for their equipment.

Farmers Petroleum Crude Oil Operations in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky have been carried on through independent contractors since our first oil bearing property was purchased in 1950. But, January 1, 1974 marked the end of contractors running the Farmers Petroleum property. Farmers Petroleum has assumed the direct supervision over personnel, responsibilities to the regulatory agencies and the crude oil sales functions. This will cover all the wells in which Farmers Petroleum, or their agent, have been registered with State Regulatory Agencies as "Operator".

In the meantime, mild weather and the cooperation of home owners, industry and drivers have all combined to give the US, in most areas, sufficient fuel to get along. Shortages and difficulties are being encountered, of course, but the administration feels the voluntary help of all people in the US is working. This may not stave off rationing altogether, but it will certainly delay it, perhaps other oil may start flowing as a Mid-east settlement of some sort looks optimistic. The US Office of Energy Control estimates that 67 percent of the oil resources proven

in the world come from the Middle East. Undoubtedly the Middle East situation is the key to any short term solution.

Fertilizers

The fertilizer situation as predicted has not improved. Fertilizers remain short in Michigan and farmers with good sources of supply are fortunate. Farm Bureau Services continues to supply its outlets but supplies are disappearing at an unheard of rate as farsighted farmers continue to take supplies as they can get them and store fertilizers on their farms to assure supplies this coming spring.

The threat of price increases is very real and is already being felt as demand for fertilizers continues to exceed supply. CF Industries, the giant fertilizer manufacturing complex, partly owned by Farm Bureau Services and other regional farm cooperatives, is running as much fertilizer as it can produce within the limitations of raw material and rail car shortages.

With increased shipments of coal making demands on already over extended railroad facilities, more competition for railroad cars faces fertilizer people.

Seed

Seed bookings were completed, for the most part, by the end of December and deliveries were being made starting in January. Seeds, though higher in price and short in supply, were made available through Farm Bureau Services outlets to their regular customers. Some difficulties were encountered in the demand for farmers planning on growing feed grade oats.

Chemicals

Farm Bureau Services dealers have stocked or booked most of the chemicals they think they'll need for the coming season. Some deliveries on chemicals from manufacturers may be delayed and farmers should make sure they will have what they'll need by talking things over with their

dealers early. Some farm chemicals have now been put on allocation due to the chemical manufacturing links dependent on petroleum and other energy sources. Farmers who are aware of planned increases of crops in their area, might find an important chemical unavailable at the last minute.

Feeds

The USDA index of prices paid by farmers for feed rose 7 percent in mid-November, and were 46 percent higher than mid-December 1972 according to the USDA price report of January. Some encouragement in somewhat lower soybean meal prices in January was evidenced as farmers started to sell soybeans.

Further declines are hoped for. One of the big problems for feed manufacturers has been the difficulty in getting urea and feed grade phosphates. Some feed manufacturers are finding phosphates unavailable at almost any price.

There is a feeling that if the feed business continues to boom, some of the feed plants in the US will have to shut down, at least part time. Animal protein remains in demand because swine and poultry producers are using them for their phosphate content.

In late December, the Cost of Living Council exempted a number of livestock and poultry feeds from Phase IV price controls, but the move did not apply to many individual feed ingredients such as soybean meal.

The American Feed Manufacturers Association feels this could save the feed industry \$1 million per year. Although commercial feed manufacturers reported they had a "fairly good year" and expect their tonnage to increase an average of 6 percent in 1974, they feel their margins will slip in 1974 and the price may decline about 7 percent, according to a FEED-STUFFS magazine survey of 32 US companies.

Governor William Milliken has been asked to speak at the MACMA Luncheon on the 15th. Should he be able to attend he will be speaking on "Agricultural Issues Facing Michigan."

MACMA members planning on going to the meeting are urged to call for meal reservations by Feb. 8.

Members should call Farm Bureau Center (517-485-8121) for the complementary reservations.

Frank Owen, administrator of the Marketing and Bargaining Board that is responsible for the execution of Michigan's new bargaining act, will be one of the featured speakers at the meeting.

He will talk about the progress in establishment of bargaining units under the new act. A question and answer period will follow.

The president of MACMA, Elton Smith and the MACMA manager will also speak on the past year - by far the most dynamic in MACMA's existence.

Bulletin

The Asparagus Growers Division of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) has been declared accredited to bargain for Michigan asparagus producers, effective Feb. 21.

All bargaining with processors for those producers included in the bargaining unit that was approved last Dec. 3 must go through the MACMA group.

In another decision, the state board determined on Jan. 22 a bargaining unit for pickling cucumbers. It includes all Michigan growers who produce more than 3,200 bushels of cucumbers for processing per year.



Stiff Opposition

J.M. Neath, a lawyer on behalf of fruit and vegetable processors, (foreground) presents arguments against the Marketing and Bargaining Act during a recent hearing before the Marketing and Bargaining Board.

Representatives of processors have been on hand at several hearings during the last month. (See Underlines page 2)

Michigan Marketing Outlook

Bill Byrum - MFB Marketing Specialist
 Dan Hall - Secretary, Michigan Soybean Producers
 Harry Foster - MACMA, Fruit & Vegetable Manager
 Ron Nelson - MFB Market Development Dept.

Soybeans

Michigan soybean acreage was up 130,000 acres in 1973 over 1972. The crop harvested from this acreage was nearly 20 percent larger than 1972 with 16.2 million bu. harvested off Michigan farms. Nationally, the story was much the same with acreage and total production at a record 1.57 billion bu. With production of such size, the question in farmers' minds has been "Will the good soybean prices hold and, as they did in 1973 or advance to still higher levels?" Of course much of the answer here was dependent on the total demand for the large crop.

In mid-January the first concrete hint as to an answer came with the January 1 USDA report on soybean stocks in all positions. This report showed that at the first of the year a record high 1.17 billion bu. of soybeans were on hand. This was 35 percent more soybeans on hand than the year before when total stocks stood at 867 million bu. Not surprisingly, farm stocks were up at 617 million bu. 44 percent higher than the preceding year. Clearly, farmers were holding soybeans in hopes of advancing prices later in 1974.

On the demand side, the USDA said between September thru December 457 million bu. from a total supply of 1.63 billion bu. were utilized. This "disappearance" was somewhat less than the preceding year. However, December figures showed an increasing trend in utilization over the previous month and over the preceding year. Generally, the soybean "trade" had anticipated a larger soybean stocks report Jan. 1 so the slightly lower disappearance level was counter-balanced. At this time, farmers in Michigan and the US are continuing to hold the soybeans they have left in hopes of higher market prices.

Two other factors have had implications on where the soybean market is headed. First, the national planting intentions for the 1974 soybean crop, which is down 3.3 percent from the acreage seeded in 1973. Second is the competition from another protein source, namely fish meal. On Jan. 24, it was reported that Peru Anchovy fishing has been delayed for commercial fishing until October.

Soybean prices are very dependent on continued strong export levels. Consequently, recent international developments are alarming. The Japanese devaluation of the yen has caused our US soybeans to cost them more. The same monetary strengthening of the US dollar against the currency of other soybean buying countries can have adverse affects on our total soybean sales in 1974.

Vegetables

Strong demand and high consumption are expected to result in short supplies by harvest time in 1974.

The carryover of vegetable supplies from 1972 were down sharply for 1973 where the total US pack of canned and frozen vegetables was moderately larger than the year before.

Negotiations of pre-planting contracts with processors are currently underway. Asking prices by MACMA and other producer bargaining associations are in line with increased production costs and market demand. Processors will need to meet these requests to enable them to pack in sufficient quantity to meet market demand.

For much of 1973, prices of processed vegetables moved up less than fresh vegetables because of price controls and extensive use of pre-planting contracts.

Price controls now permit liberal cost pass-throughs by processors. Substantial increases in prices paid to producers for processing vegetables are expected.

Fruit

Fruit prices at all levels continue to be higher this year relative to a year earlier, reflecting strong domestic and foreign demand. Prospects for continued strong demand through 1974 are excellent.

Carryover stocks of processed fruit may be at record low levels by harvest time. With strong consumer demand expected, even record sized crops in 1974 should be

readily purchased by processors and others in the market system.

Final USDA reports on 1973 crop production show that fruit production in Michigan was down substantially, while total US production of deciduous fruit was about an average sized crop. In Michigan, apple production was down 40 percent, grapes down 56 percent, and red tart cherries down 54 percent from 1972.

Prices paid Michigan producers in 1973 for the small fruit crops were at record or near record levels. The higher value for fruit assisted producers in meeting higher production costs. Prospects

are for continued higher production and labor costs.

Livestock

Beef and pork prices during the next 30 days will probably stay near current levels. Expect live hogs to remain in the low \$40's and live cattle to stay in the high \$40's to low \$50's. 500 pound Choice steer calves will be in the mid \$50's and 700 pound yearlings will fluctuate in the high \$40's to low \$50's, depending on the hedging position. Feeder pigs will cost in the mid \$30's.

Doubts about recent crop reports including numbers of livestock for

slaughter and replacement and consumer demand, (especially for beef) create a questionable atmosphere.

Continued high feed costs, questionable energy and fertilizer supplies, probable increased unemployment and unpredictable government intervention make it difficult to identify any solid trends.

No doubt feeders and producers will not aggressively expand production or feedlot capacity without the incentive of profitable feeding margins. These margins appear to be close as of late.

(Continued on page 8)



Carl Heisler
President
Farmers Petroleum

Elton Smith
President
Farm Bureau Services

Open Line meetings

you are invited to come.

For your convenience, meetings will be held in three areas from 10:00 am - 3:30 pm for everyone involved in agriculture, as well as, Presidents, Boards and farm leaders of supply and membership co-ops. Farm Market

and Supply discussions and many other vital topics are scheduled. Don't miss this opportunity to discuss Michigan's agricultural outlook and your market and supply situation for the 1974 growing season.

- February 7 • Cadillac at McGuire's Restaurant
- February 8 • Frankenmuth at Zehnders



Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau
 FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC
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Mail or take this registration form to your Co-op dealer NOW.
 He will make sure you have a reservation for the meeting and luncheon.

Take this to your dealer.

Name _____
 Location of Farm _____
 Your Co-op _____

No Wheat Embargo — Brunthaver says



YOU FELLA! Never at a loss for words, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carroll Brunthaver took questions from the press following his speech at the AFBF convention. Brunthaver upheld policy consistent with Farm Bureau stands on several counts.

