

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

VOL. 55 NO. 2

SERVING OVER 61,000 FARM BUREAU FAMILIES

FEBRUARY 1, 1976

MFB is tops in St. Louis



President Elton R. Smith was a proud Farm Bureau president as he accepted the prized "Golden Eagle Award" from former AFBF President William Kuhfuss for the fourth consecutive year.

For the second year in a row Michigan Farm Bureau members attending the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation found themselves representing the most highly awarded state Farm Bureau in the nation.

There was important business going on in St. Louis as the country's largest general farm organization met for the 57th time. AFBF delegates elected a new national president and vice president, important policy debate took place, informative commodity conferences were held and Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States dropped by to deliver his first public address of the bicentennial year.

But for Michiganders attending the convention it was their own state organization that was getting the "wolverine's" share of the attention when award time came.

MFB's list of awards and recognition included: The Golden Eagle Award, eight stars for outstanding programs, runner-up in the Young Farmer's discussion meet, and runners-up in the Young Farm couple recognition.

It was the fourth straight year for MFB to win the coveted "Golden Eagle Award". The "Golden Eagle Award" is given to only one state Farm Bureau in each of five membership categories. Competing in the 50,000 to 99,999 group, Michigan was judged to have made the most progress during 1975 in building and programming its organization to better serve the needs of farm families.

"I consider the prized "Golden Eagle Award" the greatest of honors," said MFB President Elton Smith. "It shows that a farm organization is doing what it is supposed to be doing - serving the member," added Smith.

President Smith made a significant effort on his own to bring honor to Michigan Farm Bureau as he was re-elected to another two-year term on the board of directors of the AFBF.

Of the 46 state Farm Bureaus receiving "Gold Star" awards for their achievements in Farm Bureau programs, only two, Michigan and Louisiana, received eight or more gold stars.

MFB's eight star award was for achievement in commodity activities, women's programs, young farmers and ranchers activities, marketing (AAMA) and non-AAMA marketing, natural resources and policy development, plus achieving a membership quota of 61,098.

Runner-up in the AFBF Young Farmers discussion meet was Michigan's Dave Peckens of Howell. Peckens is a Livingston County dairy farmer. Speaking on "The role of the American Farm Bureau Federation in international trade," Peckens stressed that as little government intervention as possible is best for international trade. "AFBF should be concerned with quality products getting into our export trade," he said.

MFB's distinguished young farm couple, Mike and Candy Bowman, found themselves center stage during the AFBF awards night as they were recognized runners-up in a special award sponsored by the American Farmer, the official magazine of AFBF. Their award was for special achievement in agriculture, leadership and community activities. The Bowmans were selected from nominees by 32 state Farm Bureaus.

President Ford addresses farmers at AFBF

President Gerald R. Ford pledged "to do everything in my power as President to keep farm income high." He addressed the January 5 general session of the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in St. Louis.

Louis.

"In these complicated and controversial times, it is imperative that you maintain the freedom to market crops and find customers where you can," the President declared. "Strong agricultural exports are basic to American farm policy and to the freedom of every farmer to manage his own farm.

"You should be rewarded -- and not punished -- for producing each year much more than we consume at home."

The President told Farm Bureau members that, "if we want dependable export markets for our food, the United States must be a reliable supplier." But he added:

"On two occasions since I became President the government was forced to temporarily restrain farm exports."
"I recognize that these actions

"I recognize that these actions resulted in confusion and concern among our farmers," he said. They were taken "with extreme reluctance," he added.

The President said that the 1975 grains agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union "is in the interest of both the American farmer and the American consumer." He said that "disruptive and unpredictable" Soviet purchases had led "to such problems as Congressional demands for export control and the refusal of unions to handle grain shipments."

"We have now assured American grain producers that at planting time they will have a much more reliable indication of how large an export market there will be at harvest time . . . The private marketing system has been preserved.

"The alternatives," he declared, "were and are intolerable." President Ford told Farm Bureau members that "linkage of grain with diplomacy would mean disruption and hardship for you, the farmers, (and) a serious increase in tensions between the world's two superpowers." He said it would be a "serious mistake" to link our exports of grain to the situation in Angola."

Farm Bureau members, he said, "believe in a farm policy that builds strong markets at home and abroad -- and so do I.

"You believe in the elimination of unnecessary bureaucratic regulations that cause inefficiency and losses – and so do I. I

(Cont. on page 17)



President Gerald R. Ford

photo by Jim Phillips



MICHIGAN **FARM NEWS**

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Farmin Bureau

Political involvement

Farmers can't "let George do it"

We've talked a lot about our heritage the past few months and how proud we are of the role farmers played in the birth and growth of this nation. But the Bicentennial Year is not a time to rest on past laurels. Rather, it's a time of rededication to preserving the principles upon which this nation was founded, renewal of the "Spirit of '76", and a rebirth of freedom.

If we are to accomplish this, we must accept the responsibilities that go along with our proud heritage. It is not enough to TALK about it; we must DO something about it. And the time is now - not sometime in the future.

This year's political campaigns will provide farmers with an excellent opportunity to assert the independence

which is a part of their heritage. It gives us the op-portunity to put our beliefs into action. Our voting delegates at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting last December recognized this when they adopted the following resolution on Political Involvement:

The year 1976 is a Bicentennial Anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Our representative form of government has been a major factor in our nation's progress over the last 200 years.
The Bicentennial provides all citizens an opportunity
to ensure a solid future for the nation by renewing their interest and involvement in political affairs.

Good citizenship means more than voting, oratory, and displaying patriotic symbols. It encourages being informed on issues, willingness to defend and explain our system of government, and courage to act within our political system. The apathy developing in our country enforces the truism that, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do

Good laws begin where good lawmakers are elected. We urge all members to actively endorse and support political candidates of their choice or consider seeking public office. For example, the position of precinct delegate is the most basic office within the

DONNA

Spirit willing -flesh weak

Once a year, I have a problem with my self-image. When Farm Bureau membership drive time rolls around, I regress. . . and each year, the trip is a little further. Forgetting the poise and dignity befitting a lady my age, I hop into the Time Machine and set the dial for my high school cheerleading days of yore. A team to cheer toward victory, a crowd roaring its approval, the adrenalin coursing through my veins. . . visions of pom-pons dance in my head.

It is only when I try the splits (and the legs cry "You've got to be kidding") or a cartwheel (and the arms warn "You're on your own, bottom") that I realize the trip back was a little too far this year. The old uniform still fits (more or less) but the parts above and below have been slightly altered (No, Self, that's not a defect in the mirror knees really do have doubles chins) by time.

