Major issues for 1976 aired

At P.D. Conference

Farmers win H.B. 4921 victory

Fair display a success

VanBuren growers start legal fund

Farmers from Van Buren County meet with Farm Bureau staff to discuss critical issues on grower's rights.

The grain boycott - See

Price-later agreements ... page 8

Discussion Topic on

President's Column ... page 3

policy issues... page 10

By Bob Smith

This is a brief report of the very narrow victory on H.B. 4921. You will recall that this bill was introduced by all metropolitan and labor-oriented legislators and was strongly supported by such groups as AFL-CIO, the Catholic Conference, UAW, Council of Churches, and others claiming to support farm workers. It is likely that this bill was not possible to vote the bill down and that the effort was to send it to the Agriculture Committee. The first vote was 53 to 41 in our favor, and then the opposition made an effort to reconsider. The second vote was 48 to 48, a tie. The third vote, which was final, was 50 to 49 which means victory for our group. As you review the voting records below, you may want to drop a line to your legislator and others thanking them for their courage in supporting our position on this crucial labor legislation. You may note that some legislators' names are not shown as voting. Some were present and did not choose to vote - others may have happened to be absent.

Outstate legislators did an excellent job on the floor and deserve commendation for their effort. The debate was long and the maneuvering was complicated. You might be interested to know that one Detroit area legislator said in debate on his effort to pass the bill. He said, "... this bill has been endorsed by organized labor in agriculture, energy, international trade, the food stamp program, land use and environmental legislation and transportation.

Concerned by reports of certain groups and individuals harassing growers and workers, the farmers explained they want to obey the law but don't want to be unreasonably bothered by people who have no legal right to interfere in their employer - employee relationship.

At the close of the meeting, the farmers agreed to establish a fund to help pay the legal fees of growers faced with any nuisance suits. The Van Buren County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was asked to carry on a pledge drive to raise a fund of $30 thousand to be used for test cases.

The grain boycott - See

Price-later agreements ... page 8

Discussion Topic on

President's Column ... page 3

policy issues... page 10
The grain boycott

E.B. is fighting it

Not since the meat boycott and food price rollback attemp-
t has an issue raised more farmer concern than the pub-
lic reaction to the Soviet Union grain sale. With our freedom to
determine what we shall, as a nation, we must be con-
derenced.

Sadily, once again, we find ourselves pitted against the
most powerful of groups-the American consumer. And, once
again, we hear a chorus from the membership: "What
is Farm Bureau doing about it?"

In this battle, which basically boils down to our proven
market at stake, we must be concerned. What is Fann Bureau
doing about--himself and then aim for that target. They aim their
communications to the consumer's emotions rather than his
intellect. In other words, how does an issue affect him right
where he lives--not the impersonal general economy.

How the Russian grain sale will affect his food bill is
what he is interested in--not the balance of trade or how
restrictions on exports will affect farmers. We need to make him aware that government storing of
our surplus grain will cost him tax dollars, that agricultural ex-
ports are important to him because they help the Russian
country those things which can be produced cheaper
dewhere. And, probably, most important, we need to make
him aware that in order to continue to be able to buy
him and his family the quality and quantity of food they need and
farmers need to have the freedom to market. How will it
affect him if we were on the other end of the grain sales--if
he had to depend upon other countries for his food supply
because of American farmers who can't help bring the grain
in another country to aid on keeping production?

Back to the question--What is Farm Bureau doing? And,
because You are Fann Bureau, what are you doing?

Michigan Farm Bureau--On July 24, in response to the
international grain embargo, Michigan Farm Bureau
issued to the wire services, indicating that the boycott
was granted by USDA). But keep in mind that part of the wheat sold
As a nation, we must be concerned. How do we react to this issue?

In 1972, the Soviet Union was given Commodity Credit
Corporation (CCC) credit to make the purchases. There is no
government credit involved this time. The only government
subsidies involved in the sales this year will be from
the maritime administration to American Flag vessels.

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Another Agriculture in Action editorial dealing with the
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the maritime administration to American Flag vessels.
At 50th A.I.C.

