Top dairyman

Michigan Farm Bureau At Large Director Walter E. Frahm of Frankenmuth has been named Michigan State University's 1975 Dairyman of the Year. Frahm, 13850 Bradley Road, was awarded the honor during MSU's Dairy Breeds and Awards Luncheon at Kellogg Center Monday noon. The annual presentation is part of MSU's Farmers' Week, March 17-21.

"This award is in recognition of Walter’s successful dairy operation, his leadership in dairy programs, his membership in the National Milk Producers Federation, and contribution to the dairy science department," says Dr. Charles Laslter, department chairman.

Frahm has farmed continuously since graduation from Arthur Hill High School in 1945 and a two-year term expiring September 1, 1978. The herd, 100 acres of which are in fruit. She serves on the bipartisan Bargaining Board. Renamed to the board was Mrs. Clara McManus, Traverse City, owner and operator of a 285 acre farm, 150 acres of which are in vegetables and flowering plants. They also have three acres of greenhouses for the production of vegetables and flowering plants. Smith is currently president of the Michigan Vegetable Council.

Frank Smith, Jr., Carlton, Monroe County, was appointed for term expiring September 1, 1978. Smith, in partnership with his two brothers, has approximately 900 acres of vegetable and field crops. They also have three acres of greenhouses for the production of vegetables and flowering plants. Smith is a former Monroe County President and MFB Board Member. Currently he is president of the Michigan Vegetable Council.

Frank's appointment and McManus' reappointment are subject to State Senate confirmation.

MACMA annual held in Grand Rapids

Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA), an MFB affiliate company, has completed one of its best years President Elton R. Smith said at MACMA's 16th Annual Meeting Feb. 21 in Grand Rapids.

"We had a net gain of nearly seven per cent in members and experienced our third consecutive year with a positive net margin," Smith told the assembled members.

Although no new divisions were added to the current 13, President Smith noted that MACMA is the largest marketing organization within the AFPB affiliated American Agricultural Marketing Association and one of the major marketing-bargaining groups in the country.

Top dairyman

Walter Frahm (right) At Large Director on MFB's Board, was awarded "Dairyman of the Year" honors during M.S.U.'s Farmers' Week.

Two members to Ag board

Two Michigan Farm Bureau Members have been nominated by Governor William G. Milliken to be members of the state's Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board.

Renamed to the board was Mrs. Clara McManus, Traverse City, owner and operator of a 285 acre farm, 100 acres of which are in fruit. She serves on the bipartisan board as a Democrat member and was first appointed to the board in 1973. Her reappointment is for a term expiring September 1, 1978. She is a member of the Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau.

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Mrs. Jackson gets honor

Michigan Farm Bureau Woman's Committee Vice Chairman Claudine Jackson has been named a runnerup finalist in a Chevron Chemical Company Farm Chemicals Magazine sponsored "Senskeet of the Year" contest.

The annual event is conducted to honor those taking positive action in behalf of agriculture. This year's contest drew a record number of entries. Judging was based on three factors: 1.) the number of events participated in by the entrant; 2.) the variety of media, and 3.) the message or program.

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I was pleased to see nearly 500 farmers turn out for the Senate Taxation Committee Hearing on Senate Bills 372 and 373. These are the bills that if passed would subject farmers to a steeply increased tax on a wide range of farm inputs, which includes machinery, seeds, fertilizer, and livestock. As a matter of fact, many farmers do not plant seeds, they plant trees, bushes, seeds, vines, plants, etc., which apparently would be taxed under these bills. In addition, we were pleased that the bills as they now stand, in my opinion, would make breeding livestock and livestock or poultry, or horticulture products purchased for future growth taxable. The Michigan Farm Bureau Information Services, our Legislative Counsel, discussed this briefly with the Senate committee and they were unable to give a definite interpretation. This means that the livestock industry could be especially hard hit.

I was also interested in watching the conduct of the hearing. As it turned out, not many farmers had an opportunity to make comments on the public hearing and that is a shame. Many farmers do have an opportunity to public hearing and they were unable to give a definite interpretation. This means that the livestock industry could be especially hard hit.

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Young Farmers' leaders meet

Young Farmers Committee Chairman Gary Nye welcomed those attending the Young Farmers Leaders Conference. On the day with Nye are [from left] Ken Cheatham, ABFB Program Development Division and MFB Young Farmer Vice Chairman Tom Atterton and his wife Lynn.

MFB President Elton R. Smith told a group of MFB Young Farmers farmers need to be organized today more than any time in our history. Speaking at the Young Farmers Leaders Conference President Smith emphasized the need for the involvement of members and the constant flow of new ideas in a growing organization.

"I view the future of agriculture with confidence because people like you are a part of it," President Smith told the Young Farmers.

The conference brought together scores of Young Farmers in February to discuss and study the concepts of leadership. Gathering in Lansing from all regions of the state, the Young Farmers attended seminars on Effective Communication, Farm Bureau Today, Young Farmers in Action and Member to Consumer Education.

