



MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

SERVING OVER 61,000 FARM BUREAU FAMILIES

JULY 1, 1975

With one amendment

State study report approved



Voting delegates to the 1975 MFB Special Delegate Session exercised their authority on June 28 in Lansing. The delegates approved the State Study Committee recommendations changing only the dues structure proposal.

Michigan Farm Bureau delegates at MFB's June 28 Special Delegate Session voted to accept the recommendations of the State Study Committee (see May 1975 Farm News for full text of recommendations) with an amendment to the section on a dues increase.

After over a half hour of debate the delegates voted to amend the Study Committee's dues recommendation from a \$5 increase for each of the next three years to a single \$10 increase beginning with the 1976 membership year.

The \$10 increase will make 1976 MFB dues \$35 per member family. \$4 of the \$10 will go to the Counties.

Although there was considerable debate on several other areas of Study Committee recommendations, all other motions to amend the report were rejected by the delegate body.

MFB President Elton Smith, who presided over the session, praised the delegates for their action and thanked the Study Committee for their 18 month effort in developing the recommendations.

Key recommendations accepted in the Study Committee report were a change in the structure of the MFB Women's Committee, the establishment of an expanded local affairs program, expansion of the regional representative staff, establishment of a group purchasing program and the creation of a county newsletter service.

It was recommended that the Women's Committee consist of 15 women, one elected from each

district, plus four at-large representatives appointed by the MFB president and approved by the board. The chairman and vice-chairman will be elected by the committee from within the committee. This recommendation will require a by-laws change at the 1975 annual meeting.

In local affairs, the delegates approved the addition of a local affairs staff person who will be a local government specialist. This person will direct Farm Bureau groups through government red tape so that they may be more effective in dealing with local government problems.

In approving expansion of the regional representative staff by four, the delegates accepted a recommendation which noted that the current staff of regional men are spread too thin and must waste many valuable hours on the road.

Noting in their recommendation that as a benefit to members only, group purchasing programs have brought many members into other state Farm Bureaus and have saved their members many times the cost of their annual dues, the committee recommended that the Farm Bureau board examine group purchasing programs such as Safemark, and give them top priority consideration. The delegates approved this recommendation.

By approving a new county newsletter service recommended by the Study Committee, the delegates opened the way for counties without publications of their own to have their own newsletters.

Young people learn at Citizenship Seminar

It was five days of concentrated study on what it means to be an American citizen for 200 junior and senior high school students from across Michigan last week at the 1975 Michigan Farm Bureau Young People's Citizenship Seminar.

Meeting at Albion College, the participants spent much of the seminar learning the political process first hand. Political parties were organized, platforms were developed, candidates nominated, rallies were held and voting took place.

In addition to the political activities the students listened to top resource speakers talk on the American way of life, the free enterprise economic system, and our heritage. One senior counselor noted that, "these students not only listened but asked questions - informed questions of all the speakers."

Near the end of the week-long event several of the students were asked to react to the seminar. One young man felt he gained a greater appreciation for what we have in this country. According to another, "I learned a lot about elections and really enjoyed helping the candidates run and getting people to vote."

A young lady felt she had become less critical of others by learning to listen to their views. "This week has really changed my life because my attitudes have changed," she said.

With major goals of developing better citizens, developing leadership abilities and greater understanding of the American system it seemed, in the eyes of the students at least, that the seminar was a success.



Students at the Young People's Citizenship Seminar showed some of their enthusiasm during the political party rallies.

MFB bicentennial theme praised

A special bicentennial kick-off program was held at Farm Bureau Center June 28 in the morning before the special delegate session got underway. Illinois Farm Bureau President Harold B. Steele was keynote speaker.

Steele touched on MFB's bicentennial theme, "Building Horizons on our Heritage."

"The theme of this gathering is a good one," he said. "We can, indeed, look back in pride on a heritage upon which we can build with confidence. By the same token, we can look forward to the new horizons that stretch as far as our imagination and our determination are willing to project them."

Following his talk Steele was presented the first official MFB bicentennial plate by MFB

President Elton Smith. The plates, in red, white and blue, commemorate the American bicentennial and are available for \$2 through County Farm Bureau secretaries.

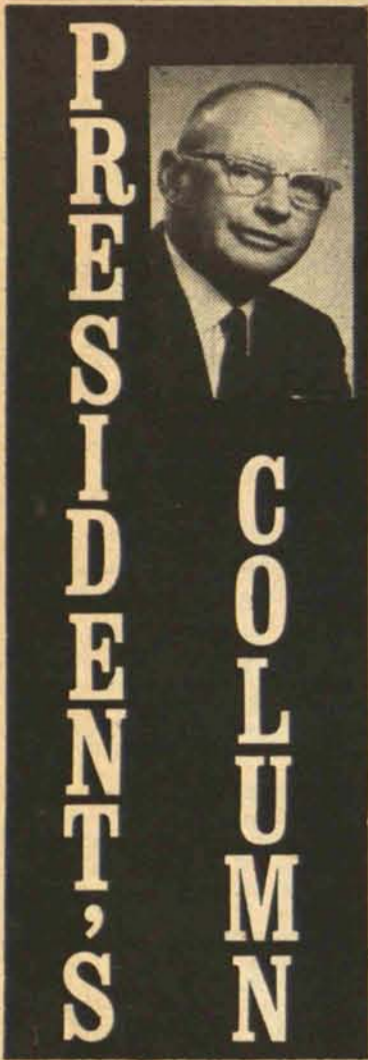


Harold B. Steele spoke at bicentennial kick-off.

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Leaf blight disease danger . . . page 11



The delegate session

Voting delegates, at the Special Delegate Session on June 28, took Farm Bureau's new bicentennial emblem and breathed life into it. They gave meaning to its motto: "Building Horizons on our Heritage." They exemplified the Minutemen who, 200 years ago, left their plows in the fields to fight for their independence.

Throughout the history of our country, farmers have traditionally and unselfishly left their plows in the fields -- to act, to speak up, to become involved -- when issues arise which affect their chosen profession, their way of life, and the future of their children. The Special Delegate Session was proof that the Minuteman spirit is still very much alive in the hearts of farmers.

These delegates were busy farmers, but they willingly left their farms for the day because they had some important decisions to make -- decisions which would affect the future of their organization, and the future of Michigan agriculture.

The "Building Horizons on our Heritage" was more than just a motto to them; it was a charge! Just as their forefathers did when they drafted the Declaration of Independence, they used foresight and wisdom as they built new horizons for the future. They did not aim for limited horizons. Instead, they looked far ahead of today, their own immediate and individual needs. They looked beyond the fence rows of their own farms and beyond the boundaries of existing, established patterns and methods of their organization.

There's an old Chinese proverb; "One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade." That's what happened at the special session. The State Study Committee members and the voting delegates looked to the future, with con-

fidence in themselves, their industry and their organization. They truly were planting trees that would give shade to the next generation.

The State Study Committee, in making its recommendations, and the voting delegates, in accepting them, kept before them a question which gave them direction: What kind of organization should Farm Bureau be in the future and whom should it serve? They decided that the purpose of the Michigan Farm Bureau is to serve the needs of FARMERS. And although that purpose does not change, the needs of farmers do, and so must the methods for achieving that purpose.

They made their important decisions with full knowledge that the horizons they built would someday be the heritage of future farmers, future Farm Bureau members, and future Americans.

As always, I was tremendously proud of the manner in which the voting delegates conducted the business of their organization. Their ability to analyze the needs of agriculture, their dedication in charting the course of Farm Bureau so it can fill those needs . . . make me look to the future with a great deal of confidence.

The State Study Committee members and the voting delegates wrote an important chapter in Farm Bureau history. They made decisions which will make our organization even more effective in serving the needs of farmers. The horizons they built on their heritage are unlimited . . . in terms of opportunities for growth and strength.

The voting delegates, back in 1973, asked for assurance that Farm Bureau would remain viable in the future. I believe they now have that assurance.

Lobbyists supported by taxes?

At MSU campus

AIC holds 50th meeting

You've heard and read a lot about those lobbyists that work for selfish interests in the state capitols and on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. But very few people know that their taxes are paying for a small army of lobbyists in Washington, costing you about 15 million dollars per year. One of the leading syndicated columnists recently estimated that at least 600 persons are employed full time by the various departments and agencies of the federal government to influence members of congress . . . mainly working at the job of convincing Congress that their agencies should get more of your money.

The Defense Department alone has 50 full time lobbyists working on congressional relations. The Environmental Protection Agency comes in a close second with 41 people paid to impress it's needs upon Congress.

Even the White House has a team of 12 lobbyists working out of a branch office on Capitol Hill. This force of some 600 skilled lobbyists, enticing members of Congress with a wide range of services and favors, is probably the most effective lobby in Washington.

It is one of the reasons why its so difficult to get Congress to put an end to any program or agency, regardless of how long ago it became outmoded and utterly useless.

Its impossible for any organized group in the private sector to come anywhere near the influence these tax supported lobbyists who work day-in and day-out extracting money from your pocketbook.

Roy Olson

The Golden Anniversary Institute of the American Institute of Cooperation (AIC) is being held July 28-31, 1975, at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. AIC began in 1925 as a national educational organization for agricultural cooperatives and has held an annual Institute on a university campus each year since, except for three years during World War II when transportation problems prevented holding them.

Theme of this 1975 National Institute on Cooperative Education is "Cooperation - Catalyst for Action." Opening keynote speaker for the first general session on July 29, Lieutenant Governor James D. Damman of Michigan, will speak on this theme. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., president, Michigan State University, speaks Tuesday evening, July 29 on the Human Factor in World Food Production.

About 2,500 people are expected to attend. They will include cooperative and agricultural leaders, educators and government representatives, and women, young farmer couples, and youth groups.

Thursday night's program, July 31, will feature the 50th anniversary of AIC with a graphic Historical Review set to music. A film presentation on Wednesday, July 30, will deal with the historical background of the Capper-Volstead Act -- passed just a few years before AIC was formed and at a time when the real growth of cooperatives as we know them today started. Recognition will also be given some of the leaders in cooperative development over the 50-year span of AIC at various times throughout the Institute.

