

# Farmer Chosen for DNR Post



New DNR Commissioner Dean Pridgeon

A farmer sits on the Natural Resources Commission for the first time in Michigan's history with the April 24 appointment of MFB Vice President Dean Pridgeon as a commissioner.

The aging cry for farmer representation on the commission that heads the Department of Natural Resources was answered by Governor Wm. Milliken when he appointed Pridgeon to replace the deceased R. M. Boudeman and finish the term which expires Dec. 31, 1975.

"I think land has to be put on an equal priority with other natural resources," Pridgeon told Farm News after his appointment.

The appointment of a farmer to the Commission became of extreme importance to farmers when DNR took over the Office of Land Use last year. Over the last decade the Department has taken more responsibilities directly affecting farmers by administering sedimentation legislation and most recently the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act.

Pridgeon was the first appointment to the Commission since last summer when two representatives were chosen as the Commission expanded from five to seven members. Some in the farm community showed disappointment when an en-

vironmentalist from West Michigan and Boudeman the President of Upjohn Co. were chosen. Boudeman also owned a large farm, yet the Pridgeon appointment is still a landmark.

Pridgeon will be the first commissioner that depended on farming for his income.

Pridgeon lives on a 1,500 acre Branch County farm near Montgomery where he feeds 4,000 hogs each year as well as raises about 1,000 acres of corn.

In announcing Pridgeon's appointment, the Governor called Pridgeon an "agricultural conservationist who has been a leader in prevention of water pollution from farm activities."

The Governor linked Pridgeon's appointment to last year's reorganization of the DNR to include land use planning. Pridgeon later noted the important role of farmers in this field.

"I am convinced that land use legislation is going to come to pass from both the state and federal governments," Pridgeon said. "As farmers we have to start telling our story."

Pridgeon added that he hoped open hearings before the DNR Commission could become the forum for farmers who need to tell their side.

The Commission has respon-

sibilities for proposing fishing and hunting regulations and developing policies or governing state lands as well as executing legislation under their administration.

Pridgeon said that his fellow commissioners were mainly environmentalists and sportsmen but he regarded them as reasonable people that would listen to his point of view.

The new commissioner said one conflict that has to be solved is whether streams around farmland could be considered drainage systems that help food production.

"There are those who say we have a surplus of food and don't need to produce anymore," Pridgeon said, "but I don't believe that."

While Pridgeon is a little awed by the size of the DNR operation, he is no stranger to the public accolades associated with his new appointment.

Pridgeon received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from Michigan State University in 1970. Before that he and his wife were named Cooperators of the Year by MFB affiliates, and in 1957 the Michigan Junior Chamber of Commerce named Pridgeon the State's Outstanding Young Farmer.

## Goal Reached

Four and one half months after the Dec. 27 membership kickoff, Michigan Farm Bureau obtained its new goal of 60,710 members. (The previous year's membership plus one.) The May 17 announcement marked the seventh consecutive year the Michigan Farm Bureau has gained in its membership.

Making membership goal is considered a top priority by MFB leaders who feel it is an essential to put "clout" behind marketing and legislative efforts.

Forty-five of Michigan's 67 county Farm Bureaus surpassed their goal by the May 17 goal breaking day putting Michigan at the Number 17 spot in the AFBF membership list. The American Farm Bureau Federation has Farm Bureau members from 49 states and Puerto Rico.

## FBS Helps Farmers Recoup Losses

Farm Bureau Services (FBS) is coordinating an effort to quickly process claims for damage resulting from the feeding of contaminated feed to livestock, FBS Executive Vice President Don Armstrong said May 21. Fifteen hundred beef and dairy animals in 21 herds in Michigan are now considered contaminated from consumption of a fire retardant, some of which was in FBS feed No. 402.

The retardant, (poly-brominated biphenyl) was shipped to Farm Bureau Services in a lot of Magnesium Oxide by the Michigan Chemical Company. Magnesium oxide is a mineral supplement to feed used to encourage maximum milk production.

Insurance companies for both Michigan Chemical Company and Farm Bureau Services O.K.'d a plan to use Farm Bureau Services as a clearing house for claims for livestock producers.

Letters have been sent to affected herd owners asking them to begin filling out claim forms and offering to them the assistance of FBS representatives.

Guidelines for estimating losses have been established jointly by FBS, Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

In a letter to herd owners, FBS Executive Vice President Don Armstrong said, "Farm Bureau Services will be doing all in its

power to expedite all claims for losses."

The chemical, if present in livestock in sufficient amounts, can prevent the sale of milk or meat from an animal. FBS staff veterinarian, James McKean, discovered the fire retardant through feed tests conducted in New York after a herd owner complained that his cows had lost appetite and were dropping in milk production.

After the chemical was discovered, backtracking methods narrowed the problem to the mistake in the shipment of Magnesium oxide. Farm Bureau Services then immediately stopped sale of Magnesium oxide and feed No. 402.

## Tax Relief Bill Is Now Law

With the final passage, and signing of the "Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act," (H 4244), Michigan at last has a basic tax program to encourage farmers to preserve valuable lands. The bill has retained basically the same provisions for farmers throughout the latest revisions.

The program is entirely voluntary. The purpose is to encourage preservation of agricultural and open space land.

The legislation is flexible. Preparation of the agreement could differ from area to area due to different conditions. The owner

(Continued on page 4)



The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act is signed by Governor William Milliken on May 23. Some of those present include (left to right) MFB President Elton R. Smith, Sen. Harry DeMaso, MFB legislative counsel Robert E. Smith, and Rep. Quincy Hoffman. Additional coverage on the bill will be included in the next issue of Farm News.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



# Don't Turn Your Back on Politics

"... Let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Those words of wisdom, spoken in 1865 by Abraham Lincoln in his second inaugural address, are still pertinent today, nearly 200 years later. The wounds we must bind up now are not too unlike those which followed the tragic Civil War, and may we never cease from working toward a just and lasting peace.

It would be easy for us, as farmers, to plow under our nation's current political problems in the furrows of our fields, to bury Watergate in the soil as we plant our crops, to pretend that all the economic and ecological troubles of our country can be eradicated like chocking weeds and ruinous insects.

Yes, it would be easy and more comfortable than getting involved. But then would come the harvest and we would find that "as we sow, so shall we reap."

There are Farm Bureau members (thankfully, they are few) who would prefer that their organization stay out of politics. Ironically, these same members are the ones who ask why Farm Bureau isn't doing something about taxation. These two viewpoints simply aren't compatible; Farm Bureau can't stay out of politics and still do something about taxation.

Two recent landmark decisions--the passage of the farmland and open space taxation bill, and the appointment of a professional farmer to Michigan's Natural Resources Commission--illustrate why farmers and their organization must remain politically active. Without political action on our part, decisions on all issues would be left to those who are active in politics. We cannot escape such activity without penalty.

During the months ahead, many of you will be involved in policy development. You will help decide the stands your organization will take on various issues. These decisions will be made on a non-partisan

basis. Regardless of your personal political allegiance, no party will dictate the decisions you make regarding Farm Bureau's policies.

Once these policies have been approved by the vote of member delegates, however, it takes bi-partisan support to put them into action. Farm Bureau works with legislators from both political parties for legislation that will benefit not only farmers but all citizens. It is non-partisan in its policy development, bi-partisan in its policy execution.

This is an election year and we have some decisions to make--decisions which will affect the future of agriculture and the future of our nation. These decisions must be faced now--not during the moment of truth in the voting booth.

The decision is one of attitude and action. Do we get out our crying towels and weep about the loss of faith in our elected leaders and the moral decay that exists in politics? Or do we re-double our efforts to preserve our economic and political systems (which have made us the envy of the world in spite of our problems) by becoming actively involved in surfacing and supporting candidates who will "strive on to finish the work we are in. . . ."

It is my sincerest hope that Farm Bureau members will choose the latter course of action. There is work to be done now in your own home communities. Many county Farm Bureaus have PEP (Political Education Programs) Committees, which could hold the key to your personal political involvement.

We do face a political crisis in our country today; to say otherwise would be burying our heads in the sand. But as with all the crisis we have faced since the birth of our nation, it brings opportunities. It was during a crisis that farmers stood and fired the shot heard round the world. It can be farmers now who take the leadership in defending the good things in our system and working to improve and change the not so good.

Let's start now to change a crisis into an opportunity by getting involved.

## underlines: TERRY CANUP Communicating At

Making Farm Bureau better. That was the purpose of a staff brainstorming session we had last month and we hoped that by pressing our smoldering heads together for two days we could figure out how to make the organization better.

Well, when somebody asked for an answer to our problems in Farm Bureau, the answer came back almost immediately from everybody. And the answer was rather flattering for someone from the Information Division.

"Communications," everybody said.

And I can understand people saying that. An organization made up of thousands of people with a common goal needs to communicate. The perfect situation is one where people in the organization could have a chance to talk to each other and exchange ideas.

But, unfortunately, I don't think this is what most people have in mind when they say that they wish to communicate. What people really mean is "we want to talk." The trouble is that to communicate there must be listeners.

I get communicated "at" all the time. People send stacks of materials to editors' desks. I get combs, kites, booklets, pictures and all kinds of editorial material. Each person that sent this stuff to me was trying to communicate. They were selling products, services, concepts, ideas and points of view.

Yet, with one swath of my arm all that material could be sent in one stream, over the edge of my desk into the waste basket.

To truly communicate, we can't just communicate "at" people. First, we must listen to find out how we can communicate "with" people whether they be the consuming public or our own members.

Then we must cultivate our listener so they will be sure to listen when we have something to say. It is because we practice this "art" of communication at Farm Bureau that we don't have something to say to the press about every issue that faces farmers. (1) The public and the media must want to listen and (2) We must be sure that we as farmers will truly benefit from being heard.

As someone who is involved with communicating at members, I'd like to make it clear that I would like to communicate "with" you. But to do this I must hear from you, either about issues or about the paper itself.

But we should always remember when we are trying to solve the problems that plague Farm Bureau or farmers in general, that "communication" is not a giant hatrack that we can hang our problems on for solving. Communication is a very personal phenomenon that requires that we listen to our listeners.

If we practice that, we will get a lot more of our own points across.