Other times of the year, I'm perfectly content to be the Me of

Today, with the traumas of zits and puppy love far behind me. It's only during the Membership Drive that this irrestible urge hits

At a Kick-Off meeting, wouldn't it be fun to be called upon for a few words of inspiration. . . and, then, SUD-DENLY...do a leapfrog over the podium, a couple of back-flips across center stage, cartwheel into the crowd of astonished membership workers, burst into a wild "Rah! Rah! Go, Team, with a graceful split for a

The spirit is willing but, alas the flesh is weak, and it is well that I recognize this. The podium and I would probably both collapse on Step No. One. So the membership workers in my assigned region must make goal without the benefit of my sup-pressed desire antics. They will, and then I will do my cheers. . . mentally.

Old cheerleaders never die; their pom-pons just wilt.

Farm Bureau at all levels has conducted many activities to inform and equip members to become politically active, including Legislative Seminars, Meet the Candidate meetings, Young Peoples' Citizenship Seminars, Policy Development Conferences, and Heritage Tours to name a few. We urge that such programs be continued with a goal of ef-

fective political involvement in 1976.

This policy must not remain just words in a book. It requires the effort of members — as individuals — to transform the words into ACTION. Farm Bureau can continue its various citizenship activities and programs to inform and equip its members to become politically acinform and equip its members to become politically active. But organizations cannot vote nor run for office.

Representation for farmers, either by farmers or by those who understand and support agriculture, is vital at all levels of government – from township through federal. Farmers cannot sit back and "let George do it" because whether the "George" is a national labor leader or a County Commissioner, the best interests of agriculture are not his main concern. Being informed on issues that effect us - whether they are statewide, national or international in scope, or just involving our own communities - and speaking out courageously and knowledgeably on these issues, is also vital. "George"

will not speak for farmers, even though he may try.

Farmers are a minority, but if all of us, individually, adopted Farm Bureau's policy statement on political involvement as a personal resolution, we could become a

majority of those who are active in politics.

Many citizens of this great nation of ours are looking for leadership in a return to the values of our founding fathers, values still endorsed by farmers through Farm Bureau. They are looking for leadership that will restore their faith in our form of government and pride in our country. Let's give them that leadership.

We led the way in 1776; we can do it again in 1976.

Essay winner says "thanks"

Dear Michigan Farm Bureau: I wish to sincerely thank all the Farm Bureau members and staff who helped to make our trip to the American Farm Bureau National Convention so en-

I feel it's really great that Farm Bureau and FFA can cooperate so well. I know that it is through activities such as this essay contest that will determine the Farm Bureau future. I learned quite a lot about Farm Bureau and I'm very impressed with what it has to offer to young people.

Thanks again from Mom and me for all your kindness.

Sincerely yours, Shellie Fisk

Shellie Fisk was first place winner in the Farm Bureau sponsored Bicentennial Essay Contest and won an all-expensespaid trip for two to the AFBF Annual Meeting in St. Louis last month. His winning essay was published in the January 1976 issue of the Farm News.

Farm population drops

The U.S. farm population declined 1.2 percent a year from 1970 to 1974 and stood at about 9.3 million people in 1974, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report issued today.

This decline, notes the Economic Research Service (ERS), is in contrast with the 4.8 percent annual decreases of the 1960's. Losses of farm populaton continue in the South, North Central, and Northeast regions of the country while the West shows an increas

During 1970-74, the net loss to the farm population through people migrating from farms or from reclassification of their residence from farm to nonfarm averaged 143,000 annually. Both the volume and rate of net outmovement were lower than for any other four-year period in the

past 40 years.
Copies of "Farm Population
Estimates for 1974," AER-319,
are available by phoning (202)
447-7255 or by writing ERS
Publications, U.S. Department of

Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Please use your zip code.



200 years ago, farmers organized into bands of Minutemen to fight for their independence. In 1976. the challenges have changed, but the need to organize has not. Through Farm Bureau, farm families can meet the challenges on the farm and in the Legislature with aggressive programs built by and for farmers. Join today for *OPPORTUNITIES *BENEFITS

*BENEFITS



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print new address in space provided. Mail to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

City . Zip Code_ State County of Membership

Explosion brings tragedy at M.E.E. bean & grain terminal

The west end of MEE's Saginaw grain terminal was destroyed by an explosion and fire on January 22 that killed four MEE workers.

A tragic explosion ripped through the Saginaw Grain and Bean Terminal of Michigan Elevator Exchange, Division of Farm Bureau Services Jan. 22, resulting in 4 deaths and several hospitalized. The deceased are Bruce O'Dell, Jack Strom, George Murley and

Roger Horney, all MEE employes.

Throughout the day into the night, rescue efforts continued in subzero weather. Donald R. Armstrong, executive vice president of Farm Bureau Services praised the work of those involved.

"We appreciate the efforts of the fire departments, the physicians who came on the scene, and certainly the steel workers, who on their

own free will came in and manned equipment and worked hours in freezing weather," Armstrong said.

MEE employes not injured in the blast and their wives were also praised by Armstrong for their rescue work.

Damage is extensive. The entire receiving and railroad shipping areas are demolished, including the head house and bean processing equipment it contained, plus the adjoining warehouse. Of the 36 storage silos, 28 appear to be salvagable as well as the ship loading facilities, according to MEE officials.

The 2.1 million bushel terminal, built in 1964, is one of two owned by Farm Bureau Services, Inc. in Michigan. It is located in Carrollton on the Saginaw River just north of Saginaw.

Fleming leaves AFBF

In a joint statement by Allan Grant, newly-elected President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the Federation's Board of Directors, it was announced that Roger Fleming is leaving as the organization's Secretary-Treasurer and Director of the Washington, D.C.,

Grant, who was elected President of the Federation at the closing session of its 57th annual meeting, January 8, said the replacement for Fleming will be announced in the near future.

He also said that the new

Secretary and Treasurer will be in the Federation's general offices in Park Ridge, Illinois, following a recent decision by the Board of Directors.

Grant pointed out that the Secretary and the Treasurer are elected annually by the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors, while the Director of the Washington office is ap pointed by the Federation President.

No further changes in personnel are contemplated, Grant

Grant pointed out that Fleming, a close personal friend, had served 37 years with Farm Bureau in state and national

Fleming started his Farm Bureau career in 1938 as head of a newly created research department in the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation.