Major topics -- in addition to those mentioned -- being discussed will include: Cooperation: Is the Concept Valid; The Capper-

Volstead Act -- Who Needs It? Internal Issues that Challenge Cooperatives; External Issues that Challenge Cooperatives; Size and Growth of Cooperatives -- What Are the Issues? and Who's Minding the Cooperative?

Owen K. Hallberg, AIC president, said this Institute will provide opportunities for an intense learning experience, for exchanging ideas and picking up helpful suggestions, and for hearing outstanding speakers discuss topics of great impact for cooperatives and agriculture in today's climate.

Cooperatives from around the

nation are sending farmer directors and key employees to the Institute. They are also sponsoring attendance of about 200 Young Farmer Couples, 750 Youth Scholars, and a number of new employees and graduate students in universities in their areas. These groups will attend special sessions of their own as well as the main Institute meetings.

Over 500 women will be attending the Women's Luncheon, with its focus on International Women's Year; a special discussion session on Ready or Not -- You're Involved; and the other Institute sessions.

DONNA

What is class?

The Special Delegate Session was the last paragraph of a very interesting chapter in my Book of Life. I had ambivalent feelings about turning that closing page--relief because the extra workload had lifted; sadness because the close association with a very special group of people was now over.

Serving as recording secretary for the State Study Committee was an Experience with a capital 'E'. It was challenging, demanding, fulfilling. If I had to describe, in one word, the 15 people it was my privilege to serve, it would be "class."

Class is something you either have or you don't. No matter how badly you want it--you can't buy it, borrow or steal it, develop it or inherit it. In fact, you can hardly define it.

It's more of an aura than a characteristic, a magic combination of appearance, manners, and attitude. Class should not be confused with chick or sharp because a barefoot girl in blue jeans can have it; an old man feeding pigeons in the park can have it.

Class is being able to eat corn on the cob in a restaurant without having the butter drip off your elbows and a stray kernel or two perching on your cheek like yellow warts when you've finished.

It's the ability to remove a raspberry seed from under your false teeth in public without contorting your face--or being able to endure the pain until you're in private.

It's never having your slip show or your zipper break, baggy-kneed hose or ring-around-the-collar, lipstick on your teeth or gravy on your tie.

It's always remembering your mother-in-law's name when you introduce her.

Class is being able to refrain from an emotional outburst when you miss a six-inch putt and stifle a giggle when hubby does the same.

It's never having to worry about the condition of your undergarments in case you should have to be rushed to the hospital.

To be perfectly honest, even with all the time I spent with the committee, I'm not sure that all the members would pass all those tests. But I am sure of this . . .

People with class hear when they listen, see when they look, feel when they touch, communicate when they speak. They find beauty and goodness in others because it's a reflection of themselves.

Like I said, this committee had class, and I'm thankful -- because I couldn't pass the corn-on-the-cob or baggy-kneed hose tests -- that I had the opportunity, for a short year, to stand in their reflection.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

The Michigan FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau Information Division. Editorial and general offices at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Post Office Box 960. Telephone, Lansing 485-8121, Extension 228. Publication office, 109 N. Lafayette St., Greenville, Michigan. Subscription price, 65 cents per year.

Established January 13, 1923. Second Class Postage paid at Greenville, Michigan.

EDITORIAL: Editor: Jim Phillips; Associate Editor: Donna Wilber; Contributing Editor: Cindy Sage; Staff Photographer: Marcia Ditchie.

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POSTMASTER: In using form 3579, mail to: Michigan Farm News, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

Second class postage paid at Greenville, Michigan

Farm Bureau



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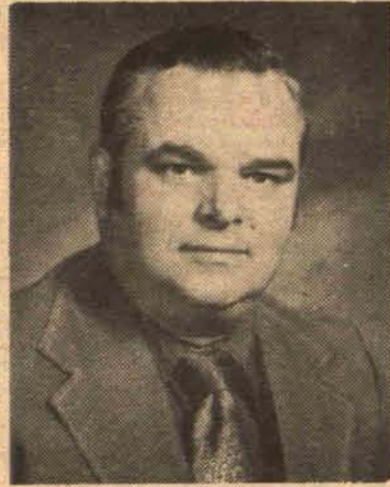
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Heim is new FBS feed sales head

John Heim has been appointed Sales Manager for the Feed Department of Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

The announcement was made by Feed Department Manager Donald Shepard, who noted that Heim started with Farm Bureau Services 11 years ago as a Feed Department Foreman for the Traverse City Branch of Farm Bureau Services. He was soon promoted to assistant manager of that branch store, and in 1966 he accepted a position as Feed Field Representative for the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA is another Farm Bureau affiliate). In 1971, Heim returned to Farm Bureau Services' Feed Field Staff, and was asked to come to the Lansing office in June, 1974 to handle special problems connected with the feed contamination tragedy.

"We are proud to announce this appointment," said Shepard, "because John Heim brings into his new position a great deal of experience and knowledge. He has



John Heim

had a lot of contact with feed patrons, and he is familiar with their needs. We are confident that John Heim will continue to uphold the best traditions of cooperative service to Michigan farmers." Heim, his wife Charlene and three children presently live in Traverse City, plan to move to Lansing in the near future.

FBS joins feed co-op

Farm Bureau Services, Inc. is one of fourteen charter members of a new cooperative organization to supply animal feed ingredients.

The new interregional co-op, known as CF Feeds, Inc. will help assure availability of needed feed ingredients for members. CF Feeds, managed by the cooperative-owned company CF Industries, will initially be responsible for procurement and distribution of feed phosphates to member co-ops. Future plans call for the company to distribute and

possibly manufacture various animal feed ingredients.

Other charter members of CF Feeds, Inc. include: CENEX; FCX, Inc.; Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association, Inc.; Intermountain Farmers Association; Landmark, Inc.; Midland Cooperatives, Inc.; Missouri Farmers Association; Southern States Cooperative, Inc.; Ohio Farmers and Grain Supply Association; Western Farmers Association; Land O' Lakes, Inc.; Agway, Inc.; and Tennessee Farmers Cooperative.

50 Years Ago In The Farm News

July 1925

There has been given out all over the country a libel that the Farm Bureau is organized for the purpose of combining in a way to hold up the people on prices. This is the farthest possible thing away from our present thoughts, but there is somewhere a tremendous leak between producer and consumer. It is our purpose to eliminate this excessive cost of distribution by marketing our products in an orderly, sane, businesslike manner.

Philadelphia, July 21 — Secretary Jardine placed the support of the Department of Agriculture behind the principle of co-operation in an address Monday before the American Institute of Co-operation. "It must be constantly kept in mind," he said, "that the problems confronting agriculture cannot be solved from the outside, but by the farmers themselves who know the problems. The principle of co-operation I consider to be so important, not only to agriculture, but to the national life as a whole, that I am happy to place the United States Department of Agriculture at the service of this great movement."

Sandusky, July 4 — The Sanilac County Farm Bureau picnic held at the county park at Forester today broke all attendance records for farmers' gatherings in this section of the state. About 10,000 people and 3,000 autos crowded the 38 acre county park to capacity and nearly 1,000 more cars had to be parked outside the park.

The calibre of the speakers and the quality of the addresses which they delivered were fully up to this epoch-making event. Headline attractions on the speaking program included Rev. A. H. Manaha, of Sandusky M. E. Church, Mrs. Frank Kinch of Grindstone City, and Dr. W. W. Diehl of Albion. Mrs. Kinch stressed the need for farm women to take a greater interest in community affairs. Dr. Diehl graphically compared the opportunities for youth in the past and the present and declared, "If we cannot maintain an intelligent class of people on the farms, our beloved democracy will end in ruins. Our present day civilization depends on perpetuating a good, strong, aggressive class of people on the farms."

One of the big attractions of the afternoon at the Sanilac picnic was a baseball game between McGregor and Sanilac. The latter team won 5-4.

Dissatisfaction with the present postal law is registered in a large number of letters received from farmers by the Washington office of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Among the objections to the present law is the arbitrary ruling by the Post Office Department that all packages carrying baby chicks must pay a 25 cent service charge.

In Grand Rapids

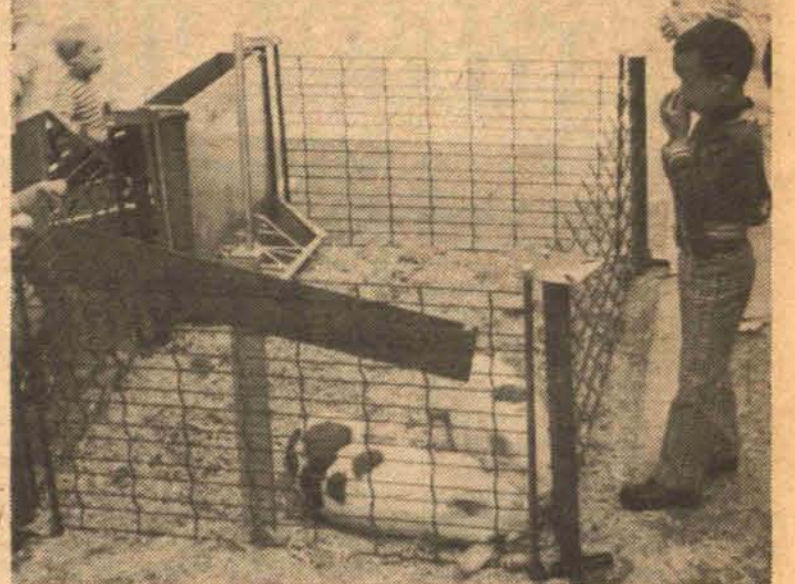
100,000 see farm fair

Over 20 exhibits of farm commodities were featured in the three-day West Michigan Farm Fair at the Woodland Mall, Grand Rapids, June 12-14.

Over 500 women from the Farm Bureaus of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Ottawa and Montcalm Counties joined with their marketing cooperatives in an effort to bring the farm to the city.