Leadership classes received an enthusiastic response at the Young Farmers Leaders' Conference.

In membership
Top workers get awards

As part of this year's membership drive the Farm Bureau affiliate companies sponsored an awards program to recognize outstanding membership workers. To receive an award a recipient had to be from a 1975 Goal County and do an outstanding job in membership work.

The winners are as follows:

- Counties with 1-300 members - Charlotte Putney, Benzie County; Leonard Ollido, Copper Country; Frank Scheidemus, Chippewa; Gordon Philbrick, Menominee; Leonard Dziobicki, Menominee; Hattie Lockhart, Chippewa.
- Counties with 801-1300 members - Max Hood, Van Buren; Allen Prillwitz, Berrien; Mervin Knoll, Tuscola and Wesley Prillwitz, Berries Affiliated Company Personnel - Norbert Forben, Saginaw; Vincent Rappette, HiawathaLand; and Stan Stempy, Cheboygan.
- Counties with 1301 and over members - Max Hood, Van Buren; Leo Dowell, Van Buren; Allen Prillwitz, Berries; Mervin Knoll, Tuscola and Wesley Prillwitz, Berries Affiliated Company Personnel - Norbert Forben, Saginaw; Vincent Rappette, HiawathaLand; and Stan Stempy, Cheboygan.

The awards were sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group, Ralph Fred, Farm Bureau Service, Farmers Petroleum, Agricultural Cooperative of Michigan, Agri Services, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., Daryl Peterson, Marketing Association and Mason; Ron Wood, Mason.

1975 MEMBERSHIP DAILY COMPARISON SHEET

As of March 19

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Home canning
A squeeze this year too?

by Cindy Sage

Pressured by inflation, families are struggling to cut costs in an effort to stretch household dollars. One corner being trimmed is the food budget, as thousands of Americans discover the value of home food preservation, especially canning.

George Lowery general sales manager of the Ball Jar Corporation of Muncie Indiana says his company is working overtime to increase supplies, but the demand is so heavy it is doubtful whether the industry will have sufficient stock to meet the challenge of consumers this year.

The nations' three major home canning jar producers, Lowery said, were caught flat footed because indicators of home canning demands did not show that business would double overnight.

Shortage of jars developed during the 1972 canning season as more and more Americans either planted backyard gardens or decided they could save money by purchasing and processing raw fruits and vegetables.

Jar companies have increased their production capabilities with the addition of new equipment, but now there is the problem with available raw materials.

For an example, jar manufacturers are having problems obtaining enough soda ash for glass production and steel for use in making jar caps and lids. The problem, according to Lowery, is that raw material suppliers have had to satisfy federal government pollution control regulations, and these are slow in coming. The glass jar company needs, and it all takes time.

Manufacturers by jar companies to increase production, consumers will find supermarket shelves with allocated supplies of jars and lids. The allocation move is an effort to stretch household dollars.

Last year, Ball Jar Corporation manufactured between 600 and 700 million glass jars for canning purposes, and that was far from enough.

As for the cost of jars, consumers can expect to pay between $2.30 and $2.75 for a case of 12 jars. Two years ago, the prices were approximately $1.00.

If companies can increase production volume then jar costs are expected to level off.

Currently, three major U.S. firms supply a large portion of home canning jars, and there is talk that three other firms, whose primary business is manufacture of glass products for beverage and commercial containers, are seriously considering entering the home canning jar field.

Home canners are being warned by health and agricultural officials to be aware of the food poisoning dangers in home canning.

Deadly botulism can result from canned foods not boiled long enough or sealed properly during the canning process. The Federal Government is planning a massive nationwide information and education program to inform the public on how to safely home can.

Institutes held throughout state

Thumb Regional Representative Ken Wimmen explains to some of over 40 Thumb Region members and MFB staff, the purpose of a Regional Institute. In February and March Institutes were held throughout the state to help County Farm Bureau leaders carry out effective, worthwhile programs and activities.

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC. & FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

INTEREST ON DEBENTURES 5-10-15 year maturity

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

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

Clip and mail this coupon to:
Mr. C. A. Johnson
Farm Bureau Services, Inc.
American Advertising Federation, Inc.
P. O. Box 950
Lansing, Michigan 48904
I would like a copy of the prospectus and a call by a registered sales agent.

Name

Mailing Address

Telephone
Already the legislative activity is rising to a whirlwind tempo. More than 1200 bills have been introduced. In addition, nearly 600 resolutions of various kinds have been introduced. A summary of some of the legislation of current interest to agriculture follows:

SALES TAX:
Farm Bureau members throughout the state are delaying their decisions on letters urging them to take a stand on the position to S.B. 372 and S.B. 373. These bills would eliminate the sales tax exemptions on all farm inputs with the only exception being seed, feed and fertilizer. This would cost Michigan farmers millions of dollars annually and would put an increased burden on the already worsening "cost-price squeeze." A large crowd of Farm Bureau members came to Lansing on March 24 to appear at a hearing held by Senator John Bowman, Chairman of the Senate Taxation Committee. Many spoke in opposition to this legislation and pointed out that farmers should not be expected to make up the loss of revenue resulting when the voters removed the sales tax from food.

BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX:
H.B. 406 recently introduced is known as the business privilege tax which in reality is a value added tax and would apply to all kinds of businesses ranging from farmers to businesses on main street, in industries, insurance companies, etc., etc. The stated purpose is to restructure Michigan's business taxes in order to encourage new businesses to locate in the state and to have all businesses taxed at the same rate. If all states taxed the same it would make Michigan competitive in the nation, the President of the Farm Bureau said. The state tax rate would be 3.2% and the solids, not fat, basis for the tax would be the same as the personal income tax in contrast with the potential base which is used on this new approach. However, it would be entirely possible to have a tax obligation even if no income was made during the year.

Inheritance tax:
H.B. 4239 is under consideration and in its proposed form would permit Michigan residents to design their own tax exempt pattern. The bill was introduced by the Michigan Farm Bureau Board and the Farm Bureau will soon make a decision on an official position.

INHERITANCE TAX:
H.B. 4239 is now under consideration and is designed to raise additional money from inheritance in Michigan. As reported out of committee, it would for the first time in Michigan make insurance receipts taxable in excess of $60,000. Outstate members of the Tax Committee were able to put an amendment on the bill to exempt farm property up to $250,000. The bill is a complete rewrite of the 1965 Michigan Inheritance Tax laws. H.B. 4239 fee deduction has been introduced and is designed to encourage farmers to deduct fees paid for services such as computerized accounting and insurance.

AGRICULTURE BILLS:

Some action is occurring on several bills of an agricultural nature. H.B. 4233 has passed the House. This is a major revision of the law controlling highway litter from vehicles such as trucks. The bill has passed the House and will work for several additional amendments to the bill.

Recognizing the poor condition of rural roads and bridges throughout the nation, the National Highway Users Federation called upon farmers to be active in defending the use of the Highway Trust Fund for its intended purposes.

Speaking at the Highway Users Federation National annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, Peter G. Koltnow said the critical need is to get the people who use the rural roads to know what the problems are and to make their voices heard. Koltnow noted a recent survey which showed that 70% of the people feel that rural roads in their state need improvement. It is estimated that 10 percent of the population than lives in rural areas and shows a general awareness of road needs, said Koltnow. The Farm Bureau's efforts to maintain a viable highway system were praised by Koltnow.

Service awards given during Farmer's Week

Another; S.B. 349, would increase the litter fine from the present $400 to $600. S.B. 245 is identical to the House bill. S.B. 18 would ban the sale of beverages in metal containers of the "snap-type" and require a bottle deposit. Governor Miller has taken a strong stand on littering. It is probable that the litter laws will be strengthened this year. In order to succeed in this, there is a major lack of enforcement. A deposit on returnable containers should be encouraged, however, to encourage packing up the roadside.

There are dozens of labor bills introduced, most of which would affect farmers. For example, S.B. 186 amends the Worker's Compensation Act to reduce the number of weeks from 13 to 8. These employers will be required to follow the new law. Presently, employers who fail to follow the new law will be run out of business. Presently, producers refuse to deduct such fees when requested or in some cases, not do the fees to the marketing cooperative. The current system is not applicable to all over 16 years of age and under 65 years of age. It would cut the present exemption from 4 down to 2 that are employed some time within a calendar year. This would have a major effect on farmers hiring labor. H.B. 450 would require all wages earned by agriculture employees to be paid weekly with interest. S.B. 171 is a perennial bill and would bring agriculture labor under the unemployment act and require farmers to pay into the program. S.B. 186 would change the present labor related to agriculture to a separate act in both houses would be included in the total rewrite. S.B. 171 and H.B. 450 would bring agriculture labor under the unemployment act and require farmers to pay into the program.

LITTERING:
Several bills have been introduced in an attempt to regulate the use of "snap-type" containers of the "snap-type" and require a deposit on returnable containers. It is probable that the use of such containers will be prohibited.

At least eight other bills have been introduced in littering along the same lines; one, S.B. 215 would require a judge to order a person caught littering to engage in litter gathering along highways or other

areas. It would delete the present fine and 

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During the past month, Congress has introduced numerous bills designed to consider three areas of concern to agriculture. These areas are government farm programs, land use and federal estate taxes.

FARM PROGRAM:

As this column is being written, the House has passed HR 4296, which would increase target prices and loan rates on wheat, corn, and other feed grains; re-establish the support price at 80 percent of parity, which would increase target prices to $3.10 per bu. The policy in opposition to target prices is the payment approach, especially those that are currently being invested in livestock equipment.

The dramatic increases in the cost of energy and related inputs (fertilizers and chemicals) have caused a change in the picture.

