

Farmland Tax Bill Near Passage

Farm Co-ops Seek Own Arabian Fuel

Farmer Cooperatives are taking fuel matters into their own hands through a newly-formed trading company specially formed to secure overseas fuel for co-ops.

Nineteen farm supply co-ops, including Michigan's Farmers Petroleum Cooperative (FPC), wasted no time sending a representative to line up supplies from such oil-rich countries as Algeria and Saudi Arabia, after forming the International Energy Company (IEC) a month ago.

The cooperative is much in the tradition of CF Industries, a company owned by 18 co-ops that was the major reason Farm Bureau Services was able to procure nearly normal supplies of fertilizer this year.

Farm cooperatives only own about 10 percent of their crude oil supplies today and must depend heavily on other companies to supply them. Farm co-ops presently supply 30 percent of the US farm market with fuel.

FPC Vice President and newly appointed IEC board member, Donald Armstrong hopes the farm background of the new trading company will be in its favor when negotiating for its own supplies.

"Basically, you deal with governments in these negotiations," Armstrong says. "And they want cooperative people to come over and give assistance in areas of technical agricultural knowledge."

This new approach to the food for crude concept has already been used in negotiations by IEC President Jack Thrasher. He reported to IEC board members that he was contacted by an international oil company about an arrangement that would include technical assistance programs.

Though no international dealings can be closed until the IEC obtains certification from the US State Department, it is presently speculated that the company could be engaged in not only securing crude oil but could even invest heavily in overseas exploration.

Even though the IEC may be able to supply member refineries with crude oil, the co-op may not hold complete control over its distribution under present allocation rules.

"This is a question that we're not able to answer," Armstrong says. "It is possible that we may have to share this product with all refiners. But we are also going to be involved in buying finished petroleum products which would not enter allocation programs."

Farm Bureau Services and FPC formally asked for a relaxation of restrictions on the oil industry earlier this year in a letter to President Nixon and hope that in the future the IEC will be able to fulfill farmers' needs in a free market.

Such a trading company was seen as necessary by Bill Brier of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives when he noted on the birth date of IEC, "Unfortunately, it has been our experience that as energy supplies constrict, independent suppliers withdraw from rural markets in favor of higher-profit urban markets."

The farmland tax relief bill which has been the talk of the farming community over the last two months, is close to final passage in the Michigan Legislature.

The bill, which would allow farmers to commit their land to farming in exchange for lower taxes, has passed the House by an overwhelming vote of 80-17. The Senate is expected to accept the 55 amendments tacked on by the House to conclude passage.

Though most amendments were merely clarifications of the bill, one eliminates the 25 percent penalty levied on landowners who wish to get out of their contract commitment to leave land undeveloped before the 10-year contract period is over.

(See more details in the Capitol Report - page 4.)



TOP PROPONENTS. Chief supporters of bill H.R. 4244 for farmland tax relief are: Top Left, Sen. Harry DeMaso; Top Right, Rep. Quincy Hoffman; Bottom Left, Rep. Dale Warner, and Rep. Roy Spencer.

Still Hope for Rail System

The Department of Transportation (DOT) railway reorganization plan is something to be concerned about but does not mean a complete condemnation of rural rail systems according to Gilbert Seely, a transportation specialist for the Michigan Elevator Exchange.

The national DOT plan to tear down rail lines for efficiency sake, proposed carving 37 percent of Michigan's system out, most of which served rural areas. The plan which left gaping expanses of farm areas without service such as Northwest Lower Peninsula and the Thumb area will probably never come to full realization Seely said.

"The C&O and Grand Trunk won't join the plan," Seely said,

"They have too much to lose by doing so."

The Chesapeake and Ohio and The Grand Trunk Railways had many miles of track cut out under the proposed plan which could be abandoned without normal abandonment procedures. But to do this, these solvent rail companies would have to surrender management power to Federal Railway Administration Trustees who have representatives from labor and other public interests. This is too big of a price to pay Seely said.

These companies would probably prefer to follow regular abandonment procedures after the DOT plan is finalized in June 1975.

Chances are the companies could be successful through this approach since the DOT measures correspond closely to the 34-car per mile per year formula. If companies can prove their tracks carry less traffic than this, they will have an excellent chance for abandonment.

But some of the lines designated in the DOT plan for abandonment may not be foresaken. "The track to be cut out between Grand Ledge and Ionia is making money," Seely said. "They're not going to abandon it."

Even much of the track eliminated from Penn-Central Railway, which definitely will participate in the plan, may not be ultimately abandoned according to Seely.

"Other solvent companies may decide to take over abandoned lines, especially if they affect the traffic on their own tracks," he said.

There has already been talk of track between St. Ignace and Gaylord, eliminated in the plan, being taken over by a solvent company.

Seely pointed out that a mistake in calculations had a stretch of profitable line between Ottawa

Lake, Mich. and Toledo, Ohio eliminated in the plan. Before Seely could inform the Interstate Commerce Commission about the mistake, he was contacted by a solvent rail company which indicated that they were ready to step in and take over the line.

There are generally three other alternatives to abandonment that are accepted by observers.

The other alternative to abandoning lines that are not taken over by rail companies is to take advantage of the Federal government subsidy plan in which Federal monies will supply 70 percent of the funds needed to operate a line for up to two years.

Regional public authorities can supply the other 30 percent of needed funds to keep the rail line going or a local rail users association can take this role. Short rail lines of up to 100 miles can even be bought by separate companies at an estimated \$25,000 per mile to complete a rail system to a particular destination. State loans would be available for this plan.

While these plans offer optimism concerning the continuance of rail service in Michigan, MFB legislative counsel, Albert Almy, made it clear, when he testified to the ICC, that the one thing Farm Bureau opposed was a complete switch to truck traffic.

Using the Port Huron area of the Thumb as an example, Almy said that a complete switch to truck traffic was unfeasible, if not impossible.

"Cost to farmers for production inputs and marketing services would rise sharply, if the proposed rail reorganization plan for this zone were implemented," Almy said. He added that elevators, storage sites and fertilizer plants could be forced to shut down due to lack of service and said that energy use in the area would rise because of more truck traffic.

Bakers Publicly Rebuffed

With the attention of three major news chains and both Detroit daily papers, MFB President Elton Smith stated that bakers were increasing the cost of bread while wheat prices declined.

"The price of bread went up three cents and the price of a bushel of wheat dropped 80 cents," Smith told reporters at a breakfast during last month's legislative seminar in Washington.

MFB Directors Dean Pridgeon and Walter Frahm told reporters that no dramatic price increases of bread would be due because of wheat cost, but that predictions of \$1 per loaf prices were scare tactics by bakers.

MFB legislative counsel reported that legislators contacted during the seminar lent understanding attention to members' views on the wheat situation.

In an interview for MFB radio, new Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, rebuffed bakers' statements.

"There is simply no validity to their comments," he said. "If we

were going to run out of wheat between now and the new crop year, the wheat market would be moving up rather than down."

Yeutter, who recently replaced Carroll Bruethaver, said he did not visualize the federal government going back into the grain shortage business because of recent calls for grain reserves.

"The question becomes how big should those reserves be, where should they be held around the world and who should own them," he said.

"Insofar as the United States is concerned, we ought to use the commercial system."

Yeutter gave no concrete answers to the international reserve question, but said foreign countries should pay the tab for reserves held in America.



MACMA Goes to Court Page 6.

PRESIDENTS,

COLUMN



Why We Were Listened to in the Nation's Capitol

An important part of our policy execution process took place in Washington, D.C. in March, when a delegation of specially-selected Farm Bureau "legislative leaders" met with their Congressmen to discuss issues of concern to us in agriculture.

When I say specially-selected, I mean just that. County Farm Bureau boards picked farmers to represent them in the nation's capital who were knowledgeable about the agricultural industry and about our organization's policies. They were operating farmers, active in Farm Bureau -- serving on county boards, national affairs, young farmer and women's committees.

When they were in Washington, they told it like it was -- because they KNEW how it was. The county boards who selected these legislative leaders can be proud of how well they handled their responsibilities, just as I was.

Watching these farm leaders in action renewed my faith in the future of our organization and of agriculture. When these farmers told how they felt about an issue, the Congressmen listened. I think the reasons they did were threefold.

First, the Farm Bureau legislative leaders so obviously knew what they were talking about; they were "experts" in a vital industry. When they told their legislators that wage and price controls discourage production and create shortages and higher prices, they listened. The legislative leaders were perceptive enough to realize that, in an election year, Congressmen are also tuned to the pressures for price controls. So they assured their elected officials that they would back their efforts to curb inflation through a balanced budget, by creating a climate of understanding "back home."

Secondly, I believe they listened because they know our policies are based on the welfare of all our nation's citizens, and not just the farming community. This well-known fact gives us immunity from the self-interest labels which can understandably make law-makers less than receptive.

For example, when our legislative leaders talked about export controls, they stressed how disastrous this would be to the entire national economy, as well as irreparable damage to farmers' markets. They told how our agricultural trade has reduced the drain on the treasury of outmoded farm programs and has been a powerful factor for peace around the world.

They explained that if we bar the doors on products going out of the country, we also bar the door to products coming in -- to the oil, gasoline and manufactured goods we have come to need and want.

Third, and probably most important, the Congressmen listened because they are well aware that these were leaders back in their home districts where their votes lie. As one American Farm Bureau staff member reminded us when we were in Washington, no matter how good a job the AFBF staff does, the real legislative strength lies with our farm leaders -- the voters. The legislators themselves told us how important letters from home are to them.

This strength will be important to agriculture when Congressmen make decisions in areas which affect our way of life, such as land use planning. It is vital that farmers have an input into this kind of legislation.

I hope our legislative leaders will follow through on their assignments by reporting back to their county boards about their experiences in the nation's capital. Their mission in Washington was just the first step toward policy execution. They must now multiply their legislative efforts by sharing the knowledge and insight they gained, with other county Farm Bureau members and their urban neighbors, and urging them to tell their Congressmen how they feel about issues.

We can have an influence on legislation which affects our lives; we have proved that in the past. We do have "legislative muscle" and we can keep it strong by continually "exercising" that muscle.

Our future depends on it.

underlines: TERRY CANUP

Democracy on Guard

I was waiting outside the 41st state district court where a Macomb County dairyman was to be brought to trial because suburbanite neighbors were calling his operation a nuisance.

One of the neighbors who had moved into the new development now surrounding the farmer turned to me and said, "Like it or not, this IS progress."

"Then what are we progressing toward?" I thought to myself.

Perhaps many farmers are progressing toward a trap designed by their own principles. Farm Bureau, like its members, favors local control of affairs whenever possible and quite rightly so.

It is obvious to anyone who has been around very long that decisions made for hypothetical, "average" situations don't apply well to real situations. Bureaucratic waste piles up and chances for communication between the top and the bottom where programs are put to work is minimal.

But unguarded local control could leave a farmer in a bad position as some Macomb County farmers have found. Ernest Pruehs, 82, has lived on the same farm all of his life. It was the farm his father started in 1873. Instead of a few fellow farmers as neighbors, however, Pruehs now has thousands of residents of subdivisions as members of his community.

When complaining neighbors brought Pruehs and his son to court for violating a city ordinance

prohibiting cattle within 300' of a dwelling, they had a right to a jury by their peers.

In the 41st district, their peers were those people dwelling in subdivisions, not farmers.

Fortunately, the sympathies of these city people are mostly with the farmer and chances are Pruehs could have gotten a favorable verdict if a pretrial agreement had not been reached. But how long can their attitude be counted upon in the era of consumerism?

Pruehs' pressures today are not so much from residents as from unsympathetic, city-oriented local government agencies.

To remedy this problem, Pruehs called on a more remote agency for help. The Michigan Department of Agriculture was brought in to protect the interests of Pruehs since it was hoped they could understand the needs of farming better than the city agencies.

The result of this action is significant -- local control tempered by state protection. We can remember when minorities asked the federal government for protection through civil rights legislation in much the same way.

We should recognize that democracy offers majority rule, but often, on the local level, protection of the minority is forgotten.

Farmers are becoming less numerous all the time and protection of their rights may have to be derived through more remote governments, though the sensitive implementation of policy should be left with local governments.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

"EVERY ISSUE ON THE ISSUES"

The Michigan FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau Information Division, at its publication office, 109 N. Lafayette St., Greenville, Michigan.