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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## DONNA

### Women Tops in PR

As we go to press with this issue of the Farm News, we are still awaiting word on whether the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Speakers' Bureau was winner of the Michigan Agricultural Development of the Year award. They were among the finalists and this, in itself, is a well-deserved honor.

Regardless of whether or not the women capture this coveted award--they are winners in our book! Seeing these farm wives in action is a thrill, but it's watching their audiences that really tells the tremendously effective job they are doing in public relations for agriculture.

It was my privilege recently to follow one of the 28 teams for a day and I'm still puffing, both with pride -- and from exhaustion. Granted, it was not an ordinary day for the team, with two daytime appearances and another that same night. I was amazed at their fortitude and flexibility!

The team was Faye Adam and Diane Wood of Sanilac County -- young, attractive, vivacious, and very convincing when they proclaim: "We're proud to be farmers." Their audiences that day were as far apart in age as they were in distance. The age factor was a challenge because they use an entirely different

approach with school children than they do with adult audiences. The distance --well, when you travel from a school in Port Huron to a hallway out in the "boonies" near the top of the Thumb, it leaves little time to brush your teeth, feed your family, and gather your props.

As the word spreads about the availability of Speakers' Bureau teams, their schedules are often hectic. The families of the team members deserve a pat on the back for their sacrifices, understanding and encouragement. The women's rewards, thus far, have come in the form of warm receptions by urban audiences and the wonder of discovery by city school children as they learn the fascinating story beyond the supermarket.

Now, after a year "on the road," the Speakers' Bureau is receiving state-wide and national recognition. In addition to being nominated for Michigan Agricultural Development of the Year award, they were featured in the April issue of Top-Of magazine, and will be the subject of an article in the American Farmer this summer.

Michigan Farm Bureau have reason to be proud of these women. In my opinion, shared by many others I know, it's the most effective public relations project this organization has ever had.

## Time Running Out

Current members will miss the only chance to sign up for inexpensive life insurance without any question about their health if they don't take out FB member life insurance policies before May 31.

The no questions asked policy costs only \$25 per year and is particularly good offer for young adults. Quick, easy signups are available if members call their county office for details.

New members to Farm Bureau may not necessarily have to meet the May 31 deadline. New members have 90 days from the date they joined Farm Bureau to take advantage of the no-questions-asked policy.

The member life program will continue open for sign-ups beyond the deadline, but normal health questionnaires will be involved.

Four claims have already been paid since the program began March 1st totalling \$1801.



People relations as fostered by FB Women.

# For FB Women

## Women Entertain City Kids

Fifth-grade youngsters from the Ruth Bacon School in Port Huron got a first-hand look at the original sources of their eggs, milk and meat Thursday, April 26. Guests of the Sanilac County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, the 30 students toured a poultry operation, a dairy farm, and a beef farm.

Their discovery that the food they eat comes from somewhere beyond the supermarket shelves started weeks before when two young farm wives met with teachers of the Port Huron school system and offered to tell the story of agriculture to students. Bill Emery the fifth graders' teacher, accepted their offer and the "adventure" began.

Plans for a farm tour created some financial problems for the class, but that was solved by a pre-Easter "Hippety Hop Bakery Shop Sale." A well-promoted Easter egg "walk," at 5 cents a try, with baked good prizes made by the fifth-graders' mothers, netted \$30.00 to pay for the car caravan's gas.

A week prior to the farm tour, the class was visited by two bib-overalled characters from the past, who carried a three-legged stool and milk pail, and talked of hitching the horses to the wagon to go into town for salt to make butter. Following an educational film, "Food from Farm to You," two modern-day farm wives appeared to tell about agriculture today and answer questions from the youngsters—questions like "When you milk by machine, how do you know when the cow is done?"

The farmers of yesterday and today were members of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's speakers' bureau.

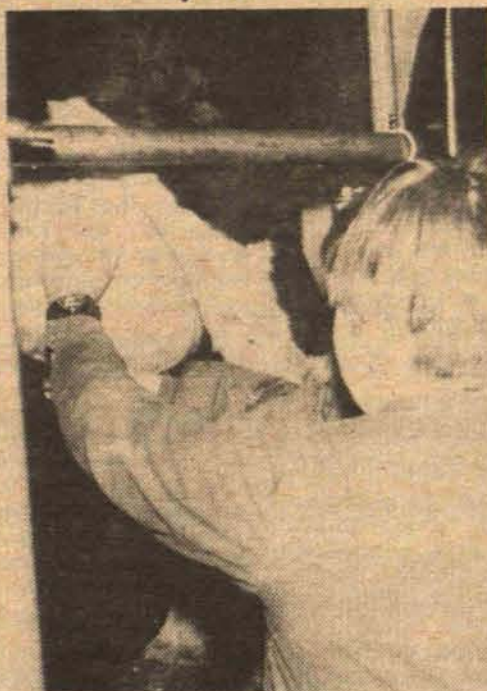
The farm tour started at the Water Wonderland Corporation, a 15,000 hen operation near Deckerville. Here the youngsters learned about candling and grading, and were given two hard-boiled eggs as souvenirs of their visit.

The Don Anderson dairy farm near Carsonville, a 125 cow set up, was the second stop. The opportunity of "milking" a squirt of milk from a cow provided a unique experience for the youngsters.

Seated on bales of hay in the Anderson's new barn, the group was served a sloppy joe lunch by the Sanilac County Farm Bureau Women. Hot cocoa, made from milk from the cows which watched the children eat their lunch, was provided by the Anderson family.

The tour ended with a visit to the Bob O'Connor beef operation, a 2800 acre farm near Jeddo, where 3,000 head of beef cattle are raised each year. The children learned about the dehorning process, branding, and were impressed by the huge pills given to ailing cows.

Joe Shaltry, extension agricultural agent, served as the tour guide. Sanilac County Farm Bureau Women on the tour committee were Mrs. Diane Wood, Chairman; Mrs. Ruthann Jahn of Croswell and Mrs. Ann Caister of Marlette.



A boy gets a first hand look at where his milk comes from while a guest of the Sanilac Farm Bureau.

### Scholarship Awarded

Walter Schlicher, 19, son of a Montmorency County Farm Bureau member, will receive a \$400 scholarship from the Michigan Farm Bureau Women to help him in his animal husbandry studies at Michigan State University.

The Farm Bureau Scholarship Committee chose the Atlanta youth to receive the Marge Karker Scholarship which is given annually to qualified MSU students from Farm Bureau families.

Schlicher, a sophomore, is heading for a career in beef cattle production and is making his own way toward that career. After working as part of a farm family in cattle production, young Schlicher was well prepared to work with animals on campus farms to help pay his way through school.

Friends described Schlicher, who is one of eight children, as a fellow whose willing to work and sacrifice.

### FB Women on Consumer Committee

Farm Bureau Women would like to congratulate Marilyn Frahm of Frankenmuth and Janet Miesle of Howell, who were recently appointed to the Consumer Advisory Committee of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Both of these farm women are members of the MFB Speakers' Bureau, a project of Farm Bureau Women. This consumer committee advises the Department on consumer problems.

# Homefront

Some community Farm Bureau groups report having difficulty getting members out to meetings. This isn't the case with the Porter group in Cass County. They had 30 members and guests out for a most informative meeting on probate procedures and the making of wills. Mr Carroll Jones, an attorney, was speaker and helped to clean-up many misconceptions regarding the difficulties that would arise, the group's secretary reported. "This was one of the best programs our group has had, and we were pleased that several non-members came."

Almost everyone has their own opinion on the subject of "Good Government" and discussion of this subject can lead to difference of opinions even between friends. From the minutes of the Deer Creek group in Ottawa County it is difficult to determine if the dessert being dropped on the floor or the exchange of opinions caused most of the entertainment that evening.

Instead of the regular business meeting, the Chain O'Lakes group of Antrim County had a First Aid Instructor give them a lesson in CPR (Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation). Later, the same evening the host's family dog whelped, but first-aid wasn't necessary.

Even though most of us think of Wayne County being entirely urban, there is a great deal of agriculture there and many members are interested in the grain marketing. So the Northwest Wayne community group had a special meeting at Ypsilanti Farm Bureau Association building with two speakers who spoke about the Grain Market. It was a successful meeting with a turnout of 51 people who went away better informed.

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy so the nursery rhyme goes. The same can apply to a community group meeting and so the Fellow Farmers in Kent County adjourned to the kitchen shower given for the soon to be Mr and Mrs Randy House.

The Clinton county Sheriff told the Looking Glass Valley group about some of the problems of his office and the need for more men to do the job as it should be done. He also discussed the 911 system for alerting all law enforcement units and ambulances in case of emergency.

The realization that good government doesn't begin at the top led the Chassel community group of Copper Country to look closer at home. They decided to look into the lives of those people running for local offices and to report on them prior to election. This will help the group member to better know their local candidates.

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# Young Farmers

## Discussion Meet Topics Chosen

Plans are underway for the 1974 Young Farmer Discussion competition culminating with a trip to New Orleans and the national competition for the state winner.

A listing of discussion topics targeted at major farm issues has been released by the American Farm Bureau Federation for this year's competition. In a time when investment figures are climbing, the question of how Farm Bureau can develop financial assistance programs for young farmers will be dealt with.

With land use legislation seeming inevitable, the question of how land use planning may affect agriculture will be tackled.

And where should government start and stop in the field of agriculture? With trade controls and environmental regulations foremost in farmers' minds, this topic should be fiery.

Farm Bureau's proposed tele-

communication system will be placed under the scrutiny of young farmers who will judge how such a system could benefit members.

The very basic question of how Farm Bureau's policy development program can be more effective in meeting young farmer's needs will be handled as well.

District meets are scheduled to begin in August for districts four and eight with the remainder of the meets to be spread from September through November.

December will find the qualifiers competing for state laurels in Grand Rapids with the finals held before delegates and other assembled members in the Civic Auditorium. Michigan's winner will go on to New Orleans to compete with other state winners on Jan. 5, 1975.

For complete details of district competition, members of the state or county Young Farmers' Committees should be contacted.

# CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

## Tax Relief Bill Offers Alternatives

(Continued from page 1)

could negotiate specific terms for his particular situation. In any event, he would not be required in any way to accept the agreement if it did not meet his approval.

