Farmland Preservation Act

First P.A. 116 contract signed

Gov. William G. Milliken signed the first contract to place a Michigan farm under the protection of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act Nov. 18.

In signing the contract with Mr. and Mrs. David H. Purse of Bath Township, Clinton County, Milliken said:

"We are taking the first of what I hope will be many steps toward preserving Michigan's environment and its food-producing capacity for future generations."

"This contract involves one 200-acre farm, but its impact will be felt all over Michigan—especially near growing urban areas—for generations to come."

"In recognizing that essential agricultural land continues to be converted at an alarming rate to other uses, the Legislature adopted—at my urging—the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act to slow this process."

"I am gratified to see this important program now being used by the agricultural community."

The Purse's farm, on which they raise a variety of cash crops and beef cattle, will be brought under the act for a period of 10 years.

Under terms of the act (P.A. 116 of 1974) a person who owns farm land can sell this land to the state under the act.

Gov. Milliken said: "The important series of hearings on H.B. 4921 concluded Nov. 24 under the direction of the House Agriculture Committee. NASA Operations Manager M.J. Buschle testified in opposition to the bill at the Coldwater hearing explaining that, 'Enactment of H.B. 4921 would adversely affect workers, increase unemployment, increase food costs and reduce food production.'"

Scores of farmers testified against the bill at the five hearings held throughout the state in October and November.

MFB annual meeting begins

Dec. 10 in Grand Rapids

Michigan Farm Bureau will combine business and Bicentennial festivities during its 56th annual meeting at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids, December 10-12. The annual meeting is expected to attract approximately 3,600 Farm Bureau leaders and members from throughout the state during the four-day convention.

The theme of the event, "Building Horizons on Our Heritage," will highlight the role farmers played in the birth and growth of the United States. Special Bicentennial activities will include a 200th Birthday Ball on Wednesday evening, December 10, and a presentation on "200 Years of American Agriculture" during the annual banquet Thursday night.

Other convention highlights will be the annual address by President Elton R. Smith Wednesday noon and the appearance of Governor Milliken at the Thursday luncheon. Three news people will be honored on December 10 for outstanding services in promoting an understanding and appreciation of Michigan agriculture. A Bronze Mike Award will be presented to a news person from the electronic media, a Bronze Quill for a print media, and a "Top Agricultural Communicator of the Year" award given to the news person selected by judges from a field of 40 nominations.

Voting delegates representing the 69 county units will begin policy development on Thursday and continue on Friday. A package of resolutions dealing with a wide variety of topics including the Marketing and Bargaining Act, foreign trade, and farm labor issues will be considered. Action on these resolutions will determine the policies and set the direction for the organization in the coming year.

Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative will hold their annual meetings on Tuesday, December 8.

MFB legislative council; Dennis Hall, administrator of P.A. 116 for the Department of Natural Resources Commission and MFB Vice President; Robert M. Applegat; Dean Pringle, member of the Natural Resources Commission; and Karl Hosford, DPI's Director of Land Use.
"That's what I like about Farm Bureau..."

This is a particularly busy time in Farm Bureau with policy development, membership acquisition and county reorganization taking much of our time and effort. None of us should be too busy, however, to find the time to say "thank you" to those who have given so much of themselves to our organization.

In many county Farm Bureaus', those who have served as president will be turning over their gavels to their successors. Along with the gavel, which is a symbol of leadership, they also give a heritage upon which to build new horizons. That heritage may include knowledge and experience. In most cases, leadership and going to legislative hearings is the most valuable gift to those who follow. A positive attitude, a spirit of enthusiasm, a strong belief in the philosophies of Farm Bureau and a record of determination to execute its policies—that is the heritage so many of our retiring presidents have provided for their organizations.

One such leader, Max Hoof, retiring president of the Van Buren County Farm Bureau, expressed this attitude so effectively at their recent county annual meeting, that I feel it should be shared with all members. Very appropriately, Max entitled his message—"That's What I Like About Farm Bureau."

A voluntary organization of farm families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement. This is the heritage so many of our retiring presidents have provided for their organizations.

"That's what I like about Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau is a many sided operation. It provides an opportunity for people to meet, greet, and eat with their neighbors. There are leadership opportunities in the Young Farmers and Women's Committees, other county organizations have travel opportunities. Its affiliate Companies all of which were born successful because of the interest and support of members.

"That's what I like about Farm Bureau."

"This organization has stood the test of time for almost 60 years. Its leadership is well known and respected in State legislatures as well as the Halls of Congress. Government leaders have been heard to say that their proposed beliefs must have been sound for they have remained mostly intact throughout the years. Policies reflect current thinking, which will influence the purpose of Farm Bureau. They are sound because they represent the thinking of nearly 2.5 million farm families."

"And that's what I like about Farm Bureau."

"Farm Bureau is working at the food booth at the Fair. It is working to promote the eating in the French Quarter in New Orleans. It is seeing home made bread and cake; writing letters to the editor about the farmers' problems. It is helping lead the charge in了解 the trail of oranges. It is collecting interest on Services and Petroleum stock and helping nominate marketing committee members."

"That's what I like about Farm Bureau."