The program we now face is not only to increase absolute levels of food, feed and fiber; but to do it in an environmentally sound manner. The number of people one farmer can support and the number of acres he can use for food and fiber, the number of people 100 acres can support.

Energy and threat of food production could be partially solved by increasing the photo-synthetic efficiency of crops and at the same time protecting rivers and available in essence, water.

Food crops, even under good conditions, capture only about one-fourth of the sunlight that illuminates their leaves. 70 percent for improvement is great and results in the ability to produce food crops quickly with only a fraction of the power used by other forms of energy research, Wittwer says. "It is a travesty that we have come to depend on fossil fuel to produce food."

The crop of food is the raw material for our food, its energy and the trade names "Star" and "Hog-Tite."

The new operation will be known as the Star Agri-Products Division of Starcraft, a subsidiary of the Bangor Punta Corporation. Universal Cooperatives is a major supplier of goods to Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum retail outlets, and is owned by 38 other local Farm Supply Co-ops and 50 independent retail operations.

"Starcraft has been accepted as an industry leader," said Donald R. Armstrong, Executive Vice President for Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum. "and we can get along without luxuries, but we can't survive without food, nor can the world, only farmers produce food."

With regard to the dairy support program in HR 4296, Farm Bureau policy recommends a continuation of the dairy support program which requires that the milk be sold at the established price with quarterly adjustments through March 31, 1976. The bill would provide new support price to be at a minimum of 90 percent of parity through 1975 and the minimum support price would revert back to 75 percent.

The extension of the milk support program would return agriculture to a payment approach, especially those that are currently being invested in livestock equipment.

LAND USE:

Federal land use legislation, HR 3510, has been introduced by Congressman Morris Udall (D-Arizona). A Federal Land Use Bill has also been developed, but not formally introduced at this time by Senator Henry Jackson (D-Washington). Although there are distinct differences between the Udall bill and the Jackson bill, some similarities do exist.

Both bills would provide federal policies in the form of grants to states for land use planning. Both bills would establish an office within the Department of the Interior to administer the provisions of the land use bill. Neither bill at this time would provide any farm programs, such as highways and airports, to force states to develop a land use plan. The bill would however, require certain provisions in planning developed with the federal funds. Hearing on HR 3510 were held March 17-18 and March 24-25. Farm Bureau policy is opposed to federal land use planning except under a grant-in-aid program.

The legislation, HR 1793 attacks three aspects of this problem.

First, the bill increases the 1972 estate exemption of $60,000 to $200,000. This would apply to all estates, not only to farms.

Secondly, the bill raises the minimum production from the current 50 percent of the adjusted gross estate. Again, this would apply to all estates.

Finally, the bill establishes a procedure whereby heirs to a farm estate could elect to have it assessed at the agricultural value rather than the highest potential value. If such an election is made, the bill provides that the land in the estate must remain in farming for a period of five years, or the highest potential value would be assessed. The tax would be collected.

Livestock equipment firm acquired

FARM BUREAU Services, through its interests in Universal Cooperatives, has agreed to purchase the Agri-products division of Starcraft, a subsidiary of the Bangor Punta Corporation.

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The help of science we can keep it that way.

About April 19, 1775

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled;
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world."

-Emerson

Q: I attended my Board of Review meeting to protest my property tax assessment and I am not satisfied. How do I appeal? (This question was received by telephone to Farm Bureau Center.)

A: You have taken the first correct step in your effort to adjust your appraisal to the value of your property. The next step is to file a timely appeal to the local board of review. The action taken there, he has the right to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal in March of 1975. You have the right to appeal to the entire Tribunal. The procedure whereby heirs to a farm estate could elect to have it assessed at the agricultural value rather than the highest potential value.

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The help of science we can keep it that way.
"Washington here we are"

"Legislative Leaders"
spend intense four days in Capital

For four days last month Michigan's Congressional delegation in Washington knew that farmers in the State are concerned, interested and aware of critical issues facing the nation in general and agriculture in particular.

March 16-19 saw 54 Michigan Farm Bureau members, chosen by their Counties as "Legislative Leaders," using much shoe leather and contributing greatly to the prosperity of Washington, D.C.'s taxi fleet, in a determined effort to meet with and explain to their Congressmen key issues important to farmers.

It was all a result of MFB's 15th annual Washington Legislative Seminar sponsored by Farm Bureau Women. The Seminar's purpose each year is to make possible contact between MFB members and their elected Congressmen, so that Farm Bureau policies and current issues before Congress can be discussed on a personal basis.

Once in Washington take-off points for Congressional contacts were the Democratic and Republican breakfasts.

At the breakfasts Congressmen were seated with Farm Bureau members from their districts and conversation quickly turned from the French toast to pending legislation.

The new farm bill and $80 billion budget deficits were popular topics of discussion around the breakfast tables.

It was immediately after the breakfasts that the "Legislative Leaders" proved their mettle as they quickly nailed down appointments with their representatives before the solons had a chance to leave the room. There was no doubt that the Counties choose determined and aggressive "Legislative Leaders."