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

It has taken years to put such a tax reform into law and H 4244 has been in the hopper since it was introduced by Rep. Dale Warner (R-Eaton Rapids) in February, 1973.

Disagreement over open space provisions of the bill prevented acceptance of the amended bill in the Senate during this session, and last minute efforts were made by certain real estate interests to weaken the legislation. The Tax Commission also released information at the last minute claiming that the legislation would be too expensive.

Weeks of additional work needed to solve these problems delayed the expected passage in late March until May.

The bill retained strong bipartisan support, however, because it provides a program for open space lands as well as farmland with somewhat different provisions for each.

The original House bill was rewritten as a Senate substitute under the leadership of Sen. Harry DeMaso (R-Battle Creek), Chairman of the Senate Taxation Committee. In fact, there have been at least 15 or more drafts of the legislation. The House attached some 55 amendments to the Senate version under the leadership of Rep. Quincy Hoffman (R-Applegate).

The following is a wrap-up on the final bill as passed and signed into law.

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

Farmland is defined either as (1) 40 or more acres "devoted primarily to agricultural use" or (2) five acres or more but less than 40 if it has a gross income of \$200 or more per acre per year, or (3) "specialty farms" as designated by the Department of Agriculture and produces a gross income of \$2,000 or more. Land can qualify even if it is in separate parcels as long as it is operated as a single farm.

Application is made to a "local governing body" (township, county, city, or village). Soil conservation districts and county and regional planning commissions are notified for recommendations. If locally approved, the application is forwarded to the State Land use Agency for ap-

proval. If locally rejected, the owner can appeal to the state agency.

When approved, a "farmland development rights agreement" is prepared. This is a ten-year contractual arrangement in which control of the development rights rests equally with the landowner and state. The agreement is filed with the Register of Deeds. The State Tax Commission makes an appraisal of the land in compliance with the agricultural section of the Assessor's Manual in order to determine the basic farm value.

Provisions effective during the period of the 10-year agreement:

- Property taxes are limited to not more than seven percent of the household income. Taxes in excess of that amount are refunded by the state. Credit from the present property tax relief act would be included.

- Cities, villages, townships, counties, or other governmental agencies cannot impose special assessments for sewers, water, lights, or non-farm drainage.

- The property can be sold without penalty, provided the buyer continues to carry out the provisions of the agreement.

- In the event of death or permanent disability, provisions are made for release of the property from the development rights agreement without penalty.

- The owner may use the farmland in any way he sees fit for agricultural production including construction of farm buildings, silos, etc., drainage, or any other practice consistent with farm operations.

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

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

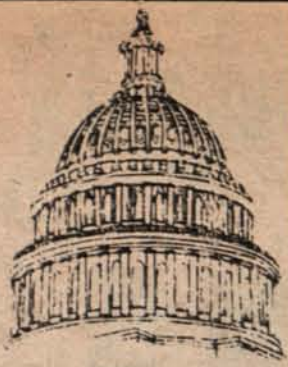
- The landowner may apply for termination of the agreement before the end of the ten-year period. If permitted, repayment of the tax refunds is required subject to an annual interest rate of six percent compounded until paid.

At the expiration date of the agreement, all development rights are returned to the owner.

A lien without penalty or interest is prepared as a "rollback" of the total credit allowed on the State Income Tax for the last seven years. The lien is payable only if the owner sells the property or converts the land to a use prohibited by the former agreement. This is a major difference from other states that use a "rollback." They require payment of the "rollback tax" when the farm comes out of the program. This is often a hardship.

The landowner may renew or re-enter the program for another ten-year contract if he wishes, in which case the lien is cancelled. The "rollback" will never be more than seven years, even if the land is in the program 20 or 30 years or more. The provisions of the Act are somewhat different for open space lands.

The major difference is that any tax relief is based on the tax assessment through deduction of the value of the development rights.



### OSHA

A bill to provide that federal OSHA regulations can be implemented by a state agency (S. 698) has passed the Senate and is expected to pass into law.

The bill has been supported by a broad array of organizations, including Farm Bureau.

One important provision requires that before a safety standard can apply to agriculture, consultation must be held with an advisory committee of which "at least half of the members shall be persons who devote major portions of their time to agricultural operations." This means that standards promulgated for industry will not automatically apply to agriculture.

When the bill was considered by the House Labor Committee, the representatives of the Coalition for Migrant Action demanded that strict standards for agriculture be written into the legislation through some 40 amendments. The committee, however, did not accede to their demands.

### Bean Assessment

A bill to increase the assessment on beans for dry bean research has passed into law. Farm Bureau supported the increase from two to three cents per hundred pounds, plus an additional one-cent assessment to be paid by the "first receiver."

An additional \$60,000 is expected to be raised for research, which seems badly needed as Michigan is rapidly losing out in bean production. Yields within ten years have dropped from 1,470 pounds per acre to 970 pounds, while production in other areas such as Minnesota and Canada has risen to as much as 1,600 pounds per acre.

### Workmen's Comp Commission

The Workmen's Compensation Commission, appointed by Gov. Milliken, will begin a study of workmen's compensation in Michigan.

Farm Bureau has been assured that it will have every opportunity to have input into the Study Commission's work in the areas of workmen's compensation that affect agriculture.

### Cattle Indemnity

A bill has been introduced to update government payments for cattle losses. Need for the bill was shown two months ago when one dairy herd of 180 cattle in Ingham County had to be slaughtered because of a very serious outbreak of TB. Another herd in south central Michigan also had an outbreak.

There are state and federal indemnity payments available to repay the owner for his loss of cattle. However, the state rates have not been updated since 1969.

Farm Bureau took this matter up with Sen. Ballenger, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. He immediately introduced legislation to increase the state indemnity rates from the present \$100 for a grade animal to \$250 and from the present \$150 for a registered animal to \$300.

An increase in the state indemnity payments, along with a salvage value of the animal and federal indemnity that is available, should pay the total amount of any loss occurring from TB outbreaks.

At the same time, the bill will increase the indemnity rates for animals condemned because of infection of Brucellosis.

## Insurance Reorganization Planned

A reorganization plan for Farm Bureau Insurance Group (FBIG) adopted by the MFB Board of Directors has authorized creation of two new companies.

The first, a holding company called Farm Bureau Financial Corporation of Michigan, will consolidate control of all FBIG operations with Michigan Farm Bureau holding controlling stock.

The second new company, Farm Bureau Marketing Corporation of Michigan, is a subsidiary of the financial corporation. The marketing corporation is now the employer of all insurance agents and marketing personnel.

One step that may become part of the reorganization effort is a conversion of Farm Bureau Mutual to a stock company.

MFB President Elton R. Smith says the plan offers a means of strengthening Farm Bureau control of insurance operations while expanding member-policyholder services.

Completion of the reorganization is however, subject to approval of the Michigan Insurance Bureau,

the Michigan Corporation and Securities Bureau and other governmental agencies.

## FB Production on TV

The new film release "Man and the Land" the story of the professional farmer is getting good TV air play throughout Michigan.

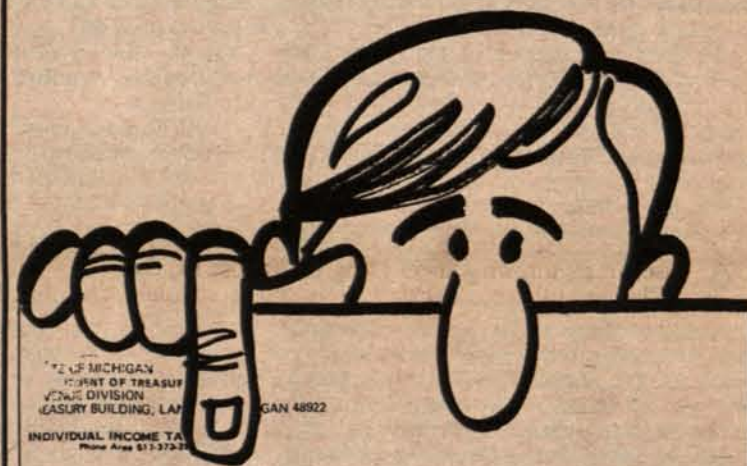
The film, produced by the Michigan, Ohio and Indiana Farm Bureaus has already been aired on WKZO Kalamazoo, WILX Jackson, WDBN Traverse City and WSBT South Bend, Ind. during May.

Future showings are scheduled for WWTW Channel 9 Cadillac, WWUP Channel 10 Sault Ste. Marie for June 16 at 5:30 pm., WNEM Channel 5 in Saginaw. WJRT Channel 12 Flint are also planning to show the film in the near future though no set times have as yet been scheduled.

WVHQ TV, Channel 41 of Battle Creek has scheduled an airing for 7:00 p.m. Sunday night, June 16.

Other metropolitan stations in Grand Rapids and Detroit will also air the film

Fill this form out now and you may get a tax rebate



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY  
TAXES DIVISION  
TREASURY BUILDING, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48922  
INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX  
Form No. 1040CR  
Phone Area 517-373-2222

### CHANGE IN TAX CREDIT FOR FARM HOMESTEAD

By concurrent resolution #402, the legislature has redefined the farm homestead taxes which are eligible for Homestead tax credit.

Persons who have lived on their farm for ten years or more may now claim taxes for all adjacent and contiguous farmland regardless of the amount of income from the land.

If the new definition entitles you to a larger credit than you claimed, you may amend your claim by supplying the following information.

1. Your Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

2. (a) How long have you occupied your farm homestead? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Taxes you were required to pay (total taxes reduced by any exemption allowance you were granted for 1973) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Veterans amending their claim must also enter here the state equalized value of the farm on which they live. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do not file this amended claim if you received a refund or credit of \$500 on your original claim. The maximum remains at \$500.

We will compute any additional credit and send you a supplemental check.

If you did not qualify for a credit under the original definition of a homestead, but now qualify, file your claim on form MI-1040CR.

Sign, date, and mail to:

Michigan Income Tax  
Treasury Building  
Lansing, MI 48922

You're eligible for a rebate if—

1. If the income from the sale of farm products exceeds household income, all of the property taxes on the farm land may be included in the homestead credit computation.

