

**MFB at the State Fair**

**Major display will tell ag story**

Young and old alike, big kid or small, there's something for just about everyone at the fair.

Highlight of the annual fair season is the 11 day run of the Detroit based Michigan State Fair August 22 thru Labor Day, September 1.

The State Fair takes national honors for being the oldest, having started in 1849. Over the years the State Fair has grown and expanded to include hundreds of exhibits that attract thousands of people each year.

Michigan Farm Bureau will be out and about at the State Fair talking up agriculture with fair patrons from a 10 x 20 foot booth in the Agriculture building.

The booth is an effort by Farm Bureau women to communicate with consumers that food purchased in a store is produced on a farm, and numerous economic aspects are involved in getting food from the farm to the table.

A full color 10 x 20 foot billboard poster will be used as a backdrop and will express the booth theme by showing a shopping cart in the foreground with a farm in the background.

Floor space will be utilized by four stations where volunteers talk with consumers about the role of agriculture. The first "station" is devoted to a model farm in which machinery bears a price tag. This allows for Farm Bureau members to talk about costs of production, need for equipment, investment, debtload, short time equipment is used during a year and many other subject matters.

The second "station" will be the daily ration consumed by a good dairy cow. Rations will be stored in

plastic bags but can be touched and smelled by the public. At this point Farm Bureau people will be provided with an opportunity to discuss the value of the livestock industry in our food supply (financially and nutritionally), and the need for realistic environmental regulations (waste disposal).

In the third area, a full color poster showing the 2½ tons of food consumed by a U.S. family of four in one year, will appear along side an economic chart indicating the distribution of the consumer's food dollar. This will assist in explaining the many ways a food dollar is split and exposing the fact that no one "middleman" is taking advantage of both farmer and consumer.

At the final stop, consumers will observe a shopping cart loaded with all those items found in the supermarket. Thru the use of a poster, Farm Bureau workers will point out that for every \$20 spent at the supermarket, over \$6 is for non-food items such as beer, soft drinks, clothes, paper products etc.

This stop sets the stage for workers to point out that together food and non-food items purchased in the supermarket reflect the products needed to feed a family and keep a house in running order. In addition, consumers will have an opportunity to discuss the value and diversity of Michigan agriculture.

Prior to the State Fair those involved in staffing the booth from Districts 2, 3, 5 and 6 will participate in one of four training sessions scheduled, and each will receive a packet of information about the fair exhibit.

**Class "C" members may join "Blues"**

All "C" classified members who paid their 1975 dues before July 5, 1975, will have a special opportunity to enroll in group Blue Cross-Blue Shield. The special reopening will be held August 15 through August 30.

This opportunity is the result of the delegates' approval of the State Study Committee's recommendation to open Blue Cross-Blue Shield eligibility to all members. Any "C" classified member who wishes to enroll for group coverage should contact their County Farm Bureau Secretary before August

30. Eligible members who enroll at this time will have coverage effective November 20. The next opportunity for existing members to enroll will be March 1-15, 1976 with an effective date of May 20, 1976.

All new members, if they apply within ten days of membership approval, may enroll in group Blue Cross-Blue Shield, with an average waiting period of six months. Full-time farmers, who are new members, may have effective coverage after a three month waiting period.

**Meet us in St. Louis**



All 296 seats on this French-built turbine train has been reserved to take Michigan Farm Bureau members to the AFBF annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on January 3. Plan now to be part of the group and watch for details in the next issue of this paper.

**Three more sponsors**

**Estate tax reform pushed**

Three Michigan Congressmen have recently introduced bills to reform the existing 33-year-old federal estate tax law. Joining the growing number of sponsors of estate tax reform bills are Congressmen Garry Brown (R-

Schoolcraft), Elford Cederberg (R-Midland) and Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor).

The bills introduced by the Congressmen would substantially raise the current \$60,000 personal exemption and marital deduction

for estate tax purposes. The bills would also provide heirs to an estate the option of having the estate appraised at its agricultural use value rather than potential market value.

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Garry Brown [R-Schoolcraft]



Marvin Esch [R-Ann Arbor]



Elford Cederberg [R-Midland]

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## Policy development

# Crucial to Farm Bureau

Throughout the year Farm Bureau members find themselves and their organization involved in many important events and activities. According to current Michigan Farm Bureau policy these events and activities are designed to "analyze problems and formulate action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement" for farm families. This is Farm Bureau's purpose.

The Washington Legislative Seminar, the Young People's Citizenship Seminar, press briefings, mall displays, farmer attendance and testimony at key legislative hearings have been only a few of such activities. There are dozens of others; all important.

Now comes time for another vital Farm Bureau activity--Policy Development.

Policy Development is crucial to our farm organization at all levels--county, state and national, because it is the policy of the organization that gives drive to all else that takes place. Policy is to Farm Bureau as the compass is to a great ship on the high seas. It provides the direction needed to effectively reach our stated purpose.

The state Policy Development committee has been appointed. Policy Development committees have or are being formed in all the counties. Now is the time for Farm Bureau members to start making their policy recommendations at the county level. Either through your community group or

individually, it is the opportunity of all Farm Bureau members to take part in the Policy Development process.

The direction Farm Bureau should go on the many important issues of the day needs to be determined. There was never a time when more important issues were before us.

Energy for now and the future, a free market or a government supported agriculture, dealing with complex regulations, competing in world markets, commodity checkoffs, the cost of government, international trade, the survival of farmlands, estate taxes, the ability of young people to get started in farming--these are just a few of the issues to be dealt with in creating policy for the organization.

Unlike many organizations, Farm Bureau develops its policy and gets its direction at the grass roots level. In Farm Bureau, direction of policy should not, may not and will not be imposed from the top.

This is why the voice of Farm Bureau is respected in the legislatures. It is recognized as the voice of the man on the land.

As we move through the Policy Development process, from the local and county level to the state and national level, it is the input of the members that will give direction to this organization. Through member involvement in Policy Development, Farm Bureau can maintain and enhance its reputation as an effective, responsible voice for agriculture.

### MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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**Farm Bureau**

## Blue Cross/Shield rates up

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan have announced an increase in subscription rates for all subscriber-members of the Michigan Farm Bureau group program. The adjustment will take effect with the August 20, 1975, quarterly billing.

Most Farm Bureau member-subscriber rates have been adjusted approximately 24 percent. This increase is due mainly to the higher payments made to providers of care by Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Even though doctors and hospitals are reim-

bursed on the basis of a payment formula, the inflationary trend in costs has forced increases averaging 14 percent over the past year.

In addition, there has been increased utilization of medical or doctor services by Farm Bureau members, which has affected the rate. Hospital services utilized remained relatively stable. Administrative costs of Blue Cross and Blue Shield remain among the lowest in the industry, at 5.3 percent of income.

The Bureau of Insurance which

maintains jurisdiction of approval or disapproval of Blue Cross and Blue Shield subscription rates, granted an average of 22 percent increase earlier this year. This figure represents the adjustment the average group would receive in rates for the next twelve-month period. In comparison, Michigan Farm Bureau members received a relatively standard increase.

Apparently the cost of health care is rising just as many other goods and services and the realities of the economy today require financial adjustments just to keep pace. Blue Cross and Blue Shield does maintain many cost containment procedures with providers of care. For more information, you can obtain a copy of a booklet describing these procedures by contacting your local county secretary.

## New market development head named

Dr. Paul Kindinger has been named Director of MFB's Market Development Division and will assume his new responsibilities on August 1 according to Robert Braden, MFB Administrative Director.

Kindinger was raised on a farm in Hillsdale County and has B.S. and M.A. degrees in agricultural economics from Michigan State University. He taught two years in the agricultural technology program at the University of Minnesota before heading to New York's Cornell University where he has just completed his Ph. D. degree.

The new division director is married and has one daughter.

## Almy on state environment body

MFB legislative counsel Al Almy has been appointed to the new Michigan Environmental Education Interim Committee by Gov. William G. Milliken.

"The committee's task is twofold," the Governor said. "First, it will be coordinating activities under the Michigan Environmental Education Plan, and second, it will seek federal funding for the establishment of a state office of Environmental Education."

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will provide staffing support for the committee until an office is established.

Appointed with Almy were 11 other prominent Michiganders from business, education and conservation interests.



Al Almy

**DONNA**

## My poor knees

If you're a normal, healthy, all-American woman, the recently released "wish books" have probably filled an hour or two of your summer afternoons. You can almost look forward to crisp autumn days as you picture yourself in that darling skirt and sweater.

And--if you're at all fashion conscious--you probably paid particular attention to skirt lengths. What will it be this season?

My poor frustrated knees! I just got them trained not to blush when exposed in all their dimpled glory and now the fashion designers are threatening to cover them up again. With those new longer lengths, they'd never get any sunshine or fresh air and they were beginning to enjoy both.

My knees and I will fight the trend for awhile at least--just as we

did against the mini. Our rebellion now, as then, will be based mainly on economic reasons. When the mini made its debut, I very wisely just folded over and basted the bottoms of my skirts. I had very bulky hemlines for a year before chopping them off when it looked like knees would remain liberated. Now, unless contrasting ruffled hemlines get fashionable, those skirts have had it.

