

# Tax Relief Plan Waiting to Go

One more vote could trigger the starting gun for land use administrators to begin offering tax relief to farmers who wish to keep their land in agriculture.

The Farmland and Open Space Taxation Bill (H. 4244) looked like a sure bet to be passed in March, but the Senate failed by one vote to adopt the House amendments.

The partisan vote in the Senate had nothing to do with an open space provision the House had eliminated.

A House-Senate conference committee appears to be reaching a solution, however, and favorable action seems near as legislators generally agree on the basic issues. There seems to be little opposition to omitting the 25 percent penalty to be levied against those who failed to live up to agreements and granting landowners permission to take advantage of both this bill and the 1973 property tax relief measures. As the bill now stands farmers who receive tax relief under H. 4244 will still be able to collect tax credits for payments over 7 percent of their household income.

Karl Hosford, head of the young Office of Land Use in the Department of Natural Resources, has been holding at the starting line plans to put the new law into effect. Though he hasn't yet seen the final law he feels he knows what his job will be once he's allowed to move.

"We want to be sure that procedures are as uncomplicated as possible to make it easy for farmers to enter the program, but

at the same time we want to make sure that land speculators don't take advantage of the tax break," Hosford says.

Tightness of procedural rules will depend very much on the final shape of the bill, Hosford says.

"If the definition of a farmer is specifically stated in the bill then we won't have any problem. If it isn't, then we'll have to promulgate rules to keep the speculator out of it. From what I've seen of the bill so far, it's pretty tight on this."

Upon passage of the bill Hosford's Office will have to set up rules, forms and explanatory materials, but, he says, farmers should be able to start making applications into the program within two months after the signing of the bill. Processing of applications is expected to take about three months. So the first agreements between farmers and the State should go into effect by late Summer or early Fall, barring any long hold-ups in the legislature.

Farmers will be able to apply for tax relief through their county or township. The local government will then advise local and regional planners as well as the farmers' soil conservation district heads before forwarding the farmers request to the State Land Use Office.

The Land Use Office will advise the state tax commission to make the initial assessment of the land under the Act's provisions. Subsequent assessment will be handled locally. If the farmer is

agreeable to the terms he can then sign a contract with Land Use Office.

If the applicant feels he is being treated unfairly he may appeal first to the local government, then to the State Land Use Agency and, as a last resort, go to court.

"This act will have three advantages," Hosford says, "One, it gives the owner agricultural assessment of his property. Two, if property taxes exceed 7 percent of the household income, the difference is returned. Three, the property can't be assessed for utilities like sewers while under the contract. I'm from a farm and I know how important that item is," the Land Use Chief says.

Hosford won't be depending on his own expertise when setting up rules for the procedures. His first action after the bill is passed will be setting up an agricultural advisory board.

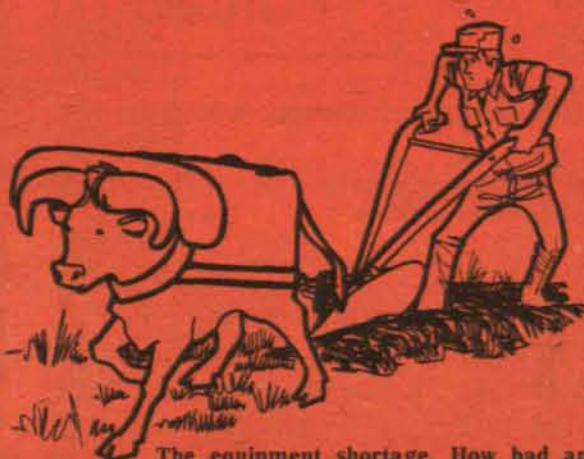
"I think I'll go to Farm Bureau, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Extension, and to farmers themselves to find out who to put on this committee," Hosford says.

Though Hosford says he has an excellent relationship with the agricultural community, he admits that he is aware that many would like to see his job turned over to the Department of Agriculture.

"But Agriculture, says Hosford, has never dealt with land transactions. we (DNR) have the field staff living in the areas we will be administering."



Looking into feed costs.



The equipment shortage. How bad and how long.



They gypsy moth strikes Michigan counties.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



# Time Running Out for Local Land Use Input

Some farmers in Michigan act as though we have a choice between having land use policy or not. But those who are honest with themselves know that such planning is a must. Statistics show that Michigan is putting thousands of acres of good farmland out of production every year and trends point to the fact that by year 2000 we will not have the necessary farmland to meet the needs of Michigan.

Legislators on the state and national level have looked at the statistics for Michigan. Then they have looked at how precious little is being done on the local to halt these and have decided that they will have to take over the responsibility for local land use planning.

Frankly speaking, land use planning will be a fact of life.

The choice we are left with is whether or not land use planning for our communities will take place at home or in Washington. If we choose to have local planning control, then we exercise that control or give it up to more remote authorities.

Farm Bureau is trying to save local input in land use planning and zoning. On the national level, we have opposed legislation that contains provisions that would allow the federal government to corner local land use policy through monetary policy. This is because policy of the American Farm Bureau Federation clearly states "We believe that land use planning can best be accomplished at the county or comparable level of government."

But while we hold the line on the national front, we look back and see too little being done in the communities and counties. Figures from 1972 showed only 38 percent of the local units of government in Michigan with planning commissions and only 31 percent with zoning commissions.

The only way we can win this battle for local control is to start local planning, now. Our legislative efforts in Washington can only give us a little time.

While little is being done at home, evidence accumulates to prove there is real need for planning in Michigan where both agriculture and manufacturing are both large and necessary industries.

As manufacturing presses out into rural areas the residences of workers are built on good farmland. This doesn't mean that the economy must stop growing, in order to have food land use.

There are enough varieties of soil types in Michigan to keep agriculture healthy while allowing manufacturing to use land not fit for farming. We must not think of agricultural zoning and the lowest designation for land. It could be the most important.

We have the means to save local control. Face up to your local planning needs. Talk them over in Farm Bureau Community Groups. Insist, as a member of your county Farm Bureau that your organization deal with planning needs on a county level. Then get your community and county Farm Bureau organizations to influence local policy in favor of sound planning and zoning before it is too late.

I'm pleased to find that there are members working for good land use control. In Ionia, Farm Bureau members on the County Board of Commissioners stood their ground on the issue of effective land use planning. Farm Bureau members, acted on their own and through the Farm Bureau young farmers who had such a stake in this issue to help the commissioners weather a recall bid.

This sort of commitment by members is a perfect example of what Farm Bureau is all about -- cooperative action directed toward a goal. Our goal of achieving local land use planning may be one of our most important goals over the long haul.

We, as Farmers, have a legacy to protect. A source of food for America and a way of life for generations to come.

## underlines: TERRY CANUP

### Committed

If you ever want to insult somebody, tell them they look like they've been put together by a committee. That means they look like they've got all the wrong parts in the right places or all the right parts in all the wrong places or maybe just more parts than places.

It means they can't function well enough to turn on a TV and if they could they'd watch the antenna.

It means they usually do things backwards. Eat dessert and then say grace; take a shower and then undress; brush their gums and put in their teeth.

It means when they work they start at the finish and never quite get to the end.

This reputation that committees have may be earned and it may not. Nobody really knows because nobody has ever been able to figure out what committees say. They speak their own language.

Committee - eeze

Take a few of the phrases I have had translated for me. "We will procure resources forthwith and rechannelize them into equally attributable bureaucratic operations." (Translation: We're going to rob Peter to pay Paul.) or: "Those potential effectual social harmonizations focusing audition upon the powers that be will find gratification in the practice." (Translation: The squeaky wheel gets greased.)

Well, Farm Bureau has a new committee and I have been told

that they recognize that within an organization "proximous visualization steadfastly yield obstructionisms to the perceptualizations of wider spectrums."

(Translation: People in organizations sometimes can't see the forest for the trees. Or in other words, an organization can sometimes function like a committee.)

Coming to this realization, Farm Bureau has formed a committee to "tend to revitalization of Farm Bureau cogniscenti and to the purgationalization of non-input-bearing facets of institutionalization." (Translation: Take a fresh look at Farm Bureau and get the lead out.) How can they do it? By having people on the committee that don't talk like committee people. Michigan Farm Bureau has selected a cross-section of MFB staff, state farmer leaders and members active on a local level.

We, on the staff, have been told nothing in the organization will be held sacred from review. Every program or action in the organization will be scrutinized in light of the question, "Does it work toward the goals of Farm Bureau?"

I was cogniscent of the desirous nature among yourselves for references of knowledge which might be quenched by my dissertative effort. (Translation: I thought you'd like to know.)

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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## DONNA

### The New Literacy

Entrepreneur--quite a mouthful for a grown man to pronounce, spell and define. So how would you react if your 7-year-old second-grader came home from school and announced that he had become one?

It's happening in some homes in Michigan. Second-graders, -- who know that an entrepreneur is a person who organizes and manages a business undertaking, assuming the risk for the sake of the profit -- are making such statements to their astounded parents.

Even kindergarteners, through effective teaching methods and devices such as games, stories and "comic" strips, understand the concepts of producer, consumer, goods and services. They comprehend such things as tangible and intangible goods, services and bankruptcy.

One third-grade teacher divided his class into two corporations. Each corporation elected officers, and sold stock for 13 cents a share--using real money. Their products were African yo-yos and yardstick covers--something every doting grandparent would love to buy. They bought materials for their products on the open market and "discovered" the law of supply and demand.

Each corporation had a treasurer to keep the books, recording expenditures and income. Before the project was finished, they had learned about

production costs, market functions, how to market a product, revenue and profits.

This "revolution" within the educational system has come about because of a small group of educators from Olivet College who believe that economic literacy should be a part of everyone's lifestyle. These educators and an advisory council, on which Farm Bureau is represented, have launched an attack against economic illiteracy and hope, eventually, to make economics a mandatory part of all school systems' educational programs.

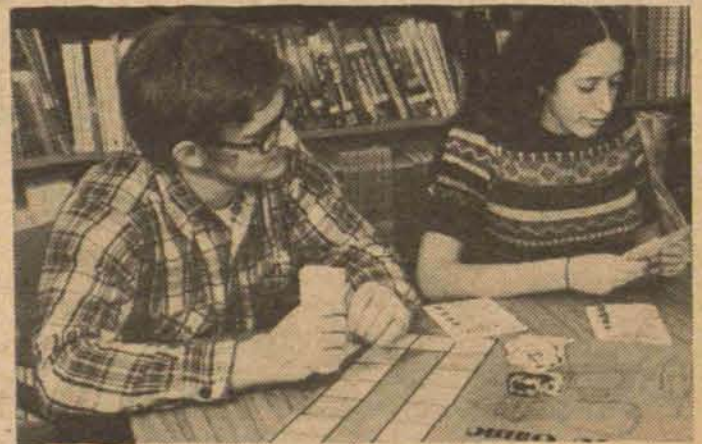
Economics has been called the "dark continent" of U.S. education. As Olivet College president, Ray Loeschner, states, "Someone once said that the eighth wonder of the world is the American economic system--and the ninth wonder is the American people's ignorance of that system."

He believes that the survival of our enterprise system and the high standard of living it has produced depends upon the economic literacy of the American people.

That farmers should support the college's battle against economic illiteracy is not surprising. One of the statements included in "Farm Bureau Beliefs" is: "That one of the greatest dangers threatening our republic and our system of private competitive enterprise is the apathy of the American people..."