2. If the claimant has lived on the farm 10 years or more, then the property taxes on the entire contiguous or adjacent land (such as land on both sides of a road passing through a farm) may be claimed even though there is no income from

the land or the income from the sale of the farm products does not exceed the household income.

3. If the claimant has lived on the farm less than 10 years and there is no income from the land or the income from the sale of farm products does not exceed the household income, then, up to and including 5 acres of adjacent and contiguous land will be considered part of the homestead.

THE NEW EPA  
RE-ENTRY RULES  
ARE PUBLIC —  
SEE NATIONAL  
NOTES, PAGE 5



Robert E. Smith



Albert A. Almy

## Why Are Solid Railroads in Dot Plan?

**Q:** The recent railroad reorganization plan proposed by the federal Department of Transportation includes both solvent and bankrupt railroads. Why are solvent railroads included in the plan?

**A:** The Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 mandated the DOT to recommend geographic zones in the Midwest and Northeast regions between which rail service should be provided. However, the Act does not require solvent railroads to participate in the restructuring process.

All but two of the 14 railroads operating in Michigan are solvent. The bankrupt railroads are the Ann Arbor and Penn Central lines.

The purpose of the proposed railroad reorganization is to create a solvent self-sustaining rail system with the ability to provide essential rail service. Although the solvent railroads have not made a commitment, they will undoubtedly give careful consideration to joining the reorganized system.

Full participation may offer the solvent railroads certain long term financial advantages of the reorganized system and preclude the possibility of their competing with a federally assisted new rail system.

If the final railroad system plan closely resembles the proposed DOT plan, the decision of solvent railroads to participate will not be important because the DOT plan would eliminate many branch and feeder lines now serving rural areas.

## What's the Hold-up On the No-throw Bottle Bill?

**Q:** Why does it seem so hard to pass legislation banning throw-away bottles and other litter?

**A:** This is controversial issue.

H 4926, now before the Michigan Legislature, is far reaching, requiring a 10 cent deposit on various kinds of containers. The idea is to encourage the return of these containers and discourage throwing them along the roadsides, etc.

The opposition comes chiefly from unions, retailers, and Chambers of Commerce. Bottles and other containers are manufactured in Michigan. Unions are fearful of a reduction in jobs. Retailers maintain that their costs would rise due to the handling of returned containers.

However, a recent study indicates that there could actually be an increase of more than 9,000 jobs. However, admittedly there would be a shift in employment.

The state of Oregon's law has now been in operation long enough to assess its effectiveness. A study in that state indicates that containers disposed of along the roads have dropped by more than 385 million. This number, if laid end to end, would circle the state more than 15 times.

In Oregon, it is said that beverage manufacturers have saved more than \$8 million through the re-use of containers. Other costs have increased, but the net benefit has been more than \$4 million. Employment has shifted, but job opportunities have increased.

An Oregon Congressman has introduced similar legislation in Congress requiring all states to pass similar legislation.

Michigan has made progress strengthening litter laws. However, stronger enforcement is needed.

A new law became effective on March 29 increasing the maximum fine from \$100 to \$400 and retaining the maximum 90-day jail sentence. The judge can still put the violator to work picking up litter.

Also, a driver of a car or vessel is presumed responsible for any litter thrown from that car or vessel. In addition, the registered owner of a vehicle or vessel is presumed to be the driver at the time of the violation.

Last year, the State Police made 376 arrests in Michigan which resulted in 236 convictions. It is not known how many arrests were made by local police.

# NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

## Re-entry Rules Made Public

Final regulations establishing standards of protection for farm workers performing hand labor operations in fields after application of pesticides were published May 10 by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The regulations which will become effective on June 10 were arrived at after 13 public hearings held last summer gathering information concerning proposed standards.

The originally proposed standards were considered prohibitive by Farm Bureau.

The final regulations are as follows:

1. No employer shall permit the application of a pesticide in such a manner that directly or through drift exposes workers or others except those knowingly involved in application. Unprotected persons must be removed from the area being treated.

2. No employer shall permit a worker not wearing protective clothing to enter a field treated with pesticides until sprays have dried or dusts have settled, unless exempted from such requirements, or a longer reentry time has been assigned to that pesticide. (Longer reentry times for 12 pesticides have been established.) Protective clothing means at least a hat or other suitable head covering, a long-sleeved shirt and long-legged trousers or a coverall garment, shoes and socks.

3. When workers are expected to be working in a field treated or to be treated with a pesticide, a warning shall be given orally, posted on bulletin boards, field posted or any combination of these methods.

4. State regulatory agencies may impose more restrictive standards for workers in fields treated with pesticides.

5. If the label for a pesticide bears more stringent restrictions against workers entering treated fields, the label restrictions shall apply.

6. The regulation shall not apply to mosquito abatement and related public pest control programs, greenhouse treatments, livestock and other animal treatments or golf course treatments which are applied in accordance with labeling directions and restrictions.

### Rail Reorganization

A report asserting public dissatisfaction with the rail reorganization plan that could eliminate 37 percent of Michigan rail track was submitted May 2 to the US Railway Association (USRA) by the Rail Services Planning Office (RSPO) of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The report concluded that, based on both the public testimony and evaluation of the RSPO itself, many areas of fundamental dissatisfaction exist with the Dept. of Transportation plan. These areas include:

1. Determination of essential rail lines based almost entirely on carloads of freight per mile of track.

2. Use of large-scale abandonment as a cure for railroad unprofitability.

3. Assumption that alternate modes of transportation could replace major reductions in rail service.

USRA must now develop a preliminary railroad system plan which will be the subject of public hearings this fall. A final railroad system plan will then be prepared and submitted to Congress next spring for approval or rejection.

The Regional Rail Reorganization Act required the (RSPO) to evaluate and prepare a report on the DOT plan. The RSPO has held several public hearings at which Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Services, Michigan Elevator Exchange and several County Farm Bureaus testified in opposition to the DOT plan.

The proposed restructuring of existing rail lines was recommended by the DOT in carrying out its responsibilities under the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973. The Act provides for the restructuring of the railroad system in the Midwest and Northeast Regions of the nation. The objective is to provide a solvent, self-sustaining rail system.

### Land Use

The House of Representatives will consider a federal land use bill (HR 10294) the week of June 3.

The bill (HR 10294) would establish a process for development of state land use plans. 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.

Farm Bureau is opposed to HR 10294 because it would provide a degree of federal control over states utilizing the grants for land use planning. Farm Bureau is opposed to federal intervention in land use planning.

Last June, the Senate passed a federal land use bill and early this year the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee reported a similar bill (HR 10294). The bill received a sudden setback on Feb. 28, when the House Rules Committee refused to clear it for floor debate.

Following the denial from the Rules Committee, supporters of HR 10294 launched a program to obtain reconsideration of the bill. Three additional days of hearings were held and the Rules Committee reconsidered the bill on May 15. The Committee voted 8-7 to clear the bill for House consideration.

## On-farm Pumps Affected by EPA Rules

Farmers planning to put gas in 1975 passenger cars or trucks from an on-farm pump will have to equip the pump with a special nozzle to comply with new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.

The vehicle has to use no-lead gasoline, and the EPA has made sure that leaded gas won't get into it by having car makers design 1975 tanks to take only the special nozzle. The farmer who wants to fill both his new and pre-1975 vehicles on the farm would have to have two pumps, for leaded and non-leaded gasoline.

Retail gas stations handling volumes of 200,000 gallons or more have to carry at least one grade of no-lead gas by July 1, with their

own no-lead pumps also using the new 13/16 inch nozzle.

Farmer's Petroleum Cooperative is now in the process of helping its dealers convert to the no-lead product. The conversion involves careful flushing processes at the tank transport, bulk storage and service station levels. Unleaded gas cannot exceed the prescribed EPA maximum level of .05 grams per gallon. The government will impose heavy fines for non-compliance.

The no-lead regulations were devised in hopes of cutting polluting automobile exhaust 90 percent by 1977. Catalytic converters on 1975 cars and trucks will not function properly with gasoline containing lead or phosphorous.



Farmers Petroleum Cooperative Vice President Bill Callum explains EPA regulations to dealers in a May meeting.

# Michigan Marketing Outlook

## Wheat

Cash wheat values continued their precipitous slide, losing about 60 cents per bushel in the last month. During the same period Uncle Sam released his first official production estimate for winter wheat plantings, showing a sizeable increase over Dec. 1, 1973 acreage report.

The latest figure put US winter wheat up 100 million bushels over the December estimate - obviously a record. Michigan's production also rose to 36 million bushel from the Dec. 1 figure of 33.6 million bushels.

This bountiful outlook seems to outweigh reports of impending shortages in India and Africa and spring planting troubles in Eastern Europe.

The world appears to be rebuilding reserves but they are admittedly at a very serious low point. Failure of any major wheat producing area would give prices a jolt, otherwise, values will continue to slide.

## Corn

The corn situation is very similar to wheat, with reserves in the US this fall that some traders think troublesome dislocations of supply will make news.

Export demand continues very strong with the government estimate of 1.2 billion bushels to be well within reach.

US farmers continue to hold very tightly to ownership as they watch for the first signs of an emerging new crop.

Crop plantings had an excellent start, but suffered a delay due to wet weather.

The effect of late planting on production and fertilizer shortages lead many traders to believe that government yield estimates of 97 bu/acre are out of reach.

Many expect sizeable liquidation of farmer holdings in June and July if planting complete in the normal framework of time.

Without some production difficulties appearing, corn values could be expected to be in a narrow range until late summer and

decline into the heavy harvesting period.

Don Kunz - Michigan Elevator Exchange.

## Navy Beans

Michigan has been without a bean market for 30 days and there's no immediate change in the forecast. Since the decline in interest from the peak prices, canners have reported a reduction in consumer interest. We anticipate that it may require another few weeks before a viable value is established.

Approximately 200,000 cwt. remain to be sold to the trade with this ownership divided between producers and elevators.

With about three months remaining until new crop, it appears that a respectable clean up in the 1973 crop should take place with price being the only unknown factor.

Values are not expected to be nearly as high for 1974 crop with no current interest being shown in contracting at the present time.

