Major Ag Groups Support Proposal A

Representatives of four of Michigan's most important agricultural organizations voiced their support of Proposal A, legislation to ban the use of nonreturnable bottles and cans. A press conference held October 11 at the Michigan Farm Bureau Center in Lansing.

Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau; William Brook, president of the Michigan Agricultural Conference; Glenn Lake, president of the Michigan Milk Producers Association; and Richard Carncross, master of the Michigan State Grange, all stated that the consumer can save money with returnable bottles directly, that farmers would benefit by having hazardous throwaways eliminated from their property, and that all Michigan residents would benefit from the energy and natural resources saved that is now wasted in the manufacture of nonreturnable bottles.

"We know that resources used to make disposable containers are limited," Smith emphasized. "There is a limited supply of both energy, raw products, and the amount of land suitable, for landfill. We know that each disposable container takes us closer to these limits. We must stop using throwaways some time and now is the time."

Carncross refuted Proposal A opponents' claims that returnable bottle use will increase the price of beverages. A survey conducted by the Grange revealed that the returnable packaging cost is less per ounce than the nonreturnable, by as much as $0.20 to $0.30 cents, when purchased in the six or eight pack. For example, an eight pack of Pepsi - Cola in returnable bottles cost $1.45, while the same beverage in a nonreturnable eight pack cost a $1.79 in one Lansing store.

Farmers are acutely aware of the dire consequences of bottles in their fields, where the containers could damage harvesting machinery and injure farm workers, Brook pointed out. "Broken bottles can slash tires and combine tires," Brook elaborates. "Cans get picked up by forage choppers and get into livestock feed, thereby endangering the lives of cattle who eat that feed. Such hazards cause harvesting delays that can directly lead to increases in food prices."

All four agricultural organizations represented have policies that advocate the adoption of Proposal A. The Michigan State Grange has advocated such action since 1964. Michigan Farm Bureau has backed the concept for several years and has been influential in getting enough petitions signed so that the proposal could be brought to vote this November.

In a unanimous decision, the Michigan Occupational Safety Standards Commission, has voted to adopt Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety standards for agricultural tractors and farm and field equipment.

The move signifies the Commission's rejection of more stringent rules that the Michigan Department of Labor had proposed in addition to the federal standards that went into effect nationwide on October 25, 1976. The Commission made its decision at an October 15 hearing in Detroit.

The Michigan Farm Bureau and numerous agricultural organizations throughout the state, plus representatives of Michigan State University and farm equipment manufacturers and dealers, vigorously opposed the state proposals and urged the adoption of the Federal regulations at a September 13 public hearing.

"The tremendous response against the Michigan rules at the public hearing was directly responsible for the Commission's decision," Dewey Barich, Commission chairman said at the hearing. "This was definitely the strongest reaction to a proposed Department of Labor regulation that we have ever seen. It was a beautiful example of the real purpose of a public hearing."

Keith Molin, director of the Michigan Department of Labor, said that the Commission's decision will be a relief to all involved with the state's agriculture. Now another public hearing, this time for consideration of the federal standards, must be held, Molin stresses.

"This will be the time for all those in favor of the federal regulations and those opposed to the adoption of these rules to provide testimony," he explains. Because of this second hearing, the battle for the most effective farm equipment safety regulations is still not over, Merrill J. Buschlen, Michigan Agricultural Services Association operations manager, says.

"Farm Bureau members may have to rally again as they did at the first hearing," Buschlen points out.

Support Agriculture Vote Nov. 2
Bottle Bill Saves Money, Energy

A recent study conducted by the Federal Energy Administration (EIA) revealed that if enough people returned bottle and cans and secured a five cent deposit so that each container was returned, total savings would amount to about $1.6 billion per year.

The report noted that Ontario, which has such a law, has brought a 70 per cent return rate. It concluded that a nationwide law might boost the return rate to 70 per cent or 80 per cent by 1982.

The savings would come on the form of energy conservation and an increase in employment and payroll in the container industries. Recycling containers is cheaper than making new throwaways and consumers would save money if their beverage cans came in returnable bottles.

Nonreturnable containers are banned in Vermont as well as in the 1976 ballot in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Florida, Colorado, Ohio, Texas, and New York, as well as in Michigan.

Opponents of Proposal A in Michigan are primarily composed of container industry personnel. They have stated that consumers will have to pay more for beverages in returnable bottles. Proponents of Proposal A expect proponents to convince citizens to vote against a throwaway ban.

With the resignation of Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, Michigan farmers felt the loss of a friend, as well as an outstanding public servant who helped another last year at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, voting delegates reaffirmed their faith and support of his "tireless and very effective efforts in speaking out on behalf of the farmers and for agriculture." We are selling in a worldwide market. His success in improving the image of the farmer and in telling the productive miracle of American agriculture has been gratifying to us.

Armed with that "ammunition," I began the difficult search for the right words to pay tribute to Mr. Butz in this column. I found the "right" words, much better than anything I had composed. They were written by Murray Miles of the Tennessee Farm Bureau. He said back in 1973 when the parity index go above the 100 percent for the first time in 20 years, and net farm income reach a record high.

Earl Butz has never minced words when it came to defending the farmer and the competitive free enterprise system. He said back in 1973 that anyone who would place price controls on meats, he believed it to be "a damn fool." President Nixon later on did just that, and the check, indeed, was still suffering from this action.

The market price concept espoused by the farmers has never been only beneficial to farmers, it has been of utmost importance to the total economic system in agriculture production, and the export markets available gave us a balance of trade payments. That helps a lot of oil.

So, while we may be able to do without some of his stories, agriculture in this country is in the real loser in the loss of Earl Butz. He had the right kind of philosophy and he told it like it was, with underlying concern on behalf of the farm community.

Agriculture's Friends on November 2

Two years ago in this column, I urged you to fulfill your citizenship responsibilities with forethought and knowledge, and to cast your vote for agriculture's friends. I repeat that plea with the deepest sincerity and concern for the future of our industry.

Every day, decisions are made, laws are passed, regulations are formulated, by those who have little or no knowledge of what is involved in the production of food and fibre. Yet, these decisions and actions have an impact, directly or indirectly, on our profession and on our ability to realize a dignified living for our efforts and investments.

Our freedom to function as independent businessmen, to respond to the market place, is slowly being eroded by those who base their decisions on what is politically astute rather than what is best for our state and nation. Unless we have lawmakers who know and care about agriculture, and who can relate what happens "down on the farm" to their non-farm constituents, the future of our industry is in grave danger. And ... "as agriculture goes, so goes the nation."

With this much at stake, how can any farmer be too busy (or whatever excuse keeps voters away from the polls on election day) to vote? There are many good candidates running for office. Some are farmers, some have a farm background, others have proved by their actions that they recognize the vital importance of agriculture to the entire nation. In this era of consumerism, legislators who supported agriculture despite the pressures and demands of major groups are especially deserving of our votes.

Because agriculture had friends in Washington, D.C. this past year who understood the unfairness and injustice of the new laws, and who can relate what happens "down on the farm" to their non-farm constituents, the future of our industry is in grave danger. And ... "as agriculture goes, so goes the nation."

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600 Attend Lansing Agri-Banquet

A Legislative - Agri Banquet, held at the Lansing Civic Center on October 6, attracted nearly 600 people, including over 70 legislators. Michigan Farm Bureau was one of 24 agricultural organization sponsors of the event, which was aimed at enlightening legislators and the general public about the importance of agricultural chemicals to food production.

Nationally - recognized agricultural scientists, educators and chemical company officials discussed their concerns regarding counter-productive over-regulation and “socio-political decision-making” effecting food production without input from the agricultural industry.

Program speakers were Dr. Frederick Coulston, Albany Medical College; Dr. Sylvan Wittwer, Director of the Michigan State University Experiment Station; Dr. B.P. Cardon, President of the National Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST); Thomas Zinninger, executive vice president of the Velsicol Chemical Corporation; B. Dale Ball, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture; and Dr. Frank Fronke, technical service director of E-Z Flo Chemical Company, who served as program chairman.

Legislators were challenged to consider the alternatives to use of agricultural chemicals -- would consumers prefer insect fragments in their Wheaties? -- or redent pellets in their flour? Agricultural chemicals protect the health of crops, the speakers pointed out, just as medical drugs protect the health of humans. If the trend toward arbitrary over-regulation continues, they warned, farmers will not be able to meet the challenge of producing food and fibre for this nation and help to feed the hungry of the world.

Dr. Frank Fronke summed up the program with a message to legislators from the agricultural industry: "We need you to straighten out the bureaucratic mess that threatens to choke agriculture. And you need us -- three-times a day."