My first inclination is to just absolutely refuse to wear those ugly longer skirts, but experience has taught me that ugly today may be sexy tomorrow. It wasn't that long ago I swore I wouldn't ask my knees to go naked in public.

If the longer lengths do win in this fashion tug-of-war, I'm going to kick myself for throwing out all those panty hose with runs above the fatted calf.

## MOVING?

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 County of Membership \_\_\_\_\_



**Smith presents keys**

**Camp for blind gets truck**



MFB President Elton Smith presents new truck keys to Michigan School for the Blind Superintendent Dr. Nancy Bryant. The four wheel drive pickup will be used at the school's Camp Tuhsmehta in Kent County.

A new, four-wheel drive pickup truck with winch and snowplow is now in operation at the Michigan School for the Blind's Camp Tuhsmehta in rural Kent County. The truck was presented to School for the Blind Superintendent Dr. Nancy Bryant by Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith during brief ceremonies at the camp July 7.

Farm Bureau Services (an affiliate company of Michigan Farm Bureau) earned the right to select a community service organization to receive the truck in a Dow

Chemical marketing promotion program. Farm Bureau Services qualified by significantly increasing their sales of Dow agricultural chemicals in 1974.

The 300-acre camp for visually handicapped youngsters is in the early stages of development with campers using it for the first time this summer.

Camp Director Bob Burnett says the new truck will be put to good use. "We will be using it year-round, hauling logs and branches, plowing the roads in winter and trans-

porting the kids around the camp," Burnett said.

"The winch will come in handy pulling some old logs from the lake as we develop the waterfront," he added.

The youngsters come to the camp for a one-week stay and take part in all the activities one would expect at a camp. Archery, rowing, canoeing, swimming, camp craft and nature study are all part of a camper's experience while at Camp Tuhsmehta.

"Our motto here is, 'I can do it,'" says Burnett. "We go about all the activities with that in mind. We want to expand the horizons of these children."

**"Feeder of the year" will receive \$1000**

A \$1,000 cash award and a plaque of recognition await the dairy, poultry, beef or swine farmer in Michigan who shows the highest standards of production, outstanding community involvement, and who feeds his livestock on Farm Bureau feed.

The winning producer will be presented with his award at the Farm Bureau Services annual December meeting in Grand Rapids. In addition, outstanding feeders from each of the five Farm Bureau districts in Michigan will receive cash awards of \$100. County winners will be presented with plaques.

"We have sent nearly a thousand sets of nominating rules and evaluation forms to Farm Bureau Community groups all over the state," said Feed Department Manager Donald Shepard. "We figure the best people to choose the nominees for 'Michigan Feeder of

the Year' are those who know them best, because the winners will be selected for good citizenship as well as farming leadership."

District and statewide winner will be selected by a committee made up of elected and administrative officials of Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate cooperatives.

"We're proud of our cooperative feed producing ability, and we're proud of all the farmers who have helped make cooperatively-manufactured feeds the standard of comparison all over the world," said Shepard. "This is one way in which the cooperative can return thanks to the farmer-owners and patrons who have made it strong and workable."

Deadline for submission of county nominees for "Michigan Feeder of the Year" is September 15, 1975.

**In Mac-Luce**

**Rural-urban day held**

The Mackinac-Luce Farm Bureau, under the sponsorship of the Womens Committee held a Rural-Urban Day to kick-off the nation's Bicentennial.

Tours were made to five farms where the visitors saw a variety of machinery on display and in operation, also milking cows with a pipeline operation and a herringbone milking parlor set-up were viewed. A solid waste retention basin was explained, plus a ditching demonstration, and a bunker silo and an upright silo being filled was observed.

The tour ended with a free

barbecue beef supper being served to 500 people.

The 600 people in attendance included visitors from as far away as Florida, Colorado, Wisconsin, as well as many from Lower Michigan.

Guests included Mr. Dan Reed of Paradise, Mr. Frank Molinaire, Mr. Robert Dewey, and Mr. Rick Hartwick of Marquette.

A display of baby calves, geese, rabbits, chickens, and turkeys entertained the young children.

A large amount of old-fashioned farm machinery and tools were also on display.

**farmers of the week**

QUALITY FARMING OPERATIONS • AGRICULTURAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



**ARTHUR BAILEY**  
700 acre Kalamazoo County dairy & hog farm \* member MFB state board \* past member, board of education \* township zoning board.



**WALTER FRAHM**  
500 acre Saginaw County dairy farm \* member MFB state board \* local school board member 14 years, president 13 years \* President, Mich. Guernsey Breeders, 7 years \* past president of local PTA.



**JAMES STEWART**  
377 acre Gratiot County dairy farm \* discussion topic leader in Community Group \* Treasurer of 4-H council \* FFA American Farmer, 1973 \* member of Mich. National Guard.



**JOSEPH MIESLE, JR.**  
620 acre Livingston County dairy farm \* 1973 Livingston County FB President \* Vice-President, Ag. Tech. Alumni Assoc. \* Township Trustee.



**WILLARD & GARY BEHM**  
Lenawee County dairy farm \* owners of worlds top producing cow \* Willard on PCA board and county holstein board \* Gary is President of county DHIA and Director on state holstein board.

**Fruit offered to counties this month**

A variety of Michigan Frozen Fruits are offered to County Farm Bureaus in the "Member to Member" program in August says James Lincoln, MACMA staff member and coordinator of the program.

The program is offered state wide after a trial run with five counties last year. Response to the program has been outstanding says Lincoln and many new items have been added this year.

Items included Red Tart Pitted Cherries, Dark Pitted Sweet Cherries, Strawberries, Blueberries, Spy Apple Slices, Peach Slices.

Both sugared and non-sugared fruits are included. Some items are available in I.Q.F. (individually quick frozen). Most items will be shipped in 30 lb. tins or cartons. Some items are available in 10, and 8 lb. units. Shipments to counties will also include Michigan apple cider concentrate (non-frozen) and Hi-Density Orange Concentrate from the Florida Farm Bureau.

"The wide variety of items should appeal to many people. In addition we are locating the best quality available in Michigan," says Lincoln.

The complete order for each county will be delivered on one truck. Delivery dates are scheduled between August 18 and 27th.

**Essay Contest**

Michigan Farm Bureau is pleased to sponsor a "Bicentennial" essay contest in cooperation with Future Farmers of America in Michigan.

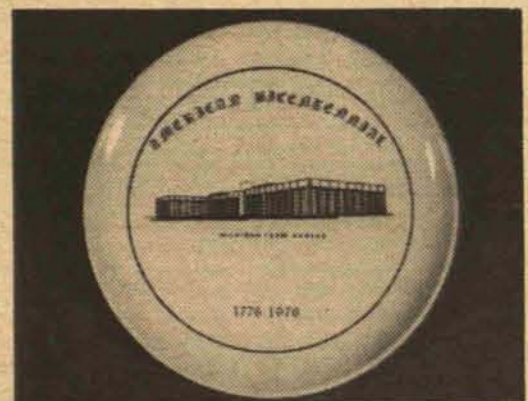
To enter the contest FFA members should submit a 250 to 500 word essay on the subject "Building Horizons on Our Heritage" to: Farm News essay contest, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Mich. 48904 no later than November 15, 1975.

The winner will be announced during the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in Grand Rapids, December 9-12, with the winning essay being published in the January 1976 Farm News.

First prize will be an all expense paid trip for two to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in St. Louis, January 3-8, 1976. The trip will be by Amtrak Turbo-train and will include a half day sightseeing tour of Chicago and a full day tour of St. Louis plus the convention activities.

Second prize will be \$100 and third prize will be \$50.

**FARM BUREAU BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE PLATES**



These 9 1/2" white china plates in red and blue printing are now available for purchase at \$2 each. Orders may be placed through County Farm Bureau offices. Remittance must be included with orders.

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**MICHIGAN FARM RADIO NETWORK AND FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP™**

# CAPITOL REPORT

## School Aid & Transportation

Robert E. Smith



### LEGISLATION

It isn't likely that the State Legislature will have a summer recess before the first part of August. Appropriations bills and other major legislation are still under consideration, a major problem being whether there will be enough state revenues to fund state expenditures.

The Business Privilege Tax, together with other bills on business tax reform, has passed the House and as this is written is still under consideration in the Senate.

One minor tax bill [H.B. 5225] that has now passed can be very important to many people. It is a measure to permit property taxpayers to appeal directly to the State Tax Tribunal under certain conditions, primarily when equalization of property results in increased valuation after it is too late to appeal to the local board of review. Under such circumstances, the taxpayer could appeal to the tribunal by the third Monday in August.