Editorial and general offices at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Post Office Box 960. Telephone, Lansing 485-8121. Extension 228. Subscription price, 50¢ per year.

Established January 13, 1923. Second Class Postage paid at Greenville, Michigan.

EDITORIAL: Editors: Terry W. Canup and Donna Wilber

OFFICERS: Michigan Farm Bureau; President, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; Vice President, Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, R-1; Administrative Director, Robert Braden, Lansing.

DIRECTORS: District 1, Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft; District 2, Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, R-1; District 3, Andrew Jackson, Howell, R-1; District 4, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; District 5, William Spike, Owosso, R-3; District 6, Jack Laurie, Cass City, R-3; District 7, Kenneth Bull, Bailey, R-1; District 8, Larry DeVuyt, Ithaca, R-4; District 9, Donald Nugent, Frankfort, R-1; District 10, Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, R-1; District 11, Franklin Schwiderson, Dafer.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE: Walter Frahm, Frankenmuth; James L. Sayre, Belleville; Gerald Elenbaum, Owendale.

WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU: Mrs. Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, R-1. FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS: Wayne Wood, Mariette.

POSTMASTER: In using form 3579, mail to: Michigan Farm News, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904

Second class postage paid at Greenville, Michigan

Farm Bureau

DONNA

By Virtue of Senility

Farm Bureau's Washington Legislative Seminar was a pretty "heavy" activity--whoops!--program and the people who participated took their responsibilities seriously. But it had its lighter moments and one of these was at the Democratic luncheon March 12.

Several of the Representatives who attended the luncheon expressed their concern about the "senility system" in Congress. That means the older you are and the longer you've been around, the more important committee and chairmanship appointments you get. You may be past your prime, physically and mentally, and need a push from behind to get up the steps to your committee meeting, but the "senility system" grants you this status. The younger, more aggressive Congressmen think Congress should "put its House in order" and change that system.

Congress isn't the only body guilty of passing out important appointments based on seniority rather than ability. County Farm Bureau boards sometimes use the "senility system" either as an honor for length of service or because it's easier to fall back on the older, dependable members than it is to surface new leadership.

Before any of you older members tune me out, let me hasten to assure you that I don't mean that "young is good; old is bad." Quite the contrary, as another birthday approaches, I'm a true believer of the "I'm not getting older; I'm getting better" concept so effectively portrayed by the beautiful lady in the television commercial. There are many older members serving on committees who perform their duties effectively because of their years of experience and because they willingly devote much time and effort to their jobs.

But when committee assignments are passed out as a form of reward rather than a challenge--then the county Farm Bureau is the loser.

We sometimes hear county leaders express the concern: how

can we get young farmers involved? They're too busy--they have babysitter problems--they don't have time to sit around in meetings.

Right--on all points. So why ask them?

Young farmers ARE too busy making a living and raising a family to sit around at meetings. But these busy young farmers know there's more to farming than plowing and planting. There are forces, economic and political, beyond the boundaries of their farms which affect their way of life and the future of their children. They have the knowledge, energy and determination to help direct those forces. And if they know that Farm Bureau provides them with the structure through which they can effectively channel their efforts--they'll make the time.

That they can and will was illustrated by the number of young farmers on this year's Washington Legislative Seminar. Their effectiveness, their enthusiasm and dedication to purpose, the positive image they project of their profession and their organization--prove that it's worth the effort to hand them a challenge.

Regardless of age, the Farm Bureau leaders who were involved in the Washington Seminar (or any other action project) will not be quite the same again. You can't sit across from a Congressman and, eyeball to eyeball, tell him about the economic havoc created by price controls, without growing taller in your own estimation. You can't face a barrage of questions from sophisticated metropolitan newsmen and explain the ridiculousness of \$1.00 a loaf bread without feeling an expansion of your self-confidence.

That's something I think we tend to overlook when we encourage the participation of young farmers--or anyone else, for that matter. There's no organization which can offer such opportunities for personal development as Farm Bureau does.

As we grow, so does our organization. That's really what it's all about. . . .

Thomas Stears Dead at 32

Thomas Stears, 32, of White Pigeon, active St. Joseph County Farm Bureau member, was killed in an auto accident March 21. Stears served on the State Young Farmer Committee from 1971 to 1973 and was replaced in that position last November by his wife, Ethel.

Owner and operator of a 350-acre Centennial farm which had been in the family since 1830, Stears was a 4-H leader and held offices in his church.

He is survived by his wife and two children, Michael, 7, and Deborah, 4.

Members Have Until May 31 to Apply

No Physical Needed for Life Insurance Plan

No physical examination, automatically updating coverages, protection for men and women serving in the armed forces are a few of the advantages offered by Farm Bureau Member Life Insurance... Membership's newest benefit.

Farm Bureau Member Life Insurance has been developed by Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan at the direction of Farm Bureau's Board of Directors. And from March 1

through May 31, all Farm Bureau Members can purchase Farm Bureau Member Life Insurance with no physical examination and no qualifying health questions.

This member only insurance plan is most valuable to members in their early and middle adult years when financial responsibilities are the heaviest, but all members between 18 and 70 pay the same \$25-per year premium.

As a member marries or as children arrive, protection is ex-

panded automatically. The amount of coverage on the named member decreases with age and the amount of coverage bought is determined by the members last birthday.

Current Farm Bureau Members can take advantage of the 90-day enrollment period beginning March 1, 1974 and ending May 30, 1974. After that time, new Farm Bureau Members also have 90 days to exercise their right to purchase Farm Bureau Member Life with no physical examination or health

questions. After these two initial 90-day sign up periods, applicants will be required to answer a health questionnaire and possibly take a physical qualification examination.

For example, a 25 year old Farm Bureau Member would have the following coverage under these different circumstances during the first coverage year.

(1.) An unmarried Member's life insurance is \$7,639. (2.) A married Member without children has \$6,639 of life insurance. The spouse has \$1,000 of protection. (3.)

A married member with children has \$4,903 of life insurance, the spouse \$1,000 and each child \$1,000. (4.) A member without spouse but with children has life insurance protection of \$5,903 with each child insured for \$1,000.

The acceptance of this Member benefit will determine the scope of future programs. And Farm Bureau Member Life Insurance stands on it's own significant merits. To enroll, simply call your County Secretary or your local Farm Bureau Insurance agent.

Farmer Hangs on to Land in Out of Court Settlement

Victor Pruehs was contemplating what he would do if the City of Sterling Hts., Michigan forced him to give up his dairy operation when he was called to a pretrial meeting outside the 41st state district court room last month.

As it turned out, no trial was to take place and charges that the Farm Bureau member was violating a city ordinance by continuing his dairy operation in Sterling Hts. were not even addressed.

The nine o'clock hour for the trial passed as Pruehs' defense attorney and the prosecutor conferred in the hallway of the city building. After two hours of confabs involving a citizens' group who pressed for the charges to be made the preliminaries were over.

It was announced in court that charges against Pruehs would be withheld under the condition that both the suburban homeowners and the Pruehs family would abide by joint recommendations for fly control from the Michigan Health Department and Michigan Department of Agriculture.

All agreed that these agencies would be better suited to give recommendations than city agents that were not involved with agriculture.

"We wanted the Department of Agriculture in there to show the Health Department that this is indeed a farm we're dealing with

and show that it's not going to be like living in the suburbs," said defense attorney Thomas Reinhardt.

At first glance, Pruehs' chances for a favorable verdict from a jury made up of area homeowners didn't seem good, but the farmer's cause had popular support from many of the city dwellers.

"The prosecuting attorney came to me to work something out," Reinhardt said. "We were reasonably sure they couldn't succeed."

Most press coverage was favorable to Pruehs in the incident and some homeowners even showed personal support by picketing the city building in a demonstration for Pruehs.

From a legal standpoint, Reinhardt said the ordinance preventing cattle from abiding within 300 ft. of a dwelling could have been struck down as unconstitutional as applied to the Pruehs family.

"It would mean an end to the farm and thereby confiscation of property," he said.

The present solution does not mean that homeowners can't go back to court someday to pressure the farmer.

"The resolution had nothing to do with the charge that was brought," Reinhardt said.

Complaining neighbors will be able to bring Pruehs to court by means of a civil suit or charge him

again with breaking a city ordinance.

But the Pruehs family has enough pressures through rising tax assessments in the area. The 82-year-old senior member of the farm, Ernest Pruehs, claims things have really changed since he took over the farm.

"When I bought the farm (from his father) I paid \$125 taxes for 60 acres. Now I pay close to \$3,000 for 17 1/2 acres," he said.

Ironically, a number of homeowners who are new arrivals to the area said the city should give them tax relief because the Pruehs farm had depressed property values in the area.



Dave's Day

Beth Morris holds one of the gifts of appreciation for her husband Dave (right) during "Dave Morris Night" held at the Clinton County FB building last month.

Morris retired this year after 10 years on the MFB Board of Directors.

Members Plan London Trip for November

A trip to our motherland, England, is on tap for Michigan Farm Bureau members this fall.

Michigan Farm Bureau is co-sponsoring a tour to historic London, Nov. 6-14, 1974 with Indiana Farm Bureau.

Only 175 seats will be available on the chartered Trans World Airlines flight and interested Farm Bureau members are urged to get reservations in early.

Cost for this tour is \$296.17 from Detroit.

Travelers will be able to see Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, changing of the guards, Buckingham Palace and other attractions in one of Europe's most important cities.

Michigan Farm Bureau is offering this as another service to member families. It is available only to Michigan Farm Bureau

members, their spouses, and/or minor children living within the same household.

An afternoon departure is scheduled for Wednesday Nov. 6 aboard a TWA 707 jet. Arrival in London is the next day with transfer to the conveniently located Park Plaza Hotel. In the afternoon a guided tour is planned.

Optional tours for Nov. 8-13 are available or travelers can sight-see on their own. Passengers will return Nov. 14 to Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

A deposit of \$75 per person is required with the balance due approximately six weeks prior to departure. A free color folder giving all details is available by writing Kenneth Wiles, Manager Member Relations, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904.



Come Fly Away with Me.....

TO "EXPO '74" and the PACIFIC NORTHWEST for 8 FUN-FILLED DAYS!

- ★ Visit Expo '74 in Spokane, Washington
- ★ See the Sights of Seattle
- ★ Take a Luxury-Liner Cruise through the San Juan Islands
- ★ Tour Beautiful Vancouver

CHOOSE YOUR DATES:

- TOUR #1 - JUNE 23-30, 1974
- TOUR #2 - AUGUST 18-25, 1974
- TOUR #3 - SEPT. 15-22, 1974



LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE! WRITE FOR DETAILS TODAY!

TO HISTORIC LONDON for 8 EXCITING DAYS!

- ★ Trafalgar Square
- ★ Westminster Abbey
- ★ Big Ben
- ★ Changing of the Guards
- ★ Buckingham Palace



NOVEMBER 6-14, 1974

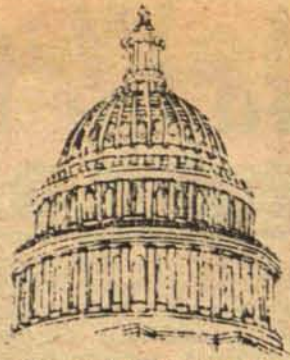
CO-SPONSORED WITH INDIANA FARM BUREAU.....WRITE FOR DETAILS!

Ken Wiles, Manager
Member Relations
Michigan Farm Bureau
P. O. Box 960
Lansing, Michigan 48904

CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

Bill Amendments Clarify Tax Contract



Substitute H. 4244 has passed the House of Representatives by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 80 to 17. The Senate is expected to agree to the 55 amendments put on by the House.

One important amendment is the elimination of the 25 percent penalty that was in the ten-year voluntary contractual agreement in case the landowner wished to be relieved of the contract before the ten years were up.

Another major amendment provides that the farmland owner, in combination with the 7 percent household income limitation in the bill, will also be permitted to take advantage of the household tax relief program that was passed a year ago. This feature over the period of the ten-year agreement would serve to substantially cut the amount that would be involved in the rollback provisions.

Other amendments clarified the bill's effect on farm mortgages and loans.

Additions to the bill assured that the only basis for rejection from the contract program would be failure to meet the bill's definition of farmland.

Most of the remaining amendments were clarifying in nature, concerning such matters as what structures and improvements could be allowed under the contract.

The legislation is expected to immediately go into effect in July after it is signed by Gov. Milliken.