Notice of Annual Meeting

The 57th Annual Meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau will be held December 1, 2 and 3, 1976 at the Civic Center complex in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Registration of voting delegates and guests will begin on Tuesday, November 30. The Annual Meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau will be called to order at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 1.

The Annual Meetings of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the same location on Tuesday, November 30. County representatives will want to be present at these important Annual Meetings of their Farm Bureau affiliates. The big “Product Show” will be open Tuesday afternoon and evening.

The annual Awards Banquet will be held Thursday evening, December 2.

The purposes of the meeting include:
(1) Election of Members of the Board of Directors. Even-numbered districts will elect Directors-at-Large. One Director representing the Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee will also be elected for a one-year term.
(2) Reports of Officers.
(3) Consideration and action on the recommendations of the Policy Development Committee to determine action policies of Michigan Farm Bureau for the coming year.
(4) Consideration of proposed amendments to the Bylaws, if any.

The Bylaws of Michigan Farm Bureau provide that each County Farm Bureau is entitled to at least two voting delegates, plus an additional delegate for each 100 members of major portion thereof in excess of the first 200 members of record August 31, 1976, not including Associate Members.

Sincerely,
Robert E. Braden
Administrative Director

William S. Wilkinson
Secretary
The Michigan Legislature has again recessed having been in Lansing for a three week period. It will reconvene in the Spring for the rest of the 76 session.

Some of the legislation that is still to be completed includes:

ANIMALS AT LARGE

Nearly two years ago, Rep. Sharp introduced H.B. 4229, a new state law to control animals running at large. There was no state law to prevent such occurrences. Since that time, there are at least two or three areas in the state where animals running at large are a serious problem. The bill passed the House and is presently before the Senate for final action. However, a delay occurred pending on the question: as to whether dogs and cats ought to be included. These animals are controlled under another Act.

The Act, in brief, would provide compensation for damage to property as ordered by the court when an individual is provided a permit a law enforcement officer to seize any animal running at large and to take it into custody. An individual could also seize and take into custody an animal running at large upon his own premises and thus control law enforcement people. The animal could be held for a period of time giving the owner an opportunity to claim it. Provision is made for public auctions of the animals to be sold to the highest bidder. Any animal would have an opportunity to reclaim the animal by paying for all costs that have been incurred.

PRICING LEGISLATION

H.B. 6122 has been signed into law. It will be in effect for the next harvest season. It is a comprehensive act that requires the legislate to set a regulation of all those who handle grain. A "grain dealer" includes everyone buying, exchanging, selling, or storing farm produce. It exempts growers who sell their own produce and anyone buying, storing, or using farm produce. The bill also increases the bonding requirements of the present Warehouse Bonding Act.

Any grain dealer using "price leader" agreements must satisfy one of the following:

a. Have certificates representing equal amounts in value of farm produce, as approved by the state.

b. Keep the farm produce on hand on his own property.

c. Have certificates representing equal amounts in value of farm produce, as approved by the state.

d. Have an irrevocable letter of credit or money in escrow to cover not less than 30 percent on the value of the farm produce.

e. The bill requires the main provisions of the new act which will provide for a "price leader" protection to grain producers. Most important is the fact that grain truckers who buy and sell grain will be licensed, thus, helping to avoid situations that have existed in the state whereby many farmers have not received money for the grain sold in that manner. (See picture elsewhere.)

This BILL OF MI-OSHA

The last issue of Michigan Farm News contained detailed information of Farm Bureau and MI-OSHA proposal regulations for farm tractors and farm equipment.

Nearly 100 persons attended the public hearing on these regulations on September 13. Farmers are concerned about the proposed federal OSHA requirements recently promulgated. They maintain that state regulations should be uniform with the federal. Several legislators have introduced mandatory legislation including repeal of the MI-OSHA Act and requiring that state regulations can be no more stringent than federal OSHA regulations.

Most recently, Mr. Keith Molin, director of the State Laboratory of Hygiene, presented the Occupational Safety Standards Commission to adopt the federal agricultural safety standards. They adopted the more strict state standards.

He said in written, "The goals of these rules should be maximum protection with minimum regulation." He noted that out of the nearly 900 persons attending the hearing, only two favored the more strict state regulations.

HOME "FIX UP" TAX EXEMPTION

H.B. 6139 is ready for the Governor's signature. This permits homeowners to spend up to $800 per year for three consecutive years for improvements. The expenditures for these purposes would be fully deductible and not subject to an assessment. The exemption does not include structural conditions but includes such things as the replacement of siding, roofs, porches, drives, storm windows, wiring, plumbing, furnaces, plantations and removal of petrations.

This exemption should encourage the repair of homes without the fear on the immediate higher assessments for property tax purposes.

DRAIN ASSESSMENT PAYMENTS

H. 5264 (Rep. Armbruster et al.) has passed the House and is now under Senate for final action. It would require the DNR to pay its share of any special assessment for local drain project. A similar bill, but extremely important in many areas of the state, especially where farmers are just getting property or often times because of water coming from state owned land. This would require the DNR to be responsible as anyone else that receives benefit from the drainage project.

AGRICULTURE: PROPOSALS REMINDER

Please refer to your October issue, page 3 of this Farm News for exact wording of proposals that will appear on the November 2 ballot. There are four:

PROPOSAL A "Ban the Bottle" - prohibits the use of nonreturnable bottles and cans. MI-OSHA requires that beverage bottles and cans, also provides refunds to those picking them up and returning for deposit. You have had a chance of watching television, you have been victims of a high powered, expensive campaign by Pro-Bottle Force to mislead consumers.

For example it is not true that beverages would be more costly. A recent study found having similar legislation they are no more expensive than in Michigan. Remember that consumers are permitted to be made only once after that it is really on exchange. For further information see other "Ban the Bottle" articles in this issue. Vote "Yes" on Proposal A. This will be the farmers' only opportunity to get rid of the bottle and can problem along the road sides on their property, and help eliminate the costly damage that they cause. It works in other states, it can work in Michigan.

PROPOSAL B - would permit 18 year olds to run for the offices of State Senator and State Representative. Farm Bureau has no position on this proposal.

PROPOSAL C - this controversial issue would limit state taxes and spending up to three percent combined personal income in Michigan. While this appears very desirable, it should be studied further. It is not the least state aid for schools and other local needs which in turn could result in further pressure to increase property taxes. It is estimated that 88 percent of the state budget could not be changed, especially those with matching federal funding. All reductions would therefore come from 12 percent of the state budget. This could mean serious cuts in many areas such as the property tax rebate program.

Farmer's Tax Exemptions

Electricity used by farmers for production purposes has always been exempt from the sales tax, provided that it could be proved by the use of separate meters. In most cases, however, only one meter is used for both residential and production purposes. Separate meters usually are on commercial rates, which are about 25 percent higher than residential rates. Due to a new ruling it is now possible to have electricity used in agriculture exempt from sales tax.

The following is a copy of a letter dated September 16 addressed to Counsel Bob Smith, from B.C. Holderied, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Treasury.

"Pursuant to the several discussions and meetings we have had to review the question of exemptions on purchases of electricity by farmers for use in agricultural producing, we are writing to explain the following restrictive, and procedure to determine the allowable exemption for a claimant:

1. Have the producer install a separate meter to measure the use of electrical consumption for exempt purposes.

2. If the farmer's total electrical consumption exceeds 1500 KW per month, or 2500 KW per month for some of electric heating during the period of November to March, the consumption in excess will be considered exempted, provided

3. The farmer provides the seller with the prescribed agricultural producing exemption certificate, and

4. The exemption will be on a prospective basis and subject to audit.

5. The power company may not submit the excess portion of the monthly consumption to a percentage for computation purposes.

The letter is self-explanatory. To qualify for the exemption you must request an exemption certificate from your power company. Each company is aware of the change in regulation permitting a separate meter to be installed between the household and for production purposes.

In the event that you have had a separate meter for farm production and have been paying taxes, on that case, it is possible to have a tax refund. The refund would be for four years prior to your application; for example, if you apply in November 76, the refund would be for the previous four years beginning November 71. Here again contact your power company to make application for any refund that may be due.

Farmers May Be Exempt From OSHA Rules

An amendment sponsored by Representative Skubitz (R-Kansas) would exempt 10 or fewer persons who go into effect because of a congressional override of President Ford's veto of an appropriations bill for the Federal Departments of Education and Welfare. The amendment was attached to the bill.

President Ford had disapproved the bill which would have provided $4 billion more than the amount he had budgeted.