California's Grant is new AFBF president

California, Vice-President of the American Farm Bureau
Federation since December,
1971, and President of the
Farm Bureau California Farm Bureau Federation, from November, 1963, to December, 1975, was elected President of the elected President of the Federation to succeed William J. Kuhfuss, by the voting delegates of the member State Farm Bureaus to the Federation's 57th annual meeting.

Kuhfuss, from Mackinaw, Illinois, had been President of the American Farm Bureau Federation since December 10, 1970, when he was elected to serve one year of the unexpired two-year term of Charles B. Shuman, Sullivan, Illinois

Kuhfuss had served as President of the Illinois Farm Bureau from June, 1958, until his election to the Federation Presidency

The voting delegates delected Robert Delano, Route No. 3, Warsaw, Virginia, as Vice-President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, to succeed

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, and was elected to that position in November, 1962. He was elected to the Board of Directors of the AFBF in December, 1967. He is a member of the AFBF Executive Com-

Grant has been a member of the Board of Directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation since 1963, and served on the board of the California Farm Bureau Federation from 1953 to 1959. He served as First Vice-President for four years prior to his election as President the California Farm Bureau Federation.

In 1973, Grant was a reappointed by then Governor Reagan to a second six-year term as President of the California State Board of Agriculture and served until January, 1975. As President of that body, Grant was a voting Ex-Officio member of the Board of Regents of the University of California.

Grant is a member of the Board

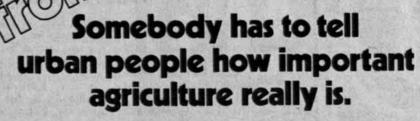
of Directors of the Independent Colleges of Northern California,

Grant has travelled widely to Japan and other parts of the Orient, to India, Mexico, South America and the Caribbean. He conducted a trade mission to the orient in 1966

He has been widely active in local and state educational activities serving as a delegate to the Governor's conference on education. He was appointed by President Eisenhower as a delegate to the white house conference on Education.

Grant was born in Los Angeles County in 1906, and received his education in agricultural economics at Montana State and the University of California at Los Angeles. He and his wife, Irene, have five children.

The Grants farm 640 acres in the Visalia area. They formerly operated a 600-cow dairy and now produce beef cattle, field crops, and permanent pasture. As a hobby, Grant raises Belgian draft



All of the forces tugging and pulling on agriculture affect urban people, too. And that's why we're telling the world, "Farming is everybody's bread & butter." □ The share of the consumer dollar going back to farmers and ranchers goes down year after year. And when you compare paychecks and food prices with 10 or 20 years ago, food continues to be one of the best bargains around.

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CAPITOL REPORT

State of the State

The 1976 session of the 78th Legislature convened on January 14. In his State of the State Address on the following day, Governor Milliken said that "As the noble experiment of American democracy enters its third century, we in Michigan find ourselves at a most critical moment in our 139-year history of statehood." He said further, "We are entering another year of hard decisions and real sacrifices." He called for a "renaissance of in-novation that is particularly appropriate in government as we observe the nation's Bicentennial, reflecting on the past and looking to the future."

He said it is time "to begin to fully recognize the limits of our available land and other natural resources" and that "generations yet unborn share the right to those resources." Further, that it is time for government to limit its intervention into private lives and that we must preserve and protect the personal liberties which our forefathers cherished so highly. He said it is a time to provide jobs and to limit

nonessential interference by government to business. And, further, that it is a time to "limit our promises and try harder to keep the ones we have made." ".

. . there are limits to what government can and should do." The message contained specific actions, many of which were left over from last year's

unfinished legislative agenda. In discussing the need to limit spending and live within the state's revenue expectations, the Governor stated emphatically that he "will not propose a state tax increase." He said that now is no time to add to the burdens of individual taxpayers, or to the burdens of business. Some of the other points in his address included:

AGRICULTURE

The message pointed out there are 15,000 fewer farms in operation today than there were ten years ago and that profit margins have declined even further in this year of rapidly escalating prices for fuel, machinery and agricultural chemicals. In spite of these difficulties, the Governor said that farmers have continued to increase their growth of production per worker by twice that of the industrial sector. He said he would continue to press for a healthy agricultural business climate in this state. He pointed out the need for completion of passage of the pesticide control legislation, H.B. 5310 (passed the House and now in the Senate-hearings to be held very soon). He said he had already submitted a tentative plan to the EPA for the implementation of pesticide control legislation.

The Governor reported briefly on the progress and success of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, saying that there are now over 88,000 acres of farmland that have applied for and have been approved at the state level. More than 560 applications have been approved by the state Office of Land Use, and many more are in process at the local level.

The Governor suggested in his Address that the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Management and Budget, and the appropriate branches of Michigan State University undertake a study of the services provided to the agricultural community. He said that the final report should include a clear statement of the goals and services offered and recom-mendations to provide a more prosperous and productive agriculture in Michigan.

The Governor supported the extension and continuation of the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board, P.A. 344. He mentioned that five bargaining units have been accredited by the Board and that in spite of the fact that agriculture has suffered under a nationwide recession, producers have received satisfactory prices in a number of

commodity markets.

He said the fact that activities of the Cherry Bargaining unit were halted due to an unsettled court suit, growers were forced to accept prices "amounting to \$8 million less than they would have recieved." He pointed out, in-cidentally, that such reduced prices were not reflected in consumer prices.

The Governor also called attention to the fact that in the last 18 months many areas of Michigan agriculture had been hit by drought, early frost, or excessive rains and that these weather factors contributed to an agricultural crop loss in excess of \$400 million. He said there have been more than 80 county crop disaster declarations under the applicable federal programs, some counties being designated on more than one occasion. He said that at least 2,200 farmers have received loans totaling \$44 million under such emergency programs. He declared that he would continue to take all available action to assure that farmers would continue to be eligible for such federal assistance in time of need.

The Governor discussed briefly the PBB problem and indicated pleasure that the parties involved had effected an understanding and he expressed a hope that this would mean a speedy settlement of outstanding claims. He said, further, that in respect to any public health aspects of the situation he has directed the Departments of Public Health Agriculture to seek additional scientific information relevant to the present ac-ceptable tolerance levels in food products.