During the three days of the Farm Fair, a crowd estimated at over 100,000 persons viewed a new born calf, baby pigs, lambs, working bees and a nightly shearing of sheep. Treats for the tasters were also available as the women gave lessons and free samples of home-baked bread, cinnamon rolls, cider, cheese, potatoes, omelets and crepe suzettes.

The Farm Fair will be featured on Carl Guenther's show on WKZO-TV, July 12.



This visitor to the Woodland Mall Farm Fair discovered that farm odors are quite different than city odors.

New commission to control futures trading

The head of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission said June 6 in Chicago that "to make the system work" is the primary goal of the government's newest regulatory agency.

Speaking at the Chicago Board of Trade, CFTC Chairman William T. Bagley said he wants the new group to "become a positive force for innovation and excellence in the futures trading field," using the new powers delegated by Congress in effective policy and problem-solving roles.

"I share your feeling that futures trading helps the entire economy of the United States run more smoothly, and the benefit from the market extends to the general public," Bagley said.

"While futures markets are beneficial, I also know that they have some problems. Congress recognized these problem areas in creating the Commission, and giving it expanded responsibilities and new authorities.

"Let me stress that in carrying out these responsibilities, the Commission's primary goal will be to provide a climate in which futures markets and futures trading can make the fullest possible contribution to the nation."

As established under the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Act of 1974, the CFTC assumes responsibilities for regulation of futures contract trading in agricultural commodities — an area formerly regulated by the Commodity Exchange Authority, a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In addition, the new agency — which is independent of cabinet departments — has authority to regulate trading in non-agricultural commodities such as metals, wood products, crude oil and many other futures contracts traded on 12 exchanges.

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WANTED WHEAT

Red or White for the Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program. For information, contact any participating co-op elevator or your County Farm Bureau.



Commodity futures contracts are traded amid apparent chaos at the Chicago Board of Trade. Photo by Jim Phillips

farmers of the week

QUALITY FARMING OPERATIONS • AGRICULTURAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Lyle LeCronier
1500 acre Bay County cash crop farm * Bay County FB president * Past president Williams Twp. school board * 4-H leader * DHIA district board.



Russell Nelkie
400 acre, 100 cow Iosco County dairy farm * Director of Michigan Milk Co-op * Director of Iosco Soil Conservation District * Iosco County FB director.



James Gleason
150 cow St. Joseph County dairy herd * Three Rivers school board secretary * MFB state study committee member * Past President of Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc.



Kenneth Ritchie
160 acre Eaton County dairy farm * President, Eaton County FB * Community Committeeman, Eaton Co. A.S.C. * Past treasurer Bellevue school PTA.

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CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith



Taxes, trucks & robins

H.B. 5310 has been introduced by Reps. Kennedy, Anderson, Hoffman, Gast, Porter, Hellman and Mowat. It will be known as the "Pesticide Control Act."

Action on this bill is extremely important inasmuch as its need results from mandatory federal requirements.

In 1947, Congress passed the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act to regulate the marketing of pesticides which were then known as "economic poisons." The federal law applies to those shipments crossing state lines.

In 1972, Congress amended the act giving it broader control and coverage with federal regulations covering all pesticides instead of only those shipped across state lines. It provided that EPA must classify all pesticides as either "general" or "restricted." It also required that "restricted" pesticides can only be used by "certified applicators." This applies to anyone using "restricted" pesticides including farmers using them on their own land or on their neighbors land even if it is on an exchange basis.

The new federal requirements must be fully implemented by mid 1976.

The actual certification of applicators, including farmers, will be done by each state through state law. However, each state law must conform to federal EPA standards which were published in the Federal Register in October, 1974.

H.B. 5310 will meet federal requirements. It is 21 pages long. It provides for licensing of "restricted use" pesticide dealers, registration of pesticides, labeling, misbranding, etc. It provides for certification requirements that an applicant must meet in order to qualify for the various types of pesticide applications consistent with the regulations of the federal EPA. An applicant can become a certified "private applicator" or a certified "commercial applicator." A certification or license may restrict the applicant as to what he is qualified to do.

There are limited exemptions from certification or licensing including persons, or their employees, applying "general use" pesticides, on their own premises. Presently "general use" and "restricted use" pesticides have not been listed. Farmers would be required to be certified to use "restricted" pesticides, but not "general use" pesticides.

The bill also provides for an advisory committee composed of Directors of the Department of Natural Resources, Public Health, Aeronautics, Cooperative Extension Service and the Executive Secretary of the Water Resources Commission, plus four additional members, one each representing licensed pest control operators, producers of agricultural commodities, nongovernmental organizations for environmental preservation and the agricultural chemical industry.

Committee hearings have not yet been held.

BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX [H.B. 4640]

This is still a major issue in the Legislature, with at least five substitutes having been printed each with changes designed to make the tax acceptable to more businesses in the state. The version under consideration at the time this is written leave agriculture in about the same

position as it was under earlier substitute. The first version, as introduced, would have placed a heavy burden on much of agriculture. Since that time, several changes have been made including increasing the exemptions. Most farmers will be exempt. However, many farmers could still be affected depending on the kinds of farming and individual circumstances. This is true of many other kinds of small businesses.

Presently, the tax base would be determined by adding together the following: (1) profits (2) 1/2 of the depreciation (3) wages paid out (4) interest paid out. The exemption from that base would be \$30,000 of the owners personal income from the business. If the personal income was over \$30,000 there would be a deduction of \$2.00 for each \$1.00 over the \$30,000 thus eliminating the exemption on incomes over \$45,000. There is also a provision for a deduction of the labor cost portion of the base if it is over 70%. In addition, a taxpayer could fully deduct from the base any new investments made during the year. The rate of tax would be 2.3 percent.

In a companion bill (H.B. 5085) the present \$500 ceiling would be taken off from the rebate on property tax under the Homestead Exemption Act, P.A. 20 of 1972. If this provision remains in the legislation, it would be a tremendous reduction in property taxes for all farmers including those that would still have some tax to pay under the Business Privilege Tax.

All legislators have agreed that no exemptions will be permitted in the new Business Privilege Tax if it becomes law. In fact, one effort was made to totally exempt agriculture and failed.

While the House is considering H.B. 4640, the Senate Taxation Committee has received a consultant's report on an alternative tax solution to the state's fiscal problems. It is an effort to spread the tax burden more equally among all types of businesses. It is not yet in bill form, but basically it would use a combination of present business taxes and the value added concept depending on the type of business year.

INHERITANCE TAX [H.B. 4239]

Several weeks ago, H.B. 4239 passed the House of Representatives and is presently in the Senate Taxation Committee. This was a new inheritance tax bill. Recently, some newspaper and television reporters publicized the provisions of the new act. This in turn triggered a great deal of mail opposing the bill. Senator Bowman, Chairman of the Senate Taxation Committee, has said that the bill is dead and will not be considered by his committee.

However, some of the publicity given the act in the news media has not been totally accurate.

The legislation was a rewrite of the Michigan Inheritance Tax laws and would raise approximately \$18 million more than the present inheritance tax. One of the major changes is the method of administration. Presently, all inheritance tax is handled by the 83 probate courts in Michigan. Under the new act, the administration and collection of the tax would be by the Treasury Department.

Generally speaking, those in middle and lower income groups would pay less inheritance tax under the new bill than they would

under the old method. For example, those who inherit large estates in excess of \$250,000 would pay more inheritance tax than those under \$250,000. However, for the first time, jointly-owned property and insurance benefits would be taxable. These are the provisions that have created the controversy. However, there is a \$30,000 blanket exemption plus a \$30,000 exemption for property and a \$60,000 exemption from insurance benefits making a total exemption of \$120,000 for joint property between man and wife. The tax rates remain the same as in the present law.

A simple example may be helpful . . . assume a spouse received an \$85,000 estate. Under the present inheritance tax, there would be a \$30,000 exemption and then the first \$20,000 would be taxable at two percent which would be \$400; the next \$35,000 would be taxed at four percent which would be \$1400, resulting in an inheritance tax of \$1800. Under H.B. 4239, the same estate would have a \$30,000 exemption. However, the first \$50,000 would be taxed at two percent or \$1000, and \$5000 at four percent which is \$200, making a total tax of \$1200 or \$600 less than under the present system.

When the legislation passed the House, several outstate legislators were successful in amending it on the floor to exempt the first \$250,000 of jointly-owned (between husband and wife) agricultural land. This is the first time that special recognition has been given to the problems of farm land. This, of course, was in line with Farm Bureau policy.

The bill provides for 3 classes of heirs . . . Class I (transfers to spouse) is the area of greatest change. Class 2 (transfer to close relatives). There is no change in this case, except that there would be a \$60,000 exemption for insurance benefits as it becomes taxable. Class 3 (transfer to all others) remains the same and the present \$5,000 exemption remains.

If the Senate Taxation Committee considers the bill, it will probably be rewritten. If the bill survives in the Senate, Farm Bureau expects to try to improve it for agriculture. For example, many sons remain on the farm and the farm should be appraised only on its value for farming purposes. There are also other changes that might be made to encourage maintaining the farm for farming.

Governor Milliken has stated that he supports the shift of administrative responsibility of the inheritance tax from probate courts to the Treasury Department. He said, however, that he could not "agree to increasing the tax base by including jointly-owned property and insurance benefits."

FARM LABOR LEGISLATION [H.B. 4921]

The labor bill that would affect only agriculture is still on the House calendar as this is written. It has been delayed for several weeks. The purpose of the delay was to try to either defeat the bill, or amend it so that farmers can live with it.

Farm Bureau's position is that it is a totally bad bill for everyone involved. The bill, as amended, would put agriculture under overtime provisions, time and a half, and for all practical purposes would affect all farmers and probably would affect dairy farmers more than any one else.

The Federal Fair Labor Stan-

dards Act has always exempted agriculture from overtime provisions recognizing the fact that farmers must live with the weather and other factors. There are times when a great deal of overtime is required and other times when little or no work can be done.