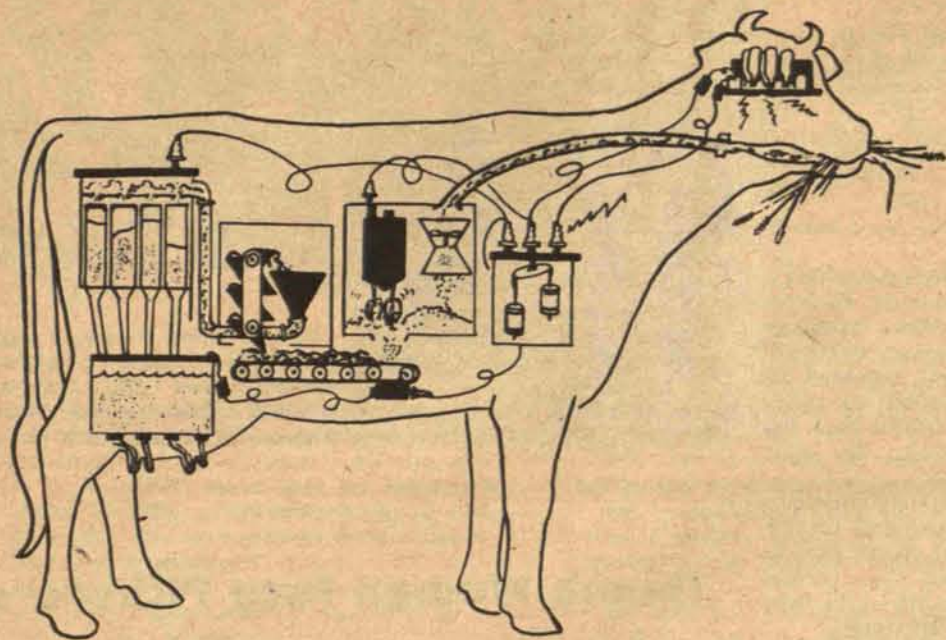
## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Farm News is now being published one week earlier than has been the practice up to now in order to facilitate more timely mailings. Editorial contributors, display and classified advertisers should have materials into the Farm News before the 13th of each month to meet new schedules.



Teenagers learn "the credit game."

# Trade, Technology Make New Feed Possible



"US Cattle Fed Grain as World Starves" read a headline above an article reflecting the thoughts of a young, self-taught nutritionist in a recent issue of a Michigan newspaper.

Frances Lappe, author of the best seller "Diet for a Small Planet," bemoaned the practice of using 78 percent of the humanly usable grain we produce to feed livestock which convert this protein into smaller amounts of meat protein.

The author's indictment on American agriculture is based on the concept of protein efficiency. She follows this maxim religiously whether talking about feeding cattle or feeding people.

Following this guideline, she presents, in her book, over 100 predominately vegetarian recipes, ranging from banana and nut stews to eggplant Parmesan.

Her concept throughout is never to use two parts of protein to make one by feeding it to an animal.

"These are proper statements, but she uses them completely out of context," said Dr. Hugh E. Henderson, a scientist studying animal feeds at Michigan State University.

"There's one simple reason we've been using grain for feed - economics. When you could buy soybean oil for \$60 or \$70 per ton, animals were doing mankind a favor by taking it off the market."

Any livestock feeder knows this is not the case today. Because of high feed costs, hog and cattle feeders are going in the hole. It is estimated cattle feeders are now losing \$100 to \$200 for each market steer they sell.

A more affluent world trading more openly with the US has changed the picture over the last two years, Henderson says. The result? Higher demand for protein sources and higher prices for grains, which pushes the market system into freeing grain for human consumption. Livestock feeders can afford to do little else.

Foreseeing such a situation Henderson and other researchers at MSU have been experimenting with possible substitutes for grains since 1965 and feel they have come up with the answer in liquid feed technology -- a system of converting waste and food by-products into usable proteins for livestock by treating the substances with bacteria.

"We can cut feed costs in half with liquid feed," Henderson said. "But this wouldn't have been true two years ago, with the cheap feed grains we had then."

Hand-in-hand with the economic savings for cattle feeders will come a new efficiency in protein use, Henderson adds.

"With liquid feed we will actually be able to turn livestock into protein factories that produce humanly usable protein from non-humanly usable proteins."

Henderson's liquid feed, unlike urea, would not be toxic and would be a complete source of energy. Eventually, need for any solid bulk would be eliminated for slaughter animals.

The scientist has already proved his point to his own satisfaction with the development of Bactolac, which he and Dr. C. A. Reddy unveiled last summer.

This protein supplement is made from a dairy by-product, whey, which up to announcement of the new product was considered nothing more than an environmental nuisance. Henderson claims that 300,000 cattle could be fed every year with the whey available in Michigan.

This is only an example of what can be done, according to Henderson, since most any carbon-bearing substance with proper treatment will be able to be converted to feed for cattle, hogs, poultry, sheep and dairy cows.

The researcher already envisions large, distillery-like structures being made to produce the liquid feed in mass volumes.

But Michigan farmers won't be able to find the whey product or any others of its kind at feed dealers now.

"It takes a minimum of \$5 million and five to ten years of research to get a new product on the market after it is developed," Henderson says.

Such extensive procedures for consumer clearance by the government is stifling technology with unnecessarily strict regulations, the scientist says.

"There is no way we could get clearance to put on the market any of the food we eat today, if it had to conform to consumer regulations," he adds. "They would just wipe everything out."

"We can cut feed costs in half" —

Dr. Hugh E. Henderson



Consumer protection measures, necessitating long research, add to the consumer's bill as well, Henderson says.

"They can add up to 50 percent to the cost of new products. And now they want to pass a new law that would give the President even wider consumer protection powers. If they're concerned about the poor, they should keep the cost of adequate diets down instead of creating another bureaucratic monster."

While new cost-saving products fight to get on the market, feed company nutritionists are left with the problem of getting the lowest cost, fully balanced mixture of feed ingredients for feed from available commodities.

This is no small task when you consider that a formula of ingredients that is the lowest in cost last week may not be the cheapest this week because of price fluctuations on the commodity market.

Dr. Marvin Wastell, entering his fifth month with Farm Bureau Services Feed Department, has this responsibility, but has the help of a new computer system which coordinates ingredient prices (updated weekly) with their nutrient values.

"The good thing about this computer is that I can experiment, by saying 'what happens if . . . .'. If corn goes to \$4 per bushel, for instance."

The computer can compensate for the rising price of corn and chooses a less expensive but nutritionally equivalent substitute. It is Wastell's job to give the computer the right information to work with--up-to-date price listings, correct nutritional levels of ingredients and the right nutritional goals for the particular animal the feed is being made for.

"Any limitations you place on this basic formula, generally, costs you money," Wastell says.

But limitations are necessary since people can be finicky about what they feed the animals they invest so much money in.

"People are funny," Wastell says. "If we put in more alfalfa than usual to take the place of another more expensive ingredient, the color changes and people complain."

Wastell, himself a cattle rancher before pursuing his PhD in animal nutrition, believes taste is an important limitation that must be evaluated when formulating feed, as well as other practical limitations such as weight and consistency. Too much molasses for instance can literally gum up the works, he says.

While Wastell doesn't take issue with Food and Drug Administration controls, his studies at Iowa State University on the effects of Selenium on hogs proved to him that restrictions can be abusive.

"The fact that Selenium was not FDA approved cost producers thousands of dollars and the restrictions on DES were basically not justifiable," he says.

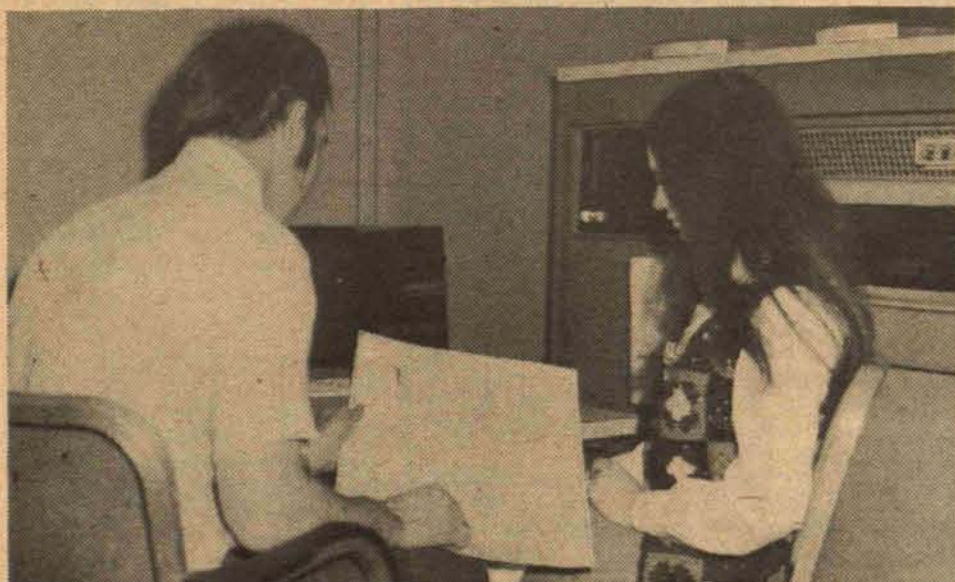
Yet, the nutritionist doesn't see any quick changes for future feed ingredients.

"I don't see any dramatic reduction in the use of feed grains," he says, "But I do see a trend toward putting cattle out in the rough to forage and I see greater use of feed grain by-products."

A degradation of nutritional standards to bring down costs will not be tolerated by Wastell in his program, however.

"Not while I'm here," he says, "Right now we're reviewing all ingredients and final products APART from costs to assure high nutritional standards."

Wastell sees technology as a possible cost-saver for feeders in the long run with new advances such as aquatic food harvesting. But the time it takes to put these advances into practice may be the factor that decides whether many livestock feeders will benefit.



Dr. Wastell checks a feed ingredient printout with his assistant in the FBS computer room.

# CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

## Petition Drives Attack Spending, Fast Time



Two of the petition drives now underway in Michigan are aimed at establishing a set limit to state spending and putting Michigan on Central Standard Time. Both initiative petitions will need over 300,000 signatures by the July 8 deadline.

Rep. Thomas Sharpe (R-Howell) announced plans to petition in order to place a proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot after a House committee failed to act upon a joint resolution calling for a spending limit. The proposal would freeze state spending at the 1973 level at 8.8 percent of personal income in Michigan.

The purpose of Sharpe's proposal is to control growth of government spending, stabilize taxes, and maintain present levels of government services while taking population growth and inflation into consideration.

The resolution, introduced by 38 legislators of both parties establishes a limit on all revenues of the state, excluding federal aid.

At the same time, state monies to local governments could not be cut below the levels set at the time the amendment is adopted and the state could not make local units increase services unless new programs were paid for out of state coffers.

Local units, on the other hand, would be prohibited from increasing tax rates or levying new taxes without a majority vote of voters in that area. (This limitation would not apply, however, to payment on bonds already authorized.)

State tax limitations could be exceeded under the proposal if the legislature passed a declaration of emergency by a two-thirds vote. Such declarations could only be made on a year-to-year basis.