French Lookout at Convention

Dairymen who attended the Dairy Conference at last month's AFBF convention were under the watchful eye of the French in the form of Alain Revel, French Agricultural Attache to the US. With the French being the ringleaders of European Community agricultural policy which results in highly subsidized dairy imports to the US, Revel's interest in AFBF policy was obvious.

As it turned out Revel was treated to a show of dairymen's dissatisfaction as they shot critical questions at a US government representative (see page 6).

After the meeting Revel readily admitted that EEC subsidy policy was an answer to the longstanding social question, "How you gonna keep 'em down on the farm after they've seen Pa-ree?"

Revel said with 12 percent of the population of France on farms, a mass exodus to the cities would cause high unemployment so sales of farm products were encouraged.

While saying France was prepared to discuss such things as countervailing duties, Revel said a new damper was entering the negotiating picture with the relatively good position of the US in the oil crisis.

"We were just getting to the place where we could talk on an equal basis," said Revel. "Then this oil thing came along. We want to bargain as equals not as a child talking to an adult."

The attache said the Trade Bill would be important towards getting negotiations underway but agreements had to be made on the European end before EEC promises could be made with confidence.

One aim of the French is to get an internationally managed grain reserve in effect.



Alain Revel

"But our problem would be to get the United States and the USSR to agree to it. There is a need for food management in the world," he said.

AFBF delegates opposed such reserves on the basis of past international grain agreements that have always worked out to the disadvantage of US producers and in favor of producers not involved in the agreements.

Grain Reserve Considered By Presidential Aide

Peter Flanigan, whose name rests on the famous (or infamous) government report that has been derided as a sellout of the American dairy industry, said he could understand a need for a strategic grain reserve when he spoke at the AFBF convention last month. Such a reserve was opposed by the AFBF delegation.

"Security rationale has to override economic rationale at some point," Flanigan said. "A strategic grain reserve has to be viewed to a large extent as a security measure."

"But once you've gone beyond the security rationale and met it, then the free market ought to determine the production and flow and price of goods."

Flanigan also found himself giving the public press lessons in basic economics after his address.

The aide to President Nixon explained the ups and downs of present US food export policy when a reporter challenged that exporting would cause food prices to rise 40 percent over 1971 levels.

"If we didn't have exports," Flanigan answered, "the dollar, instead of strengthening, would go down and then the costs of things the working man wants and needs to work with would go up and his standard of living would go down."

He added that under the present system real buying power had risen for Americans for the last two years.

Flanigan designated another FAS representative to confront dairymen (see page 6) and took his grilling from the public press which questioned if "another" food shortage would result from open exports.

"Whether or not there was a shortage last year depends on whether you're a consumer or a farmer," he said. Flanigan termed

The Federal Government denied all association with export control philosophy last month.

Export controls of wheat, asked for by US millers and bakers, will not be imposed, said Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carroll Brunthaver.

Brunthaver criticized millers for poor planning as he spoke to the press following his speech at the AFBF Convention in Atlantic City.

"For them to sit idly by and let exporters buy the wheat and not get into market and cover needs they know they're going to have and then, after the fact, come to the government and say 'put on export controls and drive down the price of wheat'—well, I just can't buy that."

Two steps were taken by the USDA, however, to assure ample supplies of wheat. Wheat shipments to some foreign ports were delayed until after June, where, Brunthaver claimed, the wheat wasn't wanted any earlier anyway; and secondly, the USDA asked for authority to import

wheat if supplies were to become tight.

The Secretary who announced he was in his last two weeks with the USDA, did assure reporters that his department was not enamored with the idea of controlling exports.

"We've been down this road," he said, "and we've seen the damage its done to us in soybeans and the damage its done as we try to develop markets."

"To put on export controls, is to say our farmers are not reliable suppliers, our contracts are not legitimate and we just cannot as a country afford this kind of action."

These statements fell in line with comments from Peter Flanigan of the Foreign Agricultural Service, who revealed earlier at the convention that he thought the soybean embargo of last summer may have been an over-reaction by the administration.

Brunthaver called "preposterous" predictions that wheat prices would force bread costs to \$1 a loaf.



Marketing Outlook

(Continued from page 7)

Prospects for a 15 percent increase in the 1974 corn crop sheds some optimism on enough feed at reasonable prices so that feeding margins might improve.

DAIRY

The dairy industry is in a constant state of change. Production per cow and total milk production is down from a year ago, but this trend appears to be leveling off. Consumption of dairy products has been increasing, but in recent months this too has reversed.

Production is down for several reasons, including: 1) Rising production costs 2) Relatively good cull cow prices 3) Government policy allowing imports.

Dairymen have been changing to other occupations, such as the relatively good cash crop operations.

The consumption pattern is not so easy to evaluate. There are several possible factors which could influence the consumption of dairy products including: 1) Reduction in school milk program 2) Costs of meat compared to cheese 3) Reaction of unfavorable publicity on dairy products 4) Quality of imports 5) And of course price increases.

Consumption of milk products has been changing. There has been a considerable reduction in consumption of whole milk, but at the same time there is an increasing demand for skim and low fat milk. Other products have also become more popular with a 58 percent increase in consumption of hard cheese in the last 12 years. Yogurt is also gaining a larger share of the market. With all the change in patterns of consumption the demand for milk and milk products has remained fairly constant.

What does the future hold for the dairymen? There are two very real but opposite possibilities. The first and optimistic view looks very favorable providing certain assumptions are valid. The demand for milk has remained relatively stable even through prices have risen, thus if demand

The Secretary said that for this to be true, wheat would have to be priced at between \$33 and \$60 per bushel. He added that much of the wheat thought headed overseas was actually only insurance exports that would get back to the domestic market once exporters were assured that there were to be no export restrictions.

Brunthaver saw a readjustment of business habits as the answer to millers' problems.

"They've been operating 30 or 40 years with CCC stocks of wheat," Brunthaver said. "It's a tremendous transition from that climate to one where they have to contract with the farmer or elevator and line up supplies."

When asked to assure farmers that high wheat prices would be maintained, Brunthaver suggested that contracting 1/2 to 3/4 of a prospective crop now would assure good returns.

Ag Politically Important

Earlier in the day Brunthaver indicated that good crops were important to the US as a political tool. "Just as much as oil reserves are a national asset to Middle East countries, agriculture is a national asset to America," he said.

"When the President went to Moscow and Peking, he was more successful because he had American agriculture behind him—he had back of him the ability to produce something those countries desperately needed."

continues relatively stable the picture looks very bright. A second factor assumes that imports of dairy products will be of same rigid quality standards without subsidies. A third assumption is that costs of production will remain in line with milk prices. A fourth factor assumes that the numerous local, state and national regulations will not create an unfavorable climate for producers.

A pessimistic view of the future of dairying might look like the following:

1. Consumer milk prices will rise, and consumption will decline, in addition a number of substitute or imitation products will become increasingly popular.
2. Imports of dairy products will continue, the quality may improve but subsidies may also increase.
3. A third factor—assumes that costs of production will rise faster than milk prices, thus forcing many inefficient operators out of business. (Real estate taxes are a major factor).
4. The final assumption would be that the numerous regulatory agencies would "regulate" the producer out of existence.

The above are only some of the assumptions which could affect the future of the dairy industry in Michigan and the US. There are a number of other points which must be considered.

In considering the future of the dairy industry one fact must be considered — dairy products are an excellent basic and nutritionally well balanced food. They also provide a wide variety of snack and dessert items. Dairy products are a major part of most diets, mainly because they are so versatile. One additional fact of significant importance, it would be very difficult to import fluid milk for foreign countries. Transportation cost would be excessive and quality would be difficult to maintain. Thus it seems reasonable to assume that dairying will remain an important segment of American Agriculture for at least the immediate future.



MAKING A POINT. President Assistant Peter Flanigan said he was about to adopt the Flanigan Report, which promotes open trade, as his own. Flanigan said the report was an ugly duckling, that was fast becoming a swan in the present economic circumstances.

such a question simplistic, and suggested a non-restrictive approach would solve the problem of supply and therefore solve price problems.

"I would recommend you look at wheat and soybean production between 1968 and 1973," he said. "In the controlled wheat area production has been going down while soybean production has been soaring."

When asked again about restricting exports, this time as a measure against Middle East countries, Flanigan again advocated an open trade policy.

"With their great wealth and ability to buy from so many places, I question that this would be effective," he said.

Saginaw Valley, and District 8 are Tops in Membership

As of Jan. 25 Michigan Farm Bureau was 1.7 percent behind last year's pace. In order to identify the culprits of this slower year, Farm News has broken down the membership by districts (at right) giving the line up of directors and their percentage of goal.

In the regional race, it seems that teams of the Farm Bureau League can rally behind young and old coaches alike. Saginaw Valley came through for veteran Coach Rudy Reinbold while some hot teams put first year coaches Jesse Taggart and Bernie Bishop in the next two spots.

