State Study Committee met many hours during past 16 months to develop the proposals which will be voted on at the June 25 special delegate session. (Turn to pages six and seven for more details.)

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-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, oils, 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.

New estate tax law urged in Congress

Important legislation to reform outdated Federal Estate Tax Law has been introduced by Michigan Congressman Guy VanderJagt (R-Luther) and Robert Traxler (D-Bay City).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 $400,000, 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 current 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 Inflation, along with increases in size of farm and nonfarm estates, has seriously outdated the current exemptions when compared to 1973 standards.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.

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 Seley 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. 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.

On Saturday, June 28, a Special Delegate Session will be held at the Hilton Hotel and the 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 barbecue and an inspiring star and stripes speaker to set the proper mood for the celebration of 200 years of agriculture.

Delegates Request Study

At the December, 1974 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 improvements of Farm Bureau and chart future membership goals, and develop a financial plan that would assure a strong, viable Farm Bureau.

With these kind of leaders in our industry and in our organization, we just can’t go wrong.

Smith 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 harvesting 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.
Dear Farm News,

Read Donna's article in the April Farm News on Farm Bureau people public affairs. It was quite an eye opener. I would like to list just one issue, as to why we feel this way.

There are many cases, but I will stick to one -- the GM March 11 National Enquirer headlines, which read: "DEATH FROM HEART ATTACK." In reading the article the picture presented is one of a WARNING rather than fact per se, but the second line said, "But there's a simple way you can make it safe." The fact remained that persons passing through check-out counters in supermarkets read the headline, "Milk kills" or "Milk causes heart attacks," which gets to the bottom of the Whole Milk debate. Milk is "MISINFORMATION." Thank you.

The National Enquirer quoted researchers at the Rush Medical College's National Dairy Council was responsible for running 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 the heart.

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 realize the time to time these false stories down, but every so often we turn our disinterest into the real thing. I would say this case in point serves as an example how the community can turn a "MISINFORMATION." Thank you for your time.

Mrs Mary Satchell

Drew to retire

More than 20 years of service on the staff of Michigan Farm Bureau will come to a close when Drew Knapp retires on June 1 following the retirement of Marle Drew, Manager of Member Services.

Marle Drew's association with Farm Bureau actually goes back before 1954 when he joined MFB's staff as a regional representative based in Thumb region. In the early '40s he was chairman, vice chairman and discussion leader of his Community Group. Later he served on the county board of directors of which he was named county president of St. Joseph County Farm Bureau in 1963. He was also a member of the MFB resolutions committee. After becoming Thumb regional representative Marle went on to become one of MFB's most widely traveled representatives serving every region of the state at one time or other during the next dozen years.

Marle Drew

It was in 1966 that Marle came into MFB's home office to become county coordinator of Farm Bureau offices, a position she held until 1973 when he assumed his present role. He is the only MFB member throughout the state, Marle's service to Farm Bureau will be missed but not forgotten.
At legislative workshops

Government is studied

Contest notes

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 organization such as Michigan Milk Producers Association, Michigan Livestock Calculator by his local Farm Bureau Insurance Group agent. The Farmer of the Week is presented a personalized certificate, 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.

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 and its activities are designed to improve 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 BureauFBs sponsor a $100 per person which includes all conference costs. The American Institute to economic and social well-being of rural Americans.

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BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX

H.B. 4446: The House Taxation Committee held a public hearing in Lansing on April 29 for testimony on the effect of the Business Privilege Tax. The tax would affect all types of business in Michigan extending from the large, multinational 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 and 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 exemptions are in the legislation which through a formula would be eliminated as the gross income increases. The exemption would be eliminated at sixty thousand dollars.

Farm Bureau is 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 would very large businesses would be able to pay 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 downward trend.

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 may pay taxes on wages and fringe benefits when they are in the business of hiring 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 out 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.
- Farm Bureau is meeting with the House Taxation Committee at each of its hearings on 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 better fat and solids in milk. Unless it was passed, Michigan milk producers would not be able to milk ships outside of the state, but out of state producers meeting the federal standards would be able to ship their products into the state.

