A quantity of fire retardant used in plastics was mistakenly included in a shipment of magnesium oxide in 1972. This was mixed in Farm Bureau Services #402 being quarantined this May after discovery of the fire retardant in feed.

Questions concerning when and where the contamination was found and how Farm Bureau Services handled it came to my attention. It came to my attention in December. I was called by Rick Halbert, a producer near Fremont, who noticed there might be some possibility of contamination in relation to their animals. He checked into the library to find out what the effects of the compound were, he found nothing.

Armstrong: Did you run your first suspicions that something might be wrong with Farm Bureau Services feed?

Armstrong: We thought we passed the contaminant back to one particular supplier.

Armstrong: Because magnesium oxide is an item we don’t get many shipments of and at that time we had only one supplier. We had only three or four shipments of the compound over the past year because it’s not necessary in formulating a good, sound ration. We knew that the fire retardant would contaminate magnesium oxide. We gave them lists of our dealers and magnesium oxide from Farm Bureau Services then.

Armstrong: Yes, it was an unknown. This was so unique that when the USDA employee checked into the library to find out what the effects of the compound were, they found nothing.

Armstrong: What happened then?

Armstrong: We think we passed the contaminant back to one particular supplier.

Armstrong: The state has been considering legislation that would assist them in settling claims in the future. They remember at least a couple of instances where producers had found themselves in this position in which they could not condemn cattle because there was no contagious disease involved. They are asking authority to come in and condemn cattle where it is in the best interest of the public.

Editor’s Note: See Capitol Report for story on legislation.

Farm News: What has Farm Bureau Services done to reimburse farmers?

Armstrong: No, it was an unknown. This was so unique that when the USDA employee checked into the library to find out what the effects of the compound were, they found nothing.

Armstrong: What were you able to trace the contaminant back to one particular supplier?

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Armstrong: The state has been considering legislation that would assist them in settling claims in the future. They remember at least a couple of instances where producers had found themselves in this position in which they could not condemn cattle because there was no contagious disease involved. They are asking authority to come in and condemn cattle where it is in the best interest of the public.
It is little wonder that our livestock producing members watch their cattle in the feedlot, knowing that everything they eat represents a loss of income, and think to themselves, “What if Farm Bureau does not support the consumer?”

Producers have fumed, watching livestock prices plummet, while store prices fell to fail significantly enough to induce consumers to buy in larger amounts.

It was government price freezes last summer that now seems to be a way to do it. It is necessary to keep margins higher to order recover lost margins of a year ago. The consequence? Consumer prices are disproportionately higher than farm prices and the market system has not worked properly. Stocks of red meat in storage at the end of April have gone up 46% higher than they were last year. The market system has been plagued by unison economic actions!

Farm Bureau recognized it was unsafe to tamper with the pricing system, we protested and fought it from the beginning by pushing publicly and with government officials.

On top of this, two important foreign consumers, Canada and Japan have cut off US exports of beef into their countries.

This appears to be in response to another bad government policy that has come back to haunt the livestock industry. I’m speaking of the embargo of soybeans to Japan. Farm Bureau insisted this is no way of doing business with good conditions.

The sword has sliced the other way, now, as Japan under balance of payment pressures, has put a full stop on US beef imports.

Closer to home, the American Farm Bureau Federation is probably not too worried about concern concerning the use of DES, which has been the stated reason for banning US meat.

We at Farm Bureau, therefore, we protested the 200 percent increase on import charges the Canadian government imposed on our exports of beef too. It was nothing but beef which we felt was a violation of trade agreements.

We have continually worked for fair trade practices and stopped the export of red meat by working with giant exporters and the USDA. Our policy reflected what we thought was the best method. Be a fair reliable trading partner and it may be less likely that some other consumers will be unfair to us.

There are now indications that America is being used for a dumping ground for subsidized imports of meat. Just as we insist on fair trading practices from our shores, we insist on fair practices from abroad.

We have consistently condemned the permissiveness towards consumer price controls and we have supported a countervailing duty to right this inequity.

We on the American Farm Bureau Federation Board have made ourselves similarly clear in regards to meat imports with the statement we released on June 12.

Unfortunately, it was a very fair comment. We in America are careful to place all the blame and comment. We in America are most of the credit for everything that the fortunes of a team can completely turn around with the state of our country on a few.

Having been a member of the profession call creative for two days, I decided that he is a grandfather figure that will take the responsibility for making some winners is self-deluding.

Treating matters to the extreme, a team becomes known as “and moral public servants. To hide individual responsibility for making some winners. It is far easier to surround our society, we must accept the winners. For, when we demand perfection, we are one of the few things coming down. The American Farm Bureau and Michigan Farm Bureau have both released such information and we in Michigan plan to begin a massive new action with retailers to promote the sales of red meat.

One of my responsibilities here at Farm Bureau is the weekly editorial column, "Agriculture in Action," which is sent to 161 new newspapers throughout the state. It’s a challenging job because, to be an effective writer, one must be able to write in a way that readers will understand and find interesting.

"The point is, Pridgeon is going to be the kind of commissioner who will be devoting more time to being at his desk. It might be that the way a person looks at a problem can influence how comfortable, though, until the day comes when he is no longer under the pressure of having a couple pair of shoes just a little more comfortable that I won’t let Dutch throw them away.

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At no time has the urgency of effective distribution of food supplies been so apparent as now. With several countries' food reserves exhausted and a new world food conference has been scheduled for November in Rome. Farm News talked to the second official of the conference, John J. Hannah.

Upon retirement as president of Michigan State University, Hannah had been named by the Agriculture Department to underdeveloped countries. As director of the Agency for International Development, he met with a wide audience, including foreign aid officials and the United States government.

Hannah retired in 1973, but at the age of 72 took the position, in part to develop the concept of an international agricultural conference, to be held under the direction of the United Nations.

Hannah has been busy globetrotting in preparation for these conferences but still manages a livestock farm in Dansville, where he is overseer of the Emmet County Farm Bureau, and another in Emmet County.