State well represented

Michigan 4-H and FFA youth attended the American Institute of Cooperation held in late July at the MSU campus. The Michigan youth were sponsored by local cooperatives and County Farm Bureaus. Attending the national conference were 2460 youth, young farmer couples and adults from 42 states.

F.B.S. engineer presents research

The bi-annual engineering conference bring together leading agricultural engineers from cooperatives, industry and universities throughout the country, and also include many foreign visitors. Hausmann presented a paper to the conference entitled "Pole Barn Wind Resistance Design Using Diaphragm Action," co-authored by Michigan State University Agricultural Engineering Professor Dr. Merle Esmay.

"We see the application of diaphragm panel construction as a major stride for farm buildings," said Hausmann, "and we were pleased to share with our colleagues the results of the cooperative research that led to its development."

Hausmann and Dr. Esmay conducted a series of experiments in 1974 that showed buildings utilizing special construction in the roof and side covering are from 30-60% stronger against wind loading than most conventional buildings. Diaphragm construction eliminates the need for knee braces, allowing more inside room, while at the same time creating a stronger building. The engineering principle had been applied previously in the aircraft industry and commercial buildings, but this was the first time it had been applied extensively for farm buildings. Farm Bureau Services presently employs diaphragm panel construction in the building of farm structures.

Full details of the experiments are available from the agricultural engineering department of Michigan State University, in a pamphlet numbered AEIS-256.

A grain marketing seminar, under the direction of MFB's Market Development Division, was held in August. Michigan Elevator Exchange's Ed Powell, Donn Kunz and Ralph Showman were on a panel which discussed moisture-shrink, forward contracts vs. hedging opportunities and price-later agreements. AFBF's director of government relations Neely Lodwick was on hand to discuss the current Washington climate.

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 3-6, 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.

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$2.8 million for transportation.  
$22.5 million for compensatory education.  
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$500 million for retirement funding.  

However, the budget contains a provision that there will be a cut to the payment of state debt service for the sum this spring totaling some $3.04 billion.  

The Legislature adjourned for a summer recess on August 14. It has been the longest session of the Legislature on October 13 for a long time, called it "the scene for a long time, called it 'the overburden."

The Governor is expected to present the first step in a massive state program to aid transit in the construction of transportation facilities. It is further expected that a measure will be placed on the 1976 ballot for a one billion dollar bond proposal. A similar proposal was defeated at the last election. Thirty million dollars borrowed from the state trunkline fund will be added to the $150 million dollars resulting from the new legislation and $800 million in locally raised funds, which together will qualify the state to receive some $700 in federal aid. The bonds will be repaid by 75 percent of the revenues from the new general sales tax that was authorized to be used to aid transportation systems. The legislation also permits the State Highway Commission to assist in railroad reorganization and also is designed to help prevent abandonment of 1200 miles of railroad.
Throughout the month of August, the 94th Congress has been in recess. When the Congress returns in October, two major issues will receive attention. These issues include the reorganization of the consumer protection agency and deregulation of natural gas.

Railroad Reorganization

With submission of the Final System Plan (FSP) to Congress on July 26, the United States Railway Association (USRA) met its responsibility under the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973. Congress will now have 60 days to consider the FSP. The 60-day period will expire on November 2. Unless neither House of Congress passes a resolution rejecting the FSP, it will become effective and the system plan will be proposed by USRA.

Under the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973, a private for-profit corporation known as ConRail was created to operate the reorganized Midwest-Northeast Region rail system. Under the Regional Rail Reorganization Act, the Midwest-Northeast Region rail system would be built around three major operations: ConRail, with the bankrupt Penn Central as its core and including elements of the smaller bankrupt railroads such as the Ann Arbor, an expanded Chessie system that would take over major parts of some of the bankrupt carriers, and Norfolk and Western and smaller solvent carriers operating over existing tracks but with some new track mileage and rights and services. According to USRA, the ConRail system would account for about 20% of the Region’s total net ton miles yearly; the Chessie system 33%; Norfolk and Western 21%; and the smaller solvent lines, 19%.

Throughout the reorganization process, Michigan Farm Bureau has been deeply involved in the controversy surrounding light rail operations. These are the lines that extend into rural areas of the Midwest-Northeast Region and serve agricultural communities and service much of the state’s agricultural needs. Despite voluminous data supplied by many rail user groups supporting inclusion of branch lines in the FSP, the USRA has been generally unresponsive.