### SCHOOL AID ACT

The House has passed H.B. 4814 which contains a major change in the Bursley formula which has been in effect the last two years and has guaranteed the yield of each mill of property tax regardless of whether a district is rich or poor. It is known as the "equal yield" concept. The formula under the new Act has been changed to a two-part formula. Districts leveling up to 20 mills would receive state aid of \$42.40 for each mill. Those leveling 20-27 mills will receive \$38.25 for each mill. The formula is designed to provide added support for low-millage districts. The formula also includes all pupils, including adult education, to determine a district's membership for state aid purposes.

The state aid for funding the basic formula totals \$834.6 million which is \$6.5 million lower than the Governor's recommendation. However, the total cost of the bill is \$1.387 billion which is \$21.9 million over the Governor's recommendation.

Special education has received a substantial increase of approximately \$27 million more than last year's appropriation. \$16.2 million will be placed in the general formula to fund students in state institutions. This will help to solve the problem for those districts that have been ordered to provide special education services to institutionalized patients in their districts. This has been a serious situation in many areas.

Transportation costs have gone to \$62.8 million, an increase of \$9.1 million. Reimbursement to districts is based on 75 percent of the total transportation costs. Vocational education funding has also been increased to about \$20 million. Another area of increase is in the assistance that is available for school construction. The proposed changes will equalize millage in districts with 25 mills or less in combined operating and capital outlay millage. This is a rather complicated formula, and \$6.6 million has been added to fund it.

This is a very sketchy outline of the state aid bill, which in addition

to the basic state aid formula, contains many other "categoricals." The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

### POLITICAL REFORM PROPOSAL [Substitute H.B. 5250]

This is a 71-page bill, presumably to make sweeping political reform changes in Michigan ranging from mandatory disclosures from political candidates to additional lobbying controls; limiting campaign expenditures, and initiating public financing of political campaigns. It has received a great deal of publicity in the media and has been known as the "common cause" bill which is an organization that has threatened, unless such legislation is passed, to pursue a petition to force it on the ballot. While the intention appears to be good, most media fail to recognize that Michigan has many statutes designed to do many of these very things.

The bill also contains many provisions that should be of concern to every citizen. It sets up a 6-member political ethics commission with tremendous power including the power of subpoena.

It requires in its present form that candidates for public office file a financial disclosure statement. In addition to that, the officer's immediate family, such as spouse, must also file a financial disclosure statement. This would be required of all those running for state elected offices, judges, appointees to many commissions, certain state employees, county board of commissioners, county officials such as prosecuting attorneys, sheriffs, clerks, treasurers, register of deeds, drain commissioner, road commissioner, zoning boards, township offices such as clerks, treasurers, constables, president of villages, boards of review, school boards, and school superintendents. This provision raises a question as to whether any competent person would even consider running for office especially local offices and boards that provide little or no compensation.

The bill purports to limit lobbying, but at the same time has exempted public officials, members of the press, political parties, and persons representing church or religious organizations. Many of those who are exempt in the original bill do a great deal of lobbying, often on issues that may be harmful to many segments of the public. Many have criticized the fact that this complicated legislation has been brought to the floor of the House without any public hearing by the House Policy Committee. The Senate Committee, however, did hold some public hearings on the Senate version.

### SAFETY LEGISLATION

There are several Farm Bureau policies that recommend various legislation on safety issues. The legislative action so far has included: H.B. 4057 has passed the House and is now in the Senate. It would permit right turns on a red light after the traffic clears unless an intersection is posted against such a turn.

Contrary to some news releases, this bill has not yet fully passed. While it has been reported favorable by the Senate Highway Committee, it is presently in the Appropriations Committee, as some claim that the changing of signs would be quite expensive.

Several states permit right-hand turns on red lights and find there isn't any safety problem. It does contribute to faster movement of traffic and the conservation of energy.

H.B. 4839 would permit an officer to arrest a drunk driver at the scene of an accident even though he did not witness the accident. Traffic safety people believe this is an important piece of legislation. However, some of the lawyers in the House sent this bill to the Judiciary Committee claiming that this would require changes in the general criminal code.

S.B. 682 was introduced as a major bill on bicycle control. It has passed the Senate with a substitute amendment. It is now in the House and presently provides for requiring "reflective" tires or "wide angle prismatic" spoke reflectors. The bill would provide for reporting all bike accidents, but this was removed in the Senate.

There are other bicycle bills requiring various "rules of the road," registration, licensing, identifying marks, etc., all of which would be useful for identification purposes and the control of theft.

H.B. 4244 has been signed into law and will standardize flasher lights on emergency and service vehicles. It is intended that this should end confusion over which warning lights identify which vehicle. Under the new code, police vehicles would be limited to red or blue lights. Ambulance and fire vehicles, red lights. School buses, red lights. Other vehicles, such as snowplows, public utilities, wreckers, highway repair, and rural letter carriers, amber lights. Police, fire and ambulances could also use white flashers in conjunction with other lights.

S.B. 38 has been signed into law and would permit local communities to designate entrance and exit routes for snowmobile travel on streets within the community. The objective is to allow northern Michigan communities to permit snowmobilers to use all local streets.

H.B. 4840—Governor Milliken has signed this bill into law which extends the driver's license period from the present three years to four years. It also imposes a two-year renewal license for drivers with bad records. The license fee is raised to \$6 to cover the longer renewal period. It is estimated that this measure should save the state one million dollars per year.

H.B. 4037 is another new law that will be of interest to many as it sets a new special deer hunting season for muzzle loading rifles and shotguns from December 1 through December 20. This special season will be limited to designated areas by the DNR and will not exceed ten days in any one area. This bill results from a fast growing interest in the use of old-fashioned guns for hunting, but without special legislation. Such hunters were at a disadvantage during the regular season.

H.B. 4018 and H.B. 4504 will be controversial as they require every

motor vehicle, trailer, etc., registered in the state to be inspected at least once a year at an official inspection station. There will be a fee of \$2.50 or more for the inspection. Permits would be issued to those who wish to operate an official inspection station.

These bills are brought about by the claim of the Federal Government that Michigan's present "check-lane" inspection system, by the State Police, does not meet Federal guidelines. Failure to meet such guidelines would mean a loss in Federal highway money. In an effort to meet Federal guidelines, the State Police have been conducting an experimental program which expands the "check-lane" inspection. This includes the removal of a wheel to visibly check brakes during random inspection. The experiment is being funded by Federal moneys and it is expected that 10,000 vehicles will be checked this summer. The officer will also probably drive the vehicle at 20 mph and attempt to stop it without swerving, within markers 25 feet apart. About 25 percent of all "check-lane" vehicles will be inspected by U of M safety research technicians. The State Police have asked motorists to cooperate in the program as it may make it possible for Michigan to continue the use of the random "check-lane" inspection instead of being forced into an expensive, compulsory motor vehicle inspection program such as contained in the proposed legislation.

Farm Bureau policy opposes such mandatory inspection through special stations but has always supported the safety-lane inspection system conducted by the State Police.

It must be pointed out that various traffic enforcement and safety programs are effective. For example, the number of persons killed on state highways so far in 1975 is nearly 8 percent less than during the same period last year, and last year the death toll dropped over 33 percent from the year before. Even though many motorists do not stick to the 55 mph speed limit, the fact is that traffic is slower and is also lighter. This accounts for the spectacular drop in traffic fatalities and also contributes to conservation of gas.

### ENERGY FROM THE SUN

While the production of crops is the greatest converter of solar energy for useful purposes, there are also other ways that might be expanded to further use the unlimited solar energy.

The House has approved, and sent to the Senate, a package of bills to encourage use of solar energy for heating and cooling systems which will provide property tax, sales tax, and use tax exemptions for those who convert a home or other building to solar energy, or those who install such a system in a new building.

As time goes on, these exemptions might apply to many farmers as new techniques are being developed to use solar energy to heat farm buildings and also for drying of farm crops. It also may be a long-range solution to a growing energy problem created by shortages of electricity, gas, coal, oil, etc.

Presently, such installations are relatively expensive. It is estimated that a solar energy heating unit for a home may run from \$4,000 to \$9,000. However, there would be no further heating bills to pay and maintenance costs are low. Several states have passed similar legislation, including Indiana, Florida, and Arizona.

### TRANSPORTATION

S.B. 933 is making its way through the Legislature and would provide for the issuance of bonds totaling \$175 million to create a fund that in turn will qualify the State of Michigan for approximately \$700 million in Federal funds. It is estimated that the program could create as many as 6000 additional jobs with the Southeastern Transportation Authority alone and in addition would make \$47 million matched by \$20 million in federal aid available for railroads for the upgrading of both passenger and freight railroads. Transportation aid to numerous communities throughout Michigan would be continued. Funding would also be available to assist continuation of lake ferry operations.

A new traffic study will be undertaken with federal and state matching funds in Michigan cities and counties. The project will analyze traffic signs and signals in high-risk traffic locations throughout the state.

Another study for the Michigan Commerce Department is looking at the possibility of extending the shipping season on the Saginaw River from Saginaw to Bay City from the present eight months to year-round operation. It is estimated that the economic benefits within the next five years would total at least \$40 million. More than \$15 million in new cargo shipments would be generated. Businesses would save about \$26 million and more than 280 jobs would be created. Year-round operation of the Saginaw River would be extremely advantageous to farmers as a great deal of grain is exported from the Saginaw area.