The Skubitz amendment also forbids civil fines for non-serious infractions of health and safety regulations on OSHA inspectors first visit to businesses as long as a less than 10 violations are found.
NATIONAL NOTES

During the 1975 and 1976 sessions of the 94th Congress, many issues of importance to agriculture were considered. In an effort to help Farm Bureau members evaluate the performance of their elected representatives, this month's National Notes column is devoted to theroll call results of the 19 Michigan Congressional delegation. The votes are from roll calls considered to be of primary interest to farm families.

A vote consistent with Farm Bureau's recommendations is indicated by boldface Y (yes) or N (no) in each of the roll call votes, followed by explanations and voted totals as follows:

- "Congressman voting present; (p) before vote--paired as indicated (a paired vote balances an opposite paired vote but is not counted among the total votes); (vp) before vote--voted present.
- "Congressman but stand on bill not indicated.

A description of each roll call follows:

(1) FEDERAL FARM BILL (March 20, 1975) - A bill (H.R. 4296) raising target prices and loan rates on crops of cotton, wheat, and corn; providing a loan program for soybeans; and authorizing quarterly cost of production adjustments in dairy support price. Farm Bureau supported a nay (N) vote because (a) the target price-compensatory payment concept is unsound at any level; (b) there is a potential for substantial costs to the federal government when deficit spending already is a threat to the economy; (c) foreign buying of U.S. farm products would be discouraged, and (d) higher loan rates and increased dairy supports would mean a return to the old, discredited price policy when piled up surpluses and denied producers a fair return in the marketplace. The bill passed by a vote of 259 to 162 nays.

(2) FEDERAL FARM BILL CONFERENCE REPORT (April 22, 1975) - As worked out by the provisions of the so-called "Emergency Farm Act" (H.R. 4296) provide for adjustments in loan support price for the 1975 crops of cotton, corn, wheat; a loan program for soybeans; and the price support on manufacturing milk at the present 80 percent of parity (until April 1, 1976) and with the adjustments quarterly adjustments to reflect production experience. Farm Bureau supported a nay (N) vote for the same reasons it opposed the original House bill. By a vote of 248 years to 116 nays, the bill passed and was sent to the President.

(3) FARM BILL VETO (May 15, 1975) - By a vote of 245 yeas to 189 nays, the House rejected the President's veto of the federal farm bill (H.R. 4296). Farm Bureau supported a nay (N) vote to sustain the President's veto.

(4) EMPLOYMENT FUND BILL VETO (June 4, 1975) - By a vote of 277 years to 143 nays - four short of the two-thirds majority required - the House sustained the President's veto of the employment fund bill (H.R. 4481) providing appropriations for public employment. Farm Bureau supported a nay (N) vote as any short-run benefits "would be more than offset by the inflationary pressures it would create."

(5) 'COMMON SITUATION' SECONDARY BOYCOTT (July 25, 1975) - A bill (H.R. 9080) to repeal sections of the Taft-Hartley Act prohibiting secondary boycotts and to provide a special exemption to construction unions to picket an entire construction job. Farm Bureau urged a nay (N) vote because of the bill's inflationary impact, and "the need to preserve some semblance of a balance of power between employers and employees." The bill passed by a vote of 230 years to 178 nays.

(6) BEEF CHECKOFF CONFERENCE REPORT (December 13, 1975) - By a vote of 263 years to 112 nays, the House rejected the conference report on the beef checkoff bill (H.R. 7097) by voting to recommit the bill with instructions to the conference committee. The President had urged the House members to oppose adoption of the conference report because it permitted the House-passed provisions to assure the "valid referendum." A yeas (Y) vote - sending the beef checkoff bill back to the conference committee - was in support of Farm Bureau's position.

(7) PESTICIDES REGULATION (October 9, 1975) - During consideration of funding of the pesticide law administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), consideration was given to an amendment providing the Secretary of Agriculture with concurrent authority over any new EPA pesticide regulations and the cancellation of pesticides. Farm Bureau supported a yeas (Y) vote because EPA's decisions tend to be overzealous in protecting the environment, based on legal rather than scientific justification, and insensitive to agricultural productivity.

(8) CONSUMER AGENCY (November 7, 1975) - a bill (H.R. 7578) to establish a federal consumer agency with authority to intervene in the proceedings and decisions of existing federal regulatory and administrative agencies to represent the so-called consumer view. It contained a labor exemption. Farm Bureau supported a nay (N) vote because the proposal is "wrong in concept and wrong in principle" as it will tend itself to government control of the economy and result in government agency chaos rather than "flexion of government." The bill passed by a narrow vote of 208 years to 199 nays.

How Congressmen Voted

Subject of vote
Farm Bureau favored this vote

Dist. Name Party (1) (f) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11)
Farm Bureau favored this vote

Michigan

1. Conyers (D) Y N N N N N
2. Eckhert (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y
3. Brown (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y
4. Conyers (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
5. Vander Jagt (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y
6. Carr (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
7. Riegle (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
8. Traxler (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
9. Vander Jagt (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y
10. Conyers (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
11. Bopp (W) Y Y Y Y Y Y
12. O'Mara (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
13. Diggs (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
14. Frederick (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y
15. Ford (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
16. Dingell (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
17. Broderick (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
18. Boardman (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
19. Brownfield (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y

1. Conyers (D) Y N N N N N
2. Eckhert (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y
3. Brown (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y
4. Conyers (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
5. Vander Jagt (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y
6. Carr (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
7. Riegle (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
8. Traxler (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
9. Vander Jagt (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y
10. Conyers (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
11. Bopp (W) Y Y Y Y Y Y
12. O'Mara (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
13. Diggs (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
14. Frederick (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y
15. Ford (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
16. Dingell (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
17. Broderick (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
18. Boardman (D) Y Y Y Y Y Y
19. Brownfield (R) Y Y Y Y Y Y

Albert A. Almy
Vote November 2

Farm Bureau members will have an opportunity to exercise one of their most basic citizenship responsibilities on general election day - November 2. Based on the percentage of eligible voters who cast ballots in rural precincts, farm people have a very good citizenship record. However, the image of farm people can be raised even higher if they turn out in maximum numbers to cast their vote on November 2.

In this important election year, there are few actions Farm Bureau members can take which will be more appropriate than to carefully study the ballot proposals and candidates and use the information to cast an informed vote. In addition to the names of candidates seeking local, state and national elective offices, the November ballot will contain four statewide proposals of interest to all Farm Bureau members. Details of these ballot proposals was included in the October issue of Michigan Farm News and a summary is included in this issue. The following is a brief biography of candidates seeking important statewide public offices:

Presidential Candidates

Our Constitution requires that the President fulfill high and exacting roles. The office of President of the United States has developed through the years until today the President is Chief of State representing the symbol of the American Nation, the Chief Diplomat as the highest representative of the free world, the leader of the free world and many high and exacting roles. The office of President is responsible for general supervision over all lower courts. Justices of the Supreme Court consider many issues involving constitutional questions and review rulings from the Court of Appeals. Decisions of the Supreme Court often affect the daily lives of every citizen. Supreme Court justices are elected from a non-partisan ballot as required by law.

Gerald Ford
President Gerald Ford, a Republican, is a candidate for reelection to the Office of President. A native of Grand Rapids, he graduated from the University of Michigan and Yale Law School. After graduation he joined the Navy and saw service in nine major World War II operations. Upon discharge from the Navy he returned to Grand Rapids to practice law. In 1948 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He was elected House Minority Leader in 1964 and held that position until 1973. While a member of Congress he maintained a membership in Kent County Farm Bureau and occasionally attended meetings of a Farm Bureau Community Group. In 1973 he became the first nominee for Vice President of the University with the 25th Amendment. On August 9, 1974 he became the 38th President of the United States.

Joseph Swallow
Judge Joseph Swallow is a candidate for election to the Supreme Court for a 4-year term. He is presently serving as Judge of the 26th Circuit Court in Michigan as Representative of the 10th District. While serving in the Michigan Legislature as a member of the House Labor Committee and House Judiciary Committee. A graduate of Central Michigan University and Cooley Law School. He is a native of the Alpena public schools. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University and the College of Law. He is a former prosecuting attorney of Alpena County. He is a member of the Michigan Bar Association and American Bar Association.

Blair Moody Jr.
Judge Blair Moody Jr., is a candidate for election to the Supreme Court for a 4-year term. He is currently serving as Judge of the Wayne County Circuit Court. He is a native of Detroit, a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. From 1948 to 1950 he served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He practiced as a trial lawyer for many years concentrating in the fields of negligence, worker's compensation and transportation law. He is a member of the Michigan Bar Association and American Bar Association.

James Ryan
Judge James Ryan is a candidate for reelection to the Supreme Court for a two-year term. He was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court in 1975. His previous employment included serving as an instructor at Palomar College, San Maris, California, 1958-69; private law practice, 1962-66; and Judge in the Wayne County District Court from 1965 to 1975. He graduated from the University of Detroit, a member of the Cooley Law School Board of Trustees, and Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Law Company in the Detroit Naval District. He holds membership in the Michigan Bar Association and American Bar Association.