It is this kind of leadership that has made Farm Bureau a strong, effective organization it is today. And, it is this kind of leadership which will make Farm Bureau a valuable tool to farmers in the future. I hope you will join me in thanking all those who are passing on the reins of leadership to others. Thank them not only for countless hours they have spent in the service of Farm Bureau—but make sure to let them know how much we know they will be aiding us."

"And that's what I like about Farm Bureau."

I hope everyone, whether they belong to a Community Group or a Farm Bureau, remember the "Little Red Hen". Foreign trade is an area of vital concern to all farmers and the best way to gain public support is to have better way of gaining public support is to have better chance of gaining public support for a free agriculture. We may become a bit negative now that the Soviet grain sale is "settled"—remember the possibility of articles in our daily newspapers blaming high food prices on agricultural exports. This is headlining material—not the fact that these exports give our economy a boost. The information in the Discussion Topic may not make the front page but it is the excitement for the discussion leader to provide everyone with "the ammunition" you need in your daily communications with others.

While the fires of the Soviet wheat still smolder, it is certain that the trend is for increased interest again—and we'll need to remain aggressively vocal about that right.

Remember the story of the Little Red Hen? She asked her neighbors to help her harvest her wheat. They refused, so she harvested it herself. Everyone kicked back the grain, and the hen turned it into flour to bake bread. Only when it became time to eat did any of them want a piece of the bread. The hen then turned the bread into flour and baked bread. None of them owned a single bushel.

But, it's not "our" wheat. It was the wheat of others we spent in the service of Farm Bureau—and we can't get all the praise that we promised that there would be no restrictions on sales. So, farmers planted with high priced equipment. They used high priced fuel and high priced fertilizer, and high priced chemicals. Nobody offered to do anything to hold down these production prices just as the little red hen's friends didn't offer to help her cultivate. The harvest time came and overseas markets opened up, and the wheat that had been planted, cared for and harvested by the farmers suddenly became "our" wheat. The President, the Secretary of State, Mr. Meany, and some of our Congressmen and some consumer advocates became interested in the wheat, and they called it "our wheat," although the farmers who grew the wheat owned a single bushel.

And that's what I like about Farm Bureau."
President to address
AFBF annual meeting

January 4 and runs through January 8.

Pesticides will be in a much better supply this year, however, because of increased demand.

Hardware and Building Supplies - FBS is still working on an inventory of low priced building materials. As buildings pick up across the state, there should be greater demand for steel and lumber. Baler tire is available for all Bureau locations at good prices and quality. Farm Bureau water softeners are proving very popular. PB dealers are having their servicemen trained in water softening techniques.

FEEDS - The feed rebate program is proving exceptionally beneficial and farmers are taking advantage of the excellent buys. With soybean oil meal coming in this price and quality feed grains adequate, dry distillers grains will also follow suit along with a rise in prices.

General sessions for the annual meeting will be in the Kiel Auditorium on Monday and Tuesday, January 5 and 6, with the opening general session scheduled for Monday afternoon. Accompanying the general session will be an entertainment program.

Monday and Tuesday afternoon sessions will be devoted to special interest conferences. Conferences scheduled for Monday afternoon include beef cattle, cotton, dairy, poultry, wheat and feed grains, and organization.

The meeting will open with vendor services Sunday evening, January 4, at 7:00 PM, in the Kiel Auditorium. Dr. Oswald Hofman, of the Lutheran Hour Broadcast, will be the opening general session speaker.

The meeting will close on Tuesday evening with the election of officers and executive committee, a presentation by the Kiel Junior Chamber of Commerce, and a final program that will include the annual meeting and election of officers.

The young farmers and ranchers will sponsor a discussion meet and outstanding participants will be recognized for their presentation and originality of thought in their comments on a timely assigned topic.

Policies on national and international matters will be adopted by the voting delegates of the member State Farm Bureaus at the closing business session of the convention, January 8.

FARM CHEMICALS - FBS is presently looking more than 11 of 12 of 1976's major pesticides. Pesticides will be in a much better supply this year, however, because of increased demand.

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WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION is the No. 1 issue in the Legislature. It literally affects every worker and every employer in the state, including farmers. There are at least three separate approaches to the issue. One represents organized labor's views. It is conservatively estimated that this proposal would increase premium costs by at least two times, and perhaps as much as three times. Another represents employer's views which would eliminate many of the abuses, and a third proposal has been introduced by the Governor's Office and has been called a compromise version. All versions would reflect the recommendation of a commission's study of WC. All would increase benefits to those who are injured or become ill as a result of their employment. The difference in cost between the three is primarily the effort, especially in the employer bill to eliminate costly abuses that are occurring.

In Michigan the farmer and the members of his immediate family represent roughly 80% of the total farm work force. The peak seasonal employment occurs during late June or early July. The predominance of part-time help on farms, the geographical dispersion and the fact that most seasonal farm workers work for many different employers during the course of a year present difficulties in reporting, rating, medical care, rehabilitation and auditing. Seasonal workers in agriculture very often consist of all of the members of a family who move from one job to another.

In addition the migrant workers may work in several different states during the year.