Governor Milliken has strongly criticized the Federal "Conrail Plan." The United States Railway Association released a plan that would abandon over 1000 miles of rail lines throughout the northwest lower peninsula. They did, however, add about 120 more miles to the final plan . . . still it will continue to create a hardship for outer Michigan.

Farm Bureau has been very active in the railroad abandonment issue and will urge Congress to reject the plan as it applies to Michigan. It has been suggested that Congress adopt a ten-year plan to strengthen bankrupt lines and to provide operating funds for at least two years to continue service on unprofitable, but essential, lines. Governor Milliken stated that after the first two years, there could be a reduction in federal aid and replacement by state aid. If Washington does not change its program, the Governor will ask the Legislature for about \$2.6 million to subsidize rail freight lines within the state. Besides the bankrupt Michigan rail lines, non-bankrupt railroads have asked for permission to abandon around 500 miles of Michigan track.

# NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

## Land Use & Railroads

As this column is being written for the August issue of Michigan Farm News, some important dates have been, or are being watched carefully by Farm Bureau. The dates of July 15 and July 26 are especially significant.

### Land Use

On July 15, the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee met for a final vote on federal land use planning legislation — H.R. 3510. Following defeat by a narrow two-vote margin of a motion to table the bill on May 14, the Committee had been meeting to consider amendments to H.R. 3510. Although many of the amendments offered were adopted, the bill was still inconsistent with Farm Bureau policy.

Michigan Farm Bureau and other State Farm Bureaus in cooperation with AFBF made a strong effort to build opposition to H.R. 3510 among members of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. When the Committee met on July 15, a motion was made to report the bill to the House floor for consideration. Most observers expected the bill would pass the House if approved by the Committee. However, the motion to report was defeated by a 19 to 23 vote. Michigan Congressman Philip Ruppe (R-Houghton) voted against the motion to report the bill, while Congressman Robert Carr (D-East Lansing) voted in favor of the motion. All indications are that this action will kill federal land use legislation for the rest of this year.

### It's a hutch

## A way to house calves

Dairy calves may be inexpensively housed outside the barn and still have low mortality rates.

A structure called a hutch, comprising 24 square feet, will satisfactorily raise calves at a lower cost than standard heated or cold enclosed housing.

"Hutches may be used by small herd dairymen who want to maintain low capital investment. Large herds may use them to vacate their enclosed housing if a disease problem occurs," says Dr. William G. Bickert, Michigan State University agricultural engineer.

Hutch size is usually four feet by eight feet plus an optional outside exercise area that may be enclosed by wood fencing or woven wire.

The bill would have provided \$500 million to states for land use planning. However, to qualify for the funds, the states that accepted the grants would have been required to consider or include numerous federal criteria in their land use plan.

### Railroad Reorganization

On July 26, the United States Railway Association (USRA) is scheduled by law to submit its final railroad reorganization plan for the Northeast and Midwest region to Congress. Submission of this final plan will culminate several months of work and controversy by USRA and several rail user groups, including Farm Bureau. Last February, the Department of Transportation recommended the termination of rail service on 52 percent of the rail tracks serving Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Farm Bureau estimated that 90 percent of the rail lines recommended for abandonment provided service to rural areas and, therefore, posed serious implications to agriculture.

Following testimony by Farm Bureau and many other rail user groups in opposition to the DOT recommendations, the USRA released its preliminary system plan which has also been severely criticized by rail users. The USRA plan called for termination of rail service on approximately 1,300 miles of track. Again, these tracks were primarily those serving rural areas and communities.

While details of the final system plan to be released July 26 are not

known, the plan will still be subject to change. Congress will have an opportunity to reject the plan, modify it or allow it to become operative without change. If neither the House or Senate passes a resolution of disapproval, the plan could go into effect as early as September 26, 1975. However, if Congress takes its usual August recess, the plan could go into effect as early as October 26.

Farm Bureau will be carefully analyzing the USRA final system plan and submitting its concerns to Michigan Congressmen according to the impact on agriculture.

### Corps of Engineers

Also on July 26, the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers will announce a final decision on expansion of its permit program. The Corps, which was given authority to issue permits for work in waterways by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, applied the Act only to "navigable" waters.

Last March, a Federal Court accepted a suit filed by environmentalists and ordered the Corps to expand its permit program to include "all waters" of the U.S. The Corps published various alternatives on May 6. Some of the proposals would be very severe for agriculture although all would have an impact.

Farm Bureau at all levels has strongly protested any expansion of the Corps permit program. During the comment period on the May 6 proposed alternatives over 4,000 comments were received from the public.

Numerous bills have been introduced in Congress to limit the Corps authority to issue permits for work affecting waterways. A strong opinion prevails that it was not the intent of Congress for the permit program to cover every rivulet of water. On July 15 and 16, the AFBF testified on this issue before a House Public Works and Transportation Subcommittee.



## Farm Heritage Traced In Bicentennial Series

As the United States approaches the beginning of its 200th birthday year, many words will be written and spoken about what made America great. And at a time when all does not seem to be going as well as many would like it, mention will be made about things that could be better.

One of the facets of American life that must be faced on a daily basis is the necessary habit of eating. For an urban-oriented nation, which is what America now is, food is generally viewed in terms of dollars. When its costs are low, food is taken for granted. When its costs rise, food is termed expensive.

The truth is that American agriculture has developed at a pace that makes it the envy of the world. Today, less than five per cent of the nation's population is engaged in farming. This in itself is truly remarkable, and has come about because of many reasons. Tracing agricultural development is not easy, but it is interesting.

During the coming months, a series of interesting glimpses into America's agricultural development will be published. While these articles are not intended to be a complete history of agriculture, they will give readers an insight into the heritage of that five per cent of the national population which is working hard to keep America the best fed country in the world.



## Farm Horses Played Key Role Throughout Military History

The important role of agriculture during times the nation was required to take up arms is well documented throughout American history.

From the War of Independence to worldwide struggles, U.S. agriculture rose time after time to the challenge of producing tremendous amounts of food and fiber.

But likely a lesser known area in which farming played yet another role has been the supply of horses for the military. Even in World War I, the horse was still a primary factor in military campaigns.

The conscription of farm horses to supply Colonial efforts in the Revolution was as important as the many farmers who took up arms in the American cause.

In the Civil War, the value of horses was dramatically displayed. Francis Morris, a farmer from New York, wrote: "As events succeeded each other, and a few battles took place, it became painfully evi-

dent that mounted soldiers were necessary and in formidable numbers. It was then that the loyal men of the north were deeply mortified at the discovery that they possessed neither horses nor riders worthy of sustaining the glory of a legitimate cavalry service."

Later, many farmers and horse breeders participated in a program before World War I to supply cavalry and light artillery mounts for the American soldier.

Already, automobiles and trucks were being used on farms and interest in horses for agriculture was largely confined to the larger draft animals. But the military needed lighter, more mobile mounts.

Beginning in 1913, outstanding stallions of Thoroughbred, American Saddle, Standardbred and Morgan breeds were located by the government in such states as Vermont, New Hampshire,

Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

In the remount program, farmers bred the stallions to their mares which met certain requirements. By 1917, the program provided 174 colts with quality, stamina and endurance conforming to cavalry and light artillery use.

A side product of the program was a better type of animal for farm work, too. As one farmer explained, two horses, after first serving as hunters, were used as leaders in a farm team and went on to wear out three pairs of wheels working behind them.

With the increasing development of mechanized equipment for farming, the role of the horse steadily declined on the farm.

But many an American farm horse has occupied a permanent position of vital service in behalf of the country, not only in peaceful agricultural endeavors, but in times of armed conflict, too.

## Nitrogen plant in Canada

Farm Bureau Services, Inc. announces that a new nitrogen manufacturing plant under construction near Medicine Hat in Alberta, Canada is expected to come onstream by spring 1976.

Farm Supply Division Vice President Bill Callum said the new plant is "another example of the continuing successful efforts of farmer-owned cooperatives to keep members and patrons adequately supplied with essential fertilizer materials in a time of world-wide shortage." The complex is owned by Canadian Fertilizer Limited, consisting of CF Industries and several Canadian farm cooperatives. CF Industries, which will operate the facility, is in turn owned by Farm Bureau Services and 18 other regional farm cooperatives in the U.S. and Canada.

The new Medicine Hat facility is

expected to greatly reduce overall distance and shipping time of materials to Midwest farmers, and provide improved efficiency and service to farmer customers.

The first of two 1,200 ton-per-day ammonia manufacturing plants at Medicine Hat is scheduled to come onstream by spring 1976, and construction is also underway for a 1,500 ton-per-day urea fertilizer plant, scheduled to be completed the latter half of 1976.

CF Industries' ammonia storage capacity is around 500,000 tons, principally on the inland waterway system and along a 2,000 mile ammonia pipeline connecting Gulf Coast manufacturing plants with storage facilities throughout the Midwest. Ammonia storage terminals presently under construction in Eastern Michigan, North Dakota, and Minnesota will greatly increase ammonia storage capability.