This idea is not entirely new. A similar proposal put to a public vote in California was defeated by a 54 percent majority. It was also argued that local governments would have taxed more heavily on the local level under that proposal. Rep. Sharpe has tried to prevent occasion for such arguments in his proposal.

High government expenditures in relation to personal income are largely a phenomenon of the last 50 years.

Information has been compiled which points out that for the first 150 years of US history, total spending by federal, state, and local governments never exceeded 15 percent of the national income, except during a major war.

Between 1932 and 1950, this had grown to 32 percent; and by 1973, it was estimated that total federal, state, and local government revenues exceeded 43 percent of total personal income.

At this rate, it is estimated that total government revenues will be more than 50 percent of personal income by the early 1980's.

The average wage earner today must work nearly five months of the year to pay his total taxes to local, state, and federal governments. Michigan's state expenditures have paralleled this national trend. For example, total state revenues were 4.53 percent of personal income in 1956, and 8.8 percent in 1973.

It is estimated that if total state spending continues at the present growth rate, Michigan's total state budget will increase from the current \$5 billion to more than \$30 billion by 1988.

**Double Daylight Saving**  
The petition drive to put Michigan in the Central Time Zone

has been started by a committee of organizations, including Michigan Farm Bureau, after legislation submitted by Sen. Gary Byker (R-Hudsonville) which requested the federal government to place Michigan in the Central Zone was not acted upon in the state legislature.

The initiative petition drive would place a proposed amendment to the state constitution on the ballot stating that Central Standard Time would be the legal time throughout the state.

Delegates at the state Farm Bureau convention voted to work toward putting Michigan in the Central Standard Time Zone. Geographically speaking, over 98 percent of our state is in that time zone.

The time issue is a long-standing and controversial issue. Michigan is presently in the Eastern Standard Time Zone; and Daylight Saving Time literally means "Double" Daylight Time, with the state actually two hours ahead of the sun.

One piece of time legislation has passed this year in an attempt to take Michigan off the federally mandated Daylight Saving Time for the winter months. This still leaves the problem of summer Daylight Saving Time.



LEFT: Diane Bukowski pickets Michigan Milk Producer Headquarters in January. ABOVE: Diane meets Martha Thuemel of Huron Co. FB Women.

## Thumb Women Face Picketers

Huron County Farm Bureau members held an open forum on March 29 with members of one of the most outspoken food boycott groups in the country - Women United for Action (WUA).

Operation Food Price Rollback under WUA has continued to call for a 25 percent rollback on meat and milk prices since the spring food boycotts last year.

On January 24, the Detroit chapter of WUA took their campaign to the doorsteps of the Michigan Milk Producers Association headquarters. Picketing in front of the Detroit offices, the group distributed handbills reading, "Milk for People, Not for Profit."

"The small farmer is not our enemy but our ally," Diane Bukowski, one of the WUA picketers told the assembly in Bad Axe at the Huron County Farm Bureau Rural-Urban Dinner.

The WUA education campaign was meant to expose the real culprit, she said, -- big business.

Mrs. Bukowski, along with colleague, Tova Klein, were invited to the dinner by the Huron County FB Women's Committee. MMPA President Glenn Lake was also invited to the dinner on the anniversary of the 1973 meat boycotts which spawned the WUA organization.

Mrs. Bukowski stressed that WUA had much in common with small and middle farmers and they should work together against giant corporations who, she said, control 80 percent of American food production.

From past statements, it seemed apparent that WUA included farmer cooperatives such as MMPA, which the group tagged as

a member of a big price-fixing dairy cooperative conspiracy which they said controlled 98 percent of milk supplies.

MMPA President took issue with Mrs. Bukowski as he spoke from the floor.

"All Michigan Milk Producer Association members are small and middle size farmers and all monies go to them, not the company," he said telling the WUA representative to check her facts.

Lake added that farmers have the same right to organize as laborers do and to bargain collectively as unions do.

Mrs. Bukowski said WUA planned a hearing in which small and middle dairy farmers would be invited to question large cooperative spokesmen.

Big costs for these small and middle-sized farmers were discussed by Faye Adams and Diane Wood of Sanilac County during the meeting.

The duo showed slides of their own dairy operations to the group, pointing out the costs of farm equipment, feed and the risks involved in investing in dairy cows.

The two Sanilac women are one of the most active of the 28 MFB Bureau Speakers' teams in the state.

County Women's Committees are being called upon throughout the state to contact church officials in their area in a move to counter United Farm Worker (UFW) efforts to get clergy support.

MFB Women's Director Helen Atwood said every county committee would be contacted and given material explaining that the UFW's fight is with the teamsters union which has won over a majority of the UFW membership.



## Tax Cutter

Sen. Bursley (R-Ann Arbor), Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, is planning to introduce legislation to provide for as much as a one-third cut in property taxes levied for school operating purposes. This would be accomplished by increasing the state personal and corporate income tax for financing public education.

The idea is an extension of the Bursley "Equal Yield" School Aid Act that was passed last year which guarantees an equal dollar yield from each mill of property tax, regardless of how poor the district might be.

Sen. Bursley does not expect that such a bill will pass this year but expects that public hearings can be held during the summer and fall with consideration of the legislation by next year's Legislature.

## USDA Practicing Birth Control

Mexican and US officials currently are negotiating with contractors for construction of the main building of a facility in southern Mexico in which to produce more than 300 million sexually sterile screw worm flies each week.

When the sterilized screwworm flies mate with native screwworms, the eggs that result are sterile, thus diminishing the insects' ability to multiply.

Scientists plan a few tricks for gypsy moths in Michigan. (See page 9).

## Rail Hearings Set

Hearings on the effect of rail reorganization and cutbacks in Michigan have been won for out state Michigan. Those who wish to give testimony can participate in any of the following hearings. Appointments can be made by calling the ICC Regional Office and asking for Erma Johnson at (313) 226-4966.

Date	Place	Time
May 13	Saginaw	9:30 a.m. (Civic Center)
May 15 & 16	Grand Rapids	9:30 a.m. (County Ad Bldg.)
May 20	Traverse City	9:30 a.m. (Gov't Credit Union) & 7:00 p.m.
May 21	(Gov't Credit Union)	9:30 a.m.
May 24	Marquette	9:30 a.m. (City Hall)



## Thank You Gentlemen

Farm Bureau would like to thank the above legislators for being among the many that met with members this Spring. They are: Sen. Stanley Powell (R-Ionia), Sen. James Fleming (R-Jackson), Rep. Ray Kehres (D-Monroe) and Rep. Kirby Holmes (R-Utica).



Robert E. Smith



Albert A. Almy

## Do I qualify for tax break?

**Q:** In the December issue of the FARM NEWS, your column indicated that the Treasury Department had misinterpreted the tax relief program law passed last year by requiring that the products sold from the farm must total more than the household income in order to get full benefits of new legislation. Has anything been done to clarify this misinterpretation?

**A:** Yes. Farm Bureau and several legislators objected to the Treasury Department's interpretation.

Rep. Roy Spencer (R-Attica), introducer of the tax relief bill of 1973, provided the leadership to introduce a resolution to clarify the legislative intent in the tax relief bill. (Spencer originally pushed for farms to be included in the legislation.)

It is expected that the Treasury Department

will carry out the provisions of the resolution and extend the property tax relief to many more people living on farm and horticultural lands.

The resolution was, however, restricted somewhat by Senate amendments.

The resolution says that all of a farmer's land is eligible for tax relief if the gross receipts from farming exceed household income.

But there is still a chance for relief for those who don't meet this condition. If an owner has lived on the land for 10 or more years, full tax relief benefits will be maintained. Otherwise, only the household and up to five acres of property can be included in the tax program.

It should be remembered, however, that this resolution is not a law, but only a clarification for the Treasury Department.

## Do agencies make own laws?

**Q:** Recently federal agencies have issued a lot of regulations about pesticides and run-off. I don't understand how they can pass laws without the approval of Congress.

**A:** This question is frequently asked by members but especially so in recent weeks. Members are currently concerned because federal agencies have proposed regulations during the last year that affect nearly all farmers. These include regulations to prevent all run-off from feedlots entering navigable waters, machinery guards on all equipment and pesticide re-entry standards.

Government agencies are for the most part administrators of laws enacted by legislative bodies such as Congress. A government agency is not authorized to enact laws itself. An agency does, however, have authority to develop regulations that will enable it to administer a law within its jurisdiction passed by the appropriate legislative body.

An example is the Federal Water Pollution Control Act which Congress passed over the President's veto in 1972. The act establishes 1985 as a goal to eliminate all discharges of pollutants into navigable waters of this nation. Congress established the goal and other intermediate deadlines, but left the responsibility of implementation to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Then EPA developed no-discharge feedlot regulations under this mandate by Congress. EPA is carrying out its responsibility as

required by the Act. Without such authority delegated by Congress, an individual affected by the regulation would have good reason to challenge EPA on legal grounds.

Issuance of emergency standards is an action government agencies may take that comes closest, in the view of many, to making a law. Emergency regulations can be imposed when extreme danger or other similar conditions exist to the health and safety of the general public.

These regulations do not require advance notice or solicitation of public comment. They may take effect immediately and may remain in effect until permanent regulations can be developed for public comment.

The OSHA Emergency Pesticide Re-entry Standards issued by the Department of Labor last year are an example. Farm Bureau and others successfully repealed the OSHA Emergency Standards through court action on the basis that sufficient evidence did not exist to warrant such action.

Regulations can be out of line if the agency does not correctly interpret the intent of Congress or the law. Incorrect interpretations of legislative intent leads to an agency imposing regulations in areas not covered by the law. While this does happen on occasion, it is the job of Farm Bureau and others participating in the public review of proposed regulations to catch these errors.

# NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

## Consumer Agency Almost Here

The House has passed, by a three to one margin, a bill (HR 13163) that would create an independent Consumer Protection Agency (CPA). The bill, which was sent to the Senate, would authorize the CPA to intervene in both informal and formal proceedings of nearly every federal agency to represent consumer interests.

Consumer resistance to food prices, support for export controls and resistance to dairy price supports are positions a CPA may press upon the USDA.

In 1972, the USDA had 231 proceedings that, under this law, would be subject to CPA intervention. Those proceedings dealt directly with such central issues as export and import control programs, acreage allotments, operations of CCC, meat grading, milk programs, etc. If the House vote is any indication of support, odds are in favor of the bill becoming law.

Farm Bureau opposes the establishment of any consumer agency having other than advisory powers.

### More Funds for Conservation

For the rest of 1974, farmers will be able to use two federal programs to assist in implementing conservation practices and complying with federal regulations. On April 3, the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) was officially reinstated through court action.

This move freed \$210 million of unused REAP funds that were impounded by President Nixon last year in an effort to hold down federal spending.

The REAP plan now joins the \$90 million Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP) which was set up by Congress to replace REAP.

If funds for both programs are not committed by the end of December, they will revert to the US Treasury.

The most notable difference between the two plans is that pollution prevention practices such as the construction of feedlot run

off structures are eligible for funds under REAP, but not RECP.

With all feedlots subject to broad provisions of federal feedlot run off regulations, farmers may find it worthwhile to use the REAP to help them comply.

### Land Use

Also in the April issue of Michigan Farm News, this column reported that federal land use legislation received a sudden and unexpected setback on Feb. 26 when the House Rules Committee refused to clear for debate a House Bill (HR 10294), which would establish a process for development of a state land use plan which includes federal strings with funding.