Dale Kuenzli - Michigan Elevator Exchange

## Soybeans

We've searched for something positive to say about the soybean market and have come up with almost nothing. We feel depressed for the following reasons:

1. Larger than expected carry-over of the '73 soybean crop.
2. Fertilizer shortages are causing more soy to be planted.
3. Larger supplies of soybean competitive planted items such as sunflowers, cottonseed oil, and meal.
4. Larger world soybean supplies from Brazil, and possible less demand from the European community.
5. Weakened cattle and hog prices.
6. Possible dock worker strikes this fall when contracts expire this September.
7. Higher rail and truck freight rates.

Looking at what may be in prospect for soybean prices, the trade seems to be united in their

judgment. Commodity Services, Inc., subsidiary of Continental Grain Company, he said "On any 10-15 cent increase in cash prices, substantial farmer selling may well occur." They then recommended "trade from the short side on sharp rallies." Terry Francl, Federal Reserve Agricultural Economist, states "The larger carryover plus the production of only a slight reduction from last year's record crop would not seem conducive to a sustained upward trend in prices." In the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Soybean Situation report the following conclusion is reached: "The soybean price situation of late should serve to raise the caution flag."

Looking back at per bushel soybean prices for truck bids, new crop September/October delivery for the past four months, a disturbing pattern emerges with a downward trend of \$1.15 per bushel between Feb. 26 and May 22. But this still leaves a market at country elevator points near the \$5 per bushel figure -- a price strong enough to leave a comfortable profit margin for at least part of one's '74 soybean crop.

Dan Hall - Secretary, Michigan Soybean Producers

## Livestock

Cattle on feed numbers were down ten percent as of April 1 from a year ago, but future slaughter supplies are still uncertain. There are indications that there is still a large number of heavy-weight cattle that need to be sold. There also appears to be a large inventory of 700-900 pound cattle. Placements were up slightly in April.

We can expect butcher cattle prices to remain in the high 30's to low 40's during the next 30 days. Apparent lack of demand and increased numbers will continue to be factors in holding prices down.

Hog and pig numbers continue to be about as predicted. Butcher prices have fallen to the mid to high 20's during the past month. Cold-storage stocks of beef, pork,

and poultry are up substantially from a year ago levels. This will probably be a major factor in curtailing significant price increases during the next 30 days. We expect hogs to remain in the high 20's and low 30's during the next 30 days. Forty-pound feeder pigs continue to sell in the low 20's.

Bill Byrum - MFB Marketing Specialist

## Dairy

The dairy outlook for the immediate future is a mixture of good and questionable.

Class I use is up approximately 1.5 percent during April, 1974, compared to the same month last year. Comparison of March, 1974 Class I use at 64.23 percent to April, 1974 at 63.25 percent, shows a drop of almost one percent, presenting a less favorable picture. Several factors have influenced this trend; it would be difficult, if not impossible, to cite all the factors. Consumer milk prices have leveled off; thus, it would seem that consumption would be likely to also level off; however, the fact that the

end of the school year is nearing will affect consumption.

One other favorable factor is feed prices have dropped considerably from their peak, and thus there is some input cost relief.

The big question is will the present price level hold. This depends mainly on supply and demand, and more specifically Class I use and production. April production figures show some trends.

April milk production in Michigan was down three percent from April of one year ago, but up approximately two percent over March of 1974. Production per cow is down 15 lbs. to 940 from a year ago, while up 20 lbs. over March of this year.

Cow numbers continue to decline, with April total at approximately 417,000 down 5,000 from a year earlier. United States milk production is down two percent from a year earlier. Current production provided 1.59 lbs. per person per day compared with 1.64 lbs. last April.

Ron Nelson - MFB Market Development Division

## Macomb Joins Soybean Group

Macomb Soybean Producers have formed the most recent County Farm Bureau Soybean Commodity Division. Meeting April 22nd at Romeo, the producers nominated Chris Cryderman of Armada to be Chairman. With the addition of Macomb, seventeen counties have formed soybean commodity divisions. Agreements have been signed by these County Farm Bureaus to also affiliate with the (MSP) Michigan Soybean

Producers. MSP is a Commodity Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau. John Pajtas, Owosso, Michigan, serves as Chairman of the Michigan Soybean Producers.

Activities sponsored by the County and State Divisions include policy development and execution, special soybean conferences, and tours. Members who pay \$4 per year to join also receive a special soybean information newsletter

## Supply



## Report

By Greg Sheffield FBS Marketing Manager

### FERTILIZER

As we get well into June, most of the fertilizer allocated to Farm Bureau Services will be received with the last shipments received by June 30 with the exception of Anhydrous ammonia which will extend into July.

Many farmers did not get all the fertilizer they wanted due to the general increased planting and demand and our fertilizer plants have exceeded last year's production in attempts to keep up with the tremendous demand. Late in the season production was restricted to 5-20-20 and 12-12-12 to maximize and deliver as much tonnage as possible for as many farmers as possible.

### HARDWARE

Steel building supplies during the normal steel building season are becoming more difficult to get. Because we have been taking our year's supply of steel building materials on an equalized quarterly basis, the months of June, July and August are going to be catch-up months, with no additional supplies other than those allocated.

Farm fence and barbed wire will continue to remain in a tight over-

demand position for the balance of the year. By June we will have received our last boatload of baler twine and binder twine and will have finished delivering our early order dispositions. This means that any fill-in orders for the balance of the summer will be critical and high in price.

Mowers and tillers are still in great demand and tight supply. Tillers have been especially hard to get in the huge numbers called for.

### FEED

Animal proteins such as soybean meal and meat scaps have declined in price for the past several months. Prices appear stable for the time being with good availability.

LPS (liquid protein supplement) is moving well and is in good supply. We fully expect to supply every patron's feed needs adequately.

### CHEMICALS

Farm Bureau Services remains in a strong position in all pesticides. With but few exceptions, Farm Bureau dealers were able to supply farmers with their needs on time during the busy spring season.

### SEEDS

Generally there were no big problems and supplies of seed were adequate.

### PETROLEUM

Ample supplies of petroleum distillates and gasoline have been made available by Farmers Petroleum. Price controls, which were set aside on April 30, will be retained on petroleum products. Nevertheless, Farmers Petroleum has been reducing prices at some retail stores to maintain competitiveness.

### TIRES

Farm tractor tires and certain utility tires are still in short supply as are farm tire tubes. Most Farmers Petroleum dealers are well able to supply and service the needs of our farmer customers. Passenger tire supplies are adequate and good buys can be found at dealers. Co-op steel-belted, radial tires are available which reduce fuel consumption according to tests.

### OILS

Oils and lubes are in ample supply, but some difficulties in deliveries are being experienced because of the container shortage.

## DEBENTURES



### FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

#### INTEREST ON DEBENTURES 5-10-15 year maturity

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

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

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

Clip and mail this coupon to:

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



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

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Road \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
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# WHERE can you go FOR a new BUILDING?

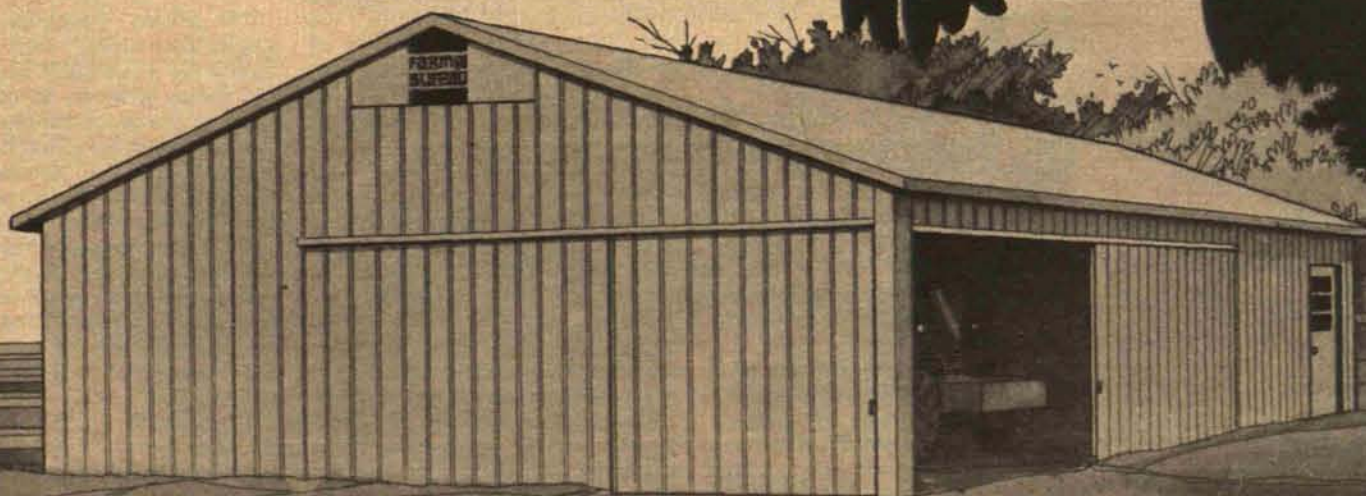
Farm Bureau Services, with building centers throughout this state, can make your new building a reality. With the help of our staff agricultural engineer, we'll assist you with initial planning and design, and pledge quality workmanship. Our completely-trained crews can erect attractive, finished structures on your site. And, for those who prefer, our building centers are stocked for do-it-yourself work. As a cooperative, with skilled purchasing people, Farm Bureau is able to provide the building services you need.

We build two basic types of structures: 1) rigid-frame buildings with either steel or aluminum siding and roofing, and 2) all-steel buildings, including the Quonset™ line. All structures can be customized to fit your specific need, whether it be a horse barn, milking parlor, machinery storage, fruit storage or utility building. The versatility, durability and economy of Farm Bureau Services' buildings make them ideal for many non-farm uses, too.

The Farm Bureau people, backed by years of experience, are ready to go to work for you. So see your local Farm Bureau Services building representative today.

**ASK THE  
FARM BUREAU  
PEOPLE**

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



# Dollar's New Era Will Determine Prices

The last two years have been very strange for many farmers. Several have made a decent, tangible profit and are still wondering why. Last summer, prices jumped like few had ever seen before and people talked of how food shortages caused a sudden boost in demand.