JIMMY CARTER
Governor Jimmy Carter, Democrat, is a candidate for President of the United States. He is a native of Plains, Georgia where he was born in 1924. Following his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, he worked in the development of the atomic submarine program and then returned to his father's Georgia farm. Later he started a fertilizer and seed business which has now expanded into a general farm supply and peanut processing business. In 1962 he was elected to the Georgia Senate, and in 1970 became Georgia's 76th governor. While governor he undertook a reorganization of the complex government of the state, reform of the judicial system, strong environmental protection, the important budgeting and tax reform. In 1973 he became the Democratic Party's national chairman for the 1974 elections.

Lawrence Lindemer
Justice Lawrence Lindemer is a candidate for reelection to the Supreme Court for a 4-year term. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1973 to fill a vacancy on the Court. Born in New York, he is a graduate of the University of Michigan. He is a veteran of the Air Force, he served from 1949-50 as a partner in a Lansing law firm. He has served as a member of the Board of Regents at the University of Michigan and as Commissary of the State Bar of Michigan.

Charles Kaufman
Judge Charles Kaufman is a candidate for election to the Supreme Court for a 2-year term. He is currently a Judge in the Wayne County Circuit Court. Born and raised in Detroit, he is a graduate of Wayne State University. Prior to election to the Circuit Court, he served as a member of the Detroit Common Pleas Board from 1959-64. Prior to this time, he practiced law in the private practice of law. A veteran of the United States Air Force, he is a recipient of the Purple Heart Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross. He is chairman of the Fund for Equal Justice and a member of the American Bar Association.

THOMAS G. KAVANAGH
Chief Justice Thomas G. Kavanagh is a candidate for reelection to the Supreme Court for an 8-year term. He was elected to the Supreme Court in 1968 and served as an Associate Judge from 1963. In 1973 he was elected Chief Justice. Previous to being elected to the Supreme Court, he was a member of the State Court of Appeals and 20 years as a practicing attorney in Detroit and Oakland County. A native of Bay City, he is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Detroit. He is a member of the American Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan, Catholic Lawyers' and the American Bar Association.
U.S. Senate

DONALD REIGLE
Donald Reigle, Democrat, is seeking reelection to the United States Senate. He has served as a member of the United States House of Representatives from Michigan's 2nd Congressional District. He was first elected to Congress in 1966, and has served continuously since that time. He was a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, and also a member of the House Science and Astronautics Committee. He has supported efforts to reform OSHA, achieve congressional reform, combat crime and drug abuse, reform federal estate tax law, assure a quality education system and provide economic security for the elderly. He has served as a college professor, civil consultant to labor and management groups. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

MINORI T SALTZMAN
Florence Saltzman, Republican, is a candidate for the State Board of Education. She is currently a member of the Board of Control, Saginaw County, and alternate delegate, Michigan Association of Governing Boards, State Colleges and Universities. She has served as both secretary and president of the Birmingham Board of Education, member of the Oakland County Association of School Boards, member of the Resolutions and Bylaws Committee of the Michigan Association of School Boards, and in various PTA capacities. She is active in several community organizations including League of Women Voters, Campfire Girls, and American Association of University Women. She is a graduate of Syracuse University.

CLARENCE DUKES
Clarence Dukes, Republican, is a candidate for the State Board of Education. He is presently Administrative Manager for Research and Business Affairs, School of Dentistry, University of Michigan. He is a Trustee, Ann Arbor Board of Education; President, Washtenaw School Officers Association; Board member, Michigan Association of School Boards; and member of the Washtenaw School Officer Association. He has served as a member of the Educational Legislative Advisory Council to the Michigan Department of Education, and as a member of the Washtenaw Intermediate School District. He is active in numerous community organizations including the Kiwanis Club, Toastmasters, Boy Scouts, University Civic Club and church.

JOHN WATANEN
John Watanen, Democrat, is a candidate for election to the State Board of Education. He is currently an associate professor of English, and acting director of Finnish studies at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. He is President of the Association of Michigan Collegiate Faculties; Vice President of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Governor's Commission on Higher Education, and represents the facilities of Michigan's State Universities and Colleges on the Michigan Council on Post-Secondary Education. He is former president of Local 1684, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO; and former Vice President of the New York State American Federation of Teachers, College and University Council, AFL-CIO.

MSU Board of Trustees

NICK SMITH
Nick Smith, Republican, is a candidate for election to the MSU Board of Trustees. He is the current owner-operator of a 1700 acre dairy farm in Hillsdale County. He is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Masters degree in Agricultural Economics. His past activities include service on the Hillsdale County Farm Bureau Board of Directors; Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors; Chairman, Michigan ASCS Committee; Chairman, National Disaster Agricultural Program Committee; Director of Energy, USDA; Director of the Energy Office, USDA.

PAUL GADOLA
Paul Gadola, Republican, is a candidate for election to the MSU Board of Trustees. He is currently a practicing attorney. He is serving as vice chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mut Community College. He is a member of the Michigan and American Trial Lawyers Associations. He has served as president of the Genesee County MSU Alumni Association, and trustee of the MSU Development Fund, which is responsible for administration of funds donated from private sources. He is a member and has served as area chairman of the President's Club of MSU. He is active in various civic organizations, including March of Dimes, Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation, and Flint Environmental Action Team.

MICHAEL SMYDRA
Michael Smydra, Democrat, is a candidate for election to the MSU Board of Trustees. He is presently a law student at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing. He is also employed as an organizer for the National Farmers Organization. He was formerly employed as an insurance agent, as an administrator in a mental health program, as a researcher for a consultant firm, as a newspaper reporter, as a business manager in the entertainment industry and as an assembly line worker at Oldsmobile. He is an honors graduate of River Rouge High School, Michigan State University and the University of Detroit School of Dentistry. He has served as a part time instructor at the University of Detroit School of Dentistry. He has received numerous awards for athletic skills, including the Pigskin Club of Washington, D.C. award for excellence in scholarship and athletic achievement. He is an officer in his church and a member of the Michigan and American Dental Associations.
Where the Parties Stand

Party platforms provide enlightening insights into the minds of major candidates and party leaders. For those who find them helpful in making political decisions, Farm Bureau Press offers the comments below. These excerpts from Republican and Democratic party platforms

Democrat

Foremost attention must be directed to the establishment of a national food and fiber policy which will be fair to both producer and consumer, and be based on the family farm agricultural system which has served the nation and the world so well and for so long.

Maximum agricultural production will be the most effective means of achieving an adequate food and fiber supply and reasonable government, which includes a reasonable income assurance to farmers full production cannot be achieved in an uncertain economy. We must assure parity returns to farmers based on costs of production plus a reasonable profit.

We must continue and intensify efforts to expand our markets abroad, and at the same time we must prevent irresponsible and inflationary sales of domestic commodities to foreign purchasers. Aggressive but stable and consistent export policy must be our goal.

Wage and Price Controls

At times, direct government involvement in wage and price decisions may best advance a particular price stability. But we do not believe that such involvement requires a comprehensive system of wage and price controls at this time. When it will require that business and labor must meet fair standards of wage and price stability, and that we will have to develop a means of support for national health insurance that will be reasonable price stability should be established with particular attention to restraining price increases in these sectors of our economy where prices are "wage supported" and where price competition does not exist.

Labor Management Relations

We will seek repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act which allows states to legislate the anti-union open shop.

We support the right of public employees and agricultural workers to organize and bargain collectively. We urge adoption of adequate federal legislation to ensure this goal.

Health

We need a comprehensive national health insurance system with universal and mandatory coverage. Such a national health insurance system should be financed by a combination of employer, employee shared payroll taxes and general tax revenues. Consideration should be given to developing a means of support for national health insurance that taxes all forms of economic income.

We will work to expand substantially the discretion available to states and cities in the use of federal transportation money, for either operating expenses or capital programs on the basis of transportation improvements which they choose. A greater share of highway trust fund money should also be available on a flexible basis.

We should move toward replacement of our existing inadequate and wasteful system with a simplified system of income maintenance, substantially financed by the federal government, which includes a requirement that those able to work be provided with appropriate available jobs on a job trainee basis.

We oppose federalizing the welfare system, local levels of government are most aware of the needs of their communities. Consideration should be given to a range of options in financing the programs to assure that state and local responsibilities are met.

We also oppose the guaranteed annual income concept or any programs that reduce the incentive to work.

Union membership as a condition of employment has been regulated by state law under Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act. This basic contract right of public employees is guaranteed by the Constitution and must be preserved.