It would provide \$100 million per year for eight years in the form of grants to states for development of land use plans. To qualify for the federal grants, states would be required to meet specific criteria established in the federal bill.

Following the denial from the Rules Committee, supporters of the bill launched an effort to obtain its clearance for a House vote, resulting in the scheduling of two additional days of hearings on the bill by a Subcommittee of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

Michigan Farm Bureau submitted testimony to the hearing held on April 25 in opposition to HR 10294 and any extension of federal authority over land use planning.

He noted that comprehensive statewide land use planning and legislation has been developed in Michigan without federal assistance. He also noted that this progress has been made with a great deal of local input which might be lost under federal involvement.

It is believed that the Rules Committee may now reconsider H.R. 10294 and it could be cleared for a House vote this summer.

### Price Controls

The authority for the President to impose wage and price controls is scheduled to expire April 30, 1974. Price controls originally imposed in August 1971 appear to be on the way out.

Both the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and the House Banking and Currency Committee have tabled numerous bills that would either extend price controls and industries currently covered, retain price controls on a few specific industries, or provide standing controls to be used when the President felt they were necessary.

While the Committee action to table price control bills is viewed by most observers as killing an extension of wage and price controls, others believe that some form of legislation may still be enacted.

Farm Bureau is continuing to make its opposition against any extension of price controls known to all members of Congress.

Farm Bureau has been a leading opponent of price controls as a means to control inflation. When price controls were imposed in 1971, Farm Bureau warned that the result would be black markets, shortages and little effect on inflation. A glance backward from the present to August 1971, we think, reveals the wisdom of this warning.

## New Film Release Shows Professional Farmers

In the midst of consumer irritation over inflation and rising food prices the Michigan, Ohio and Indiana Farm Bureaus have released a half-hour feature film called "Man and the Land" depicting farmers' special problems in today's world.

"It shows the farmer as a professional," says Bob Driscoll of the MFB information staff.

With footage shot in all three states and music specially scored for the film, facts concerning needed capital investment as well as risks involved with weather, market conditions and environmental controls are conveyed in a pleasing manner.

"I think the farmer is seen as a businessman, planner and conservationist in this film," says MFB information head Larry Ewing.

The film has been scheduled to be aired on several TV stations throughout Michigan but Ewing and Driscoll see much of its value in use in public meetings. MFB Speakers Bureau personnel are already using the film as part of presentations to school children and municipal groups.

"The film is ideal for rural-urban meetings," Ewing says. "Since it does such a good job of informing non-farmers about agriculture."

Perhaps the biggest use of the film will come in schools. Several

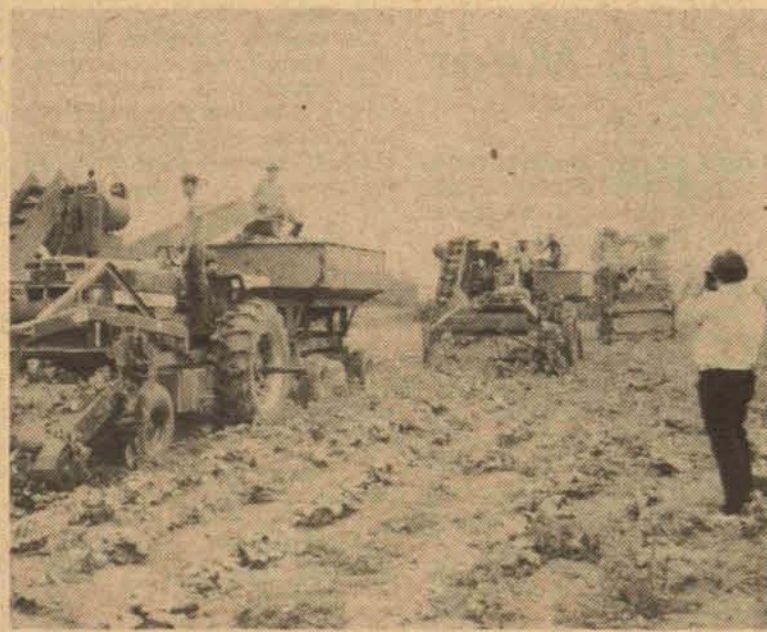
school systems have already seen the film and have asked to have it added to their film libraries.

Farm Bureau groups wishing to

obtain a copy of the film can contact their county office or the state office at 7373 W. Saginaw, Lansing, 48904.



Faye Adams and Diane Wood of Sanilac Co. show school children the way it used to be. Then, the film "Man and the Land" is shown to depict the present.



Bob Driscoll of the MFB information staff shoots footage for "Man on the Land."

Cherry Producers First Victim

# Packaging Shortage Threatens Markets

Despite a healthy demand for cherries, Michigan producers may find that they won't have an outlet for much of their crop this year. The problem doesn't lie with consumers or with processors, but rather with a shortage of wholesaling storage containers. It is projected that Michigan producers will only have three million of the five million 30-lb. tin cans needed for storing this year's crop. Tight supplies of tin and steel lie at the base of the shortage, even though the two million cans needed would not consume very large amounts of metal.

"Even though we're not talking about that much steel, it's a matter of priorities," says MFB legislative counsel Albert Almy. Almy argues that price controls on tin-plated steel have made it more profitable for manufacturers to channel supplies to more lucrative markets. Farm Bureau attacked the problem by sending communiques to the Governor, state legislators and Congressmen alerting them to the problem and asking that tin-plated steel be made exempt from price controls, even before the April 30 decontrol deadline.

"We're at a very critical period," MACMA General Manager Noel Stuckman says. "We need a lead time of 10 to 12 weeks from the time the steel is made available in order to have the cans ready for the cherry harvest." June 1 is the absolute deadline, can manufacturers say, for receiving materials. Letters were sent to steel manufacturers asking that they give higher priority to supplying materials for food canning. Executives from steel companies responded to the MFB office and indicated that they would take further steel orders under advisement.

Alternative 30-lb. containers seem even less likely with most major packaging materials in short supply. Don Harrelson of Baker Plastics in Williamston, Mich. said that it would take six months to gear for production of 30-lb. plastic containers. But, he added, the firm is not taking on any new business because of material shortages.

While the 30-lb. can shortage is an immediate problem it is only the symptom of a much wider shortage that could affect all fruit and vegetable producers, reports James Goff, Director of the Michigan State University School of Packaging.

Goff says packaging shortages will affect consumer packaging and therefore affect marketing procedures. The director doesn't see April 30 decontrols as the end to the problem either.

"After April 30, things could be worse," he says. "Producers may hold out for a higher price."

Michigan cherry producers are not the first farmers to feel the packaging crunch. Last year California milk producers were faced with a shortage and a large money loss. Florida celery producers faced with a cardboard shortage coped by switching to plastic materials.

Looking for long-range alternatives for Michigan produce may not be that easy.

Goff says one possible solution is to use paint cans that are already in production.

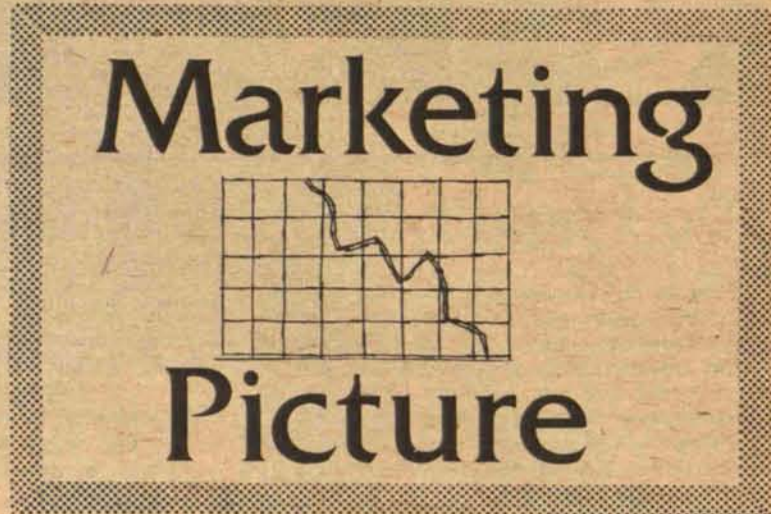
"There are alternative materials," Goff says, "But everybody is looking for them."

Low profit margins for tin-plated steel and plastic producers who put investments into environmental pollution controls are at the base of materials shortages the Director says.

"I don't want to sound like an anti-conservationist, but changes in environmental policies are really at the root of all these problems."

Government indecision or such policy keeps producers off balance, Goff argues.

"You'll be able to get cans but not in the normal order and supply manner," he says, since shortages prevent contract buying.



First Under Accreditation

## Bargainers Sign Contract

The first contract negotiated by state accredited bargainer for farmers has been signed. Michigan Asparagus Growers, a division of MACMA, signed the pact with Stokley Van Camp Co. on April 16 establishing a 32¢ lb. base price for asparagus of 90 to 100 grade.

The Michigan Asparagus Growers Division became the first and only bargaining group to gain accreditation under the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act in February. This entitled the group to represent all Michigan asparagus growers of a specified marketing size.

"It's expected that other processors will be paying 32¢ base price or more depending on quality," said Harry Foster manager of MACMA's Fruit and Vegetable Division.

Growers recognized quality as a crucial factor for the future of the asparagus market. The Michigan Asparagus Growers marketing committee agreed to support what they termed reasonable efforts on the part of processors to minimize tough asparagus in future packs.

"Asparagus growers are on the threshold of a great expansion of the asparagus market," Foster said, "And the future of it depends a lot on the quality of the pack."

"The quality image of asparagus is reaching a level which is cause for real concern," he added.

**Pickle Contract**  
The Daley Pickle Co. came to terms with MACMA-organized growers of Central and Eastern Michigan, arriving at a \$3.10 to \$3.15 per bushel price. MACMA marketing specialist Tom Butler reported that other MACMA grower committees are meeting with pickle companies and are aiming at \$3.00 plus contracts.

The Pickling Cucumber Marketing group under MACMA applied for state accreditation as a bargainer in February and hopes to gain accreditation by early summer so they can negotiate all pickle contracts for the 1975 crop.

**Red Tart Cherry Application**  
The Red Tart Cherry Division of MACMA applied for accreditation on April 19 and MACMA fruit manager Harry Foster says the group is aiming at early enough accreditation to be able to negotiate the 1974 crop as an official bargainer.

"Indications are that the growers' request could well be processed in time for the 1974 harvest," Foster said.

Cherry committees are already preparing to enter negotiations

with processors at the time of their application.

MACMA's Cabbage Growers Division is scheduled to become the second accredited bargainer in the state on May 8. The group is presently waiting out the 30 day period for objections to their appointment. The next marketing period for the group will begin Feb. 26 and end Nov. 27, as determined by the Marketing Bargaining Board.

MACMA's Processing Potatoes Growers should become the third accredited bargainer on May 19.

There is still some question that any accreditations will be valid with a court action pending in the Ingham County Circuit Court where the Michigan Cannery Association and two asparagus growers filed for an injunction against the Marketing and Bargaining Board.

"I don't think there is a chance that the bill would be thrown out in court," Harry Foster said. "But whatever happens our divisions will continue to bargain for their members."