But one underlying factor has had an overriding effect on demand and prices for US agricultural goods over the last two years. It was largely responsible for last summer's boost in prices and will have a telling effect on the marketing of commodities this year.

This shotgun force is the value of the dollar, and its confusing effects have been particularly noticeable over the last two years as the United States has ushered in a new era of international currency exchange.

The dollar, after 30 years of being the central world currency with its value determined by how other countries valued their own currency, finally made its own course toward revaluation in 1971. This gave the US a new economic weapon which is changing the trade situation for years to come.

"Changing exchange rates is a very valuable tool of economic policy that was available to every country in the world but us," said Professor Mordecai Kreinen of Michigan State University in an interview.

Kreinen explained the importance of exchange rates in trade.

"Say the dollar was worth three German marks. If a half bushel of wheat costs \$1.00, any German with three marks can buy a half bushel of wheat.

"If the dollar declines in relation to the mark (as in devaluation) so that it is worth only two marks, that means any German with two marks can buy a half bushel of wheat."

Devaluation had been a longtime desire of the United States for increasing exports when in late

1971, President Nixon decided to shock the world.

"Essentially Nixon told the world, 'you'd better let us devalue the dollar or else you're going to pay the price,'" Kreinen said.

Other countries revalued their currencies in relation to the dollar, to, in effect, devalue the dollar. Higher imports and lower exports weren't immediately apparent and by February of 1973, a second devaluation was undertaken. Three weeks later, the dollar was completely freed on the international market to seek its own value. The immediate effect of this freedom was for the dollar to sink still further in value.

Few farmers need to be reminded of the results. As American products became relatively cheaper to other countries, demand rose and the American-dollar price for farm products rose - \$7.00 soybeans, \$6.00 wheat and \$57/cwt. navy beans. Besides the effects of price freezes, wheat deals and so forth, largely the high prices were due to the accumulated effects of devaluation of the dollar.

Where does that leave us for 1974? Professor Kreinen sees the dollar back at spring 1973 levels.

"In the fall of 1973 and early 1974 it started rising and it regained almost all of its summer losses and went almost back to post '73 devaluation figures," Kreinen said.

This was largely a reaction to the favorable trade position America found itself in after last summer, Kreinen noted. While this makes today's American products more expensive than last summers to foreign traders, they should still be competitive.

"The indications are that the market for grains will stabilize this year," Kreinen said. "The Russian demand will decline to some extent, the market will loosen up and the price may come down."

But a sudden lurch in the value of the dollar could change prospects considerably.

"If the President should suddenly resign, the dollar would suffer a slide on the currency market and that would improve the competitiveness of exports," Kreinen said.

"And if suddenly he was cleared, that would shoot the dollar up. Barring these developments, I think the dollar will stabilize about where it is."

Over the long-run, Kreinen sees a generally bright future for agricultural exports.

"The long run outlook I suspect is going to be a rising trend of in-

ternational demand for farm products and increase in American exports," Kreinen said.

Part of the Professor's analysis is based on changes in attitude he's detected among the Europeans and Japanese since the soybean embargoes of last summer.

"The Europeans and Japanese were up in arms about that," Kreinen said. "Their entire attitude is switching from 'how can we guarantee markets for our exports' to 'how can you guarantee us excess farm products.'"

But the American farmer is

entering a strange year where oil shortages have placed most of the world in deficit trading positions as well as hampering their buying power. For some countries, this could mean increased imports of grain to increase local cattle production. For others it means the only American food they will receive is through aid.

One thing is fairly sure, few countries can afford to cut back on food imports in order to right their balance of trade deficit. Food will be the last commodity to be cut off.

## Accreditation Back in Court

The law suit against MACMA and the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board is back into court, this time in the Michigan Court of Appeals. The suit was originally filed in the Ingham County Circuit Court in March and was dismissed in April by Judge Thomas Brown on the basis that the Circuit Court did not have jurisdiction in the case.

The Michigan Cannery and Freezers Association, its individual members, and two asparagus producers, who brought the suit, are appealing Judge Brown's decision in the Appeals Court. The plaintiffs are asking for an emergency appeal procedure to get a quicker ruling from the Appeals Court.

The law suit against MACMA and the Bargaining Board alleged that the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act (PA 344) was unconstitutional and requested an injunction on the activities of the Board and MACMA pending trial on the Act's constitutionality.

A second lawsuit has been filed against MACMA and Marketing and Bargaining Board by Ore-Ida Foods, Inc. after the Potato Growers Division of MACMA was granted accreditation by the board in May.

Ore-Ida, a subsidiary of H.J. Heinz Co. has a potato processing operation in Greenville, Michigan as well as plants in Idaho and Oregon.

Meanwhile, MACMA divisions are working under provisions of the act to gain State Accreditation to bargain for farm producers.

The Potato Growers Division of MACMA received final accreditation from the Bargaining Board on May 8 and the Kraut Cabbage Growers Division of MACMA received final accreditation on May 19 marking the second and third associations to be accredited under PA 344.

## Asparagus Settlement Arbitrated

The first contract settlement through negotiations by an accredited farmers association was resolved in the hands of arbitrators last month who called for a 32 cent lb. price for 95 to 100 grade asparagus.

The Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act, which accredited agricultural bargainers negotiate under, requires a joint settlement committee to select between the last offer of the processors and the last offer of growers when a

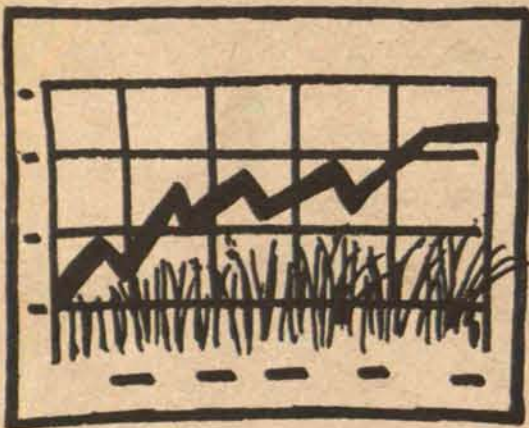
The Red Tart Cherry Growers Division of MACMA could become the fourth accredited association under the bargaining act as findings of a Marketing and Bargaining Board hearing concerning their accreditation were reviewed on May 28.

If the division meets all of the PA 344 standards, there is a possibility that it could be accredited in time for the marketing of the 1974 crop.

The Michigan Processing Apple Growers Division of MACMA submitted an application for accreditation to the Bargaining Board on May 1. The next step toward accreditation will be a hearing.

bargaining deadlock is reached. The Michigan Asparagus Growers bargaining committee made a final written offer of 32 cents for 90 to 100 grade asparagus and the processors stood by a 32 cents for 100 grade asparagus.

The Joint Settlement Committee, however, ruled that a verbal compromise offered to three processors of 32 cents at 95 and 100 grade was the last offer by the Grower Committee and chose those figures for the final agreement.



## How To Market That Wheat Crop

How do you follow a year like last year with your 1974 wheat crop? Did you sell at harvest and feel that grin of satisfaction turn upside down as prices lurched even higher as the year wore on? Or did you contract that wheat out at what seemed a reasonable price long before harvest?

If you made a fair profit, you shouldn't complain, you tell yourself, but the temptation to do something a little different this year nags at you.

But most economists will tell you that last year is not a year you can expect again. Besides bad harvests in various parts of the world, and a poor fish catch off Peru, the rapidly falling value of the dollar caused huge demand.

So what's the future for this year? The standard comment is that it's hard to say. Crops in our major foreign market countries seem headed upward and the international monetary situation has seemed to enter a new era of stability. But most people can't translate these facts into "when to sell" information.

You know contracting can be a safe way of insuring profit, but not necessarily a way of insuring maximum price. Selling at harvest can be a chance undertaking. Over the last six years, the price for wheat has gone up substantially after harvest, yet market developments may be pointing to earlier high points in prices this year.

"I don't personally think it is smart for a farmer to put all of his eggs into one basket," says Dan

Hall, Secretary MFB Soft Wheat Advisory Committee. "I don't think you should commit more than half your crop to one set price. So, I suggest farmers put half into a contract and consider putting half into our Farm Bureau wheat marketing program."

Hall, while admittedly speaking from a prejudiced point of view, has some convincing facts to back up his advice.

Last year, those in the wheat program received an average of \$5.25 per bushel of wheat after expenses.

"It's surprising to me that more farmers didn't get into the program," Hall said. "A lot of people got shook up after the Russian wheat deal and got out before the price got two thirds the way to its peak."

Members of the program, last year, put wheat into a pool and allowed professionals, including marketing agents for the Michigan Elevator Exchange, to market the wheat in an orderly fashion.

Money was borrowed to pay farmers an advance as they delivered their wheat and a final payment came at the end of sales.

Marketing wheat this way has proven more profitable than selling at harvest for the last six years. One reason is that a program in not offered unless it is determined ahead of time that farmers will profit by such a marketing scheme.

This year could be the first time in eight years that farmer representatives decide to suspend the program.

The MFB Soft Wheat Advisory Board, a number of farmers selected by MFB President Elton Smith from county FB nominees, will meet in Lansing in June with marketing experts to decide if they can help farmers with an orderly selling program.

Should the group decide to go ahead with the program, it will be up to them to propose to the MFB Board advance prices to be given to farmers and a cut-off date for receiving shipments of wheat from participants.

The Wheat Operations Committee then takes over responsibility for marketing the wheat. The group is made up of an impressive array of businessmen - Donald Armstrong, Vice President of Farm Bureau Services; Ed Powell, Vice President in charge of the Michigan Elevator Exchange; Donn Kunz, Grain Manager of Michigan Elevator Exchange, as well as two members of the MFB Soft Wheat Advisory Committee, John Laurie and Dean Pridgeon and Secretary Dan Hall.

The six year record of success for participants in the program seems ample testimony that if the program gets the go-ahead, it is a good bet for a portion of a farmer's wheat crop.

Farmers who wish to participate will have to deliver wheat through local cooperative elevators that are affiliated with Farm Bureau Services.