A bright spot this year is that the dedicated dozen have already been chosen. The first three counties to reach goal in each membership division are as follows:



Larry DeVuyst District 8..98.42.- Jack Laurie District 6..97.25.- Donald Nugent District 9..96.85.- Richard Wieland District 10.95.88.- Elton R. Smith District 4.95.80.- Kenneth Bull District 7.95.74.-



Dean Pridgeon District 2.95.66.- Franklin Schwiderson District 11.95.31.- Andrew Jackson District 3.94.48.- William Spike District 5..92.55.- Arthur Bailey District 1.91.00.-

Dedicated Dozen

- 1-300
1. Mac-Luce (Coach Otto Flatt)
 2. Iosco (Coach Donald Goodrow)
 3. Menominee (Coach Gunter Kusing)

- 301-800
1. Cheboygan (Coach Paul Koviak)
 2. Newaygo (Coaches Bob & Nancy Rottier)
 3. Arenac (Coaches Leroy Henderson and Jerry Wenkel)

- 801-1300
1. N.W. Mich. (Coaches Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gregory)
 2. Ottawa (Coach Eleanor Busman)
 3. Isabella (Coach Wilford Stilhaver)

- 1301-Over
1. Sanilac (Coach Barbara Woods)
 2. Clinton (Coach Dave Pohl)
 3. Huron (Coach Keith Sturm)

Regional Standings

As of Jan. 25



Saginaw Valley Colts (Coach Rudy Reinbold)	98.31%
Bay	100.30
Arenac	100.00
Gratiot	99.10
Saginaw	97.31
Gladwin	96.56
Midland	95.07

Northwest Oilers (Coach Jesse Taggart)	97.42%
2 Charlevoix	100.91
NW Michigan	100.75
Antrim	98.44
Kalkaska	96.75
Wexford	94.31
Benzie	94.30
Missaukee	94.08
Manistee	92.97

West Central Cowboys (Coach Bernie Bishop)	97.31%
3 Newaygo	101.278
Isabella	100.00
Osceloa	97.59
Oceana	96.14
Clare	95.60
Mecosta	95.15
Mason	91.43

Thumb Dolphins (Coach Ken Wimmer)	97.26%
4 Sanilac	100.65
Huron	100.05
Tuscola	98.32
Macomb	95.49
Lapeer	92.99
St. Clair	92.28

West Vikings (Coach Don Atkinson)	95.50%
5 Ottawa	100.31
Allegan	96.08
Montcalm	95.76
Ionia	95.01
Barry	94.08
Kent	93.19
Muskegon	90.72

UP Packers (Coach Hugo Kivi)	95.31%
6 Mac-Luce	103.08
Menominee	100.00
Iron Range	97.89
Chippewa	95.24
Copper Country	90.48
Hiawathaland	90.33

Southeast Chiefs (Coach Don Ruhlig)	95.1%
7 Hillsdale	96.86
Lenawee	96.19
Washtenaw	95.75
Wayne	95.49
Monroe	94.41
Jackson	90.86

Northeast Bears (Coach Bob Lee)	95.04%
8 Iosco	101.09
Cheboygan	100.00
Alpena	95.21
Alcona	94.38
Emmet	93.75
Ogemaw	93.09
Presque Isle	92.07
Otsego	90.98

Southwest Jets (Coach Gene Greenawalt)	92.76%
9 Branch	100.00
Calhoun	93.86
Berrien	92.24
Cass	91.47
Kalamazoo	91.00
VanBuren	90.20
St. Joseph	89.67

Central Patriots (Coach Winston Ingalls)	92.72%
10 Clinton	100.41
Livingston	95.48
Shiawassee	94.75
Eaton	93.47
Ingham	91.45
Oakland	90.03
Genesee	84.48

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU Balance Sheet August 31, 1973 with comparative figures for 1972

Assets	1973	1972
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 20,240	67,382
Certificates of deposit	252,000	—
Accounts receivable:		
Affiliates	55,199	41,868
Other (less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$500 at August 31, 1973 and 1972)	10,723	11,710
Note receivable from affiliate	400,000	885,000
Supplies and prepaid expenses	18,671	28,373
Total current assets	756,833	534,333
Invested funds, at cost:		
Investments in and advances to affiliated cooperatives, less allowance or possible losses of \$96,150 in 1973 and 1972 (notes 1 and 6)	201,816	190,631
Land contract receivable	—	96,433
U.S. Treasury notes (market value, \$97,200)	100,000	100,000
Certificate of deposit	—	50,000
Total invested funds	301,816	437,064
Michigan Farm Bureau Young People's Committee Educational Trust Fund (note 2) — see offsetting liability	14,887	14,864
Equipment, at cost (note 1):		
Office equipment	116,499	108,910
Audio visual equipment	34,047	28,913
Other	11,669	11,669
	162,215	149,492
Less accumulated depreciation	110,105	103,876
Net equipment	52,110	45,616
	\$1,125,646	1,031,877
Liabilities and Reserve for Contingencies and Operating Capital		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable:		
Trade	\$ 13,179	6,255
Affiliates	722	12,935
Special funds (note 2)	10,569	20,778
Accrued expenses	114,427	106,626
Unearned Michigan Farm News subscriptions	10,114	10,212
Total current liabilities	149,011	156,806
Michigan Farm Bureau Young People's Committee Educational Trust Fund (note 2)	14,887	14,864
Unearned life memberships	5,760	6,120
Reserve for contingencies and operating capital	955,988	854,087
Commitments (note 3)		
	\$1,125,646	1,031,877

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU Statement of Revenue and Expense and Reserve for Contingencies and Operating Capital Year ended August 31, 1973 with comparative figures for 1972

	1973	1972
Revenue:		
Membership dues	\$ 860,259	843,655
Building operation (note 1)	295,565	295,565
Office services (note 1)	179,272	174,306
Michigan Farm News (note 1)	49,891	66,895
Services rendered to affiliates	53,995	56,004
Interest and dividends	63,579	58,767
Miscellaneous	10,269	8,348
Total revenue	976,065	945,381
Expense:		
Division expense:		
General Administrative	91,508	83,520
Public Affairs	102,373	105,834
Market Development	100,807	104,197
Field Operations	294,223	266,716
Program Development	102,838	101,022
Information	108,142	100,178
	799,891	761,467
Administrative services rendered by Farm Bureau Services, Inc.	38,660	35,731
Board of Directors	35,613	35,960
Total expense	874,164	833,158
Net revenue (note 5)	101,901	112,223
Reserve for contingencies and operating capital:		
Balance at beginning of year	854,087	741,864
Balance at end of year	\$ 955,988	854,087

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU Statement of Changes in Financial Position Year ended August 31, 1973 with comparative figures for 1972

	1973	1972
Funds provided:		
Net revenue	\$ 101,901	112,223
Add items not involving working capital:		
Depreciation (note 1)	10,717	9,913
Abandonment of equipment and leasehold improvements—net book value	—	998
Working capital provided by operations	112,618	123,134
Reclassification of long-term certificate of deposit to short-term	50,000	—
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets, excluding gain included in net revenue (1973, \$0.00; 1972, \$522)	848	48
Proceeds from sale of investments	50	—
Proceeds from payments on land contract receivable	96,433	2,951
	\$ 259,949	126,133
Funds used:		
Purchase of fixed assets	18,059	13,322
Additions to invested funds	11,235	25,000
Decrease in unearned life memberships	360	240
Increase in working capital	230,295	87,571
	\$ 259,949	126,133
Changes in working capital:		
Increase (decrease) in current assets:		
Cash	(47,142)	58,073
Certificates of deposit	252,000	—
Accounts receivable—affiliates	13,331	(25,704)
Accounts receivable—other	(987)	4,398
Note receivable from affiliate	15,000	50,000
Supplies and prepaid expenses	(9,702)	8,695
	222,500	95,462
Increase (decrease) in current liabilities:		
Accounts payable—trade	6,924	(7,409)
Accounts payable—affiliates	(12,213)	11,319
Special funds	(10,209)	14,795
Accrued expenses	7,801	(11,365)
Unearned Michigan Farm News subscriptions	(98)	551
	(7,795)	7,891
	\$ 230,295	87,571

for F B Women

Congressional Tour Set

One of the Farm Bureau Women's most successful activities in past years has been the Washington Legislative Seminar, which gives members an opportunity to visit personally with their Congressmen about issues of concern.

In the hope that this year's seminar, set for March 11-14, will be even more effective, the women have put special emphasis on the selection of highly-qualified "Legislative Leaders." County Farm Bureau boards were in the process of selecting their Legislative Leaders throughout January.

The "American Heritage Tour" will be held in conjunction with the seminar enabling husbands and wives of Legislative Leaders to participate in this activity. While Legislative Leaders are involved in their responsibilities, Heritage tour participants may enjoy the many historical sites in the nation's capital.

Included on the Legislative Leader's schedule are breakfast with Republican Congressmen and a noon lunch with Democratic Congressmen, in addition to visits with individual Congressmen from particular districts. They will join the American Heritage group for a day of guided sight-seeing and also a visit to the US Department of Agriculture.

The groups will travel together by plane, leaving Michigan Monday morning, March 11, and returning Thursday, March 14.

To encourage participation in this activity, the Michigan Farm Bureau and the state Women's Committee offers \$25.00 financial assistance to each county for whom a Legislative Leader is selected, plus \$5.00 if the county has reached membership goal by Feb. 1.

Working in the Consumer Age

Tagged as a special interest group by some consumer advocates, the Farm Bureau Women were viewed with some skepticism before they participated in the Governor's Conference on Consumer Affairs. What skepticism might have existed was soon erased, however, by the constructive input of knowledgeable farm women and by the understanding they created.

It was mainly Speakers' Bureau team members who attended the conference in October and they were well aware that they represented the largest consumer group in the state.

As farmers, they buy great quantities of steel, rubber, and many other products for their farm business, and are concerned about the quality of these products. They definitely were consumers and believed their participation in this conference was important.

Janet Miesle of Livingston Co. gave her reaction to the conference: "As the day progressed, I felt that, although we were surrounded by many people both unsympathetic and unaware of agricultural problems, those of us from Farm Bureau made a favorable impression and educated some people to the very real concerns of our industry."

Mrs. Miesle and Janet Frahm of Saginaw Co. submitted a resolution on land use in their session.

The resolution stated: "Whereas we are concerned with the future of agriculture and continuing to provide the high quality food the people in the United States are so accustomed to, we recommend that land use legislation be passed by the legislature. Further, we recommend that productive agricultural land be taxed for its agricultural use."

After much discussion and questioning from other consumer groups, retail associations and welfare organizations, the resolution passed and was sent to the Governor.

Participation in the conference also brought understanding to Farm Bureau Women of consumer problems. Mrs. Frahm suggested that Farm Bureau Women should become more involved in helping solve problems for consumers, especially the poor and elderly.

"For example, inner city stores frequently offer poor quality produce and meats," said Mrs. Frahm. "The State Department of Agriculture can inspect, but lacks the authority to regulate. Another example is transportation. Inner city stores complain of loss of grocery carts. But can you imagine walking several blocks home with a week's supply of groceries and two or three pre-school children, or if you were a senior citizen?"