The bill discriminates against farmers by bringing agriculture under the minimum wage requirements for all employees 16 and over. For all other Michigan employers, the minimum wage applies only between the ages of 18 and 65.

The bill further requires that every person would receive at least the minimum wage and that piece rates would be permitted to be paid in addition to the minimum wage. This in effect eliminates the very good piece rate system that has been developed in Michigan over a period of years. Presently, piece rates are raised in relation to the minimum wage. This is done by the Wage Deviation Board. Michigan's minimum piece rates this year are 25 percent higher than a year ago. It is a fact that piece rate workers make more money than those paid by hourly rates. Piece rates make it possible for many people to work who otherwise would be rejected. Fruit and vegetable farmers will recognize many of the other problems that this provision in the bill creates.

SAFETY STANDARDS [H.B. 5180]

This bill has passed the Legislature. It changes the Advisory Committee on agricultural safety standards (MI-OSHA) by increasing the number from seven to ten and requires that the committee be made up equally of employers and employees or their representatives. This bill was rushed through the House with glaring errors in the amendment. While the Senate refused to change the intent of the legislation, it was rewritten so that it is consistent with other parts of the law.

FARM TRUCKS [H.B. 4795]

As this is written, the legislation is on the third reading in the House. This bill would exempt many farm trucks from present licensing and registration procedures. The trucks affected are those that are kept by many farmers to be used only a few days per year such as in the harvesting of sugar beets,

potatoes, vegetables, etc., and are only used in a limited way to carry the crop from the field to storage. Owners of such trucks could obtain a special identification tag for operating on public roads for a fee of \$15.00. They would still be required to be properly insured and have the essential safety items.

This legislation, if finally passed, would be a major savings to many farmers and is also expected to exempt such trucks from the very burdensome federal truck use tax.

Marketing Fee Deduction [S.B. 385]: This was introduced by Senator Zollar and passed the Senate by an overwhelming vote of 33 to 3. It is presently before the House. It is essential legislation to those producers of fruits and vegetables who belong to a voluntary marketing association. It requires that processors, handlers, etc., must, when requested by the producer, deduct the marketing service fees and forward them promptly to the producers cooperative marketing association.

Over the years, many processors have shown the producers the courtesy of deducting such fees when requested. However, other processors have refused, or have used the deduction as a method of harassment. More importantly, some have made the deduction and then have not sent the producer's money as requested to the association thus using it interest free.

Several states have this type of legislation and our information is that it works well and solves many problems.

GOODBYE ROBIN?

Rep. Holcomb has introduced HCR 220. If the resolution passes, Robin Red Breast will be replaced by the Kirtland (Jackpine) Warbler as the official state bird. This little fellow has received a lot of publicity lately. A limited area of northern Michigan is his only nesting place and he is one of the endangered species.

Robin Red Breast has been with us for a long time and is very likely to survive. One wonders that if the state bird is changed to one whose chances for survival are limited, would it portend a similar future for Michigan?

O'Hara backs tax reform

Important revisions in the federal Estate Tax Law would be provided by legislation recently introduced by Congressman James G. O'Hara (D-Utica). Congressman O'Hara's bill, H.R. 7777, would raise the current federal estate tax personal exemption from \$60,000 to \$200,000. It would also raise the current marital deduction from 50 percent of the adjusted gross estate value to \$100,000 plus 50 percent of the total estate value.

H.R. 7777 would also provide the heirs of an estate used for farming to have the property appraised at its value for farmland rather than highest potential use. The current estate tax exemptions and method of appraisal were established in 1942 and have not kept pace with inflation or increased property values over the last 33 years.

Nearly 70 Congressmen have now introduced legislation identical to H.R. 7777. Included among these sponsors are Michigan

Congressmen Guy VanderJagt (R-Luther), Robert Traxler (D-Bay City) and Ed Hutchinson (R-St. Joseph). The House Ways and Means Committee is expected to consider estate tax legislation sometime this summer.



James O'Hara [D.-Utica]

NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy



Farm credit & foreign trade

Federal actions of interest to Farm Bureau since June 1 have focused on farm credit, Corps of Engineers permits, countervailing duties and foreign trade policy.

FARM CREDIT

H.R. 2914 has been introduced by Congressman James O'Hara (D-Utica). Known as the New Homestead Act of 1975, the bill would assist young farmers in obtaining adequate credit to begin their farming careers.

By amending the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, H.R. 2914 would revise existing credit provisions of the Farmers Home Administration for young farmers. Basically, the bill would provide three major changes.

First, it would substantially increase the amount of money that young farmers could borrow to start up their farm operations. The current \$100,000 ceiling would be raised to \$202,500, which represents 90 percent of the cost of a \$225,000 farm. This provision recognizes the increased costs and need for greater capital to begin farming today.

Second, the bill would provide for a more reasonable repayment schedule during the early years of the loan. The loan would be for a 40-year period at six percent interest. During the first 15 years of the loan, the borrower would be required to repay one-half the regular repayment amount. At the end of the 15-year period, the remaining principal and interest would be spread over the remaining 25-year period, or the farmer could make the normal monthly payments for 25 years and then make a lump-sum payment at the end of the mortgage period to cover the amount deferred during the first 15 years.

Third, the bill would simplify the loan application procedures within FHA.

On June 11, a Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee began hearings on H.R. 2914 and related bills. Accompanying Congressman O'Hara to the hearing to present testimony were a Michigan Farm Bureau spokesman and a young farmer, Gerald Grobbel who farms near Richmond in Macomb County. The MFB spokesman and Gerald Grobbel cited the problems of young farmers in obtaining adequate credit to start farming on a competitive basis, cited the assistance H.R. 2914 would provide in meeting these problems, and urged the Subcommittee to report the bill to the full House Agriculture Committee for further consideration.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMIT PROGRAM

Last month, this column reported on the federal District Court ruling which ordered the Corps of Engineers to expand its permit program for structures or work in waters of the United States. The Corps had issued regulations in 1974 applying the permit program to "navigable" waters only. The Court has ordered the permit program to include "all waters of the United States."

On May 6, the Corps published four proposed alternatives for expanding the permit program. The final regulation was to have been published June 16. However, on June 16, the Corps received permission from the Court to extend the deadline for public comments until June 30. The final regulation will now be published July 26 according to reliable Washington sources.

Farm Bureau has written to the Corps opposing all of the four proposed alternatives, each of which would affect agriculture in varying degrees. The letter stated

that Farm Bureau does not believe any expansion of the Corps permit program is justified nor required by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. Also, Farm Bureau has called for the Corps to file an economic impact statement on the proposed permit program before any final decision is made. An economic impact statement has not been filed despite President Ford's executive order during the early days of his administration for such statements on all regulations proposed by federal agencies.

Farm Bureau has also written to the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, and requested that he appeal the Court decision. An appeal offers the best opportunity to present further expansion of the Corps permit program.

COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

On June 16, Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton Smith wrote the Department of Treasury to urge that countervailing duties be levied on subsidized cheese imports from Austria.

This action followed a previous announcement by the Treasury Department that payments are being made by the Austrian government upon the manufacture, production or exportation of cheese into the United States. The announcement came following an investigation of Austrian cheese

exports requested by the American Farm Bureau Federation last January.

The subsidy ranges from two to forty cents per pound on certain Austrian soft cheeses and from two to thirty-three cents per pound on certain Austrian hard cheeses. Total imports of the subsidized cheeses during 1974 are estimated at \$15.8 million.

Subsidies paid by the Austrian government on cheeses exported to this country place American dairymen in an unfair competitive position with Austrian dairymen. If levied, the countervailing duties would offset the Austrian subsidy and allow American dairymen to compete on equal terms with Austrian producers for the affected cheese markets.

FOREIGN TRADE POLICY

On June 9, a Michigan Farm Bureau spokesman appeared in Chicago before the Honorable Frederick Dent, Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, and members of his Trade Policy Staff Committee to submit recommendations on aspects of the current Geneva trade negotiations. Although results of the Geneva negotiations are not binding on any nation, the negotiations will establish general trade principles which trading

nations will observe in future years. The Geneva negotiations are very important to agriculture because exports represent a sizeable market for U.S. farm products.

The Farm Bureau statement delivered to Mr. Dent and members of his staff contained several recommendations. One recommendation called for the reduction of both tariff and nontariff barriers which restrict exports of U.S. commodities. Another recommendation called for joint negotiations on trade problems within the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Heavy emphasis was placed on a recommendation for the U.S. trade negotiations to uphold the countervailing duty provisions of the 1974 Trade Act. The negotiators were also urged to avoid entering into any international commodity agreements. Such agreements allocate the world market for a commodity and penalize nations with highly efficient agricultural production such as the United States.

Also appearing at the Trade hearing was Harry Foster, Manager, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, who presented recommendations on trade issues affecting fruits and vegetables.

T.V. can help

Heat detection in dairy herds

Michigan dairymen can more accurately detect cows in heat with the help of an all-night watchman.

"Round the clock TV video tape monitoring during recent University of Guelph studies in Ontario, Canada, show a higher percentage of cows detected in heat late in the evening than any other time of the day," says Dr. Clint Meadows, Michigan State University dairy specialist.

It was found that 45 percent of all heat activity occurred between midnight and 6 a.m.; 22 percent occurred between 6 p.m. and midnight.

"This leaves only 33 percent of all heat activity to be seen between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., the period when most observations for heat are made," Meadows says.

A cow with a short heat period could easily be missed if the herd is not observed between the evening milking and the next morning. The same is true of a cow with an average or long heat period if her signs are weak.

"While video tape monitoring is not very practical on most dairy farms, it does suggest late evening observation may catch more cows in heat," Meadows says.

"Many dairymen with free-stall systems are making it a regular practice to spend several minutes just before bedtime observing their cows," Meadows says.

He suggests the following steps to improve detection in most free-stall systems:

- Don't observe when cows are eating, being milked or otherwise disturbed.

- Schedule observation periods at approximately equal intervals throughout the day to avoid missing the short heats.

- Allow at least 10 minutes for each observation by a designated responsible person. Heat detection is often overlooked during the harvest period.

