

To vote on by-law changes

Special delegate session called



State Study Committee met many hours during past 18 months to develop the proposals which will be voted on at the June 28 special delegate session. [Turn to pages six and seven for more details.]

On Saturday, June 28, a Special Delegate Session will be held at the Hilton Hotel, next to Farm Bureau Center in Lansing. At this session, voting delegates--the same delegates who served at the December, 1974 annual meeting--will hear the State Study Committee's report and vote on by-law changes.

An important event will be held in conjunction with this special meeting--the kick-off of Michigan Farm Bureau's involvement in the nation's bicentennial. This promises to be a red, white and blue affair with an outdoor chicken barbeque and an inspiring stars and stripes speaker to set the proper mood for the celebration of 200 years of agriculture.

would assure a strong, viable Farm Bureau.

In accordance with this adopted policy, Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith appointed 15 top operating farmers, representing a cross-section of commodity interests and geographic areas, to serve on the committee. All were recognized as leaders in agriculture, Farm Bureau, and their home communities.

The high calibre of individuals on this committee was later illustrated in a testimony by Michael Pridgeon, Branch County Farm Bureau president who served as chairman of the group: "Each one has made valuable contributions to this important study. Each has made many personal sacrifices to fulfill their responsibilities--with literally hundreds of hours spent away from their farms and their families.

"And each has displayed such a genuine dedication to the task they have been assigned that it provides me with inspiration, a renewed faith in my fellow man, and a strong confidence in the future of agriculture and of Farm Bureau. With these kind of leaders in our industry and in our organization, we just can't go wrong."

Smith named to trade group

MFB President, Elton R. Smith, has been appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee on Fruits and Vegetables for Trade Negotiations by Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz and Ambassador Frederick B. Dent, special representative for trade negotiations.

The Ford administration has set-up panels of agricultural advisors to assist U.S. Representatives during multi-lateral trade negotiations in Geneva, the first since 1967.

The advisory committee will provide detailed technical advice and information to U.S. negotiators on tariffs and non-tariff trade issues affecting both domestic and foreign commodities which may arise during the negotiations.

"These trade negotiations involve more countries and a broader range of issues than any previous negotiations," Secretary Butz said.

"U.S. farmers have an important stake in the outcome of these negotiations," Secretary Butz added. "We expect farm exports this year to total around \$22 billion, providing one dollar in every four of farmers' income from marketing. For some commodities, such as wheat, rice and soybeans, exports provide half of farmers' returns. The negotiations must assure the U.S. farmer continued and improved access to overseas markets."

Other Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees have been established for cotton, dairy, grain

and feed, livestock and livestock products, oilseeds, poultry and eggs, and tobacco.

Two other Michigan agricultural leaders also have been named to technical advisory committees. They are Glenn H. Lake, president of Michigan Milk Producers Association and Robert C. Frohling, executive secretary of the National Red Cherry Institute.

Farmers wanted in Peace Corps

Currently Farm Bureau has a unique opportunity not only to perform a worthwhile service for our nation but to carry out Farm Bureau policy as well, says Seeley G. Lodwick, AFBF government relations director.

In approaching the "World Food Crisis" problem, Farm Bureau has stated that one thrust should be to assist developing nations help themselves. One of the most effective means to power this thrust is to have competent U.S. citizens work in the developing countries.

Peace Corps, an agency of the U. S. government, has a growing need for competent persons, regardless of age, to undertake agricultural assignments in developing countries. Areas of needed expertise vary from agronomy to veterinary medicine with all combinations in between. The 55 geographic areas vary from Afghanistan to Venezuela.

Delegates Request Study

At the December, 1973 annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau, voting delegates passed a resolution to insure the future growth of their organization. They requested the appointment of a special study committee to: review programs and recommend adjustments, analyze membership make-up of Farm Bureau and chart future membership goals, and develop a financial plan that

New estate tax law urged in Congress

Important legislation to reform outdated federal Estate Tax Law has been introduced by Michigan Congressmen Guy VanderJagt (R-Luther) and Robert Traxler (D-Bay City). Congressman VanderJagt is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over federal Estate Tax legislation.

The legislation would increase the federal Estate Tax personal exemption to \$200,000 and the marital deduction to \$100,000 plus 50 percent of the total value of the estate. It would also provide the heirs to an estate the option of

having the property appraised at its value for farmland rather than highest potential use.

Current Estate Tax exemptions were set in 1942. Inflation, along with increases in size of farm and nonfarm estates, has seriously outdated the current exemptions when compared to 1975 standards. The current personal exemption is \$60,000 and the marital deduction is 50 percent of the adjusted gross value of the estate. Appraisal of the estate is currently made at the market value, which is generally the highest potential use, rather than actual use.

Member to member

Asparagus offered

Fresh asparagus will be offered to counties in the Farm Bureau "Member to Member" program this May, says James Lincoln, MACMA staff member and coordinator of the program. Complete details have been sent to all county offices.

The decision to offer asparagus was made when it became clear that new markets were needed this year for Michigan asparagus.

In the past, processors took most of the asparagus, but this year, some processors may not be buying and the acreage for harvest is larger.

According to Lincoln, Michigan snapped asparagus will be graded so that nearly all will be tender and usable. "This high quality asparagus will be excellent for home freezing," says Lincoln.

Only snapped asparagus will be used to insure quality. The best asparagus will be selected for hydrocooling and packing, then shipped to counties on refrigerated trucks.

The asparagus will be packed in cases of approximately 20 pounds. The shipping period is expected to be from May 15 to May 30.



Guy VanderJagt [R-Luther]



Robert Traxler [D-Bay City]

Support Study Committee

The delegates at our 1973 annual meeting foresaw challenges in the future which would require a strong farm organization to answer those challenges. They asked for a study of our Farm Bureau to assure that it would remain strong and viable. The result was the comprehensive State Study Committee report featured in this month's Farm News, a report painstakingly developed by a highly-competent committee. They were an aggressive committee with a great deal of foresight and confidence in their organization and its farm leadership.

Their report has been reviewed and accepted by our state board of directors with only a very few minor adjustments. All of us were impressed with the dedicated, professional manner in which the committee completed their in-depth study.

PROJECT '75 — BUILDING FOR '76 AND BEYOND

But each State Study Committee member was well aware that the real test of their efforts would be your acceptance of their package of recommendations. They have aptly called this package, "Project '75-Building for '76 and Beyond," because it charts what they believe is the right course for a strong Farm Bureau in the future. Each recommendation was drafted with the knowledge that our organization's strength lies in strong county Farm Bureaus and their leadership.

The question the committee faced was not so much if their report was accepted, but how it was accepted. The success of "Project 75-Building for '76 and Beyond" will be determined by attitudes—your attitudes.

You can accept the report with a negative attitude "Looks good on paper, but it will never work." "Too much effort—not enough time." If the report is accepted with that kind of attitude, it is doomed to failure. As we think, so shall it be—is a truism if there ever was one!

You can accept the report with an APATHETIC ATTITUDE "We're the top state in the nation now—why tamper with a good thing?" "Let's rest on our laurels for awhile." "We've been growing for eight straight years—why worry about the future?" If the report is accepted with that kind of attitude, nothing will happen. No one will take the torch and run to win the race. Apathy and strength are incompatible.

ACCENT ON THE MEMBER

The package they have presented to us puts the accent where it belongs—on the member! Programs which stimulate member-involvement, that will develop leadership potential, and economic services to attract new members.

In any building project, we get out of it what we put into it. The State Study Committee has drawn us a blueprint for building. It calls for the best materials and the best workmanship.

With these, the "house" we build will stand strong and proud, a fortress against all the forces that threaten our chosen way of life.

I hope your decision will be to accept the report with a positive attitude. "Yes, we are proud of our organization and its award-winning status in the AFBF, and we are determined to remain worthy of the image we now enjoy." "Yes, we are proud of our past achievements and we will work to give our Farm Bureau the strength needed to meet the challenges ahead."

It will be your enthusiastic, positive support of this package that will accomplish what the voting delegates asked for in 1973—a strong, viable Farm Bureau in the future.

Letter

Press knocked

Dear Farm News,

Read Donna's article in the April Farm News, on Farm Bureau people condemning the public press. I would like to list just one incident, as to why we feel this way.

There are many cases, but I will stick to just this one. ITEM: March 11 National Enquirer headlines "MILK IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF DEATH FROM HEART ATTACK . . ." In reading the article the phrase was described as a doctor's WARNING rather than fact per se, or that the second line said, "But there's a simple way you can make it safe."

The fact remained that most persons passing through check-out counters in supermarkets read the headlines and noted that "the doctor's warning" was backed by a "Harvard Medical school chief." I personally wrote a letter to Glen Lake, President of Michigan Milk Producers Association. He took the time and trouble to follow this through and returned me a copy of FOCUS which got to the bottom of this mess.

The Harvard chief, Dr. Kurt Isselbacher, head of Harvard Medical School's Department of Medicine says he has NEVER MADE SUCH A STATEMENT AS

WAS CREDITED TO HIM . . . nor had he spoken to the National Enquirer at all.

The National Dairy Council was deluged with letters -- The nation's leading research scientists and prominent research institutions have rejected the xanthine oxidase story. There is no data that xanthine oxidase is absorbed.

The National Enquirer quoted researchers at the Rush Medical School in Chicago as backing the hypothesis. A request for an interview with the National Enquirer by the National Dairy Council was refused on the basis that no data was available. Furthermore, work done at Rush involves the nervous system and has nothing to do with milk.

The National Enquirer sells newspapers, but they do the consumer a great disservice. Milk is still a highly nutritional and health giving food. Not many of us really take the time to pin these false stories down, but every so often we turn our disgust into effort. I would say this case in point is "MISINFORMATION". Thank you for your time.

Mrs Mary Satchell Caro

Drew to retire

More than 20 years of service on the staff of Michigan Farm Bureau will come to a close May 1 with the retirement of Marlie Drew, Manager of Member Services.