Much of the seasonal work is hand work with maximum exposure to the hazards of machine operations. Agricultural employers provide employment for thousands of individuals who are unable to meet production norms in other types of employment. Agricultural employers provide employment for thousands of young people during the summer school vacation period. Part-time employment limits the earnings per employer.

TEN-YEAR AVALANCHE OF NEW REGULATIONS

Previous to 1964, agricultural employer-employee relations were simple, man to man agreements regulated by simple, man to man agreements regulated by state laws. The employers were concerned with production norms in other types of agriculture. As with other employers, are not in a position to require physical examinations of those they might hire. These facts, along with the fact that most agricultural employers have been able to pass through the added costs of production reflected in the price of the products.

According to Workmen's Compensation Act will have on agriculture is of a reasonable length of time, adequate to enable farmers to recover agricultural employers must compete have much lower rates or no Workmen's Compensation premium costs.

Since the presentation of the above mentioned WC bill will result in high premium costs. farmers and also that farmers, may see no reason to return to work. Jobs will disappear. Unemployment will increase.

S.B. 1889 -- H.R. 5036

Senate Bill 1889 and H.R. 5036 appear to meet the recommendation of the "National Commission on State Workmen's Compensation Laws" and would provide increased rates by reducing their payroll. With a little more time more examples could be provided. Some may not by essential to address these examples. There could be reductions from coverage for minimal payroll or some of the farm's cumulative losses. (The public should be advisors that the act as written will drastically reduce employment opportunities for the most productive farmers and increase their need for public welfare assistance.).

HIBED LABOR COSTS - PER PRODUCTION

A study was conducted by the Michigan Bureau of Labor Statistics during the summer of 1971 on 101 diversified fruit farms of varying size. The study was conducted on farms with a less than $10,000 payroll, and farm wages with a $100,000 to $200,000 investment and a third group with a $250,000 to one million dollar investment. In the small size farms the hired labor compensation represented 40% of the total cost of production. In the large farms, the hired labor compensation represented as much as 60% of the total cost of production on some crops. The Workmen's Compensation premium rate may be only 5% in the hired payrol, however, the total cost. The insurance premiums may range from 10 to 40 percent of the total cost of production. A specific case in point was reported in the Muskegon Independent.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LAW THEOREY

According to Workmen's Compensation, any injury or the burden of compensation passes on to the consumer or to all of the consumers. Therefore, compensation premiums should be included in the determination of the size of the expected payroll.

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(1) Employed to hand hoe a field of beets, beans, corn, etc.
(2) Employed to assist a day or so the owner operator is ill.
(3) Employed to assist while owner operator is ill.
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Pesticides

Prior to the Thanksgiving recess, Congress has agreed upon provisions of H.R. 8841 which extends authorization for the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

Provisions of H.R. 8841 agreed upon by the conferees will provide funding authorization for the Environmental Protection Agency to administer FIFRA until April 1, 1977.

An important amendment supported by Farm Bureau was included in the conference version of H.R. 8841. This amendment would allow states to conduct a self-certification program for farmers and other private applicators of restricted pesticides. Originally, EPA ruled that farmers would be required to take an oral or written test or other equivalent system to prove their competence in use of restricted pesticides.

Under the self-certification approach, a farmer might be required to attend an annual training meeting on pesticide use and sign a register when purchasing restricted pesticides but would not have to take a test.

The bill must now be approved by the full House and Senate and then signed by the President.

Feedlot permits

Farm Bureau has learned of regulatory action in proposed feedlot permit regulations to be issued by EPA. The new regulations are required by a Federal District Court which ruled that earlier regulations were illegal because some feedlots with less than 1000 animal units were exempted from obtaining a permit.

The 1975 session of the 94th Congress is scheduled to adjourn on December 12. Following its November 28 - December 1 Thanksgiving recess, Congress has returned for a brief session prior to the scheduled adjournment.

Welfare reform rally staged

Senators Robert D. Young (left), R-Saginaw and Robert W. Davis, R-Gaylord spoke at a well attended welfare reform rally held on the steps of the State Capitol in October. Sponsored by Citizens to End Welfare Abuse, the gathering attempted to draw attention to problems in the Michigan's welfare system. The rally was disrupted by a group of noisy welfare recipients, apparently opposed to elimination of abuses in welfare.

**Beginning of page NATIONAl NOTES**

Albert A. Almy

Pesticides - feedlot permits - grain agreement

Actually the earlier regulations did not totally exempt smaller feedlot from obtaining a permit. Any feedlot with 1000 or more animal units and which discharged wastes into waterways was required to apply for a permit. Smaller feedlots were also required to apply for a permit if they identified as a significant source of pollution.

The proposed new regulation will require owners and operators of feedlots falling into any one of the following categories to apply for a permit:

1. If measurable quantities of wastes are discharged into a waterway through a man-made ditch, pipe or flushing system,
2. If wastes are discharged directly into a waterway on the feedlot property itself; or
3. If more than the following number of animals are involved: 1,000 slaughter or feeder cattle, 750 mature dairy cattle, 3,000 slaughter hogs, 30,000 feeder pigs, 3,000 sheep or lambs, 55,000 turkeys, 100,000 laying hens.