- Complete heat records are

valuable in predicting when a cow is likely to come into heat.

-A veterinary examination of cows cycling but not observed in heat may help predict the time of the next heat.

Caution needed to prevent crashes

Extra caution by motorists and Michigan farmers can prevent many of the collisions occurring between farm equipment and highway motor vehicles.

"As farm production accelerates, farmers will be moving more equipment and supplies on rural sideroads and highways. The mix of fast and slow moving equipment often leads to tragedy," says Dr. Richard Pfister, Michigan State University safety engineer.

Latest national figures indicate farm equipment was involved in 20,000 public highway accidents and 170 deaths in the past year. About half these mishaps involved collisions with motor vehicles and most of the time, those killed or seriously injured were on the farm equipment.

"Many of these accidents can be avoided if motorists stay alert for slow vehicles and the farmer employes defensive driving tactics to avoid collisions," Pfister says.

"A primary rule for safe movement of any vehicle on public roads is that the operator be able to see and be seen. For tractors with cabs, windows should be clean for all-around visibility," he advises.

As required by law, all farm implements on the highway must

clearly display the Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem. "Make sure it is mounted three to five feet above the pavement and as near to the center of the vehicle as possible where it can be easily seen by traffic coming from the rear.

"Wash the emblem frequently and when it fades, replace it. Buy top quality emblems to assure maximum brightness and durability," Pfister says.

All lights and reflectors should be clean and operative before entering the roadway. Burned out bulbs or broken lenses should be replaced. The flashing warning lights should be activated any time the tractor and equipment is taken onto the road. On gloomy days, in bad weather or at night, the regular lights must be on. For night travel, properly aimed headlights and readily visible tail-lights are an absolute necessity.

"It is best to allow only experienced highway drivers to take farm machinery out on a public road. Many youngsters are strong enough to operate machinery in the field but may not have the knowledge, judgment or experience to deal safely with

Please turn to page 7

Q&A

QUESTION: What is the present situation in Farm Bureau's efforts to have the Saginaw Bay dredged and the deepening of the Saginaw River in order that ships can continue to use these facilities?

ANSWER: Farm Bureau, together with the Elevator Exchange, Farm Bureau Services, and more than a dozen other industries, have worked on this problem for some years. Local Farm Bureaus in the area have also been involved, together with several state agencies and legislators. Over the last two or three years, Governor Milliken took a personal interest and was very effective in helping to resolve some of the problems. Finally the environmental issues were agreed upon as was the method of disposing of the dredged material.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers marked the project for top priority and is presently ready to let the contracts. The one major problem remaining is money. This must come through congressional action. It amounts to \$23.6 million and was not submitted to Congress as a part of the President's budget.

Over the past few months, Farm Bureau, together with many others, has been working on this issue in Washington. Congressman Robert Traxler has just notified us that the House Public Works Appropriations Sub-Committee has approved \$7.1 million for the dredging project for 1976. While this is a major step forward, there is still a great deal that must be accomplished as the appropriations must pass the full House Committee and then be acted upon favorably in both the House and Senate, together with approval by the President.

In a letter to Congressman Traxler, Congressman Boland, Chairman of the Sub-Committee, pointed out that this action was taken despite the fact that there had been no budget request for the project. He complimented Congressman Traxler for his efforts with the Committee.

The Saginaw Port is of tremendous importance to agriculture and the State of Michigan. More than 7.75 million bushels of grain per year are exported from Saginaw. There has been no dredging since 1969. As a result, the depth in the channel has dropped from the authorized feet to 22 feet. More than half of the ships using the river require 22 feet or more.

Homefront

The Mud Creek Community Farm Bureau Group, Huron County, were guests of the Pigeon Cooperative Elevator for their May meeting. Ted Leipprandt, manager of the elevator, spoke about future plans of the elevator and showed the new computer system that will very soon be in use. Ralph Limburger, manager of the Pigeon Oil Company, was also at the meeting and gave some of the highlights of the oil business.

There's a new community Farm Bureau group in Alpena County that's so new they haven't a name as yet, but they have already started a worthwhile community project. The group's secretary explained the project thusly: "Roadside litter is the main problem in this area. Litter barrels do not seem to be available. This group will start a "pilot program" whereby members will place barrels on their own property. The feasibility of having a county project will then be determined. Bob Buchner will check with the road commission and also draft a letter to the Alpena News informing them of this project.

Michael and Rhosan Beattam are new members of the Prinz Group. New members of the Klondyke Group are Mike and Susan McGuire.

Co-op hunting clubs help control trespassing



By Charles Shick

Michigan has had cooperative hunting clubs for many years. The basic objectives of such clubs are (1) to control trespass on farm-lands and (2) to allow for an orderly harvest of the annual game crop. They were most abundant in the late 30's and early 40's at a time when ring-necked pheasant populations were the highest in the history of Michigan and when farm game hunters were abundant.

The first cooperative hunting club was organized as a private venture by a group of neighboring farmers in Williamston Township, Ingham County in 1929. The club was highly successful in attaining objectives and as a result the "Williamston Controlled Hunting Plan" became the basis for formation of other similar organizations. The clubs have received the support of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the Michigan Grange, the Cooperative Extension Service of Michigan State University, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

How the Program Works

Under the "cooperative hunting plan," farmers in a neighborhood

take the initiative to form an organization which controls at least 640 acres of solidly blocked land and not more than 10,000 acres. The Department of Natural Resources cooperates with such groups by supplying boundary signs, "yard" signs, and guest tickets to each cooperating farmer. Boundary signs read "No Hunting Without Permission."

The entire area owned or controlled by the farmers' group is posted as a unit with uniform signs. Under the provisions of this plan, a responsible person may hunt on at least a square mile or an entire unit after obtaining a guest permit from a farmer member of the group. *The farmer is under no obligation to give this permission if, for some reason, he wishes to refuse a hunter the right to hunt.*

The number of permits allowed to each cooperating farmer member is decided upon by the group at their annual meeting. Usually each farmer is issued four tickets, since "ganging up" of hunters may result on certain farms if a larger number is made available to each club member. After the farmer has given out all his permits, he does not allow additional hunters to enter the area through his farm until some of the permits have been returned.

After a hunter has obtained a permit, he must leave his car parked in the yard of the farmer from whom he received the permit. He must hunt on foot from that point, and must return the permit before removing his car from the yard. He must show his "bag" to the farmer if requested to do so. Some farmers jot down the car license number, name and address, or hunting license number of the hunter who receives the permit so that they have some means of identification in case any difficulty should arise.

The regulation that a hunter's car must remain parked in the farmer's yard while the permit is in possession of the hunter has proved to be the keystone upon which the success of the Williamston Plan depends.

With this rule strictly enforced, both "gang hunting" and roadside parking are eliminated. The hunter knows that he will be held responsible for his conduct while his car is "in hock" to the farmer and the farmer knows that he has control over hunters on his property.

Independent Clubs Encouraged

Some cooperative hunting clubs are handled entirely by local farmer management. They do not depend on the Department to supply free boundary signs and guest tickets. Such independent management is desirable, and the Department will give freely of its experience in aiding to set up this type of organization.

Horton Trespass Law Involved

The legal background for these organizations is, of course, the Horton Trespass Act, which is a civil act enforceable by any and all civil officers including state police, sheriffs and their deputies, constables, and conservation officers. The act prohibits one from hunting on the lands of another without written consent.

Apply Before September

Interested landowners can get additional information on cooperative hunting clubs and application blanks by contacting their local conservation officers, district wildlife biologists, regional wildlife biologists, or by writing to the Wildlife Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Lansing, Michigan 48926.

Farmers' groups wishing to participate in the hunting program should make application to the Department of Natural Resources by September 1, since some time is required to print and distribute boundary signs and guest tickets.

The author is a biologist affiliated with the Wildlife Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

OFFICE CALLS

Q. How do I collect Doctors Bills from Blue Cross Blue Shield when I am a subscriber over 65 or on Medicare disability?

A. If you are over 65 you must have bills processed through medicare first and have a statement from Medicare before you are eligible for any Blue Cross complimentary coverage. Most Social Security offices have a person who can help you after a service is performed and you do not receive a copy of the 'Explanation of Medicare Benefits' form. Your County Farm Bureau Secretary will need to see this statement from Medicare before she can advise you as to the payment which Blue Cross may make.

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Futures trading

(continued from page 3)

Bagley said he was proud of the progress the new unit has made since taking office April 21.

Accomplishments include registration of futures commission merchants and floor brokers; provisional designation of 41 contract markets on 11 futures exchanges; issuance of regulations on registration of associated persons, commodity trading advisors and commodity pool operators; issuance of proposed antifraud regulations covering options, leverage contracts and foreign exchange transactions; extension of large trade reporting

Collisions

(continued from page 5)

hazards associated with highway traffic," Pfister says.

"Most anything can be hauled with a farm tractor except an extra rider, particularly a child. Many young riders are senselessly killed or maimed in falls from farm machinery each year. Youngsters should be kept off and away from equipment, both in the field and on the road," Pfister says.

Before moving out on the road, check tractor tires to see that they are properly inflated. Inspect tires of heavily loaded wagons for soundness. Make sure hitch pins are sound and locked into place. Be sure loads are properly distributed and balanced to minimize swaying, whipping and other handling problems.

All loads should be secure so nothing can fall off. Do not overload wagons. It is better to make two trips than to have the load fall off on the highway or end up in the ditch because the load was unwieldy.

Lock tractor pedals together. The safety belt should be fastened if the tractor is equipped with a protective frame or crush resistant cab.

"Farmers should be aware of the time it takes to get fully onto a road or highway from a dead stop. A tractor and wagon require about 10 seconds while an auto going 55 m.p.h. travels about 800 feet during this time. So it is safer to stay put at the end of the driveway or an intersection if oncoming traffic is closer than a fifth of a mile," Pfister says.

Realizing the width of the farm tractor and equipment being towed is important. Keep it within the lane being traveled or at least to the right of the center line. Pull over to let vehicles pass when possible, but watch out for soft shoulders, ditches, culverts, posts and other roadside hazards such as earth mounded by road graders.