Marlie's association with Farm Bureau actually goes back before 1954 when he joined MFB's staff as a regional representative for the Thumb region. In the early '40's he was chairman, vice chairman and discussion leader of his Community Group. Later he served on the county board of directors and was named county president of St. Joseph County Farm Bureau. In 1953 he was named to the MFB resolutions committee.

After becoming Thumb regional representative Marlie went on to become one of MFB's most widely traveled regional representatives, serving every region of the state at one time or other during the next dozen years.



Marlie Drew

It was in 1966 that Marlie came into MFB's home office to become coordinator of county Farm Bureau offices, a position he held until 1973 when he assumed his present role.

Well known by MFB members throughout the state, Marlie's service to Farm Bureau will be missed but not forgotten.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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OFFICERS: Michigan Farm Bureau: President, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; Vice President, Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, R-1; Administrative Director, Robert Branden, Lansing; Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Max D. Dean; Secretary, William S. Wilkinson.

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DIRECTORS AT LARGE: Walter Frahm, Frankenmuth; James L. Sayre, Belleville; Gerald Elenbaum, Owendale.

WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU: Mrs. Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, R-1.

FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS: Gary Nye, Hillsdale.

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Farm Bureau

DONNA
Bits and pieces

When you're keyed to deadlines, it sometimes seems like creative paralysis sets in without a target date or time. This is an occupational characteristic, I'm sure, since the Kreative Kooks with whom I share office space are also motivated by deadlines.

In our group, we have daily, weekly, monthly and yearly deadlines -- all firm ones, not flexible. To my knowledge, we've never missed one even though it might take an occasional 18-hour day to meet it. It's sort of a "neither rain nor snow nor sleet, etc" situation--and an April blizzard came along this year to test and find us true. . . .

The storm was ferocious enough to close Farm Bureau Center--but there were still those deadlines to meet. So some of us walked, others shoveled and pushed their vehicles to the main drag. Before the day was over, the deadline-beaters were on the job.

Not that we expect any medals for our valour, but if you happen to meet one along the way, a pat on the head and a "Well done, good and faithful fellow" would be nice. We're easy to recognize--dark circles under bleary eyes, jerky movements, the last person in line at the auto license counter on the last day . . .

Why am I telling you all this? Well, the deadline for the Farm News is today, April 16. I've been up most of the night getting my income tax done and I don't have anything to say that would fit the standards of a family publication

It was difficult, when recording minutes for the State Study Committee, not to stand up and do a cheer when they developed their recommendation for emphasis on Community Groups. As a long-time booster of that program, I was "brought up" believing that's where Farm Bureau is really at!

One of the Study Committee members is also a very effective press agent for the Apple Knockers Group in Benzie County. When she heard we were looking for a Community Group to star in a slide-tape show, she convinced us that the Apple Knockers could fill the bill.

She was right! Lively, knowledgeable, concerned young couples make up this group and they were a delight to fit into a script explaining the what, why and how of a Community Farm Bureau Group.

The name of the presentation is "Where the Action Is" and indeed, that's where it is!

How appropriate it is to have the kick-off of Farm Bureau's involvement in our country's bicentennial held in conjunction with the Special Delegate Session on June 28.

Marking 200 years of agriculture really gives us something to crow about. Add to this the fact that our organization stands out as holding strong to the beliefs set forth in the Constitution--and you have what is called "a natural."

It provides us with an opportunity for not only active involvement in this important celebration, but leadership that others don't have the structure or basic philosophy to provide. After all, those original Minutemen were farmers . . . a proud heritage!

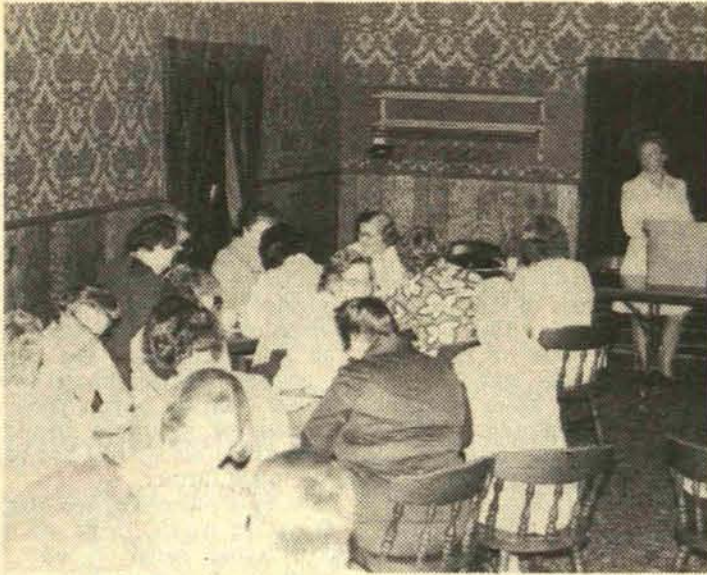
MOVING?

Planning to move? Let us know 8 weeks in advance so you won't miss a single issue of the Michigan Farm News. Attach old label and print new address in space provided. Mail to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
County of Membership _____

At legislative workshops

Government is studied



Nancy Geiger, district three State Women's Committee member, welcomes over 50 women to April 14 Women's Legislative Workshop at Kalamazoo. The workshop centered on legislative issues with Farm Bureau legislative counsel Al Almy a featured speaker.

A.I.C. to meet at M.S.U.

On July 28-31, 1975 Michigan cooperatives and Michigan State University will host the American Institute of Cooperation (AIC) national meeting on the MSU campus in East Lansing.

The program will include information on Capper-Volstead Act, internal and external issues which challenge cooperatives, nationally known speakers and entertainment. It is estimated that attendance will include 1500 adults, 1000 youth, and 500 young farmers from 45 states.

The program has been designed for the following groups for the approximate cost as indicated:

1. Managers, directors and members of cooperatives with special programs for wives - \$45 per person plus room and meals.
2. Young farm couples, active in farming - \$175 per couple, or \$110 per single person. This cost includes all conference costs.
3. Youth, 17 and 18 years old - \$80 per person which includes all conference costs.

The American Institute of Cooperation was organized in 1925 as a University without a campus. The central purpose of AIC is to serve as a national educational and research organization for farmer cooperatives. AIC is a non-profit organization which brings together the financial and human resources of cooperatives and farm organizations, to work with other groups interested in improving the economic and social well-being of rural Americans.

Cooperatives and county Farm Bureaus desiring to sponsor someone to the meeting should contact Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives, P. O. Box 960, Lansing, Mich. 48904 for appropriate application forms.



Leonard E. Ekema

Contest notes top farmers

Michigan Farm News is proud to begin featuring Farmers of the Week, a weekly award sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group and Michigan Farm Radio Network.

Recipients are selected on the basis of the quality of their farming operation and their contribution to the agricultural community. Nominations are made by Michigan farm organizations such as Michigan Milk Producer's Association, Michigan Livestock Exchange, Michigan Potato

Council as well as Farm Bureau Insurance Agents.

Selection is made each week by representatives from Michigan Farm Radio Network and Farm Bureau Insurance Group. Awardees are announced each Monday morning on the statewide Farm Calendar Program.

The Farmer of the Week is presented a personalized certificate and a 12 digit hand calculator by his local Farm Bureau Insurance Group agent.

F.B.S. driver recognized

Leonard E. Ekema of Kalamazoo was recently recognized in the "Driver of the Year" program by the Michigan Trucking Association. He received an award before a statewide audience in Lansing for his over 2,000,000 miles of driving without an accident.

As a driver for Farm Bureau Services, Inc. for the past 28 years, Ekema works out of the company's Distribution Center in Jenison, Michigan. In 1964, he was the

subject of a magazine article in "Michigan Trucking Today" for logging the equivalent of over 365 trips across the United States without an accident. In 1971, he was cited by the Indiana State Police for his help in a serious accident.

Ekema credits part of his successful record to "keeping the equipment in good shape and doing my job right."

Ekema and his wife, Katherine and four children reside on Owen Drive in Kalamazoo.

farmers of the week

QUALITY FARMING OPERATIONS • AGRICULTURAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Hugo Schwab

600 acre Bay County dairy farm; County FB president; operation; past township supervisor; served on Standish Michigan Community Hospital Advisory Committee; Bay County Sparta school board; zoning and planning member since 1972.



Leroy Klein

700 acre Kent County cattle feeding operation; Kent County dairy and general farming; past president, Macomb Michigan Livestock County FB; farm administration board member; Rich- zond library board.



W. Arthur Rowley

F.B.S. acquires phosphate bed

Michigan farmers will benefit from CF Industries' recent acquisition of a high-grade phosphate bed in central Florida.

CF Industries is a fertilizer-producing company owned by Farm Bureau Services and 18 other regional supply cooperatives.

Production from the new reserve is dedicated 100 percent to cooperative farmer patrons in North America. In announcing the acquisition, a CF Industries spokesman said, "At present, CF purchases all of its phosphate rock requirements. The need to expand phosphate production and recent developments in the phosphate mining industry prompted the acquisition which should assure an economical and reliable future supply of this vital raw material. The U.S. and world price of phosphate rock has increased several fold in recent months, accompanied by tight supply and declining quality."



Ronald A. Weig

250 acre Macomb County dairy farm; Macomb County FB board; Mich. Animal Breeders Co-op board; Macomb County Soil Conservation board.



Paul B. Bixby

335 acre Berrien County fruit orchard; County FB president; member of FB natural resources advisory committee; active in school activities and County youth fair.

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8 1/2%	10 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
9%	15 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
8 3/4%	10 Year Maturity	\$1,000.00 Minimum Purchase
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Interest paid annually on September 1st. The purchaser to be offered the option to receive their interest in quarterly payments on September 1st, December 1st, March 1st, and June 1st. Interest would start the date of purchase.