Transportation

We support the concept of a surface transportation block grant which would include the various highways and mass transit programs now in existence. This will provide local elected officials maximum flexibility in selecting and implementing the balanced transportation systems best suited to each locality.

Welfare

We oppose federalizing the welfare system, local levels of government are most aware of the needs of their communities. Consideration should be given to a range of options in financing the programs to assure that state and local responsibilities are met.

We also oppose the guaranteed annual income concept or any programs that reduce the incentive to work.

Ford Signs Estate Tax Reform Bill

Tax reform legislation which will effect every farmer and rancher in the nation, was signed into law by President Ford on October 4. While continuing present individual and business tax cuts through 1977, it also makes hundreds of changes in the tax laws including those on estates.

The bill, more than 1000 pages long, was two years in the making and is acknowledged to be the most important tax legislation since 1969. For estate taxes, it is the first major change in more than 30 years.

Farm Bureau started its estate tax reform efforts in separate legislation - the Butler - Curtis Bill. However, provisions sought were incorporated into the general tax reform bill which would directly affect the House - Senate Conference.

In the new estate tax law

FBIG Serves

Coffee, donuts, milk, apple cider, place to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere will again be provided by Farm Bureau Insurance Group for Farm Bureau delegates and friends attending the Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. The "Koffee Kutcheteria" will open at 8 AM Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

All at Annual

December 1, 2, 3. Located in rooms C, D, E, Campau Street side of the Civic Auditorium, the Farm Bureau Insurance service area will also supply free telephone service for calls anywhere in the State of Michigan. The Katcheteria - service area will close daily at 4 PM.

INTEREST ON DEBENTURES 5-10-15 year maturity

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Interest paid annually on September 1. The purchaser to be offered the option to receive their interest in quarterly payments on September 1, December 1, March 1 and June 1. Interest would start the date of purchase.

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

Before you tackle your winter welding projects, it is important to ensure that your workshop and tools are safe and efficient, according to Richard Pfister, Michigan State University agricultural safety engineer.

“Adequate ventilation is a primary requisite for safe shop work,” Pfister points out. “In addition to good overall lighting, every shop should have a ‘light intensive’ area where close work can be done. Good light allows the worker to see what he is doing and to avoid falling, cutting, and burning accidents.”

Proper heating is also essential, Pfister adds. He recommends the use of electrical heating elements, rather than fuel-fired units.

“Many physicians are stressing the value of immersing the burned skin into cold water,” Pfister says. “Cold water has been found to stop the spread of tissue damage. If there is no source of water on hand, the victim may wait for some time before he treats the burn. During that time the damaged area may increase.”

In addition, the safe shop should be equipped with a first aid kit, a 3-pound dry chemical fire extinguisher and a pair of asbestos or leather gloves, all in their proper places, Pfister says. Organization in the shop is another excellent way to improve efficiency and prevent accidents, Pfister adds. The saving of time and energy by having tools in the right places adds to efficiency. The elimination of digging for needed items in the middle of a project decreases the possibility of accidents.

The organized shop worker will also take time to make sure that tools are kept in good condition.

“Electrocution is one of the leading causes of farm shop fatalities,” Pfister points out. “Most of these accidents are because of faulty wiring in power drills. All a shop user has to do is replace old power cords with 3-pronged power cords that have ground leads in the plug.”

Installing lock-out switches for power tools is also an important safety measure, Pfister adds.

DeVuyyst Named to Farm Credit Board

Larry L. DeVuyyst, Gratiot County Farm Bureau member and a representative of the Michigan Farm Bureau for the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives, has been appointed as the director-at-large on the 7th District Farm Credit Board, headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota.

DeVuyyst raises corn, navy beans, and wheat on 700 acres. He also farrows and finishes 2,400 hogs each year. He serves on the board of directors of the Federal Land Bank Association of St. Johns and holds numerous positions in various cooperative organizations. He is also a member of the Gratiot County Agricultural Council and a former member of the Gratiot County Zoning Commission.

DeVuyyst’s three-year term as director will begin January 1, 1977. District boards, one in each of the 12 Farm Credit Districts, are composed of seven members. Six members are elected and the seventh is appointed by the governor of the Farm Credit Administration.

BRINGING YOU THE MEMBER PLEASERS!!

OPERATION CITRUS

PARTICIPATING COUNTIES

THANKSGIVING SHIPMENTS

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ORDER TODAY!!

CLIP, ATTACH CHECK & MAIL TO YOUR RESPECTIVE COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICE PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE LISTED
Program -- 1976 MFB, FBS, FPC Annual Meetings

TUESDAY, NOV. 30
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, FARMERS PETROLEUM COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETINGS

8:30 A.M.
Registration, Lobby, Civic Auditorium

10:00 A.M.
FPC Annual, Black and Silver Room, Civic Auditorium

11:30 A.M.
Complimentary Luncheon, Main Auditorium

1:30 A.M.
FBS Annual, Black and Silver Room, Civic Auditorium

3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Registration for MFB Annual Meeting
Main Lobby, Civic Auditorium

5:00 P.M.
MSU-AG TECH (SHORT COURSE)
ALUMNI RECEPTION
Kent State Room, Pantlind Hotel

PRODUCT SHOW
3:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.
Show Place '76, Exhibition Hall
Entertainment: Magician Glenn Haywood
"Sunshine Express"

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN MANAGERS BANQUET
6:00 P.M.
Dinner, Kent State Room, Pantlind Hotel
Speaker: Sister Mary Thomas Moore

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1
8:00 to 12:00 Noon
Main Lobby, Civic Auditorium
Registration for County Voting Delegates, Chairmen Only

Michigan Farm Bureau
Women's State Annual Meeting
Black and Silver Room

7:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
(Pantlind Hotel, round tables)
Chairmen's breakfast for County Women's Committee Chairman, State Women's Committee, Awards 7:30 a.m.
District Vice Chairman Recognition of retiring State Committee Women

9:00 a.m.
Hospitality Hour - Black and Silver Room
Cookies to be contributed by County Women

9:45 a.m.
Women's State Annual Meeting
Entertainment (Arden Peterson, group singing)
Welcome, Chairman Claudine Jackson
Invocation
Flag Salute
Speaker Sister Thomas Moore Bertel
Chairman's Annual Report
Andea Peterson, former 4-H Director
Cooperative Extension Service
- Group singing
Awards (slides)
Introduce Guests
Introduce State Women's Committee

11:45 a.m.
Adjourn

KICK-OFF LUNCHEON AND OFFICIAL OPENING OF MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING
12:00 Noon
Main Auditorium
Civic Auditorium

Remarks: The Honorable William G. Milliken
Governor of Michigan
President's Address.
Elton R. Smith, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMER PROGRAM
2:00 P.M.
Discussion Meet Finals, Black and Silver Room, Civic Auditorium

Speakers

Milliken
Pluimer
November 30, December 1, 2, 3 -- Grand Rapids

5:45 p.m.
Young Farmer Banquet, Main Auditorium,
Civic Auditorium
Speaker: Harold P. Pluimer
"The Future is Now"

9:00 P.M.
Dance, Black and Silver Room,
Civic Auditorium

PRODUCT SHOW
SHOW PLACE '76
3:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.
Exhibition Hall
Civic Auditorium

PRESIDENT'S BANQUET
5:30 P.M.
Continental Room, Pantlind Hotel
Speaker: Dr. Larry Boger, Provost
Michigan State University

COMMODITY SESSION
9:00 A.M.
Grand Ballroom
Pantlind Hotel
Panel: Small Business Tax
Dean Pringle, MFB Vice President, Moderator
State Budget Fiscal Expert
Legislator-Sponsor
MSU Extension Tax Expert
MFB Legislative Counsel
Panel: National Farm Program
Elton R. Smith, President, Moderator
AFBF Washington Legislative Counsel
US Congressman
USDA Assistant Secretary

THURSDAY, DEC. 2
7:30 A.M.
Delegate Breakfast, Main Auditorium,
Civic Auditorium
Presentation of One-Star and Two-Star County Awards
Elton R. Smith, President, Michigan Farm Bureau

GENERAL SESSION
8:30 A.M.
Main Auditorium
Civic Auditorium
Call to Order
Committee Reports -- Credentials, Rules
Minutes of 1975 Annual Meeting
Annual Report of Administrative Director
Robert Braden, Administrative Director
Michigan Farm Bureau
Introduction of Policy Development Committee
Consideration of Resolutions

LUNCHEON
11:30 A.M.
Main Auditorium
Civic Auditorium

GENERAL SESSION
2:00 P.M.
Main Auditorium
Civic Auditorium
Call to order
Consideration of Resolutions

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
6:30 P.M.
Main Auditorium
Civic Auditorium
Awards Program
M.C.: Orion Samuelson
WGN, Chicago

FRIDAY, DEC. 3
GENERAL SESSION
8:30 A.M.
Main Auditorium
Civic Auditorium
Call to Order
Invocation
Consideration of Resolutions
Report of Nominations from Caucuses
Nomination and Election of One Director At-Large
Nomination and Election of Young Farmer Representatives

11:45 A.M.
Recess for Lunch on your own

GENERAL SESSION
1:30 P.M.
Main Auditorium
Civic Auditorium
Consideration of Resolutions
Election of President
Consideration of Resolutions
New Business
Benediction
MDA Says Food Supplies Safe From PBB

A recent report presented by B. Dale Ball, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture to the Michigan State Legislature, indicates that consumer food supplies are safe from PBB contamination.