Hannah returned to his Dansville farm after a week trip through Europe where preparatory meetings were held. While talking to the Farm News, Hannah expressed his disappointment that absent nations notably the United States and Canada had arrived at positions they wouldn't agree on.

The Deputy General went on to reveal what he would like to see happen as a result of the conference as he answered questions from the Farm News.

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Possible Trend in World Talks?

UN Food Diplomat Says It's Time for Reserves and Allocations

John A. Hannah

Hannah: Well, of course, there isn't any question about that. You see we've had some radical changes in the last couple of years with the disappearance of the North American food reserve, that you've had the crop harvest in poor countries. One, of course, is fertilizer.

Farm News: What about the grain reserve question?

Hannah: We certainly should have learned from our own experience - one of the requirements he laid down that well-to-do countries that import food are going to have to be expected to acquire and store their two years supply. They aren't problems, but when the short supply times come. In the past, Japan, for instance, always thought she could get her grain on a month to month basis and get the grain became the problem of United States or Canada wherever the food was coming from. We should start with the notion that the developed countries will store, their own grain if they have a storage in their own place. Or they can store it in Kansas or Alberta or wherever. But they own it and it's out of the available market. So there will be set aside a reasonable amount of food to take care of the disasters, the earthquakes, and that sort of thing.

Farm News: Well, a lot of farmers feel like they've been burned by grain reserves. How do we know it won't happen this time?

Hannah: That's being done as far as can be done. Now, when we've been talking about the poor countries, there isn't much you can do. You can get them to grow gardens and they can measure producing more food in back yards and that sort of thing. But the very poor countries, the countries like Bangladesh for instance - we're going to have to provide food - somebody's going to have to provide food for them for a long time. Now, the question is how is it going to be provided? Is it going to be given, is it going to be on loans. Well, this will be a part of the difficult.

Farm News: What about Senator Kennedy's proposal to lay aside 10% of American surpluses for concessional trade?

Hannah: We certainly should have learned from our own experience - one of the requirements he laid down that well-to-do countries that import food are going to have to be expected to acquire and store their two years supply of non-perishable food at least a year's supply of non-perishable food in reserve. That situation who is going to store it. I think it's generally understood that the food reserves ought to be held largely by the well-to-do countries. They have been produced and managed there until it's actually turned over for the end use.

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LIVESTOCK LEGISLATION
A bill (H 6135) introduced by Sen. Ballenger, will increase the penalty for persons found guilty of illegally removing animals infected with TB or Bangs disease. The state payment would be increased from the present $50 to $250 for first offenders and from $100 to $500 for repeat offenders. Payment for animals infected with Bangs would be increased from the present $50 to $100 for grade animals and from the present $100 to $150 for purebred animals.

In addition, there is federal in- dentity which, along with the salvage value of the animals, should adequately reimburse the farmer for the total value of the animal.

Updating of this law results from a recent major outbreak of TB in one herd of dairy cattle.

A second bill, (H. 6115) is emergency legislation to give the Department of Agriculture the authority to condemn and order the disposal of any livestock that is contaminated from any cause including the present problem with feed. It would be permissible to use a mixture of a fire retardant chemical in dairy feeds. Without state and federal legislation, it would be needed might include consideration of the availability of other types of chemicals.

The bill provides that any cost to the state would be recovered from wherever is determined to be responsible for the contamination.

LABOR LEGISLATION
Legislation permitting Michigan agencies rather than federal agencies to implement safety regulations has been passed and signed by Gov. Milliken with support from Farm Bureau and must other segments of the economy. It will be known as the Michigan OSHA legislation.

Experience has shown that implementation of federal statutes by state agencies is more effective. This is most oppressive, making it nearly impossible to reach those in authority.

The passage of S. 690 will make it possible for farmers to have proper hearings and to be involved in the "development of any necessary safety regulations." The bill provides that the voters approve, it is likely that federal authorities would place Michigan in the Central Standard Time Zone on the November ballot to be decided by a vote of the people once and for all.

If the voters approve, it is likely that federal authorities would place Michigan in the Central Standard Time Zone. This would carry out Farm Bureau policy as passed by the voting delegates at our annual meeting.

Heavy support for the legislation also comes from many senators in the metropolitan Detroit area. However, in order to get it on the ballot, the legislation must be given immediate effect, which requires a two-thirds vote of both houses.

Many Farm Bureau members have been circulating petitions trying to force the issue on the ballot this fall.

Many allied groups such as religious organizations, parent-teacher groups,usters, and other recreational organizations are also circulating the petition.

It is important, however, that sufficient signatures will be obtained in order to force the issue on the ballot. Passage of S. 1253 would be the most logical way to accomplish that goal.

OSHA Roll Bar Regulations Challenged

Insisting that every tractor have roll-over bars could cause more hazards than it would solve, M.J. Buschlen said at a June hearing in Chicago. Buschlen was answering new OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Act) regulations requiring roll bars on all tractors.
"Roll-over regulations are scheduled to take effect on Sent. 1. Farm Bureau expects many other farm operators to be exempt from the regulations."

Buschlen said that trimming lower limits of tree limbs to allow tractors with roll bars to pass under would render some trees practically useless and in other instances would increase hazards by forcing workers to climb taller ladders when working on trees.

"Low profile tractors are more stable and less subject to upset because they are built lower to the ground," he said in his testimony. Buschlen also said that converting to roll-over bar standards would be prohibitive in cost for many farmers who have buildings with entrance ways too low for tractors with roll-over bars.

Testifying with Buschlen at the June 15 hearing were fruit growers Mrs. Alton Wendell of Watervel and grain and livestock farmer Arthur Bailey of Stockcraft, who gave personal examples of hardship that would occur on their farms if regulations were strictly enforced in their present form.

Buschlen went on to request that farmers not be liable under OSHA regulations for failure of employees to use seat belts but only be required to instruct the employees to use the seat belt on farm equipment.

Tax Relief Supporters Gather

Senators and Representatives who supported the Farmland Open Space Preservation Act (H.4244) gathered for signing ceremonies with the Governor.
They included, [left to right, top picture] Senators Robert Davis, William Ballenger, Alvis DeGraw, [MBF] and [former Sen.] John Engler.