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

Clip and mail this coupon to: Mr. C. A. Morrill, Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., P. O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904



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

Name _____
 Road _____ RFD No. _____
 City _____ County _____
 Phone _____

CAPITOL REPORT

Business privilege tax

Robert E. Smith



BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX - H.B. 4640: The House Taxation Committee held a public hearing in Lansing on April 17 for testimony on the affect of the Business Privilege Tax.

This tax will affect all types of business in Michigan extending from the largest corporation down to professional people, businesses on main street service businesses and farmers, at the rate of two percent. The bill would also repeal six different taxes presently on business. None of the taxes to be repealed are presently paid by farmers. A fifteen thousand dollar exemption is in the legislation which through a formula would be eliminated as the gross income increases. The exemption would be eliminated at sixty thousand dollars.

The farmer would figure his tax by taking his net income, adding to it the amount of money that he pays for wages to hire labor including the cost of fringe benefits such as workmen's compensation, social security, etc. He would also add the interest cost on debt that he may have in his business. These plus other minor amounts would become the base on which the two percent would be paid. He would be permitted, however, to deduct from that base 100 percent of any investment or capital outlay he may have made. He would also be permitted to deduct from his personal income tax "reasonable" retained earnings. This would be determined from a balance sheet

and normally called "cash on hand" for farm business generally speaking, an amount allocated in a separate checking account to cover current cash farm expenses. The tax would be payable quarterly. It is entirely possible that there could be no profit or income for the year and yet have a Business Privilege Tax to pay.

It is estimated that the amount of new state revenue that would result from agriculture may be somewhere between six hundred thousand and a million and a half dollars. The problem is that more than half of that amount would come from fruit farmers who have large labor costs and borrow large amounts of money for production expenses. The problem also is that while this approach may not affect most farmers, those that it does affect can be subject to considerably higher taxes.

Farm Bureau, in testimony prepared for the hearing, pointed out many of these problems to the committee and said that in a survey of a variety of farmers that not one was favorable to the concept even though in many cases they would stand to gain. Farm Bureau testimony pointed out that most every other business would be able to pass on any additional tax in the form of higher prices. However, farmers would not be able to do this as they do not have control over the prices they receive and also those prices are presently on a down-ward skid.

Farm Bureau testimony also stated that farmers:

Fear that once this new additional tax is established the rate will continue to rise.

Find it difficult to understand why they must pay taxes on wages and fringe benefits when they create jobs and hire people to fill them.

Fear the possibility of a major tax burden even during years of loss when the farm family does not have sufficient income for its needs.

The testimony further pointed out that the additional paperwork would be a burden as farmers do not have accounting offices, computers and other such help.

Farm Bureau pointed to the present "cost-price squeeze" and the fact that farmers have additional risks that do not affect other types of business such as loss of crops due to excessive wet weather, drought, hail, frost, wind, etc. etc.

Farm Bureau is meeting with the House Taxation Committee at each of its meetings when this issue is discussed. It is likely that the bill will receive considerable revision before it is acted upon.

Testimony at the first hearing, however, showed strong opposition by many kinds of business. The fact of life is that the state must find additional sources of revenue and if this bill is defeated, then other means will be tried to increase various taxes in order to balance the state budget.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

H.B. 4129 has now passed both houses and goes to the Governor for his signature. This bill was necessary in order to meet new federal uniform standards on butter fat and solids in milk. Unless it was passed, Michigan milk producers would not be able to ship milk outside of the state, but out of state producers meeting the federal standards would be able to ship their products into the state. The bill also sets up requirements for the dating of milk in stores and lowers storage temperatures in the store from 50° to 45°.

H.B. 4936 has just been introduced by Rep. Porter (D Quincy) and others. The bill is identical to one that passed the Senate last year and would increase the indemnification of cattle affected with tuberculosis from the present \$100 and \$150 to \$250 and \$300. It would further increase the payments for bangs disease in cattle from the present \$50 and \$100 to \$100 and \$150. In addition to the state payment for these diseases, there is also a federal payment to the farmer. The bill increases payments somewhere in line with increasing values.

S.B. 205 introduced by Sen. Welborn (R Kalamazoo) has received favorable action by the Senate Agriculture Committee. It has been sent to the Appropriations Committee. It would provide for state indemnification of animals which may be contaminated by

some source requiring a quarantine or condemnation. It provides that whenever there is a person or persons responsible for the contamination, the state through the attorney general would recover from the person, persons, company or insurance company involved the money that has been paid to the farmer.

S.B. 20 introduced by Sen. Hertel (D Harper Woods) in its original form would have limited corporations of various kinds from owning more than 2000 acres of land. A substitute bill has been prepared which would prohibit a domestic or foreign corporation from "directly or indirectly engaging in agricultural enterprise in this state." One hearing has been held on the bill with action delayed until a future date. It is generally agreed that this is no problem in Michigan at the present time. As a matter of fact, the percentage of corporations involved in farming throughout the entire United States is less than one percent. This has been the case for many years.

H.B. 4795 introduced by Rep. VanSingel (R Grant) and sixteen others provides for a special fee of \$15.00 for farm trucks used only for the purpose of "transporting field crops from the field where they are produced to the place of storage." Farm Bureau helped write this bill. Many producers of potatoes, beets, vegetables, etc. have additional trucks that are usually old and used only for very limited

(Please turn to page 11)

PA 116 forms now available

Below is a reprint of three of the four pages (the fourth page asks for and provides space for a sketch of the farm) of the official application forms for PA 116, Farm Land and Open Space Preservation Act. These forms should be distributed soon to local units of government such as townships,

county equalization departments, and other local governmental units. Farm Bureau offices will also have a supply. It may be that Extension offices, banks, etc. will also have these forms.

Final approval of the rules and regulations was given by the legislature on March 11 with the

requirement that they be sent to the Governor and then to the Secretary of the State. This was completed about April 12.

The official brochure on PA 116 was reprinted in the December issue of the MICHIGAN FARM NEWS. Anyone wishing copies of

that brochure may have it by writing Public Affairs Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, Post Office 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Information can also be obtained by writing directly to the Land Use Office, Department of Natural Resources, Stevens T. Mason Building, Lansing,

Michigan 48926, Telephone: 517-373-3328.

Many county Farm Bureau groups have sponsored county-wide information meetings on this Act. Meetings have also been sponsored by legislators, local officials, Extension and others.

Office of Land Use
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

APPLICATION FOR FARMLAND AGREEMENT

(Act No. 116 of the Public Acts of 1974, Section 5. Please read the Land Eligibility Requirements and Instructions before filling out this form. Please print or type. Attach additional sheets as needed.)

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
Local Governing Body:
Date Received: _____
Application No.: _____
Date Received: _____
Application No.: _____

1. Personal Information:
1.) Name(s) of Applicant (Owner of Record) Last First Initial
Spouse's Name Last First Initial
2.) Mailing address: Street City State Zip Code
3.) Telephone Number: (Area Code) _____
4.) Social Security Number _____ Spouse's Social Security Number _____
5.) Federal Employer Identification Number (if applicable): _____

II. Property Location: (Can be taken from the deed.)
6.) County: _____ (7.) Township, city or village: _____
8.) Section No.: _____ Town Number: _____ Range: _____

III. Legal Information:
9.) Attach a copy of the deed title, (may be a photo copy).
10.) Attach a copy of the most recent property tax assessment notice or tax bill (may be a photo copy).
11.) Is there a tax lien against the land described above: Yes or No.
If yes, please explain circumstances:
12.) Does the applicant own the mineral rights: Yes or No; if owned by the applicant, are the mineral rights leased: Yes or No.
Indicate who owns or is leasing the mineral rights if other than applicant:
Name the types of mineral(s) involved:
13.) Is land cited in the application subject to a lease agreement (other than for mineral rights) permitting a use for something other than for agricultural purposes: Yes No.
If yes, indicate to whom, for what purposes and the number of acres involved:
14.) Is land being purchased under land contract: Yes No.
If yes, indicate the vendor (seller):
Name: _____
Mailing address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Act No. 116 of the Public Acts of 1974 states that the vendor (seller) must agree to allow the land cited in the application into the program. Please have the vendor sign below.

I, the undersigned, understand and agree to permit the land cited in this application into the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act of 1974.

Signature _____

15.) If the applicant is one of the following, please check the appropriate space and complete the following information (not applicable to an individual not meeting one of the categories - please leave blank):
____ Corporation _____ Business Trust _____ Estate
____ Trust _____ Partnership _____ Association
____ 2 or more persons having a joint or common interest in the land
If the applicant fits into a category listed above, please list the following: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer or present income beneficiaries:
Name: _____ Title _____
Mailing address: _____ Street City State Zip Code
Name: _____ Title _____
Mailing address: _____ Street City State Zip Code
Name: _____ Title _____
Mailing address: _____ Street City State Zip Code
(Additional names may be attached on a separate sheet.)

IV. Land Eligibility Qualifications: (Check one and fill out correct section or sections)
This application is for:
____ a. a farm of 40 acres or more, complete only section (16);
____ b. a farm of 5 acres or more but less than 40 acres, complete only sections (16) and (17); or
____ c. a specialty farm, complete only sections (16) and (18).

16.) (a.) Type of agricultural enterprise (e.g., livestock, cash crops, etc.): _____
(b.) Total number of acres of the farm: _____
(c.) Total number of acres in application (if less than (b)): _____
(d.) Acreage in cultivation: _____
(e.) Acreage in grassland: _____
(f.) Acreage in woodland: _____
(g.) Indicate structures on the property. (If more than one building, indicate the number of buildings.)
No. buildings: _____ Residence: _____ Barn: _____ Tool Shed: _____
Silo: _____ Grain Storage facility: _____ Grain drying facility: _____
Poultry house: _____ Milking parlor: _____ Milk house: _____
Other: (Indicate) _____
(h.) Please draw a map (sketch) of the property, showing boundaries, structures and natural or man-made features such as lakes, ponds, swamps, streams and rivers, woodlots, roads or gravel pits, etc. (Use space provided on page 4, or attach a separate drawing.)