Therefore, if Congress approves the FSP as presented by USRA, the continuation of service on many branch lines serving Michigan’s rural areas will depend upon guarantees given by the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation. These branch lines that are designated will be eligible for 20% federal and 30% state subsidies to continue operations for a period of two years.

In terms of Michigan alone, the FSP proposes to abandon rail service on slightly more than 1,100 miles of track. Virtually all of this is branch line trackage. The area south of a line from roughly Saginaw to Muskegon would be especially affected.

Michigan Farm Bureau is now working with other allied groups in an effort to measure the full impact that the FSP could have on Michigan and the rural economy. Members of the Michigan Congressional delegation will be informed of the findings of this group and asked to react accordingly when the FSP is considered by Congress.

Consumer Protection Agency

The House Government Operations Committee reported H.R. 7575 just before its August recess. H.R. 7575 would create an independent Consumer Protection Agency (CPA) to serve as a consumer advocate in the proceedings of nearly all government agencies.

The substitute bill would immediately decertify several non-profit consumer organizations related to the initial sale by producers of agricultural commodities. However, all USDA programs affecting commodities after sale by producers would be subject to intervention by the CPA. H.R. 7575 contains no such exemption.

Evidence that agriculture would be a prime candidate for CPA intervention was provided in remarks to the Senate by Senator Charles Percy. (R-Illinois). Reprinted in the Congressional Record, his remarks cited milk marketing orders, meat grade standards, fruit and vegetable marketing orders, CCC activities, and use of cattle slaughter stimulants as activities with clear-cut consumer interests.

Both the Senate-passed bill and H.R. 7575 exempt labor disputes from CPA intervention. Opponents of this legislation contend the CPA may as a result of its activities, act as their arbitrator. Amendments to remove this labor exemption have been defeated.

The Senate bill was passed on a 34 to 28 vote and the House Government Operations Committee reported H.R. 7755 by a 29 to 13 vote. Many Washington observers expect the House to pass H.R. 7755 and that the best chance to defeat creation of an independent CPA will be a possible veto by the President.

Natural Gas

Pessimistic reports during the past month about supplies of natural gas have served to emphasize the immediate and long range impacts of this problem upon farmers and consumers.

Natural gas is critical to the production of nitrogen fertilizers which is credited with providing one-third of the productive capacity of crops. Therefore, the ability of farmers to produce and the assurance of adequate food for consumers is at stake.

This artificially low pricing of natural gas has discouraged exploration for new sources and encouraged the use of natural gas because of its low cost in comparison with other fuels. It is ironic to note that in 1946, 1953 and 1973 Congress decided price controls were unwieldy and rejected them. Yet, Congress has not allowed control of wellhead pricing for natural gas to end.

Earlier this year, the Senate Commerce Committee reported S. 892, which would extend price controls on natural gas rather than move in the direction of deregulation. Farm Bureau has been a leading opponent of natural gas regulation at the wellhead.

Accordingly, a bill has been introduced by several Senators, including Senator Griffin (R- Traverse City), that would move toward deregulation of natural gas. This bill will be offered as a substitute for S. 892 when it is considered by the Senate.
Pick own grapes

Grape stomping at the Grape and Wine Festival in Paw Paw.

Fall is harvest time in southwest Michigan. This means the Concord grape and freezing fruit and vegetables, particularly 'Les Citrus Vineyards'. The whole family would enjoy the activities of the festival including grape stomping contests, wine tasting, parades, balloon rides, displays, equipment, bands, music, dancing, and the crowning of the Festival Queen.

For more information on U-pick and a brochure, write Don Thorton, 'Les Citrus Vineyards', care of the Van Buren County Farm Bureau, Route 6, Paw Paw, MI 49079 or telephone (616) 657-5561.