Feedlots not falling into one of the above three categories would not have to comply with permit requirements under EPA or a State determined that characteristics of a feedlot justified a permit. No permit would be required if there is no discharge of pollutants into waterways.

Farm Bureau was actively involved in hearings on this issue held throughout the nation earlier this year. The proposed new regulations closely follow Farm Bureau recommendations.

**Soviet grain agreement**

The recent grain agreement between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.S.R. has generated much publicity. Despite strong opposition from Farm Bureau and other farm groups, the agreement is expected to be consummated by the Secretary of State, labor unions and Administration prevailed.

The importance of agricultural exports to farm income indicates that farmers should be fully aware of the provisions of the grain agreement. Major provisions include the following:

1. A firm commitment by the USSR to purchase a minimum quantity of 6 million metric tons of U.S. wheat and corn in approximately equal proportions each year for five years beginning October 1, 1976, and ending September 30, 1981.
2. An option for the USSR to purchase an additional 2 million metric tons of wheat and corn each year if it mutually agrees by both countries.
3. Even spacing of the USSR purchases of U.S. wheat and corn throughout the year.
4. Purchases of U.S. wheat and corn to be made at prevailing market rates from private sources.
5. Wheat and corn purchased under the agreement will be used only for consumption in the USSR unless otherwise agreed.

Grains other than wheat and corn are not covered by the agreement. Grain sorghum, barley, oats, rye, soybeans and rice can be traded outside the agreement.

**Welfare reform rally staged**

A Joyous Holiday to You and Yours -- From All of Us at Farm Bureau Center

Start 'Em Fast With the New Dynamic Battery

Ask your Farmers Petroleum dealer about the new Co-op Dynamic battery. It's the freshest battery you can buy! Your Farmers Petroleum dealer merely fills your battery and you're ready to go with power to spare. No other charging is needed. Co-op Dynamic batteries are available for your car, truck or tractor. Be sure this winter and start 'em fast with Co-op Dynamic batteries.
Policy development committee puts in long hours

Michigan Farm Bureau's 1975 Policy Development Committee put in long hours at Farm Bureau Center in November preparing policy resolutions for consideration by delegates at the December annual meeting. Working in a sub-committee are [from left] Diane Horning, Ilemmes. Emmet; and Tom Atherton. Genesee.

FBS - FPC annuals set for December 9

Board nominees announced

Donald R. Armstrong, Executive Vice President of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc and Farm Bureau Services, Inc. extends an invitation to all Farm Bureau members to join the stockholders of these two cooperatives at their annual meeting on December 9 starting at 10:00 a.m. Both meetings are held at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids and will be followed the next day by Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting.

"We have planned a fast moving program; good complimentary meals and an exciting Product Show for late afternoon and evening filled with lots of prizes and plenty of exhibits staffed by the best technical people in the business. We especially extend an invitation to all farm people to come and spend the day and evening with us."
Farm Bureau is farmers working together

★ The purpose of Farm Bureau is to unite farm families to analyze their problems and formulate action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being.

What is Farm Bureau?
★ Farm Bureau is a free, independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization of farm families. It is the nation's largest general farm organization.
★ Farm Bureau is local, statewide, and national in scope and influence. It is organized to provide a means by which farmers can work together toward the goals upon which they agree.
★ It is wholly controlled by its members and is financed by dues covering county, state, and the American Farm Bureau Federation membership paid annually by each member family.
★ Because it is a farm family organization, Farm Bureau's basic strength stems from the involvement of a substantial portion of the membership in local and state organizational activities.
★ Programs and activities are designed to meet the needs of farm families and to "achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement".
★ Policy decisions are made by members through a development process which give individual members numerous opportunities to influence policy.
★ The viewpoints of Farm Bureau members, as expressed through official policies, are represented before the Legislature and Congress by full-time staff serving as Legislative Counsels.

Why Families Join Farm Bureau
★ To improve their economic well-being as participants in the best organized, most influential farm organization in the world.
★ To preserve a private, a private competitive enterprise system.
★ To become better informed on issues affecting them.
★ To participate in the surfacing, analysis and solution of local problems.
Public Affairs

Membership in Michigan Farm Bureau provides each member the opportunity to help formulate policies on key issues facing farmers and a voice in implementing the policies through legislative action. Farm Bureau legislative programs are widely respected at the national, state and local levels. During 1975, several legislative accomplishments have been realized. These include:

National

Federal land use legislation offering funds for state land use planning and requiring states using the funds to include federal criteria in their plans was narrowly defeated. Farm Bureau and allied legislation and continues to strongly support land use planning legislation.

Farm Bureau is responsible for over 70 Congressmen sponsoring legislation to update the Federal Estate Tax Law. The personal property tax was not revised for nearly 33 years. It has been computed that $3,000 property tax equals $1,600 property tax relief. This $1,200 limit. This cuts the property tax by 40 percent.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act requires that farmers be certified to use restricted pesticide. Becoming certified involves furnishing documents and regulations to require that farmers must pass a written or oral test to prove they are competent to use such pesticides before certification can be issued. Farm Bureau has supported and Congress has approved legislation to help develop the certification process and allow farmers to certify themselves for use of restricted pesticides.