This bill also sets up requirements for the dating of milk in stores and lowers storage temperatures in the store from 60° to 45°.

H.B. 4296 has just been introduced by Rep. Porter (D. Hoefer) and others. This 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 $150 and $250. 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. 286 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 an 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. VanDongel (R. Grand Rapids and others provide for a special fee of $15.00 for farm trucks used only for the 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 purposes. (Please turn to page 11).

Below is a reprint of three of the four pages (the fourth page asks for and provides copies of a sketch of the farm) of the official application forms for PA 116, Farm Land and Open Spaces Preservation Act. These forms should be distributed to the executive offices of government such as townships, county equalization departments, and other local governmental units.

APPLICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND

Form PA 116 is hereby published by the Michigan 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.

Robert E. Smith
Congressional action on H.R. 4296 - Emergency Farm Program Legislation – has progressed very rapidly. The House gave initial approval by the House and Senate. It would raise target prices for wheat, corn and feed grains, reestablish a loan limit for soybeans, increase the milk price support price with quarterly adjustments. The bill also contains language to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase any crops not needed for the emergency program.

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

Typical of the rapid movement of the bill through the two chambers, the Senate, the conferences on April 13 reached agreement on their differences. The bill, as agreed by the conferences, 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 $2.65 per bushel, a loan rate of $2.56 per bushel.
2. Corn and feed grains would have a target price of $2.85 per bushel, a loan rate of $1.87 per bushel.
3. Producer loans on soybeans would have a target price of $3.94 per bushel, a loan rate of $1.87 per bushel.
4. Dairy price supports would be set at 80% 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 Bureau News is published. Many observers are predicting that if the conference version is approved and if a presidential veto is to be voted, the House, the conferences, and the Senate will pass the bill. The presidential veto will be forthcoming. Should a veto occur, the bill may be brought up for a vote to determine whether or not it should be overridden.

The initial bill passed the House by a 238-182 vote, which is 31 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto. The Senate passed the bill by a 51-48 vote, which is nine votes short of the two-thirds necessary to override a veto.

Farm Bureau continues to oppose any House-Senate amending the existing ABPB program, which includes the following 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 resulted in large surpluses when set at high levels as provided in the 1930's, resulting in the high loan rates of today. It was designed to produce for the government incentive rather than market incentives, to create a large stockpile of grain would develop and be transferred into government hands. Such stockpiles would reduce agriculture to a period of distributed domestic prices, return farmers to being dependent upon the government for a substantial portion of their income, and lead to production controls.

Consumer Protection

A prefinal bill that has come forth has been modified, pending the Senate. Sessions of Congress has now interrupted the process. This legislation would create an independent Agency for Consumer Advocacy (ACA) for the purpose of representing consumer interests before federal agencies and courts. The ACA would be supported by funds from the Treasury, and it would be independent of federal agencies except the National Security Agency, F.B.I., CIA, and the Departments of State, Defense, and, Military Weapons Programs of the Energy Research Group. If you have any questions regarding the fee, feel free to contact your district director or State Special Committee member. We'll do our best to answer your inquiries.

The potential impact of the ACA as a result of the House-Senate Conference Committee's work will be determined.

The Farm Bureau System recommends a membership dues increase of $5 each year for the next three years, with the proportion of each yearly increase set at $2 per member. We recommend that the Michigan Farm Bureau implement the current dues increase of $5 per member each year for the next three years, with the proportion of each yearly increase set at $2 per member. We recommend that the Michigan Farm Bureau continue operating the Feeder Pig Division as it has been functioning since its inception. A locally-managed service on a co-operative basis and/or a listing service could replace it.

We recommend that the Farm Bureau System continue 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 Requirements

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We also believe that upward adjustments should be made in the reimbursements paid by the Insurance Company to office counties and to provide additional services, especially in the areas of policy-holding, etc. This 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 should be increased. It should also benefit the organizations and its members.