17.) To qualify as agricultural land of 5 acres or more but less than 40 acres, the land must meet certain minimum income requirements (see definition on farmland (1) (2) and (1) (1-3) on the Land Eligibility Requirements information sheet).
What is the average gross annual income per acre of cleared and tillable land during 2 of the last 3 years immediately preceding application from the sale of agricultural products:
\$ _____ (per acre)

18.) To qualify as a specialty farm, the land must meet certain minimum income and land size requirements (See definition of farmland (1) (2) and (1) (1-3) on the Land Eligibility Requirements information sheet). If a specialty farm, indicate average gross annual income during 2 of the last 3 years immediately preceding application from the sale of agricultural products:
\$ _____

V. Signature:
19.) The undersigned declares that this application, including any accompanying informational material, has been examined by him and to the best of his knowledge and belief is true and correct.
Signature of applicant: _____ (Indicate name if applicable)
Signature of Corporation (if applicable): _____
(Date) _____ (Year) _____

RESERVED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Action by Local Governing Body: _____ Jurisdiction: _____ (County, township, city or village)
Date received by clerk: _____
Extension of time with applicant's consent: _____ (Date) _____ (Year of date)
This application is _____ approved _____ rejected.
(If rejected, see attached statement by Local Governing Body.)
Date of approval or rejection: _____
Clerk's signature and seal: _____

If rejected, written statement of reason must be attached to application and returned to the applicant. If local governing body has written statement regarding approval, that may also be attached together with all written comments from reviewing agencies. If approved, send the application and all supporting materials from reviewing agencies on to the Office of Land Use, Department of Natural Resources, 7th Floor, Stevens T. Mason Building, Lansing, Michigan 48926.
(NOTE: Clerk - Please attach a list of all reviewing agencies with their mailing address and the name of the local assessor and his mailing address.)

Action by the State: Date received: _____
Extension of time with applicant's consent: _____ (Date) _____ (Year of date)
This application is _____ approved _____ rejected.
(If rejected, see attached statement by the State.)
Date of approval or rejection: _____
State Tax Commission Property Appraisal: The current fair market value of the real property included in this application has been determined to be \$ _____
Date: _____

NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

Consumer bill here again

Congressional action on H.R. 4296 - Emergency Farm Program Legislation - has progressed very rapidly. The bill has been given initial approval by both the House and Senate. It would raise target prices and loan rates for wheat, corn and feed grains, reestablish a loan rate for soybeans, and increase the milk support price with quarterly adjustments. The bill also contains provisions relating to cotton.

As passed by the House and Senate, there were several differences between the two versions. The bill was, therefore, sent to a House-Senate Conference Committee for consideration to reconcile the differences.

Typical of the rapid movement of the bill in both the House and the Senate, the conferees on April 15 reached agreement on their differences. The bill, as agreed to by the conferees, is almost identical to the House-passed version. It contains the following provisions for 1975 crops only:

1. Wheat would have a target price of \$3.10 per bushel and a loan rate of \$2.50 per bushel.
2. Corn and feed grains would have a target price of \$2.25 per bushel and a loan rate of \$1.87 per bushel.
3. Producer loans on soybeans would be reestablished at levels reflecting the historical average relationship to corn support levels during the immediately preceding three years. This would currently approximate \$3.94 per bushel.
4. Dairy price supports would be set at 80 percent of parity through March 31, 1976, with quarterly adjustments.

The House and Senate are expected to have considered the conference version of H.R. 4296 by the time this issue of the Michigan Farm News is published. Many observers are predicting that if the conference version is approved and sent to the White House a Presidential veto will be forthcoming. Should a veto occur, the bill will then go back to Congress for a vote to determine whether or not the veto can be sustained.

The initial bill passed the House by a 259-162 vote, which is 31 votes short of a two-thirds majority needed to override a veto. The Senate passed the bill by a 57-25 vote, which is nine votes short of the two-thirds necessary to override a veto.

Farm Bureau continues to oppose H.R. 4296. Delegates to the AFBF convention last January adopted policy in opposition to target prices and high loan rates. This policy was based on the recognition that target prices are, in reality, compensatory payments in disguise. The compensatory payment approach, especially when set at high levels as provided in H.R. 4296, encourages farmers to produce for the government incentive rather than market incentives. Under this condition, large stockpiles of grain would develop and be transferred into government hands. Such stockpiles would return agriculture to a period of depressed domestic prices, return farmers to being dependent upon the government for a substantial portion of their income, and lead to production controls.

With regard to the dairy support provision in H.R. 4296, Farm Bureau does not dispute the need for quarterly adjustments, but policy recommends a continuation of the now-expired provision in the Agricultural Act of 1973, which required that manufacturing milk be supported at not less than 80 percent nor more than 90 percent of parity. The provision in H.R. 4296 legislatively increases the minimum price support level and is not consistent with Farm Bureau policy, which favors greater flexibility in establishing the support price.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

A perennial bill that has come close to enactment during previous sessions of Congress has now surfaced before the 94th Congress. This legislation would create an independent Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA) for the purpose of representing consumer interests before federal agencies and courts and to perform other functions to protect and promote the interests of consumers.

The current ACA bill is S. 200. It has been reported by the Senate

Committee on Government Operations and at this writing is awaiting consideration by the full Senate. Similar legislation passed the House last year by a wide margin, but a filibuster by opponents prevented Senate passage before the 93rd Congress adjourned.

The power of the ACA to intervene as a consumer advocate would apply to proceedings of all federal agencies except the National Security Agency, FBI, CIA, National Security Functions of the Departments of State and Defense, and Military Weapons

Programs of the Energy Research and Development Administration. Also exempted from ACA intervention are labor disputes and labor agreements.

The potential impact of the ACA would be serious to proceedings of USDA. An estimated 75 formal proceedings (marketing orders, meat inspection, grain standards, etc.) and 156 informal proceedings (meat imports, disaster loans, resource conservation, etc.) of USDA would be open to ACA intervention.

(Continued from page 7)

needed to serve a modern, progressive agriculture, we must be prepared to provide substantial salaries and attractive benefits. We recommend that necessary steps be taken to establish a salary and benefit criteria of a standard that will assure that the Michigan Farm Bureau is staffed with the best possible people.

Group Purchasing Program

We must expand on the number and quality of visible and specific services provided to county Farm Bureau members. Real money-in-the-pocket services are a clear demonstration to members that their organization is worthy of continued support.

In our examination of service-to-member programs in other states, we have been impressed with the benefits to members and in membership acquisition that are derived through the Safemark group purchasing program. As a benefit to members only, the program has brought many members into other state Farm Bureaus and has saved their members many times the cost of their annual dues.

Our committee did take into consideration the fact that Michigan is a co-op state and that similar products are available through our affiliate companies. However, if these same items can be provided at a lower cost to our members through a group purchasing program, we believe it is in keeping with Farm Bureau's philosophy of good competition and recommend that it be given top priority consideration.

Open Blue Cross-Blue Shield and Membership Classification

The classification of members, especially in the area of eligibility for Blue Cross-Blue Shield, has long been an area of controversy and concern for county Farm Bureau boards. We believe by opening the service to all Farm Bureau members, this concern, and a major cause of misclassification, would be eliminated. Therefore, we recommend that BC-BS be opened to all Farm Bureau members. WITH PROPER UNDERWRITING SAFEGUARDS.

Upon acceptance of our recommendation for open Blue Cross-Blue Shield, we encourage adherence to the present membership definition of Regular members, and the elimination of the various categories under Associate classification, so that members are either Regular or Associate.

Dues Notices Mailed From State Office

There may be definite economic and time-saving advantages for county Farm Bureaus to have their dues notices sent from the state office direct to members. We do feel it is important that the dues by returned to the county Farm Bureaus rather than to the state office. This contact between the member and his county organization is vital and should be maintained. We recommend this service be offered to county Farm Bureaus.

MACMA Divisions

In our evaluation of existing programs, we asked ourselves: Are they providing a real service to members? Should they be expanded? Or would it be economically astute to eliminate them? This evaluation resulted in recommendations regarding three of MACMA's Divisions. First, we recommend that the Michigan Farm Bureau should not use membership money for further cost-share assistance to the Order Buyer, Feeder Cattle or Feeder Pig Divisions.

We also recommend that MACMA board give serious consideration to the discontinuance of the Order Buyer Division and Feeder Cattle Program, and added emphasis on the Feeder Pig program.

Because supply has not been available from Farm Bureau members in supply states in adequate numbers and quality needed, the Order Buyer Division has not been supported by the members in Michigan for whom it was developed. Consequently, the Division has never experienced a year when fees from the program paid the costs and it is not expected to break even in 1975.

Due to the very high expenses involved in handling a small volume of business, it appears to be unfeasible to

continue operating the Cattle Feeder Division as it has been functioning. A locally-managed service on a co-op basis and/or a listing service could replace it.

The Feeder Pig Division appears to have a reasonable opportunity to grow and prosper in the number of members served and in the value of services provided.

Farm Bureau Membership Requirement

The Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors and all affiliate company boards of directors should take all steps possible to encourage affiliate company members, patrons and policy-holders to be members of Michigan Farm Bureau. We recommend that all future Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate company programs and services offered must carry a Farm Bureau membership requirement.

Additional Economic Services

Valuable economic services are a prerequisite to continued membership growth. We recommend that the board of directors direct the management of Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliate companies to develop additional economic services for members only that will benefit the organization and its members.

A Financial Plan

In our search for a financial plan to insure the viability of our organization, we explored all possible methods of securing income for both the county and state Farm Bureaus. Inflation has caused the organization serious financial problems on both the state and county levels. These problems would exist even if the Michigan Farm Bureau would stay at status-quo, without expansion of any programs. Projections indicate that if no changes are made, our present reserves of nearly one million dollars would be used up in the next four years. On the county level, there is much concern that inflation has caused county Farm Bureaus to cut programs. We cannot allow this to continue.