State

Support for PA 28 or the "circuit breaker" system of property taxation which limits household property taxes to a percentage of household income. Farm Bureau worked to include farm land in the local level. Sixty percent of the difference between 1/4 percent of the household income and the property tax is refunded by the state. The refund limit was $500, but was increased this year to $1,200. The state would return $2,000 of dollars of additional property tax relief for farmers.

Example: If the household income is $30,000 and the property tax is $2,000, the refund on the $2,000 equals $2,300 or 60 percent equals $1,200 eligible refund from the state. In this example, the taxpayer qualifies for the $1,200 limit. The $1,200 property tax relief will be refunded.

There is more liberal for senior citizens, a paraplegic, quadriplegic, totally and permanently disabled person, blind, and certain eligible servicemen, veterans and widows. In many cases, the total property tax could be refunded.

Theland and Open Space Preservation Act (PA 116) strongly supported by Farm Bureau is now being implemented. Any farmer land owner taking advantage of the law could qualify for additional tax relief of the difference of 7 percent of his household income and the amount of his property tax. Example: 7 percent of $20,000 household income equals $1,400. This subtracted from a $3,000 property tax equals $1,600 property tax relief. This adds to the $1,200 limit under federal program (PA 28) adds up to a total tax rebate of $2,800! In this example, a combination of both tax relief programs cuts the property tax of $3,000 to $1,200. The additional placed in the PA 116 program would be exempt from special tax assessments for sewers, lights and non-farm drainage.

Sales tax exemptions for farm machines and other farm inputs were again addressed this year (S.B. 372). Farm Bureau fought to maintain this exemption. Between 500-700 farmers came to Lansing to appear at a public hearing. Again this year, Farm Bureau has succeeded in reducing the sales tax. This was the result of the efforts of farm tax agency interpretations. One farmer was saved several hundred dollars in sales taxes. Two other important cases are presently pending.

Farm labor. H.R. 4251, which discriminates against farm labor, was defeated on the floor, with no upper limit (all others 16-63) subjects them to time-and-one-half overtime requirements (no other state has such a requirement for farm labor, but allows same to use exempt agriculture); and seriously affects the use of pesticides after October 21, 1976. EPA has published its final rule. The House passed a bill which sets a limit for the use of such pesticides. The bill passed both houses.

Market Development

When the direction for Farm Bureau policy is set, then Market Development assists in executing that policy. Whether this involves research, marketing assistance, or whatever, Market Development is there to aid in the process. Special bulletins have been published which provide specific information about such matters as the Russian Grain Deal of 1975, Soybean Usage in Michigan and the U.S., Michigan's rank in production of various commodities, plus many others. In addition, a regular column is included in the Michigan Farm News to keep members informed of these and other market developments.

Information & P. R.

Michigan Farm Bureau attempts to tell the story of farmers to the public each day. Consumers need to know that farmers are a business given fair treatment by the government, the courts, the media, our trade representatives and politicians, consumers and other groups, if there is to be food supplied.

Radio and Television

Radio is used on a daily basis to provide the farmer viewpoint on the issues of the day. Each day two two-minute programs are broadcast throughout Michigan. A weekly fifteen-minute program is carried by 72 radio stations.

New materials are made available frequently to radio stations, on a call-in basis. TV activities are conducted primarily through television and radio stations, and arranging for guests to be interviewed.

Newspaper Activities

Each week an editorial column is sent to 140 newspapers. It always tells a story as the farmer sees it. Many newspapers use the column as their own editorial. News releases are made available to help create an understanding for the farmer. Releases are sent whenever there is opportunity to inform consumers of the effects of an issue on the farmer and the supply of food.

Display

Wherever people congregate, there is an opportunity to tell them about agriculture. Farm Bureau has conducted many mall displays where consumers and farmers meet and discuss issues.

Display Promotions

Members used the 1975 Michigan State Fair to talk to consumers. Salespeople were used at the booth in 12 days. Many consumers now know food comes from farms, not stores.

Helping Keep Members Informed

With the increasing amount of information farmers must be kept informed of issues, legislation and news developments which will affect them. To help in this area, the Michigan Farm Bureau is in the business of supplying consumers with facts about many county Farm Bureaus to publish newsletters.

Can You Help?

By being a member of Farm Bureau, your voice will be heard in the organization and credited to the public through the organization. You will gain information to assist you in telling the story of farmers to the public. It's everyone's job.

That's what Farm Bureau is all about—doing together what can't be done alone.

Community Groups

The organizational philosophy of the Michigan Farm Bureau is deeply rooted in the basic principles of democracy and democracy is successful only where there is knowledge and participation. That is the principle upon which the Community Farm Bureau Group Program is based.

Throughout the state, in every county, groups of families meet informally in one another's home to discuss issues and recommend action or take action which will lead to their solution. Every meeting is an opportunity for Farm Bureau members to suggest to Farm Bureau what they think should be done to meet the common problems of farm people at the county, state, national or international level.

To become a part of a program dedicated to analyzing problems, formulating action, educational improvement, development of leadership, and preserving our heritage contact your county Farm Bureau secretary.