Karl Hosford, head of the State Land Use Agency, believes that it will be very possible to take advantage of the bill's provisions this year.

Mr Hosford makes it clear that in the administration of the legislation, he intends to have an advisory committee from agriculture to assure that the implementation will be as easy and quick as possible.

Application forms will need to be developed along with information to local units of government, which have the authority to be the first to approve or consider applications from landowners.

Long Battle

The present bill had to go through many changes to get to its present status.

Rep. Quincy Hoffman (R-Applegate) provided the leadership in the development of the House amendments along with several other legislators. Rep. Roy Spencer (R-Attica), a long-time supporter of this type of farmland taxation legislation, also provided much of the needed support and

background expertise while Rep. George Montgomery (D-Detroit), Chairman of the house Taxation Committee, was a strong proponent on the debating floor.

Rep. Dale Warner (R-Eaton Rapids) introduced this legislation two years ago under another title and it was re-introduced under his leadership a year ago under the present number H. 4244. It passed the House at that time in a somewhat different form and became known as the "Warner Bill."

Over in the Senate, strong leadership was given to developing the substitute legislation by Sen. Harry DeMaso (R-Battle Creek), Chairman of the Senate Taxation Committee. Many other legislators strongly supported the legislation in the debates on the floor of both the House and the Senate.

Those representatives voting for the legislation were: Reps. L. Anderson, T. Anderson, Angel, Armbruster, Baker, Bonior, Brennan, Brodhead, Brown, Bryant, Bullard, M. Buth, R. Buth, Cawthorne, Cramton, F. Edwards, G. Edwards, Elliott, Engler, Farnsworth, Ferguson, Geake, Geerlings, Gingrass, Goemaere, Griffin, Guastello, Harrison, Hasper, Hellman, Keith, Kennedy, Kildee, Kok, Larsen, Mahalak, Markes, Mastin, Montgomery, Mowat, Novak, Ostling, Otterbacher, Owen, Powell, Sietsema, Smart, Smeekens, Smit, Smith, Snyder, Spencer, Stallworth, S. Stopczynski, T. Stopczynski, Thompson, Trezise, Van Singel, Varnum, Vaughn, Crim, Damman, Defebaugh, DeStigter, Dively, Hoffman, R. Hood, Jacobetti, Jondahl, Jowett, Rosenbaum, Ryan, Sackett, Scott, Sharpe, Warner, Wolpe, R. Young (Saginaw), Ziegler and O'Neill.

Those voting against the legislation were: Reps. Bennett, Copeland, DiNello, Forbes, Gast, Hayward, Hunsinger, Kelsey, McCollough, Mittan, Ogonowski, Sheridan, Strang, Symons, Welborn, Wierzbicki, and R. Young (Dearborn Heights).

In the Senate, those senators voting for the bill on February 7 were: Senators Ballenger, Bishop, Bouwsma, Brown, Bursley, Byker, Cartwright, Davis, DeGrow, DeMaso, Faxon, Fleming, Hart, Lane, Lodge, McCauley, McCollough, Novak, O'Brien, Pittenger, Plawecki, Pursell, Richardson, Rockwell, Rozycki, Toepp, Zaagman, and Zollar.

Those voting against the bill were: Senators Bowman, Cooper, Faust, and Gray.

At the last minute, strong real estate interests tried to amend the bill to remove some of the key benefits. However, this effort was voted down.

Farm Bureau was a strong supporter of the legislation. The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors, voted unanimously that the legislation was in line with the FB policy derived from voting delegates at the state annual meeting.

Other supporters include Michigan Milk Producers Association, Michigan Association of Counties, some individual county boards of commissioners, the agricultural committees of both the Republican and Democratic parties, and several other organizations interested in overall land use.

Next months, Michigan Farm News will have a complete outline of the legislation

Other Taxation Measures

Several other taxation bills are in the legislative process.

The Senate has passed a bill (S.855) to prohibit increasing assessments on homes, buildings, etc., when improvements are made for maintenance purposes.

For example, new roofs, painting, and other repair work would be exempt from further assessment for up to \$4,000.

A resolution introduced by Rep. Spencer (R-Attica) has passed the House and is now before the Senate which indicates the legislative intent on the term "homestead" as contained in the tax relief bill introduced by Rep. Spencer last year.

It is Rep. Spencer's contention that the Treasury Department misinterpreted the intent of the legislation, which was to assure that the homestead means "the dwelling and all unoccupied real property, including agricultural and horticultural lands when the dwelling is occupied as a homestead."

A bill (H.4261) has passed the House and is now in the Senate which requires assessors to give each owner or other person a notice of the "tentative recommended equalization multiplier" that may be used in the district.

The Senate is considering an amendment to require that as the equalized assessed valuations go up, the amount of the millage must come down.

A bill to increase credits for personal property taxes on inventories has passed the House and is now in the Senate. The original bill, introduced by Rep. Spencer, is being amended in the Senate to permit a credit for sales taxes paid on food.

The amount of credit for each person would be determined on a sliding scale based on household income.

For example, if the household income is less than \$5,000, the credit per person would be \$9.

This credit would decrease as household income increased with no credit allowed on sales tax on food for households with an income of more than \$15,000. This is a controversial issue and may be changed considerably.

There are other efforts to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot to eliminate the sales tax for food and drugs. The problem is how much more would the income tax have to be increased in order to offset the large amount of tax revenue that would be lost.



It's About Time

Governor William Milliken hands the newly signed bill exempting Michigan from Daylight Savings Time to its chief sponsor Representative Donald Van Singel (R-Grant) during ceremonies last month.

The bill will take effect in October and will not affect summer Daylight Savings Time which was approved by Michigan voters in the last general election.

Government Offers Help With Farm Paper Work

The Department of Social Services will try to meet farm employers half way or more when they ask for information this season to prevent food stamps from reaching the wrong people.

Employers of migrant labor will be asked to give monthly verification of income records of employees who seek food stamps this season. "This is one area where we can minimize fraud," said Leo Guilnette a department spokesman. "We'll do anything to get the right information."

Guilnette claims that if farmers are willing, it may be possible to send government staff to farms to receive applications for food stamps and to distribute them, thereby avoiding time consuming trips to town for workers.

"And we don't have to work eight to five," Guilnette said, "We can send people out at night if it's necessary to keep migrant labor in the fields all day."

"Individual county directors will call meetings in April for farmers to make their views known on these procedures," he added.

The department in Lansing has already streamlined procedures for employers. Employers will only be asked to fill out forms that are given to them by workers requesting the stamps.

The portion of the form devoted to identification of the worker and family will already be completed by the laborer, leaving only income information for the employer to fill in.

"The biggest thing in this program for farmers is the fact that food stamps will help keep the labor force in the state and available for harvest," Guilnette said.

The department is taking on extra summer help - much of it Spanish speaking - to help ad-

minister aid programs to migrants, Guilnette said.

Special multi-county migrant centers are also being planned in migrant-heavy areas to help administer programs.

FB Insurance Heads Elected

Election of officers for the Farm Bureau Insurance Group companies was held recently. The action occurred on February 25-27 at the Lansing Home Office during the annual Board of Directors meetings.

Kenneth Bull, a Muskegon County fruit farmer, was re-elected President of Farm Bureau Mutual, Community Service Insurance and the Community Service Acceptance Company. Bull, who has served as FBM and CSI President since 1967 and CSAC since 1968, was also re-elected Vice President of the Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, a post he has held since 1967.

Elected President of the Life Insurance Company was Elton R. Smith, also President of Michigan Farm Bureau. Smith, who since 1964 has served as chief executive of Michigan's largest farm organization, replaces David Morris.

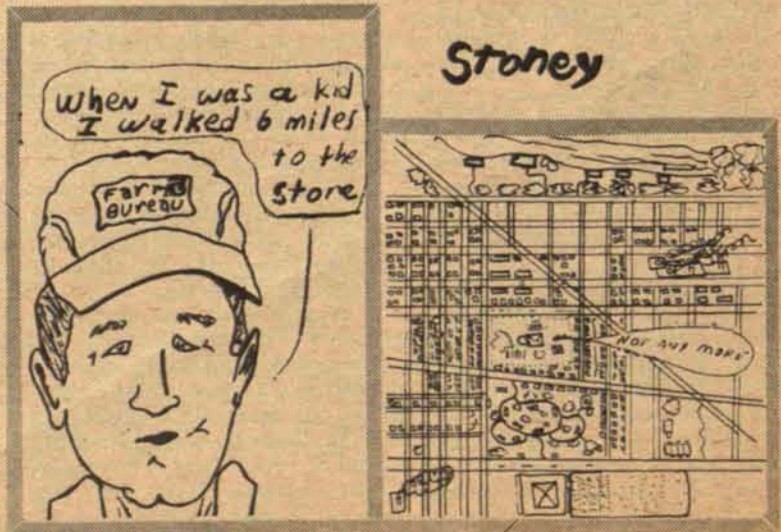
Dean Pridgeon, Vice President of Michigan Farm Bureau, was elected Vice President of FBM, CSI and CSAC. Pridgeon, who has a large corn-hog operation in Branch County, also replaces David Morris.

Finally, Walter Frahm, a Saginaw County dairy farmer, was elected Third Member Officer for all four companies.



Do I Hear \$5?

A slick-talking auctioneer tries to get a few dollars for a 40 watt bulb at the Montcalm County Rural-Urban dinner last month. It can be justified. All proceeds went to the 4-H.





Robert E. Smith



Albert A. Almy

Now I need a permit to plow?

Q: Recently, I have heard reports that farmers will need a permit to plow and conduct other tillage practices on their land. Can you help explain these reports?

A: The permit program you are referring to is probably under the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act passed by the 1972 Legislature.

The Act establishes a statewide uniform program to control soil erosion and sedimentation from housing developments, industrial developments, agricultural practices and other related land use activities.

After July 1, 1974, it will be unlawful to undertake earth changes covered by the Act unless a permit is obtained from the local enforcing agency. It is expected that permits will be issued based on the applicant's ability to show that he is taking precautionary measures to minimize erosion and sedimentation from his land activities.

Agricultural practices conducted on less than five acres of land are exempt from the permit program.

Agricultural activities conducted on five or more acres will be exempt until January 1, 1979.

They will continue to be exempt after that time if farming practices are carried out in accordance with a current conservation plan in line with standards of the appropriate Soil Conservation District.

At this time, farmers who do not have a current soil conservation plan should consider contacting their local Soil Conservation District to discuss their individual situation.

The requirement for a soil conservation plan may be waived if the Board of the appropriate Soil Conservation District determines that current agricultural practices are being con-

ducted in a manner to effectively control soil erosion and sedimentation.

If all Michigan farmers are to be in compliance by January 1, 1979, a tremendous effort will be needed by Soil Conservation Districts to prepare and update farm conservation plans.

Currently, it is estimated that 35,000 farms do not have an approved soil conservation plan and that 45,000 farms do have approved plans. An estimated 25 percent of the approved plans need updating.

Soil Conservation Districts in Michigan are turning out approximately 2,000 soil conservation plans per year. Obviously, additional personnel will be needed if the Soil Conservation Districts are to service the remaining farms by 1979.

A specific soil erosion and sedimentation program was developed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture last May and several public hearings were held.

Administrative rules have been developed by the Michigan Water Resources Commission to implement the statewide soil erosion and sedimentation program.

These rules are now awaiting action by the Joint Administrative Rules Committee in the Michigan Legislature.

Once the rules are finalized, counties will be responsible for the administration and enforcement of the rules. April 1, 1974 was the deadline for County Boards of Commissioners to designate a county agency for enforcement of the rules.

It is possible that if the Legislature does not appropriate adequate funds to the Soil Conservation Districts legislation may be introduced to extend the 1979 deadline for agriculture. It is also possible that legislation may be introduced to exempt agriculture completely from the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Act.

Where does that lottery money go?

Q: How is the Michigan lottery run? Where does the money go? And wasn't it supposed to go to the school aid fund?

A: The Michigan lottery has been very successful. Last year's receipts were a little over \$135 million. After all expenses this past year, \$62 million went into the state's general fund. According to law, at least 45 percent of the receipts must be given out in prizes.

Last year, the prizes totaled \$62 million. The costs of operating the lottery are minimal with ticket sellers receiving five percent of their sales and banks that handled tickets and money receiving one percent.