The dedication of the "leaders" was evident in other ways.

Several, discovering that extra Congressional office visits could be squeezed in if the excellent bus tour of the city was skipped, quickly decided to do just that—miss the tour and make the office visits.

A group of dairymen headed for AFBF's Washington office post haste after learning a special meeting on countervailing duties was being arranged for them.

It was a quick few days in the nation's capital but fruitful for a group of aware farmers and farm wives who should be bringing back to the Counties some sharp insight into what is going on in Washington.

Hopefully, a few lasting impressions were left in some Congressional offices.

by Jim Phillips, Editor

Photos by Marcia Ditchie
CATTLE
The recent cattle and calves on feed report, reported cattle and calves to be relatively stable in slaughter in the seven major states, down 41% from a year ago. February placements of cattle and calves on feed were down 29%, from a year ago. At the same time, weekly slaughter numbers continue to run well below 60,000 head, well below a year ago.

APPLIES-PEACHES
A historic marketing lesson was demonstrated this year. apple growers were forced to become more aggressive in their marketing efforts, with the marketing picture becoming difficult, the most desirable fruit moving best. In almost all fruit marketing, the moderate-sized fruit moves best. It is better flavored and is adaptable into more varied marketing directions. While we can blame the weather, the processing companies, the fresh packers, and the lack of open market, the produce that can do the most to affect the selling of the fruit.

HONEY
The honey market is sharply down from one month ago. Grower prices for white honey - 40¢, light amber - 35¢, and copper molten under 30¢. While the 1974 U.S. production was reduced 13% to 30%, the world market remained relatively stable with a narrow world market surplus. The higher U.S. prices were aimed at the bagging trade and retail market.

BEEF CATTLE ADVANCE TO THE HIGH 30'S IN FEBRUARY PLACEMENTS

FEED REPORT
There appears to be a decline in the number of choice cattle available for slaughter; consequently, we can anticipate higher feeder prices continuing to the high 30's in the next thirty days.

CORN
The corn market has also advanced in recent weeks. This is due to moderate increases in the feeder cattle market plus stocker operations competing for grass cattle.

FORAGE
Very good progress is being made in the forage growth. Grass is not as available as corn. There is still some need for increased alfalfa cutting over the next thirty days.

LIVESTOCK
Dairy
The key to dairying in Michigan, at the present time, is the weather. Meat and milk production is out of kilter and the market needs improvement in the price of milk. Michigan operations have experienced problems in corn economics in the livestock in-

VEGETABLES

WHEAT
Increased wheat acreage, plus a substantial carry-over, are causing a bearish trend on the wheat market. If we get a normal corn crop planted, and good harvest conditions for the winter, we can see a decline in the price of wheat. The carry-over will be less than last year's carry-over and the market needs to find its direction.

NEAVEY BENS
Current grower price for navy beans is $3.50.

Oranges are being marketed now for the winter market in Michigan. The winter market is weak and there is an increasing trend toward higher prices, because of interest in increased color in the oranges.

Soybeans
At "Soybean Day" held in Adrian on March 12, Dr. Robert Winer, Extension Specialist at Grims - Law School, stated that the market had over-reacted in the downturn of the February 15 to March 10 period. He predicted that prices could improve to near the $6.00 range at intervals. However, both Dr. Winer and Alan Holt of the Foreign Agriculture Service, USDA, felt the fall market would be in the $3.75 range. They also foresee a gradual increase in movement resulting from better conditions for wheat, and the continued decline in the price of corn.

APPLES-PEACHES
A historic marketing lesson was demonstrated this year. apple growers were forced to become more aggressive in their marketing efforts, with the marketing picture becoming difficult, the most desirable fruit moving best. In almost all fruit marketing, the moderate-sized fruit moves best. It is better flavored and is adaptable into more varied marketing directions. While we can blame the weather, the processing companies, the fresh packers, and the lack of open market, the produce that can do the most to affect the selling of the fruit.

SOYBEANS
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CORN
A recent release of corn planting intentions was 97% of a year ago. Traders consider this to be bullish; however, intentions to plant soybeans is 6% more than a year ago. The weather, plus a new report on the export situation, are important factors which could cause the market to watch during the next sixty days in making selling decisions.

FOODS
The fresh packers are operating at full capacity on the butter hog market. The fresh packers are anticipating an increase to the $6.00 range at intervals. However, prices are still well below a year ago.

DANS#S
These are going out to dealers and will be available at competitive prices for quality biologicals.

PETROLEUM
These are going out to dealers and will be available at competitive prices for quality biologicals.

ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS
These are going out to dealers and will be available at competitive prices for quality biologicals.

Ottawa Orchards uses modern equipment
An apple a day keeps the doctor away. How about 60,000 pounds per day? That’s the amount processed into a hot water bath that removes the wax coating mother nature put on apples, leaving the fruit with a polished apple even though it adds board cartons of 24 packages.