Farm Bureau Women

The purpose of organized women's activities is to involve women members in the program of the total Farm Bureau (county and state), to develop and conduct special interest projects of concern to farm women, and to support and train leaders, thereby making Farm Bureau a strong and valuable organization to its members.

More than 350 Farm Women's Committees make up the Women's Committee which plans activities for all Farm Bureau women of the county. They hold business as well as educational meetings and carry out projects, with the help of the women in the counties, which are of concern to members. All women of Farm Bureau families are eligible to become members.

Farm Bureau has a Women's Committee in every county. This committee plans a state program of activities which they may carry out and also which may be developed by county committees, thereby involving women throughout Michigan as there is need and interest.

Projects of Farm Bureau Women

Legislative Activities

Sponsor a Washington Legislative Seminar each year

Participate in regional Legislative Seminars with Legislators and Farm Bureau members

Public Relations Activities

Speakers' Bureau of Farm Women to improve the image of farmers and exchange information with non-farm people.

Network of knowledgeable farm women to speak up for agriculture and issues of concern to agriculture.

Promotion of agricultural commodities through displays in shopping malls and fairs.

Conducting farm tours, and rural-urban projects of good rural-urban communications.

Safety and Health

First Aid Kits and Training

Hazard Identification on Farms

Tractor Safety Lessons for Women

Cancer detection and other health projects

Young Farmer Program

Leadership development programs are available on local, county, state and national levels offered through the Young Farmer Committees.

Continuous Education programs are being developed within the Young Farmer Committees in your areas. Subject matter being that which was surfaced at the recent sessions. For further information contact your committee administrator. This material and instructors will be certified through Lansing Community College which enables you to receive College credit for your participation if you so desire.

Courses being developed now are:

1. Meeting Techniques
2. Communication Techniques
3. Problem solving and decision making (aimed towards partnerships)
Farm Bureau affiliates serving you

Farm Bureau Insurance Group

Member service was the reason for founding Farm Bureau Insurance Group in 1949 and Member service is a prime goal for Farm Bureau Insurance Group today. The varied programs existing today have developed through more than 28 years of service to Farm Bureau Members in Michigan.

Auto Insurance And Dividends

The Master Program was provided to Membership, in fact, the reason for founding Farm Bureau Mutual was auto insurance. And Members demanded that the insurance rates be equitable to the risks experienced by farmers, not by someone living downtown. With recent realignment of our entire auto program, Farm Bureau Mutual auto insurance provides reduced rates for Michigan farmers.

Any auto insurance policy, whether for truck or car is insured through Farm Bureau Mutual, you are part of a mutual insurance company. That means that you share in extra profits through insurance dividends. In fact, from 1967 through 1974 eight consecutive dividends were paid which totalled over $1,100,000. And they're all Farm Bureau Members.

Charter Life And Dividends

Life Insurance has been a part and mainstay of Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan. The handshake sealed a pact between Farm Bureau Members and Farm Bureau Insurance Group. The pact itself was a Charter Life Policy issued to members of the association.
Farm Bureau Membership
Benefits Farm Families

SERVICE TO MEMBERS ONLY

1. Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance (Excludes Auto)
2. Hertz Car Rental (discount program)
3. $50.00 Guaranteed Arrest Bond Certificate
4. Travel Tours to Foreign Countries
5. Group Blue Cross-Blue Shield
6. Milk Check Deduction Program - Blue Cross-Blue Shield
7. Group Member Life Insurance
8. Mutual Auto Insurance
9. Workman's Compensation - Safety Group - Dividends
10. M.A.S.A. - Labor information and employment service
11. Farm Bureau Mutual Fund - investment service
12. Farm Records Service
13. Farmers Petroleum Co-op. - Stock - $5.00 purchase certificate
15. Farm Bureau Services
   a. Egg Marketing
   b. Fowl Marketing
   c. Wheat Marketing
   d. $5.00 Purchase Certificate
16. Commodity Division Approach
   a. Soybeans
   b. Commodity Listing Service according to members' needs (hay, dairy, etc.)

For MFB Members
Blue Cross & Blue Shield Coverage

OUTLINE OF BENEFITS
• if you're under age 65 . . .
  full group protection!
• if you're 65 or older . . .
  protection to complement Medicare
• Master Medical . . .
  to pick up many additional charges!

Farm Bureau Saves You

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Sample Farm Savings</th>
<th>Your Farm Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan gas tax refund</td>
<td>$360</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal gas tax refund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm truck license</td>
<td>$ 160</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm wagon license</td>
<td>$ 80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales tax exemption</td>
<td>$ 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeal of farm personal property tax</td>
<td>$ 800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax relief for households and farms</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$3,423</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plus exemption from tax assessment for growing crops; transportation legislation; marketing and bargaining legislation; amendments to labor laws; increase of livestock indemnity payments; tax appropriations for livestock and crop research; program to limit property taxes for farm land to seven percent of household income, and amendments to environmental regulations.