Robert E. Smith

ENVIRONMENT

Many of Governor Milliken's comments on the environment have a great deal of significance to agriculture. He said that he continues to strongly support a land use program (H.B. 4234) which would designate essential land areas. He pointed out that 23 public hearings have been held on the bill and much compromise has been achieved in the past three years. (Farm Bureau has been very active on this piece of legislation and has been instrumental in making many changes necessary for the protection of agricultural producers. The bill, in its present form, is now acceptable under Farm Bureau's policy and is now in the House Appropriations Committee.)

The Governor mentioned H.B. 4618, the wetlands bill. He said that he believes that legislation similar to this should be promptly passed. (Farm Bureau opposes this bill in its present form. The issue is primarily one of definition as to what a wetland is. In its present form, it is likely that agricultural production on such lands would be unduly restricted and that the permit system in the bill would create a

hardship.)

Governor Milliken proposed a program for the purchase of approximately 40,000 acres of land contiguous to the AuSable and Manistee river systems from Consumers Power Company. The payment for the purchase would take place over a period of years. The cost would be approximately \$18 million, of which nearly half could be provided by matching funds from federal sources. In addition to this program, proposed legislation to create a Michigan Resource Heritage Fund. Under this program, a portion of the revenue from the sale of mineral rights would be earmarked for investment in special land areas.

The Governor also called for legislation to "strengthen Michigan zoning acts," and to provide for greater citizen participation in zoning decisions. He said a recent report on zoning laws has been released and can serve as a foundation for proposed changes in the state zoning laws.

The Governor also continues to support a phase-out of nonreturnable beverage containers, (H.B. 4296), now before the House Appropriations Committee. (Farm Bureau has

supported such legislation for some time.)
The message

mentioned several other environmental concerns, including codification of all Michigan environmental laws, to be accomplished by commission; pointment of a task force on nuclear waste disposal to review the present system for tran-sportation of disposal of nuclear aste, recognizing that utilities must move forward to utilize nuclear power plants as energy sources; recommendation for mandatory statewide registration of bicycles, which could be instrumental in reducing bicycle deaths which have increased 42 percent in the three years, and for additional bicycle paths and concern over bicycle safety. LABOR

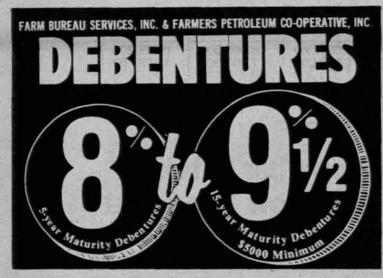
Much of the Governor's message on labor is also of concern to agriculture. He discussed the unemployment problem in Michigan and called for alternatives to prevent relying entirely unemployment upon the insurance system. He said that a "work sharing plan" is being explored by the Department of Labor and that such a program is being implemented in the State of New York. The program essentially spreads the burden of layoffs over a larger group. For example, if an employer is forced to lay off 20 percent of his work force, the cutback could be accomplished by reducing all employees to a four-day week, thus spreading the effects of the layoff. In this manner, no one loses his job and the employer would not have to rehire when production picked up.

The Governor discussed briefly Michigan's wage law structure. He said the Department of Labor will conduct a review of these laws, with two objectives - one, to consolidate all present laws into a single comprehensive law or set of statutes; two, to revise laws to make them more easily understood by those they are intended to protect, with consideration to the implications of federal wage laws and their relationship to state statutes.

He discussed the various compensation programs, in-cluding workers compensation and unemployment insurance. He pointed out that the present workers compensation act in Michigan is a "national leader in providing coverage and benefits, but at the same time is one of the most costly to employers." He said that while some claim the benefit levels are too low, others complain the cost of the system is too high and that there is validity in both positions. He pointed out that the WC bill, S.B. 181, that has been reported out of committee, does not meet the criteria that he has suggested and that the bill in its present form is "unacceptable '

He continued to support S.B. 1178 and H.B. 5783. These were

(Cont. on page 12)



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NATIONAL NOTES

Estate Tax reform

The 94th Congress began its Second Session on January 19. That evening President Ford gave his State-of-the-Union gave his State-or-me-union Message. Although the President outlined several proposals, his remarks concerning reform of the federal estate tax law were of special significance to family farms and small businesses.

Because the federal estate tax law poses deep implications to farm and small business estates, this National Notes Column is being devoted entirely to this topic. Hopefully, it will provide each member with a better understanding of what the federal estate tax is, how it works and why it is important that each member take an active part in supporting reform.

Agriculture Vitally Affected
Perhaps the seriousness of this

topic can best be summarized in a letter written by a lady to Ann Landers. The letter reads as follows:

"My husband was very successful. He had property, insurance, securities - and he left everything to me. He always said if he went first I would never have to worry about money. How little he knew! I recently was widowed and left with four knew! children. In addition to the grief, I am faced with another shattering blow - one that I had never expected. I must pay such a huge inheritance tax that I will have to go to work to support myself and the children.

This letter indicates that upon death, someone is saying, want your money."

Who is that someone? It is the voice of federal government in the form of the federal estate tax. (The state government also is involved in the form of the state inheritance tax which is not covered in this column.)

The federal estate tax is an important issue to agriculture because farming is still predominantly a family enterprise. There are many father-son, brother-brother, or other combinations of relationships involved in farming enterprises. Certainly, farmers are interested in the orderly transfer of their farms to succeeding generations. Yet, after several years of hard work, many farmers end up giving away one-third of their life's earnings to the federal government. This happens because many surviving spouses and heirs to farm estates find themselves faced with such high estate taxes that they are forced to sell the farm in order to pay those taxes regardless of their desire to keep the farm in the family. Why? Because most farm families do not have access to huge cash savings within 9 months after death for quick payment of federal estate taxes that may amount to five or six digit figures.

Unfortunately, since federal estate taxes are not collected until after death, people let the spector of death frighten them from thinking about this essential aspect of family management. This is a serious shortcoming because it is reported that wives outlive their husbands in three out of four marriages. Also, court records indicate that three out of four estates lack sufficient cash to pay federal estate taxes.

Until a few months ago, public pressure was at a low ebb to help solve this issue. However, public support is now emerging for federal estate tax reform.

Much of the public awareness of the need for federal estate tax reform is occurring from Farm Bureau efforts in the form of articles in the Michigan Farm News, AFBF Newsletter, radio tapes, policy development meetings, and special meetings. What Is The Federal Estate Tax?

The federal estate tax is the taxation of assets upon the occasion of a person's death. Since 1916, the estate tax has been a permanent feature of our federal tax system. The tax is levied according to a sliding scale based upon the taxable value of the estate as indicated in Figure 1.