It is a misconception on the part of many people that the lottery money was supposed to go to the state aid fund for schools. This was never a part of the program.

In reality there is really no point in earmarking such funds for schools since much of the money for schools already is voted by the Legislature from the general fund.

Many years ago, most of the state aid for schools came from earmarked funds. However, this has been changed.

Today, one-half of the sales tax and a portion of the cigarette and liquor taxes are earmarked for schools. Last year (1972-73) this totaled over \$523 million. The amount of money for schools from the general fund last year (1972-73) totaled nearly \$472 million.

This includes federal funds, making a total of over \$1.1 billion of state aid to schools. This year school state aid totals \$1.25 billion. Next year it is expected to go over \$1.3 billion with over \$700 million coming from the general fund.

Dipping into the state's general fund for schools began about 1960 with an appropriation of over \$21 million. Now it is approaching the \$700 million mark.

NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

Price controls May be Heading Out

Congress is now facing some far-reaching decisions concerning laws that will expire soon unless extended by legislative action. The outcome will have considerable influence on the future of agriculture.

Price Controls

Authority for the President to impose wage and price controls on the economy will end on April 30, unless Congress extends the Economic Stabilization Act.

Hearings have begun on several bills dealing with authority for price controls and support is growing in Congress for complete or partial removal of price control authority. Farm Bureau has testified at the hearings in opposition to any extension of authority for price controls beyond April 30, 1974.

Since August of 1971, the US economy has been operating under various forms and degrees of price controls. Raw agricultural products have not been covered directly by the controls; however, the controls have affected agriculture indirectly by limiting prices buyers were able to pay for raw commodities and maintain a profit margin at allowable price ceilings. Problems encountered by fruit and livestock producers last year are notable examples.

Many other examples of the impact price controls have had on agriculture could be cited. Shortages of fertilizer, baling wire and other farm production inputs can be traced directly to price controls.

Export Controls

The Export Administration Act of 1969 expires June 30, 1974 unless extended by Congress. Recent demonstrations by the American Bakers Association calling for the imposition of export controls on wheat, together with tight supplies of wheat, have caused many Congressmen to look closely at the export issue.

On September 6, 1973, the House passed HR 8547, which would amend the Export Administration Act of 1969 to grant additional authority to the Executive Branch of federal government for restriction of exports of agricultural commodities.

Last November, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs reported out a substitute bill for H.R. 8547 which would make it much easier to impose export controls on agricultural commodities.

Farm Bureau is vigorously opposed to export controls on agricultural commodities. It is important that farmers have the right to offer their products for sale on world markets if agriculture is to prosper.

Last summer export control authority was used to impose controls on more than 40 agricultural commodities.

The Export Administration Act has been interpreted to authorize export controls when all of the following criteria have been met:

- (a) A necessity to protect the domestic economy from the excessive drain of a scarce material;
- (b) controls will reduce a serious inflationary impact which is caused by,
- (c) abnormal foreign demand.

Federal Marketing and Bargaining Legislation

A public hearing on agricultural marketing and bargaining legislation (H.R. 3723 and related bills) has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, by the House Agriculture Domestic Marketing and Consumer Relations Subcommittee.

Witnesses at this hearing will be limited to personnel from the USDA. Sponsors of the legislation include Michigan Congressmen Marvin Esch, Phil Ruppe, Elford Cederberg, Guy VanderJagt and Garry Brown.

Vice President Gerald Ford also introduced similar legislation early in the first session of the 93rd Congress. Farm Bureau supports the enactment of federal marketing and bargaining legislation.

Federal Land Use Planning

Federal land use legislation experienced a sudden and unexpected setback on Feb. 26, when the House Rules Committee refused to clear H.R. 10294 for consideration on the House floor.

Many observers in Washington had expected the 93rd Congress to enact federal land use legislation. Last June, the Senate passed a federal land use bill, H.R. 10294 was reported by the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee on January 22, after several weeks of mark-up meetings.

HR 10294 would have established a process for development of state land use plans. It would have provided \$100 million per year for eight years in the form of grants to states for development of land use plans. In order to qualify for the federal grants, states would have been required to meet specific criteria established in the federal bill.

The House Rules Committee vote indefinitely postpones consideration of H.R. 10294 by the full House. Supporters of the bill, however, are attempting to obtain reconsideration of the bill by the Rules Committee. If this is not successful, the only alternative to bring the bill before the House would be to suspend the rules and clear it for consideration without going through the Rules Committee.

Farm Bureau opposed H.R. 10294, but did support a substitute bill (H.R. 11325). H.R. 11325 would reduce federal authority over approval of state land use planning and provides for federal grants-in-aid to assist states in land use planning.



Left: Shiawassee Farm Bureau member Allen Dutcher says a few words after accepting honors as "Young Farmer of the Year" at MSU Farmers' Week Farm Management banquet.

Michigan's Jaycees awarded the 31-year-old Dutcher the award for his management of a 1,000-acre farm where he grows corn and has 70 dairy cows.

Dutcher is active on the Shiawassee Young Farmer Committee and is a 4-H leader.

Allen's better half, Beth, is Vice Chairman of the Shiawassee FB Women.

Runners up for the Young Farmer award were also Farm Bureau members, Gerald Buchholz of Harbor Beach and James Christner of Pigeon.

Right: Former MSU Dean of Agriculture Tom Cowden speaks at the Farm Management dinner. MSU's Farmers' Week was dedicated to the former dean. Cowden is presently a counselor to US Secretary of Agriculture, a natural position for the man who was the American Farm Bureau Director of Research during the 1940's.



Justly Honored

Canner's Ass'n Seeks Injunction to Stop Accredited Bargaining Fronts for Growers

The Michigan Asparagus Growers Division of MACMA barely had time to celebrate its accreditation from the state as the official bargaining agent for growers when their new position was challenged by processors.

Soon after the accreditation was official on Feb. 21 the Michigan Canners Association made it clear that they would fight the new accreditation process.

Asparagus grower Ferris Pierson of Hartford, and Dukesherer Farms Inc of Benton Harbor, joined processors in issuing a complaint against MACMA and the fledging

Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board which issued the first accreditation under the new marketing act.

It is the intentions of the plaintiffs to secure an injunction to halt further accreditation and nullify the accredited status of the Asparagus Growers until charges can be resolved in court, says MFB attorney Bill Wilkinson.

But at a show-cause hearing in Lansing on March 26, the defendant moved that charges be dropped. All further action was delayed until April 22 when the parties will again meet in court.

Charges from the plaintiffs range from poor practice by the

Marketing and Bargaining Board to unconstitutionality of the initial legislation that enables accreditation.

In the process the Bargaining Board is petitioned to determine commodity groupings to be represented by an official bargainer. Actual product, its use, the amount growers sell and their geographic area determines if growers are included. Once designated, growers receive full benefits from and pay costs to a bargainer chosen by the board after it is shown that the bargaining association is representative of growers.

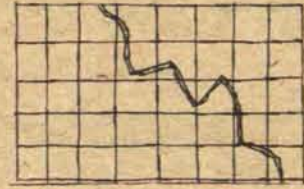
MACMA officials claim such legislation is needed for effective bargaining and to eliminate "free rides". Opponents claim the bill infringes on an individuals right to bargain.

Besides obtaining accreditation

for the Asparagus Growers Division, MACMA has Grower Committees with pending ap-

plications to become bargainners for growers of kraut cabbage and potatoes for freezing.

Marketing



Picture

Planting Intentions Show Second Thoughts

The acres added to agricultural production this year will be going into wheat and corn production, according to recorded planting intentions of farmers, but impending supply shortages may have caused farmers to halt trends towards expanding Nitrogen-consuming crops.

National statistics of farmers reactions as of March 1 indicates that crop acreage will be up 4 percent over 1973 or 227 million acres with feed grains rising accordingly at 4 percent.

Corn acreage should rise 10 percent over last year with

Durham wheat up 39 percent and spring wheat up 20 percent. Soybean acreage is only expected to dip 4 percent along with a decline in sorghum.

The national trends hold true in Michigan with 11 percent rise expected in corn and soybeans declining 3 percent. (Fall plantings of wheat were up 56 percent.)

Wheat, corn and dry beans should also take acreage at the expense of hay, potatoes, sugar beets and barley.

The following are comparisons of the January and March intentions, recording the percentage of 1973 acreage. (January intentions are for 35 states and March intentions for all states.)

Another 20¢ for Potatoes

Reopened Negotiations

Bring Higher Vegetable Prices

At \$4.20 cwt. some farmers may be glad they're growing potatoes this year.

New contract prices for potatoes for freezing stand at \$4.20 cwt. after MACMA negotiations and there is yet room for still more talks. This brings an increase from last year's \$1.96 price.

MACMA representatives reopened contract talks which were originally resolved on March 5. They resettled for another 20 cents per cwt. on March 15, bringing another \$400,000 in revenue to Michigan potato growers.

Harry Foster, manager of the fruit and vegetable divisions of MACMA said that the second round of talks were necessary when it became apparent that processors were not offering as good a deal in Michigan as out West.

Foster credits the ability to get national price information as well

as a little patience for the new higher prices.

"We waited long enough to get a handle on our costs before we signed a contract," Foster said.

The costs of production rising to between \$700 and \$800 per acre made a good argument for higher prices along with the fact that farmers could switch to grain production and contract their crop at a profit.

MACMA grower committees are now meeting with pickle processors with the knowledge that one major company is planning to pay at or above present contract levels for uncontracted produce, Foster says.

"These committees are doing a great job," says Foster, who looks forward to an increase in contract prices.

Negotiations for Kraut cabbage are being pursued after MACMA investigations show that some growers in the state were receiving significantly higher prices than others.

"That's why we've got to bring this information in," says Foster, "So we know what a fair price is."

Meanwhile, price negotiations are in the early stages for the first state accredited bargaining association - Michigan Asparagus Growers - a MACMA Division, while the court battle over the

legality of the accrediting process goes on. Foster says negotiations will go on regardless of the outcome.

"With or without accreditation, MACMA will be negotiating a price for asparagus," he says.

Negotiations for all produce may become easier as the cost of living council in Washington showed signs of winding down control measures in hope of wrapping up their operation in May.

A special agreement with canners of fruits and vegetables (not fruit & vegetable freezers) took the official price controls off canned produce.

The canners assured the government of substantial supplies on the market, but Foster questions these promises.

"If growers don't get an increase on their contracts, the supplies aren't going to be there," he says.

But Foster has good words for the so-called "decontrols" by the Cost of Living Council and looks forward to the council's dissolution.

"Some processors were locked into bad profit structures and didn't want as much produce," Foster said.

Foster said he sees free market prices as a way of expanding markets for processing fruits and vegetables.