Representatives [bottom picture, left to right] Stanley Powell, Don Van Single, Louis Cranford, Fred Starchable, Warren Armbruster, Bert Brennan, Robert Young, Bela Kennedy, Quincy Hoffman, [former Sen. aide Joseph Sharkey, MBF President Elion Smith] and John Engler.
What Happened to Property Tax Cuts? 

Q: In a recent issue of the Michigan Farm News it stated that Senator Bursley has a new plan to cut property taxes for schools. What has happened to this proposal?

A. The new plan is really a modification of the new school aid "Bursley Act" that became effective this year.

Presently, the Bursley Act provides for a guaranteed yield per mill of property tax and thereby guarantees the low value district the same value per mill as any other district.

Under the Act in the 1973-74 year, school property tax increases were the smallest in recent years with schools receiving a higher proportion of their income from the state.

Many high tax school districts were able to reduce property taxes while some others had to increase mills to qualify for full state aid.

The Act now allows the state to reallocate property tax revenue to the state without increasing local property tax millage.

Under the proposed rollback plan, state aid would increase to $606 per pupil in a state aid (4%) and $600 from local taxes (53%) with a 34 mill tax.

The end result of increased state aid would be to raise a certain state income tax and similar increases in corporate and financial institution income taxes.

Though state funds increase in proportion under this plan, local control of schools is still fully maintained.

Senator Bursley intends to hold a series of public hearings on the proposal. The bill to make the plan effective will be reintroduced in 1975 for legislative action.

Anything New from Pollution Hearing?

Q: Last fall, Congress held hearings on animal waste pollution. What are the results of the hearings?

A: The hearings were held last November 28-30 by the Conservation and Natural Resources Subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee. The purpose of the hearings was to determine whether Federal pollution control laws are being effectively administered to control pollution from animal feedlots.

At the hearings, a broad range of interests including Farm Bureau spokesmen, feedlot operators, pollution agencies and environmental groups testified at the hearings. On April 25, the Government Operations Committee submitted its findings and recommendations to the 93rd Congress.

The recommendations of the Committee do not have the effect of law and will be implemented by the Administration.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. The Environmental Protection Agency should promptly:
   a. Conduct, with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture, a comprehensive survey of the various animal categories of the feedlot industry for the purpose of establishing, consistent with pollution control needs, the animal densities appropriate for each category of animal feedlot and identifying those feedlots from which pollutants are or may be discharged;
   b. Propose and promulgate a new regulation repealing its regulation of July 5, 1973, that excluded feedlots with fewer than 1,000 animal units. The new regulation should, on the basis of the survey mentioned above, define the term "concentrated animal feeding operations," and require that all feedlots within the scope of such definition shall obtain a permit to discharge pollutants into navigable water;
   c. Establish and promulgate effluent guidelines and standards of performance for all concentrated animal feeding operations, not just those with 1,000 or more animal units; and
   d. Abrogate every permit currently issued for feedlots or operators adequate conditions to reduce discharges and abate pollution even before full compliance with the effluent guidelines and standards of performance.

2. The Department of Agriculture should promptly:
   a. Make available for feedlot waste control practices at least $8 million from funds appropriated by the Congress and available for such purpose;
   b. Revise its regulation (7 CFR 701.13) - which permits cost sharing for chemical fertilizers but not for fertilizers derived from animal wastes - to allow cost sharing for fertilizers derived substantially from animal wastes;
   c. Publish guidelines, consistent with environmental needs, for disposal of feedlot animal wastes on land, including sale of such wastes to farmers who need them as fertilizer; and
   d. Conduct economic analysis of efficient and practical methods of assisting feedlot owners and operators in collecting and marketing animal wastes and sludge for agricultural purposes.

3. The Department of Interior should support research and pilot plant development by the Bureau of Mines in fiscal year 1975 to convert animal wastes to oil and other fuels and request adequate appropriations for that purpose.

Land Use Bill Dead

On June 11, the House voted 211-254 to not consider HR 10294, the National Land Use Planning Act. This decision will undoubtedly result in no further action on federal land use legislation by the 93rd Congress.

Farm Bureau did not support the provisions of HR 10294. Farm Bureau policy opposes federal assistance to states for land use planning except under a grant-in-aid program.

HR 10294 would have provided financial assistance for state land use planning and established certain federal guidelines that would have to be met if states were to obtain the funds.

Farm Bureau did support a substitute bill, HR 1379, which provided federal grants without federal control features to help states establish land use plans.

TRADE REFORM

Following a delay of several weeks, the Senate Finance Committee has resumed work on trade reform legislation. Passage of trade reform legislation to promote trade opportunities among nations is a priority item in the Farm Bureau legislative program.

Last December, the House passed the Trade Reform Act which would provide the President with authority for new trade negotiations, increased domestic relief from disruption caused by imports and action against unfair trade practices.

The Senate Finance Committee concluded hearings on the Trade Reform Act on April 10. On May 21, Farm Bureau wrote the Finance Committee members urging them to vote for the bill before adjournment. The Committee resumed work on the legislation shortly thereafter.

SUGAR ACT

The House, by a 175-209 vote, has rejected HR 14747, which would have extended the United States Sugar Act. The current Sugar Act will expire at the end of 1974.

If the current Sugar Act does expire, it will be the first time in over 40 years that a sugar program has not been in operation.

HR 14747 exploded some major changes in the sugar program. The changes included revisions in the formula for computing payments to sugar growers, annual limit of 59,400 in federal payments to producers, repeal of the sugar excise tax and revisions in the laws governing the handling of surplus sugar.

Further action on sugar legislation is not clear. Some observers of interest groups believe a new bill will be developed and receive action by the Committee. Others believe an attempt will be made to attach certain sugar program provisions onto unrelated bills that are certain to receive Congressional consideration.

Remember! Children under 12 are not allowed to work unless they are from the farm family.

12 and 13 year-olds may work on neighboring farms with written parental consent or on the same farm where parents are employed. 14 year-olds and above may work except as prohibited by the 1971 Child Labor Law.
Farm Bureau Services' Board of Directors has approved a $225,000 egg distribution complex to be built and managed by the Michigan Marketing Association (MACMA) last week.