To arrive at the taxable value of your estate, take the gross estate, which includes all property - both personal and real as appraised at fair market value

Subtract from this value, funeral expenses, administrative costs, claims against the estate, and unpaid mortgages or indebtedness. From this, subtract the marital deduction, which amounts to one-half of the estate value, and the personal or standard \$60,000 exemption. The amount remaining is the taxable estate value against which the tax rate is applied.

The tax must be paid in cash within nine months of death unless application is made and permission received from IRS to pay the tax in installments. If permission is granted for installment payments, the period will generally not exceed ten years and the interest rate will be at or near the prevailing prime

Legislation Needed

Although estate planning from such sources as the Farm Bureau Insurance Group would still be highly recommended, legislation to minimize the impact of federal estate taxes would be most helpful, especially for those who do not consider the estate tax problem until after death occurs.

Why would legislation be helpful? The federal estate tax has remained relatively unchanged for more than a generation. The present rate structure and personal exemp-tion were adopted in 1941 - 35 years ago. The only significant change since 1941 occurred in 1948 when the marital deduction was added to the tax structure.

tenant.)

PRESENT LAW

\$350,000

-175,000

175,000

60,000

During the last 35 years, estate values have soared, while at the same time the purchasing power of the dollar has declined. Land that may have been worth \$100 per acre in 1941 may now be worth \$1,000 or more per acre. Conversely, it would now take nearly \$185,000 to equal the purchasing power of the \$60,000 personal federal estate tax exemption established in 1941.

At the 1975 and 1976 AFBF Conventions, voting delegates adopted a policy placing high priority on legislative action to update the federal estate tax exemptions. As a result of these policies, legislation in the form of H.R. 1793 has been introduced by over 70 Congressmen. These include Congressmen VanderJagt (R-Luther), Robert Traxler (D-Bay City), Ed Hutchinson (R-St. Joseph), Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor), Garry Brown (R-Schoolcraft), James O'Hara (D-Utica), and Al Cederberg (R-Midland).

The major provisions of H.R. 1793 are as follows:

The \$60,000 personal exemption would be increased to \$200,000.

2. The marital deduction, which currently amounts to 50 percent of the value of the adjusted gross estate, would be increased to \$100,000 plus 50 percent of the adjusted gross estate. This is the exemption that the surviving spouse is entitled to take.

3. Currently, IRS appraises estates for federal tax purposes on the basis of fair market value, which is the same as highest potential value. This would be changed to allow the heirs of an estate to elect to have the appraisal made on the value of the estate for agriculture. If the heirs elected this option, the property would have to have been in agriculture for the previous five years and remain in agriculture for the next five years.

What would H.R. 1793 mean in terms of federal estate taxes? Figure 2 shows the taxes that would be paid under current law as compared to taxes that would

be paid under H.R. 1793. From this comparison, the benefits of revising the federal estate tax exemptions to reflect 1976 values rather than 1941 values are readily apparent. Status of H.R. 1793

Where is H.R. 1793 today and what are its chances? The bill is currently pending before the House Ways and Means Committee of which Congressman Al Ullman (D-Oregon) is chairman. Congressman Ullman has in-dicated that federal estate tax reform would recieve priority

H.R. 1793

\$350,000

-275,000 *

75,000

-2000,000 * *

bers of the Ways and Means Committee include Michigan Congressmen Guy VanderJagt and Richard VanderVeen (D-Grand Rapids). As noted previously, Congressman VanderJagt is a sponsor of H.R.

Some Congressmen questioned the need for federal estate tax reform. Among the questions raised are the cost to the federal treasury. However, it is estimated that revenue from federal estate taxes represents less than two percent of all (Cont. on page 14)

Co	omputation of G	ross Estate Tax	t
Faxable estate equal to or more than—	Taxable estate less than—	Tax on amount in column (1)	Rate of tax on excess over amount in column (1)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
\$5,000 10,000 20,000 30,000	\$5,000 10,000 20,000 30,000 40,000	\$150 500 1,600 3,000	(Percent) 3 7 11 14 18
40,000 50,000 60,000 100,000 250,000	50,000 60,000 100,000 250,000 500,000	4,800 7,000 9,500 20,700 65,700	22 25 28 30 32
500,000 750,000 1,000,000 1,250,000 1,500,000	750,000 1,000,000 1,250,000 1,500,000 2,000,000	145,700 233,200 325,700 423,200 528,200	35 37 39 42 45
2,000,000 2,500,000 3,000,000 3,500,000 4,000,000	2,500,000 3,000,000 3,500,000 4,000,000 5,000,000	753,200 998,200 1,263,200 1,543,200 1,838,200	49 53 56 59 63
5,000,000 6,000,000 7,000,000 8,000,000 10,000,000	6,000,000 7,000,000 8,000,000 10,000,000	2,468,200 3,138,200 3,838,200 4,568,200 6,088,200	67 70 73 76 77

Albert A. Almy

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- Proud to Be a Farmer?
- Proud to Be a Farm Bureau Member?

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Name				
Address				

* Add \$100,000 to present deduction of 50 percent of gross estate value * * Increased to \$200,000 instead of present \$60,000

COMPARISON OF PRESENT FEDERAL

ESTATE TAX LAW AND H.R. 1793

(Assume wife inherits 100 percent of estate as a surviving joint

Less Marital Deduction

Less Personal Deduction

Estate Value

Taxable Estate

\$25.200--- Estate Tax---- 0

Make Checks payable to Michigan Farm Bureau

Michigan's Young Farmers are St. Louis standouts



Dave Peckens, Michigan's discussion meet winner, was a finalist at the AFBF discussion meet.



Michigan's distinguished young farm couple, Mike and Candy Bowman, brought recognition to Michigan by being selected as one of the six top young farm couples in the nation in AFBF competition.

With Monova® barbed wire, less is more!

Less, because Monova barbed wire is a light weight single strand (an 80-rod spool weighs just 53 pounds). And its price tag is lower than ordinary two-strand.

More, because Monova barbed wire is stronger than the best two-strand. No stretching is required. The barbs are sharper and longer, too.

With Monova barbed wire, there's less snow and ice build-up; its heavy galvanized coating means a long, long life.

It's one of the last of the truly great values. With Monova barbed wire, less is more!

Available at your local Farm Bureau dealer



Insurance coverage essential

This is no time to be caught short without health care coverage. Especially now, when the cost of hospital care by far outpaces the rate of inflation. One week's hospital bills would wipe out the average person's life savings.