Egg Prices

EGG MARKET QUOTATIONS - MATERIAL FURNISHED, F.O.B. FARM

FOR EGGS PICKED UP: MAR. 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 1974

	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL	UNDER GRADES
AA	.523	.465		
A	.513	.455	.27	.20

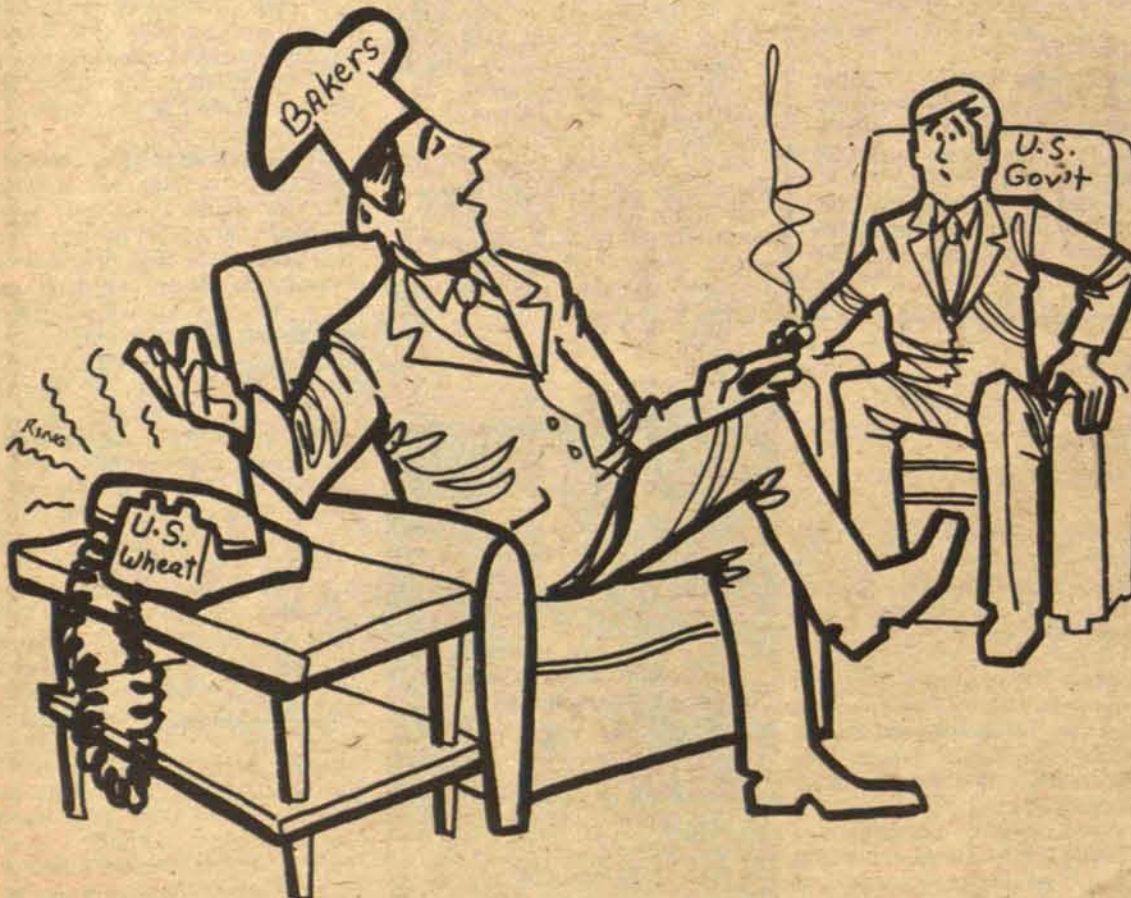
Quotations are subject to market changes and based on average New York Market as quoted by Urner Barry of the preceding five market days Friday thru Thursday.

National Intentions

	January	March
Winter wheat	+18%	+18%
Spring wheat	+14%	+20%
Corn	+10%	+10%
Soybeans	-3%	-4%
Sorghum	+1%	-1.5%
Oats	-1	-1.4
Barley	-15	-16
Sugar beets	+3	-1

Michigan Intentions

	January	March
Winter wheat	+56%	+56%
Corn	+12%	+11%
Soybeans	-3%	-3%
Dry beans	+7%	+13%
Oats	-10%	even
Barley	-8	-25
Sugar beets	-10	-5



"Hey fella, would ya get this for me."

New Farm Drug Problem

One more shortage to add to the list - drugs for animal health. Petroleum products reach right into the doctor's bag since they are necessary for drug production and, of course, veterinary supplies take a back seat to drugs for use on human patients.

"I do not foresee shortages," says Dr. James McKean, veterinarian for Farm Bureau Services. "What I do foresee is higher prices and less promotional emphasis on many drugs."

McKean who asserts that he is no doomsday prophet, says that higher prices are a symptom of a short supply situation. Yet, no veterinarian or farmer has to go without necessities, he says.

Shortening supplies are evident for antibiotics in general including penicillin, sulfa drugs and streptomycin.

Vitamins are presently in short supply and Farm Bureau Services has received word that some feed medicants common to Michigan feeds may go on allocation.

"What this means is that we'll be using some of these additives less freely than we used to," McKean says. "In the past we have used some of these more than we needed to and will have to hold use down to necessary amounts."

The effect on everybody's mind now is in the price and price competition between pharmaceutical firms is decreasing in some areas.

"We received a major price increase for one worm product on March 1 with another increase due on the 25th," the veterinarian said.

Price increases can be expected to be reflected in both pharmaceutical and feed lines for the near future.

Michigan Marketing Outlook

Bill Byrum - MFB Marketing Specialist
 Harry Foster - MACMA, Fruit & Vegetable Manager
 Dan Hall - Secretary, Michigan Soybean Producers
 Dale Kuenzlie—Michigan Elevator Exchange
 Don Kunz — Michigan Elevator Exchange.
 Ron Nelson - MFB Market Development Division

Wheat

Wheat prices took a dramatic tumble during March as cash bids for old crop wheat were withdrawn over nearly the whole state.

The cash difference between old crop wheat and the new crop expected to be available in July was about \$1.50 per bu. Any wheat that was not marketed by the arrival of the new crop would therefore be worth \$1.50 less.

There were virtually no bids for wheat for immediate shipment and millers and bakers implied that they would need no further supplies until the new crop became available. Eastern Canadian soft white wheat was offered to American millers at \$.80 to \$1.00 under Michigan-Ohio cash values.

There will undoubtedly be further flour business done with an accompanying demand for wheat. Old crop wheat values would be restored in that event probably at a substantial premium over new crop values.

Corn

Corn suffered a long dreaded price drop largely influenced by the wheat disaster. Despite a very slow selling pace by farmer-holders, pressure developed on price, influenced also by the farmers intention to plant report, which unheld farmers plans to increase acreage by 10 percent.

An encouraging start on Spring seems to offset the real concern about fertilizer shortages and what it might mean to eventual yield figures.

New crop contracting prices still offer farmers a profitable return over largely known production costs but contracting stopped as the price slid further from its highs with each passing day.

Sales of old crop nearly stopped also as farmers concentrated on preparations for Spring work. Price direction is expected to react very strongly to any serious fertilizer shortages, fuel shortages and most of all, the weather.

Soys

The March 1st soybean crop planting intentions report issued by USDA did little to change the uncertainty of the soybean situation. While the report said US farmers will plant only 96.1 percent of last year's crop with the huge carryover of '73 soybeans expected this fall, few market analysts were looking for strong soybean prices in the long turn.

These analysts are saying the smart thing for farmers to do is contract at least part of his '74 soybean crop NOW to at least "lock in" some profit to cover his input costs. Nevertheless, in the near term it looks like the soybean market has a strong base.

According to one theory, farmers have learned to market wisely their '73 soybean production. They did not rush to sell the considerable amount of soybeans they had in their possession after the first of January. Rather, they have held "relatively" firm in their marketings of soys during the first quarter of 1974 with prices holding in a tight range above \$6 per bushel.

Now the theory goes these farmers are gearing up to and will be planting their spring crops. They will have little time to be concerned with the selling of those soybeans they have left. But, this theory continues, just wait until those new crops "show their heads," then the farmers may turn loose and start selling out their storage.

Thus from this theory comes the projection that soybean prices will hold at levels which have prevailed during most of 1974, but come June, July and August, watch out for a substantial drop in soybean prices.

About the only thing certain about the soybean situation is its "uncertainty." Farmers are uncertain about how many soybeans to plant when corn prices are so "relatively" good as compared to soybeans. They are uncertain about the availability of fuel and nitrogen, not to mention the Peruvian fish catch.

Of course, the biggest uncertainty is the weather both in the US and worldwide. About the only thing certain is the American farmer is gearing up to plant every acre he owns or can rent.

The next USDA grain market report farmers can look for will be

issued April 24th. This report will give the first reading since January 1st as to the US grain stocks (including soybeans) in all positions, on farms, in warehouses or elevators, etc.

Watch for it and see what the market's response will be. A good idea would be to buy the Wall Street Journal and read the Commodity Page on the 25th for a complete analysis.

Beans

Producers still holding beans from the 1973 production experienced a recent price decline to \$48/cwt as offerings from

producers exceeded the demand in mid March. The drop represented a \$9.00 decline from posted levels early in March.

The decision as to when to sell the balance should be tempered with the following facts.

- 1) It appears that surplus supplies caused by producer offerings and imported beans will cover the 30 day position needs.
- 2) There should only be about three percent of the Michigan crop left to be marketed.

Therefore, unless a mass rejection of purchases by the consumers at the super market level,

all beans should get cleaned up prior to new crop supplies.

Further decisions should be considered on new crop. Offerings are still available at \$25/cwt for Sept. Oct. position.

With the 13 percent increase in the official Michigan estimate and the 153 percent increase in Minnesota, it could be the year for forward contracting.

High corn contract opportunities and reasonable soy futures make the decision more complicated. Shortages of nitrogen could cause more shifts as the planting season matures.

(Continued on page 8)

April 8 - April 30

Feed Discount Days

Pay Less For Feed Now Profit More When You Market

From April 8th thru April 30th participating Farm Bureau dealers are offering money saving discounts on all feeds purchased. During April Discount Days, savings apply to the full line of Farm Bureau research proven, high quality, protein-rich, feeds.

To offer a discount when prices on everything else are going up might seem impossible, but in a farmer owned cooperative it's easy. Farm Bureau purchases cooperatively in volume to insure you of the lowest possible price. We're now ready to share the savings with you. By acting now, you can share in these feed savings too.

Stop by your nearest Farm Bureau feed dealer. He'll show you exactly how much you can save during our April Feed Discount Days. Be sure to clip the coupon below. It's your ticket to savings.



REDEEM THIS COUPON AT YOUR
NEAREST FARM BUREAU FEED DEALER, FOR \$\$ OFF
ON YOUR NEXT FEED ORDER.

Name _____

Town _____

Date of Purchase _____

Tonnage/Type _____

Where Your Farm Comes First



FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

FEED DISCOUNT DAYS good only on manufactured feeds
bought April 8, 1974 through April 30, 1974 from a
participating Farm Bureau dealer.

Low Inventories and Low Hopes for Fertilizer

Supply



Report

By Greg Sheffield FBS Marketing Manager

The demand for agricultural supplies of all kinds is still outrunning available supplies. This is true not only in the United States but throughout the world as much industrialization is taking place.

Nations never before involved in industrialization are now big buyers of all kinds of basic raw materials as well as advanced goods. All of this has contributed to a new high cost of living that has hit nine percent a year.

No significant price reductions are seen in the near future for anything made of metals, chemicals or petroleum. Even with the lifting of the Arab oil embargo oil prices will not come down for some time.

Economists see that the inflation in the United States will be leveling off; last year it was up about nine percent. This rise is expected to continue at least through late summer, and perhaps early fall.

Hardware

Power mower equipment, tillers, any kind of gardening equipment—demand far outstrips the manufacturing capability available. Any demand for spare parts for Unico power equipment can be ordered immediately. By June there will be a shortage of parts. Mowers and tillers that were on order last October and November may not be delivered until May. It's not likely that anything ordered during February

and March will be available until next September.

Seed

Seed oats are being distributed. Navy bean seed is extremely expensive and supplies are showing record tightness. Producers in need of additional supplies should make their needs known immediately.

Ample supplies of kidney and cranberry seed beans are available, but because of the strong commercial market these supplies will be marketed to the canning trade unless firm orders are placed in the next few days.

No elevators will be interested in inventorying uncommitted beans for seed because of the unusually high value of the bean market. Forage grass seed appears to be adequate in supply.

Tractor Tires

Tires will continue to remain very tight throughout the coming year. We have been getting some shipments, and they have been delivered, but this is not enough to fulfill the demand. Tubes remain hard to get and the supply will not catch up with the great demand in the foreseeable future.

Liquid Fuels

It appears that we will have sufficient quantities of liquid fuel as outlined in the federal regulations.

Motor Oil

We are about 45 percent ahead at

this time, but from now on most oils will be harder to get.

Feed Ingredients

Soybean meal and meat scraps have softened in price since the last report. The corn market has also softened. The Peruvians are catching fish which should help soybean oil meal stay in a softer position. Feed grade phosphates and urea are extremely tight and will remain so.

Fertilizer

Weather is better and shipments amount to the monthly allocations. If spring breaks early, there is not enough to meet demand. FBS allocations must stretch to June 30. June allocations, therefore, may not be used as much in actual planting.

Chemicals

A threatened Lasso shortage has materialized to a great degree and is definitely on an allocated basis. Most other chemicals have been coming in all right and are being delivered out to dealers. There appears to be adequate but not surplus supply of other chemicals.

Fertilizer inventories are down to the point that favorable weather in early Spring could cause a serious lag in fertilizer supplies, says Farm Bureau Services' John Sexson.

A good Fall in which a 56 percent increase in winter wheat acreage was planted plus advanced buying by farmers found FBS distributing 70 percent more fertilizer by the end of February than they had the previous year. Yet, FBS will only be receiving allocations roughly equal to the 1972-73 supplies for this fertilizer year (July through June).