Armyworms damage crops

# Worst outbreak in five years

Michigan small grain croplands are sustaining thousands of dollars damage by the armyworm, now at its worst outbreak in five years.

"This year the pest ranges from Cass to Schoolcraft County and clear across the state. There are severe concentrations in Tuscola and Calhoun counties," says Dr. Robert F. Ruppel, Michigan State University Extension entomologist.

Ordinarily the pest damages a few scattered fields of corn and small grains. Armyworm populations are usually held in check by weather and natural enemies such as parasites, predators and disease.

"Growers, particularly those in

central and northern Michigan, who have not checked fields for armyworms should do so now. Farmers who have not been checking fields in southern Michigan are too late to prevent damage," Ruppel says.

In late May there was little indication the armyworm appearance would be other than normal. Early damage by the small, minute worm shortly after hatching is easily overlooked and often not detected until they are large and considerable damage has already been done.

The fully grown armyworm is one and one-half to nearly two inches long and is greenish to nearly black. They usually have a

prominent pale stripe on each side and a thin strip down the center of the back.

Their feeding increases tremendously as they grow larger. Their apparent suddenness of appearance in the field is caused by the rapid increase in feeding by the large worms.

"Damage is heavy in barley in Tuscola County and in wheat and corn in other parts of the state. In some places the armyworm has gotten into the whorl of the corn plant where it is difficult to reach with insecticide," says Ruppel.

They may completely destroy the plant but more commonly leave the tough midribs and stems uneaten. They will also feed on the

heads of small grains and clip the stems so that the heads fall off.

"I have seen fields that looked as though a barber had gone through. Armyworms don't limit their attack to just grains -- they will also attack any other crop, including sugar beets, when populations become high enough," Ruppel says.

The typical attack will spread well over two weeks. Armyworms feed on foliage at night and hide in soil during the day. Armyworms move from field to field when numerous, a habit that is the basis for their common name.

Where infestations are heavy, farmers are fighting back with a variety of insecticides.

Armyworms are a native pest of Michigan, overwintering mainly as partially grown worms in the soil and at the crowns of grasses and to a lesser extent as pupae in soil.

Their emergence and activity depend on extent of warm weather in any given locality. There are two and sometimes three full generations of the armyworm per year. The worms of the first complete generation are the most damaging, usually during June and July.

## Thumb gets new grain terminal

A new million-and-a-half dollar grain terminal expected to handle three million bushels its first year has opened near Sebawaing in Michigan's thumb.

Grain from the terminal will be merchandised by Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. The ambitious project was a joint venture of Sebawaing, Ruth and Elkton elevators. The thumb area cooperatives went together to form one massive terminal capable of handling 65-car trains.

MEE Vice President Ed Powell said "We are very pleased and appreciative of the country elevators who have shown great confidence in the ability of Michigan Elevator Exchange to market their grain and beans. This thumb terminal enterprise is one project that dramatically reflects that confidence. As for our own part, we will continue to work very hard to uphold that trust by using our extensive resources in getting Michigan grain and beans to market fast efficiently, and getting the highest prices for Michigan farmers."

## Soybean tour scheduled

The highlights of this year's Michigan Soybean Producers' Soybean Tour scheduled for August 27 and 28 are as follows:

1. Tour of soybean fields in Lenawee and Monroe counties.
2. Tour of Ottawa Lake Elevator-Ottawa Lake, Michigan.
3. Tour of a soybean crushing plant.
4. Tour of a port terminal.

The tour is primarily being conducted for Michigan Soybean Producer members and their families.

For those wishing to participate in the soybean field tours of Lenawee and Monroe counties only, the tours will begin at 2:30 p.m. on August 27. A box lunch will be provided for those previously registered. Two buses have tentatively been chartered for transportation. For further information on the tour, please contact Dave Wolfe, Michigan Farm Bureau, (517) 485-8121 Ext. 221, or your County Soybean Division Chairman.

## Estate taxes

(Continued from Page 1)

Other Michigan Congressmen sponsoring similar estate tax reform bills are Congressmen Guy VanderJagt (R-Luther), Robert Traxler (D-Bay City), Edward Hutchinson (R-Benton Harbor) and James O'Hara (D-Utica). The House Ways and Means Committee will consider the bills this fall.

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# Homefront

Many Community Farm Bureau Groups have picnics during the summer months. The most interesting one reported to date was when the two Monroe County groups (Green Harvesters and Modern Producers) met for their annual softball game. To save embarrassment, we won't give the scores of the games, let's just say that the Green Harvesters won the first and second game. The Modern Producers, being the determined group that they are, then challenged the Green Harvesters to a good old fashioned rope pull. Again the Green Harvesters had no contest. The Modern Producers, being persistent, began searching for a "sure victory" challenge. They finally decided that the number of children in their group outnumbered the Green Harvesters 4 to 1. Chairman Stanley Dordt of the Green Harvesters saved the day by noting the fact that his group boasted five healthy bachelors and thus the contest was unfair. The evening ended happily with hot dogs and finger foods. (Editor's note: The above story has been based on information furnished by the Green Harvesters and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Modern Producers.)

Francis Bartell, owner of the Richmond Elevator, was a guest of the Belle River Bottoms Community Farm Bureau Group, St. Clair County. With his explanation of "elevator problems" and procedures, members of the group gained a broader knowledge of what happens to grain after the farmer sells it.

The 50th Wedding Anniversary of Wallace and Dorothy Campbell, long time members of the Boney Falls Community Farm Bureau Group, Delta County, was recently celebrated. Besides being active Farm Bureau members both Dorothy and Wallace have been active participants in community and county activities for years.

## Farm Bureau on the air

The following radio stations WION Ionia carry Accent Agriculture, a 13 1/2 minute public affairs program focusing on the issues and events affecting Michigan farmers and consumers.

- WATC Gaylord
- WFYC Alma
- WMPC Lapeer
- WION Ionia
- WALM Albion
- WKLA Ludington
- WTVB Coldwater
- WOAP Owosso
- WBRN Big Rapids
- WABJ Adrian
- WCER Charlotte
- WCBY Cheboygan
- WKPR Kalamazoo
- WHGR Houghton Lake
- WHFB Benton Harbor
- WAGN Menominee
- WSTR Sturgis
- WSMA Marine City
- WKYO Caro
- WDOW Dowagiac
- WIDG St. Ignace
- WCSR Hillsdale
- WJPW Rockford
- WSOO Sault Ste. Marie
- WNIL Niles
- WMIC Sandusky
- WSMM-FM Sault Ste. Marie
- WJML Petoskey
- WLDR Traverse City
- WRBJ St. Johns
- WLRC White Hall
- WPLB Greenville
- WTRX Flint
- WKNR Battle Creek
- WJEB Gladwin
- WSHN Fremont
- WLEW Bad Axe

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

- WJCO Jackson
- WPHM Port Huron
- WSGW Saginaw
- WIDG St. Ignace
- WRBJ St. Johns
- WSTR Sturgis
- WJOR South Haven
- WIOS Tawas City
- WBMB West Branch
- WMIC Sandusky
- WCSR Hillsdale
- WJML Petoskey
- WHMI Howell
- WKAR East Lansing
- WFYC Alma
- WMAM Marinette
- WPAG Ann Arbor
- WCER Charlotte
- WHAK Rogers City
- WKPR Kalamazoo
- WLKM Three Rivers
- WFUR Grand Rapids
- WNIL Niles
- WXOX Bay City
- WGN Chicago
- WWJ Detroit
- WLDR-FM Traverse City
- WMTE Manistee
- WWAM Cadillac
- WBCH Hastings
- WAOP Otsego
- WCEN Mount Pleasant
- WDBC Escanaba
- WDMJ Marquette
- WLRC White Hall
- WGHN Grand Haven
- WPHM Port Huron
- WCMR Elkhart, Ind.
- WJBL Holland
- WABJ Adrian
- WTHM Lapeer
- WKZO Kalamazoo
- WSGW Saginaw
- WHFB Benton Harbor
- WPLB Greenville
- WHGR Houghton Lake
- WKYO Caro
- WBMB West Branch
- WOAP Owosso
- WBCM Bay City
- WSTR Sturgis
- WJCB Gladwin

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

- WPAG Ann Arbor
- WBCM Bay City
- WKYO Caro
- WCER Charlotte
- WCRM Clare
- WTVB Coldwater
- WDBC Escanaba
- WHTC Holland

## MSU farm management tour in Ionia

Michigan State University's State Farm Management Tour is in Ionia County Aug. 21.

"The purpose of this annual summer event is to portray the management level required to operate in today's modern agriculture. The name suggests the tour is geared toward farmers, but it is also intended for the nonfarmer," says William S. Pryer, Ionia County Cooperative Extension director.

Featured during the day-long tour will be two dairy operations, a swine farm, beef and sheep farm, poultry producer, cash crop operation, fruit farm and a recreation business.

"None of these farms are too distant from each other and since the county is fairly close to metropolitan areas, this should be an excellent opportunity for urban residents to see what life is like on a well-run farm," Pryer says.