## Apple Committee Secretary Chosen

Thomas C. Butler has been selected by the Michigan Processing Apple Growers Marketing Committee to be the Committee Secretary according to a joint announcement by Larry Seaman, Committee Chairman from Clark Lake, Michigan and Harry A. Foster, Manager of the Fruit and Vegetable Divisions of MACMA in Lansing.

Butler will assume the duties of manager of the Michigan Processing Apple Growers Division of MACMA which was organized in 1961 as one of the first divisions of MACMA. Foster said Perry DeKryger, who held the post previously, has assumed member relations and field service duties for Central and Northern Michigan.

These new staff assignments will provide a more complete market information and member service program for association members, Foster said.

"No honey, I'm not available"



## Canada Cuts off US Meat

The Canadian government imposed what amounted to an embargo on cattle and beef products on April 9, after USDA efforts to come to an agreement concerning DES, a growth stimulant fed to cattle.

The controversy arose after the US ban on DES was lifted in March. Canada retained its ban on the use of the product which has been alleged to contain cancer-producing elements.

Canada went on to ban imports of live cattle and sheep—plus beef, lamb and mutton meat—that had not been officially certified as free of DES.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter said he was "extremely disappointed" that the Canadian government

chose to ban the products rather than accept a USDA proposal that owners of cattle certify whether or not DES has been used.

"Canada insisted that it can only accept certification by a full-time US government employee who periodically visits ranches and feedlots," Yeutter announced after the ban.

While Canadian markets only consume one-fifth of one percent of US beef, border states like Michigan may feel the pinch more severely. The US government is more concerned that the ban may have an adverse affect on the balance of payments by as much as \$100 million.

The ban does not affect the transport of breeding stock to Canada.

## Egg Prices

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

FOR EGGS PICKED UP:  
APR. 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 1974

	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL	UNDER GRADES
AA	.495	.37		
A	.485	.36	.18	.16

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

# Michigan Marketing Outlook

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

## Market & Feeder Cattle

The large supply of long-fed cattle continues to put pressure on the market. There is no apparent let up to this trend in the near future.

If the feedlots don't get back to consistent marketing patterns and lighter selling weights, continued feeding losses are imminent.

Prices have about bottomed out and May prices will be in the low 40's with a higher trend.

Reduced corn prices may create a more favorable feeding margin in the near future. However, much activity as the recent embargo of US cattle by Canada and others could adversely affect competition and pricing.

Feeder cattle supplies continue to be abundant in most parts of the country.

Unfavorable feeding margins and lack of aggressive demand, particularly in the West have caused feeder cattle prices to plummet from January levels.

Five hundred pound choice steer calves are currently being priced from \$43 to \$50 and will probably remain in this range during the next 30 days.

## Butcher Hogs & Feeder Pigs

Butcher hog prices continue to remain in the low \$40's. Prices have been under duress since the truck strike activity. Many overweight Butcher hogs are a drag on the market, particularly when totaled with the excess of other competing meats.

According to recent reports, numbers will not show any appreciable increase in the next few months, which should eventually cause an upturn in the market. Hogs should again hit the \$40 level by late summer.

Current Butcher hog prices are at most a break-even situation for swine producers.

Feeder pig prices remain in the mid \$30's and will remain near that mark for at least 30 days.

## Dairy

Uncertainty is probably the best

explanation and projection for the current period. There are several reasons for this feeling and some of the reasons will be removed in May.

Recent production and consumption trends appear to be stabilizing or turning around. Production appears to be leveling off. This is due to a number of factors including lowering feed prices and lower beef prices.

Consumption also appears to have leveled off and possibly peaked. March consumption is still slightly lower. The consumption trend is most likely due to consumer reaction to price increases, which may have been amplified by widespread layoffs in the auto industry.

Some of the uncertainty will be removed in May when it will become possible to determine the amount of corn planted. At this time, there is disagreement on corn planting intention. Planting intentions appear to be up, but fertilizer shortages may alter plans and some farmers may switch to alternate crops. The weather is also a major factor. A late, cold, wet spring will influence corn planting.

Foreign demand will influence the price of grain, but there appears to be general disagreement on how strong foreign demand will be in the coming year.

The real question is what kind of year it will be for dairymen. At the present time, a safe and easy answer is: uncertain. There are too many changing factors to even speculate on profits at the present time. The cost of inputs continues to increase, except feed, which currently is moving downward.

In summary, if production remains steady, consumption stabilizes, and costs of inputs do not go up, dairymen should have a fair year.

## Soybeans

Less soybeans will be planted this year than last according to the March 1 USDA National Planting Intentions report. But, with

production loan rates reaching toward the 10 percent level, fertilizer short, and nearly all other input costs up, some farmers may as yet decide to plant more soybeans than anticipated.

The USDA world-wide forecast cites increases in the March-June 1974 harvested soybean crops in the Southern Hemisphere, particularly in Brazil, Argentina and Australia. These should more than offset the prospective decline in US production.

Northern Hemisphere countries such as Mexico, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Romania, Yugoslavia, Columbia and Thailand, are also expected to devote larger acreages to soybeans.

In addition, the European Community is currently considering plans for supporting soybean cultivation in 1974 by its member countries.

Producers with '73 crop soybeans still in storage seem to be holding, with hope for a price increase before the '74 crop harvest. Hope may be all they have, as market analysts now see little reason to think soybean prices will rebound.

What they do say is farmers are facing lower markets (probably into harvest) for soybeans and other grains. Soybean meal prices have been down, yet with poor livestock feeding ratios, a negative atmosphere has served as a depressant to demand for meal.

One bright spot is that no one can say in fact there will be a bumper crop in 1974. Dry (or wet) weather, crop blight, and lack of production materials could combine to hold production down drastically, causing wild fluctuations in 1974 soybean prices.

## Navy Beans

Spot movement of a portion of supplies left looks like the best posture to take for each producer still owning beans.

Trading has slowed to a minimum with canners interested in reducing inventories before they

procure additional stocks. Fortunately, from a market pricing point of view, producer offerings have been extremely light.

Looking ahead, we can see producer's ownership appears to be less than 200,000 cwt. with more than four months remaining till new crop. This is certainly an all-time low figure. Some canners have expressed that there simply would not be an adequate supply to cover their entire needs.

While this thought is purely conjecture, there is little doubt that imported supplies have caused at least temporary market congestion.

The direction of the market will be a result of whether the buyers or sellers make the first move. A sellers move can trigger lower values, while a buyer can ring firm tones to the market.

## Wheat

Sales of both wheat and flour have been practically non-existent since wheat values began their precipitous skid in mid February. Students of the market have only two conclusions available to them; either domestic millers have all the wheat they need to complete their grind until new crop or they are waiting for market values to "bottom out."

There still seems to be important amounts of flour to be booked by bakers to carry them through to new crop, but whether or not millers will have to buy more wheat to cover those sales remains to be seen.

The risk to both bakers and millers is considerable. There really seems to be small amounts of wheat left to sell and if considerable buying interest develops, supplies of soft wheat might not be adequate. Weather is also very important to buyers' plans. If wheat maturity is slowed by poor weather, more wheat may have to be purchased by the milling and baking industry.

New crop outlook continues to improve as to quality and quantity of the crop. The world has very few

trouble spots showing. Eastern Europe, particularly Yugoslavia, has some problem and India's potential shortfall has already received widespread publicity. Elsewhere, the outlook is good. Based on facts known today, wheat values are expected to be under considerable downward pressure.

## Corn

Both present crop and new crop corn values have skidded some 35-40¢ bu. in the past 30 days. Despite a persistent feeling that fertilizer supplies will not be adequate to reach Uncle Sam's yield projection, the market has displayed a weak undertone.

The present view of a much relieved world food shortage weighs heavily on the price structure of all grains.

Ownership of grain inventories is largely out of the hands of the grain trade and into those of the farmers. This reluctance to sell by farmers has seemed to slow the price decline to a point where a trading range is expected to appear.

Weather, fertilizer, and as a result, planting progress is expected to be the overriding influence in the five to six weeks ahead. Without some startling development appearing, prices could be expected to continue to erode as the crop goes into the ground.

## Fruit

With processing of the 1973 apple crop nearly complete, inventories are at very low levels. Applesauce is moving very well at this time and growers should be confident of another good marketing year in 1974.

Inventories for canned and frozen red-tart cherries are at nearly all-time lows. This should make for very good price prospects in a year that promises a good crop.

Purple plum inventories can be evaluated as normal at this time with product movement good. Purple plum prices should move up slightly this year.

## Supply



## Report

By Greg Sheffield FBS Marketing Manager

### FEEDS

Soybean meal prices came down rapidly in March and the early part of April. Some excellent buys were made by Farm Bureau Services on spot carloads. Corn prices also have come down considerably from their earlier highs. One difficulty that remains, however, is in the short supply of the dicalcium phosphate and minerals.

It looks as though this situation will continue for some time to come.

Otherwise the movement of manufactured feed to farms has been going along very well and supplies have been adequate in all formulas.

### PETROLEUM, TIRES, BATTERIES AND ACCESSORIES

These have been in better supply than before, but are still not entirely adequate. In April, shipments of scarce farm tire tubes were received by Farmers Petroleum Cooperative and this considerably improved the supply situation.

There appears to be adequate amounts of Farm Bureau liquid fuel for the spring planting season, both gasoline and diesel. The lube oil supply is ahead of last year, but there's still tightness because of a scarcity of certain additives. Batteries, filters, and other accessories are presently in balance with demand.

as quickly and as adequately as possible. Much Lasso, Eptam, and Treflan has already been sold but demand continues. There appears to be just adequate supplies for our customers and, so far, no major difficulties have been encountered.

### SEED

Oat seeds were rounded up for oat farmers and these have been distributed. Supplies have been adequate for most varieties of seed oats. Seed corn has now been distributed for leading brands carried by Farm Bureau such as Tewles, Northrup King and Great Lakes Hybrid. Supplies of corn seed proved adequate.

Forage grasses, alfalfas, and clovers have been distributed and supplies were adequate. Certified bean seed has already been handled. Some supplies of good "grown-from-certified" were available.

### HARDWARE

There's an extreme shortage of tillers and lawn mowers and it looks as though this will remain so through 1974. One reason for this is that demand outstrips the capacity to make the motors.

Building supplies such as steel and lumber are all short and higher in price.

Shortages are easing up in a few areas such as feed, but not enough so suppliers and consumers can take a relaxed, return-to-normal attitude. A build-up in petroleum stocks has been due to a mild winter and voluntary conservation; yet gasoline, diesel fuel and other oil products are not so abundant as to bring down costs. Construction is expected to jump in spite of higher wages for builders' labor. Wages in steel and coal industries are also expected to be boosted. All of which adds to the costs of supplies.

### FERTILIZER

Still remains in short supply and serious shortages are expected in parts of the state. If a sudden burst of good weather encourages planting, it will be difficult to keep up with demands for fertilizer. Fortunately, many Farm Bureau fertilizer patrons have taken supplies early through their co-ops and lots of fertilizer is on the farm now for these farsighted farmers. Non cooperative fertilizer dealers are very short on fertilizer and high in price.

### CHEMICALS

Chemicals for pest control, insects and weeds, have been moving at an extremely rapid pace although supplies have been tight. Farm Bureau is distributing to farmer patrons through its dealers

## Get these 4

Jimsonweed Smartweed Common Ragweed Wild Mustard

## and 13 more with Soyex.

Trust your soybeans to Soyex pre-emergence herbicide. Easy to use, band or broadcast. Soil moisture puts Soyex to work. No incorporation required. It's kind to beans, yet controls tough weeds and grasses, including foxtails. No carry-over problems.