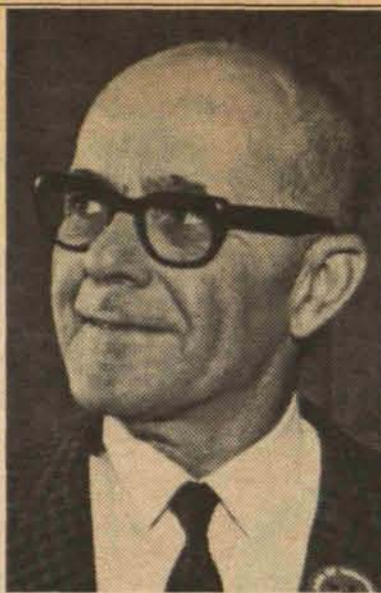
Bonnie Ebenhoeh of Saginaw Co. participated in an education workshop at the conference and helped draft a resolution that consumer education classes be initiated in schools.

She was surprised at the sympathy most educators showed to farmers in the area of "unfair taxing" and their understanding of the importance of open spaces.

Her opinion of the conference: "Whenever you share ideas and opinions, it places a value on the session. I feel I was able to contribute as a farmer who is both consumer and producer."

With Farm Bureau delegates at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting urging the women to continue their efforts in the consumer movement, this conference is sure to be only the beginning of their activity in this area.

When the Farm Bureau Women's state committee meets on Feb. 5 and 6, a discussion of how they will implement this policy will be on the agenda.



James F. Thar

Ex-FB Director, Inventor Dead

James F. Thar, well-known Van Buren County fruit grower whose invention of the asparagus harvesting sled won him the Michigan Agricultural Development of the Year Award in 1970, died Jan. 8 at the age of 62.

Thar, who operated a large fruit and vegetable farm near Decatur, served as an MFB director-at-large in 1968 and a Van Buren County board member in 1963.

Following his graduation from Michigan State University, he served as Extension Service Agricultural Agent in Oceana County, and later as the Van Buren County 4-H Agent. He was a member of the Federal Land Bank board, and was one of the leaders in establishing the Van Buren Youth Camp.

The Thar sled, for which the farm leader was honored, is beginning to revolutionize asparagus harvesting in Michigan.

Mr Thar is survived by his wife, Louise, and five children.

Volume Incentive Dropped by FBS

Farm Bureau Services' Board of Directors has voted to discontinue the Farmer Volume Incentive Program. This program was started in 1969 to offer an incentive for the farmer to purchase more of his supplies and market more of his grain and beans through the local Farm Bureau Services branch stores.

With the critical farm supply situation today and shortages of many products, Farm Bureau Services is unable to meet all the demands for these farm input items. The volume incentive will be paid to all qualified patrons for 1973.

Common stockholder members will receive a patronage refund for the 1972-73 company fiscal year, and Farm Bureau Services will continue to pay patronage refunds in the future, based on company earnings. The patronage refund method is the true cooperative way for distribution of earnings.

Patronage refunds are paid to common stockholders and are based on the amount of supplies purchased, as well as the amount of grain and beans marketed through Farm Bureau Services.

The more business you do with your co-op, the greater will be your patronage refund.

Young Farmers

Montague Couple Pleasantly Surprised

"Unbelievable!" was David Woller's reaction when he was recognized at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in December with the Young Farmer Award, for "high achievement in the profession of farming."

"I know he's a good farmer, but I can't believe this is happening to us," said his wife, Blanche, a former city girl who had "a lot to learn" when she married the young dairy farmer.

If the Wollers were a bit overwhelmed at finding themselves center-stage at the MFB annual, it was nothing compared to the surprise of being in the spotlight at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

There, Woller was announced as a runner-up in the national Young Farmer Award contest. The trip to Atlantic City in January was the Oceana County farm couple's award for winning the state title and their runner-up selection was an unexpected honor for them.

The Wollers, both 30 years-old, farm 520 acres near Montague, specializing in dairy, hogs and cash crops. They are the parents of four young children - 2 boys, and 2 girls, ages 6½, 5, 3, and 1½. Blanche, who says she wouldn't

think of moving back to the city, believes the farm is a good place to raise children "because they learn responsibility."

Both Blanche and David are active in the Southern Dairyman Community Farm Bureau Group. She has served as secretary-treasurer, and David has been chairman of the group since 1972.

He has also been involved with the Oceana Dairy Committee, the Lakeshore Milk Haulers, the ASC Committee. Church activities also play an important part of their life, and both have served as Sunday School teachers.

Woller believes the major challenges facing agriculture today are environmental concerns, shortages of input such as fuel and fertilizer to produce food, labor, and land use.

The Michigan Young Farmer Award winner believes that agricultural land should stay agricultural land and advocates a "common sense" approach to land use planning.

"When city people say, 'You've got a nice clean 500 acres out there; we want a part of it,' we need to convince them we need that land to produce their food," Woller said.



David and Blanche Woller, with award.

★ ★ ★ ★

Meet The Family

A new activity, "Meet the Farm Bureau Family," has been launched by the state Young Farmer Committee in cooperation with the affiliate companies. Purpose of the new program is to offer an opportunity for county Young Farmer Committees and new Farm Bureau members to tour Farm Bureau Center in Lansing and become acquainted with the total organization.

Three dates have been scheduled - March 5, March 20 and March 27 - for the information project. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m. In addition to a tour of the Lansing headquarters, participants will meet key staff people from all Farm Bureau companies.

They will receive not only background information on the various operations, but also the latest information on such pertinent topics as the fuel crisis, fertilizer shortage, no fault insurance, and workmen's compensation.

(You get a free lunch, too.)

Those who wish to "Meet the Farm Bureau Family" should contact their county Farm Bureau Young Farmer chairman for reservations.

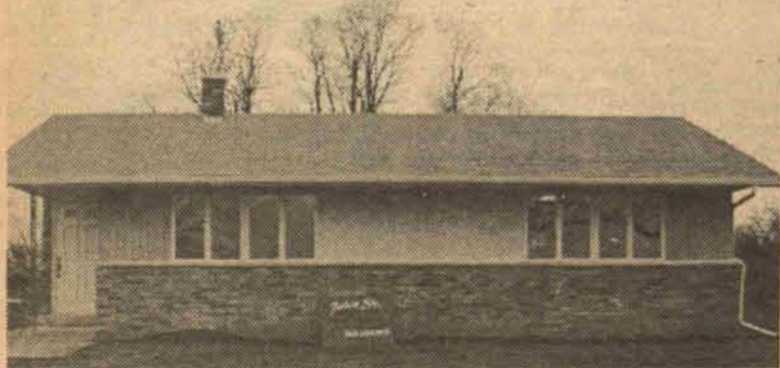
Young Farmers to Gather

The Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Leaders' Conference has been set for February 19-20-21, at the Sheraton-Flint Motor Inn in Flint. Considered one of the major events of the Young Farmer calendar, the conference is designed to inform, equip and motivate young farmers for participation in Farm Bureau.

"Past conferences have proven to be the starting point for active involvement in Farm Bureau for many young farmers," said David L. Cook, manager of Young Farmer activities. "The enthusiasm and experience gained there has paid tremendous benefits to participating counties."

County Farm Bureaus are urged to send two young farmer couples, preferably members of their Young Farmer Committees. Cost of the conference is \$50.00 per person and reservations are due on Feb. 8.

The conference will feature leadership classes in the areas of communication, Farm Bureau history and philosophy, Young Farmers in action, and legislation.



Calhoun Office Open

Calhoun County Farm Bureau had an open house for their new home (above) on Jan. 13. Congratulations Calhoun, this brings the total number of county offices in the state to 36.

For Zoning Stance in Ionia Co.

Three FB Members on Recall Ballot

Land use isn't an empty phrase in Ionia County. It's an issue that people are taking sides on and three Farm Bureau members may have to give up their County Commission seats because of their stand for stronger zoning.

Edwin Nash, Burton Stencil and Maurice Gierman are bracing themselves for a recall vote on Feb. 18 when the county will be voting to fill the vacant seat of Gerald Ford's old Congressional seat. Their crime was voting to retain an interim zoning ordinance on the books for another year.

"I think we're in trouble," said Nash, looking toward the vote, "I'm afraid people in my area think it's all over with."

Nash, 66, a veteran of several years of service to the county and Farm Bureau, nursed the controversial ordinance from the embryo stage and has therefore become the primary target of recall bids. "It's a hot issue," he said, "with lot's of bitterness involved."

While serving as chairman of the planning commission of this county that sits squarely between Grand Rapids and Lansing, Nash helped formulate the Ionia County Land Use Plan.

Towns like Portland, Lyons, Saranac and Ionia that grew along the Grand River are now becoming the bedroom communities to the metropolises.

The last zoning ordinance in Ionia County was defeated by public vote in 1962, but population pressures had increased dramatically since that time, rising 10.2 percent between 1960 and 1970.

An eight-man commission drafted a new zoning ordinance in 1971 which was reviewed by a nine-man commission in 1972. In light of a survey that had taken

place indicating public support, an interim ordinance was adopted that year. It was to be reviewed each year for approval, be subject to change and last a maximum of three years before it was put to a public vote.

The issue became a steamer last summer when a disgruntled Ionia real estate broker presented 3,800 signatures to a petition insisting that the ordinance be designated "permanent" and thereby force it to a public vote of acceptance.

In a 5-2 vote the commission voted to retain temporary status apparently feeling the ordinance was not ready for a public test of approval.

"There were changes to be made in the ordinance," Burton Stencil said, "and we've already made some major changes since August."

But when petitioners for the permanent ordinance were turned back by the commission vote, they went back on the canvassing trail in order to get a recall on the ballot.

Commissioner Lee Slatterly of Belding expressed the sentiment of his colleagues that voted for the interim plan.

"I do have sympathy and am subject to change. But my larger amount of calls, in fact, have been for stronger zoning."

A 1972 Michigan State University study bore out that rural Ionia County residents were, in fact, behind preservation of farmland with three out of four surveyed favoring protection of farmland from development.

The Ionia Co. Farm Bureau was satisfied enough with the flexibility of the ordinance to resolve support of it for a second year when members met for general session in October.

The opposition group called Concerned People and Taxpayers of Ionia County wrote a barrage of letters to

editors of county papers and had spokesmen on hand at local meetings concerning zoning. One spokeswoman on an Ionia radio station decided to broaden the attack to include state land use planning, which is supported by Farm Bureau, by claiming all control would be centralized with five people in Lansing.

Dwight Nash, Chairman of the Ionia Co. Young Farmers felt the need to answer the assaults and drafted a formal letter of position for the Young Farmers and sent it to all county newspapers.