MSU specialists will be at each of the eight stops to explain what makes each farm operation unique. Farm owners and managers will be glad to demonstrate how the farm functions.

Maps, special brochures and related information will be available at county Cooperative Extension offices throughout Michigan about a month ahead of the tour date.

Ionia County is within 150 miles of Detroit and 50 of Flint, Saginaw, Lansing and Grand Rapids. Easy access to the farm sites is provided by I-96 which traverses the southern part of the county.

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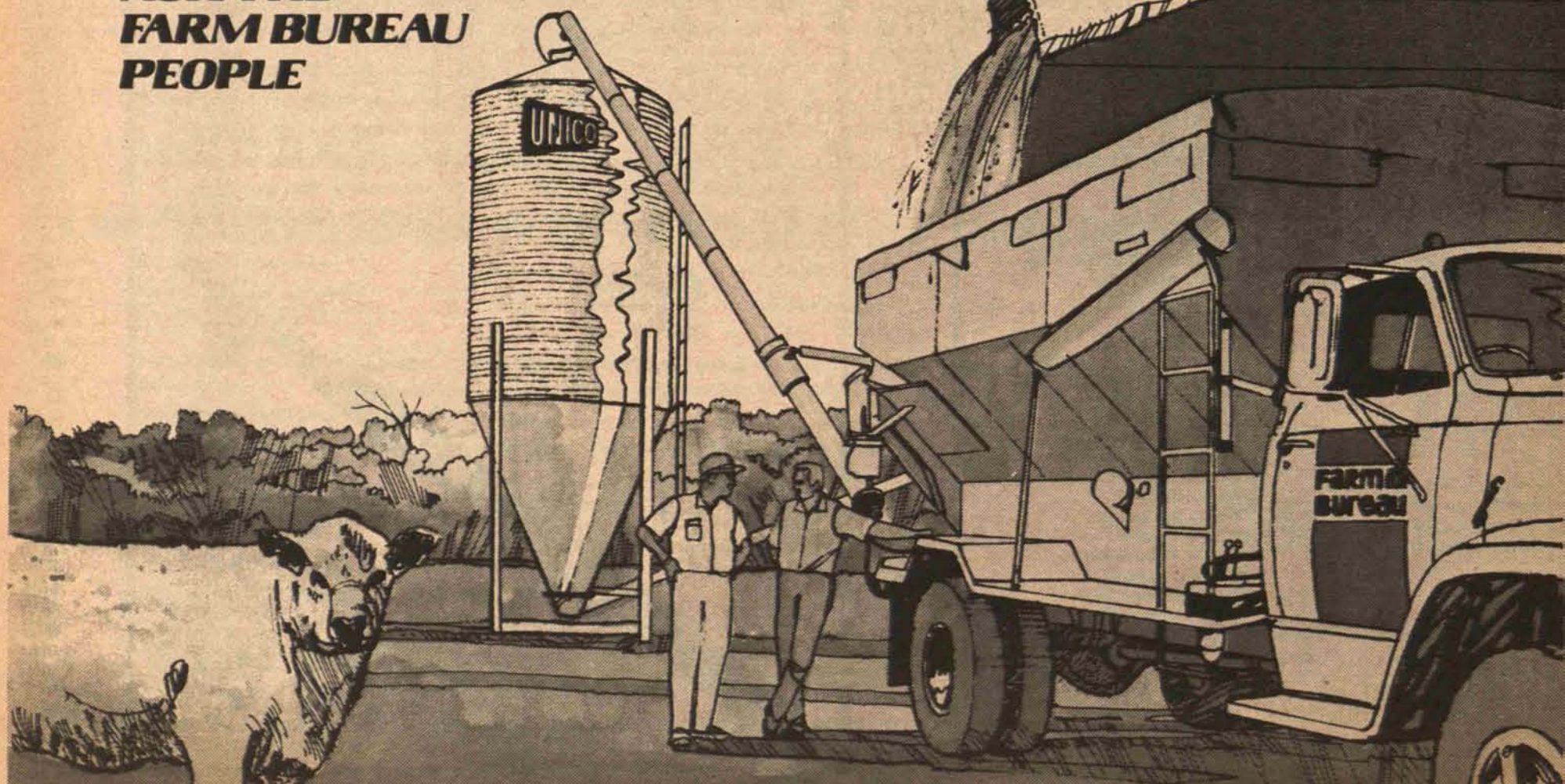
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# Michigan Marketing Outlook

**ASPARAGUS**  
Asparagus delivered to processors was 17.7 million pounds compared to 22.3 million pounds in 1974, down 21%. Sales to fresh market outlets was up from approximately 1.5 million to nearly 5 million this year or about 30%. Retail prices for canned asparagus have been adjusted and sales may be stimulated to move out our pack and be ready to see the asparagus market much stronger next year.

**CHERRIES**  
Sweet cherry crop expected to be larger than last year and prices have been reduced by canners and briners by 30-40%. There is a larger carryover of canned sweet while briners say that movement of brine cherries has been reduced due to higher price levels of last year's crop.

Tart cherry crop estimate for Michigan and nationally is up this year. Early harvest reports indicate that the amount of product available for processing may be at or less than the quantity of 1974. Grower prices offered by processors are in the 10½-12¢ range. There has been considerable hail reported in all production areas of Michigan and New York. We expect the 15% set-aside reserve pool to be good property since it must be at least 50% Grade A with the balance being Grade B. Cherries are one of the very competitive values for dessert products this year.

**APPLES**  
The Michigan apple crop is estimated to be 17.1 million bushels, up 7% from last year. Total U.S. crop is expected at 173.4 million bushels or 13% greater than a year ago. The Michigan crop appears to be a good quality crop and barring adverse weather, the fresh market and processed apple production market should consume the Michigan crop at profitable levels. Michigan apple growers are accredited and will be conducting negotiations and pricing of this year's apple crop under the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act. The apple marketing period begins September 20.

**GRAPES**  
The grape crop in Michigan and nationally is estimated to be above last year. There appears to be over production of wine in California and several European countries. This over-supply of product has depressed grape product pricing during recent months. Processing capabilities in Michigan will be on a limited basis this year. Grape growers have a marketing

challenge to get grapes processed and sold.

**PEACHES, PEARS AND PLUMS**  
The peach, pear and plum crop estimates are above a year ago. Grower committees will be recommending pricing on these crops during August.

**POTATOES**  
Acreage contracted for freezing in Michigan is down substantially. The potato market is very strong at the present time because significant acreage was flooded in the Red River Valley and acreage is down and crop outlook is below average in Maine and Idaho. French fry movements continue strong during summer months. Price for processing potatoes this fall should be substantially above prices talked at contract time.

**PICKLING CUCUMBERS**  
Pickling cucumber harvest is just beginning. Overall crop looks good. Pricing should continue at or slightly below last year's open market and contract level. Grower organization and a good information network is necessary to improve the grower price for pickling cucumbers.

**KRAUT CABBAGE**  
Kraut cabbage crop is reported to be progressing well in some areas. Some processors have continued to sell kraut at good prices while others have withdrawn from the market in response to acreage reduction and late plantings in certain key kraut producing areas of the country.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**  
The Governor has signed marketing legislation passed by the Legislature which requires fruit and vegetable processors and purchasing agents to deduct cooperative association marketing service fees when requested by the association. Marketing fees are to be sent promptly to the association at the close of the harvest.

Harry Foster  
MADMA

**WHEAT**  
At the time of this writing, the talk of purchase of an unknown quantity of grain by the Russians is a strengthening factor in the market. Very little is known about their intentions as to timing and volume of purchase. As of this writing, the psychological effect of the talk of the Russian grain deal has given more strength to the market than was anticipated several weeks ago. The big question, which will only

be answered some time in the future, is if in fact the Russians are in the market, how much they are interested in purchasing. This will be one of the major factors that will influence the wheat price in the near future.

**CORN**  
Several factors are affecting the current corn prices. Obviously the potential for sales to foreign countries is a factor. Also, the acreage and maturity of the corn, as of this writing, are factors. In general, corn looks good throughout the nation. There are some pockets where corn has been stressed by dry weather. But, apparently, these are relatively local.

The potential for a large if not record corn crop is in the fields. There are still several factors which could affect that potential yield, such as: dry weather, disease, fairly early frost, or a combination of those factors.

The number of cattle and hogs on feed will also be a factor influencing corn prices.

Ron Nelson, Marketing Specialist  
Market Development Division

**SOYBEANS**  
Due to favorable weather more

corn acreage was planted; thus, soybean acreage is somewhat less than anticipated. Potential for soybean production at this time is very favorable with the crop looking very good in most areas. Carry-over of soybeans is fairly large; thus, even though we see somewhat reduced acreage there is still a most adequate supply at the present time.

The psychological effect of potential for foreign markets is an influencing factor on soybean prices. The final result of the talk of the Russian grain purchase will be a definite factor in influencing soybean prices. The amount and timing of the purchase will also be factors in prices.