The new facility will serve to distribute the egg surplus which was accumulated last winter and will begin operations on June 20. According to Seely, "We expect to distribute about 300 million dozen eggs per year from the facility." The facility will be located in the state's central area claims one third of the eggs produced in the state, according to Seely.

Egg marketing agencies have agreed to participate in the program with a 10 percent increase in price for the fuel surcharge which reached 3.3 percent on June 5. Seely explained the effect of this would cause an even higher transport cost. "If we have a rate of $1.00 plus a 3.3 percent surcharge, then the 10 percent rate hike will be applied to $1.035," he said.

The fuel surcharge, which has been increased monthly since it was instituted in January should stay at the same rate until at least August, since rate hike applications for July have been waved by the industry, Seely said.

Members Can Join Wheat Pool

For those producers who haven't contracted portions of their 1974 wheat crop, there is still a way to avoid selling a crop at harvest prices without storing it on the farm.

During June, the 1974 Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program was against the price speculation that the orderly marketing approach would be suspended in the face of falling prices.

Last year's participants in the program pooled wheat which was marketed on the advice of a panel of economists and the value returned to participants was $5.25 per bushel. Advance prices for wheat from $1.50 and $2.00. The Board voted to recommend renewal of the wheat program with payments of $0.00 per bushel. "We expect to distribute about 300 million dozen eggs per year from the facility," the newsletter to the Great Lakes conference states.

The area claims one third of the eggs produced in the state, according to Seely.

The Michigan Marketing Association (MACMA) is still in process of building a research facility to be built at a cost of $5,000,000. The facility will serve to distribute the egg surplus which was accumulated last winter and will begin operations on June 20, according to Seely. The facility will be located in the state's central area claims one third of the eggs produced in the state, according to Seely. The facility will serve to distribute the egg surplus which was accumulated last winter and will begin operations on June 20, according to Seely. The facility will be located in the state's central area claims one third of the eggs produced in the state, according to Seely.

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WHERE WILL YOU MARKET YOUR GRAIN AND BEANS THIS YEAR?

Fluctuations in today's market makes this question more important than ever to farmers. The Michigan Elevator Exchange (MEE), a division of Farm Bureau Services, provides marketing services to over 100 country elevators. When you market your crops at a MEE member elevator, you'll benefit from the resources that provide for marketing knowledge to locate the most advantageous price anywhere in the world.

The MEE, owned by farmers and co-op elevators, operates grain and bean terminals at Ottawa Lake and Saginaw. The Saginaw Terminal is equipped with both water and rail facilities. MEE also operates Mid-States Terminal in Toledo, Ohio, in cooperation with regional grain cooperatives from other states.

In addition to these three terminals, Michigan Elevator Exchange operates Quincy Flour Mill which produces approximately 2,000 cwt. per day of soft wheat flour.

These farmer owned elevators are the only elevators in the state capable of handling 100-car train loads, and we are constantly working to further improve shipping techniques. We recently leased 60 new, covered-hopper cars to improve grain movement from Michigan country elevators to the east coast to enable elevators to provide better service to their farmer customers. MEE also contributed to the development of containerized shipping of beans and campaigned successfully for more favorable rates for these types of shipments. Presently, we are continuing to evaluate the use of bulk shipping of beans in containers to the export market.

The Farm Bureau people and the country elevators that we represent are in the best position to help the farmer gain fair market prices. MEE can reduce marketing cost, since we are owned by, and for Michigan Farmers. The larger the percentage of production that farmer organizations control, the more respect the farmer will have, and therefore gain better prices in both the domestic and foreign markets. Stop in and see your local MEE member elevator today. He is working for you.

ASK THE FARM BUREAU PEOPLE
Michigan Dairymen have been experiencing a rise in prices due to the increase in feed costs. The rising milk prices have generally kept pace with the rising expenses. Indications are that the expenses may continue to rise while the price received for milk appears to have reached its all time high and will begin to drop, possibly faster than they rose.

What is the sudden change? The simple answer is Supply and Demand. One fact must be kept in mind: the increase in prices is not just a product reduction in cheese results in a dramatic increase in milk price received by producers.

When will the picture change? Because the feed problem is so difficult, if not impossible, to predict, Michigan Dairymen have to be at least befallen before the economic picture brightens for Michigan Dairymen.

Retail prices should reflect at least some of the higher feed costs. However, prices, in price at the retail level, could fail to help sales, if the retail price drops significantly. But for now fluid consumption is down over 4 percent of the first year of the year and cheese, which has been an increasingly popular item, is expected to remain tight and be priced this fall and through the winter months. Patrons should talk to their Farmers who are in tight balance and are pricing it up to a new level.

When red meat prices were CIF at a high in May, retail prices were expected to remain tight and retailers are m much better position than they were in 1973.

In most areas of severe need, it is simply impossible to keep their feedlots current and many breeders are being forced to take cutbacks in their herd sizes.

The catastrophe of animal prices has been delayed both in Russia and in China, possibly longer than the western sections of the country and can be expected to drop, possibly faster than they rose.

Why the sudden change? The simple answer is Supply and Demand. One fact must be kept in mind: the increase in prices is not just a product reduction in cheese results in a dramatic increase in milk price received by producers.

When will the picture change? Because the feed problem is so difficult, if not impossible, to predict, Michigan Dairymen have to be at least befallen before the economic picture brightens for Michigan Dairymen.

Retail prices should reflect at least some of the higher feed costs. However, prices, in price at the retail level, could fail to help sales, if the retail price drops significantly. But for now fluid consumption is down over 4 percent of the first year of the year and cheese, which has been an increasingly popular item, is expected to remain tight and be priced this fall and through the winter months. Patrons should talk to their Farmers who are in tight balance and are pricing it up to a new level.

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So Says Shiawassee Farmer

Michigan is a Soybean State

Other states don't have anything over Michigan when it comes to soybean production—or at least that's what one Michigan producer thinks. John Pajtas of Owosso, who has been growing soybeans for 15 years, met with producers from all 82 counties this past week in Allegan Co. Sept. 6-14 and says, "may be a clue to his success.