"As young farmers," the letter read, "we believe the interim ordinance should be continued to protect our ability to earn a living from the land as well as the future of other young farmers."

Despite such efforts, enough signatures were obtained in early January to put the three Farm Bureau member commissioners on a recall ballot.

Many informed people are supporting the commissioners in this final battle. The Township Officers of Ionia County resolved to back the commissioners to a man, but told commissioners if the voting was light it would be hard on them.

"The feeling is," Commissioner Stencil said, "that if we can get the vote out and if people know what they're voting about, no way will they recall us."

"We're starting to get an organized drive to get people out to vote," Stencil said. "People have been calling to help and we need every bit of help we can get. If we're going to beat this thing, we're going to have to have a lot of people in groups talk about it."

A pro-commissioner group called Citizens for Good Government was formed in January with two Farm Bureau members serving as the leaders. Chairman Robert Janes and Secretary Frank Stout of the group claim a broad spectrum of support.

"We are a nonpartisan group," Janes said, "We have the support of both the Republican and Democratic County Committees including a fellow who ran against one of our Republican Commissioners."

"Dwight Nash is looking after Farm Bureau," Janes said, "I hope our County Farm Bureau structure can be one of our most instrumental and effective means of informing and alerting the electorate."

"The general election will hopefully bring out voters," Edwin Nash said pondering the outcome, "This gives us some advantage. It almost seems to me that if people got out to vote that would be half the battle."



HEY WORLD. Here she is - Lorraine Pirochta of Chesaning, Mich. Lorraine (above, right) belts out a song as one of Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians who entertained at last month's AFBF convention. At left, Lorraine is in a softer mood during a romantic interlude.

Michigan Girl Wows 'em

Wouldn't it be strange to travel 600 miles to the AFBF convention in Atlantic City, go out to enjoy an evening of professional entertainment and find a girl from home on stage?

MFB Director Bill Spike thought so when Fred Waring introduced one of his pretty brunette singers - "Lorraine Pirochta of Chesaning, Michigan."

The last time Bill saw Lorraine go into song was at the Chesaning Showboat where she was awarded a prize as an amateur.

Nineteen year-old Lorraine is now part of Fred Waring's professional touring troupe, the New Pennsylvanians, who wowed AFBF Convention delegates last month. The songsters' performance seemed to step right out of a Hollywood musical spectacular.

"I knew you could do it I just didn't realize you had," Bill told Lorraine backstage afterwards.

Lorraine's climb to professional status was rapid enough to make anyone a little dizzy. Only a year and a half ago she graduated from Chesaning High School where she sang in the choir and glee club. The following fall she began to study music at Olivet College.

"I was in the college concert choir, a chamber group, pops chorale and two or three other groups," she said, obviously unable to keep track of everything she did. It was through the music department at Olivet that Lorraine found out about the opportunity to train under Fred Waring, a veteran of 57 years in the music business.

Waring was conducting a summer workshop in Pennsylvania for young people. Lorraine went and Waring, impressed with the rich tones of her voice and the slender form she cut on stage, decided to hire her for his touring group of young men and women - well, mostly young.

As Waring puts it, "The average age of 80 percent of the group is 20 and the average of the other 20 percent is 80."

By the time Lorraine and the rest of the Pennsylvanians made it to Atlantic City, they had been on the road for two and a half months or 32 performances. Another 50 appearances, lasting until April, will take them from Saskatoon to Miami stopping at such places as Thief River Falls, Minnesota and Grants Pass, Oregon.

"The best part is seeing who's there after the show," Lorraine said. "There's always somebody from Michigan."

A rare two nights rest from their grueling itinerary preceded the convention appearance which might explain the special zest of the Pennsylvanians when they performed their program entitled "America I Hear you Singing."

Performing with a special group of young Pennsylvanians, Lorraine sang some of the songs her generation will most remember - tunes from television commercials. The repertoire included such favorites as "I'd Love to Buy the World a Coke," "Double Your Pleasure," and one of the most thrilling renditions of "You Deserve a Break Today" that anyone would ever want to hear.

Lorraine certainly deserves her breaks. With each show averaging two and a half hours in length, she admits that Waring works the troupe hard. "But he's great," she's quick to add.

Lorraine says the hectic pace could chase her back to college to prepare for teaching, but for now she'll be happy to bask in the experience of traveling to towns all over the country. There aren't many towns she'll miss.

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- 8 1/2 %..... 15 Year Maturity \$5,000.00 Minimum Purchase

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Phone _____

Michigan Gets Two AFBF Honors



AFBF President William Kuhfuss presented the "Golden Eagle Award" to MFB President Elton Smith at an AFBF convention program. One Golden Eagle is presented to a member state in each of five membership categories that are judged to have made the most progress in serving their members.



MFB President Elton Smith accepts a gold star from AFBF President for Michigan for making 1973 member goal during last month's Atlantic City convention.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
OF MICHIGAN

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, February 27, 1974, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: February 1, 1974
 W.S. WILKINSON KENNETH BULL
 Secretary President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
FARM BUREAU LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF MICHIGAN

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, on Tuesday, February 26, 1974, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: February 1, 1974
 W.S. WILKINSON KENNETH BULL
 Secretary Vice President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
COMMUNITY SERVICE INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Community Service Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, On Monday, February 25, 1974, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: February 1, 1974
 W.S. WILKINSON KENNETH BULL
 Secretary President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
COMMUNITY SERVICE ACCEPTANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Community Service Acceptance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, On Monday, February 25, 1974, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To receive reports from officers and management.
2. To elect directors.
3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: February 1, 1974
 W.S. WILKINSON KENNETH BULL
 Secretary President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

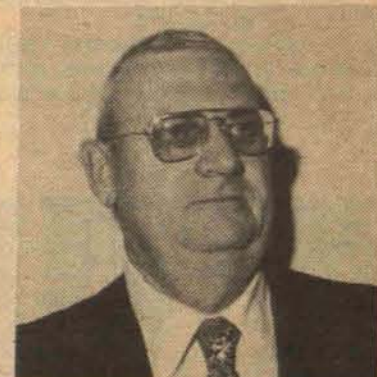
Market Information Hotline

The Michigan Elevator Exchange division of Farm Bureau Services has started a market information "hot line" which will operate 24 hours daily to provide callers with grain and hog futures prices and any changes in farmers' cash prices.

The recorded information will be updated by 4 p.m. on each day farm markets are open.

The new service line number is (517) 485-4378.

Farmers outside the Lansing area may find it advantageous to call after 5 p.m. when toll rates for direct-dial calls are substantially lower.



Louie Weiss

Louie Leaves Great Career

Members of the Saginaw County Farm Bureau have one special benefit that most of their fellow members in other counties don't enjoy.

It's a reliable credit union especially for county members that is housed in its own office building and boasts \$2 million in assets.

A lion's share of the credit for the success of the credit union has to go to Louie Weiss, who took on the job of treasurer when the credit union consisted of only \$1,400 in assets and a handful of members in 1951.

Now 23 years, and over 1,300 members later Louie has decided to retire from his duties as manager of the credit union.

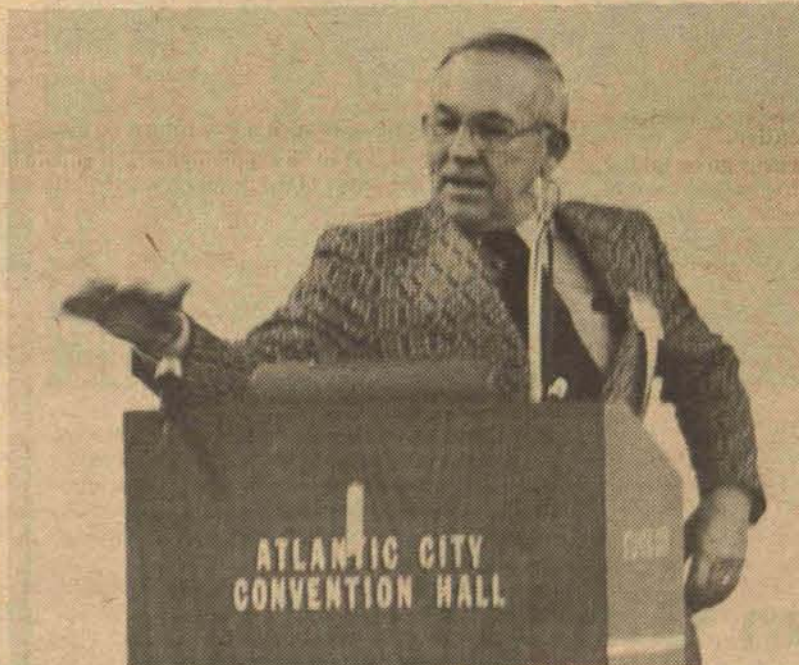
Louie came into his job from the grassroots level. He was office manager of FB Services Retail and Wholesale Department in the county when elected as treasurer of the fledgling credit union and kept both positions until he became the full-time credit union manager in 1961.

Louie gives his wife, Marion, much credit for helping him handle his treasurer duties when it was a second job and thereby launching him into a new career.

Louie, obviously, has been a believer in the credit union concept. Having organized five credit unions in the Saginaw area, he became a prominent figure among the state credit union leaders. Louie has been on the board of directors of the Michigan Credit Union League since 1960 and was elected to the Executive Committee in 1969.

When asked what he would be doing upon retirement, he said he'd be spending his time at his cottage on a Clare County lake and fish.

And, no doubt, he'll be reflecting on an accomplishment-filled career.



Take That!

No, Kenneth Bull isn't practicing Kung-Fu—just making a point at the Horticulture Conference at the AFBF convention where he was a featured speaker. The MFB Director was able to give those attending insight to the innovative Marketing and Bargaining Act now in effect in Michigan.



Taking the Plunge

Lillie Dieck accepts a plunger from MFB Field Operations Manager, Chuck Burkett, on behalf of Genesee County Farm Bureau for bringing up the rear in the membership race. The presentation was made during the Michigan reception at the AFBF convention.

Tourist Business - Boon or Bust

Thousands of businesses in rural Michigan thrive on the tourist who gives a financial shot in the arm to the countryside. Over the past few years many farmers have been encouraged to enter the tourist trade, but Professor Eugene Dice of Michigan State University warns that if a farmer doesn't go into business with his eyes wide open, he could be a loser.