"The thing is, we don't know how much of what we've sold is in storage on farms," Sexson says.

Left with substantially less than 1973 supplies for the April through June period, Sexson says all that can be assured is that overall FBS customers will receive what they did the previous fertilizer year.

"We are the only company in the state that will take care of its customers to roughly 100 percent of their 1972-73 supplies," Sexson says.

Sexson credits this to FBS affiliation with CF Industries, a co-operative-owned supplier that reserved its supplies for domestic use rather than exporting them to more lucrative markets.

Sexson extends little hope for expanded supplies to Michigan between now and July.

"The trouble is, we're at the end of the pipeline in Michigan," Sexson says. "Basic supplies come from down south or Canada and a lot tends to get siphoned off before it reaches here."

Increased supplies leaking through from the south are unlikely, Sexson says, with a 25 percent increase in the Nitrogen-demanding cotton acreage. The tendency has been for suppliers to sell supplies closer to the source, he says.

"A lot of suppliers have discontinued or restricted distribution to Michigan," Sexson notes.

In reaction to the situation requests from Midwest Governors, including Gov. William Milliken of Michigan, have been noticed by the federal government which announced that it would attempt to supply more rail cars to move fertilizer.

Governor Milliken also appointed a statewide task force on fertilizer which has conducted a survey of fertilizer dealerships in an attempt to identify crisis areas in the state to help formulate distribution policies for this Fall.

Tips on how to make best use of available supplies of fertilizer are also being distributed by Michigan State University to help alleviate the situation.

Michigan Marketing Outlook

(Continued from page 7)

Dairy

Marketing trends have not changed much in the past month. February consumption is down approximately 6½ percent over Feb. '73 and production is down over 3 percent during the last year.

The reason for both is obvious. The recent milk price increases have caused consumers to reduce consumption and look to other food and beverages to replace milk.

A second and possibly more important factor is the instability in the job market.

The auto industry continues to lay off hourly workers and thus, one would assume, consumers are tightening their economic belts. How long this trend will continue is anyone's guess.

Producers are looking hard at production costs and also wondering about the consumption picture. They will respond when the picture looks favorable. At the present time, producers are responding to the general economic climate by attempting to hold the cost of production in line with return on investment.

Advertising and promotion are more important than ever.

Everyone must participate to alert the consumer to the value of milk.

Promotional materials from American Dairy Association are available from either of the two following: 1. Don Carlson, American Dairy Association of Michigan, 3000 Vine Street, Lansing, Michigan, Phone number 517-351-7370.

2. Ron Nelson, Market Development, Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, Michigan, Phone number 517-485-8121, Ext. 223.

Materials are suitable for mall displays, county fairs, or other type of promotion-public relations efforts.

Livestock

Cattle and hog prices continue to decline. Large numbers of livestock going to market, apparent lesser demand for meat products, and a bearish outlook for year-end marketings are depressing factors in the market place.

We expect increased prices during late spring and late summer months in both the beef and pork complex.

Probably hogs will remain in the

\$30.00 to \$40.00 range during the next 30 to 60 days and beef prices will remain in the low Forties (40's).

Five Hundred pound choice steer calves will continue to cost from Forty-five Dollars \$45.00 to Fifty four Dollars (\$54.00) and Feeder Pigs will fluctuate depending on current markets.

Fruit Crops

Apples - Crop outlook is good. Processed apple products inventory is in good position. Prices have increased to reflect the smaller crop of 1973 apples. Even at higher prices, these processed apple products have experienced good movement into the consuming market.

Tart Cherries - Frozen cherry prices are holding at record levels for the few cherries for sale. Everyone wants to be sold out at new pack time. Cherry supplies are at record low levels. A good crop is needed to get back into the variety of cherry products for consumption.

Plums - Canned plum inventory is greater than a year ago but in line with the three-year average. Prices continue strong and no carry over problem is anticipated. Price outlook is favorable for this year.

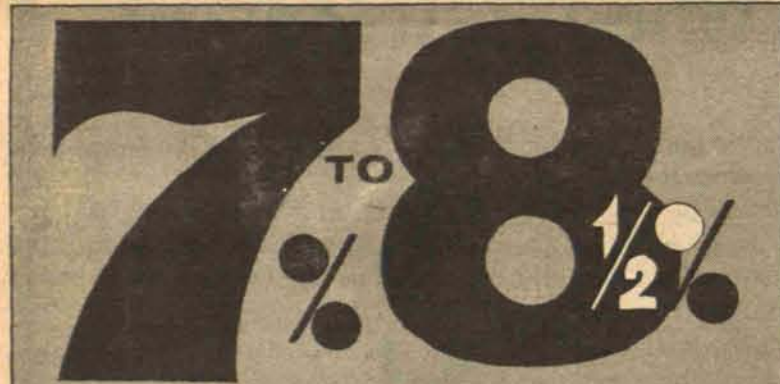
Grapes - Crop outlook is good and the inventory position is very tight. Prices of grapes this year should continue in the 1973 price range.

Vegetable Crops

Asparagus - Asparagus growers are requesting base price increases to cover increased costs. Price appears to be up in all other major asparagus producing areas outside of Michigan.

Pickling Cucumbers - Grain contracts continue to be offered. Alternative crops such as corn, beans, oats and barley are good uses for growers' land and growers resist signing pickle contracts unless they are profit oriented. Outlook for pickle market looks good. Prices are likely to be above those written into production contracts.

Kraut Cabbage - Contracts in major producing states are nearly settled in the \$30 plus range for late market kraut cabbage. Supplies of kraut continue to be very tight as prices move gradually upward.



DEBENTURES

FARMERS PETROLEUM COOPERATIVE, INC.

INTEREST ON DEBENTURES 5-10-15 year maturity

7%	5 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
8%	15 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
7¾%	10 Year Maturity	\$1,000.00 Minimum Purchase
8½%	15 Year Maturity	\$5,000.00 Minimum Purchase

Interest paid annually on September 1st. The purchaser to be offered the option to receive their interest in quarterly payments on September 1st, December 1st, March 1st, and June 1st. Interest would start the date of purchase.

This is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy these securities. The offering is made only by the prospectus.

Clip and mail this coupon to:

Mr. C. A. Morrill
Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc.
P. O. Box 960
Lansing, Michigan 48904

I would like a copy of the prospectus and a call by a registered sales agent.

Name _____
Road _____ RFD No. _____
City _____ County _____
Phone _____



5th Annual Southwestern Michigan Polled Hereford Ass'n (SWMPHA) Show and Sale.

April 13, 1974. (Saturday)

Show starts at 9 a.m., Sale starts at 1 p.m.

Allegan County Fairgrounds, Allegan, Michigan

Selling approximately 60 lots:

- 20 performance tested bulls
- 20 quality brood cows, some with calves at side
- 20 outstanding heifers

Judge: Art Timberlake, Director (area 12) APHA, Mauckport, Ind.

Auctioneer: Col. Joe Gossard, Frankfort, Ind.

Lunch on grounds

For catalogs or Ass'n Directories, contact:

SWMPHA Sec, 8499 EAST "EF" Ave., Richland, Michigan 49083 (616) 629-2631

for FB Women

Members Rub Elbows with Congress

The delegation of farmers who flew to the nation's capitol for the Michigan Farm Bureau Washington Legislative Seminar, March 11-14, had a youthful look. Many young men and women, aware of current issues affecting their profession, participated in the project, sponsored annually by Farm Bureau Women.

Of the 125 farmers involved in this year's seminar, 57 were specially designated "Legislative

Leaders." Their assignment during the seminar was to meet with their Congressmen to discuss major issues of concern to Michigan farmers.

Grass Roots Influence

The Washington Legislative Seminar began with a briefing by American Farm Bureau Federation staff. John Datt, Director of Congressional Relations, reminded the group that

regardless of how effective the AFBF might be, legislators are aware that the Washington staff does not vote for them back in their home districts -- and that the county Farm Bureau leaders represent the real legislative strength.

He explained the current climate in Washington as a place of "nervous Nellies," an election year with politicians well aware of the public's general apathy and distrust. Also prevalent in their minds, he said, were the energy situation, Watergate and impeachment, and the nation's economy.

Four Issues

Datt outlined four major issues for the legislative leaders--wage and price controls, land use, government-held commodity reserves, and trade and export controls.

He placed special emphasis on wage and price controls, explaining that the Economic Stabilization Act expires on March 31.

"Tell your Congressmen what economic disaster resulted from wage and price controls, and then create the political climate in your area so he knows he won't be clobbered back home," Datt said.

Bill Anderson, assistant director of the AFBF Washington office, urged the legislative leaders to tell their Congressmen that "no way can we control inflation, caused by excessive government spending and budget deficit, with wage and price controls."

He told the Michigan group that the energy crisis is real and that the allocation system only makes it look as though the problem is not serious. "They allocate fossil-fuel now --how long before they allocate people-fuel (food)?"

Tuesday, at the Republican breakfast, members were seated with their Congressmen and had an opportunity to discuss energy and fertilizer shortages, price controls, trade reform and land use.

A noon luncheon with Democratic Congressmen was attended by Senator Hart, Representatives O'Hara, Reigle and VanderVeen, and assistants from the offices of Hart and Nedzi.

At the Department of Agriculture, Tuesday afternoon, Michigan farmers were greeted by Dr. Tom Cowden, Counselor to the Secretary for Land Use Policy and Environmental Matters. Undersecretary Phil Campbell addressed the group, and other department officials brought the farm leaders up to date on the fertilizer, energy and foreign trade situations.

Spare Time Tour

Wednesday was a day of guided sightseeing for legislative leaders and American Heritage group. They visited the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Cathedral, Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery, Mt. Vernon and other historical sites.

A Thursday morning press conference resulted in a lively discussion between Michigan Farm Bureau legislative leaders and newsmen from Booth Newspapers, Panax Corporation, Gannett Press Service, Detroit Free Press and Detroit News.

Most seminar participants spent considerable time "on the hill," sitting with their Congressmen and attending hearings.



NEXT MONTH

Making fuel from waste?

Farm News looks at a machine that can do it.

Homefront

Some community Farm Bureau groups have problems with small attendance when their faithful members go south for the winter. Not so with the Northwest Oshtemo Group of Kalamazoo County. They hold their regular monthly meetings in Florida. February's report, from Nokomis, Florida, indicates five members present -- plus five guests. If you can't get members to the group, take the group to the members.

Something new in rustling is reported by the Radio Hill Community Group in Presque Isle County. A farmer from Belknap Township lost 50 hens and a rooster to rustlers. The poultry was later found in an abandoned house with a number of them dead from starvation or freezing.

The Friendly Farmers Group of Isabella County recently passed a resolution regarding the abandonment of rail service to Mt. Pleasant. "Such abandonment would create a serious problem to farmers, especially during the harvest season of wheat, corn and beans," they said. "With the lack of storage on farms and elevators, the movement of these crops at harvest time is dependent on railroad service. We request the Rail Service Planning Commission to consider all aspects of any decision made in this matter, particularly in regard to agriculture and industry."

The Pleasant Shores Community Group of Huron County celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a luncheon at the Lamplighters Restaurant in Pigeon in March. Members' testimony, after 25 years, remains the same as when the group was first organized: "The community group is a good place to meet your neighbors, to discuss and try to analyze your mutual problems -- personal, community and national."

Young Farmers

Typical of Farm Bureau legislative leaders at the Washington Legislative seminar last month was Bill Semans, 30 of Shiawassee County. Towering over much of the crowd on the busy capital city streets, the young dairy farmer, at 6-feet plus, made one Congressmen's description of farmers as "little people who lack legislative muscle" a misnomer.

Like the other legislative leaders, representing 47 county Farm Bureaus, he was in Washington to flex his legislative muscles.

Bill and his brother formed a partnership on the 470-acre family farm when their father retired in 1970. In addition to milking 80 cows, they raise hogs, hay and corn. Bill's interest in Farm Bureau's legislative activities started in his Community Group when he served as a Minuteman, discussion leader and chairman.

Bill is vice chairman of the township ASCS committee and serves as board chairman for his church. Active in FFA, he was awarded a State Farmer degree in 1961 and American Farmer degree in 1964. Bill and his wife, Bunny, a nurse, have two boys, Joel, 4, and Jason, 3.