A Financial Plan

In order to safeguard the viability of our organization, we explored all possible methods of securing income for both the county and state Farm Bureau. The 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 had a large cash reserve, as the inflation rate would continue to erode the purchasing power of that reserve. Projections indicate that if no changes are made, the ratio of members to the state Farm Bureau fee payment would be used up in the next four years. On the county level, there is much concern that inflation has caused county Farm Bureau to cut programs. We believe that continued membership growth is vital, the state's current state of our economy, and the time needed to implement new programs and economic services.

We also recommend an increase in the membership of the Farm Bureau for the Michigan Farm Bureau for services rendered. Legitimate promotional services rendered by the Michigan Farm Bureau staff, directors, leaders, and members should be increased. It should also benefit the organizations and its members.

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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, strengthen 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 and where we went for 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 and their families. So many 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 shall 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 voting these needs, we will undoubtedly develop policies 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.

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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's 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 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 structure 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 county boards 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 Bureau 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.

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 action 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 chairman of the study for its acceptance-and where it will go for implementation.

Young farmer-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.

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Advertising Regulations for Michigan Farm News

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

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 Prigrove, representing District 2 and serving as chairman of the committee, has been active in his community group.

Joseph Milewski, Jr., Livingston County, represents District 3. Joe has a 420-acre dairy farm near Howell. He has served as county president, vice president of the board, chairmen 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 Livian Lott. She and her husband, Marvin, are dairy farmers on a 400-acre farm near Mason in Ingham County. Livian 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 Branch County. Bruce operates a 140-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 Oscoda County. Charles 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 Penney of 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, served on the state Policy Development Committee, and is active in his community group.

John Knoerr of Sanilac County, a fruit grower from Montrose, 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.
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—a 4% from a year earlier. Production nationwide for the first quarter of 1975 was 25% above the same period last year. Arkansas and Maryland showed the largest percentage increase in production—13% above a year ago, respectively.

Michigan, Federal Order 40 production during March at 319.7 million pounds was up 1.5 million pounds over March 1974—a 3% increase. Class I utilization dropped 1.3% to 211.1 million pounds, according to the Market Administrator. Within Class I, utilization for skim was up 29.6%, an increase of 4.1 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 of "on-the-farm storage" on an orderly basis. Major buyers for beans are not aggressive at the present time.

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 20,000 pounds of unbagged dry beans. According to M.E.E. staff member Bob Green, bulk loading of containers saves time and money by eliminating the haggling process and speeding up loading and unloading of the product.

Spreading the word in Florida

Hessler on spud board
Kent County Farm Bureau member Wesley F. Hessler of Rockford, was appointed to the Midwest potato producers named March 29 to the National Potato Protection Board by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Twice sales have been slow with choice dressed beef, has stimulated price activity. We could see sharp cash price rises in the next sixty days. Bill Byrum, Marketing Specialist "Market Development Division"

By Greg Sheffield, Marketing Manager FBS

FERTILIZER

The successful situation and unusual April snowfall, farming has been getting off to a slow start in Michigan. Due to the movement of fertilizers has been reported as showing much less in 1975 than last year. Many farmers are already well stocked. However, there are a number of farmers who have not fertilized yet. It is important to plant fertilizers on their farms in the spring months. If fertilizers are depleted, rapidly, transportation difficulties may turn out worse than last year with replenishment, perhaps, impossible due to the shorter planting period. Taking your fertilizer and storing it on your own place may prove to be best 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 situation has not changed significantly from last month. There appears to be enough seed corn to plant. The preferred selections farmers like Farm Bureau dealers are in good supply giving a good variety of early, mid, and late maturity corn seed through dealer outlets. Stake hope to get a good price. Other seeds for small grains are available at this time. The demand for small farm, and fall planting periods may mean good planting and cultivating last. Also, if fertilizer supplies are depleted, rapidly, transportation difficulties may turn out worse than last year with replenishment, perhaps, impossible due to the shorter planting period. Taking your fertilizer and storing it on your own place may prove to be best 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.