After a painstakingly thorough study of the need for a sound financial base for our county and state Farm Bureaus, our committee recommends a membership dues increase of \$5 each year for the next three years, with proportion of each yearly increase set at \$3 for the Michigan Farm Bureau and \$2 for the county Farm Bureau. The reason for the \$5-\$5-\$5 recommendation was based on our strong belief that continued membership growth each year is vital, the current state of our economy, and the time needed to implement new programs and economic services.

We also recommend an increase in the promotional fees paid by our affiliates to the Michigan Farm Bureau for services rendered. Legitimate promotional services rendered by the Michigan Farm Bureau staff, directors, leaders and members far exceed the fees currently being paid by the affiliates.

We also believe that upward adjustments should be made in the reimbursements paid by the Insurance Company to office counties for services and facilities, with consideration also given to non-office counties for promotional services rendered.

County Farm Bureaus can do much to insure their own financial viability by following efficient, economical administrative procedures, by evaluating the needs of their members, and developing budgets to carry out programs designed to meet those particular needs. To reduce county overhead in office counties and to provide additional revenue to non-office counties, county leaders should consider the merger of existing offices and creation of multi-county office facilities where there are none in existence. Care must be taken to maintain the autonomy of individual county Farm Bureaus.

During our study, we observed the use of governmental and foundation grants used to benefit Farm Bureau members and we believe our Michigan Farm Bureau board should consider the use of such funds.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the study, feel free to contact your district director or State Study Committee member. We'll do our best to answer your inquiries.

We look forward to seeing you at the Special Delegate Session on June 28.

Study committee

By Michael Pridgeon, Chairman
Michigan Farm Bureau State Study Committee

The purpose of Michigan Farm Bureau is to serve the needs of farmers. That purpose does not change, but the needs of farmers do and so must the methods of achieving that purpose. Forward-looking delegates at the 1973 Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting recognized this and that's why they asked for this study.

We must maintain a strong and aggressive Farm Bureau to serve a modern agriculture and the families involved in this vital industry. Innovative programs which will stimulate member-involvement, and tangible services which are of real economic value to members must be offered.

Our committee believes that the recommendations we have developed will assure the continued growth and viability of our Farm Bureau. Each one was carefully studied, discussed, debated, and prayerfully approached before we began the task of building our decisions into firm recommendations.

None of us, I'm sure, regret the time and effort this study took. Our understanding and appreciation of our Farm Bureau Family has grown; our horizons of the future have broadened, and our faith in ourselves and our organization to meet the challenges ahead has been strengthened by our experiences.

Because each of us on the committee has a strong tie to his own county Farm Bureau unit, the accent and major concern throughout the study was at the grass-roots of our organization. It was there that the request for the study originated and where we went for help in charting the future course of our Farm Bureau. It was back to the counties where we took our recommendations upon completion of the study for its acceptance—and where it will go for implementation.

It is this grass-roots process which will assure the success of "Building for '76 and Beyond."

Membership Make-Up

The primary purpose of Farm Bureau should be to serve the needs of active, producing farmers. However, in serving these needs, we will undoubtedly develop policies and establish programs and services which will attract some non-farm people to our organization. We should welcome the support of non-farm people who wish to join our farm organization and support the policies which are set forth by our farmer-members.

The authority and responsibility for determining who shall be a member and the classification of membership should remain with the county Farm Bureau boards. The right to vote in Farm Bureau should continue to be limited to Regular members. We further endorse the policy of determining the number of voting delegates to the state annual meeting based on Regular member count, and urge this policy be extended to the AFBF.

Community Groups

We believe the strength of Farm Bureau still lies at the grass-roots level and that the Community Group system is the best means of determining members' interests and needs. Recent changes in economy and in attitudes toward home and family living provide a healthy climate for Community Group growth.

The bicentennial of our nation will coincide with the 40th anniversary of our Community Group program. There are many parallels to be drawn between these two births, in philosophy and ideals, and we believe the spirit of one can be closely tied to the other.

We strongly recommend the board of directors request a revitalization of the Community Group system, with the goal of increased number of groups and increased member involvement in the program.

Local Affairs

County Farm Bureaus have the resources and structure to be leaders in local affairs and members should be actively involved in solving problems in their home communities. It has been proven that county Farm Bureaus with a strong local affairs program realize growth and increased member involvement.

We recommend that a Local Affairs staff person be hired and recommend expansion of the program in the future.

Leadership Training

Our organization has a responsibility to provide its members with the training needed to assume leadership roles, information to broaden their understanding of the Farm Bureau Family and opportunities to realize their leadership potential.

We recommend that leadership training be a continual priority program at all levels of Farm Bureau, with special emphasis on county Farm Bureau boards.

Young Farmer Program and Relationships with 4-H and FFA

We are pleased with the direction the Young Farmer program has taken in recent months, with the accent on "county-up" rather than "state-down" activities, and with the increased involvement of county Young Farmer Committees in the total program. We recommend this grass-roots system be continued and that Young Farmer chairmen take full advantage of training programs which are offered to them.

Young farm-oriented people now involved in 4-H and FFA are geared for future leadership development but have no outlet following high school or college. Farm Bureau should tap this rich source of future leadership. We recommend that the project of developing a closer relationship between Farm Bureau Young Farmer program and 4-H and FFA receive priority consideration.

Women's Committee Structure

Currently, the Farm Bureau Women's Committee differs from all other Farm Bureau Committees in that its members are elected rather than appointed and that its chairman and vice-chairman are elected by delegates to the Women's annual meeting rather than within the committee itself.

We believe that by bringing the Women's Committee structure more in line with all other Farm Bureau committees, the program will enjoy a closer relationship with the total Farm Bureau program, provide an opportunity for expanded participation, and open doors of entry into leadership positions in the Women's program.

As steps to move in that direction, we recommend that the State Women's Committee should be a committee of 15 women, one elected from each district, plus four at-large representatives appointed by the Michigan Farm Bureau president and approved by the board of directors, and that the chairman and vice-chairman be elected by the committee from within the committee.

This method would take nothing away from elective system since each district would continue to elect one representative to serve on the state committee. The appointed members positions would give the president and board an opportunity to place other outstanding farm leaders on the committee. The election of the chairman and vice chairman by the committee from within the committee would move it out of the political arena and place it in the hands of those who are responsible for the success of the program and should have the opportunity to elect their own leadership.

We also recommend increased coordination between Women's Committees and boards of directors at both the state and county levels.

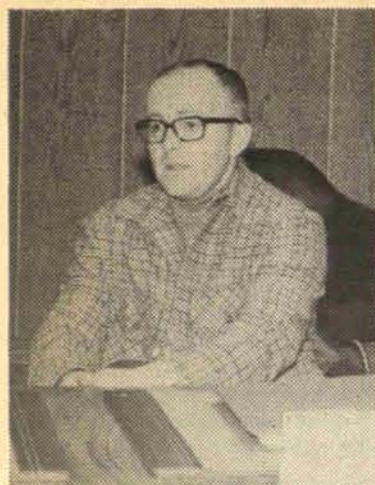
County Newsletter Service

In our interviews with county leaders throughout the state, the concern was frequently surfaced regarding the need for communications between countyboards and their members. We believe well-informed members are a prerequisite for an effective county Farm Bureau and that regular communications are vital in coordinating efforts of any project or program.

We recommend that the Michigan Farm Bureau offer a Newsletter service to county Farm Bureaus. Through this service, materials provided by the county Farm Bureaus would be edited, printed and mailed by the Michigan Farm Bureau to the county members. For this service, the county Farm Bureaus would be charged a subscription fee per member.

Advertising Regulations for Michigan Farm News

We recommend that advertising regulations for the Michigan Farm News be reviewed and liberalized to permit



James Gleason
District 1



Michael Pridgeon
District 2



Joseph Miesle, Jr.
District 3



LeRoy Klein
District 4



Vivian Lott
District 5



Bruce Leipprandt
District 6



Charles Houghton
District 7



Richard Leach, Jr.
District 8

proposals explained

the advertising of items which are not in direct competition with major lines of items and services sold by the affiliate companies.

Expansion of Regional Representative Staff

Our top volunteer leaders, who are necessary to operate dynamic county Farm Bureaus, are usually also busy farm businessmen, with limited time available for organizing activities. The increased services of regional representatives would make the volunteer leaders' time spent on Farm Bureau activities more productive. Currently, much valuable time is spent by regional representatives on the road. By decreasing the number of counties they must service, the regional representatives could give more assistance to county leaders in carrying out expanded programs and making their county Farm Bureaus stronger and more effective organizations.

We recommend that the regional representative areas be reorganized with a goal of four additional regional representatives.

Dairy Commodity Division

We believe Michigan Farm Bureau's Dairy Commodity Division is an expensive duplication of activities already handled by other existing organizations and recommend its discontinuance. We recommend that our board of directors and our Dairy Specialist keep in close contact with dairymen and the leadership in the milk marketing organizations to be sure that Farm Bureau's efforts are understood by people throughout the dairy industry.

MASA

The activities of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association have been extremely beneficial and will increase in value in the future. We strongly urge the continuance of MASA's activities and recommend that the board of directors assure that it is adequately financed and staffed at the same efficient level it is currently operating.

Marketing Information Service

During our tour of other state Farm Bureaus, we viewed many sophisticated methods of relaying market information to farmers. However, we believe that most of the market information and analysis needs of our members are currently being filled through a number of sources and it is not necessary for Michigan Farm Bureau to initiate such a service.

We recommend that our board of directors encourage the Department of Agriculture to provide the grain, beans and forestry products marketing information service which it is now studying.