CAUTION: The product advertised can be dangerous if not used properly. Before using read the entire label carefully and use only as directed.

**For more information ask your Farm Bureau dealer**

Where Your Farm Comes First  
  
**Farm Bureau**  
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

# Equipment Shortage a Long-Term Problem

Looking for answers about the heavy equipment shortage, Farm News talked to Otto Jury. Jury, President of the Michigan Agri-dealers Association, runs his own Allis-Chalmers dealership and is manager of the Buchanan Farm Co-op.

**Farm News:** What has caused the farm equipment shortage?

**Jury:** The demand. There's a lot more equipment being sold nationwide. There are some things in short supply to manufacturers as far as items they buy from outside sources like rubber products, hydraulic pumps, electrical equipment that they aren't able to get, and I assume it's because the demand is so great on those industries, too.

**Farm News:** There doesn't seem to be a shortage of construction equipment as opposed to agricultural equipment. Why do you think that is?

**Jury:** I would assume there isn't as great a demand for this equipment. I think expansion of housing as well as commercial enterprises hasn't grown by leaps and bounds as the agricultural picture has.

**Farm News:** What kind of equipment will be in short supply?

**Jury:** Tillage and planting equipment -- culta-mulchers and planters. It's most likely the dealer has sold all such equipment that he's going to have this spring. It would be Fall at least before we get anything put on order now. In fact, in my operation, we've been told what our entire allotment will be 'till next spring. The raw materials have been locked in.

**Farm News:** Then, what do you see as the outlook in the near future?

**Jury:** I think if our economy stays as it is and commodity prices stay where they are, we will have another year and a half to two years of this. In fact, some of the tillage tools we have on order now are for delivery a year from now and my supplier tells us they have sold out their production for next spring.

**Farm News:** Have manufacturers suggested any moves they could make to meet demand?

**Jury:** Well, our company, Allis-Chalmers, is producing more than they ever have. They're actually producing

more than they felt their plants are designed for. I think their indication is that they're reluctant to make a lot of capital investments at this point. They don't know how long this boom will last. Whether they want to gear themselves for more production or not is something they haven't decided on at the corporate level.

**Farm News:** Do you think there is any pressure that can be brought to bear to get companies to make these decisions?

**Jury:** I think probably it goes back to the fact that these companies have limped along for several years having this capacity and having the overhead and not quite getting up to peak efficiency because they haven't been able to get to peak production. And I think they kind of like this feeling of running at capacity and being very efficient and I think they'd kind of like to keep it that way.

**Farm News:** You mean they never do really want to meet the demand at risk of oversupply?

**Jury:** Yes. Well they've gotten caught and dealers have been caught with a lot of stuff on hand. The companies have had to pay interest and taxes on inventories and so on. They don't want to be overstocked or have production capacity if this bubble breaks.

**Farm News:** Are you saying you suspect a descent in agricultural production?

**Jury:** No, I don't think so. It's just that there can be a saturation point in time. Nobody knows, but there could be a time when we have everybody supplied with the machinery they need.

**Farm News:** What would be the best way for farmers to assure they would get the equipment they want and need?

**Jury:** Well, I think they have to do some planning six months to a year ahead of time. There's still no guarantee that what we quote them now will be the price when it gets here, because there's no price protection whatsoever on machinery.

Price increases have been coming through about 60-90 days apart where it used to be that twice a year was the most increases we would have.



**Jury:** "We will have another year and a half to two years of this."

**Farm News:** Do you blame this on normal inflation?

**Jury:** It's inflation and it's the fact that demand is there. "Whatever the traffic will bear" is the attitude manufacturers have taken.

**Farm News:** Do you think there needs to be price protection?

**Jury:** I suppose if we did have price protection, it would be a matter of "If he won't take it, someone else will and pay the price."

If the manufacturer tells us he won't let us have it unless we pay the price and we won't take it, another dealer will.

**Farm News:** Is renting a possible solution to shortage problems?

**Jury:** I Don't think renting has ever been a big profit item for the dealer. It has gotten equipment out and done some advertising for him. But it's hard to justify renting out a piece of equipment for three months use and taking it back into your inventory.

The companies haven't been real conducive to making anything that would give the dealer a break on it. The dealer generally lost more than he got out of it for rent.

It's to the point now that the dealer doesn't have to rent to get equipment out and the companies certainly don't have to.

**Farm News:** Is this going to make machinery hard to rent?

**Jury:** Very possibly. I think we probably have seen an indication of this as companies in years past had what they called pre-season terms. You could buy a combine now and not have to pay interest on it. You'd pay a down payment, but you wouldn't pay interest till fall when you were ready to harvest. These types of incentives have been dropped. And I think this serves as an indication that the companies aren't going to come out with anything spectacular in rental programs.

**Farm News:** There was a time when dealers had parts on hand, whereas now you have to send out for parts to be shipped. Is this going to worsen?

**Jury:** We have as many parts on hand as we ever had. There are slow moving items that you don't ordinarily stock that are harder to come by or take longer to get here than they used to.

We do submit stock orders and don't get them filled completely the way we used to. So, the parts situation is definitely worse than it was a year ago as far as getting everything you order. Of course, we're stocking heavier than we used to. So we're probably ordering more of each part than we used to. The parts situation is not so drastic that we can't keep equipment going, though this may be a different story when we get into spring planting and plowing.

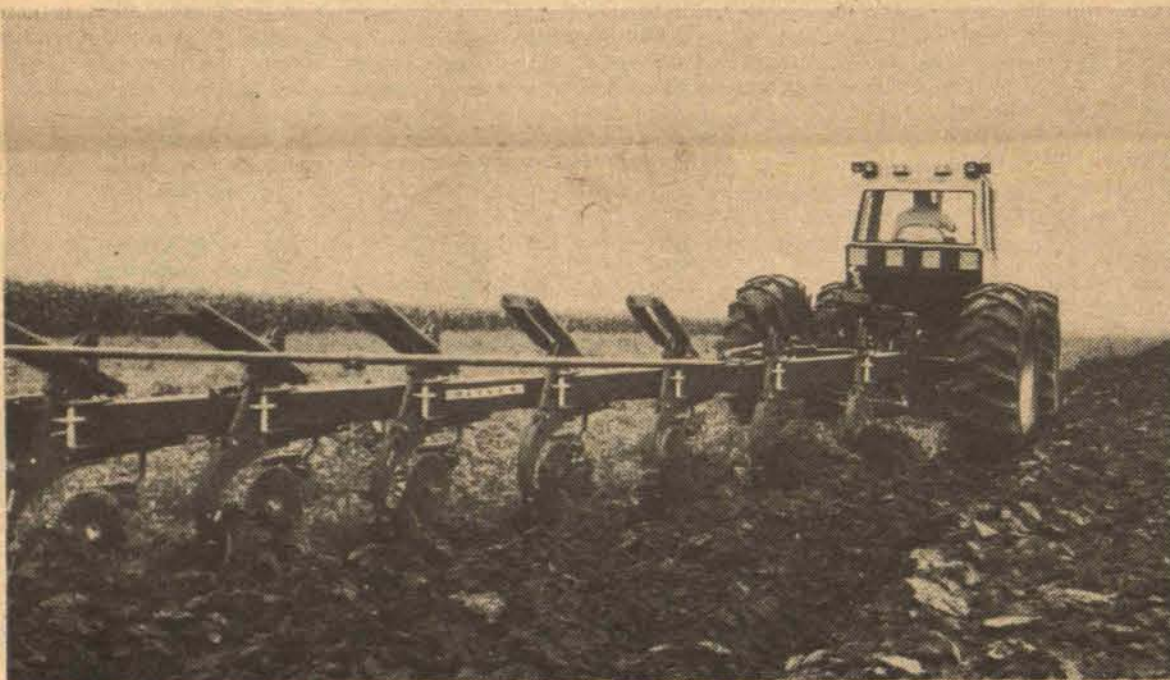
Right now I would say the parts problem is quite critical but not so bad that there are people down and out.

**Farm News:** Do you think fertilizer and fuel shortages will alleviate the machinery demand?

**Jury:** No. It may by next spring, but I think the farmer has some more disposable income to spend on that new piece of equipment he's been wanting for the last two or three years. The machinery isn't purchased on what he anticipates to make this year but on what he made last year.

**Farm News:** As a coop manager, what do you think is the worst of the shortages facing farmers?

**Jury:** Fertilizer. I don't think there is going to be enough fertilizer to get maximum yields.



Tillage equipment is in shortest supply, Jury says.

## Barnyard Energy is Free

There's a source of energy that is not depleting but is increasing. It's especially cheap and available for farmers who can use the fuel in place of natural gas.

The fact is, farmers may have piles of this source on their land, and are probably finding it hard to even avoid stepping in it.

Yes, it's manure. And the message, coming from the farm equipment industry, is that there is a lot of waste going to waste.

"There is more than enough energy by several times over in feed lot manures to replace all fuels used for drying grain in this country," said inventor and farm equipment entrepreneur, Herbert T. Cobey.

The former president of Cobey Corporation has been concentrating on environmental control engineering lately and says

he now has a machine that will allow farmers to forget about buying fuel for grain drying.

"We aren't proposing a plan for the distant future," Cobey said, at a recent demonstration of his machine, "The project can be accomplished in 1974."

The idea is to use the energy of lots of hardworking bacteria to speed up the long, natural process of composting that has made the fossil fuels we mine and drill for today.

A small amount of diesel fuel is needed to run the rapid composter the inventor says but heat produced by the bacteria itself is enough to eliminate health hazards.

Moisture is eliminated from the manure, leaving a sulphur-free substance that Cobey says resembles lignite coal.

Voila! Something that took the earth centuries to make can be made out by the barn in no time.

Cobey likes to translate the wealth of manure into dollars and cents. He claims a thousand head of cattle can produce the equivalent of \$18,240 of oil per year (at \$10 per barrel price). But Cobey doesn't claim to have a new idea.

"It's as old as buffalo chips," he said. "We have rediscovered an age-old source of energy."

The use of wastes as fuel has indeed been well publicized, since an Englishman started filling his car tank with a fuel derived from chicken waste a few years ago.

But Cobey sees this machine as a very practical immediate step towards mass use of waste and says the composter is already in full production.



# Moth Defoliates Michigan Counties

by ROBERT C. ANDERSON

This spring another battle will be fought in Michigan's war against the gypsy moth. If we lose, thousands of acres surrounding Michigan farms could be disfigured through defoliation.

Now is the time to search out and destroy the pests so state and federal agriculture departments have imposed a quarantine on the areas of highest infestation - Fremont Township and Rolland township in Isabella County and Richland Township in Montcalm County. The quarantine involves inspection of trees, shrubs, timber, timber products, mobile homes and recreational vehicles that are taken out of the area.

"So far we have a chance to eliminate the moths because we have only light infestations," says Bruce Smith, assistant to Richard Moore head of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in Michigan. They hope that a combination of treatments in infested areas will lead to a method of eliminating the gypsy moth from Michigan.

"After all, who will want to camp in a forest of trees with no leaves?" says William Wallner, Michigan State University Entomologist.