Prof. Dice is a well known expert on the business side of private recreation sites, such as campgrounds, and horse related industries, and holds several seminars each year for owners and operators.

Farm News hopes the following interview will clear the fog concerning the tourist business by telling where it stands now with the energy crisis and where it will stand in the future.

Farm News: What about the fuel squeeze? How is this going to affect the recreation business?

Professor Dice: In the short run, we have to expect a lower use rate of any recreational enterprise. But what should be pointed out is that we will begin to search for ways we can constructively use our fuel supply and still have our recreation.

For instance, we can be sure that two couples go on trips in one car. Maybe we can extend the number of days at a place instead of going back and forth. We'll just bunch our days differently.

I believe there are also times of the year that we would use less energy at a campground than living at home.

So, my expectation at this point is that we will experience a reduction in use but not one that will put everybody out of business. We have had our best prices in the recreation business this year. Some private operators have said if they get three-quarters of the business they had last year, they'll get by. We will have long-run adjustments to make. It's not clear now how we will rearrange recreation facilities and schedules, but the immediate reaction is more trains and buses.

Farm News: Are public parks stiff competition for rural residents who operate recreation businesses such as private campgrounds?

Dice: We're finding some very important policy trends in this matter. The late director McMillan of the DNR expressed on behalf of state parks that the private and public sector should remain aware of each other and established a liaison between public and private rather than go separate ways.

I think this is the best way to go. What we're searching for is the best complete recreation system in Michigan and we can't achieve that if we're competitive.

It should be obvious that we cannot forever go on taking all of our recreation needs out of the public purse. Someone has to step in and fill these needs.

So, while I'm sure there are instances where the people are drawn away from private to public sites, the direction is toward compatibility.

Farm News: How can the public and private sector complement each other?

Dice: Well, for example in the campground industry we have found that people want to use both the public and private campgrounds. And people are beginning to realize that they are finding more exposure to wilderness and out-of-doors at state-owned parks and will seek those things there. But if they want a relaxing complete-facility kind of weekend, they perceive that they're more likely to get that in the private campground.

And it's important that customers perceive that they are getting a different type of product when they go to a private campground.

The direction in the future is that the public will put its dollars into rustic facilities if they feel the private sector is going to establish the more sophisticated, homelike atmosphere facilities.

Farm News: Do people want sophisticated campgrounds?

Dice: You see, not all people go camping to seek communion with what we call nature and the out-of-doors, particularly those who never grew up near the forests.

Many are satisfied with much less than the most crystal clear lake. What campers have told us, is that their primary concern as adults is to escape -- escape from social calendars, time commitments and routine things happening at home. So what they're seeking is something to do away from home and it doesn't have to be the most famous mountainside. They are perfectly happy to go short distances. We have found that over half of Michigan's private campgrounds are in the Southern Lower Peninsula far away from our most publicized natural settings. And you don't have to try and duplicate nature to draw this crowd. What you need to do is give them a good clean environment and service.

"I fear too many people have entered the recreation business because of some article that made it sound like a goldmine was waiting for them."

Farm News: This implies a large investment from private individuals. Is this a good short-term investment that farmers can move in and out of?

Dice: No, not with campgrounds. Possibly riding stables, bridle paths, and hunting and snowmobile enterprises could be moved in and out of in the short range, but since people are residing in a campground, they need assurance that it will be safe and sanitary, which makes the investment rather high.

Now, I'm sure some farmland owners will open a rustic campground as a hobby. The investment in a primitive campground is low since the state law allows such minimal facilities as outhouses, if the county approves. But a farmer shouldn't expect much return from such an operation.

Modern campgrounds on the other hand call for sophisticated plumbing and other facilities. It will normally cost \$1,000-\$1,400 per site (place to park one camping rig), in development costs. So, for a 100-site campground, you're talking about \$100,000-\$140,000 initial investment.

Farm News: Then are campgrounds a good source of supplementary income for farmers?

Dice: I prefer to think of privately owned recreation as a business in itself rather than a supplement. Part of my reason is that there is such a low return on investment in this industry. If it is to be supplementary it should only be used to give members of the family a worthwhile activity.

From a strictly economic standpoint, someone in a good commodity price situation should probably invest more in an expansion of those commodities rather than try a new enterprise.

Farm News: Which farmers might be well advised to go into these endeavors?

Dice: Maybe I can best answer by saying who shouldn't. Those who expect a profit and are already in a highly successful farming operation ought not to split off into another sideline.

Farmers ask me, "Since I've got a nice sloping hillside, should I invest money in a skiing and tobogganing hill?" My advice is, "If you're doing a good job with your dairy cows, add a few more cows rather than a few thousand people." Unless you've got a tremendous opportunity with financial backing, why not increase the production of your present business?

I think the best situation for farmers to get into supplemental recreation business, is where they have a satisfying farm operation but where they have a surplus of farm labor -- children who would be interested in such work. We find that youngsters in rural families who are old enough to earn income often have no employment opportunities.

Combine this situation with marginal farmland that is producing no income and you have a very good basis for consideration of supplemental recreation income.

But, someone in that family must be willing and able to put in management time. I think the most important single element in any operation is the manager. If I'm located on a relatively poor site it is up to me as manager to overcome that weakness.

Obviously, success is due to a combination of location and management, but we undersell the fact that it's the manager's job to keep customers and money flowing in.

Farm News: What IS the best location?

Dice: A good location isn't a particular geographical site, but is determined by the nearness to a body of population which wants to do whatever it is you're offering in your recreation enterprise.

If you don't have people within a hundred miles then you're going to have to do something above and beyond the fellow who has population at his doorstep.

We find that those with a nearness of population, within one or two hours drive, have good income opportunities. Of course, if you have a small enterprise you don't need the city of Detroit nearby.

Farm News: What are some of the mistakes when setting up a private recreation business?

Dice: The biggest one is short selling or not understanding the market -- not knowing how much need there might be for the enterprise or how much money can be made, where to get customers and how to get them to your place rather than a competitor's.



Eugene Dice — Helping on the business side.

I think more people ought to get a pencil and talk to people who know something about these enterprises and set up an expectation budget. I fear too many have entered the recreation business on the basis of some article or government report that made it sound like there was a goldmine just waiting for them.

Unfortunately, most of those articles don't deal with actual dollar costs and potential returns. If you go into business just on the basis of these articles, you're going to find you're in trouble with the health department or zoning board or others. The bases you have to touch are seemingly endless.

Unless one has decided that they are never going into the recreation business for money they need to make decisive moves toward going into business with a considerable thrust rather than go into it slowly.

If there is a substantial market for a facility and they are planning to get a substantial part of their income from it that is what they need to do.

Farm News: Are there those that have lost out in these operations?

Dice: Yes, but we shouldn't expect any greater drop-out percentage than in any other small business. I've seen this with blueberry plantations, Christmas tree plantations and now with campgrounds. There is always a great amount of enthusiasm at the outset and then people take a deeper look and some do drop out.

It is my strong bias that there is not enough economic data to make a good decision about going into the recreation business.

Farm News: Well, what IS known?

Dice: Well, we say that the percent return on investment is relatively low in the recreation field. We have found that campsite rental alone, with 50 percent occupancy, will just about pay for the cost of operation. But we have also found that if you offer only one thing to do, particularly just camping, that your returns are always less than if you combine and offer more than one thing for the customer to do once at the site.

You should sub-enterprise. Market a minimal amount of groceries, offer paddleboat rental, coin laundry service, or arrange something with a stables down the road. All these things add up.

People who come out to campsites and other recreation facilities have what can be called "purchase needs." If they get back home with two days left and their money not spent then they aren't satisfied. If they don't fulfill their purchase needs at your place, they'll go somewhere else next time.

Farm News: What are some ideas for the future of recreation businesses?

Dice: What I foresee with a three day weekend and year around school is that families will be able to spend more days camping or recreating together. It will be just as easy to vacation in the winter as summer. I doubt if it will make too much difference in total use but it will spread usage over the entire calendar.

I suspect that fathers will have an amount of discontent with inactivity in the third day of camping on threeday weekends. An idea would be to build into a campground a tinker shop where they could polish hubcaps, wax the car or do something else with their hands that would have some appeal.

To appeal to the mother, I speculate that someone in fruit production could encourage people to come to a campground knowing that they will be able to pick fruit quick-freeze it or at least begin to process it on the premises.

These are the types of things that could be done by people willing to take the chances of trying something new.

"Not all people go camping to seek the out of doors"

Criminal Justice - How to Reform

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES

Manager Member Relations

Biological evolution takes millions of years. Cultural or social evolution takes place in hundreds of years, and sometimes even in decades.

Biologically, much the same kind of people are being born as were born 10,000 years ago, when men hunted and fished for a livelihood. Temperamentally and bodily, a number of the little boys born today still need the stimulus and satisfactions of a primitive way of life.

Until the rise of the industrial age, a century or so ago, such boys could grow into manhood confidently expecting that their daring and dexterity would be rewarded. Society needed them to break trails, to hunt buffalo, to tame the wilderness and ply the rough waters in crude rafts. There were heroes, or at least respected members of society.

With the startling transformation of our society in the last century, and with the rate of change itself increasing with every decade, need for this kind of man has shrunk to a minimum. The trails are broken and the buffalo nearly exterminated. The wilderness is now a shopping center, and the rough waters a challenge to water-skiers.

Industrial, urbanized and rural societies want tame, tractable men, who will sit at a desk or put in a full day's work and then trudge dutifully home to the television set. This suits many men of such temperaments, but nature is still producing those individuals who would have been hunters or river pilots or foresters in an earlier age. Only now they must be repressed and molded into a form that meets the needs of a technological age.

Of course, delinquency is a product of many causes, such as poverty at one extreme, and over-organization at the other; but since delinquent leaders so often tend to be stronger, smarter and more agile than others, it appears that they are the boys who would have found constructive outlets for their abundant energies in past ages, when the world was open, physical and agrarian. Many of these boys are "delinquent" only by the artificial standards of today's society, which no longer has any place for the kind of men who made it all possible in the beginning.

Society's problem with those who will not obey the law looms large in our national life today. Perhaps the most alarming thing is the large amount of crime committed by teenagers, which suggests that parents, school, churches and communities have somewhere failed.