ADD 'EM UP FOR YOUR FARM – AREN'T THEY WORTH MORE THAN $35 MEMBERSHIP DUES?
Your invitation to

PATRONS OF FARM BUREAU DEALERS:
You're invited to a banquet-lunch at the Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium as part of the combined Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau Services Annual Meetings. A buffet supper will also be served free at Show Place '75. Farmers will be able to order farm supplies at special prices for delivery through their local co-op. Lots of Great Entertainment too... The Conti Family, Jarkey the Funny Auctioneer, PRIZES, PRIZES, PRIZES.

TWO BIG EVENTS

SHOW PLACE '75
Dec. 9th 3PM-10PM
Dec. 10th 3PM-5PM
EXHIBITION HALL
CIVIC AUDITORIUM
Learn about Product Supply

Don't Miss
Special Low Show
Prices! You Must Be at
Show Place '75

to Order!

FARMERS PETROLEUM • FARM BUREAU SERVICES
ANNUAL MEETINGS DEC. 9th, 10 a.m. 'til 3 p.m.
Black & Silver Room • Civic Auditorium
Find out what your companies are doing now and how you'll stand next year.

Welcome. See you in Grand Rapids.
The FARM BUREAU PEOPLE
AUDITION CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY, Dec. 4th @ 10:00 A.M. Sharp</td>
<td>Local 11/2 East of Gaines, Michigan on Ray Rd. (Genesee Co.), 19 Miles S.W. of Flint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY, Dec. 4th @ 10:00 A.M. Sharp</td>
<td>90 Hd. Mature Holstein Cows—from 1st Calf thru 5th lactation, w/79% due &amp; 1/4 U.S. milk, led by 45 cows &amp; 18,000 gallons of milk. 2500 lbs. of cheese.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How can you keep your farming operation profitable?

It isn't always easy being a farmer when you have to contend with things like government controls, fluctuating prices for farm products or feed, farm supply shortages ... but in spite of the drawbacks, you still think it's a good way to make a living. We do, too. And as Farm Bureau people, we want to help you get a fair shake in reaching your farming goals.

That's why we have helped provide a market for farm products, and fought for such things as equitable freight rates, fairer grain and bean prices, and top fuel priority for agriculture. We have helped ease supply shortages through the volume purchasing power of the national cooperative system.

As farmer-owned and run cooperatives, we care about the needs of farmers. Stop in and talk to your Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum dealers. They want to help keep your farm profitable.

ASK THE FARM BUREAU PEOPLE
Why we need them...

Exports and imports

There is a feeling by some in this country that the sale of U.S. agricultural products to foreign countries simply jack-up the price of food to American consumers. The thing that is wrong with this idea is that it is wrong.

There is a link between export sales and commodity prices. And, commodity prices usually have some effect sooner or later, directly or indirectly, on the price of such items as milk, meat and bread. To deny that demand from export sales, or any other source, has an influence on prices would be to ignore what free markets are all about.

But the statement that “farm exports cause inflation” grossly overstates its point while missing several other causes.

USDA economists estimate that in 1973 when food prices rose one-third to one-half of the increase in farm commodity prices resulted from farm exports. This amounted to about $21.75 per person annually. This increase was offset by a general cash resulting from farm exports, $2.3 billion foreign cash from exports, and $2.0 billion taxes which were not paid to farmers as a subsidy.

The result was $8.8 billion input into the economy or $44.00 per person. This additional money in the economy offset the $21.75 inflationary increase and leaves $22.63 per person additional in the economy.

Call it common sense. Call it stewardship of a trust. Or, if you wish, call it self interest. But U.S. agriculture must remain active in foreign trade.

Can you imagine what would happen to agriculture in this country if the shipment of food and fiber abroad were stopped? The products from more than one out of every four acres of cropland in the U.S. goes into exports. This amounts to about three-fourths of the wheat, two-thirds of the rice, one-half of the soybeans, two-fifths of the cotton, one-half of the cattle hides, two-fifths of the tobacco, and one-fourth of the feed grains produced.

One out of every eight jobs on the farms depend on the export of food and fiber. If it weren’t for farm exports these nearly one-half million farm employers would be looking for jobs elsewhere or receiving welfare.

What would happen to the rest of the U.S. economy if farm exports were cut-off? In 1974, more than 450,000 people held jobs assembling, processing and distributing agricultural exports. For every dollar that is returned to the farm sector from exports, another $1.33 was created in the “ripple” effect in transportation, financing, warehousing, ag chemicals, equipment, food processing, farm machinery, tires, batteries, spark plugs, screws, plastics, etc. In illustration, a stone dropped in a pool, creates not only the original splash, but ripple after ripple of side effects.

In spite of the overpowering economic benefits to the U.S. from exporting farm commodities, some people recommend that the export of U.S. farm exports be withdrawn or curtailed. They urge stockpiling of huge quantities of that production—at taxpayers expense.

This would be a devastating type of price control. After our experiences with shortages in recent years, how many Americans still really believe in price and wage controls? These controls simply won’t work. And farmers should be asked to bear the cost of any further experimentation.

Of course, there is another alternative. Additional money to pay for the cost of government programs and storage.

If exports to cash carrying customers abroad are cut off, our reputation as a reliable supplier is damaged. Can you recall the reaction of the Japanese two years ago when we stopped shipment of soybeans to them? They did just what any reasonable businessman would do—they started looking around for other sources of supply—and they found them.