This woodland pest has plagued the Northeastern United States since 1869. It was carried from its native home, southern Europe, to Boston, Massachusetts by a naturalist. During his experiments, some of the moths escaped and found a new home in the New England forests. They had very few enemies in their new home and plenty of their favorite food, such as aspen, oak, maple and beech leaves.

Even though the female moths can't fly, they spread quickly. Egg masses attached to timber and timber products and recreational equipment were carried into many new areas.

Since 1906, the USDA has attempted to control the gypsy moth, but they are still spreading. In some areas of the US all the leaves have been stripped from trees giving an appearance of winter in July. Defoliation weakens trees, allowing other diseases to infect them, causing some to die. Many of these infested areas no longer have such trees as aspen, oak, maple and beech. Only more resistant trees are left.

The gypsy moth entered Michigan's woodlands for the first time in 1954. The moths were detected in the Lansing area and an intensive program was initiated to eliminate them. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) in cooperation with the USDA, sprayed 100,000 acres with DDT and other insecticides in the first year.

Eventually, portions of Eaton, Clinton, Calhoun, Ionia, Shiawassee and Jackson counties were treated. By 1962, no gypsy moths could be found in Michigan.

Unfortunately, four years later, the pests returned and spotted in Calhoun County near Duck Lake. Now gypsy moths have been trapped in twenty-one counties in central Michigan.

The gypsy moth has four stages; moth, egg, larva and pupa. The larva or caterpillar is the destructive stage. One caterpillar can eat a square foot of leaf surface in twenty-four hours.

Mobile homes, plants and timber are being checked in crisis areas to prevent

transporting of the moth. Smith says that any of these items could have egg masses attached to them which could start new infestations in the areas to which they are transported.

### Giving moths the come-on

APHIS is also involved in detection and attempts to eliminate present infestations Smith said. The moths are detected by sex traps which look like paper cups and are baited with a synthetic sex attractant. The substance attracts male moths from as far away as two miles.

The inner portion of the trap is coated with a sticky substance called tanglefoot, which does just that. Smith said 1,000 traps were set around the state in the fall of 1973 and 2,000 moths were trapped in twenty-one counties.

Intensive searches for egg masses to determine the extent of the moth populations in these counties revealed light infestations in Isabella, Mecosta, Montcalm and Gratiot counties. As a result, Smith said 42,000 acres in these four counties will be treated this spring. A variety of treatments will be used. For example, 26,000 acres will be sprayed with a biodegradable insecticide called seven-four-oil.

Although the Environmental Protection Agency has allowed the Forest Service to use DDT to combat a similar problem with the Tussok moth in Washington state, Oregon and Idaho, Smith said the situation in Michigan is not serious enough to request the use of DDT. Much of the area to be treated is farm land and DDT could contaminate some of the crops.

Smith said 10,880 acres, including portions treated with seven-four-oil, will be sprayed with the sex attractant causing a cruel confusion among male moths that will prevent them from finding females to mate with.

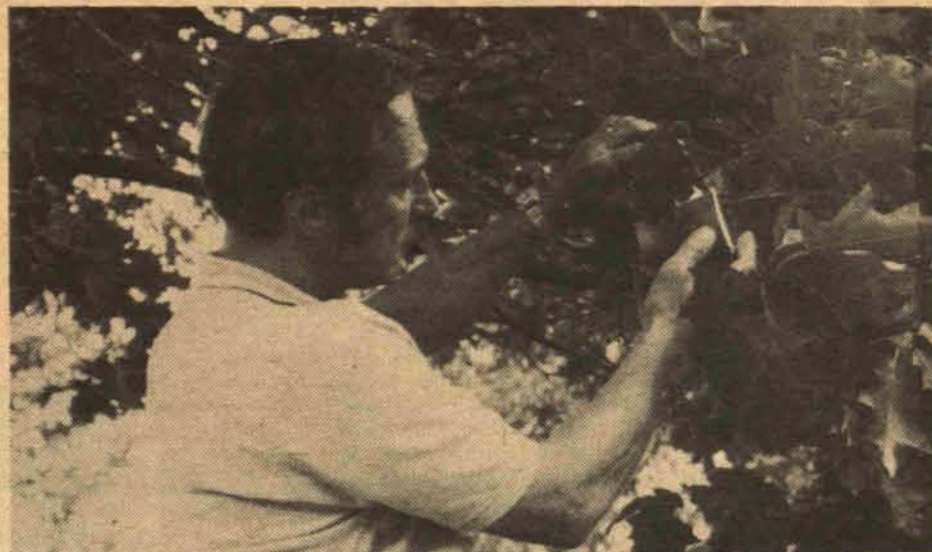
Another 10,800 acres will be intensively trapped with 100,000 traps placed in trees by students from Ferris State and Mount Pleasant College. Students will also set 11,000 traps throughout the state to detect any further infestations so next years control program can be planned.

Smith made a special request that all persons in Michigan notify the MDA if they see any buff colored egg masses on their property or in campsites this summer. One of the main infestations in Michigan was found by a man in his backyard woodlot, Smith said.

If we are successful in eliminating the gypsy moth from Michigan, an intensive detection program would have to be maintained to prevent their return.

Dean Lovitt, head of the Plant Industry Division, said that radio, news releases and county extension agents inform the residents of quarantined areas what the egg masses look like and places where they may be found. They are also informed when areas will be sprayed. Beekeepers are sent special notices explaining that the seven-four-oil may be harmful to their hives and how they can protect them.

The Plant Industry Division is devising a long range program to control gypsy moth populations if they are not eliminated. Multi-host parasites and predators will be introduced to reduce future populations, Lovitt said. A combination of these and chemical controls is our best bet, Lovitt continued.



A researcher pulls gypsy moth from a tanglefoot trap.

Predators have been imported into areas in the Northeast plagued by the gypsy moth, but without added chemical controls they have had no appreciable effect, said Wallner. A virus which attacks gypsy moths has been studied as a possible biological control. It has not been very effective except when the population is under stress from some other factor such as climate or overpopulation.

Researchers are not able to predict whether the gypsy moth will prosper in Michigan because there is very little data on how they react to our climate Wallner said. Research needs to be done on current infestations to establish this basic idea.

It has been noted that the moths seem to be more prosperous near inhabited areas bordered by woodlands than in the forests. Wallner explained that this could be caused by clearing of underbrush in which rodents hide. Rodents eat many of the moth's egg masses. Some birds which feed

on the egg masses as well as the other stages may also be scared away from inhabited areas.

Therefore summer cottages and urban homes located in wooded areas are good places for infestations to begin. The moths can then spread from these areas by ballooning, Wallner said. Ballooning is done by the newly hatched larvae which are thin and have long hairs all around their body. They climb to the top of the tree where the wind picks some of them up and carries them as far as a mile from their home tree.

Wallner also said that current infestations in the state are bordered to the north by more highly forested areas. These areas contain many of the trees preferred by the gypsy moth. It is therefore very important to stop the spread of the moth to prevent severe infestations like those in the Northeastern states.

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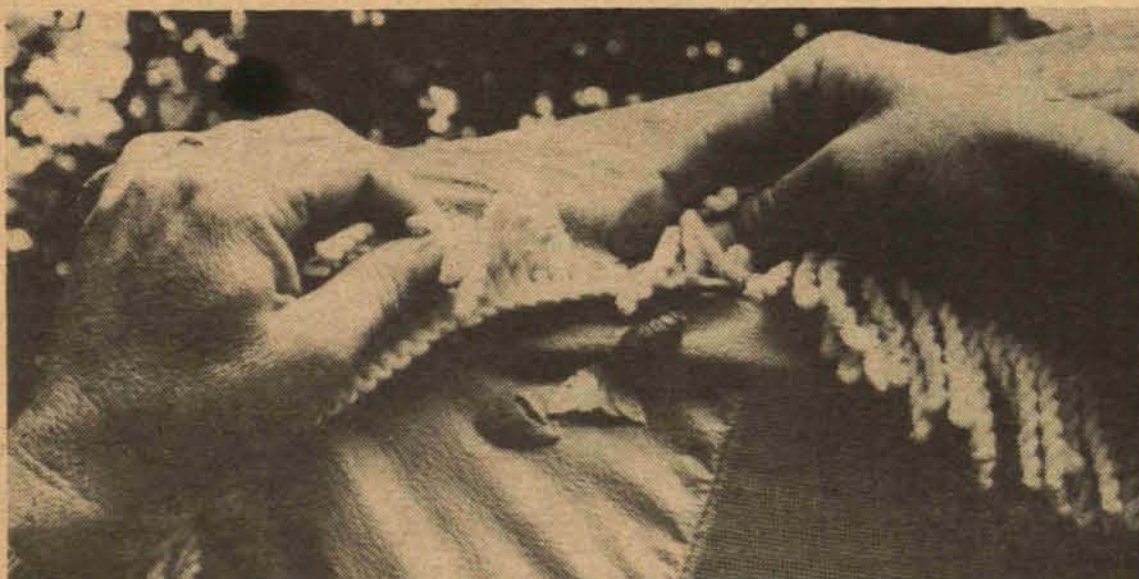
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Gypsy moths often travel by trailer and camper, like this one above.

# World Trade - What is it Worth?

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Foreign trade means different things to different farmers. It means more markets. To others import competition.

At first glance, these opposing views may seem irreconcilable, but this need not be the case.

American agriculture has the capacity to produce far more food and fiber than our domestic economy can absorb. Even with a growing export trade there have been large surpluses of farm products in past years and the government has spent enormous sums of money to reduce the production of surplus crops.

The basic task of every farmer is to find a profitable use for his resources - land, labor, and capital. In most cases agricultural resources can be used to produce a number of different commodities.

If the producer of export crops could not export, surpluses of these commodities would accumulate, prices would fall, and some farmers would shift from export crops to the production of other products such as meat, milk, fruits, and vegetables for the domestic market. So, smaller export markets would mean lower prices for all US farmers.

There's no simple answer to the question of how important foreign trade is to us, but the following facts give some indication:

- In recent years America normally exported the output of one crop-acre out of every four acres which were harvested.

- While net farm income is affected by a number of factors in addition to foreign trade, recent increases in farm income have been accompanied by increases in agricultural exports. In the fiscal year 1973 exports of the 10 leading agricultural exports accounted for 29 to 76 percent of estimated farm sales of such products.

- Agricultural exports are substantially larger than agricultural imports, and a substantial part of the agricultural imports consists of products which are not produced in the United States.

### General Public Benefits

The nonfarming public has quite a stake in agricultural exports.

- In most recent years the United States has had an unfavorable balance of international payments, which simply means that we have been spending more abroad than we have been taking in through dealings with other countries.

This forced the United States to reduce the value of the dollar in relation to some other currencies. Since agricultural exports exceed agricultural imports, agriculture has been a plus factor in the balance of payments statistics. In recent months increased agricultural exports have contributed to a major improvement in the balance of payments.

- It has been estimated that more than 5,000 jobs are created in warehousing, transportation, trade, and elsewhere for each \$100 million of grain exports and 4,200 for each \$100 million of soybean exports.

- A high level of agricultural exports reduces, and could eliminate, the need for the expenditure of government funds to control farm production and support farm prices.

- Trade furthers understanding and respect among nations and contributes to the objective of a more peaceful world.

### Need to Trade

Different nations have different resources - different soil, climates, mineral deposits, and worker skills - which enable them to produce different things. International trade enables countries to obtain products and raw materials they do not have the resources to produce.