"It's easier to harvest this way because it leaves out my work for the fall. On the other hand, he reasons, there will be as much corn this year as last, making for good market competition.

Pajtas obviously has planned much of his future around the continued strength of the soybean market. He is presently the chairman of the Michigan Soybean Producer's Action Committee which advises the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Michigan Soybean Producers MSP is a commodity division of the Michigan Farm Bureau with seventeen county Farm Bureau Soybean Divisions forming the association.

Pajtas sees, as one of the primary objectives of his group, the speeding up of lag in soybean research, which has lagged far behind the yield-increasing progress made in other crops. Pajtas personally is hoping for a big breakthrough in research such as a hybrid soybean that could someday lead to a doubling in yield.

"Some people say, what will you do with all the soybeans? Well, we'll do the same thing we did with corn when doing the corn production. We'll sell it! There are a lot of hungry people in the world that have to be fed and more and more land going out of production every day, we have to increase production.

The target of the Michigan-based soybean group that Pajtas heads is to increase research within the state. Soybeans are now considered relatively insignificant as a product in Michigan and therefore have attracted less research funds. In actual fact, Michigan grew 600,000 acres of soybeans in 1973 versus 500,000 acres of dry beans.

The Michigan Soybean Producers Action Committee convinced that soybeans were bound to become a larger part of Michigan production, recommended a check off fund for rice to raise some money for a Michigan research program.

The recommendation got the blessings of MFBI delegates in December, providing the weight of the state's largest farm organization behind it.

"With our own researchers, we would have somebody who could adapt new breakthroughs in research to Michigan soils and climatic conditions," Pajtas says.

But the concerns of soybean producers are wider in scope. The Soybean Action Committee was instrumental in persuading MFBI policy concerning the continuance of rail service in the northwest. With 96% of all soybeans grown in Michigan heading for export markets, producers wanted to be sure competition would be maintained along transportation routes to eastern ports.

Some problems need national attention among soybean producers, and Pajtas represented Michigan producers on the American Farm Bureau Federation Soybean Advisory Committee, which brought producers together from 18 states.

One of the major concerns confronting the group was what sort of a deal the middle man was giving the farmer.

Producers have often been asked to deliver flawless beans only to see elevators put foreign matter in the beans and include it in the selling weight.

"We want stronger federal inspection of soybeans going overseas," Pajtas says. "What are people overseas going to think? They'll say we produce an inferior product and go and buy soybeans from somewhere else.

A more positive means of payment for quality is another objective of producers.

"I'd like to see premiums paid for low moisture rather than penalties for high moisture in soybeans," Pajtas said, suggesting a 15% moisture basis for soybean sales.

With John Pajtas and the Michigan Soybean Producers speaking for Michigan growers, maybe the myth that Michigan isn't a soybean state will be permanently laid to rest.

John Pajtas (right) surveys the sprouting soybeans in his field with sons John Jr. (left) and Dennis. With his soybeans up in the first week of June, Pajtas feels no inferiority to southern soybean growers.

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JULY 1, 1974 MICHIGAN FARM NEWS PAGE 9
Picking a Peach in VanBuren

The biggest Farm Bureau event of the year may have taken place in Van Buren County this spring. It drew 150 onlookers, but that's really not so incredible when you consider they were looking at 13 pretty young women who were vying for the crown of the Van Buren County Farm Bureau Queen.

A 17-year-old high school junior, Debra Cerny, took the honors but the county Farm Bureau was the real winner since few events have ever created so much interest in the course of the year.

Success was largely due to some innovative thinking by the Queen contest committee, 73 queen Barbara Dowd, Shirley Howe and Gloria Krogel, who figured spring was the time everybody's fancy turned to queen contest and a springtime queen could plan on being in a number of festivals over the summer before heading to Grand Rapids to try for the state Farm Bureau crown.

Sign advertising for queen entrants told prospective contestants that the reign would last for an entire year. The itinerary for the next few months was already planned. The queen would be at the Van Buren County Fair, the blossom, strawberry, grape and wine festivals, as well as the state Farm Bureau Queen contest.

Apprently, the girls liked the idea of an active role since 13 entries were made. The committee got the community to feel part of the event, too. Ten businesses supported the contest in various ways including making gift certificates available to the new queen.

The night of the ceremony, a State Representative, B. J. M. Kennedy, extension agent, Jordan Tatcher and fashion judge Mrs. David Madison sat as judges as the 10 in the audience kept track of their favorite contestants in the program sheets provided.

Between the dramatic appearances of the contestants in first, second and third elimination rounds, John McKidmouth entertained the crowd with a few songs and little Toni Jackson gave the crowd a taste of modern interpretive dancing.

But true happiness that night, as the program theme said, was a peach from Van Buren County. All those present at the crowning, no doubt, think the county members should be very happy with the one selected as queen that night.

Livingston County Farm Bureau Women gave urban shoppers at the Brighton Mall an opportunity to learn more about agriculture during Michigan Week. With the accent on the county's leading agricultural enterprises, dairy and beef, the display included a miniature farm, complete with price tags on the machinery needed to operate a modern farm.

A pen of "baby" animals and a talking cow proved big attractions to young and old alike. Drawings for beef and ice cream were also crowd-pleasers. Although the promotion was a project of the Livingston Women, husbands and children were recruited to make it a success.
Cheboygan FB Wins Fight for New Bridge

For three years several farmers from Cheboygan County have had to make a 40-mile detour to get supplies to their farms and goods to market because of a closed bridge over the Black River between Cheboygan and Onaway. Construction on a new bridge is finally nearing a start after a long battle by the Cheboygan County Farm Bureau which sent six members to Washington, D.C., over the last two years to convince the federal government to supply half of the $364,000 necessary for the project. The federal government relented after a four-person contingent from the county Farm Bureau went to Washington to present evidence of need to Michigan Senators Hart and Griffin, as well as Rep. Philip Ruppe (R-Houghton).