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The above facts are based on comparison of Co-op Radials with conventional 78-series 4-ply bias tires.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created in 1970 because of increasing public and governmental concern about the dangers to the health and welfare of Americans caused by pollution. The establishment of EPA brought under one roof all federal activities in controlling air and water pollution, drinking water quality, solid wastes, pesticides, environmental radiation and noise. It is an independent regulatory agency with only one mission -- to protect and enhance the environment.

Briefly stated, the agency is responsible for conducting research and demonstrations, for establishing and enforcing standards for monitoring pollution in the environment, and for assisting state and local governments in their own environmental protection efforts.

As the scope of EPA's duties and responsibilities covers such a broad area, it is impossible to provide a comprehensive analysis of its total effects upon all segments of agriculture in one article.

So, this month's discussion deals only with its impact on the livestock industry.

The fact that other segments of agriculture are not mentioned does not imply that they are immune from pollution and environmental standards.

Albert A. Almy, Legislative Counsel for Michigan Farm Bureau and Natural Resources specialist has prepared the following update on EPA regulations.

#### The Beginning

On December 5, 1972 and again on September 7, 1973, a lot of dust was stirred on nearly every farm where livestock was kept. On these dates proposed environmental regulations developed by the EPA were released.

Today the dust has cleared somewhat and some producers can begin to see how it is settling in their livestock operation, but we need to look at what caused it to rise in the first place.

The regulations were made possible after the 92nd Congress overrode the President's veto of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (referred to hereafter as the Act). The Act has been described as one of the most significant, most comprehensive and thoroughly debated pieces of environmental legislation ever considered by Congress.

The Act is significant if for no other reason than its impact upon agriculture with few stones left unturned in the effort to abate water pollution. The Act has been thoroughly debated and each time regulations to implement it are published, the debate is provided new fuel.

Three significant dates for cleaning up the nation's waters were established in the Act. The first is July 1, 1977. By this date, pollutants discharged into navigable waters are to be controlled by use of the "best practicable control technology currently available."

The second date is July 1, 1983. Control of pollutants discharged into navigable waters are to be accomplished by this date through use of the "best available technology economically achievable."

The third, and perhaps the most significant, date is 1985. The Act specifies that it is the national goal to eliminate the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters by 1985. Zero discharge of pollutants by 1985! Each of these dates have been related to the livestock industry in regulations that have been developed up to this time.

In proposing the regulations that have been so controversial among livestock producers, the EPA is only carrying out its mandate from Congress. The EPA interprets the intent of Congress and the language of the Act when developing regulations and can effect who will be subject to the laws and provisions.

However, releasing the broad inclusion of agriculture from the act must be obtained from Congressional action.

#### Regulations Developed

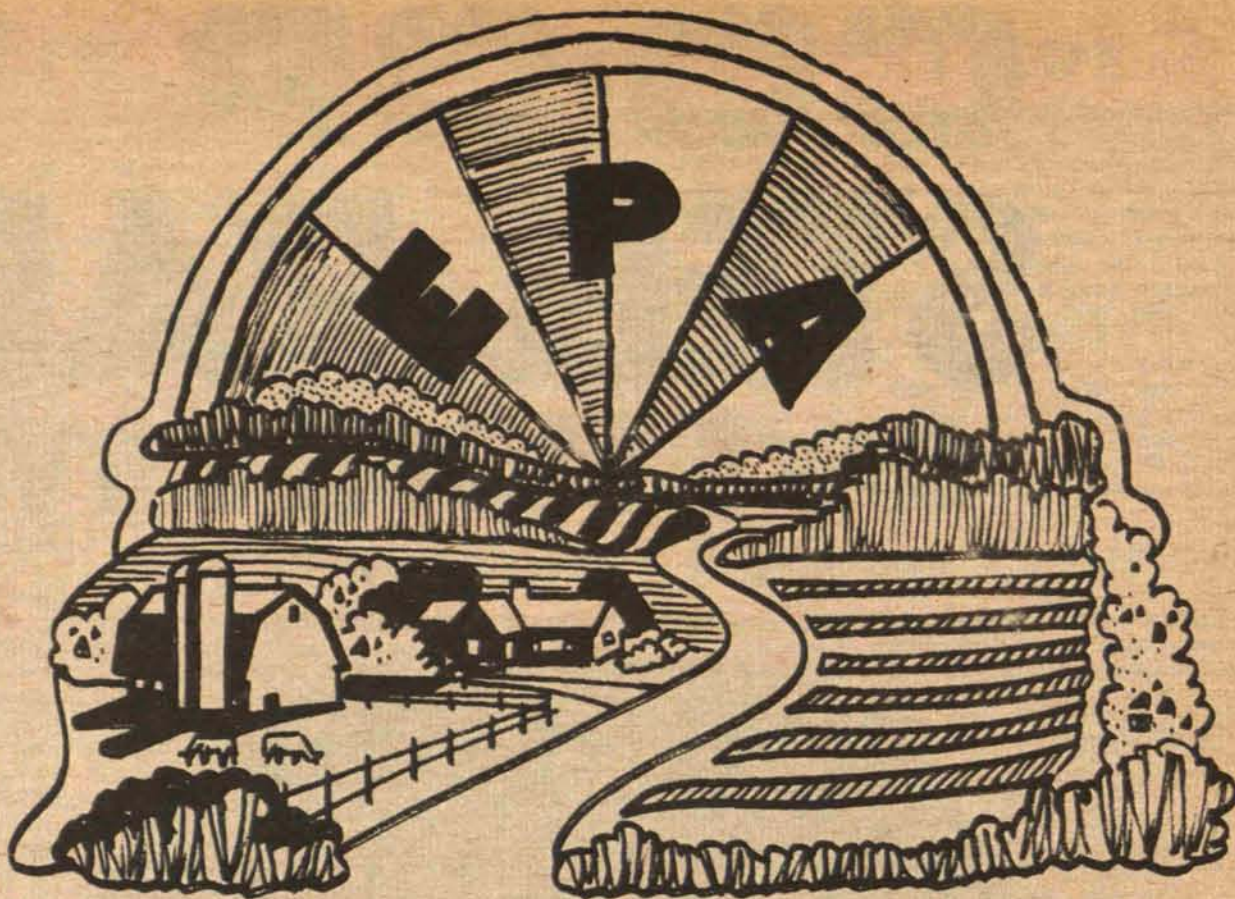
Proposed regulations to develop a permit program for pollutants discharged from agricultural point sources were published by EPA in December 1972. The term "point source" was defined roughly as any pipe, ditch, channel, rolling stock and concentrated animal feeding operation from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

Such sweeping terms concerned producers and their farm organizations. Did a pipe include a tile drain outlet? Did a channel include a sod waterway? Did rolling stock include a liquid manure spreader? Did a concentrated livestock operation include every livestock operation regardless of size? After considering these and other appropriate questions, along with many constructive suggestions, EPA proposed revised regulations in May, 1973. On July 5, 1973, final regulations, with immediate effect, were published for the agricultural permit program.

The permit program applies only to feedlots that have 1000 or more animal units on hand for more than 30 days at any time during the previous year. Excluded from the final regulations, subject to qualification, are operations with less than 1000 slaughter steers, 700 mature dairy cattle, 2,500 swine weighing over 55 pounds, 55,000 turkeys, and 30,000 laying hens in facilities with liquid manure handling. The final regulation also excludes runoff from cultivated crops and pastures.

EPA published material designed to assist producers in determining whether a permit application must be filed. Three questions which a livestock producer may find helpful in making this determination are:

1. Do you or have you for 30 days or more during the previous 12 months held in a confined feedlot more than 1000 animal units?
2. Is the feedlot barren of vegetative cover?
3. Do you presently discharge any wash water or overflow drinking water from the feedlot to any waters of



# DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager Member Relations

the United States or after an extremely large rain is there any runoff leaving the feedlot and reaching any surface waters?

A "yes" answer to all of these questions means that the producer should obtain a copy of "Short Form B - Agriculture" from the Michigan Water Resources Commission and apply for a permit.

#### Exclusion Fragile

The exemption for livestock producers with less than 1000 animal units, is very fragile.

The final permit program regulations clearly states that any point source identified as a significant contributor of pollution may be required to apply for a permit. Therefore, just because a producer has less than 1000 animal units does not mean he is totally exempt from the permit program.

The ability of the EPA to grant exemptions is under attack from the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., a nationwide environmental group, which has filed suit in Federal District Court against the permit program exclusions. The suit challenges that the Act does not give EPA authority to exclude any point sources from the permit program.

The court has not yet issued a ruling. However, if the court rules in favor of the plaintiffs, it will mean that every producer, regardless of pollution potential, will be subject to the permit program.

But even if present federal practices stand the Act gives State water pollution agencies authority to administer the permit program if approved by EPA. Michigan presently administers the permit program and follows federal standards, but a state may have stricter standards if it desires. A state may not be more lenient, however.

#### Effluent Guidelines

Proposed effluent guidelines and performance standards were published for the feedlot industry by EPA in September 1973. Prior to the issuance of these guidelines, EPA contracted with the Hamilton Standard Division of United Aircraft Corporation to study the feedlot industry and recommend appropriate effluent guidelines.

The Hamilton Report concluded that existing technology is available and economically attainable to allow the feedlot industry to meet a no-discharge standard by July 1, 1977.

Final regulations establishing feedlot industry effluent guidelines and performance standards were published in February of this year. The regulations became effective April 15, 1974 with livestock operations of 1000 or more animal units under the regulations.

The regulations contain requirements to prevent overflow from watering systems, washing, cleaning, flushing and feedlot runoff from entering navigable waters. There are three key deadlines to be met:

April 15, 1974 - All facilities of the stated size whose construction began after September 7, 1973, and which began operating after April 15, 1974, must design, construct and operate such facilities to contain all runoff including that which might result from a 25 year, 24 hour storm. Runoff from a storm exceeding the 25 year, 24 hour storm or from chronic storm events will not constitute a violation.

July 1, 1977 - Existing facilities of the stated size with runoff entering navigable waters must by this date begin, construct and operate facilities to contain all runoff including that which might result from a 10 year, 24 hour storm or from chronic storm event will not constitute a violation.

July 1, 1983 - Existing facilities of the stated size with runoff entering navigable waters must by this date design, construct and operate facilities to contain all runoff including that which might result from a 25 year, 24 hour storm or from chronic storm events will not constitute a violation.