Match the tractor with the size of load being hauled. Do not use a light tractor for heavy grain, forage or other types of loads. Large tractors afford greater handling stability and braking power. In general, towed loads weighing much more than the tractor should have their own brakes. Secure the hitch with a safety hitch pin that can't jump out and release trailed equipment.

"Shift to a lower gear when going down hills. Never coast. Don't haul too big a load for your tractor to stop or control - it could overwhelm the tractor on a downhill grade and cause a jackknife. Equip wagons with brakes if heavy loads are often hauled, especially in hilly country," Pfister says.

Another problem with trailing equipment is keeping track of what is happening behind while at the same time watching the road ahead. Extendable rear-view mirrors can help monitor following traffic and the behavior of equipment being hauled. Mirrors can also provide a rear view of traffic otherwise blocked by trailing equipment or a high load.

requirements; and release of a 2500-page project report.

"Release of that report was not required under the Freedom of Information Act," noted Bagley, who has been honored by the Society of Professional Journalists for furthering freedom of information while a member of the California State Legislature. "But we wanted to set the stage for ongoing openness and responsiveness."

Mr. Bagley said he looks forward to getting beyond "the reactive period," in which the Commission has had to primarily respond to deadlines and immediate pressures, and into "an active phase."

This phase, he said, will be one in which the Commission becomes a positive force in helping the industry maximize its benefits to the public interest.

"In this latter regard, we will solicit a broad spectrum of public opinion on the responsibilities, functions and activities of the Commission, and will establish task forces, including industry representatives, to help attack problem areas on a continuing basis."

New silage additive available

Farm Bureau Services' Feed Department has released Liquid Silage Additive to the market, after years of research and testing. The new feed supplement is a urea and molasses mixture that increases protein content of silage.

The newly-introduced product is the equivalent of 100% protein, and supplies sulphur and nitrogen in balance. It has advantages over previous silage supplements in that its odor is not disagreeable, it requires no specialized equipment and does not need agitation.

An "early buy" program is now in effect, offering substantial savings if one buys before August 1; another smaller discount is offered between August 1 and September 1.

Farm Bureau Services will also financially recognize those farmers who own their own equipment; the cooperative will also acquire equipment for a fee. The product requires storage equipment for delivery to the farm; pumps, pipes and hoses to transfer it to the point of application; or saddle tanks, anhydrous tanks for application in the field.

Red Tart Cherry group meets in Michigan



Meeting recently in Grand Rapids, the Red Tart Cherry Advisory Committee of the American Agricultural Marketing Association [AAMA] examined market conditions for the upcoming crop. Data developed at this meeting and a subsequent meeting will be used by the committee in making recommendations to the AAMA for marketing the 1975 crop. Attending [left to right] Harry Foster, MACMA-AAMA; Roy Hackert, Chairman, Michigan; Wally Cox, Michigan; Dick Krogel [rear row] Michigan; Art Dowd [front] Michigan; Pete Betzler, New York; Craig Wayman, Utah; Mark Brownell, New York; Don Reimer, Wisconsin; Gene Viliquette, Michigan; Don Rawlins, AAMA.



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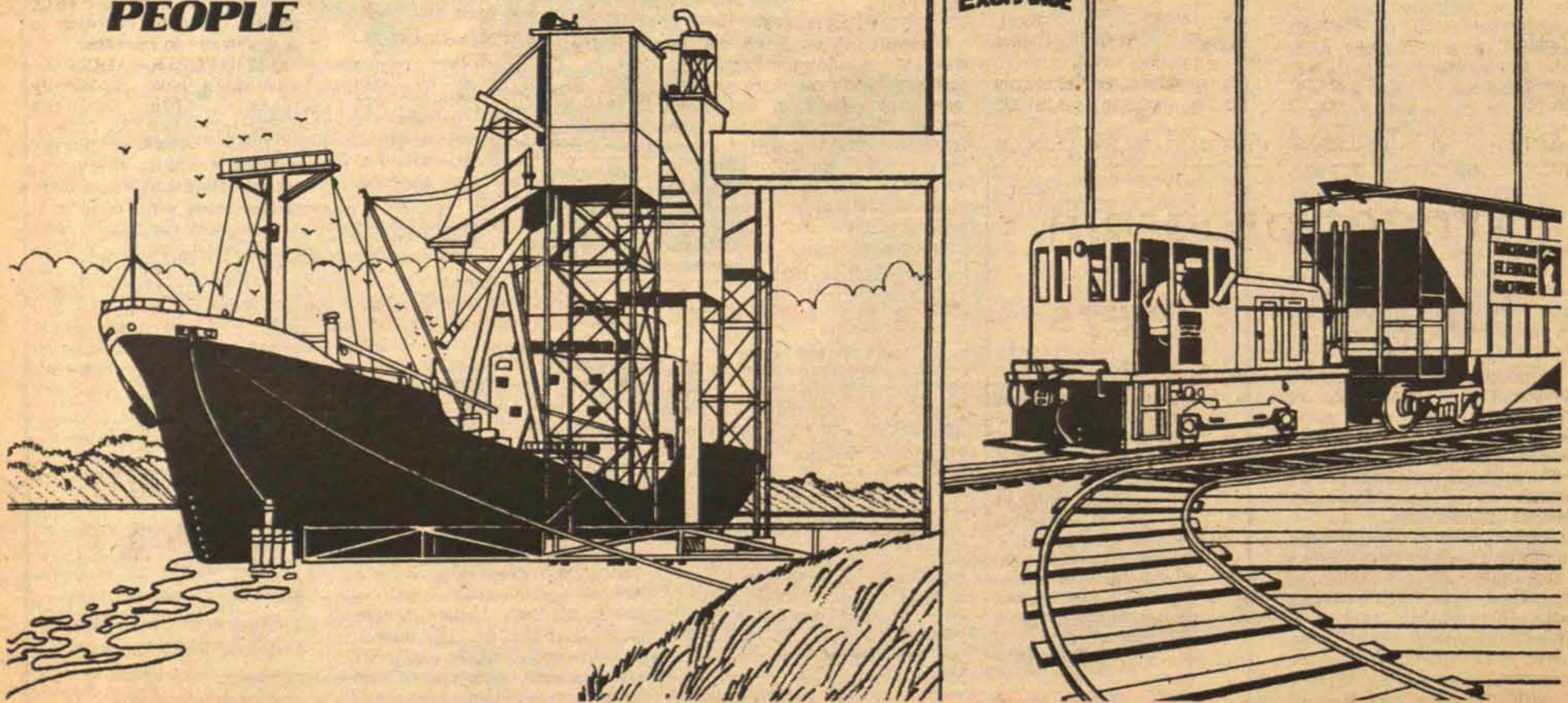
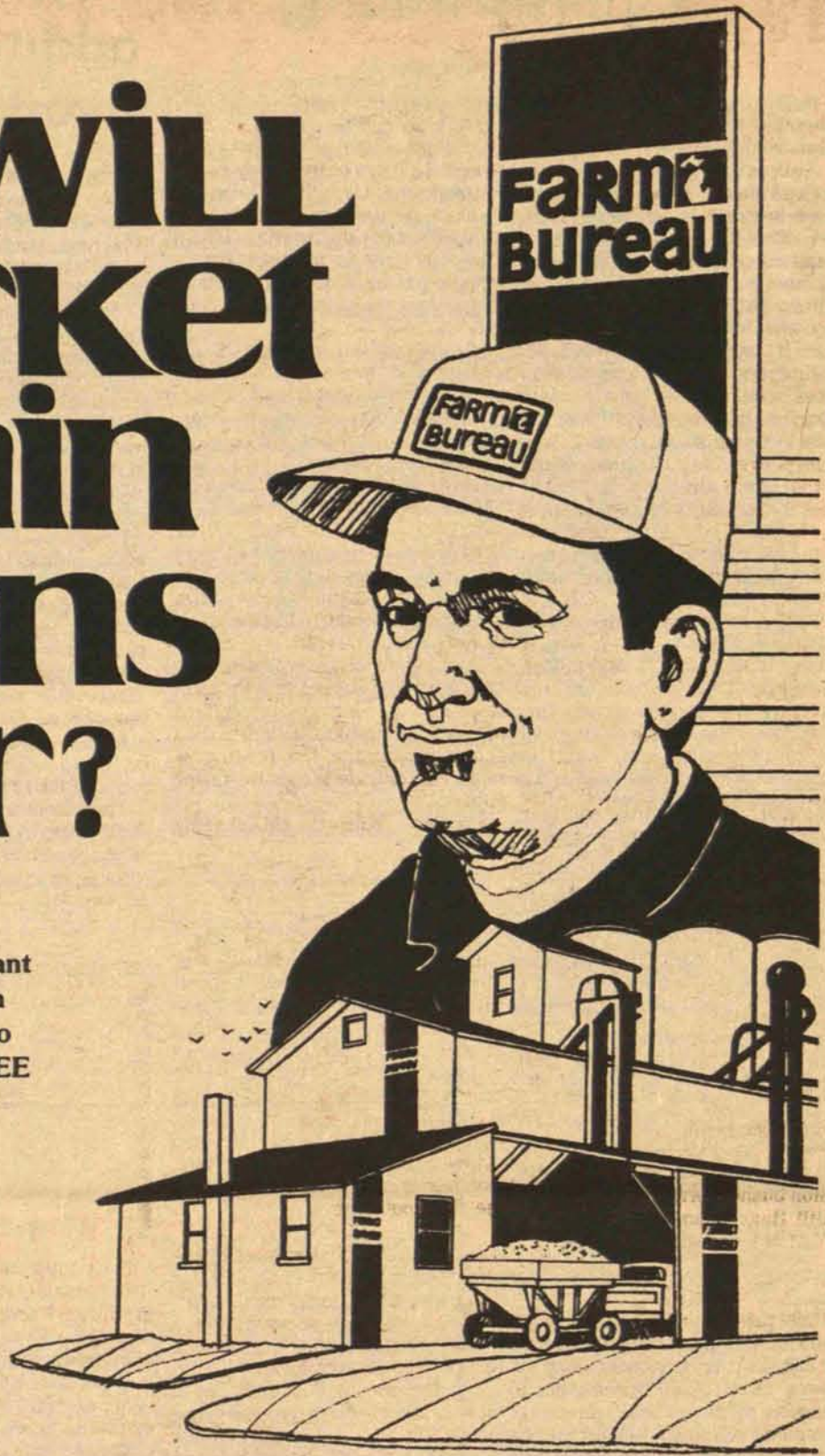
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Where will you market your grain and beans this year?