According to the October 4 report, no dairy products were found with any level of PBB in July or August, Ball reported, and since November of 1975, PBB has been non-detectable in 97.1 percent of all samples from processed dairy products.

Surveys of meat slaughtering plants in July and portions of August and September involved 249 beef and swine samples, in which 233 showed no PBB detected. Nine contained trace levels below 0.02, four ranged from 0.02 to 0.049 ppm, one was 0.06 ppm, one was 0.13 ppm, and one was 0.2 ppm. All were well below the 0.3 ppm established by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for meat and milk.

The director also said recent surveys of poultry flocks have not disclosed any PBB residues in poultry or eggs. Commercial animal feed is completely free of contamination.

Eight Michigan cattle herds are being studied by a diagnostic team of veterinarians in the final phase of a survey involving 1.000 herds and poultry flocks in which there have been animal abnormalities attributed to low-level PBB contamination.

Of this total, owners of about 100 herds reported health problems which have been diagnosed by teams of Michigan Department of Agriculture and veterinarians. Ninety-two of the herds were found to have problems unrelated to PBB.

The remaining eight herds are now being studied by a team of veterinarians from MDA and Michigan State University, in cooperation with the owner's local veterinarians.

Only 22 premises in the state remain quarantined, of a total of 550 which had been under quarantine of various times since PBB contamination was first discovered in 1974. The 528 premises were released from quarantine after disposal of animals and clean-up of buildings and equipment.

Q & A -- What Can I Use for Identification

Personal I.D. (such as driver's license) is often required for activities such as buying on credit and presenting and cashing checks. What can people without driver's licenses use as a valid identification?

Public Act 307 of 1975 provides for an official identification card. A portion of the law is as follows:

Sec. 1. A person who is a resident of this state may apply to the department of state for an official state personal identification card. Nine contained trace levels below 0.02, four ranged from 0.02 to 0.049 ppm, one was 0.06 ppm, one was 0.13 ppm, and one was 0.2 ppm. All were well below the 0.3 ppm established by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for meat and milk.

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WHERE can you go for a new BUILDING?

Farm Bureau Services, with building centers throughout this state, can make your new building a reality. With the help of our staff agricultural engineer, we'll assist you with initial planning and design, and pledge quality workmanship. Our completely-trained crews can erect attractive, finished structures, featuring Diaphragm panel construction, on your site. And, for those who prefer, our building centers are stocked for do-it-yourself work. As a cooperative, with skilled purchasing power, Farm Bureau is able to provide the building services you need.

We build two basic types of structures: 1) timber-frame buildings with either steel or aluminum siding and roofing, and 2) all-steel buildings, including the Quonset line. All structures can be customized to fit your specific need, whether it be a horse barn, milking parlor, machinery storage, fruit storage or utility building. The versatility, durability and economy of Farm Bureau Services' buildings make them ideal for many commercial uses, too.

The Farm Bureau people, backed by over 20 years of experience, are ready to go to work for you. So see your local Farm Bureau Services building representative today. 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
MMPA Keeps Milk Moving

The cooperative established before the Capper-Volstead Act of 1922, often an innovator and a leader against anti-trust suits. The Michigan Milk Producers' Association (MMPA) founded in 1922, received its baptism under such conditions. Now, during MMPA's 60th anniversary, the dairy cooperative organizations are once again facing the same sort or charges that cooperatives raise prices to consumers and must be put under tighter controls.

"The cooperative is the extensive of the individual dairy farmer into the market," says Jack W. Barnes, MMPA general manager.

"An attack on the cooperative is an attack on the farmer. Weaken the cooperation and you also weaken the efficiency of the American farmer. MMPA is working to educate consumer, legislators, members of the Congress and members of the federal bureaucracy to the importance of the coop."

MMPA was first formed out of necessity. Glen Lake, the Michigan dairy coop president, notes: "Michigan dairy farmers needed a means to unify their organization could provide. MMPA has since then become the sixth largest dairy cooperative in the country, and will continue to be an innovator in bargaining for milk prices. MMPA has today some 6,000 members on 5,000 farms in Michigan.

MMPA's bargaining efforts in the 1974-75 fiscal year provided an additional $2,582 for the average producer, Lake says.

The organization is funded by a marketing fee for each 100 pounds of milk the member produces. This fee is deducted from checks the cooperative sends to its members in payment for their milk. These membership "dues" provide a guarantee of market, guarantee of payment, fire and windstorm loss protection, butterfat testing, quarantine payment, quality assistance in management, and the supplies of milk, Lake added. MMPA also sponsors a retirement program which maintains a price bargaining voice.

"MMPA has been an innovator and trend setter in establishing milk prices above federal milk marketing order minimums," Lake says.

Deductions from member's milk checks also go for investments in plants and transportation facilities, such as the commonly seen oval tank semi-trucks hauling milk to the Ovid plant. Marvin Lott, Mason, says: "When milk production is high." Lake explains, "the Ovid plant serves as a reservoir to which surplus milk can be either stored until needed or -- after the markets class one (fluid milk) needs are fulfilled -- converted into other dairy products."

When milk production takes a long term downward turn, this manufacturing facility becomes a reservoir from which the state's major dairies can draw additional supplies of milk, Lake added. Another way member dues are utilized is in the promotion of dairy products.

"There has been a slippage in per capita consumption of milk," Lake points out. "We need to overcome this trend through our education and information programs. Milk's greatest competitor, the soft drink industry, spent $178 million on advertising in 1976, while the milk industry spent only $25 million. It's going to take a lot of money, but I feel that the efforts of the organizations like MMPA will work to increase the demand for milk and milk products."

Some of the other current battles being waged by MMPA will be the composition of the formation of a national commission on food marketing. The organization has also recommended to the U.S. Department of Agriculture that the dairy product support price be set at not less than 80 per cent parity.

Every MMPA dairyman is a member of 68 local units located throughout the state. The locals are grouped into 11 geographic areas. MMPA's Board of Directors are composed of 14 dairy farm members, one elected by dairymen in each of the 11 districts, and three elected at large by annual meeting delegates.

The board members are: Ernest Girbach, Saline; Frederick Halbert, Battle Creek; Marvin Lott, Mason; John Gilbert, Ithaca; Velmar Green, Elsie; Harold Ward, Romeo; Harold Wood, Milford; Mike Renn Jr., Elkton; Wilfred Wardin, Hemlock; Robert C. Lamoreaux, Belding, and Frank Lupinski, Buckley. The directors at large are Glen Lake, North Branch, Harold Blaylock, Vassar, and Art Lucas, Cooperville. Officers are Glen Lake, President; Harold Blaylock, Vice President; Velmar Green, Treasurer; Jack W. Barnes, General Manager; and John Billand, Assistant Treasurer.
FEEDS - Farm Bureau Services now has a new scientific discovery for dairy cows, called Nu Pro Dairy Feed. It can boost milk production in high-producing dairy herds by hundreds of pounds. Nu Pro is a patented method for regulating both soluble and insoluble proteins within the dairy cow. With Nu Pro Dairy Feed, bacteria and protozoa utilize protein nutrients in much better balance. In field trials conducted by Cooperative Research Farms, rolling herd average milk increases have been outstanding. Nu Pro Dairy Feed boosted herds producing over 15,000 lbs. of milk per year with even larger gains. Farm Bureau dealers, enthusiastic about the new feeding method, are scheduling farmer meetings to explain the dairy feeding program in detail. Inquire at your dealer for further information.

Several new Farm Bureau services minerals are now available in specially keyed bags of purple and crimson. Your cooperative now has a more complete line of minerals than any other feed supplier.

Branded feed tonnage produced at the Battle Creek Feed Plant went up again in September, exceeding sales for the same period in 1975. The sales volume reflects farmer confidence in high-quality, cooperatively-produced feeds.