CHEMICALS
Chemical supplies are 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 greater balance between supply and demand. There could be a big demand for chemicals because of wet fields that are hard to impossible to cultivate.

FEEDS

Feed supplies are available and are being offered by the middle of April. The supply is 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 greater balance between supply and demand. There could be a big demand for 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 could be down somewhat this year from last, this year's exports 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 feed conversion of young corn and corn silage. This will be available in tine pellet coat in some corn throughout the Stater.

FUELS

The building business has been picked up by the 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 this building started now.

TRUES

The middle of May should see the introduction of the new Mark V model of the 300 Grain Cart. Farmers will improve on all tires except the large rear tractor tires. Also, the production of farm tires is still large in size and is not adequate for demands and it is expected there will be in short supply all spring and summer.
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 thoughtlessly deposited indiscriminately in the woods. 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; rubbish." Waste consists of unneeded, unwanted, or useless material. Most waste, the material called waste is useful. No, we did not become 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. Old 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 used plain garbage, and people did not think it was as bad as it is was carried off by the Federal Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965 helped stem public apathy to the growing mountain of waste.

What to Blame

Solid wastes are products of our natural resources. They come from the land and if not salvaged, return to the land. The management of these wastes is beneficial or as pollutants. There are more solid wastes today than ever before, also, we are becoming more aware of the benefits and the wastes than we did before.

If a scapogram 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 standing rigid of living, urban deteriation, 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, agriculture suffers from the results of the affluent society and from concentration of activities.

Agricultural waste in the form of barnyard manure and hog feeding operations and egg factories in many localities have been developed as a source of what is called "compost," and what is used as a resource or as a menace. Much of these operations are unorganized and uncontrolled.

Agricultural Wastes

At least some of these problems were created as the result of heavy emphasis on production and corresponding emphasis on management and disposal of the wastes from an environmental viewpoint. Agricultural wastes are the outpourings of urban people into rural areas and the willingness of farmers to sell their land to those using this process 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 are just agricultural. Wastes are result from livestock operations. Up to 75% of the agricultural products delivered to canners and freezers ends up as waste. In the days of coal-fired boilers, cans were cleaned in the areas where pit fruits are processed piled their pits and used them for fuel. Today, they 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 heap.

Agricultural Wastes

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

Animal and vegetable wastes have value as potential heat producing energy. A good deal of effort has been spent on production processes. A lot of the materials called waste are valuable.

Concerning manure, 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 efforts have been made to develop manure as a resource in many areas. Many of the wastes are not used.

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Further hopeful, 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 soils 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 currently 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 analysis include all the food 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 seated 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 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 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 development 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 contracts 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 dies, 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.
**Topic Summary**

In December of last year the voting delegates at the MFB annual meeting voted in favor of providing Master Medical benefit to Farm Bureau member-subscribers effective February 29, 1976. The March Topic discussion focused on the presentation and analysis of a summary of the replies received from the groups. Space limitation permits including only those conclusions submitted by several groups.

1. How many members in your group will benefit from Master Medical?

2. How many members in your group are enrolled in BC/BST? The response varied from 2 to 27.

3. Do you think group coverage should include: a. Dental-64% b. Lower Master Medical Deductible-64% c. Other: glasses; drugs; pre and post natal care; sterilization; hearing aids; ERO's.

4. Does your group feel there should be a county meeting to discuss Master Medical and Blue Cross-Blue Shield coverage? Yes 73% No 27%.

1975 MEMBERSHIP COMPARISON REPORT

**QUOTA: 68097 QUÖ: 68097**

**GOAL: 41098 GOAL: 6619**

**Date**

**4-16**

**4-17**

**Renewals**

56,829

56,527

**Life Members**

89

94

**TOTAL MEMBERS**

65,775

65,525

**% Goal**

99.47

99.22

**NEEDED FOR GOAL**

222

474
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