H.B. 4921 victory a close one

VOTING LIST

A YES vote is for Farmers
Call Roll No. 1023
Yeas—52
Nays—49

Yeas—53
Nays—49

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Collins Collins Cushingberry Cushingberry Cushingberry Cushingberry
Fensler Fensler Fensler Fensler Fensler
Forbes Forbes Forbes Forbes Forbes

A NO vote is for Farmers
Call Roll No. 1023
Yeas—49
Nays—50

Yeas—50
Nays—49

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For an informative brochure on Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum, write: Farm Bureau Services/Farmers Petroleum Marketing Services Division, Box 960, Lansing, MI 48904.

ASK THE FARM BUREAU PEOPLE
Price-later is new marketing option

Historically, farmers producing cash grain have had few marketing options — sell the grain at harvest for harvest prices or store the grain for sale at a later date when prices may be better. As a result of increases in grain production and greater worldwide demand for U.S. grain, a growing number of producers have chosen to store their grain rather than sell at harvest time.

In recent years, a new marketing tool has emerged for farmers who choose not to sell grain at harvest. This relatively new marketing tool is the price later agreement. The price later agreement allows a farmer to deliver grain at harvest to his local elevator, but, instead of receiving that day’s price or a warehouse receipt, he signs an agreement that allows him to choose some future date to price the grain.

Price later agreements have both advantages and disadvantages. In addition to the obvious producer advantage cited above, other advantages include the following:

1. Elevators can give better service to farmers through more efficient use of storage. Title of the grain transfers to the elevator upon execution of the price later agreement. The elevator can then move the grain and continue to accept grain delivered by farmers when it could not accept grain for straight storage.

2. Elevators can realize freight savings which means better prices to producers. In the case of Farm Bureau Services, grain delivered under a price later agreement is kept at the elevator if storage space is available. If storage space is not available, the grain is shipped to a terminal under a price later agreement. However, because rail rates offer large freight advantages for shipments direct to final destination, the grain goes direct to the buyer in cases of rail shipments. In this case, Farm Bureau Services buys an equal amount of grain in other positions to offset the sale of the price later rail shipment. This results in no more grain being sold than farmers had sold collectively but does result in large freight savings, which nets the farmer a higher price because he pays the freight on whatever he sells.

3. Charges are less than straight storage charges because of the flexibility of using storage any place in the state without actually paying the shipping cost to make maximum use of total storage space. In a multi-elevator company like Farm Bureau Services, where both large and small elevators are operated, price later agreements make it easier to move grain and give farmers equal service whether their local elevator happens to be large or small.

The primary disadvantages of price later agreements are the following:

1. Elevators could sell the grain direct and not buy an equal amount in another position, which may affect the market.

2. Elevators which do not buy grain in another position may sell price later agreement grain at the wrong time. This could result in a loss and difficulty paying the farmer for the grain when he chooses to sell.

A price later agreement does not constitute a warehouse receipt and, therefore, offers the producer no protection if the elevator does not hedge the grain or buy back grain to offset sales of price later agreement grain.

Ask the Farm Bureau People at:

- Abion, Abion Elevator Company
- Battle Creek, Battle Creek Farm Bureau
- Bauer, Farmers Co-op Elevator
- Blissfield, Blissfield Co-op Co.
- Buchanan, Buchanan Co-op Inc.
- Caro, Caro Farmers Co-op
- Corrallton, Farm Bureau Supply
- Cheborie, Cheborie Farmers Co-op
- Climax, Battle Creek Farm Bureau
- Coldwater, Coldwater Farm Bureau Services
- Dexter, Washtenaw Farm & Garden Center
- Durand, Durand Milling Co., Inc.
- Elkton, Elkton Co-operative Farm Produce Co.
- Falmouth, Falmouth Co-op
- Fowlerville, Fowlerville Co-operative Co.
- Hasling, Hasling Farm Bureau
- Hemlock, Hemlock Farmers Cooperative, Inc.
- Holland, Holland Co-op Company
- Howell, Howell Co-op Co.
- Hudsonville, Farmers Co-op Elevator
- Huron, Wolf Creek Farm Bureau
- Ida, Ida Farmers Co-op
- Jeddo, St. Clair County Farm Bureau Services
- Kalamazoo, Farm Bureau Services
- Leslie, Leslie Co-op
- Marcellus, Farm Bureau Services
- McBain, Falmouth Co-op
- Mendon, St. Joseph County Farm Bureau Services
- Merrill, Falmouth Co-op
- Mt. Pleasant, Farm Bureau Services
- Pinconning, Farm Bureau Services
- Remus, Farm Bureau Services
- Ruth, Ruth Farmers Elevator Inc.
- St. Johns, St. Johns Co-op
- Sebewaing, Sebewaing Farmers Co-op, Inc.
- Stairwood, Farm Bureau Services
- Sterling, Farm Bureau Services
- Tecumseh, Haydee Mills Inc.
- Traverse City, Farm Bureau Services
- Vriesland, Farmers Co-op Elevator
- West Branch, West Branch Farmers Co-op, Inc.
- Yale, St. Clair County Farm Bureau Services