As a Farm Bureau member, you have the good fortune of getting one of the best health care protection plans available. This is your Blue Cross and Blue Shield group coverage plan. Your plan covers comprehensive hospital care and medical-surgical care. In addition, you would have the extra protection of Master Medical which covers items such as physicians' home and office calls, prescription drugs, hospital care beyond the limits of your program, blood after the first two pints and visiting nurse service. (All this is available after you pay a small deductible.)

In order to participate you must be enrolled. You can do so during the open enrollment period beginning March 1 through the 15th. So, if you've been a member of the Farm Bureau and never enrolled in Blue Cross and Blue Shield group coverage, this is your chance to give it a try.

Ag Conference hears Governor



Governor William G. Milliken addressed the annual banquet of the Michigan Agricultural Conference Jan. 14 at MSU. Milliken told the Conference of his appreciation of the great importance agriculture plays in the state's economy. The Agricultural Conference is an organization of Ag-related groups promoting the cause in agriculture in Michigan. Michigan Farm Bureau is a member of the Conference.

If you are presently enrolled, and if you have any 19 to 25 year old dependents, this open enrollment period is the time to add them to your coverage at special rider rates.

So remember, health care protection security is as easy as enrolling in Blue Cross and Blue Shield group coverage through your Farm Bureau.

HAWAII '77

A.F.B.F. CONVENTION PLANS FOR MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

Have a Hawaiian Holiday! The 58th Annual American Farm Bureau Federation Convention will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii in January 1977. In conjunction with this, Michigan Farm Bureau has put together an Hawaii Convention tour for Michigan Farm Bureau members. To be eligible to go on the tour, you need only be a 1976 Michigan Farm Bureau member. DUE TO THE LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE. RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. Applications invalid without accompanying deposit. Reservations may not be made by telephone.

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU A.F.B.F. CONVENTION HAWAII CHARTER PROGRAM

OPTION NO. 1, Jan. 6-Jan. 14, 1977 THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

United Airlines chartered stretch - 8 holding 223 passengers will leave from Grand Rapids and another from Detroit this morning to Honolulu, Hawaii arriving in mid-afternoon, Hawaii time. Transfer to either Walkiki Village Hotel or Reef Tower Hotel. Hotels are within a block of each other and located approximately one block from the beach.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

A breakfast for the entire group for a briefing on optional tours available during the stay in Hawaii. In afternoon the entire group will tour the city of Honolulu to include Mt. Tantalus and Punchbowl, the National Cemetery of the

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

Available for personal plans or optional tours.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

Shuttle bus service available to the convention center for vesper services this evening.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

Shuttle bus service available to the convention center for General Session meetings in the morning, to conference hotels in the afternoon and to the International Center for the talent program this evening.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11 Shuttle buses available to the General Session at Honolulu International Center this morning and again this evening for Recognition and Awards Program. Business session is to be held at Sheraton Waikiki Hotel approximately one block from your hotels. Balance of time for personal plans

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

Entire day for personal plans and-or optional tours.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

All baggage returning to the states must undergo agricultural inspection; consequently, arrangements have been made for inspectors to check the baggage at the hotel before it is transferred to the airport. In midafternoon transfer to the Honolulu Airport for the departure flight home.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14 Arrive Grand Rapids or Detroit.

COST OF TOUR From Grand Rapids - \$509.77 From Detroit \$514.31

(Including Air and Ground)
AIR TRANSPORTATION is based on all seats of each airplane being utilized and each person paying a pro-rata share of the aircraft cost which is \$306.77 from Grand Rapids or \$311.31 from Detroit per person. Should less than 223 persons use the charter, government regulations require that the cost be reprorated with each person paying an equal shale of the total cost. Charters are only available to Farm Bureau members, spouses, children and-or parents living within the same household, and having been a member for at least six months prior to departure of the charter.

GROUND PACKAGE consists of 7 nights occupancy of hotel room based on two people sharing twin rooms (single rooms higher), transfers, Lei greeting, baggage handling of not more than two pieces per person, welcome breakfast, city sightseeing tour and cost of shuttle bus to convention center. Two categories of rooms are available at each hotel and will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. Ground package cost \$203.00

(All costs based on rates quoted as of January 1, 1976 and may be increased slightly before departure. Any such increases will be reflected in your final billing.)

POST CONVENTION **OUTER ISLAND TOUR -**

Three Islands of Kauai, Maui and Hawaii

OPTION NO 2, JAN. 6 - JAN. 21, 1977
Tour participants of the Outer Island Tour will depart from home airports on Thursday, January 6, for flights into Chicago, connecting with Hawaii flights. Upon arrival, transfer to your convention hotel for program same as that of charter group.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13
Fly from Honolulu to Lihue, Island of Kauai. This afternoon there will be a sightseeing trip of the Linue area to include boat trip on the Wailua River to the Fern Grotto.

In morning a beautiful trip to the Waiamea Canyon, the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific" continuing on to Poipu Beach to view the Spouting Horn. Afternoon at leisure.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15
Fly to the Island of Maui. On arrival visit a typical Hawaiian farm.

In morning a trip up the slopes of Mt. Haleakala for a gorgeous view of the Island of Maui and the surrounding Pacific Ocean. Balance of the day at leisure.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

Morning flight to Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Visit the Parker Ranch, the largest ranch in the United States. There will be a briefing at their theater and then a program by employees of the ranch.

Travel from the Kona area to Hilo, going past coffee trees and seeing the many lava flows some still smoking in the Hawaii National Park. A chance to visit a macadamia nut farm and see the fabulous Hawaii orchids.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

Today the group will be flown from Hilo to Honolulu to connect with the flight home.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

Arrive, Chicago and transfer to the flight to your home

COST OF TOUR IS AS FOLLOWS:

Lansing	\$653.79 per person
Grand Rapids	\$650.68 per person
Saginaw	
Muskegon	\$649.12 per person
Detroit	\$661.06 per person
Flint	\$660.02 per person
South Bend	\$643.42 per person
Chicago	\$616.73 per person

Cost of tour includes transfers, baggage handling, sightseeing as listed, hotels based on two people sharing twin bedded room, interisland air transportation. Add to above cost of Honolulu Ground Package as shown for hotel chosen in listing for charter tour package.

HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Each reservation must be accompanied by a deposit of \$100.00 per person in order to hold space.