Brazil, for one, was an amiable buyer. This year, with a crop estimated at 330 billion bushels, Brazil will meet the demand for roughly 25 percent of the world market for soybeans. It is a market that this country could once call virtually private property.

In foreign trade, as in other sound businesses, you can’t blow hot and cold on supply in either buying or selling.

If farm exports were still running at $6 billion annually, instead of the current $2 billion level, many farmers would be broke. The consumers would be worrying more about food shortages than food prices.

These controls simply won't work. And farmers should be asked to bear the cost of any further experimentation.

Thus, if we wish to manage the export of crops and livestock, we must do it by a regulatory system of storage and marketing. This can be done best.

Farm exports help to keep this nation’s agriculture strong and functioning at efficient, fully productive levels. The farmers of today, as a rule, are well educated, know what they are doing, and like what they are doing. They want to be able to make a decent income raising the crops and livestock which consumers in our country enjoy and which other countries need for survival. They own the land, care for it, work on it, and produce the food.

So why all the flack about farm exports? Why not let the men and women of the soil go about their business and do what’s needed to best provide food for the rest of us?

The answer is emotionalism. The answer is politics. The answer is misinformation and misunderstanding. The facts concerning the farmer’s need for overseas markets are adrift in a sea of half-truths, statements for political and personal gain, and short-term thinking.

General inflation drives up the price of food and the simple, though inaccurate cause is listed as food “exports.” The fact that over 80% of the rise in the cost of food to consumers last year came after the raw commodity left the farmer’s gate is overlooked.

You may recall that not too long ago a group of highly organized farmers made the front page of many newspapers by proclaiming that unless an embargo was placed on shipment of wheat the price of bread would rise to a dollar a loaf. Fortunately, there was no embargo and, as predicted by knowledgeable farmers, a loaf of bread never cost a dollar.

Not even during the peak wheat prices was there ever more than 6.9 cents worth of wheat in a one pound loaf of bread. The major cost of a loaf of bread is labor not wheat.

It is time for all of us to face up to the facts about the world we live in. It is a rapidly changing world. Worldwide industrial growth and the efforts to raise living standards, i.e., is and will continue to exert ever-increasing pressures on the world’s supply of industrial raw materials, its resources, and on prices of these resources. Oil, tin, copper, chromium, nickel, rubber, as well as coffee, sugar, spices and bananas, are just a few of the many items we import. We must remember that we are not the only people who want these items. Neither are we the only people willing and able to pay for them. To deny those countries who wish our exports we could decline to sell the items they have for export.

In the game of international competition our farm exports are our best shot. We must keep them flowing and keep them growing, because it involves doing what we can to do best.
**In Lapeer County**

**Hoof trimming shown**

Norm Snieder's Lapeer County farm was the sight of a special hoof trimming seminar sponsored by the County Dairy Committee. Over 30 dairy producers turned up to see the demonstration organized by dairy committee member Robert Howland.

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**Discussion Topic Report Sheet**

The Discussion Topic and Report Sheet for the discussion topic on the opposite page is furnished for use of community group members who may wish to review it prior to their group meetings. If used by a Community Action Group Leader, please forward answers with minutes to Information and Public Relations Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904 on or before January 2, 1976.

Community Farm Bureau, County Leader, please forward answers with minutes to Information and Public Relations Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904 on or before January 2, 1976.

**TOPIC:** Foreign Exports

1. Do you feel that the export of agricultural products should be expanded?
   - Yes **No** **Undecided**

2. Should farmers be allowed free access to world markets and world market prices?
   - Yes **No** **Undecided**

3. Do you feel the agreement to sell grain to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is in the best interest of our nation?
   - Yes **No** **Undecided**

4. Do you concurs with the Farm Bureau look in regards to the sale of USSR?
   - Yes **No** **Undecided**

5. Conclusions:
   - **Undecided**

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**In-County Market Place**

**SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS:** One free 25 word ad per month per membership, additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as $12 or $12.50 count as one word NONC.

**MEMBER advertiser: 15 cents per word, one edition, two or more editions, 5 cents per word.**

**Copy deadline:** 12th of Month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm News, P. O. Box 960, Lansing, MI 48904. Publishers reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.
Farm Bureau Member Life Insurance

Especially for You... A Second Chance

Because you are a Farm Bureau Member

The Member Life Insurance program will feature
a special enrollment period from January 1 until March 31, 1975

No physical examination

No qualifying health questions

A convenient policy with all the life insurance $25 can buy

This special program with rates less than 7 cents a day, is offered
to no one else but Farm Bureau Members

Covers member, spouse, and children 15 days to 22 years old if
single and not covered under their own Member Life policy

Protection continues if in military service

Renewable up to age 71

Automatic updating of coverage

Add Farm Bureau Member Life to your other policies

Your County Secretary and Farm Bureau Insurance agent have the
enrollment facts

Don't miss out on your second chance

Ask your agent about the special enrollment period:
January 1-March 31, 1976

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP

Farm Bureau Mutual • Farm Bureau Life • Community Service Insurance