Again a word of caution is appropriate to producers with less than 1000 animal units. EPA is now reviewing economic impact information submitted during the public comment period to determine the possibility of breaking the feedlot industry into additional segments based on size.

Following this review, EPA intends to propose for public comment effluent guidelines for smaller feedlots.

The Act also requires EPA to publish guidelines for the identification of those areas which have substantial water quality control programs. The Governor of each state must use the guidelines to identify specific areas which have substantial water quality control problems and designate an organization to develop an areawide waste treatment plan for the area.

How actively states will pursue the requirements and authority provided in the Act remains to be seen. However, the possibilities this provision provides for controls, including land use requirements aimed at erosion, manure disposal and fertilizer nutrients, should not be overlooked. The consequences of this portion of the Act could be more vital to the future of livestock operations than both the permit program and effluent guidelines.

The livestock industry is now faced with the prospect of substantial investments to comply with water pollution standards. The cost and other impacts of the standards will affect each producer differently according to individual circumstances. It should appear obvious that it will be more difficult in the future for the livestock industry to meet the environmental standards outlined here, realize a profit from its efforts and provide the consumer with an ample supply of high quality food at reasonable prices.

# FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

**SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS:** One free 25 word ad per month per membership, additional ads, 25 words for \$2.00 each edition. Additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word. **NON-MEMBER advertisers:** 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 13th of month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm News, P. O. Box 960, Lansing, MI. 48904. Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

## FARM EQUIPMENT

**FOR SALE:** 66 All Crop Harvester, Allis-Chalmers Roto-Baler, Ford 3 bottom plow, other farm machinery. Mrs. Raymond Krull, Three Rivers, Mich. Phone 616-244-5656. (6-11-24p)

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**WE SELL, ERECT, SERVICE:** Smith Silos; Silomatic unloaders and feeding equipment; Schuler bunk feeding boxes; Kasten boxes, blowers and gears. Norman Laursen, Laursen, Inc., West Branch, Michigan 48661 Tel. 517-345-1400. (6-12-30p)

**FOR SALE:** Furgeson 3 pt. tools, 2 row corn planter, cultivator, 7 ft. mower, 18" glazed 24" cement tiles. George Vander Woude, R1, Wayland, Mich. Phone 616-TR7-4343. (6-21-23p)

**FOR SALE:** 1971 Ford 3/4 ton pickup, V-8, 4-speed transmission, 43,000 miles, original owner. Emily Jablonski, Dorr Mich. 49323 Tel. 616-681-9472. (6-11-19p)

**FOR SALE:** Water tank 2 ft. x 2 ft. x 6 ft. good condition \$25.00. Case blower with pipe for 40 ft. silo \$75.00. 5453 East Mt. Morris Rd., Mt. Morris, Mich. 48458. Tel. 313-640-1998. (6-11-25p)

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

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

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

## WANTED

**WANTED —** Old automobiles, light trucks, motorcycles, any make or condition. Preferably previous to 1930. Harry Farris, 5563 Michael, Bay City, Mich. 48706 Phone: (517) 684-4904. (4-11-22p)

## PETS

**FOR SALE:** Female puppies, German shepherd-border collie. Good farm and watch dogs \$15.00. Herman Smoes, 15136 - 60th Ave., Coopersville, Mich. 49404. Phone 616-637-6124. (6-11-24p)

**FOR SALE:** AKC Shetland Sheepdogs (miniature collies) whelped Aug. 1974. Two tricolor males - 1 sable female. Tom Eilers, Mears, Mich. 49436 Tel. 616-861-4696. (6-11-25p)

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

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

**FOR SALE —** Polled Hereford bulls and heifer yearlings, good breeding. Elmer Steinhoff, Melvin, Mich. Tel. (313) 387-3262. (5-21-16p)

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

## LIVESTOCK

**FOR SALE:** Holstein Springer Grade Heifers, some registered Holstein cows. All T.B. tested and vaccinated. Two miles east and 1/2 mile north of Marlette, Mich. Steward Taylor, phone 517-635-2637. (6-11-25p)

**FOR SALE:** Complete milking herd. Milking over 50 pounds per day average. John M. Smith, Williamston, Mich. 48895. Phone 517-655-1104. (6-11-19p)

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## REALTY

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## Topic Summary

From the comments submitted on the April Discussion Topic which asked the question "Where Does Good Government Begin?" it appears that nearly everyone who attended the groups meetings really expressed their views. Following is a tabulation of the responses and a few of the many conclusions.

1. Do you think that a limit should be placed on the amount an individual could contribute to candidates' campaign funds? No: 23 percent, Yes: 71 percent, Undecided: 6 percent.
2. Do you think that campaign contributions by organizations, such as labor or business groups, should be banned? No: 16 percent, Yes: 77 percent, Undecided: 7 percent.
3. Should full disclosure of the source of all political contributions be required without any ceiling on campaign spending? No: 11 percent, Yes: 76 percent, Undecided: 13 percent.
4. Would you like to have the president elected by the popular vote of the people? No: 10 percent, Yes: 83 percent, Undecided: 6 percent.
5. In your opinion "Where Does Good Government Begin?" The overwhelming response to this question was "At Home". Other comments included with the individual people, locally, in schools, and one group suggested "the woodshed".
6. Conclusions: Money shouldn't put a man in office; vote for the candidate, not the party; shorten campaign time; need better voter participation; we should be proud of the kind of government we have and should all work to keep it.

# England a Historical Goldmine

It's no wonder that Englishmen scoff and say that their new world counterparts don't know what history is. Englishmen live among structures and legends that were in their prime before the white man was even aware of America.

England, "home" to so many of its former colonies around the world, can be visited by Michigan Farm Bureau members (this November when Farm Bureau tours to the Queen of cities, London.

Arriving in London on Nov. 7, visitors can feel free to make their choice of concentrating on the teeming cultural and night life of London or spreading out into the countryside, littered with 11th and 12th century abbeys, castles, and ruins that are steeped in the background that made us all.

Optional tours are available to members who wished to be guided to the relics. In London, a half-day tour is available beginning at St. Paul's Abbey, founded 1,300 years ago. Herein lies the tombs of ancient kings, princes, and ministers. The tour also winds its way to the

tower of London, perhaps the most oft-mentioned structure in British History. It was here that enemies of the crown were sent to meet their headless fates, including two wives of Henry VIII.

Another tour to the country completes a pilgrimage to Canterbury where Englishmen have journeyed to for 800 years to pay homage to the Archbishop Thomas a'Becket who was slain in the cathedral there.

Geoffrey Chaucer's famed Canterbury Tales are a collection of tales told by characters on this pilgrimage in the 1300's.

A third tour can take members away from the hustle of London to the city many countrymen think is the most beautiful in England. Cambridge, famous for its University, also holds an unusual 11th Century Cathedral. The "backs", where seven of the old university's residential colleges line the river, is another picturesque attraction.

With a week of freedom in a country where distance is never a

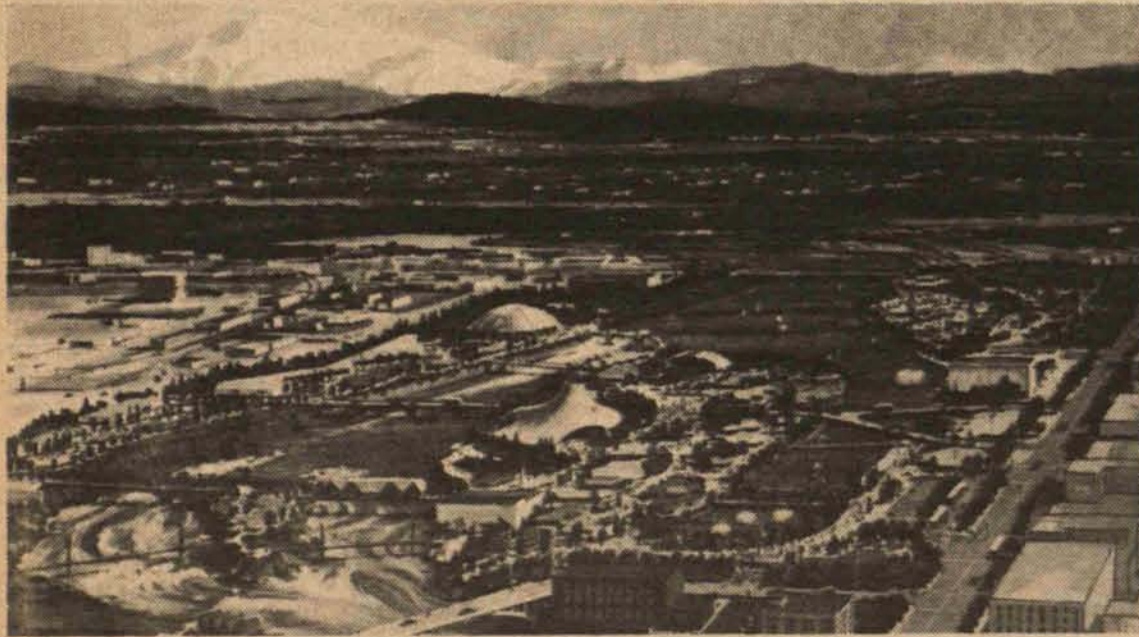
big factor, members can plan their own excursions to Midlands, Lake Country, Northumberland or any of the places they've heard about for so many years.

But, if England alone won't satisfy you, the distance to France is a small factor, too. An optional tour to the "romance" city of Paris is also available.

For those who want to see what farming is like on the British Isles, a full-day agricultural tour will be offered with a variety of farming operations on the agenda.

The trip to London is considered one of the best buys in the travel industry. Group rates with Farm Bureau make it even more so. The cost from Detroit is \$305.45, which includes a round-trip flight ticket and seven nights in a London hotel (double occupancy).

For more information, contact Ken Wiles at Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904. A \$75 deposit for each traveler will be required with the balance due about six weeks prior to the trip.



Farm Bureau members can still sign up for trips to Expo '74 in Spokane, Washington (above). Reservations for the August trip (August 18) should be lodged at the Michigan Farm Bureau Center by June 17. Those traveling on the September trip (September 15) should lodge reservations by July 14.

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