The apples are kept cold in 38°F storage rooms depending on the variety of The Schwalliers are looking at Ottawa Orchards by Farm Bureau members, Fred and Greg Sheffield.

FEED
Production feeds needed at Farm Bureau Services has been going up, due to the increased demand for and supplies adequate. Prices dipped down to lower ingredient prices. These feeds have strengthened in the ingredient markets with increases showing up in the prices of these feeds. The effect of oil and the soybean meal. This may prove to be a temporary situation, however, Foreign buyers have shown renewed interest at this writing, Thinning is costly and reduces the number of .headers available this year.

FERTILIZER
Domestic supplies are on an allocation basis for all nitrogen products. No anticipation of price changes is expected for the summer season through June. There does appear to be a problem of short supply but there is no indication of softening of prices due to some farmers’ inability or reluctance to buy and apply fertilizers early. Farm Bureau Services is continuing to supply allocations to its dealers at domestic prices and on schedule.

Soybean Day a hit
Interest in soybeans is high and low at the Third Annual State Soybean Day. One of the highlights of the daylong program was the John Deere Independent Floating Holstein and Dealer. The concept is somewhat new to water bath that carries them over to a conveyor that screens them for size.

BUILDINGS
Now is an excellent time to order your spring building program. Steel has now become readily available as have most other building supplies. Also, Farm Bureau building center dealers have a great, new idea in building design. It is called "diamond panel construction." Methods developed under a Farm Bureau Services’ grant at Michigan State University will result in buildings 40% to 50% stronger. Farm Bureau’s new framing system is also 60 percent stronger, against winds with 8 to 10 foot wind speeds.

STEEL
Steel posts, fencing, barb wire, and paneling are now being built stronger. Farm Bureau patrons have been looking for alternate sources of supply again this year.

ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS
Readily available and in good supply.

CORN
Large size rear tractor tires still do not large enough to shift to fresh market. The corn market is still weak; but, it is not adding anything to net income.

HARVEST
Consumption of fluid milk is an important factor in the milk check. With current uncertain economic conditions, fluid milk consumption is not showing up very well. The only favorable factor in milk check is the relatively low grain prices.

WHEAT
Increased wheat acreage, plus a substantial carry-over, are causing a bearish affect on the wheat market. If we get a normal corn crop planted, and good harvest conditions for the winter, we can see a decline in the price of wheat. The carry-over will be less than last year’s carry-over and the market needs to find its direction.

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President signed a bill providing even if only one worker is contractor or engage such services of a labor contractor unless he can first include packaging and processing of agricultural products.

Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act.

Crew leader act now law

On December 7, 1974, the President signed a bill providing extensive amendments to the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act.

The law now covers both intrastate and interstate recruiting, even if only one worker is recruited. Agricultural employment has been broadened to include packaging and processing of agricultural products. It is now illegal for growers or other persons to employ the services of a labor contractor or engage such services of a contractor unless he can first determine that a labor contractor possesses a certificate from the Secretary of Labor. The labor contractor must now disclose in writing to prospective workers their period of employment, wages, working and housing conditions, along with proof that housing currently conforms to all applicable federal and state safety health standards. The crew leader must disclose the existence of any arrangements under which he is to receive a commission. The grower or other person employing the services of a labor contractor must maintain all payroll records required to be kept by the contractor under federal laws. The means that both the contractor and the person employing the services of a contractor must keep the payroll and all other records required under the act. The penalties for violations are very heavy.

The requirements of the act and the stiff penalties attached for violations will probably reduce the incentive for crew leaders to encourage workers to migrate. The net effect of this act will probably be to reduce somewhat the amount of labor available to growers.

Michigan Farm News invites you to Fly the Flag for the Bicentennial.

We invite our readers to take part in the greatest show of colors this country has ever seen. We are proud to take part in this national campaign sponsored by the U.S. Bicentennial Society to restore the flag to a place of respect and honor it deserves.

To encourage you to fly the flag, we have arranged for you to purchase a complete Bicentennial Flag Kit for only $8.95, including handling and shipping. The large quantities of flags involved makes this possible. Order the 50-Star Bicentennial Flag with the special Fly the Flag coupon. Also available: 13-Star Betsy Ross Flag and the Bennington '76 Flag. Your flag will be sent directly to your home at no additional charge.

Each flag is crowned with the golden Double Eagle top ornament, symbol of the Bicentennial. Matching goldized 6ft., two-piece, steel pole. Heavy-duty flag - 3 x 5 ft. - of the trustees and your own registry number. The ideal keepsake of the Bicentennial, suitable for framing and display. Beautiful full-color illustrations and photographs, 190 pages. $3.95 each.

Bicentennial Lapel Pin Engraved in full color. $1.00 each.

Fly the Flag for the Bicentennial

Send order to: Michigan Farm News, Bicentennial Society First and Main Streets Richmond, Virginia 23219

Farm Bureau for the all

The following radio stations carry Accent Agriculture, a 15-minute program that focuses on the issues and events affecting Michigan farmers and consumers.