Final payment due 60 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Full refund to be made for cancellations received 60 days prior to departure. \$25.00 per person charge for can-cellations made between 45 and 60 days prior to departure. \$50.00 per person charge made for cancellations received 30 to 45 days before departure. Cancellations received less than 30 days prior to departure full air share not refundable unless seat is resold, in which case there would be a \$50.00 per person cancellation fee.

Early reservations are essential since this is the high winter season in Hawaii and hotel rooms are at a premium. All unsold hotel spaces are automatically

nce of day free for individual plans.	relea	ased 40 days prior to	departure.
RESE	RVATION	REQUEST	A NOTE OF
NAME(S)		Single all	
ADDRESS			
		ZIP CODI	
TELEPHONE NUMBER			en i
COUNTY OF MEMBERSHIP			
DATE JOINED FARM BUREAU			A MARIO DE DISTANTA
I(WE) Desire Option Tour No. 1			
I (WE) desire to depart from Grand	Rapids	Flint	,Saginaw,
Detroit, Muskegon, L	ansing	, Chicago	All Carlottes
Extension tours to either the Orient (Formosa and Hong Kong) and Down	Under	Mail request w	ith deposit check to:
(Australia, New Zealand and Fiji) are planned. Please check below if you terested in either of these tours.			NETH P. WILES Farm Bureau
Orient Down Under		Lansing, A	Aichigan 48904

Merriman on Detroit Edison board



Frank Merriman of Deckerville, Mich., prominent Sanilac County dairy farmer and former chairman of the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University, was elected today to the Board of Directors of the Detroit Edison Co.

In announcing Merriman's

Tender

loving care system for farrowing sows & pigs

by Universal.

Your sows need a comfortable, climate-controlled environment. And that's even more important

for pigs.

The new portable SOW LODGE protects your sows and pigs from cold, damp, drafty con-

election, William G. Meese, Detroit Edison board chairman and chief executive officer, said, "The continued reliable supply of electric energy is an increasingly vital cornerstone in the production of food, on which all of the nation and the world depends for their nutritional and general well-being. We are, therefore, extremely pleased that with the addition of Frank Merriman to our Board, we will be able to call upon an outstanding member of the farming community for guidance in helping us meet the needs of this vital industry."

Merriman was Sanilac county Farm Bureau president for nine years. He is a member of the Michigan Milk Producers Association and a past president of the Deckerville local M.M.P.A. He was a member of Deckerville Community Schools for 17 years, serving either as president or

secretary-treasurer.

Merriman, a native of
Deckerville, owns and operates a
550-acre dairy farm there and milks 150 cows

He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University for 15 years and served as board chairman in 1973 and 1974. The University has honored him with its Agriculture Technology Alumni Award, the 1972 Dairyman of the Year Award and, in 1975, the Annual Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. He also was the recipient of the Future Farmers of America Star Far-mer Award and served as FFA State President in his youth

Merriman, 55, is married and the father of one son.

Membership drive kicked-off statewide

Go Like

'76

★ Bulletin ★ Kalkaska County first with goal



The Newaygo County membership kick-off meeting saw good use made of the latest in visual aids.



Membership workers from Clinton county make plans to reach goal a concentrated three-day blitz. Over 50 turned out for the kick-off.



In Osceola County (from left) Rachel Michell, Elmer Michell and Janet Schmidt make plans for the campaign ahead.

ditions. And that can mean more comfortable sows, thriftier pigs, and more pigs weaned per litter. The SOW LODGE comes complete with farrowing stalls, heaters, ventilation, and even a manure pit. All you do is connect water and electricity and you're ready to put in your sows. Ask for complete details about the SOW LODGE and other LODGE portable livestock buildings.

Available through Farm Bureau Services **Building Centers**



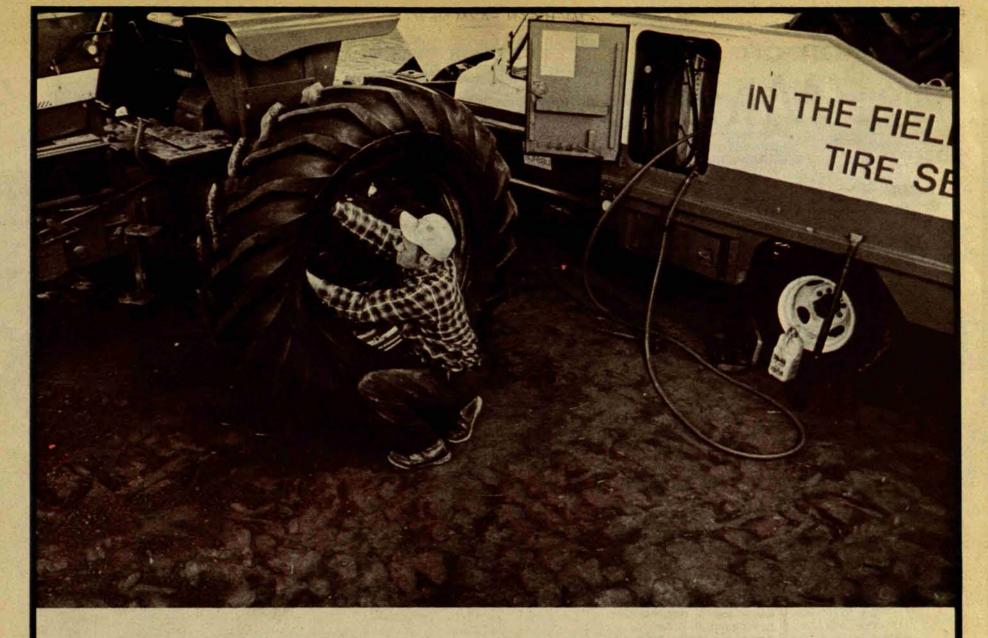
lodels also available for hogs, pigs and calves

State membership status

	1-23-76 NOW	1-23-75 1 YEAR AGO
GOAL:	61,586	61,098
New:	1,711	1,966
Renewals:	51,633	53,690
TOTAL:	53,344	55,656
% of Goal:	86.62%	91.09%
Needed for Goal:	8,242	5,442



Clare County membership workers look over special membership section of the December Farm News in planning for a successful campaign. Seated from left are Don Armintrout, Jean Armintrout, Don Davis and Alice Davis. Standing is Clare membership chairman Henry Eberhart.



Call Farmers Petroleum... Michigan Farm Tire Specialists

Don't wait till spring is here, call the farm tire specialist, the Farmers Petroleum people, today. Our fleet of 21 on-farm tire trucks are standing by. We'll come to your farm, completely check your farm equipment tires and inflate if necessary, absolutely free.