**DAIRY**  
Dairy production during the month of June is down approximately nine million pounds under previous months but is approximately three million pounds higher than June of 1974. Class I utilization in Order 40 during June is down approximately four million pounds below June 1974 and approximately twenty million pounds lower than May of 1975. Utilization for June stood at 54½%.

As of this writing, it appears that there is some strength in the cheese and butter markets, which

should be reflected in producer checks in the near future if the trend continues. Cost of inputs will continue to be a critical factor during the coming year with availability and quality of hay being a major factor.

Ron Nelson, Marketing Specialist  
Market Development Division

**CATTLE**  
The upward pressure on Choice beef and downward pressure on Good grade beef has caused prices to hold relatively steady. Most experts anticipate a large influx of Good grade cattle to drive prices down this fall. Meanwhile, periodic short supplies may cause one to three dollar advances on Choice cattle.

Feeder cattle prices declined with slaughter prices. Supplies appear to be large.

**HOGS**  
Slaughter hog prices should average above \$50 for the remainder of the year. The number of hogs going to slaughter has been less than estimated in the last pig crop report.

Feeder pig prices should range in the mid-40's. Expansion appears to be slower than anticipated.

Bill Haas, Manager  
MACMA Livestock Division

## Supply



## Report

By Greg Sheffield, Marketing Manager FBS

**FERTILIZER**  
New fertilizer prices were issued to dealers for late summer and early fall. Ammoniated and bulk fertilizers were all lower too with a welcome return to the use of high analyses fertilizers including quick starters. Direct application materials will also be lower to dealers with some exceptions.

In all, Farm Bureau Services have been aggressive in establishing new prices as well as fostering the new availability of certain fertilizer grades. These advantages will be timely for fall fertilizer needs. We expect prices to advance again in early fall and again by mid-winter but, we want our dealers, and in turn, their farmer patrons, to be able to take advantage of any price benefits available now. Farmers with available storage should be advised that there is no information to indicate lower fertilizer prices for next spring. The best time to take fertilizers could be now, while it's around after a vigorous season of outstanding accomplishment in distribution.

**SEEDS**  
Even before the completion of wheat harvest, orders are being taken for seed wheat for fall planting. There has been an extreme fluctuation in prices and our dealers have not been given prices on a firm basis at this time because of the wild market. Much of this price confusion has been due to the publicity given to the Russian grain purchase. Farmers should get in their seed requirements now if they have not already done so. Orders now will enhance our cooperative purchasing advantages and prices, as always, will be fair.

**CHEMICALS**  
After a very busy year in the chemicals business our inventories at the Farm Bureau warehouse are

low, even less than a year ago. However, it appears adequate supplies will be available in the future. So we are pleased to take all chemicals off allocation. It is too early to know manufacturer's programs for next year thus suggested programs and prices are still to be determined. Those farmers who have late summer and fall needs, mostly fruit chemicals, will find the supplies they need are readily available. At the start of next year's chemical season more supplies should be available.

**HARDWARE**  
Almost everything in hardware the farmer needs is now obtainable through Farm Bureau dealer locations. There are adequate stocks of fencing, building supplies, baler twine, stock equipment and lawn and gardening machinery. Farm Bureau baler twine can be bought at excellent prices so avoid purchasing the lower quality light bales that are left over from the shortage.

There have been reinforced rumors that the steel industry plans on achieving price increases late this summer or fall. And there's some basis to these rumors since they come from several sources, but actual increases are dependent on a pick up of the automobile business where much steel is used.

Building supplies are now stacked in good inventories. Ordering before a building spurt may save disappointment. Farm Bureau Building Centers are ready to construct buildings to your requirements.

**FEEDS**  
The Russian purchase of United States grain is expected to continue to play an important part in futures market prices. But there is a large

crop of wheat being harvested in the United States and Canada. Also, the corn harvest is expected to be large so on balance, feed prices are expected to remain stable or drift lower.


The Farm Bureau feed plant has been extremely busy turning out a large volume of feed for a strong demand. Inviting programs on feeds for livestock and dairy farmers are available from your dealer.

Meetings on the new liquid silage additive (LSA) are showing good response in terms of farmer orders. We anticipate this suddenly popular product will be merchandised in ever increasing volume for some years hence.

**LIQUID FUELS**  
Prices on liquid fuels were increased starting in July and there's no indication they will decrease. In fact, President Ford's program, if it is passed, will increase prices in the near future. In case his program forces Congress to come up with a bill of their own, there will still be a price increase.

The supply on-hand situation is good for liquid fuels although gasoline stocks may experience shortages before the summer ends. All Farmers Petroleum dealers now have plenty of fuel for farmer and retail patrons.

**TIRES AND ANTI-FREEZE**  
Our tire supply is tops in selection of quality merchandise. All except a few large sizes of tractor tires are on hand. These few sizes will remain on allocation. Anti-freeze orders from manufacturing sources have been received and are now delivered to dealers. Farmers wishing to make sure of their supplies for this winter may wish to make their future needs known to their dealers.



## FROZEN FRUIT

through the

### "MEMBER TO MEMBER" PROGRAM

Cherries


Strawberries

Blueberries

Spy Apple Slices

Sliced Peaches

Apple Cider Concentrate



"Florida's Best" Hi-Density  
Orange Concentrate

Contact your county office

## From farm to city

# Is the trend reversing?

Who would have believed it 100 years ago? From America's heartland to the Brazilian outback, from South Africa's platteland to the tiny agriculture villages of Europe, rural people have been picking up their earthly possessions and moving to the big city.

Prior to 1850, there was no nation with a primarily urban population. The world was mostly rural. But at the turn of the century the creation of a truly urban world became a distinct trend. Great Britain led the way to urbanization, achieving the status of an urban-oriented society by 1900.

Soon, other nations followed as industrialization progressed. Now, practically all the "have" nations are largely urban and the "have-nots" are following suit rapidly.

Two hundred years ago, 9 out of every 10 Americans lived on a farm. Today it's the other way around — more than 9 in 10 live in a town or city. This has been one of our Nation's most momentous social changes—the transition from a self-sufficient rural economy steeped in agrarian ideals to a highly industrialized urban society.

This unsettling phenomenon has affected thousands of once-thriving small towns across the United States heartland. Once bustling communities have dwindled to insignificance. Only a stagnated hulk, a nostalgic dream of "the good old days" and a few old timers are left in many communities.

Rural outmigration in mid-America was, admittedly, a natural outgrowth of the existing economic and social pressures of a changing society. Fewer and fewer farmers were needed to bring in the sheaves, as farming became more mechanized and industrialized. Today the breadbasket and corn bin are serviced by machinery. Farm youth consequently have migrated to cities and usually they don't return to run Dad's farm when he retires.

Once in the city, however, farm youth soon find the suburban "good life" is not without its own sour grapes. Smog, traffic congestion, lack of peace and quiet, and the frantic pace of movement and change are driving many city dwellers up a wall of tension and frustration.

Many people like the services, conveniences and economic status offered by better paying jobs in cities. But they also want the peace, quiet, and community life-style of rural communities. So far, society has not been able to offer both to the vast majority. The affluent American suburbia generally offers only a home with a small patch of green. It offers little in the way of true community life and not much peace and quiet.

In the cities they earn higher wages, but must spend more for food, shelter and the amenities of city life. Their expectations increase, too, and they clamor for more and better public services, which all cost money, manpower and takes time to implement.

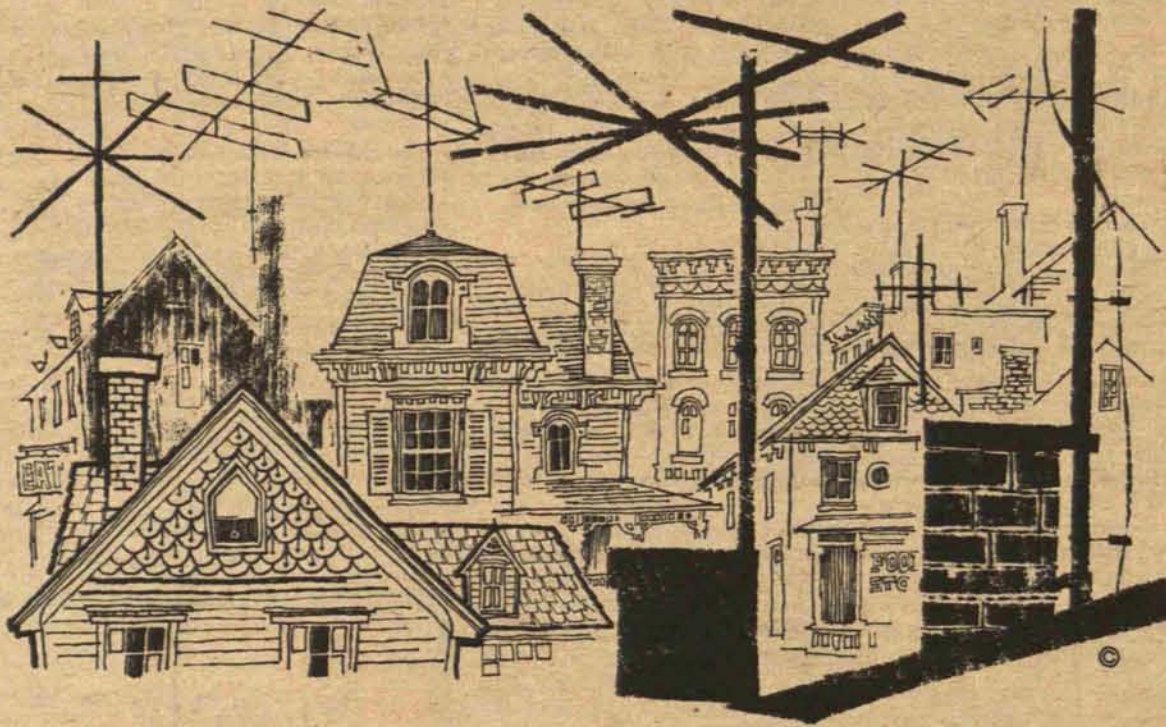
While the rural exodus continues, agriculture also suffers from low prices, high production costs, increased mechanization and few jobs on the farms. Herein lies one of the central reasons for urbanization. Industrial growth rates are largely dependent upon inputs which are man-made or manipulated and are largely independent from the present cycles of nature. However, agriculture depends upon biological processes, the cycles of nature, the seasons, rainfall and other variables not readily controllable by man.