The group, including county Farm Bureau President and county commissioner Gerald Brown, fellow commissioner Fred Beerdau, and their wives went to Washington during the MFB Legislative Seminar in March. Their appearance followed a year of correspondence with Representative Ruppe who met with Cheboygan FB representative John Brown during the 1973 Seminar. The federal funds were made available after the '73 visit finally nearing a start after a long battle by the Cheboygan County Farm Bureau which sent six members to Washington, D.C., over the last two years to convince the federal government to supply half of the $364,000 necessary for the project. The federal government relented after a four-person contingent from the county Farm Bureau went to Washington to present evidence of need to Michigan Senators Hart and Griffin, as well as Rep. Philip Ruppe (R-Houghton).

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Meanwhile, the county Farm Bureau kept busy assuring that the other 50 percent of the funds would be forthcoming. The county board of commissioners, with county Farm Bureau support, voted to supply 25 percent of needed appropriations and the county Farm Bureau contacted State Rep. Mark Thompson (R-Rogers City) and Sen. Robert Davis (R-Gaylord) about another 25 percent which was eventually pitched in by the state. The real problem, however, was maintaining high priority in Federal circles.

County members assembled materials for their representatives to take to Washington during the 1974 Seminar which would show the critical location of the bridge and demonstrate the impact on the six commercial farms, as well as the several small homesteads in the area. A month after the Seminar, in April, funds flowed from Washington to the state and in May the state allocated the funds to the county to build the bridge.

With construction bids due in June, Gerald Brown says there is hope that the new steel and concrete bridge will be open in January.

![A 40-mile detour faced area farmers for three years because of the closing of this bridge. Cheboygan Farm Bureau helped secure funds for a new bridge with two years of hard work.](image)

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

How does a family farm start a roadside market? Nail a few boards together to make a stand by the side of the road, then put up a sign and hope enough passing motorists stop to buy the three or four different items you grow.

The Gumper family apparently doesn't think this is the way to do business today. The operators of a 765-acre crop and livestock farm near Jackson have broken into the roadside marketing business under the guidance of their son, Jim, who gave up his five-year teaching career to start Springbrook Farms Four Season Market. This enterprise, suited to the new era of the general merchandise store, offers a wide variety of products and opportunities to draw customers.

A visit to Springbrook Farms is more of an adventure than just a quick stop for some fresh produce or garden supplies. Located on Springbrook Road outside of Jackson, the market grounds are bordered by a white fence which someday will be covered with roses. The market itself is a long, low, red building.

New plantings of various trees and shrubs, clearly identified and priced, flank one side of the parking area and the market's full-length "porch" is arranged with colorful displays on wing-cover tables.

Inside, behind a turn-of-the-century country store counter is owner, James Gumper, the young ex-teacher and part-time landscaper. A massive antique pigeon-hole desk, an old wooden wall phone, and ancient cash register, carry through the motif. Early American print wallpaper, fringed muslin curtains, and the offbeat and charming plants add to the yeastyae flavor.

It's a place that invites browsing—fom the Noah & Cranberry antiques and collectibles corner, arrangement of cuckoo clocks, pictures, ceramics, greenery and garden supplies—to the brilliant colors of the adjoining greenhouse.

In this setting, it's not surprising, to find flower bulbs displayed in an old wooden truck, and an assortment of pickles, apple butter, preserves and salad dressings in an antique cupboard. Just outside the farm market is a miniature barnyard, an attraction which has brought hundreds of urban children to visit the chickens, ducks, horses, deer, sheep, goats, rabbits and pigs who live in the little red barn.

Since the market opened in April, children have come from public schools, schools for the retarded, or just with their parents and grandparents who have stopped to shop.

According to Jim Gumper, Springbrook Farms is a family enterprise with each member contributing their own particular talents and interests. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Gumper, operate the 765-acre crop and livestock farm with brother Tom and his wife, Karen. Brother Mike and his wife, Cheryl, handle the antiques. The Gumpers grow some of their own sweet corn, tomatoes, strawberries, peppers, melons, cucumbers, cut and dried flowers for the market. To supplement their own production, Jim receives goods from Michigan Certified Farm Markets, an organization of market where the family's dream is yet fully realized and plans for the future include the addition of a meat and cheese department and an expanded greenhouse. Come October, Springbrook Farms will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland. The greenhouse will be decked with holly and poinsettia, a display will feature live, deer, and a unique line of Christmas decorations will be offered.

Advertising has paid off in dividends of good business during the short time the market has been in operation, and has used both newspapers and radio ads to spread the word, but the best advertising, he maintains, comes from satisfied customers who tell others about Springbrook Farms.

With the broad array of curiosities offered, customers have plenty to talk about. But the Four Season market is a small fish in the retilling business and the Gumpers have to come up with some novel answers to meet competition.

They have largely conquered the problem of maintaining year-round appeal by carrying greenhouse products, antiques and foods brought in from other states by the Michigan Certified Farm Markets organization and other sources. Citrus fruits, pecans and processed cherry nuggets keep a steady supply of food products that assures customers there will always be something to buy. Early peaches, for instance, are brought in from the south, to satisfy impatient customers who don't want to wait for Michigan's harvest.

The market organization ships many products from one part of Michigan to another to augment produce supplies of the small businesses through the Certified Markets group. All purchases, since the market is made up of at least 47 markets, can pass on volume discounts to members like Springbrook Farms.

The success of the big business approach to roadside marketing at Springbrook Farms is yet to be proven. Business seems to be brisk in the early going for the market, but obviously, a large amount of capital has been laid out to draw people. While Jim Gumper faces stepped questions about the size of his investment, he admitted there was "one heck of an investment," to be sure, and the attractiveness and professionalism of a business like Springbrook Farms must look forward to success.
Cooperatives in the news are those involved in political payoffs. This sort of press concerning co-ops will, inevitably, reflect on the farmer members, fear L.A. Cheney Secretary of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives.

This may be one of the main reasons Cheney teamed up with the Michigan Farm Bureau Information Division in the making of a slide presentation called "Cooperatives - People with Purpose" which can give the public sense "newly" but still thought-worthy information about how the cooperative concept has been put to honest work in Michigan.