Need for Quality Staff

We are proud that the Michigan Farm Bureau was recognized as the top state in the nation, winning the Golden Eagle Award and seven Gold Stars for outstanding programs last year. The staff people who manage programs must be dedicated, talented, well-informed, and have top leadership qualities. To retain people of the quality

(Please turn to page 5)



Larry DeVuyst
MFB Board



Donald Hill
at-large



John Knoerr
at-large

Meet the committee

Representing District 1 on the State Study Committee was James Gleason, St. Joseph County. Jim operates a 700-acre dairy farm near Three Rivers and also specializes in corn and alfalfa. He has served on his county Farm Bureau board and as a discussion leader in his community group.

Michael Pridgeon, representing District 2 and serving as chairman of the committee, is a member of a 1500-acre family farm enterprise in Branch County near Montgomery, specializing in hogs and corn. Mike served on the state Young Farmer Committee, has been roll call chairman and community group president, and is currently the Branch County Farm Bureau president.

Joseph Miesle, Jr., Livingston County, represents District 3. Joe has a 620-acre dairy farm near Howell. He has served as county president, vice president of the county board, chairman of his community group, and chairman of the county resolution committee.

LeRoy Klein from Sparta in Kent County represents District 4. He operates a 700-acre farm specializing in feeder cattle. He serves as Kent County Farm Bureau president, is past chairman of the Young Farmer Committee, and served on the state Livestock Advisory Committee.

Serving as vice-chairman of the committee, and representing District 5, is Vivian Lott. She and her husband, Marvin, are dairy farmers on a 400-acre farm near Mason in Ingham County. Vivian is active in Farm Bureau Women, including the Speakers' Bureau, in her community group, and has served on county and state policy development committees.

Representing District 6 is Bruce Leipprandt of Huron County. Bruce operates a 1040-acre farm near Pigeon, specializing in cash crops, dairy and beef. He has been a county president, has served on the state policy development committee and field crops advisory committee, and is active in his community group.

Charles Houghton, District 7's representative on the committee, has a 360-acre dairy farm near Blanchard in Mecosta County. Chuck has served on the county board, county and state policy development committees, natural resources committee, and has also served in various offices in his community group.

Richard Leach, Jr. of Saginaw, representing District 8, operates a 1,000-acre farm specializing in navy beans, sugar beets, wheat and soybeans. He has served as

president of his county's policy development committee and was chairman of the membership drive, and also served as a county delegate.

Elaine Putney of Benzonia in Benzie County represents District 9. She and her husband, David, operate a 600-acre farm specializing in cherries and beef. Elaine has been active on the county Young Farmer Committee and in her community group.

Representing District 10 is Larry Karsten of Presque Isle County. Larry operates a 460-acre dairy farm near Rogers City. He has served as county Farm Bureau president, was on the state Young Farmer Committee for four years, on the state Policy Development committee, and is active in his community group.

Chester Kudwa of Crystal Falls in the Upper Peninsula represents District 11. He operates a 550-acre farm specializing in potatoes. He is a past president of his county Farm Bureau, served on the county board six years, and is active in his community group.

Les Dowd is a member-at-large of the State Study Committee. Les is one of the family partners in Dowd Orchards, Inc. near Lawrence in Van Buren County. He has served on the county board, county and state Policy Development committees, and this year was Van Buren's membership campaign manager. He also serves on the MASA board of directors.

Another at-large member is John Knoerr of Sanilac County. John operates a 500-acre farm near Sandusky, specializing in sugar beets, colored beans and dairy. John has served on his county's executive committee, community group committee, and was chairman of the Policy Development committee.

The third at-large member is Donald Hill of Genesee County, a fruit grower from Montrose. Don was county Farm Bureau president for five years, serves on the State Apple Promotion Committee, is on MACMA's apple marketing committee, and is operations committee chairman of the Michigan Certified Farm Markets Division of MACMA.

Representing the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors on the committee is Larry DeVuyst of Gratiot County. Larry farms 700 acres near Ithaca, specializing in cash crops and hogs. In addition to serving on the state board, he has also been a county president and is on the American Farm Bureau Federation Swine Advisory Committee.



Elaine Putney
District 9



Larry Karsten
District 10



Chester Kudwa
District 11



Les Dowd
at-large

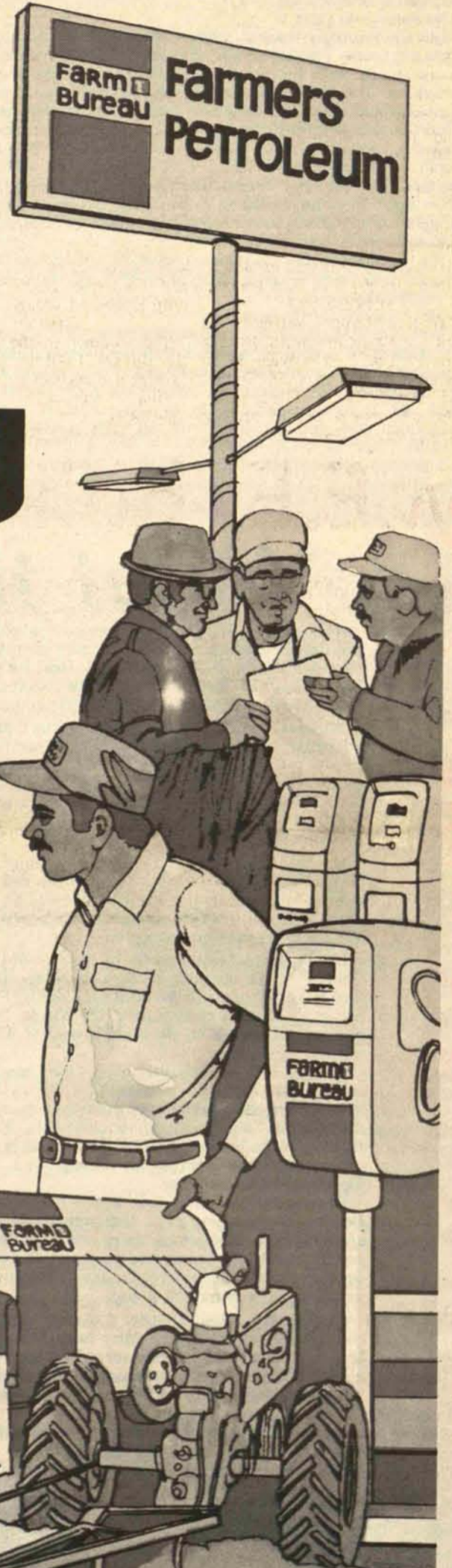
HOW DID Farmers get TOP Priority on FUEL DURING the energy crisis?

The farmer has many fair weather friends, but few who will speak for him when trouble threatens.

The Farm Bureau people teamed with other concerned cooperatives to head off potential disaster to agriculture when fuel supplies went on allocation. This Cooperative action resulted in a Federal Energy Office decision to give top fuel priority to agricultural applications. Farmers Petroleum dealers shut down retail sales during the worst part of the crisis to turn all their attention to supplying fuel for farms.

A cooperative victory is a farmer's victory. The Farm Bureau people are your people. 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**



Michigan Marketing Outlook

DAIRY

U.S. milk production during March is estimated at 10 billion pounds—up .4% from a year earlier. Production nationwide for the first quarter of 1975 was .2% above the same period last year. Arkansas and Maryland showed the largest percentage increase in production—8 percent above a year ago March.

In Michigan, Federal Order 40 production during March at 319.7 million pounds was up 1.0 million pounds over March of 1974—a .3% increase. Class I utilization dropped 1.75% to 201.1 million pounds from 204.7 million pounds, according to the Market Administrator. Within Class I, utilization for skim was up 37.8%, an increase of 6.1 million pounds.

DRY BEANS

Farmers have continued to market their beans in an orderly manner. The best advice is to continue to move beans off "on-the-farm storage" on an orderly basis.

Major buyers for beans are not aggressive at the present time;

and, as of this writing, no large deals have been made by the United States or Canadian shippers for export.

Current grower price is \$10.50 cwt. with a weak overtone to the market.

WHEAT

The market situation in wheat is one of indecision and is contingent on how large PL480 sales will be. Buyers have until June 30 to complete their purchases, and price action is contingent on whether they will purchase old crop wheat or wait and try to purchase new crop wheat, which will be available in thirty to forty days. If buyers wait to purchase new crop wheat, it will have a very adverse effect on old crop prices and, consequently, affect the new crop prices adversely.

CORN

The weather in the next forty-five days will tell the story. Other factors are secondary.

Ron Nelson, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division

HONEY

The bottling grade honey is continuing weak, under the pressure of lower priced, imported foreign honey. Movement of U. S. honey has been slow at prices in the low 40's.

The market for capping melter honey is almost nonexistent. The major sugar companies report huge increases in sales of isomerase syrup to the bakery trade. Troy Barton reports very little demand even in the low twenty range.

SOYBEANS

Soybean futures have fluctuated up and down, sometimes the limit, during the past month. The cash market averaged on the up side as the result of current smaller than expected intentions-to-plant forecasts.

Soybeans in the marketing pipeline are in low levels as the result of orderly marketing by farmers. It would seem that a continuation of orderly selling would maintain prices at realistic figures.

A bright note is the improvement in livestock prices, signalling a move toward a better margin for producers and a larger use of concentrate feeds. Current futures prices of soybean meal:

May—\$130.00 July—\$134.50
September—\$138.00

David Wolfe, Marketing Specialist

Market Development Division

CATTLE

Butcher cattle prices have advanced sharply in recent days. The reduction in the supply of choice cattle, plus a sharp advance in choice dressed beef, has stimulated price activity. We expect a reduced supply of choice cattle well into the summer; consequently, we can expect somewhat favorable prices during the next sixty to ninety days. But watch the supply of non-feds coming onto the market by late summer.

Feeder cattle prices have followed butcher cattle prices and have advanced sharply. The better

end of the 700 to 800 pound cattle are bringing \$32 to \$37, depending on location. The 500 to 600 pound cattle are mainly from \$30 to \$33 with prices higher than that where stocker operators are bidding them up for their pastures.