FERTILIZERS - Indications are it is a good time to buy. If good weather prevails after fall harvest, you can expect good demand for anhydrous ammonia, with a corresponding price increase. Prices for other fertilizer materials, as usual, are expected to climb as spring approaches. Potash and phosphate price increases are expected in the Spring. Farmers with the ability to buy and take fertilizers ahead of time are almost always better off.

Foreign demand continues for U.S. fertilizer, which tends to take domestic supplies off the market. But Farm Bureau Services dealers have adequate supplies for farmer patrons, because the Cooperatively-owned fertilizer manufacturer C.P. Industries does not ship product overseas.

CHEMICALS - Farm Bureau dealers are receiving adequate stocks of chemicals, and the situation for farmers and fruit growers now looks good for 1977. Manufacturers are presenting their 1977 programs, and we will seek the best advantages for farmer patrons.

SEEDS - Genesee and Ionia wheat seed varieties were in short supply, because seed growers did not favor these varieties. Recently-released Tecumseh seed was adequately supplied to wheat growers through Farm Bureau outlets. Farm Bureau Services is a buyer of wheat seed; qualified growers are invited to contact us.

HARDWARE - A new truckload of corn cribs has been distributed to Farm Bureau warehouses. Contact your dealer for your requirements. Fencing buy-ups are still available - many farmers have received a mailing from Stelco, promoting single strand barbed wire; the mailing contains coupons for savings. If you don't get a mailing and you need barbed wire fence, talk to your dealers anyway. Single strand wire is more economical than standard twisted cable wire.

Reynolds Aluminum is also promoting through the mail. Farm Bureau Services handles the Reynolds line, and dealers can supply your needs in siding, roofing, and many Reynolds Aluminum specialties.

Water softener sales are up. Ask your dealer for information about a water softening system in your home; it may save you money.

Last call for fall exterior paints. Stocks are good; prices are right.

MOTOR OILS - Supplies are good balance, and orders are being delivered to farmer patrons on schedule.

HUMIDIFIERS - Room humidifiers are in stock. Think about the health, comfort and lower fuel bills you get through the purchase of a humidifier for your home this winter.

FOR THE DAIRY FARMER WHOSE EYES ARE ON THE FUTURE

Being Part of MMPA Makes Sense

The old saying about getting what you pay for, is as true today as it has ever been....perhaps even more so. When a dairyman belongs to Michigan Milk Producers Association, he knows his financial investment in the organization provides......

*A range of services that's second to none...from an organization that has led the way in meeting dairy farmers' needs.

*Leadership in milk marketing and bargaining. MMPA leads the way in getting dairy farmers the best possible price for their milk.

*Participation and leadership in other dairy and agricultural organizations committed to dealing with issues and problems facing farmers nationwide. Since what happens in Washington, D.C. or elsewhere can affect dairymen in Michigan, that's a job that has to be done.

*Strength to meet whatever challenges confront dairymen in marketing their milk.

For the dairy farmer whose eyes are on the future—as well as the present—being part of MMPA makes more sense, even if it means a few more cents. Because all things considered, belonging to the organization that's out front is a winning proposition. And......

WITH MMPA OUT IN FRONT—

DAIRY FARMERS COME OUT AHEAD
New Dairy Feed Concept Increases Milk Production

A new dairy feed program that can increase milk production by a rolling herd average of 460 pounds per cow annually in a high producing herd is being offered by Farm Bureau Services.

"NU-PRO is a revolutionary feeding concept that not only increases milk production without increasing rations, but also has three other advantages," says Dr. David Telle, director of nutrition for FBS.

The other advantages are:
- No new procedures are necessary. If a producer's prior program called for a 16 percent feed, he can use 16 percent NU-PRO feed and nothing has to be added to the feed.
- It is easy to gain a grain premium.
- The increased milk production can offset increased ingredient prices if they rise.

"All of these advantages came about by using a completely natural feed," Dr. Telle emphasizes. "The only thing that is different is the ratio of soluble to insoluble protein in the feed."

Scientists at the Cooperative Research Farms in Fabius, New York, are credited with the discovery of an effective ratio between the two kinds of protein. This ratio allows the cow to use protein more effectively, thus producing more milk on the same amount of feed, Telle explains.

Nutritionists and researchers have known for years that profitable feeding of dairy cattle requires balanced nutrition, not only for the cow, but also for the bacteria and protozoa in the rumen, or major stomach of the cow," Telle continues.

"They also knew that these microbes have different protein requirements in the cow herself."

The latest research has shifted from the amount of protein needed in dairy feeds to protein form, Telle explains.

"NU-PRO is a successful proportion of the soluble, or readily available, and the insoluble, or more slowly available form. A patent is now pending on the technique of maintaining this ratio.

The soluble protein is feed, to the bacteria and protozoa in the rumen. These "protein factories" are then used by the cow as protein. The microbe's affinity for soluble protein allows the insoluble protein to bypass the rumen and continue into the true stomach of the cow. The animal can then utilize that material directly.

Effects are seen most dramatically in high producing herds, those with a rolling herd average of 15,000 pounds or more," Dr. Telle says. "In field trials with 12 herds at the Cooperative Research Farms, the average rolling herd average went from 15,911 pounds to 16,378 pounds of milk. This trial was conducted over a 10 week period."

A $20.00 grain premium was figured on an average increase of 2.2 pounds in daily milk production and a conservative grain feeding ratio of 1 pound of feed per 2.5 pounds of milk. The milk price would be $10.00 per hundred weight (cwt.) and the daily milk production level would be 55 pounds. Therefore, the break even price per ton of grain mix would be a $20.00 premium, Telle explained.

Telle cautions producers with a low rolling herd average not to expect that NU-PRO feed would boost their daily production as high per animal as the high producing herd cow, though. "The combination of good management practices in the new FS feed could provide a greater rolling average," he adds.

The regulated protein feed will be marketed by the 19 cooperatives that fund the Cooperative Research Farms. NU-PRO is Farm Bureau's brand name. Agway was the first cooperative to market under its own brand, PRO-RIGHT. Beef cattle trials are now being conducted at the Cooperative Research Farms in Lexington, Illinois. If protein regulated feeds prove to be a profitable management practice with these animals, the product will be marketed for beef cattle in the future.

Farm Bureau Services has converted the major portion of its feed production facilities over to the production of the NU-PRO feeds, so supplies of the new feeds should be good, says Greg Sheffield, FBS marketing specialist.
YOU'RE INVITED!

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Nov. 30

Farmers Petroleum
10 AM - 11:30 AM
Farm Bureau Services
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Registration 8:30 AM in Lobby
Find out what your cooperatively-owned companies are doing and where they — and you — will stand next year!

The Farm Bureau People welcome all our patrons to join us November 30 at 11:30 AM for a complimentary luncheon banquet at the Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium. Then browse from 3 PM to 10 PM through Show Place '76 — Michigan's best and biggest farm supply show.

MORE HAPPENINGS!

NOV. 30: Free Evening Buffet Banquet, 6:00 PM
Entertainment by The Sunshine Express and Magician Glenn Haywood.

DEC. 1: More of Show Place '76, 3 PM to 5:30 PM

See dozens of exhibits and demonstrations of new farm products and technological developments. Talk with farm supply experts, too.

PLUS! Farmers will be able to order farm supplies direct — at special low prices for pick-up or delivery through your local co-op. You must be at SHOW PLACE '76 to order!

See your local Farm Bureau Services or Farmers Petroleum dealer for more information about transportation, lodging, etc.
Michigan Marketing Outlook

Field Crops

Harvest of corn and soybeans is significantly above average in the U.S. and in Michigan. If the weather holds, fields should be pretty well cleared by November 1st.

The Soviet Union has purchased another 6 million bushels of feed corn from U.S. suppliers this month. It now holds about 2.9 million bushels of corn. These purchases bring the total corn to Russia to about 5.6 million bushels. The U.S. is the largest single supplier of corn to Russia.

According to the October 12, the Michigan Commission on Agricultural Labor, which includes representatives of workers and growers, urging the state’s Occupational Safety and Health Act to adopt the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). In its statement, the commission said, “The federal safety standards are not only more equitable, but they provide a high degree of protection.”

The adoption of the Michigan standards would make agriculture in the state less competitive relative to other states and would actually encourage non-compliance by farm workers. Molin, in opening remarks at the October 12 meeting, said, “I think we’ve made more progress in a year than I’ve seen in all the years I’ve been in the legislature.”

State Ag Commission Rejects State Safety Proposals

Another group of agricultural representatives has joined with the director of Labor, Keith Molin, in opposing a docket in the proposed more stringent, state agricultural safety standards.