WATC GAYLORD
WFYC ALMA
WMPC LAPEER
WJON TONIA
WALM ALBION
WRLA LINDONON
WTBV COLDWATER
WOAP OWOSSO
WBRN BAD Axe
WARJ ADRIAN
WCEC CHARLOTTE
WCBY CHEROKEE,
WKP KALAMAIZO
WHFB BENTON HARBOR
WAGN MENOMINEE
WSTV STERLING
WSMA MARINE CITY
WKVO CARO
WDHJ DOWAGI.
WIDG ST. IGNACE
WCHL HILLSDALE
WJPW ROCKFORD
WSSO SAULT ST. MARIE
WNIL NILES
WMIC SANDUSKY
WSWM-FM SAULT ST. MARIE
WJML PETOSKEY
WILD TRAVERSE CITY
WRJG JOHNSTOWN
WLBW WHITE HALL
WPLB GREENVILLE
WTRX PLINTT
WRNR BATTLE CREEK
WJEB GLADWIN
WJRN FRONTON
WLEW BAD AXE

Farmers News is a two minute program and the Michigan farm radio network.

WPAG ANN ARBOR
WRBM BAY CITY
WKYO CARO
WCRW CHARLOTT
WCRW CLARE
WTBV COLDWATER
WDBC ESCANABA
WTCU ELLIOTT
WION TONIA
WJO JACKSON
WPHM PORT HURON
WQMC CASEY
WIDG ST. IGNACE
WJAM ST. JOHNS
WJIE STURGIS
WJR SOUTH HAVEN
WJGR TAYLOR CITY
WMBC WEST BRANCH
WMIC SANDUSKY
WXCN HILLSDALE
WXJL PETOSKEY
WXMI HOWELL

Farm Bureau In-Depth is an in-depth report on the issues affecting Michigan farmers. It is a two minute program carried daily.

WJAR EAST LANSING
WFYC ALMA
WMAM MARINETTE
WAPG ANN ARBOR
WCRW CHARLOTTE
WHAK ROGERS CITY
WJRE KALAMAZOO
WLKM THREE RIVERS
WFGR GRAND RAPIDS
WNIL NILES
WCCW TRAVERSE CITY
WGOX ELM CITY
WGN CHICAGO
WSWM-FM TRAVERSE CITY
WMTC MANISTEE
WJML PETOSKEY
WILD TRAVERSE CITY
WJBL JOHNSTOWN
WLBW WHITE HALL
WPLB GREENVILLE
WTRX PLINTT
WRNR BATTLE CREEK
WJEB GLADWIN
WJRN FRONTON
WLEW BAD AXE

Farm News Today is a 3 1/2 minute program for Michigan farmers heard daily over these stations and the Michigan farm radio network.

WPAG ANN ARBOR
WRBM BAY CITY
WKYO CARO
WCRW CHARLOTTE
WCRW CLARE
WTBV COLDWATER
WDBC ESCANABA
WTCU ELLIOTT
WION TONIA
WJRO KALAMAIZO
WSWQ SAGINAW
WHFB BENTON HARBOR
WJPL GREENVILLE
WHRG Houghton Lake
WKYO CARO
WJBM WEST BRANCH
WOAP OWOSSO
WJRM BAY CITY
WJST STURGIS
WJCB GLADWIN
WHERE

can you go

FOR A NEW

BUILDING?

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

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

The Farm Bureau people, backed by years of experience, are ready to go to work for you. So see your local Farm Bureau Services building representative today. For an informative brochure on Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum, write: Farm Bureau Services/Farmers Petroleum, Marketing Services Division, Box 960, Lansing, MI 48904.

ASK THE

FARM BUREAU

PEOPLE
A question often asked these days is: "Are the family farms going to survive, or will they be swallowed up by huge agribusiness units?"

Let's examine this subject beginning with some fundamentals.

Before the scientific revolution in agriculture, farm operation was fairly simple. When to plant and harvest, know what to plant and live to eat. That is the bottom line in the mastery of the simple agricultural arts and skills, basic ability to reproduce or live. The presumed safe guess that most farm-raised boys would have or could obtain these qualities is supported by careful studies of the practice on what is now a very large unit, many thousands of acres. A seed-producing farm may achieve optimum efficiency with large acreage and an investment of many millions of dollars. But on a typical grain and livestock farm, most of the efficient size of home farm is achieved with a two-man unit of perhaps 500 or 600 acres. A dairy farm, with good management, might achieve optimum efficiency with two $100,000 worth of products a year. Some of these, of course, are family farms in the sense that most of the labor and management are supplied by the farmer and his family.

3. Legal form--Less than 1% of our farms are corporation, we learn from a recent USDA study. They operate largely as family units, with very little outside capital.