Where Your Farm Comes First

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.
APPLES 

The MACMA apple committee has met and decided on the apple prices, and, at present, will recommend to the governor for final approval prices to be finalized under PA 344. These prices will be presented to the apple processors in Michigan will need to decide whether they are going to buy apples in Michigan or not. They have the opportunity of "opting out" of the price picture, or if they do not "opt out," they will then be obligated to purchase Michigan apples at the fixed prices. These prices will be on a F.O.B. basis for a period of 60 days, after which time they may be renegotiated.

DAVE WOLF Marketing Specialist Market Development Division

SAFETY 

As reported last month, there was an indication that the pack of red tart cherries might be smaller due to hail and wind damage in the cherry crop this year. It has come to pass, the crop is a lot smaller. These cherries; the Aug. 1 crop pack estimate indicated there would be approximately 200,000 to 250,000 million pounds of cherries in the Great Lake States. Taking out the 1 million pounds for market, for a total of 266 million pounds which was underestimated. June figures for the United States as a whole show that 266 million pounds would be similar or comparable to the crop of 1973 at 261 million pounds. If this crop materializes, it is obvious that taking these actual pack figures into consideration of the actual crop, that there will be a scarcity of cherries this year, and these No. 1 cherries will bring a premium. The reserve pool should be very valuable. When the final figures are published in October, a final decision on what to do with the reserve pool will be made then.

DAVE WOLF Marketing Specialist Market Development Division

PEACHES, PEARLS, AND PLUMS 

These crops have been progressing nicely, and the quality of the fruit has been good. The growing committee meetings have been meeting and the following prices have been established. The Michigan suggested peach price has been raised to $3.50 per hundred, hard sauce and flavored apples to $3.75 per hundred. The Michigan prune price has been raised to $2.00 per hundred, hard sauce and hard prunes to $2.25 per hundred. These prices are F.O.B. and to be paid or figured into the price of the fruit.

DAVE WOLF Marketing Specialist Market Development Division

DAIRY 

The dairy picture in Michigan is heading toward the brighter side for two major reasons. The crops, including corn, wheat, oats, and hay, all look real good at this point in time. In addition to this food produce, there appears to be some strengthening in the cheese and butter market, which should exert up-pressure on the MW Series—with a final result of more dollars in the pocket of Michigan dairymen. The dairy picture should be regarded with guarded optimism as we have seen situations similar in the past. As always, we may turn around very rapidly. At this writing, things are looking good. Hopefully the future will continue in this situation.

DANIEL NELSON Marketing Specialist Market Development Division

GRAPE 

As reported last month by Harry Foster Manager—MACMA Grape Growers Division, the grape crop is large in Michigan as well as worldwide and nationwide. A group of growers to fresh market grapes to the retail market was organized by Mr. Dowd doing the handling. A U-Pick organization was formed—calling themselves Les Cinque Vineyards. This organization will promote their "pick-your-own" organization. A third organization, a new one, is described as being formed to put the grapes, that do not have a home, into a market for pick up or for sale.

Munsch, Inc. has decided to buy grapes on the market this year. The Grape Growers Marketing Committee has decided on $145 cash price for grapes this year. This looks to be a realistic price for the large quantities of grapes available this year. In addition, there will be available a large quantity of a final harvest of grapes. These grapes will be processed into wine and will sell for $4.00 per hundred. These prices are F.O.B. and to be carried or figured into the price of the fruit.