In an unanimous vote, on October 12, the Michigan Commission on Agricultural Labor, which includes representatives of workers and growers, urged the state’s Occupational Safety Commission to adopt the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). In its statement, the commission said, “The federal safety standards are not only more equitable, but they provide a high degree of protection.”

Dr. Harry Schwartzweller, chairman of the commission, said, “The adoption of the Michigan standards would make agriculture in the state less competitive relative to other states and would actually encourage non-compliance by farm workers. Molin, in opening remarks at the October 12 meeting, said, “I think we’ve made more progress in a year than I’ve seen in all the years I’ve been in the legislature.”

FBS Annual Meeting Committees

Elton R. Smith, President of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. has announced the Annual Meeting Committees which will meet at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids on November 30 are as follows:

Nominating Committee
Mr. Ken Wadsworth - Chr.  
Mr. Robert Reeves  
Mr. Pete DeRuiter  
Mr. Tom Beal  
Mr. Francis Mots  
Rules & Credentials Committee
Mr. Frank Carpenter - Chr.  
Mr. Marvin Wade  
Mr. Gene Baur

Farms of the Week

Sponsorship: Michigan Farm Network and Farm Bureau Insurance Group

QUALITY FARMING OPERATIONS • AGRICULTURAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS
These services fall under the general future potential as a market for our products. Bureau was first developed by the MACMA market produces through the "member-to-member" program. The Advisory Committee direct marketing member-to-member is to keep the communication link open to consumers product must have gained wide acceptance in the United States. concentrate.

In between the farmers and the consumer are many other people earning their living. The difference between what the farmer receives for his products and what the consumer pays in the grocery stores goes to pay for the services provided by these people. These services fall under the general category of food processing, distribution and retailing. The percent of the consumer's food dollar which reaches the farmer has steadily declined since the early days of our country, and is expected to decrease in the future.

Some homemakers have found that they can cut the cost of their food bill considerably if they buy food ingredients and prepare their own finished product. The high volume of sales of canned goods and home freezers in the past few years are indicative of the increasing volume of home prepared and preserved foods. Also, the recent expansive of retail farm markets and U-pick farms, the revival of city farms and the establishment of food buying cooperatives, points out that consumers are interested in buying more direct and in larger quantities.

The Michigan Farm Bureau through its cooperative efforts with the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) has developed a direct marketing member-to-member program which has grown each year since its inception.

"The conception of selling food products direct to consumers through County Farm Bureaus was first developed by the MACMA at the Red Tart Cherry Division with the sale of chilled, pitted red tart cherries in 1969. Experimentation with this new approach was prompted by a large crop of cherries to be marketed, and the idea of consumers purchasing cherries in 30 pound tins on an order and pick-up basis. The experiment proved that the system could work and that many Farm Bureau members appreciated the opportunity to buy cherries through their County Farm Bureaus. Some sales of slush pack and frozen cherries were conducted in the following years, but lack of available readily marketable size crops of cherries resulted in a minimum amount of effort being put into the program.

The Florida Agricultural Marketing Association started their member-to-member program in the Florida Citrus Program on an interstate basis during the winter of 1971-72. The fresh oranges and grapefruits were packed in cartons having their labels, were only the very best quality, were priced at a pre-season determined level, and were grown by Farm Bureau members. Michigan Farm Bureau members welcomed the tasty citrus fruit and, with the exception of a few "headaches", the program proved to be a success. In 1973, the Michigan Certified Farm Market Division of MACMA was formed. The member-to-member program was transferred to that division and complemented and supplemented the products provided to member markets.

The program continued to grow and the items offered were expanded to include Florida fresh citrus, orange concentrate, pecans and peanuts; California dates and walnuts; Wisconsin cheese; and Michigan fresh asparagus, frozen fruits and apple concentrate.

The policy adopted by the voting delegates at the last Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting started, "We urge the sales program of Michigan grown products, to be expanded if, in early 1975, steps were taken to comply with this policy and to expand the market into other states. We voted to establish a new division to handle the responsibility of coordinating and developing the "member-to-member" programs. To assist in making the expanded program a success, an advisory committee was appointed. The committee's role includes making recommendations, outlining operational guidelines for the program, evaluating products, making recommendations to include new products or to drop old ones. A special role of the committee is to keep the communication link open between Farm Bureau members and the division.

It becomes apparent that a large variety of people influence the decision to market products through the "member-to-member" program. This Advisory Committee has recently taken the position that it will review the products being handled periodically. To pass these reviews, the product must be gained wide acceptance and be covering a large portion of the market.

The introduction of new products is also the responsibility of the Advisory Committee. To reach a successful production, the product must agree on several key points; that a market must exist and can be reached through the Direct Marketing Program, the product must have ample supply to serve those who order the product, and there must be no question about meeting the high quality standards followed in the program. Once these criteria are met in the minds of the consumer, the Committee must wrestle with the issues of the product "carrying its own weight." Only if the product is projected to cover all of its cost will the Committee recommend that the product be introduced into the program.

Over the life of the "member-to-member" program County Farm Bureaus have retained the right to indicate themselves in the program. During the past year, the Direct Marketing Division has made asparagus deliveries to 29 counties; fresh fruit deliveries to 47 counties; and citrus deliveries to 53 counties.

Participating counties have set up a variety of successful order taking distribution systems. Members are notified through County News Letters or special mailings that orders are being taken for the product. County Secretaries, Women, and Young Farmers' Committees and Community Groups, have cared for the business of receiving and compiling the orders. Counties have been strongly encouraged to accept only those orders accompanied with payment. Since small member orders must be kept to a bare minimum, Distribution is handled by notifying members either when the product is expected to arrive or immediately following the unloading of the truck. Products will generally be distributed within 24 hours of delivery at the county drop point.

In marketing agricultural products through the Direct Marketing Program a key issue is raised. That question continually being raised is whether the sales should be limited to members only, or should the general public be invited to participate. Before reaching a conclusion, considered must be the fact that the program caters to the member only concept. Controls and a much larger marketing audience is available allowing for expanded sales of agricultural commodities.

A wide range of reviews are apparent when the subject of quality versus price comes up for discussion. 

One must realize that high quality and low price are seldom found as companions in the market place. 

Generally all of us buy from time to time, but it is the exception not the rule. It then becomes apparent that a decision must be reached as to the direction of the Direct Marketing Program.

To date, the concept of high quality is the objective of all involved with this program. Price is delegated to the lower position. This is not to say that price is not considered, but rather that production standards come first and then price is secondary. Although this priority system has been followed, some members feel the program is misdirected. There are some who feel the motto emphasis should be on price alone. At a recent committee meeting, the Advisory Committee took the position that, "quality consciousness must always be in the forefront of the Direct Marketing Program." Because of the conflicting views, it only seems realistic that the subject matter of price versus quality should be discussed by the users.

Member support of the Direct Marketing Program will assure the continuation of this program. The Board of Directors have taken a position that a program of this type must be self-support. Just as any marketing system is governed by those it serves, so it is that Farm Bureau members control this program. Member desires will continually be evaluated by the Advisory Committee. The Committee welcomes any and all constructive criticism.
MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

Time for Agricultural Wage Reports

As calendar year 1976 draws to a close, it once again becomes necessary for farmers to file their financial records in order for the filing of annual tax returns. Many farmers, as well as other employers engaged in an independent business for themselves, have to file a wage report on their employees. A wage report is due by January 31st of the year after the year in which the wages were paid (or by February 15 for farmers who have paid their tax in advance on IRS form 511).

In some instances a farmer is not employed by an employer of people who work on his farm. This could be true if a crew leader worked for a farmer and has agreed in writing that he is not an employee of the farmer. In this instance the farmer should be paying the employees and he would be responsible for reporting these wages to the IRS.

If you employ people on your farm for whom you expect to be reimbursed, you should do the same thing regarding their record of their wages, showing their name, social security number, earnings, and amounts and dates of the social security tax withheld (if any) on the social security tax out of the pay of every employee who is covered by the social security law (current tax rate is 5.85 cents per $1 of wages up to $15,000 maximum) (3) prepare a form W-2 for every employee to report his wages to the state subject to the social security tax or for whom you agreed to withhold federal income tax.

Agricultural employees report their employee's wages using IRS form 943. In order to file the form, you'll need to decide whether the employee is subject to federal income tax. If you chose to pay social security tax, the form is part of a pamphlet entitled, Social Security Information For Crew Leaders with Employees. These forms are available from your local social security office. After you've assigned a number, you will be sent a copy of the IRS booklet, Agricultural Employer's Tax Guide.

For more information, see Michigan Farm News, P. O. Box 960, Lansing.

LIVESTOCK

FOR SALE: New Zealand White Rabbits, purebred. $7.00 each. Chair Farm. Box 770, Deckerville, Mich. 517-851-9182.

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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.