In 1973, they were named chairmen of Shiawassee County's National Affairs Committee.

With Bill and Bunny at the stern, it won't be just a paper committee. If it takes a bit of nagging from a young whippersnapper to get the telephone grid system working effectively, letters to legislators on their way to Lansing and Washington, and committee members to seminars and training meetings -- he's willing to invest this effort.

Semans' and Congressman Rep. Elford A. Cederberg, served as chairman of the Republican break-



Bill Semans

fast on March 12, and introduced Representatives Broomfield, Hutchinson, Chamberlain, Ruppe, and Brown. Legislative or administrative assistants for Congressmen Huber, Esch, VanderJagt, former Congressman Harvey, and Senator Griffin were also present.

"Our Congressmen need to hear from the folks back home; it gives them assurance that we know what they are doing in Washington and that we care," said Semans. "I think we're fortunate to have sincere Michigan Congressmen. They have respect for Farm Bureau because our organization comes up with such logical conclusions to problems and because they know we have the best interests of the whole country at heart--not just our own."

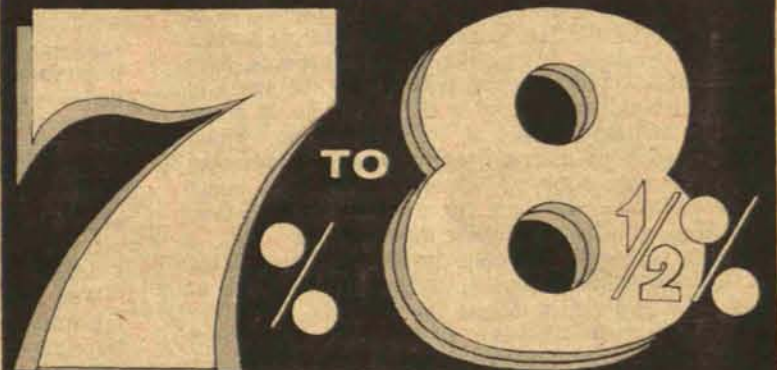
Bill summed up the 1974 Michigan Farm Bureau Washington Legislative Seminar simply and sincerely: "It's too bad everyone can't go."



HEAD TO HEAD Bill visits with his Congressman, Elford A. Cederberg, in the legislators Washington office during last month's Washington Seminar.

"Our Congressmen need to hear from folks back home," Bill says.

DEBENTURES



FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

INTEREST ON DEBENTURES 5-10-15 year maturity

7%	5 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
7½%	10 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
8%	15 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
7¾%	10 Year Maturity	\$1,000.00 Minimum Purchase
8½%	15 Year Maturity	\$5,000.00 Minimum Purchase

Interest paid annually on September 1st. The purchaser to be offered the option to receive their interest in quarterly payments on September 1st, December 1st, March 1st, and June 1st. Interest would start the date of purchase.

This is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy these securities. The offering is made only by the prospectus.

Clip and mail this coupon to:

Mr. C. A. Morrill
Farm Bureau Services, Inc.
P. O. Box 960
Lansing, Michigan 48904



I would like a copy of the prospectus and a call by a registered sales agent.

Name _____
Road _____ RFD No. _____
City _____ County _____
Phone _____

Where Does Good Government Begin?

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES

Manager Member Relations

Government, as defined in one dictionary, is "the exercise of political authority, direction and restraint over the actions of the inhabitants of communities, societies, or states; the governing organization or body of a nation, state, or community." Thus, it appears that to gain some insight as to where good government begins it is necessary to be familiar with our political system.

Will Rogers is credited with saying that everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects. Certainly a thick wall of ignorance has been built between the world of politics and the world of the average citizen. But, it behooves all citizens of this country to understand some facts about the nature of our American political system in order that the wall of ignorance can be breached.

Two Party System

It is important to understand that the American political system is a two-party system. It has made substantial contributions to the growth of the nation. In fact, according to some historians, the success of the American way of life has been the direct result, in a large measure, to the two-party system.

At first glance it is easy to overlook the impressiveness of the two major political parties. The Democratic Party can legitimately trace its ancestry back almost to the founding of the nation. The Republican Party also can claim honor as a successful and long-continuing political body.

To say that this country has had a perfect two party system would be an exaggeration. Obviously, it is not true. Many of us live in towns or communities dominated by one political party. Some live in areas where, for local purposes at least, the parties don't operate at all. However, a close look at the political situation reveals that one or both parties do function.

People tend to get the best government where there are two strong, constantly contesting political parties. Where the system has broken down, poor government and a lack of interest by the citizens are usually found.

Political decisions are not a question of choosing between right or wrong. It is not like the old western movie of the pre-adult era, where the good guys wore white hats and always won over the bad guys, who wore black hats. In politics, bad guys and good guys exist only in terms of the individuals points of view. Someone is good, because we happen to like him personally, or because he is pursuing policies which we approve. But there are competing interests in terms of different objectives and different values.

The heart of American politics is the political process at the local level. As more than one observer has pointed out, the particular genius of American institutions is the fact that national policy is forged out of the multitude of fragments of local influence. American political parties are a good example. For all intents and purposes, they have no national existence, at least not in the sense in which parties exist nationally in Great Britain. It is the local organizations, alone or in combination, which control nominations, and aspiring presidential candidates who want to wage a national campaign must first court the local and state politicians. He cannot hope for success at a national convention without their support.

The local politicians and state leaders in turn receive their initial status and influence through participation in the political process at levels far removed from the federal government. They are first members and then leaders of voluntary groups organized to combat such things as pornography on local newstands or to promote clean-up, paint-up campaigns in their neighborhoods. Grass roots democracy basically begins with citizen participation in community development. Through this participation the individual acquires the contacts and acquaintance with the political scene which further involves him in politics.

Local community decision-making is not the exclusive prerogative of executive and legislative officials. Instead it is the activities of a large number of individuals and groups acting together-planning projects, mobilizing public opinion, winning over potential opposition, and establishing goals and objectives for the community.

An interesting aspect of the political process at the local level is that the actors-the officeholders as well as the would-be officeholders and the voluntary participants in community action-are men and women drawn from ordinary walks of life. They are one's neighbors, they run the business one patronizes, they are easily identifiable, and easily accessible to the citizen.

It is important that a citizen participate in the political process as it gives him an opportunity to check and supervise the work of local government. At all levels, local, state and national, government is performing more and more services, and is playing an increasingly important part in the lives of individual citizens.

This is not a matter of the government "invading" our private lives. Rather, it results from the people having been more and more persistent in their demands upon government to provide ever more services in ever increasing variety. Nor is there an indication that this pressure has reached its peak. Successful candidates in recent elections have been those who advocate more, not less, governmental services, and there is every reason to believe that heavy service demands will continue to be made upon the government at all levels.

This increased activity on the part of government makes it imperative that the citizen participate in the political process, making it his business to know that

governmental authority is fairly and legally used, with due regard for the rights of individuals and minorities.

In local community decision-making, the interested citizen can often make his voice heard. The results of his participation may not be great, but they are often visible. The individual's impact on state and local matters is certainly greater than it can ever be at the national level.

The influence of the public can be very noticeable, for example, in meetings of a city council, where the councilmen lend keen, attentive ears to those citizens who take the trouble to come and present their views.

Though very few people use their time, energy and money to the fullest extent in order to participate in local decisions, any citizen can do so. Even public officials often have resources available to them which they do not fully use. It is precisely because of these unused resources that the person who does seek to utilize his resources fully can make real gains toward achieving influential status in his community.

In every state and community, elections play a vital role. At the national level, the citizen has an opportunity to choose a very small percentage of those who serve him in government. At the state level, however, the voice of the people speaks more loudly, and the electorate usually has the chance to choose a large number of state officials.

At the local level, the citizen is called upon to elect a mayor, prosecuting attorney, sheriff, clerk, treasurer, registrar of deeds, and various commissioners, councilmen, and the members of special district boards. In addition to expressing choices for these many elective positions, the voters of Michigan occasionally are called upon to settle important questions of policy, as well as to approve constitutional changes.

Since the state's system of local government is one which depends heavily upon elections, it seems perfectly reasonable to assume that the general public plays an important part in the political process. The popular definitions of democracy usually include some reference to "government by the people". It therefore comes as something of a shock to find that we are rarely governed by the many and much more often governed by the few.

The level of interest and participation in local decision making is generally lower than the interest in national politics. The typical citizen generally finds it very difficult to identify the local officeholders.

With few exceptions, all citizens are given an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. Yet a large number fail to do so.

Research has failed to show any clear cut reasons as to why people do not vote. Some fail to vote because they lack interest in government. A low turnout at the polls can presumably indicate a satisfied electorate who see no burning issues at stake in the election.

Some people do not vote because they find voting an extremely frustrating experience. Many people apparently fail to vote because they distrust politics and politicians and refuse to participate because they do not feel that their vote can affect the outcome.

Most of us have heard the lame excuse that "my vote won't make any difference." While this argument is hard to refute, there are plenty of instances which clearly indicate that individual votes can make a difference, as is clearly shown by the closeness of many contests during national and state elections.

Another reason why people fail to vote in local elections is that they lack interest in the future and welfare of the community in which they live. Also, people stay away from the polls because they feel that "elections do not really make any difference."

Should Farm Bureau Be Active in Politics?

Farm Bureau members are both farmers and citizens, with the problems of both. Their Farm Bureau organization must be politically active if it is to meet the problems facing agriculture.

An example can be used to illustrate the need for Farm Bureau to be active in politics. At the 1973 Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, voting delegates unanimously approved a policy supporting legislation to allow the assessment of farmland on the basis of its value for agriculture rather than potential nonfarm uses.

But, how could this policy be implemented if Farm Bureau took no political action? Tax decisions are made by lawmakers. In making these decisions, lawmakers are left with many controversial questions. What will happen if no action is taken? Who should obtain the relief? What type of program will best meet the objectives?

Without political action by Farm Bureau, the decisions on such questions will be influenced by those who are active in politics and who do not necessarily have the best agricultural interests at heart.

Issues come about as a result of problems. Problems always demand solutions or answers. Since its beginning, Farm Bureau has approached issues on their own terms, without regard to political party.

On one issue, the Farm Bureau position may appear to be similar to the views of one party. On the next issue, the Farm Bureau position may look like that of the other party. Farm Bureau policies stand by themselves. They are based on "for what" instead of "with whom." Thus, Farm Bureau's position on issue's is "nonpartisan."

Once a policy has been approved by the voting delegates at an annual meeting, the action taken to implement it must deal with lawmakers who belong to both parties. Regardless of what party to introduce and support legislation. The rule is to work with any lawmaker. The action is bipartisan and dependent on whether party representatives will work with Farm Bureau.

Thus, the Farm Bureau approach to political issues fits into no political party straightjacket.

You Can Be Heard

You'd hardly know this is an election year the way it has been ignored so far by most citizens. On the other hand, the way members of Congress have been acting, it is obvious they are thinking of little else.

Before the year is over hundreds and thousands of people will be elected to important offices. For citizens to sit on their hands during this critical period because they don't like some of the things they see is a form of intellectual suicide.

The elections represent a wide-open opportunity for personal involvement, for people to react in a positive manner toward their government. Now is the time, if citizens are disillusioned by the way things are being handled, to take the elected officials to the woodshed to tell them so.

True, all of our problems cannot be solved through legislative efforts, but each individual should become politically active in local government to put forth sound ideas for the betterment of the entire society.

As Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "Politics ought to be the part time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of free people who would preserve what is good and fruitful in our national heritage."