We often hear the claim that the breakdown of law and order is due to one or another decision of some court—most often the Supreme Court. It would be good if things were that simple. If the overruling of one or two opinions would solve the problems of crime, the Supreme Court would likely be willing to reconsider.

It is no aid to sensible discussion to attribute the crime problem to any one decision or any one court. Unfortunately, the problems and their solutions are far too complex to be resolved so easily.

Our whole history as a nation reflects a fear of the power of government and a great concern for individual liberty, and these feelings led us to place many protections around persons accused of crime. This has resulted in

the development of a system of criminal justice in which it is often very difficult to convict even those who are plainly guilty.

In the last four decades, in addition to court decisions, there have been many legislative enactments in both Congress and state legislatures which have enlarged the protection of a person who is accused of a crime. Reportedly, no other nation goes to such lengths or takes such pains to provide safeguards once an accused person is called before the bar of justice and until his case is completed.

Too Much of a Good Thing

But governments exist chiefly to foster the rights and interests of its citizens—to protect their homes and property, their person and their lives. If a government fails in this basic duty, it is not redeemed by providing even the most perfect system for the protection of the rights of defendants in the criminal courts.

It is a truism of political philosophy routed in history that nations and societies often perish from an excess of their own basic principle. This is often expressed by the saying, "Too much of a good thing is not good."

A nation or a community which has no rules and no laws is not a society but an anarchy in which no rights, either individual or collective, can survive. A people who go to the other extreme and place unlimited power in government find themselves in a police state, where no rights can survive.

The system of criminal justice in the United States, like its entire political structure, was based on the idea of striking a fair balance between the needs of society and the rights of the individual.

In short, an attempt was made to establish order while protecting liberty. It is from this that the description of the American system as one of ordered liberty was derived. To maintain this ordered liberty, it is necessary to maintain a reasonable balance between the collective need and the individual right, and this requires periodic examination of the balancing powers.

The dominant characteristics of this nation's system of criminal justice, according to some, are:

1. It is a system in which there are many checks and reviews of the acts and decisions of any one person or tribunal.
2. It is a system which reduces to a minimum the risk that an innocent person will be convicted.
3. It is a system which provides the utmost respect for the dignity of the human personality without regard to the gravity of the crime charged.

There are also many negative aspects of the present system of criminal justice. Some of these are:

1. Criminal trials are delayed longer after arrest than in most other systems.
2. Criminal trials extend over a greater number of days or weeks than in most other systems.
3. Accused persons are afforded more appeals and retrials than under most other systems.
4. The accused is afforded more procedural protections, such as the exclusion and suppression of evidence and the dismissal of cases for irregularities in the arrests or searches, than under other systems.

It sometimes happens that a development in the law which is highly desirable, standing alone, interacts with an equally desirable improvement and produces a result which is largely or even totally lacking in social usefulness. For example:

The bail reforms of a few years ago helped to give meaning to the constitutional provisions on bail; similarly, the decisions and statutes assuring a lawyer to every person charged with serious crime were long overdue.

Two Goods Make a Bad

Now look at the interaction; every person charged has a lawyer supplied to him and at the same time he has enlarged rights to be released without posting a conventional bail bond. As a result of this, in a great many cases, no matter how strong the evidence against him, or how desirable the long-range value of a guilty plea and the benefits of reduced charges and more moderate sentencing, the two good things—bail reform and free defense—interact to discourage a guilty plea. The jailhouse grapevine tells the accused that the thing to do is enter a not-guilty plea, demand release without bond, demand a new lawyer and then use every device of pretrial motions to delay the trial day.

This means up to months of freedom during which witnesses might die, or move, or forget details while the case drags on and consumes untold time of judges, lawyers and court staff to process motions and continuances. This is one of the large factors in the congestion of the criminal dockets.

Here, to repeat, two basically good things combine to produce a result never intended and wholly lacking in social utility.

If there is a general impression that the administration of justice is not working, one important result is that the deterrent effect of the law and punishment is impaired or lost. If both the law-abiding and lawless think the law is ineffective, two serious impacts can occur. The decent people experience a suppressed rage, frustration and bitterness, and the others feel that they can get by with anything.

Many people tend to think of the administration of justice in terms of the criminal trial alone, because this is the part of the process which occurs in the local community. But more than that, because it is charged with the human element: it is exciting, colorful and dramatic. But this is not the whole administration of justice. The total process is a deadly serious business that begins with an arrest, proceeds through a trial, and is followed by a judgement and a sentence to a term of confinement in a prison or other institution.

Even after being committed to a prison, the accused is furnished almost unlimited procedures to attack his conviction or seek

reduction of his sentence, and as a result American courts are flooded with petitions from prisoners, and the warfare continues. Under the system, the "jailhouse lawyer" has become an institution. In short, while the correction system struggles to help the man reconcile his conflict with society, the statutes and judicial decisions encourage him to continue the warfare.

Outrage at Work

If the prisoner is like most human beings, his battle with authority and the courts develops a complex of hostilities long before he goes to prison. These hostilities are directed toward the police who caught him, the witnesses who accused him, the district attorney who prosecuted him, the jurors who judged him, and the judge who sentenced him—and finally, even the free public defender who failed to win his case.

To encourage the continuance of this warfare with society after a defendant reaches the prison hardly seems sound part of rehabilitation, nor does it appear likely to contribute to restoring him to good citizenship.

One of the most obvious facts about jails is that, according to the people who have studied them, most of the persons who are there do not belong there. Students of the penal system maintain that the modern prison is an obsolete vestige of a bygone era in penology. What keeps it so expensive, useless, and crippling is, they say, the combined ignorance, fear and apathy of the public.

One may hope that the views of these observers—competent as they may be—are exaggerated. No one person knows all the answers, but some simple truths are self-evident:

An ordered society governed by rule of law must be preserved. Without law and due process, the liberties of all are lost in the excess of anarchy which follow.

With these truths in mind, it would appear that criminal laws, at all levels of government, should be reviewed and strengthened; and that penalties should be adequate to deter criminal conduct, and justice should be swift and certain. Laws should be enforced uniformly and promptly.

As has been pointed out, our system of trials to determine guilt is the most complicated, the most refined, and perhaps the most expensive in the world. We now furnish a lawyer for any person who is without means and it is the lawyer's duty to exercise all of his skill to make use of the large numbers of protective devices available to every defendant. But where do we stand in the second stage of the administration of criminal justice—the treatment and disposition of those who are found guilty? Perhaps some light can be gained by a comparison of

our system with the countries of Northern Europe.

Compassion at Work

When we look at the two stages of the administration of criminal justice in those countries, we find some interesting contrasts. They have not found it necessary to establish a system of procedure which makes a criminal trial so complex or so difficult or so long drawn out as in this country. They do not employ our system of jurors. Generally speaking, their criminal trials are before three professional judges.

They do not consider it necessary to use a device like our Fifth Amendment under which a person may not be required to testify against himself. They go swiftly, efficiently and directly to the question of whether the accused is guilty. By our standards, their system of finding the facts concerning guilt or innocence is almost ruthless.

In those systems, they do not have cases where the accused has countless hearings and trials and retrials and reviews. In these long-drawn-out cases, everyone loses sight of the fact of guilt, and even the most guilty convict comes to believe the press releases of his own lawyer.

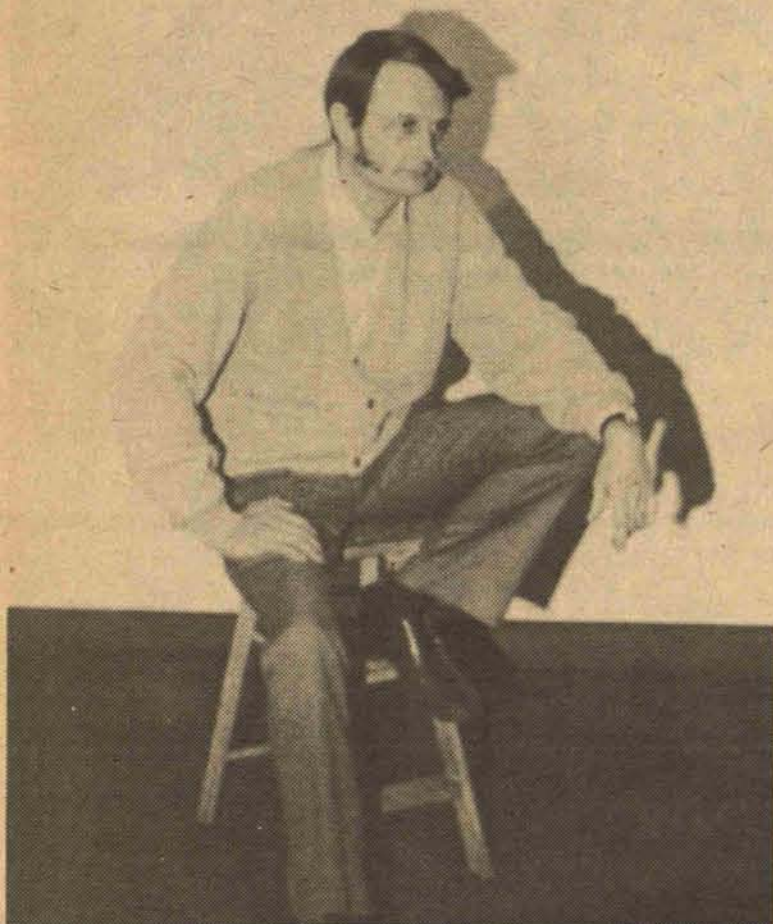
Here in our comparison comes an interesting paradox. The swift and efficient justice in Northern Europe is followed by a humane and compassionate disposition and treatment of the offender. The whole process from the moment of arrest to the beginning of sentence is free from the kind of prolonged conflict which characterized our administration of criminal justice, in which the adversary system with its clash and contest of advocates is glorified and idealized.

These Northern European countries have not completely solved all of their problems in administering criminal justice, but it does appear that perhaps they deal with them more intelligently and less emotionally. They do not find that any social purpose is served by giving an accused two or three trials and two or three appeals and drawing out the warfare with society.

Before the conclusion is reached, as the system of criminal justice is reviewed, that lawyers have built up a process that is inadequate or archaic or which is too cumbersome or too complex, or that the basic principles are being carried too far, or that the system does not meet the tests of social utility and fairness, it must be remembered that there is a remedy.