Cheney saw the need for convincing the public that the basic cooperative concept was still alive even within the large-business form that cooperatives often must take, when reading a report about cooperatives written by the people who brought you "Hard Tomatoes, Hard Times".

The report, called "Who's Minding the Co-op?" charged that co-ops had transformed themselves into corporate monsters that place efficiency above democracy, making them "just another form of agri-business".

Yet, the report does make one positive statement - that cooperatives which Cheney can build his case for cooperatives around - "Without farmer cooperatives, the family farm system of agriculture is lost."

The "People with Purpose" slide presentation gives the cooperative question historical perspective, tracing cooperatives from the barn raising bees of colonial America to the towering Michigan Elevator Exchange facilities at Zilwaukee.

"Cooperatives were first organized to fill an economic need, and that still holds true today, it's stated in the presentation: "The primary goal of a cooperative is to meet members' needs in our economical, efficient manner."

Cheney thinks the public doesn't realize that cooperatives are often the means by which some jobs will get done, because co-ops will often go where private business will not.

"If it wasn't for the Rural Electric Cooperatives a lot of rural people wouldn't have had electricity this century," Cheney says, "Power companies have come along and taken over where it's economical for them."

In case any one should think 20th Century cooperatives are too remote for their members Cheney points out in the presentation, "Although farmer-members may consider themselves outside the realm of management, in the final analysis the responsibility for management is theirs.

"They formulate the policies of the association and elect the board of directors to execute these policies.

The presentation goes on to give examples of all types of cooperatives - from credit to marketing to supply - of all sizes - from the November Celery Promotion Cooperative of Muskegon to the state-wide Farm Bureau Services organization.

In the final analysis for the consuming public, Cheney says, "Through cooperatives, individuals have been able to make their own production, improve quality of commodities they market, improve distribution and meet the demands of consumers.

"So, consumers are better off, too, because of farmer cooperatives and the jobs they do."

While consumers may be convinced by the presentation, Cheney says he sometimes thinks farmers can be reminded that cooperatives are on their side. He cites three recent examples of help given to members by three of the largest cooperatives that deal in the state.

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Many farmers found it easier to get fertilizer this year because CF Industries, a cooperative made up of a number of regional co-ops including Farm Bureau Services, rejected the more lucrative foreign market for fertilizer to assure member co-ops supplies. Not exactly a sound business decision, but a good cooperative decision.

Partners Petroleum Cooperative helped farmers weather through the energy crunch by closing stations to outside business and saving fuel for farmer patrons who needed fuel to run their businesses. The pumps have recently been reopened to the public now that the farmers are in a safe position.

Another cooperative reaction to extreme need, was Michigan Milk Producers' offer of interest free loans to farmers who lost herds to contaminated feed.

Big cooperatives don't have to be numb to the needs of farmers, Cheney says. Their bigness was in fact a reaction to farmer needs.

"Farmers need an intermediary between the country market and the more sophisticated markets further down the marketing channel," is how Cheney explains it to the layman.

He just hopes farmers remember how they need cooperatives and that cooperatives need them. Because cooperatives are people.

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Clarence Reid and Wife Celebrate 50th

Former MFB President Clarence Reid and his wife Edith will be honored on their Golden Wedding Anniversary with an Open House on July 7, 3-5 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Yale, Michigan.

For more information ask your Farm Bureau dealer.
Before the scientific revolution in agriculture, farming was fairly simple. A farmer or his family did not talk about plant populations, width of rows, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. He was concerned whether he had two or three plows to work a hill of corn and whether he got corned three times.

Yes, yields were smaller but life was simpler. And people in the cities, having for the most part migrants from the farms, understood and recognized the role of agriculture in their lives.

Today, while the old values of farming as a way of life are still supported and defended by some, the average farmer views his farm first and foremost as a business to be operated for a profit.

But many are concerned that farming is becoming such a large-scale business that small producers are being squeezed out. Others point out that interests outside of agriculture, particularly large corporations, are in the process of taking over control of farming. Some people feel that outside investors are using tax shelters and other investment incentives to compete unfairly with family-size farmers. Or could it be, they wonder, that farm supply and marketing firms will reduce the decision-making of a farmer and consign him to the role of a hired worker through contracting practices?

The general public also has its worries and we are finding state and federal legislators are pressing the urban viewpoint of their constituency more and more—partly because of the one man, one vote rule. What the general public wants can generally be grouped into four broad issues:

- Dependable supplies of low-cost and high-quality food;
- Establishment of agricultural practices which adversely affect environmental quality and the availability of open spaces;
- Tax costs of any agricultural policy to be in line with the benefits realized;
- A fair share of the benefits of farm programs to accrue to smaller producers.

Today, we find the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Department of Labor, and the Office of Economic Opportunity, among others, having a greater impact on some facets of agriculture than does the USDA.

The political and economic trends of the day have led to a great deal of discussion about the possible alternative methods of controlling agriculture. Some of the possible alternatives suggested are briefly discussed in the following paragraphs.

The Current Situation

Control of agriculture currently is largely vested in those who own or control the resources and make the key decisions for buying, selling, and producing. In reviewing the present situation and issues it should be emphasized that industrialization of the food and fiber system is a major factor that is shifting future control away from the farmer. Access to adequate capital is a key control instrument. Acquiring economic farm units is becoming costly and prohibitive to a majority of would-be farmers.

The trend toward larger and fewer farms can be expected to continue as successful farmers expand. Those who have a stake in the control of agriculture also have a voice in public policy making and the opportunity to influence policies which affect control.

A Dispersed Agriculture

A dispersed, independent farmer, open market agriculture is a possibility of the future, but major changes in present policies will be necessary. The dominant features are modest size farms, freedom of the operator to make decisions, and the existence of an open market to allow the farmers to freely buy supplies and sell their products. The operating farmer in a dispersed agriculture would play a composite role of laborer, manager, financier, and landlord. Farmers would be somewhat better off, in terms of the distribution and absolute level of income, than if they were contractors or laborers. But they would lack enough power in the market place to gain substantially higher incomes.