HOGS

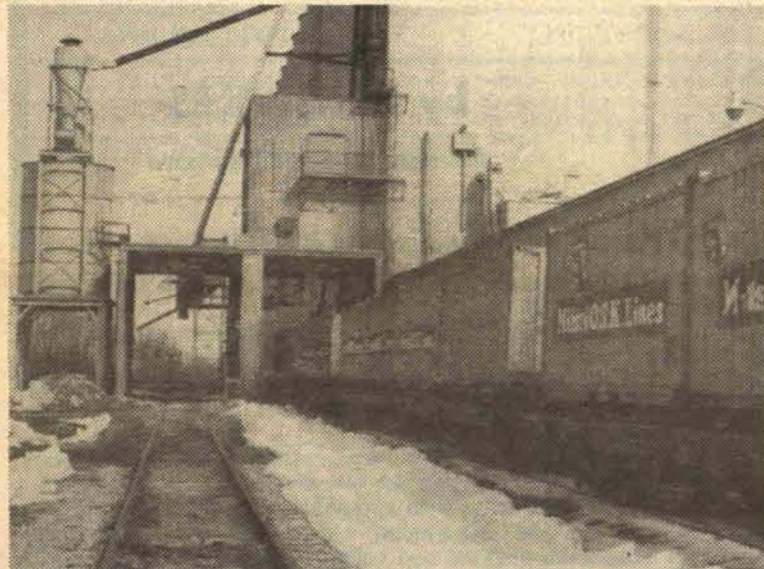
There is optimism in the hog pits. Future prices continue to move up gradually each week. The sharp rise in butcher cattle prices could have a positive effect on the hog market.

Cash hogs have been selling in the low 40's. Slaughter numbers continue to be well below a year ago; consequently, cooler inventories could be worked off and we could see sharp cash price rises in the next sixty days.

The sharp reduction in hog numbers has caused an apparent shortage of feeder pigs. Buyers for feeder pigs have bid them up to the middle to high 40's in recent weeks.

Bill Byrum, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division

M.E.E. bulk loads beans



Over 100 bulk containers mounted on railroad flat cars were loaded with Michigan navy beans recently at MEE's Saginaw grain terminal. Bound for Japan, each container holds 39,000 pounds of unbagged bulk beans. According to MEE staff member Bob Green, bulk loading of containers saves time and money by eliminating the bagging process and speeding up loading and unloading of the product.

Spreading the word in Florida



James Lincoln, MACMA staff member and coordinator of Michigan's Member to Member program, inspects Florida oranges being packed for delivery to Michigan. "We want to reciprocate with Michigan products," said Lincoln, who attended the Florida Agricultural Marketing Association Conference along with representatives from eleven states. The new Michigan apple cider concentrate generated lot of interest and some states will try it. "We shipped samples of apples to Florida, but they have decided to continue getting apples from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau," said Lincoln.

Farm management tour planned

The State Farm Management Tour on August 21, 1975, will be held in Ionia County. Brief highlights of the tour include seven farms and one recreation stop. Included in the farm stops are two dairy, one poultry, one swine, one orchard, one cash crop, and a combination beef and sheep stop. The noon program will be held at

the Ionia Fairgrounds. The theme for the noon program will be "A Century of Progress In Agriculture", narrated by Sylvan Wittwer, Director of the MSU Experiment Station.

More information will be forthcoming in later issues of the Farm News.

Hessler on spud board

Kent County Farm Bureau member Wesley F. Hessler of Rockford, was among eight Upper Midwest potato producers named March 28 to the National Potato Promotion Board by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Supply
Report

By Greg Sheffield, Marketing Manager FBS

FERTILIZER

With the late spring and unusual April snowfall, farming has been getting off to a slow start in Michigan. Compared to last year, the movement of fertilizer has been reported as showing much less volume. Dealer warehouses are generally well stocked. However, in some localities patrons have preferred to take fertilizer and have it on their farms. The reasoning is that brief planting periods may mean planting and fertilizing fast. Also, if fertilizer supplies are depleted rapidly, transportation difficulties may turn out worse than last year with replenishment, perhaps, impossible due to the shortened planting period. Taking your fertilizer and storing it on your own place may prove the best plan if you want to be sure of your total supply and wish to maximize yields. Many farmers unable to store fertilizer on their farms in the past have now made provisions to do so. There has been no increase of significance in total supplies over the last year.

SEEDS

The corn seed situation has not changed significantly from last month. There appears to be enough seed corn but not perhaps of the preferred selections farmers like. Farm Bureau dealers are in good shape, however, and movement of corn seed through dealer outlets has kept up at a good pace. Other seeds for small grains are adequate at this time. The demand for home garden vegetable seed is expected to resume strongly as it did last year.

CHEMICALS

Chemicals are becoming more available. Farm Bureau dealers are stocked with herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and other chemicals at fair prices. For now, at least, there appears to be a better balance between supply and demand. There could be a big demand for weed control chemicals because of wet fields that are hard to impossible to cultivate.

FEEDS

Feed supplies are adequate and prices through the middle of April as of this writing have been steady. The trend to fewer livestock on the farm has led to less demand for feed. Feed ingredients' prices after experiencing a strong downward thrust, steadied. Although the volume of exports of agricultural products will be down somewhat this year from last, this year's shipments are expected to be the second best in history.

Farm Bureau Services will be distributing a new product called LSA, liquid silage additive, to increase the nutrition, palatability and feeding profitability of farm grown corn silage. This will be available in time for fall harvest of corn throughout the State.

HARDWARE

The shortage situation is over on steel products including fencing, steel posts and steel roofing. Direct shipment can be made to dealers in a matter of two to three weeks. The final shipments of lawn mowers and tillers are in stock and there is an excellent inventory of quality machines for patron selection.

Twine sales have been slow with lower prices, but patrons should be aware that poor quality twine is around, also light weight twine. So, be sure to specify you want Farm Bureau twine as it has been thoroughly tested and will save you money with fewer problems in the long run. Most products can now be shipped from fewer problems in the long run. Most products can now be shipped from manufacturers directly to dealers for greater efficiency and lower costs.

The building business has been picking up again after normal winter slow-down. All Farm Bureau Building Centers have orders ahead for buildings on their books. While materials are reduced in price, it's suggested you might be wise in getting that building started.

FUELS

While fuel supplies have been holding up under present consumption rates, most major suppliers have continued to raise their prices to consumers. Supplies have improved on all tires except the large rear tractor tires. Production capacity on these large sizes is not adequate for demands and it's expected they will be in short supply all spring and summer.

TIRES

The middle of May should see the introduction of the new Mark V Radial tire. This excellent tire is economical to purchase and will give good wear and service on passenger cars. If you don't have radials, now is the time to see your Farmers Petroleum dealer.

What can we do?

Waste problems pile up

One of the disadvantages of the arrival of spring is that when the snow melts, it uncovers the tons of waste thoughtless citizens have indiscriminately discarded. Littering and mishandling of waste material have been labeled a "national disgrace," an "outrage" and a criminal act.

But, what is waste? Webster calls it "left over refuse, no longer of use." Therein lies the root of misconception as much of the material called waste is useable.

Not too many years ago before we became an affluent society—much of the materials in the loads of wastes now going to the dumps, would have been worked over for many kinds of salvage. Odd bottles and old paper, for example, provided a major source of income for small boys some years ago.

A generation ago the term "solid waste" was virtually unknown. Solid waste was just plain garbage, and people didn't worry about it as long as it was carted off. Passage of the Federal Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965 helped stem public apathy to the growing mountain of waste.

Who's to Blame

Solid wastes are products of our natural resources. They come from the land and if not salvaged, return to the land. The important question is whether or not they return in a beneficial manner or as pollutants. There are more solid wastes today than ever before; also, we are becoming more aware of the implications of solid wastes than ever before.

If a scapegoat is needed, it would appear that one must conclude that the solid waste problem is a product of the social-economic-industrial revolution. The waste crisis is as much a part of our changing society as the rising standard of living, urban deterioration, air and water pollution, conservation problems, and the so-called packaging revolution.

Agricultural Wastes

As is true in both consideration of urban problems and industrial problems of solid wastes, agriculture suffers from the results of the affluent society and from concentration of activities.

Assembly-line cattle and hog feeding operations and egg factories have in many instances developed concentrations of animals above the capacity of nearby land to accept and purify the wastes. A cow generates as much waste as about 16½ humans; one hog produces as much waste as two people; and seven chickens are equal to the disposal problem created by one person. The result is that, in total, farm animals in the U.S. produce about 10 times as much waste as the human population.

Probably one of the greatest pollution problems for many farmers today is management and disposal of solid wastes. For years scientific efforts were spent on one end of the animals—worrying about the best and most efficient feeds, and neglecting the other end product.

As agriculture is the largest single source of solid waste in this country—accounting for over 50% or some 2.3 billion tons annually—each farmer probably has some type of solid waste in his own operation that concerns him as a potential pollutant.

To a large extent, these problems were created as the result of heavy emphasis on production, without corresponding emphasis on management and disposal of the wastes from an environmental standpoint.

Another problem is the outward movement of urban people into rural areas and the willingness of farmers to sell them land so that this movement can continue without recognition of the potential consequences. Odors resulting from livestock operations become offensive to suburbanites moving into the areas where these operations are underway.

Not All Livestock

Not all solid waste problems of agriculture result from livestock operations. Up to 70% of the agricultural products delivered to canners and freezers ends up as waste. In the days of coal-fired boilers, canning plants in the areas where pit fruits are processed piled their pits and used them for fuel. Today, the pits have become a waste problem.

When mother canned tomatoes, peaches, peas, etc. at home, the waste was really no problem. It went to the pig pen or to the compost pile.