DAVE WOLF Marketing Specialist Market Development Division

CORN 

As reported last month, there was an indication that the pack of corn might be smaller due to hail and wind damage in the corn crop this year. It has come to pass, the crop is a lot smaller. These corn; the Aug. 1 crop pack estimate indicated there would be approximately 200,000 to 250,000 million pounds of corn in the Great Lake States. Taking out the 1 million pounds for market, for a total of 266 million pounds which was underestimated. June figures for the United States as a whole show that 266 million pounds would be similar or comparable to the crop of 1973 at 261 million pounds. If this crop materializes, it is obvious that taking these actual pack figures into consideration of the actual crop, that there will be a scarcity of corn for the packers to buy for the market. This is based on a two-inch minimum size. The Michigan plump price was suggested at $6.00 per hundred, hard sauce and hard corn to $6.30 per hundred. The Michigan prune price was suggested at $4.50 per hundred, hard sauce and hard prunes to $4.80 per hundred. These prices are F.O.B. and to be paid or figured into the price of the fruit.

DAVE WOLF Marketing Specialist Market Development Division

FERTILIZER 

The threat of high natural gas prices and the reduced Russian harvests were past season. The increased sales of feed will undoubtedly produce a much larger feed grain harvest. Generally favorable weather is making the crop potential large and is increasing steadily. The movement of old beans has not increased sharply. The miles and recorded old mail orders are increasing by 16 million this season. The decreased saleable form is due to large Russian harvests. We are promoting a cooperative effort with the Russian growers to help them make a larger saleable form to the United States. The increased sales of feed will undoubtedly produce a much larger feed grain harvest. Generally favorable weather is making the crop potential large and is increasing steadily. The movement of old beans has not increased sharply. The miles and recorded old mail orders are increasing by 16 million this season. The decreased saleable form is due to large Russian harvests. We are promoting a cooperative effort with the Russian growers to help them make a larger saleable form to the United States.

By Greg Sheffield, Marketing Manager FB

FUEL PRICES 

The report of fuel prices as of July 30th is not showing many changes. The prices are on the same level as they were last week. The prices are about the same level as they were last week. The prices are about the same level as they were last week. The prices are about the same level as they were last week. The prices are about the same level as they were last week.

By Greg Sheffield, Marketing Manager FB
Farm income & food stamps

Two policy issues

Because Farm Bureau is a farm family organization, Farm Bureau's basic strength comes from the involvement of all its members in the development and formulation of programs that will achieve the membership in local and state organizational activities.

Policy decisions are made by members through a devolved process in which given the other members numerous opportunities to influence policy.

County resolutions on local issues become county policies after adoption at county annual meeting and others become recommendations to Michigan Farm Bureau on state or national concerns. These are adopted by delegates at Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting become policies on state issues and those dealing with national programs. But the delegates to the American Farm Bureau, National resolutions adopted by voting delegates from member state Farm Bureaus at the annual meetings of the Farm Bureau every point its a meeting of minds of the majority.

Another factor which affects the major areas at the meeting and several months area will be discussed. The two subject areas covered in this column will, hopefully, provide some "food for thought.

I-HIGHER INCOMES IN THE MARKETPLACE

How can farm families-indeed each and every Farm Bureau organization--examine market opportunities and earn higher incomes in the marketplace? How should farmers carry on the determination of the use of their land? What crops should they plant? Who should determine what acreage should be devoted to various crops?

Another important factor is the importance of the basic conditions and such natural characteristics of his farmland as topography, water, climate, and topography of the land. Then, tenancy under which he holds his land is another important factor.

But the market is a major determinant of land use. And farmers now have access to a wealth of market information.

Worldwide crop production information--including timely and accurate information made possible by the use of earth satellites--is being gathered more than ever before. Worldwide information on demand for, and consumption of, farm commodities is more extensive and timely than ever before. More reliable data from the Soviet Union and The People's Republic of China are adding to its store of knowledge.

Worldwide market information is now distributed rapidly and accurately over telecommunications and electronic systems.

A farmer's planting decisions are affected by his appraiser of prospective prices for the crops he plans to grow. And farmers now have greater opportunities than ever before to price their commodities for future delivery by selling in futures markets. Trading opportunities are available for more commodities and with a greater choice of participants. The future contract system is becoming more popular and attracts buyers from all over the world. The percentage of the near distant future contracts is growing every day.