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

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

ASK THE FARM BUREAU PEOPLE



Michigan Marketing Outlook

DAIRY

On the national scene, milk cows-on-farms during May were down an estimated 26,000 from the previous month. This is the largest month-to-month drop since early 1974. The continued relatively strong market for cull dairy cows will most likely induce further culling. U.S. milk production in May was down 0.5% from a year ago. If culling continues and consumption holds steady, milk prices should strengthen.

During the month of May in Federal Order 40, production was up 1 1/4% over May last year. While at the same time, utilization of Class I dropped only one tenth of one percent. The demand for lowfat milk continues to increase, while demand for whole milk continues to decrease. Class I utilization for May in Order 40 was just under 60%.

**Ron Nelson, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division**

CATTLE

Prices on Choice cattle will remain strong during the summer months. The spread between Choice and Good beef has reached \$10.00. If Choice beef prices hold, the spread will widen. Good grade beef will come under additional pressure with the increased movement of grass cattle to slaughter.

The number of cattle being slaughtered is running 6-8% more than one year ago. However, total tonnage of beef is not larger, as cattle weights are down 60-80 pounds per head.

Feeder steer prices will advance beyond the \$40.00 mark if a six billion bushel corn crop is assured.

**Bill Haas, Manager
MACMA Livestock Division**

HOGS

Hog prices are on the move upward. The peak is uncertain.

Look for hog prices to hold up longer than cattle prices on a depressed red meat market. Slaughter numbers are 20% less than one year ago and will not change significantly the remainder of this year.

Feeder pigs are near the \$50.00 mark on 40-pound pigs. Demand should continue strong throughout the rest of the year.

**Bill Haas, Manager
MACMA Livestock Division**

SOYBEANS

The soybean prices have held near the \$5.00 level this past month. This has been mainly due to the orderly marketing by farmers. A slow decline is predicted by analysts of Continental Grain Company due to a large supply situation at harvest and the many large speculators caught in short position.

The supply at harvest is expected to be near a record level. A possible 200 million bushel carry-over added to a record new crop, adds up to a low harvest price.

The soybean meal price has resisted current market declines. Soybeans are being crushed to supply the meal demand rather than being the by-product of the oil demand. This would seem to indicate that cattle feeders are beginning to return to higher levels of feed concentrates.

Good, new crop prospects for both corn and soybeans now point to a stable, moderately-priced feed supply for livestock. This situation should encourage the feeding of more concentrated feeds for faster gains.

**David Wolfe, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division**

WHEAT

As we move closer to wheat harvest, prices continue to sag. Most factors point to low harvest time prices and possibly some strengthening later on. There appears, at this point in time, to be an abundant, if not record, wheat crop in the fields. Yields look good and quality looks good. Worldwide, no significant problems are evident. Even at this late date, weather is still a major factor in the final outcome.

CORN

In the United States most of the corn is now in the ground and, for the most part, looks real good. Some hail damage was reported in Iowa during the past weekend. A record crop is anticipated.

Two factors will be significant in influencing corn prices: they are (1) weather and (2) cattle and hog market. Strength in cattle and hogs, at the present time, should result in stronger prices for corn.

**Ron Nelson, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division**

ASPARAGUS

The deliveries of asparagus to

	Week of	1975		1974	Season Total
	June 1 - 7				
Michigan					
Canned	1,324,161	11,049,758	12,741,663	20,002,948	
Frozen	611,235	4,101,373	1,622,101	2,281,132	
TOTAL	1,935,396	15,151,131	14,363,764	22,284,080	

processors are down considerably from last year's figures. The following are the asparagus deliveries for processing as of June 7:

Some bright spots, the pack of frozen asparagus is already double last year's pack. The canned pack is almost equal to last year's pack at this time. Even though most of the possible pack of the crop is past, due to early hot weather, some canning will continue because early movement has been good out of processors' warehouses. This is indicated by processors having to allocate existing stocks.

Also, a bright spot is the fresh market, which may have moved to 3 or 4 million pounds of asparagus.

According to Harry Foster, Manager of the Asparagus Grower Division of MACMA, total 1975 pack may hit 18 to 20 million pounds of asparagus.

**David Wolfe, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division**

FRUIT PROSPECTS

The bloom and set of the major fruit crops in Michigan, overall, is good to excellent. The one exception seems to be plums, which is only fair.

Cherries have set a good crop. Peach and apple set is from good to excellent, depending on tree vigor.

**David Wolfe, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division**

RED TART CHERRIES

The American Agricultural Marketing Association, AAMA, has released the 1975 Volume Value Price Relationship:

This Volume Value Price Relationship Scale has taken into consideration (1) the carry-over situation; (2) the general economic condition; and (3) the quantity available to be marketed from this year's crop.

Quantity Available to Market From New Crop in U.S.

Quantity Available to Market From New Crop in U.S.	200 Million Pounds
210	" "
220	" "
230	" "
240	" "
250	" "
260	" "
270	" "
280	" "
290	" "
300	" "

Grower Cash Price 92 Score Grade

Grower Cash Price 92 Score Grade	17.4 cents/pound
16.6	" "
16.0	" "
15.3	" "
14.7	" "
14.2	" "
13.7	" "
13.3	" "
12.8	" "
12.4	" "
12.0	" "

The Volume Value Price Relationship is to be interpreted as follows: to determine grower cash price, the quantity available for processing must be determined first. It is the USDA Total U.S. crop size estimate less the amount utilized for farm and fresh use, crop abandonment, and any cherries set aside by the Federal Marketing Order C.A.B.

The estimate was made and the C.A.B. set aside has been determined. The crop available for processing is 256.6 million pounds, making the grower price 13.9 cents per pound.

**David Wolfe, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division**

Supply



Report

By Greg Sheffield, Marketing Manager FBS

Most supply activity has calmed down considerably with the advent of July. Farmers have applied nearly all the fertilizer and chemicals they'll need with the exception of sprays for fruit and some anhydrous ammonia for side dressing corn. The stabilized economic picture throughout the country is now being felt in the agricultural supply area. There seems to be more of what's needed by the farmer. However, these inputs have declined only slightly in price to date. Farmer activity throughout the country has increased, not declined, and demand for inputs remains not only steady but strong.

FERTILIZER

Basically, all fertilizers will be available in adequate supply for farmers who want them for fall wheat, plow-down, or any other reason. The pricing situation in fertilizer is stable now, but prices may decline slightly during the summer months. Michigan cooperative farmers are still looking to the construction of the ammonia terminal by CF Industries in eastern Michigan. This will put Michigan in a better position as far as anhydrous ammonia is concerned.

CHEMICALS

The great rush for chemicals is now largely completed for field crops. Only orchard fungicides, insecticides, and some herbicides are being used. The distribution of herbicides and pesticides worked out well, with Farm Bureau dealers ready with both supplies and advice on how to use the newest kinds of pesticides. Fly sprays are getting a big play now due to the wet weather which has helped increase the fly populations. Garden chemicals, too, are moving heavier than in years past. Adequate rat and mouse baits are available at local dealers. Through summer and the fall months is the time to think of

rodent control to prevent losses and serious damage.

HARDWARE

There is lots of activity in the hardware area with summertime being the time to prepare farm fences, install grain storage bins and livestock equipment. These supplies are adequate and now is a good time to buy at reasonable prices. Baling twine has been going rapidly with much haying being done. Grain storage bins should be ordered now for expected heavy harvests this fall. Now, too, is the time to paint up and clean up and plenty of paint, rakes, shovels, brushes, ladders, etc. are available for summer and early fall work.

BUILDING CENTERS AND SUPPLIES

Building supplies at all Farm Bureau building centers are adequate, and the centers are experiencing a spurt in business. There's plenty of aluminum and steel for roofing and sheeting. Special buildings and buildings for handling livestock and storage are in good demand. Farm Bureau Services buildings' experts are ready to quote and work on completion dates. As the buildings business picks up through easier financing, prices on building materials could rise, perhaps abruptly. If you need an additional building, now is as good a time as any to get this off your mind by contacting a Farm Bureau Building Center.

FEEDS

The commodity market at both the cash and nearby futures levels has been unusually stable for the past month. However, futures for the new crop have been in a declining trend. These markets could prove erratic. The outlook now is for a bumper crop with future trends going down. All major feed ingredients are readily available to Farm Bureau's manufacturing facilities.

Special promotions offering unusually favorable opportunities to livestock farmers will be held from now on through the fall and winter months. Complete feed supplements, Liquid Protein Supplement (LPS), and Liquid Silage Additive (LSA), are all being made readily available to farmers through sensible profit-making programs.

Dealers can assist Farm Bureau patrons in re-evaluating what's available in the light of present conditions. A reassessment of your feeding programs attuned to present market conditions for milk and meat is presently advisable. Farm Bureau's feed specialists throughout the state are ready to be of assistance to farmers.

LIQUID FUELS—TIRES

Liquid fuels have persistently increased in price and it's predicted that when the government finally passes an Energy Program, this will increase prices even more. It's not a case of there being shortages for the farmer. The prices from our sources have simply been moving up. Farmers Petroleum continues to hold the line as much as possible in keeping prices down for its farmer patrons.

Almost all tires are readily available—wagons, trucks, tractors—almost anything that rolls with rubber except a few very large tractor tire sizes.

Wheat program for FB members

At the June planning meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau Wheat Advisory Committee, the decision was made to again offer the Wheat Program to Farm Bureau members. The major objective of the program is to offer to Farm Bureau members an additional marketing tool in addition to the many other alternatives available.