Stoney



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

FARM EQUIPMENT

LIVESTOCK

MISCELLANEOUS

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE — 2 Allis-Chalmers "G" Tractors, 1 with cultivator, plow, belly-mower, 1 converted into 3-row asparagus rider, also cultivator. Edgar Totzke, Berrien Springs, Mich. 49103, Tel. (616) 429-9772. (4-11-25p)

FOR SALE — 70 horsepower Wicks boiler, fired with two Cleaver-Brooks oil burners \$995. Also CRCO snap bean harvester for parts. Phone 517-543-0255 Jack Forell, Charlotte, Mich. 48813. (4-11-25p)

HOLLAND CELERY TRANSPLANTER, like new \$100. 800' 2" used black pipe 20 cents ft. Ph. (616) 949-0841, Henry Melpolder, 2914 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49506. (4-11-25p)

WE SELL, ERECT, SERVICE — Smith Silos, Silomatic unloaders and feeding equipment, Kasten forage wagons, Schuler branch feeding boxes. Laursen's Inc., West Branch, Mich. 48661 Ph. (517) 345-1400 (4-11-23p)

FOR SALE — Three House Trailer Axles, brakes, shackles, equalizers, new 8-14.5 tires, 10 ply. Edward F. Heyn, 8637 Ruggles Rd., Baroda, Mich. Phone (616) 422-1061. (4-11-23p)

FOR SALE — Ford two 14 in. bottom plows. Excellent condition. Four-wheel wagon trailer with box. Ray Beeker, 3615 Kochville Rd., Saginaw, Mich. 48604 Phone (517) SW2-5795. (4-11-25p)

CUSTOM CHERRY HARVESTING, Statewide schedule with shock-wave trunk shaker. Experienced crew does quality work. Contact Earl Peterson, R2, Shelby, Mich. 49455 Phone (616) 861-5339. (4-11-24p)

FOR SALE — I H. TD-6 Crawler, 6 cylinder engine, PTO, blade, all guards, hyd remote control. Smith Bros. 6325 Smith Rd., Jackson, Mich. Phone (517) 764-3172. (4-11-24p)

CATTLE MINERAL FEEDERS — 100 lb. Capacity. No center post \$49.50. Free literature. Dolly Farm Equipment, Inc., Dept. 219, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (4-11-15b)

PICKUP TRUCK STOCK RACKS — All steel construction \$159.50. Free literature. Dolly Farm Equipment, Inc., Dept. 219, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (4-11-19b)

MEYERS T.F.-29 Air Blast Sprayer - 500 gal. Excellent condition - \$2500. Ron Campbell, 3305 Glover, Almont, Mich. 48003 Phone (313) 798-8167 evenings. (4-11-20p)

CASE 700 COMBINE with 10' floating head and 2-row corn head, John Deere 494 corn planter. Both very good condition. Arthur B. Kuhl, 11701 Scio Church Rd., Chelsea, Mich. 48118 Phone (313) 475-7861. (4-11-25p)

FOR SALE — Two-wheel heavy duty trailer frame. Ring hitch. Leaf springs. Good tires. \$65. 50 Hot Bed Sash \$2 each. redwood or cypress frames. George Vink, Spring Lake, Mich. 49456 Phone (616) 846-2856. (4-11-25p)

HARLEY ROCK PICKERS, Picks 1 to 16" diameter, dirt free. Rock Windrowers; 10 and 20 feet. Earl Reinell, 4465 Reinell Rd., Deckerville, Mich. Phone: 313-376-4791. (4-11-20p)

FARROWING STALLS — Complete \$44.50. Free literature. Dolly Farm Equipment Inc., Dept. 219, Colchester, Illinois 62320. (3-11-15p)

CALF CREEP FEEDERS — 30 bushel capacity \$119.50. Free literature. Dolly Farm Equipment, Inc., Dept. 219, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (4-11-18b)

LIVESTOCK

FOR SALE — 30 Holstein Heifers Large Breed, 30 open Holstein Heifers due next fall. Tel. (616) 669-9226 Ed W. Tanis, Jenison, Mich. 49428. (4-11-20p)

FOR SALE — 80 large sized, good uddered, young Holsteins, freshen in April and May. Grade and registered. Vaccinated. Steward Taylor, 2601 Decker Rd., Marlette, Mich. 48453, Tel. (517) 635-2637. (4-11-25p)

TWO FEMALE STARTED ENGLISH SHEPHERD PUPS, Ready to transfer \$35.00 here. A. Ferris Bradley, R. No. 1, Springport, Mich. 49284. (4-11-17p)

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)

FOR SALE — Registered holstein bulls to one year old. Dams to V.G. 296d. 20046M. 776F. Sires-Matt, Bootmaker, Chief, Bill Bamber, Howell, Mich. Phone (517) 546-2369. (4-11-24p)

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

FOR SALE — Charolais bulls and bred cows for better beef. Reasonably priced, come see them. Eddie Shrauger, Falmouth, Michigan 49632 Ph. 616-328-4368. (3-31-21p)

REGISTERED POLLED HEREFORD BULLS, Excellent young herd bull prospects, from dams weighing up to 1500 lbs. Call Bellvoix Ranch, Daniel Berg, 616-547-2026, Charlevoix, Mich. (3-11-24p)

WANTED

WANTED — 1 plow tractor, Farmall A or Allis-Chalmers B or other about same size in running condition. Fred Valencourt, R1, Copemish, Mich. 49625. (4-11-24p)

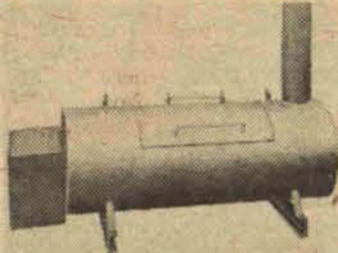
WANTED — Fancy Breed Chickens or eggs and call ducks. Also 1 Bard Rock Rooster. Denise Janwack, 34800 31 Mile Rd., Richmond, Mich. 48062 or Ph. (313) 727-1067. (4-11-24p)

WANTED — Old wood or coal burning farm home stoves, any condition for our museum showroom. Sugar Bush Supplies Co. Box 1107, Lansing, Mich. (4-11-23p)

WANTED — Old automobiles, light trucks, motorcycles, any make or condition. Preferably previous to 1930. Harry Farris, 5563 Michael, Bay City, Mich. 48706 Phone: (517) 884-4904. (4-11-22p)

WANTED — Old Toy trains, Lionel, Flyer, etc. Send details & address or phone Douglas Byam, 11200 Potter Rd., Lowell, Mich. 49331. (616) 897-8319. (3-11-21p)

Burn-Easy the all new Incinerator



Bring pollution free incineration to the farm. No grates. Virtually no smoke or smell. Oil fired with automatic timer. Full 1 1/2 year warranty on complete unit.

Comes in two sizes. Large unit will hold a 600 lb. hog.

For more information phone collect or write:

Jerald Lichtfuss
Apt. F2 2303 Valleywood Drive SE
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49506
Phone: 616-949-3452

ASPARAGUS CROWNS

1 year old
No. 1 grade

Bulk prices
for large quantities.

Still Available

FRUITHAVEN NURSERY INC.

Kaleva, Mich. 49645
Phone 616-889-5594

I WILL BUILD all (or part) of various models of Dutch Windmills to be used for supplemental power and lights. First windcharger built in 1934. Elwood Van Antwerp, 22011 "L" Drive N., Marshall, Mich. 49068 Phone (616) 781-4353. (4-11-35p)

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

FOR SALE — Asparagus Plants in commercial quantities. Green Tip Farm, R3, Paw Paw, Mich. 49079 Phone (616) 657-5003 after 7 p.m. (4-21-18p)

ASPARAGUS CROWNS FOR SALE 1 year old. No. 1 grade. Bulk prices for large quantities. Fruithaven Nurseries, Inc., Kaleva, Mich. 49645. Ph. (616) 889-5594. (4-11-20p)

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. (3-11-21p)

HOMEMADE CHEESE: HARD, SOFT & COTTAGE! Make it yourself! Easy, \$1.00. Hamiltons, Box 233-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (3-11-20p)

FOR SALE — Asparagus crowns, large one year old Waltham Washington. No sales less than 5,000 plants. Leo H. Greiner & Sons, RR No. 2, Hart, Mich. 49420. (3-21-23p)

FOR SALE — Clean straw 50 cents a bale. T. Matuszewski, Bentley, Mich. 48613 Tel. 517-846-8893. (4-11-12p)

GARLIC CLOVES and sets for seasoning or spring planting 75 cents per lb. Also chives in rows 2 years old for salads and flowers 75 cents per sq. ft. Elwood Van Antwerp, 22011 "L" Drive N., Marshall, Mich. 49068 Phone (616) 781-4353. (4-11-37p)

SAUSAGE MAKERS, GREAT! RECIPES. Bologna, Frankfurters, Head Cheese, Summer, Blood and Pork Sausage. \$1.00. Hamiltons Box 233-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (4-11-21p)

OLDTIMER COUNTRY 8 track cartridge \$4.95, Oldtime Gospel \$4.95, Two Old Country 45's \$1.00. Oatmora Stars, Coldspring, Texas 77331. (3-21-19p)

KODACOLOR FILM DEVELOPED, 12 exp. Roll \$1.50. Cavalier Color, 1265 S. 11th, Niles, Mich. (3-12-12p)

FOR SALE — German Shepherd male dog 10 mos. old, Percy hull, \$50. Two-wheel trailer \$35. Percy Hull, R1, Twining, Mich. 48795 Phone (517) 873-4428. (4-11-24p)

FOR SALE — Citizens Band Walkie-Talkie Rig, Two Courier Clipper 23's, 5-watt transceivers. Also charger/power supply, batteries, antennas, attache' carrying case. Write for picture and details. D.J. Gridley, P.O. Box 746, Mackinaw City, Mich. 49701. (4-11-25p)

ATTENTION FARMERS — Land clearing and excavating, no job too big or small, also backhoe digging, trenching, basements and septic. John Drielick, 14207 Sheridan R.I., Montrose, Mich. 48457. Ph. (313) 639-7261. (4-11-25p)

OFFICE CALLS

QUESTION: My wife is expecting next month. Will the new baby automatically be added to my Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage?

ANSWER: No, the coverage is not automatic. You must make application within 30 days after the birth of your new baby to have Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage for your newborn. If you do this, your baby is eligible for all the Blue Cross and Blue Shield benefits you have. If you already have three or more of your family covered, adding the new baby will cause no change in your subscription rates. If there are just two of you covered, adding the new baby will raise your contract to Full Family coverage at a small additional cost. Be sure to see your local county Farm Bureau Secretary as soon as your baby is born so that your baby can be added for full coverage.

Topic Summary

February's Discussion Topic on "Criminal Justice" brought forth many interesting comments. Many community groups had a local law enforcement officer as their guest and resource person for the discussion. One county had such a response from a county-wide meeting on the subject matter that they are seriously considering holding a second meeting. The group's response to the questions were:

1. Do you feel the American system of criminal justice is out of step with the times? Yes 95 percent No 5 percent
2. In your opinion does the U.S. overprotect the criminal at the expense of the law-abiding? Yes 100 percent No 0 percent
3. One Federal Judge has been quoted as saying he feels criminal justice should be more concerned with quick, sure justice-and rehabilitation than in protecting the defendant in crime. Do you agree? Yes 95 percent No 5 percent
4. It has been suggested by some that crime rate can be reduced by attacking the root causes: crime, joblessness and poor education. Do you concur with this opinion? Yes 61 percent No 39 percent
5. Conclusions: Courts are too lenient, too many loopholes prolong trials, reinstate capital punishment; the devil finds jobs for idle hands; enforce the laws we have; reform the court system; courts decisions do not consider the intent of the law-this has done much to erode our system of criminal justice; poverty and lack of education are no excuse for crime.

Workmen's Compensation: The Rules Have Changed

Feed Bunk Accident Would Cost \$30,000 Today

Clinton Pringle, a prominent cattle feeder in Clare County, employed one full-time hired hand. In the Spring of 1970, however, a neighbor was hired temporarily to help with the chores during the Pringle's two-week vacation.

The man, unsupervised and unaccustomed to farming equipment, slipped and fell into the feed bunk while the auger was in operation. He received extensive injury to his right leg. And, at age 27, it appears he will be permanently disabled.

The accident was not covered by Workmen's Compensation. The neighbor had been employed only three days. Today, after the 1972 Supreme Court decision, the accident would be covered because a fellow employee (the full-time hired hand) had worked in excess of 13 weeks during the preceding 52 weeks.

If one employee qualifies for benefits, all employees qualify — regardless of how long or often they have worked. Estimated cost of Workmen's Compensation benefits today: \$30,000.

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.

THE ENERGY CRISIS means lower auto insurance costs...



If you insure with Charlie Foster.

People now drive less, drive shorter distances and drive slower. So, we are passing the savings on to our policyholders—beginning with renewal billings mailed after May 1. The total reduction adds up to \$3 million.

During April, all Farm Bureau Insurance auto policyholders will receive a mail survey which can qualify them for the decrease. Why not check the facts with Charlie Foster? Or your local Farm Bureau Insurance Agent?

**FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE** 
GROUPTM