Edward C. Banfield, a noted urbanologist, has compared the progress of cities in solving their problems to dogs chasing a mechanical rabbit around a racetrack — the rabbit is to keep just ahead of the dogs no matter how fast they run. Some say that if the comparison seemed appropriate when Banfield made it in 1970, it is especially so today. Despite the fact that cities find solutions to some problems, other difficulties arise to take their places and seemingly to negate progress that was being made.

Inflation, together with the inability of urban governments to pay for all goods and services thought to be necessary to maintain an acceptable standard of urban life, and the effects of the energy shortage, especially as they relate to transportation and growth policies, heads the list of difficulties facing urban communities.

But these problems, even more than those that have taken precedence in previous years, are far beyond the control of urban dwellers, individual cities, and their government. Acceptable responses to them can not be formulated quickly or by urbanites alone. Indeed, observers say, the problems show very convincingly that external forces have as much to do with the condition of cities as internal ones.

The energy problem, especially as it relates to automobiles, has drawn much more attention to mass transit than environmental concerns ever did. The number of riders on existing rapid rail and bus transits systems rise sharply when the gasoline supply declines, only to drop off when it becomes more plentiful. Still, city policymakers must grapple with the problem of how to create incentives for city dwellers to leave their private automobiles in favor of mass transit. And how to profitably finance the operation of those mass transit systems is, to many, an unanswered question. For the more state or federal funds involved the more government control.



## DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES

Manager Member Relations

For cities, the inflation that has gripped the economy of the nation has been especially critical. For years, the costs of providing city services have risen at a high rate.

Among the important factors in the rising costs of city operations was the demand for higher wages and fringe benefits by public employees, themselves trapped by the rising cost of living. As employees demand more, city officials, caught in the squeeze of meeting many demands with scarce resources, often balk at their requests.

In some cases, public employee strikes occur. Sanitation workers in New York City last month provided that city's residents with an indication of how unpleasant urban life could be without basic services.

Never far from the minds of many urban dwellers is the spectre of violent crime. While published crime figures indicate a mixed picture for large cities with regard to the problem, there are alarming developments. A study released late in 1974 by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) indicated that reported crime accounts for only about one third of actual occurrences. According to the report, the main reason for the discrepancy is that victims believe that little can be done by law enforcement agencies.

City officials continue to be concerned with making life more attractive downtown. Surveys reveal that Americans, increasingly interested in convenience and comfort, were interested in downtown renewal if they could be assured pleasant, functional living areas. Old urban neighborhoods, with interesting architecture and close-in, energy-efficient locations, are more in demand as living areas. Efforts to convert older urban buildings, such as railroad stations,

and warehouses, to other uses such as restaurants and specialty shops have met with increasing success.

While none of these developments reversed the flow of Americans to be suburbs, the flow seems to have halted. Suburbanites, particularly those residing in large counties within metropolitan areas, have become increasingly aware that their areas have problems similar to those of large cities. Environmental issues, especially pollution abatement and control of haphazard land use and development, head the list of concerns of many of these suburban dwellers.

Some urban planners question whether our cities could survive even a short national emergency if transportation lines were severed. Cities have relatively little space for gardens and many urbanites lack the know-how to maintain them.

One such individual is the scientist Dr. Harrison Brown, who sees an agrarian world ahead. In "The Challenge of Man's Future" printed by Viking Press in 1954, he speculated about our present machine civilization.

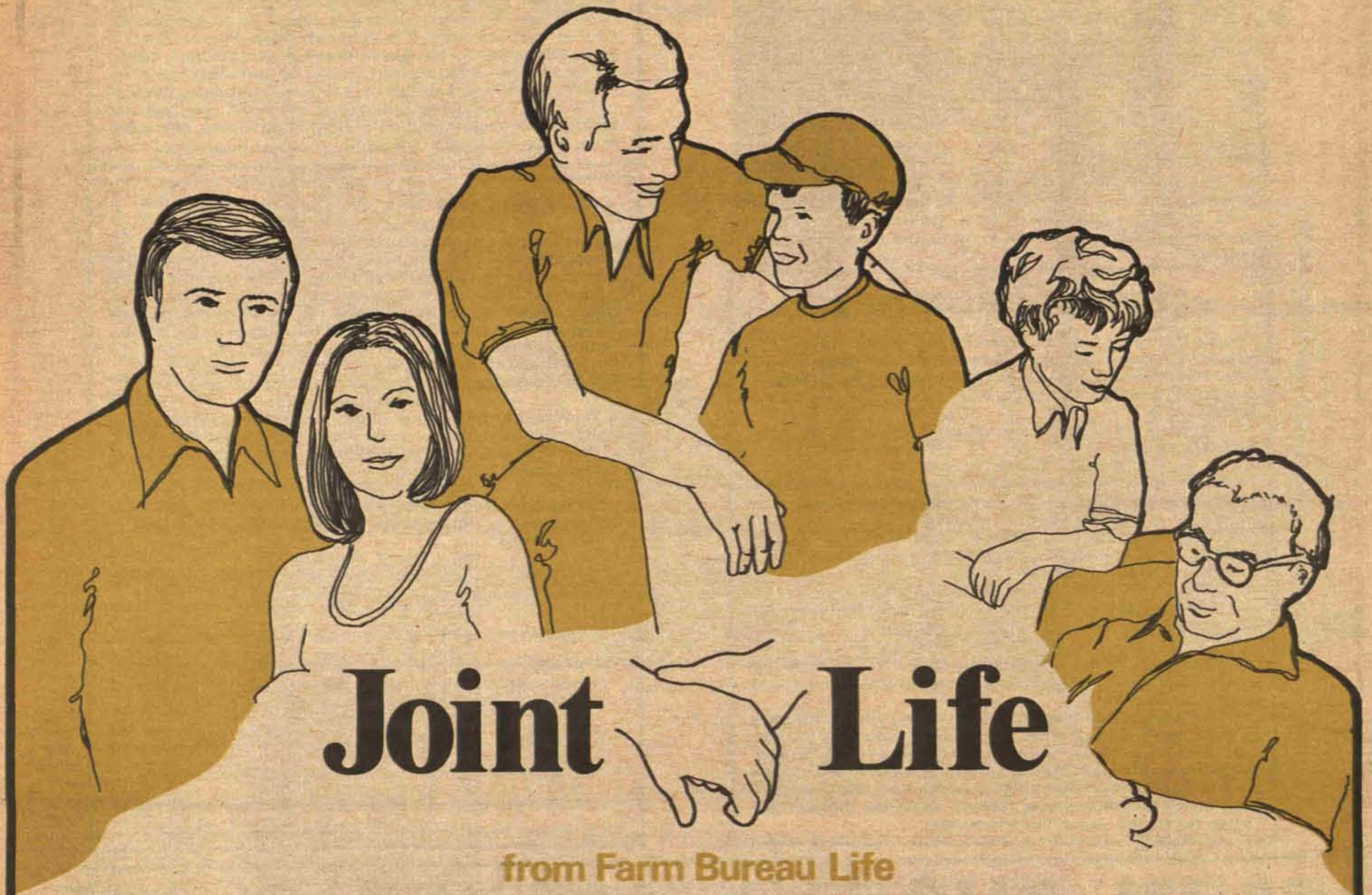
"If machine civilization should, because of some catastrophe, (such as trade war, or depletion of fuel supplies) stop functioning, it will probably never again come into existence . . . .

"In view of this possibility, the most probable pattern for the future of mankind is that sooner or later the entire world will become an agrarian one."

Whether this will ever come about is open for speculation. But one thing is clear—regardless of where we live, the problems facing us today are similar.



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