A Corporate Agriculture

In a corporate system, most agricultural production would be controlled by a small number of capital intensive, large-scale corporations. A corporate system of agriculture would have much in common with the giant industrial corporations in its organization, financing, and management.

Control of workers and assets would be in the hands of a group of called management. The open market for agricultural production would virtually disappear. Land ownership would take several patterns—ownership by large tracts of land by corporations; corporation operation of level land; or corporate contractual control of production.

Financial costs would be in the hands of any other large corporations.

Unionization of farm workers would be encouraged and higher labor costs could result. Production costs might be reduced, however, through large-scale production and improved coordination. Retail prices of food would be higher as much of the production costs would be paid in the market place instead of through farm programs.

Who Will Control US Ag?

by KEN WILES
Manager Member Relations

A Cooperative Agriculture

A pure cooperative system of agriculture would involve fewer and larger units than in the present system of voluntary farmer cooperatives. To maintain control all farmers would belong to tightly organized cooperatives that would handle procurement of supplies and all marketing of agricultural products. Marketing decisions by the cooperative would place direct restrictions on producers' marketing decisions. Farmers would control the cooperatives and they would approve restrictive decisions on themselves.

Government Administered Agriculture

A pure government-administered agriculture would be a choice by society either to influence or replace private action in the control of the food production and marketing system. Markets, land, credit and technology appear the most likely means of government control.

Administrative decisions would be difficult. Should the public choose control to favor farmers, effects on farm income could be favorable, but farmers would give up some freedom in decision making. If the goal of a government administered agriculture would be to provide a plentiful, low-cost food supply, then lower farm incomes could result.

A Combination Agriculture

In a combination of agricultural systems, independent farm producers would have freedom to make management decisions, but cooperatives and corporations would be assured of continued operation. Government would support an active role for each. No single system would be allowed to dominate. An open market would be encouraged, but vertical coordination could exist. Management would be widely dispersed among independent farmers, cooperatives, and corporations.

Future of Agriculture

It appears that the future of agriculture would be much brighter if those in agriculture could be certain they would be in command of their own ships. Those engaged in agriculture are well aware of the problems they have faced over the years in attempting to receive a fair market price for their various commodities.

As mechanization of agricultural operations has grown, farm operators have found themselves needing to work more land. There has been a growing consolidation of farms and parts of farms in order to utilize more fully and effectively modern power and equipment, and this will continue. Full-time employment for farm operators and members of their families.

The trend toward fewer and larger farms appears likely to continue. Farmers who already own some land have been the largest single group buying farmland for many years. But the process of adjustment is slow as it involves many individual problems, only part of which are economic in nature.

While some people view the trend toward fewer and larger farms with alarm, it seems unlikely that there is a threat to the family farm as long as changes taking place are essentially an adjustment to improve farm technology. As long as the effective family units produce the bulk of our food and fiber they will be a tough competitor for large-scale corporate enterprises.

The nature of agriculture is such that the size of an efficient unit is still relatively small. Farm machines may get larger, but there are still some very definite limitations on how large they can get.

Furthermore, the individual farming unit needs only to be large enough to make full use of the largest production techniques. Farmers are not faced with the engineering, management, and design problems which contribute to the growth of industrial giants. Consequently, agriculture does not present the opportunity which exists in some industries for the achievement of economies through the merging of large aggregation of capital and manpower.

In assessing the future it appears that the agriculture industry should be kept profit-oriented and away from its dependence upon government.
Windmills Aren’t Energy Cure-all

By Patrick Henck

The energy crunch stirred new interest in the forgotten windmill as an energy-saving way to supply electricity. Can wind power generators supply enough electricity for a farm?

According to Howard Doss, Michigan State University extension specialist, the question isn’t that simple. Two things often overlooked are the cost of the whole system and speed of the wind. “You aren’t getting something for nothing,” Doss said. “It’s especially in the wind.” An electric generating windmill system includes more than just a windmill and generator.

Because of fluctuating wind speed you’d need some type of storage system, probably batteries. A converter is also needed to turn the DC current into AC. A converter for battery storage would lower this even more.

Doss added that in Michigan, speed of the wind is also a major consideration. It takes at least a seven mile per hour wind to activate a modern windmill. But the yearly average in Ingham County, for example, is only eight miles per hour. Summer presents the problem. That’s when farms use the most electricity. But Michigan windmills can only catch the wind on a light day, bringing the cost and also lowers the overall efficiency. The best windmill and generator can only make use of about 36 percent of the wind’s energy. A converter for battery storage would lower this even more.

We need more windmills. There are not enough windmills in the state to supply enough electricity. Some day, when we have more windmills on the job, this will all change. That day will come.

Another boost in dividends for the founding policyholders of Farm Bureau Life will make dividends 60 percent of their original annual premiums starting Sept. 1.

Combined and regular dividends now pay up to 161 percent of the Charter Life dividend annual premium for policyholders. The first Charter Life dividend of 60 percent was declared in 1954. The raise from the 1973 raised to 129 percent under the Charter Life dividend system.

When Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan was founded in 1914. The rate was to be 10 percent of the charter. The rate was raised to 14 percent in 1954. The rate was raised to 16 percent in 1970. The rate was raised to 18 percent in 1972. The rate was raised to 20 percent in 1975.

Regular dividends are paid to policyholders of Farm Bureau Life policyholders. But the special dividend is paid only to individuals who purchased Charter Life Insurance policies.

These dividends are issued to members and their children and grandchildren, the founders of the Michigan Farm Bureau. The Charter Life Insurance premiums were reduced five years after policy was marked the 14th Charter Life dividend increase.

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Back in 1951, a handshake and a promise created Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan. The handshake sealed a pact between Farm Bureau members and the employees and agents of fledgling Farm Bureau Life. The pact itself was a Charter Life policy issued to members, their children and grand children.

The pledge was strong investment returns for Charter Life policyholders.

On May 21, Farm Bureau Life's Board of Directors approved another increased special dividend totaling 60% of the original annual premium ... effective September 20. It's the 14th Charter Life dividend. Combined Charter and regular dividends now pay up to 101% of the Charter Life annual premium for policyholders.

The promise is being fulfilled.