An added advantage is that farms or loan can be made to farmers holding 100 bushels of corn could borrow as much as $150 from a bank or credit cooperative. This is over 50 percent using only a certain percentage of their corn. Earth satellites--is being gathered now than ever before.

Fundamental income deductions including income taxes, court-ordered alimony and support payments.

Food stamps probably would create political pressure for a return to the food stamp program as a means of increasing the domestic retail market for food. Counter-arguments are the ease of these deductions is to permit some people who have rather substantial cash incomes to qualify for food stamps.

The percentage of "adjusted net income" participants must pay for food stamps is that they are not entitled to free stamps-

Some people believe the Food Stamp Program is an inefficient method of improving the welfare of low income people.

One final point needs to be considered. A major objective of the Food Stamp Program is to improve low income people to have an adequate diet while striving to reduce production costs. This view is summarized in the foreword to "Food Stamps and Nutrition," a "reassessment" study published by The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research:

"Professor Clarkson finds that our government spends in excess of $1.09 to provide $1.00 in food stamps that have 30 cents (one cent above 82 cents) in cash or other goods and think he was better off. Indeed, some recipients would have thought they were better off if they received only 9 cents in cash instead of $1.00 worth of additional food, judging by the fact that they sell their bonus stamps, illegally, for less than 50 cents on the dollar.

If this argument is correct, both administrative and operating costs, which are borne by taxpayers, could be reduced by cashing out food stamps. (Administrative costs could be reduced by eliminating the duplication that now exists when people qualify for both food stamps and other welfare benefits; and operating costs could be reduced if participants actually would be willing to trade food stamp benefits for a smaller amount of cash.)

It can be argued that farmers should support continuation of the Food Stamp Program as a means of increasing the domestic retail market for food. Counter-arguments are:

1. The increase in food consumption that actually results from the distribution of food stamps probably is considerably less than the cost of the "bonus" stamps, and
2. People making more than $150 in income a month are not entitled to free stamps. But if it had a monthly net income of $290.00 to $399.99 per month, and 70% for 90 cents of stamps that had a monthly value to recipients as indicated by those surveyed.

In other words, the average recipient would trade his bonus food stamps worth $1.00 for food products for 30 cents (one cent above 82 cents) of food stamps. (This is an average value to recipients as indicated by those surveyed.) In other words, the average recipient would trade his bonus food stamps worth $1.00 for food products for 30 cents (one cent above 82 cents) of cash or other goods and think he was better off. Indeed, some recipients would have thought they were better off if they received only 9 cents in cash instead of $1.00 worth of additional food, judging by the fact that they sell their bonus stamps, illegally, for less than 50 cents on the dollar.

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Discussion Topic Report Sheet

The Discussion Topic and Report Sheet for the discussion topic on the opposite page is for use by community group members who may wish to review it prior to their group meeting. If used by a Community Group, in lieu of report sheet furnished the Discussion Literature and Public Relations Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P. O. Box 9694, Lansing, Michigan 48904 or on or before October 1, 1975.

Community Farm Bureau County

Indicate the number of people taking part in this discussion:

Topic: YOUR OPINION

1. Is there a need for more crop production information?
   Yes, No, Unknown

2. Is additional demand—consumption information needed?
   Yes, No, Unknown

3. Should U. S. agricultural producers have a duty to do business with exporters whose sole objective is to export U. S. agricultural products as well as multinational companies that have interests in exporting from other countries?
   Yes, No, Unknown

4. Is the Food Stamp Program an effective method of improving the nutrition of low income people?
   Yes, No, Unknown

5. Would the "cashing-off" of stamps expedite the transfer of the program to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare?
   Yes, No, Unknown

6. What position should Farm Bureau take on the "cashing-off" issue?
   Against

Conclusions:

MGB State Young Farmers Committee member, Donald Gilmer, has been appointed to the Michigan Commission on Agriculture Labor by Governor William G. Milliken. Gilmer, of Augustus, Kalamazoo County, is a member of the Board of Directors of Michigan Peach Sponsors and is past chairman of the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau. Gilmer will be a member of the Commission. Senate confirmation of the appointment is required.