Beyond that, importing nations have to export in order to obtain the foreign currency needed to pay for imports. The need for trade increases with the development of industry and technology.

Additional trade is justified by what economists call "the law of comparative advantage." Since different nations have different combinations of resources, the amount of resources required to produce a particular product often differs from country to country. The countries which can produce a product with the smallest total expenditure of resources - land, labor, and capital - obviously have an advantage for the production of that product.

Differences in the amounts of resources required to produce a product provide a basic reason for trade. The resource cost of producing a particular product must be measured against alternative opportunities for the use of available resources.

So, a country can gain by concentrating its productive efforts on the commodities for which it has the greatest advantage, then trade such products for commodities for which other countries have a greater advantage.

Comparative advantage can be, and often is, offset by national policies which affect the cost of producing various commodities or the prices at which they can be exported or imported.

Examples of policies which interfere with the operation of the law of comparative advantage include minimum wage laws and other government actions which affect wage costs, import duties, export taxes, export subsidies, and government payments - such as US farm program payments - to domestic producers.

### Dependence of Government Programs

Government programs are now a minor factor in the agricultural export picture but in the past, substantial exports were gained under foreign aid programs. Public Law 480 authorized grants to other countries for emergency relief, barter transactions, sales for foreign currency, and sales on easy credit terms.



## DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager Member Relations

The United States has also sold government-owned commodities for less than market prices, paid export subsidies when US prices were above world prices due to farm price supports, and provided credit or credit guarantees for private sales.

As a result of increased commercial demand, shipments under government programs have declined in total and as a percentage of total exports, and the United States has suspended all of its export subsidy programs.

### Protection of Domestic Producers

Domestic producers of farm products are protected in a number of ways against imports.

Imports of most agricultural products which compete with domestic products are subject to tariffs; however, most tariff rates on agricultural products are relatively low.

A provision of the law permits the President to restrict imports through quotas or import fees whenever an investigation by the Tariff Commission indicates such action is necessary to prevent material interference with certain domestic farm programs.

Imports of sugar are limited by quotas assigned to various countries under the provisions of the Sugar Act.

The United States has prevailed on a number of other countries to impose restrictions on the export of textile products to this country.

Domestic quality standards for tomatoes, raisins, olives (other than Spanish-style green olives), prunes, avocados, mangoes, limes, grapefruit, green peppers, Irish potatoes, oranges, onions, walnuts, dates and eggplants may be extended to imports.

A 1964 law provides a formula for the establishment of quotas on imports of certain meats (fresh, chilled or frozen meat of cattle, goats, and sheep - other than lambs) and directs the President to impose such quotas whenever it is estimated that imports, in the absence of such restrictions, will equal or exceed 110 percent of the quota level.

Generally speaking, imports of agricultural products are required to meet US sanitary standards.

For example, a country wishing to export meat to the United States must maintain a meat inspection program which meets with the approval of US authorities. Imported meat and some other products are also subject to inspection at the port of entry.

The United States has a number of regulations which are designed to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases into this country. For example, fresh, chilled or frozen meat may not be imported from countries which have foot-and-mouth disease.

US trade laws include an "escape clause" which permits the President to impose additional import restrictions where the Tariff Commission finds such action necessary to protect domestic producers from being injured by an increase in imports as the result of a concession granted by this country in an international trade agreement.

US law provides for the imposition of countervailing duties when the Secretary of the Treasury determines that imported foreign articles are being subsidized by a "bounty or grant."

### Farm Bureau Policy

Farm Bureau . . .

- Believes that the economic health of any nation depends on its ability to trade with its neighbors.

- Favors a high level of mutually advantageous trade.

- Supports reciprocal reductions in the barriers of international trade through international negotiations.

- Supports legislation to give the Administration additional authority to participate in multilateral negotiations on trade problems which are being conducted within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). (GATT is an agreement negotiated in 1947 among 23 countries, including the United States, to increase international trade by reducing tariffs and other trade barriers. Today 66 countries have full participant status.)

## Topic Summary

The discussion topic on "The Missing Farm Bureau Link" gave members an opportunity to review the Community Group Program. A great many recommendations for improving the program at local, county and state level were received. Due to space limitations only a few of the recommendations are given in this summary.

1. 97 percent of the groups reported the members attended the meetings for socializing and information. Other reasons for attending included: work out common problems; current information; and a desire to be part of the action.

2. Q: What do you think your county Farm Bureau can do to improve the community group program in your county? A: Organize more community groups; promote a membership attendance contest; county-wide educational meetings on different interest areas; county officers visits to community groups.

3. Q: What do you think Michigan Farm Bureau can do to improve the community group program?

A: More up-to-date information on pending legislation; workshops with group officers; stress more young farmer community groups; more services available to members.

4. Q: How can the community group program be changed so as to be more meaningful to active farmers? A: More active farmers participating in groups instead of just belonging; by involving community groups more in local committee affairs; let groups know what Farm Bureau is doing; when we as members realize our personal responsibility and alert our county Farm Bureau to our needs and problems and work together to solve them.

5. Conclusions: Our group brings our neighborhood closer together to talk matters over; if all groups got seriously involved we'd have a very effective influence on others; community group program is the nucleus of Farm Bureau; little can be done unless members put more importance on Farm Bureau meetings than on other activities.

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Jan McMichael (left), Vivian Lott and MFB Information Director Larry Ewing chat with the host of "Rural Route 10", a farm television program on WILX-TV Jackson. The two women are members of the MFB Speakers Bureau out of Ingham county. Mrs. Lott was also recently appointed vice chairman of the MFB Study Committee, a group reviewing Farm Bureau programs.

## Ocean, Mountains Meet in Northwest

Timber country is what most people think of when they talk about the Pacific Northwest, but as the spring rains give way to summer, visitors find that this area harbors some of North America's most appealing cities.

Farm Bureau members will be able to take any of three, week-long excursions into the Northwest, on member tours during June, August and September.

The tour begins west of the Rocky Mountain foothills in Spokane, which hosts international visitors for Expo '74. One hundred acres of central Spokane is devoted to the fair, with bridges linking the site to two islands in the Spokane River.

This smallest city to ever hold a world's fair will have exhibits from Russia, Australia, the Orient, Iran as well as many other states and countries. Spokane, often called the lilac city, also offers its own home grown garden sites for visitors to enjoy.

The fourth day of the trip will find members flying into the shadows of the Olympic Mountains to Seattle. The cosmopolitan atmosphere can continue for those who wish to stroll through Chinatown, but many may be satisfied to drink in the view of the Puget Sound shielded by a backdrop of white-capped peaks.

The perfect sea voyage follows the next day as the Princess Marguerite ferries through the sound, zig zagging between the San Juan Islands and docking in Victoria, British Columbia on Vancouver Island.

It's the perfect voyage - long enough to relax comfortably on sun decks and in restaurants, yet short enough to prevent boredom associated with ocean cruises.

Arriving in Victoria, visitors discover what the word "quaint" means. A ride through the city by car reveals modern shopping districts with hanging flower baskets adorning the streets, but those on foot can duck into narrow alleyways only a block away to find themselves nestled by small shops and sidewalk cafes on each shoulder.

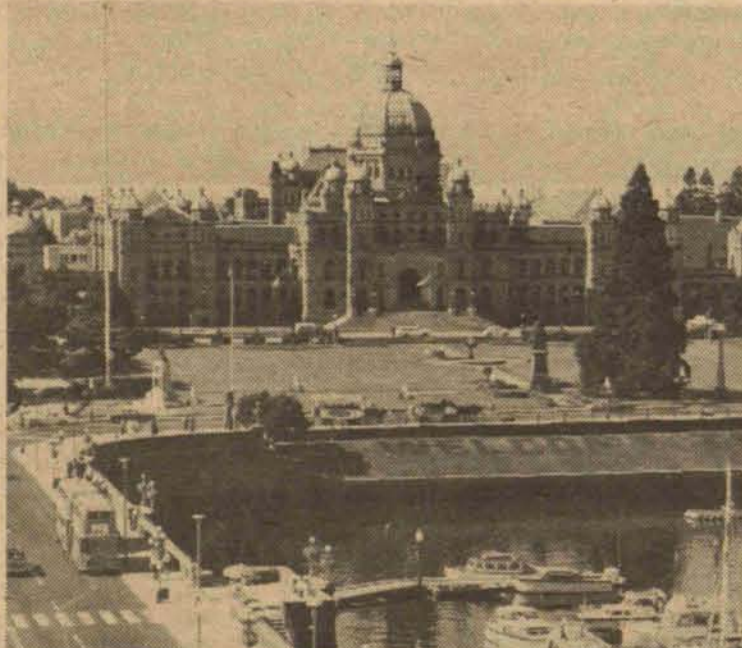
The old structures of the waterfront city have failed to decay, but rather have been

scrubbed and filled with boutiques and other new businesses.

The next day, an even shorter cruise will take members to the Canadian mainland, arriving at the harbor town of Vancouver. This bustling city offers restful retreats such as Stanley Park which holds remnants of giant trees and deep green vegetation of the coastal rain forest on the harbor front.

Gastown, a city within the city, with laid-brick streets finds patrons of its restaurants, open-air cafes and shops staying afoot while bumping from place to place. The variety of food hailing from India to Japan makes Vancouver an excellent spot to end the Northwest excursion.

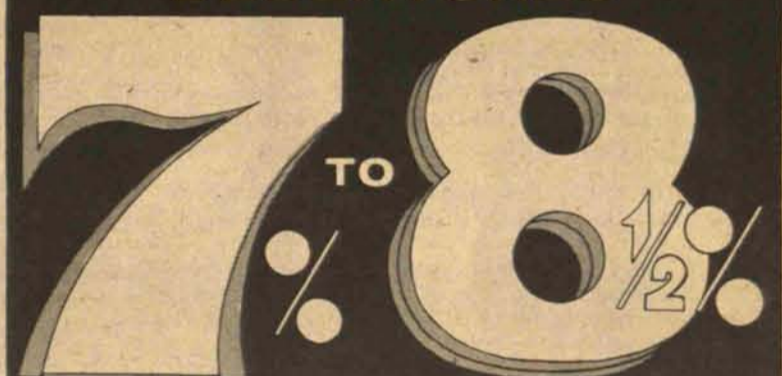
Trips are planned for June 23, August 18 and September 15. Reservations and information are available from Ken Wiles, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing 48904.



Victoria harbor, adorned with flowers, double-decker buses and impressive architecture.



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**FACT:** FARM BUREAU MEMBER LIFE INSURANCE is a **participating** policy. FARM BUREAU MEMBER LIFE policyholders will **share** in any benefits which might result from favorable program experience.

**FACT:** Coverage is **automatically updating**. When a Farm Bureau Member marries, as children arrive, protection is expanded **automatically**. Each child is automatically covered from the age of 15 days through 21 years (as long as the child is single and not holding a FARM BUREAU MEMBER LIFE POLICY).

**FACT:** About 48¢ a week . . . \$25 annually . . . can provide life insurance for every Michigan Farm Bureau Member, spouse and child.

For you and yours . . . check these facts and others with Charlie Foster, your local Farm Bureau Insurance Agent and your Farm Bureau Secretary. And do it **before May 31** . . . so you need not worry about passing a physical examination.

**FARM BUREAU**  
**INSURANCE**  
**GROUP**™