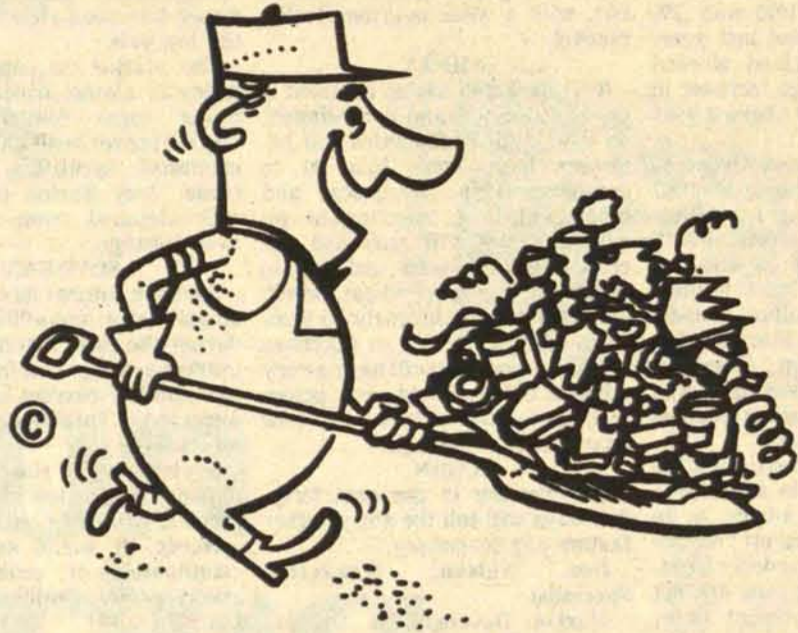
Agricultural Waste Uses

While, there are other problems of solid waste in agriculture, let's look at progress in the solution of some of these problems.

Animal and vegetable wastes have value as potential heat producers. One of the early efforts along this line was the use of buffalo chips as a source of fuel in the west. In India and other countries where fuels are scarce, patties are made of the animal manure which then are used as domestic fuel.

Currently, there is a great deal of interest in the recycling of nutrients. Processed poultry wastes are being successfully used as part of the feed formula for livestock. Other possibilities include digesters, to use the potential of wastes for gas manufacture; the direct incineration of wastes, either to provide heat for their own destruction or to provide usable heat for other purposes.

Scientists are feeding barnyard manure back to cows and sheep in an experiment that someday may give consumers more food and less pollution. By chemically treating the manure and combining it with regular feed, scientists claim the animals can consume much of their own wastes and produce more meat, wool and milk. More testing is



DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES

Manager Member Relations

necessary, however, before chemically treated manure is recommended to livestock feed manufacturers. But the idea is promising.

Gerber Products of Fremont has for years used that great purifier, the soil, as a disposal method. Wastes from the processing of baby foods are piped distances from the plant and spread on fields where the soil filters the water and the solids are disposed of naturally.

Systems which prevent pollution of streams and ground water from livestock feedlots have been developed and are in use in many localities in the state. And a new science is coming into focus: Coprology (a word coined from the Greek words for manure copres and science logos.) Manure contains all the ingredients and trace elements which make it the perfect fertilizer for crops and plants. Whether it is used as a resource or a menacing pollutant is up to the farm manager.

P.A. 366

In December, 1974, Governor Milliken signed the Resource Recovery Act of 1974, Public Act 366. The purpose of this legislation is to encourage the conservation of natural resources through the promotion and development of systems to collect, separate, reclaim and recycle metals, glass, paper and other materials of value from waste for energy production uses and to provide a coordinated resource recovery and solid waste management program.

The Act requires the establishment of an 11 member commission to be created within the Environmental Protection Branch of the Department of Natural Resources. Nine members of the commission are to be appointed by the Governor representing the general public, environmental interests, local government and private enterprise involved in solid waste management or resources recovery. The Director of DNR and the State Treasurer will be permanent members of the commission.

Following are a few of the implications of this Act as they relate to the DNR and the commission.

The Commission shall: meet once per month; evaluate policies, standards, rules and activities of the DNR and local waste programs; review and recommend research for pilot programs conducted by DNR; consult with local government and the public in reference to resource recovery and waste management; examine source reduction and promote the use of recycled materials; and when pollution occurs due to improper solid waste handling (two years after a local plan has been approved) the Commission can issue an Order of Determination to force implementation of local plans. Action will be taken only after due notice and hearing.

The DNR is required to:

1. Develop a state plan within three years.
2. Provide technical assistance to municipalities and regions on planning, design and financing of a waste management system.
3. Assist municipalities, upon request, in the develop-

ment of contracts for and between other units and private enterprise.

4. Promote the utilization of private enterprise for implementation of plan requirements.

5. Encourage and promote the development of industries in Michigan that will provide solid waste management services.

6. Promote proper storage, transportation and disposal of materials that can not be recycled.

The DNR may, with approval of the commission:

1. Provide for planning, design and financing of waste collection, disposal and volume reduction.

2. Determine the location and character of waste management projects with constraints imposed.

3. Make loans to persons or municipalities for financing solid waste management projects.

4. Borrow money, issue revenue bonds.

5. Contract with persons, municipalities and regional authorities or state agencies for solid waste services.

Policy

By law, cities and townships have been required to close their dumps and counties assigned the responsibility of providing a plan for solid waste disposal. This can become a financial burden on rural counties with a small population. Farm Bureau has and is seeking a modification in existing legislation to allow counties with small population to be exempt from the law.

Public concern for the environment continues to be a powerful force. This concern poses serious implications to agriculture. While agriculture has an important responsibility to improve the quality of our environment, continued research is necessary to find adequate answers to agricultural waste disposal problems.

Glass and metal beverage containers are a nuisance and a hazard. They are more than just litter. Farm implement tires, auto and truck tires, livestock and crops have been damaged or destroyed by such containers, much of it in the form of throwaway bottles. Time lost as a result of damage to a tire can mean many dollars of crop loss.

Again this year, legislation has been introduced to establish a mandatory return value on certain beverage containers but has not yet been adopted.

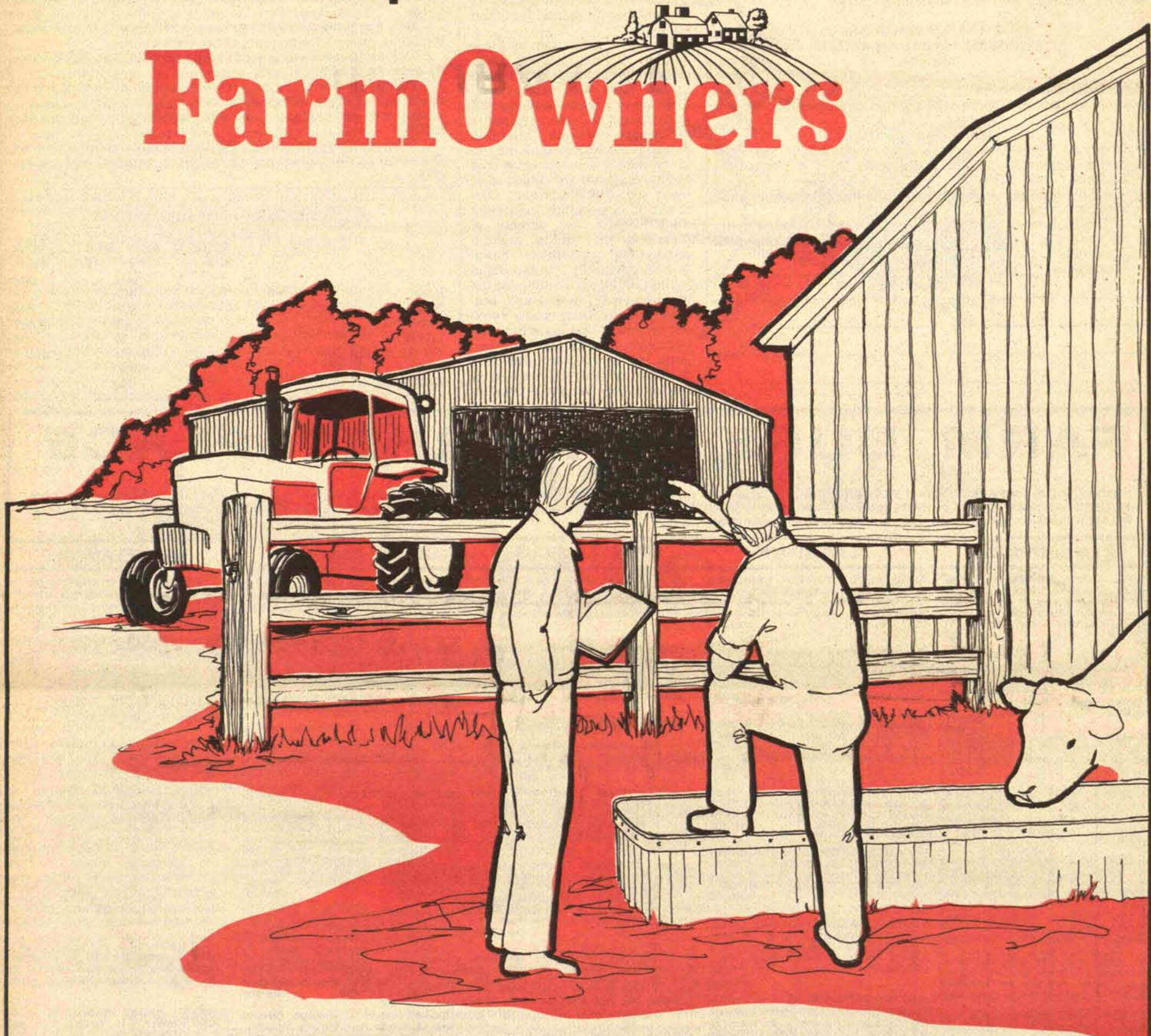
Farm Bureau policy encourages all members to actively report and assist in the prosecution of persons contributing to the litter problem.

A Second Chance

Webster has another definition in his book—the definition of "recycle:" to use and use again. Recycling of many products has been found to be less expensive than producing a new product. Due to dwindling resources public officials and private enterprises at all levels should strongly support and be encouraged to initiate recycling programs to accommodate the waste from our affluent society.

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