Levine joins MFB staff as broadcaster

Erich Levine, formerly Saratov, Mich. newsman, has joined MFB's Information and Public Relations division as a Communications Specialist. He will work primarily in the broadcast area of the division.

For the past three years Levine was a newsman for MBC TV in Saratov, and is well known to Sanilac County Farm Bureau members.

He was raised in the Los Angeles area and is a graduate of Michigan State University of Southern California with a degree in Broadcast Journalism. He is also a graduate of the Don Martin School of Radio in Hayfield, Minn., and holds minor degrees in Speech and Broadcast relations.

If you have a question about crop production, you may wish to review it prior to your group meetings.

3. Should U. S. agricultural producers have an opportunity to do more with their crops?

4. If you are a member of a cooperative or production organization, what are your views about the role of cooperatives?

5. Conclusion: Must we study all methods of probable energy; solar energy seems practical, should we develop it more, should we develop it slowly, should we develop it in far more health hazards as solar rays are harmful; cost is prohibitive now; tremendous possibilities if developed by men with vision.

Topic Summary

Even though some found difficulty in keeping cool, the July discussion topic on solar energy provided an opportunity to learn more about a potential source of energy. Some wondered and tried to envision what the future of solar energy would be.

Q. 1. Will it be 65 in 1975? How do I enroll for Medicare and Complimentary Coverage?

A. In early September you will receive an "Age Record Card" from your County Farm Bureau. The purpose of the card is to obtain the monthly date of your birthday. You will then be able to receive Medicare and Complimentary Coverage. If you do not receive your card within a reasonable time, write your County Secretary you will automatically be enrolled in Blue Cross—Blue Shield Complimentary Coverage.

To enroll in Medicare you should contact your local Social Security office 3 months before your 65th birthday.

LEONARD, Mich. — Leonard’s Apple Orchards, 10930 South M-37, has peaches:

APRIL 26

For Sales


FOR SALE - Concrete oven, solid fuel, priced to sell. Phone 800-630-9889.

FOR SALE - New Murray lawn mower $95.00 in good condition. Phone 616-375-8978.

FOR SALE - 120 Rollin Acres, hardwood and softwood, $65.00 per acre. Phone 426-392-0990.

FOR SALE - 12 1/2 acre lot with water and electric, $1000. Phone 517-827-2398.


FOR SALE - Updated 4 bedroom home in St. Clair. $55,000. Phone 517-772-1655.

FOR SALE - 4 bedroom home in St. Clair. $55,000. Phone 517-772-1655.

FOR SALE - Silk umbrella, Van Dale in good condition. Phone 616-868-7383.

FOR SALE - Concrete oven, solid fuel, priced to sell. Phone 800-630-9889.

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FOR SALE - 12 1/2 acre lot with water and electric, $1000. Phone 517-827-2398.

FOR SALE - 4 bedroom home in St. Clair. $55,000. Phone 517-772-1655.
Now! Protect the two of you with just one policy!

Joint Life

from Farm Bureau Life

Farm Bureau Joint Life ... a unique life insurance plan which insures two lives for just one premium. You get sound life insurance protection of at least $10,000 apiece ... for you and another person ... your wife or husband, your child, a grandchild, even a business partner! Equal coverage for each of you with just one policy. Here are just some of the ways Joint Life can work for you ...

Husband and Wife
Joint Life means now you and your spouse can enjoy exactly the same coverage ... equal protection for both ... at only a few dollars more than standard premiums for just one of you. For example, if you are 31 and your wife is 25, the single premium covering both of you would be based on your combined adjusted age of 28.

Grandparent/Parent and Child
With Joint Life you can provide guaranteed protection for your child's future. And the cost of the premium is less than what it would be to insure you alone! Joint Life also may be exactly what you've been looking for to insure a bright start for that new grandchild.

Business Protection
Joint Life is excellent protection for many businesses ... you and your business partner protect each other with a Joint Life plan.

Joint Life. It makes sense doesn't it? Protection for both of you with just one policy, one premium. To find out more about Joint Life and the many available options, call your Farm Bureau agent today ... listed in the Yellow Pages.

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP

Farm Bureau Mutual • Farm Bureau Life • Community Service Insurance