However measured, family farms are vastly in the majority. The other important units are those of the large-scale agribusinesses. The units that are either large-scale, or factory-type, or corporate in legal form, or integrated in their structure and operations, are the minority of our farms, food, and fiber. They are generally higher producing, more efficient, and have more products sold, but not necessarily more income. The large-scale units are very diversified. They are less family-oriented. They have a high fixed charge which is a large portion of their cost. They are more efficient, because management can be decentralized. They are more flexible, because they can be diversified. They are more adaptable, because management can be diversified. They are more flexible, because management can be decentralized. They are more adaptable, because management can be decentralized. They are more flexible, because management can be decentralized. They are more adaptable, because management can be decentralized.

The large-scale agribusiness units face several obstacles that are not faced by the family farm. The family farm is a durable and resilient institution. It has survived war, depression, and natural disaster. Up to this point, with the exception of the broiler industry and a few other sectors, it has survived a technological revolution. It has strong ideological support, supplies through that whole system. It has survived war, depression, and natural disaster.

There is nothing inexorable about the trend toward large-scale agriculture. Legal codes are available to check the trend; prohibitions of one sort or another.

With a representative government, the people can have a say in what direction their agricultural system, the one country socially, politically, and economically. The fact is that the large scale farm does not mean that this trend must be extended until it embraces all of agriculture. Nor does it mean that large-scale farm production is going to be underwritten, with terms and conditions of capital and management that are more or less fixed in support.
Committee on future topics meets

The Discussion Committee Topic met in Farm Bureau Center in March to discuss the topics recommended to be used by Community Farm Bureau Groups for the next six months.

The committee, with Elmer Gordon, chairman, spent a full day reviewing a report recommended by community groups from three states. Narrowing down a list of over 150 suggested topics the committee selected:

1. Grading and weighing of eggs.
3. Cost breakdown vs. farm cost.
4. Problems of city families.
5. Solid waste problems.
6. Problems of city families.

The committee is planning a report to be distributed to Community Farm Bureau groups from three states. The complete report will be distributed to Community Farm Bureau groups in the near future.

TOPIC SUMMARY

The discussion in February of Estate Taxes brought to the attention of many that adequate estate planning is essential for a farm operator, if it is to be passed on to the heirs. Many Community Farm Bureau Groups have arranged to have this opportunity to invite resource people to attend their meeting. A summary of the responses received follows:

1. The number of members in a group will draw upon a competent authority varied from zero to fifteen.

2. The number of families in a group who had professional estate planning varied from 0 to 100.

3. The highest number of partnerships represented in any one group was 15.

4. Of those reporting, 36% of the partnerships were not written.

5. Fifty-six percent felt that in case of untimely death of the major farm operator, adequate provision had been made to take care of the estate. The majority of the owners remain in the family and continue operation.

6. The majority of the groups helped by the groups were: Estate planning is good, if only for “peace of mind”; not enough families have adequate wills; individual choices have to be made; see advice.-

7. The majority of the groups help with the groups, if in this day and age it is hard to know when adequate provisions have been made.

Discussion Topic Report Sheet

The Discussion Topic and Report sheet for the discussion topic on the opposite page is furnished for use of community groups in Public Relations Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904 on or before May 1, 1975.

COMMUNITY FARM BUREAU

Discussion Exercise & Report Sheet

April 1975

Community Farm Bureau Members

County Indicate the number of people taking part in this discussion.

TOPIC FAMILY FARMs

1. In your judgment are the family farms going to survive? Yes No Undecided

2. Is there a trend to the larger family farms or the small farms? Yes No Undecided

3. In your judgment, would you like to see more or less than one crop, rather than general farming, be a significant factor in causing an increase in the size of family farms? Yes No Undecided

4. Do you feel that there is a tendency to large-size farming operations as a result of the best interest of the general public? Yes No Undecided

5. Conclusions:

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April 1975

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4. Do you feel that there is a tendency to large-size farming operations as a result of the best interest of the general public? Yes No Undecided

5. Conclusions:
A new FarmOwners

Because you don't have

"the same old farm"

Improved Coverage

23 Ways Better

at 1969 Prices

Times change. "The old farm" just isn't the same. Chances are, your insurance needs aren't either. That's why we've improved the famous FarmOwners policy ... the original insurance policy developed just for Michigan farmers and the first of its kind in the nation.

You'll find 23 added or improved features in the new FarmOwners ... many of them benefits not even offered by other companies. Many of the extras were not in the original FarmOwners.

For example, take a look at the three rating exposure system used for farming structures. Your Farm Bureau Agent determines which of their risk levels each structure deserves ... and sets your premium for just that rate. No more "averaging" which usually meant higher rates. Coverage is based on YOUR farm ... not someone else's. And, that's just one of the 23 extra benefits in the new FarmOwners.

With the extra coverages and new features, premium rates for the new FarmOwners actually maintain 1969 levels. Know of anything else you buy that has held the same price in that time?

Call your neighborhood Farm Bureau Agent today. Find out more about the improved FarmOwners policy ... the only policy developed by and for Michigan farmers. Now with 23 extra features.

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