Neither the laws nor the Constitution are too sacred to change—the constitution has been changed many times—and the decisions of judges are not holy writ. These things are a means to an end, not an end in themselves. They are tools to serve the people, not motives to enslave the people.

Farming Is Sometimes A Lonely Business



There can be severe disadvantages to being in business for yourself. While city cousins obtain security in numbers through group fringe benefit plans, the self-employed farmer is left to fend for himself.

Farm Bureau is bridging the gap for many farm businessmen through their member programs.

We Offer Life

A new life insurance plan created exclusively for Farm Bureau members is being offered by Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. This plan requires no physical examination or questions concerning health during the sign up periods.

There will be automatic updating of coverage for the member family including spouses between ages 18 and 71 and children between 15 days and 22 years (if single and living at home).

Full details on this plan will be arriving at the home of members later this month.

Health Security

Farm Bureau members can enroll in Blue Cross and Blue Shield between March 1 and March 15 and take advantage of the opportunity to provide high quality health care protection for their families and themselves at the lowest possible group rates.

Blue Cross hospital care benefits provide full coverage for room, meals, special diets, general nursing care, physical therapy, laboratory services, and intensive care, plus all of the hospital care needed to speed your recovery - regardless of cost!

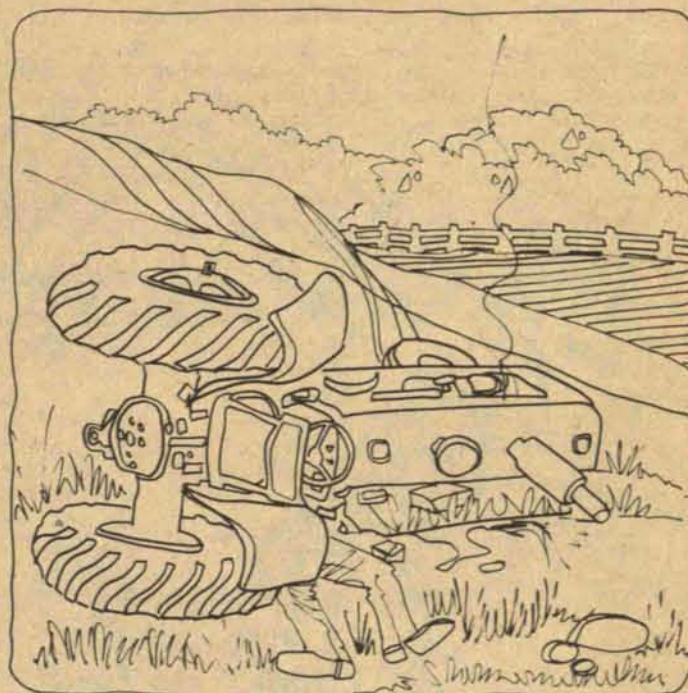
Blue Shield MVF - Michigan Variable Fee - benefits pay most doctor bills in full for covered services. Such important physician services are surgery and in-hospital medical care, obstetrical care, diagnostic x-rays, consultation, anesthesia, radiation therapy, and emergency are all covered by Blue Shield.

No Physical

Added advantages of Blue Cross and Blue Shield include no physical examination required for enrollment, no enrollment fees or extra charges to join, and no cancellations due to age or health conditions.

What's more, Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage is convenient. No deposit is required for contract benefits in participating hospitals. Michigan participating physicians accept Blue Shield as paid-in-full coverage for eligible benefits. And there are no complicated claims forms for you to handle - participating hospitals and doctors are paid directly.

Workmen's Compensation The Rules Have Changed



"Temporary" employees qualify for full benefits

William Davis, age 24, was temporarily employed as a laborer on an Eaton County vegetable farm during the Fall, 1972. He was involved in a fatal accident 10 weeks after starting work.

Mr. Davis and another employee (a full time hired hand) were riding across a field in the bucket of a front end loader. The loader, driven by a third (temporary) employee, struck a large rock. William Davis was thrown from the loader, run over and crushed.

At the time of loss, the vegetable farm's owner was not required to pay a Workmen's Compensation claim. Davis did not qualify under the Act because he had not worked for 13 weeks.

If the accident happened today, the owner would be liable for a claim of \$50,000 or \$60,000 in compensation to Davis' family. The full time hired hand would qualify the employer under the law, making all workers eligible to receive benefits.

And remember: today, even family members working on the farm can bring you under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The above is an actual case taken from the files of Farm Bureau Insurance Group. Names, dates and locations have been changed to protect the privacy of those involved. The Workmen's Compensation rules for agriculture have been changed drastically by the Supreme Court. All members are urged to review the law carefully. The potential liability to farmers is staggering.

Soybean Day Feb. 27

The Michigan Soybean Producers (a division of the Michigan Farm Bureau) will hold their second annual Soybean Day February 27th. Special guest speakers for this event include Dr. Bud Bigg of Ohio State University and Dr. David Johnson of the University of Missouri. Attendance is by reservation only. Write MSP c/o Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan for your reservations.

Special Interest to Dairymen

Starting Feb. 1, Farm Bureau members who are members of the independent Cooperative Milk Producers Association and the Michigan Milk Producers Association and who are enrolled in Blue Cross-Blue Shield through the Michigan Farm Bureau will be offered the opportunity to have their Blue Cross-Blue Shield billings deducted from their milk checks monthly.

Detailed instructions have been mailed to all members of the Milk Producer Associations.

Topic Summary

The Discussion Topic for December dealt with "Recreation and Leisure Time," offering members an opportunity to express their views regarding the subject. Community Group responses to questions were:

1. What additional types of recreational facilities do you feel are needed in your county? Swimming areas: 14 percent Playgrounds: 9 percent Winter Sport Areas: 7 percent Trails: 19 percent Skating Rinks: 16 percent None: 36 percent.
2. What additional types of recreational activity programs do you feel are needed in your local community? Playground activities: 8 percent Senior Citizens: 15 percent Recreation Programs: 8 percent Handicapped Recreation Programs: 10 percent Cultural Entertainment Programs: 17 percent None: 42 percent
3. Do you feel that the growth of tourism in your county has been beneficial? Yes: 58 percent No: 23 percent Don't Know: 19 percent.
4. How do you feel recreational programs should be funded? By Those Using Them: 79 percent By Taxes: 5 percent By Both: 16 percent.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

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

FARM EQUIPMENT

ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS AC and DC by Pincor. Tractor PTO. Portable and Stationary Engine Plants, Camper Units, Battery Chargers. Designed for Heavy Duty Motor startings. Also Electric Motors. Heavy Duty for Home, Farms or Industry. Discount priced. Decatur Electric Motor Service, R.1, Box 281, Decatur, Michigan 49045. (5-11-48b)

FARROWING STALLS - Complete \$34.50. Free literature. Dolly Farm Equipment Inc., Dept. 219, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (2-11-15p)

CATTLE MINERAL FEEDERS - 100 lb. Capacity. No center post \$49.50. Free literature. Dolly Farm Equipment, Inc., Dept. 219, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (2-11-21p)

PICKUP TRUCK STOCK RACKS - All steel construction \$159.50. Free literature. Dolly Farm Equipment, Inc., Dept. 219, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (2-11-19p)

FARM EQUIPMENT

CALF CREEP FEEDERS - 30 bushel capacity \$119.50. Free literature. Dolly Farm Equipment, Inc., Dept. 219, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (2-11-18p)

HARLEY ROCK PICKERS. Picks 1 to 16" diameter, dirt free. Rock Windrowers: 10 and 20 feet. Earl Reinelt, 4455 Reinelt Rd., Deckerville, Mich. Phone: 313-376-4791. (6-10-20p)

FEED AND FARM SUPPLY - West Central Michigan \$55,000, full price including \$7,000 inventory. Needs energetic owner. For information call collect or write: Norm Marquart, LaNoble Realty Business Brokers, 1516 E. Michigan, Lansing, Mich. 48912. 517-482-1637. Home phone: 517-647-6090. (2-11-36b)

LIVESTOCK

MILKING SHORTHORNS: Young Bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write for tabulated pedigrees or better yet, pay us a visit! Stanley M. Powell and Family, Ingleside Farm, Route No. 2, Box 238, Ionia, Michigan 48846. (7-11-33b)

HEREFORD BULLS - pure bred herd sires. Ready for service. Also, registered heifers and calves. Egypt Valley Hereford Farm, 6611 Knapp St., Ada, Michigan. Phone OR 6-1090. (Kent County) (11-11-25b)

MISCELLANEOUS

COLD WATER DILL PICKLES! Can in minutes! No hot brine. Delicious. Crisp. Factory secrets! Recipe \$1.00. Hamiltons, Box 233-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (2-11-21p)

MISCELLANEOUS

WANT TO KNOW-Quilters, rates and quality of work. Also, want good old quilts and coverlets. 517-489-9447. P.O. Box 150, Eagle, Michigan 48822. (2-11-22p)

(OF INTEREST TO WOMEN)

SAUSAGE MAKERS, GREAT! RECIPES. Bologna, Frankfurters, Head Cheese, Summer, Blood and Pork Sausage. \$1.00. Hamiltons Box 233-131. (2-11-21p)

PECANS: Delicious Shelled Pecan Halves. 2 lb. box \$6.95. 3 lb. box \$9.95. Sue's Pecans, Foley, Alabama 36535. (2-31-16p)

HOMEMADE CHEESE! HARD, SOFT & COTTAGE! Make it yourself! Easy. \$1.00. Hamiltons, Box 233-131, New Ulm, Minn. (2-11-20p)

FOR RENT

FOR RENT-200 acre farm suitable for livestock production - good hay, pasture, natural water supply. One mile from intersection M-68 and US-31, Alanson, Emmet County. Sidney Howard 616-548-2836 evenings. (2-21-29p)

REALTY

PARTY STORE - Owner anxious. SDD & SDM license. Small growing city in Central Michigan. Over \$175,000 gross with nice net. Only \$25,000 down to qualified buyer including inventory. For information call collect or write: Norm Marquart, LaNoble Realty Business Brokers, 1516 E. Michigan, Lansing, Mich. 48912 Phone: 517-482-1637. Home phone: 517-647-6090. (2-11-48b)



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Check the facts with Charlie Foster or your local Farm Bureau Insurance agent today. You and your retirement . . . one of the reasons we're in business.

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