The program was developed for the wheat producer who (1) does not have on-the-farm storage; and (2) wants or needs some cash at harvest time. Participants in the program are able to deliver wheat at harvest to a participating cooperative elevator. The elevator employee should be instructed that the wheat is to be placed in the Farm Bureau Wheat Program. Delivery and settlement sheets are signed by the participant. For individuals who have not participated in the program before, a Wheat Program Agreement must be signed. An advance check will be mailed to the participant shortly after delivery. The final payment check will be mailed at the end of the marketing year.

For further information, contact your County Farm Bureau or any participating cooperative elevator.

WANTED WHEAT

Red or White for the Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program. For information, contact any participating co-op elevator or your County Farm Bureau.

Solar energy

Is it in our future

The inadequacy of U.S. energy sources and plans to meet the increasing demands have become a priority item—often causing front page headlines. "The energy crisis," as it has come to be called, is complicated by the fact that many people have lost faith in technology. No longer are they as eager to adapt new technology—nuclear fission, for example—as they were a short decade ago. Up to the present, energy has always involved the transformation of some earthly material (the fuel) into another material (the waste). Now people are rediscovering an energy source which does not require an earthly fuel and does not generate wastes: the sun.

The energy supplied by the sun to the earth is equal to about 232 trillion horsepower per minute. As a form of comparison, the U.S. energy consumption during all of 1973 was some 30 trillion horsepower.

It has been estimated that by 1985, energy consumed in heating and cooling buildings will amount to 21% of the total energy used in the United States. Experts report that by 1990 at least five percent of the nation's home and buildings will obtain 80 percent of their energy for heating and air conditioning from solar sources.

So energy from the rays of the sun is no longer a pipe-dream. It can become an important source of energy as fossil fuels become more scarce and expensive.

There is already a substantial technical base for the development of solar energy heating and cooling. Solar hot water heaters are used in Japan, Australia, Israel and U.S.S.R. These heaters could be equipped with auxiliary electric heaters to provide hot water on cloudy days. Studies have shown that solar heating when used in combination with an auxiliary heat source fueled by oil, gas, or electricity, can approach and in some cases, surpass in economy the performance of conventional fuel heating systems.

In the not-so distant future, solar heating and cooling systems can also include solar cells for producing electricity. The electricity could be stored in batteries and used to supplement power from utility companies. The widespread application of this technique will have to await the cost reduction expected to result from the mass production of solar cells.

Solar energy cannot be used for heating and cooling of buildings without the cooperative efforts of the architect, the builder, the developer, and the equipment supplier. The design of buildings which will incorporate solar heating and cooling systems should take into account all of the building components which can play a role in the conversion and conservation of energy. These include windows, roof shape and material, floors, exterior color, and building orientation.

Solar Energy into Electricity

A number of techniques for converting solar energy into electricity are being investigated for implementation over the next few decades and if successful will offer important alternatives for meeting energy demands in the years ahead.

The oldest idea is that of a power plant based on the use of solar energy to generate steam. A solar-powered steam engine was a central attraction at the 1878 Paris World Exposition. Recently, large-scale terrestrial solar power plants have been proposed for construction in the deserts of the U.S. Groups of reflecting mirrors would focus the sun's rays on collectors to produce steam to drive a turbine generator set.

Solar cells have been used successfully in spacecrafts (skylab for one) to convert solar energy directly into electricity. On the ground, one square mile of solar cells, with an efficiency as low as 10%, could generate 180,000 kilowatts when the sun shines. Solar cells could conceivably be mounted on rooftops of buildings to produce electricity for households, office, or small industrial applicants.

There are two drawbacks common to all forms of terrestrial solar energy conversion. One, the amount of solar energy available is not constant. And secondly, a great deal of solar energy is absorbed in the atmosphere and thus never reaches the solar collector.

These drawbacks could be eliminated if the solar energy collection occurs in a satellite placed in an orbit around the earth where the sun shines nearly 24 hours a day. Another possibility for generating electricity with solar energy is the concept of a heat engine based on the difference in temperatures of sea water at the surface and at great depths.

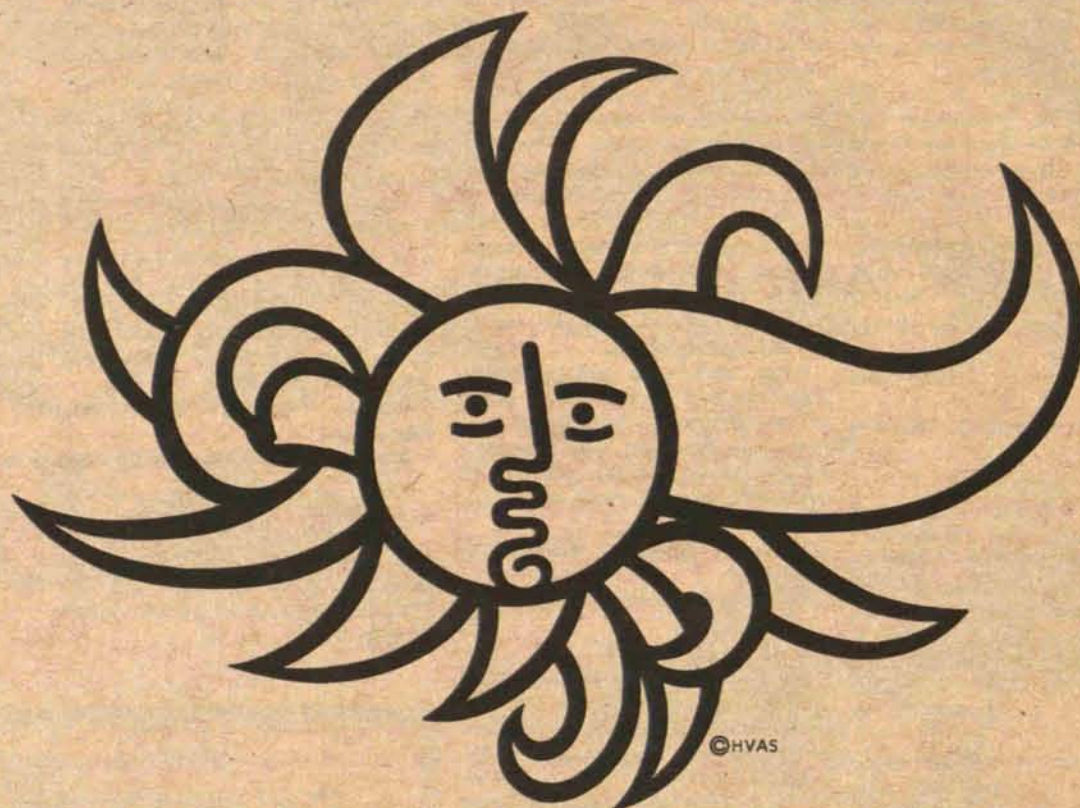
Pending Legislation

At least two bills have been introduced in the present session of Michigan's Legislature which deals with solar energy.

House bill 4241 was introduced by Rep. Lucille H. McCollough (D-Deerborn) and others. The bill, as originally introduced, would create a Solar Energy Coordinating Council, in the Department of Commerce, with the responsibility to study the feasibility of statewide use of solar heating and cooling systems.

A program for development and demonstration of solar heating systems to be used in residential dwellings would be implemented by the council. The council would establish performance criteria for the use and suitability or residential solar heating systems.

The other bill, H.B. 4598, was introduced by Rep. David E.



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DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES

Manager Member Relations

Bonoir (D.-Mt. Clemens). The bill, as originally introduced, would require that the state, over the next 5 years, undertake a gradual program of incorporating solar heating and cooling systems into state building projects.

The bill would require that the legislature include in the appropriations made each year for the construction of state buildings an appropriation for the construction of a minimum number of state buildings incorporating solar heating and solar cooling systems. The amount of the appropriations would be set at a predetermined amount, and in the fifth year and each year thereafter, appropriations would include an amount sufficient for the incorporation of a solar heating or solar heating and cooling system into at least 50% of new state buildings.

If by chance you don't believe that advocates of solar energy is serious, you should take a look at the goals in education, legislation, research and development, technical development, and market penetration outlined in pending legislation in other states.

In one state a sunlight rights ordinance for all future developments is being sought. As stated in the plan. "The right to unobstructed sunlight is imperative to the functioning of solar energy collector components." The proposed plan also emphasizes that it is within the interest of the people to establish a procedure for ensuring minimum sunlight rights for all future building developments.

Solar Energy and Agriculture

Farmers have a growing interest in how solar energy can be adopted to agricultural use. They are concerned, as the price of fuel increases, whether solar energy will make good economic sense and how it can be used in farming operations.

These are valid concerns, but unfortunately not all of the questions can be answered at this time. A start to obtain the

answers was made in March when the USDA announced a \$98,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to access the application of solar energy in agricultural uses.

Agricultural engineers and economists of the University of Maryland will gather information which can be used to direct an overall research program on farm applications in substituting solar energy for fossil fuels. The feasibility of solar energy for grain drying, greenhouse heating, and poultry and livestock shelter heating and cooling will be studied.

Another NSF research grant of \$150,000 will allow agricultural engineers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio and South Dakota land-grant universities to study the feasibility of using solar energy to supplement or replace other fuels in drying corn.

Use of solar energy in the cities and homes could directly help agriculture. Should it become economically feasible to substitute solar energy for fuels which are necessary for agriculture, the demand pressure on those fuels would be released. For example, a decrease in the demand for natural gas in the urban areas would free suppliers for fertilizer production and grain drying on the farm.

The Future

One of President Truman's commissions predicted in 1952 that 13 million solar-heated homes would dot the U.S. by 1975. This we know is not the case. But things have changed considerably since 1952 and the proponents of solar energy believe that its time has arrived.

Slowly, like the dawning of a new day, the sun's rays are emerging as one-if not the only-unlimited reservoir of clean, safe energy on the globe. And that could well be the issue which will decide where and how we get our future energy supplies.

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