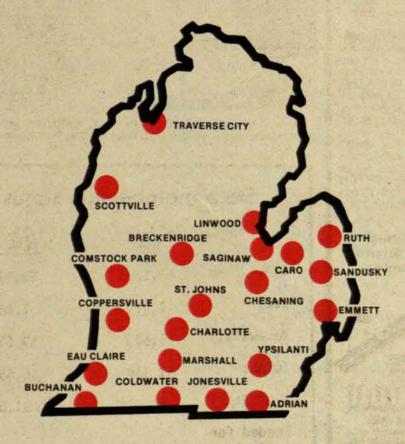
If you do need tire service, our trained service people can repair and replace even the new tubeless rear tractor tires right on your farm.

Call the Farmers Petroleum people today for your FREE ON-FARM CHECK-UP. The quicker you call the better chance they'll have to get to your farm before planting.

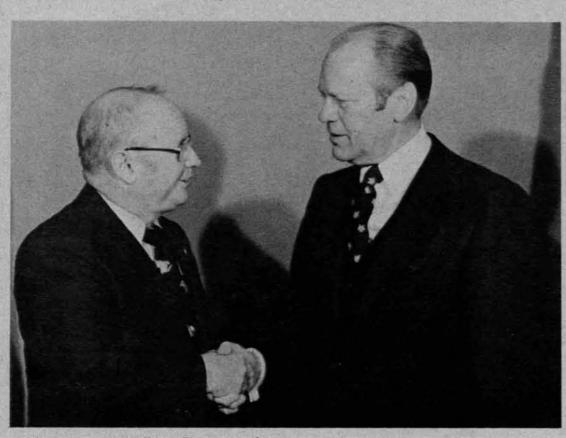
For Fast, Dependable Service call your nearest Farmers Petroleum Farm Tire Specialist.

Where Your Farm Comes First





Michigan Farm Bureau



Fellow Kent County Farm Bureau members, MFB President Elton R. Smith and U.S. President Gerald R. Ford, met following President Ford's address to the AFBF convention.





MFB's voting delegates to the AFBF annual meeting put in long hours participating in the adoption of AFBF policies. From left, Dean Pridgeon, Don Nugent, Larry DeVuyst, John Laurie and Elton Smith.



The gateway arch, symbol of St. Louis.



Former MFB Women's Committee Chairman Doris Wieland accepts MFB's star award for Women's programs.

nowed them" in Missouri



time on Amtrack.



MFB Field Operations Director Charles Burkett (right) represented hundreds of MFB membership workers in receiving award recognizing MFB's attainment of membership goal in 1975.



President Gerald R. Ford greeted Farm Bureau members with his outspoken Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz at his side.



President Smith receives Michigan's "Eight Star Award" from outgoing AFBF President Kuhfuss. Only one state in the nation earned more program stars than the Wolverine state.



MFB Queen, Geraldine Tensen, was a charming "V.I.P." in St. Louis.

Capitol Report

(Cont. from page 4)

the compromise proposals that the Governor offered last year. (S.B. 181, presently in the Senate, would increase farmers' work comp premiums at least double, or perhaps even more. There are many other provisions in the bill that would make it an intolerable burden on agricultural employers.)

Job safety (MIOSHA) was another important area of the

Governor's message. (There is presently an advisory committee at work to advise the Commission on safety standards for agriculture.)

The message had several paragraphs devoted to agricultural labor, including both migrant and resident workers. The Governor said that he supported increasing the size of the Michigan Commission on Agricultural Labor (S.B. 837) including representation from all sectors. He pointed out that agriculture is one of our "leading industries and a world leader in

agricultural exports." He also said that stimulation of agriculture can create more jobs. The Governor is requesting the Commission on Agricultural Labor to analyze the impact of recent and proposed agricultural labor legislation upon agriculture and report to him, the Director of the Department of Labor, and the Legislature. Further, that the Commission should acquaint the public with the importance of the agricultural labor force and that recommendations and proposals should be developed for improving conditions for the

agricultural labor work force. He said this should be done "without detriment to the industry as a whole."

STATE-LOCAL RELATIONS

He said that local government faces the same revenue needs as that of state government. He pointed to the shared revenues that are used by local governments and how this amount has grown over the years. He recalled his recommendations of the last legislative session for an increase in the level of state revenue sharing with local government by a gradual

readjustment of a portion of the state income tax revenues that are allocated to local government, the assumption by the state of county general assistance welfare costs over a five-year period and replacement of the inventory tax allocating a portion of the single business tax revenues to local government and school districts.

He said an Executive Branch Task Force on Property Tax Revision has recently been appointed under the chairmanship of the Liet. Governor. The Task Force has been charged with reviewing the impact of recent property tax legislation and recommending a program for administrative and legislative actions.

The Governor also called for "tax base sharing." This will be one of the most controversial recommendations that he has made. It would be restricted to the counties in southeast Michigan; however, he pointed out it could be expanded to other regions. It essentially would provide for partial sharing of future growth in nonresidential tax base. For example, if a new industrial or commercial development is created somewhere within the region, the local unit would get a portion of the valuation and the tax revenue. However, another portion of the valuation and tax revenues would be shared with other governments within the region, based upon a formula.

TRANSPORTATION The Governor suggested that a constitutional amendment should be proposed to change the present State Highway Com-mission's name to the State Transportation Commission and to increase its membership (HRJQ). He said that Michigan has emerged from beneath the cloud of economic uncertainty that was cast by the Federal Railroad Reorganization and that the state has a definite program to continue nearly all service on 1100 miles of bankrupt lines, and also service on some lines which the nonbankrupt carriers may be allowed to abandon. He pointed out the deterioration of rail service on the bankrupt runs has occurred over a period of more than two decades and that a statewide rail system cannot be brought back to vigorous health in two years, but rather it will require a five-to-ten year recuperation period. The Governor will present a special transportation message later in which a plan will be outlined to totally revise the method of financing transportation in the state. The plan will recommend the consolidation of present user taxes that are now restricted for highways into a total Transportation Fund. It will also provide for a more progressive approach to financing transportation and should enable less dependence upon a single source of revenue. He said that his forthcoming proposals would guarantee existing highway would funding levels for all levels of government and will provide a structure for generating increased revenues, including bonding. (This issue could be controversial. Bureau's policy opposes any further diversion of revenues in the Motor Vehicle Fund. Revenues are already inadequate for highway purposes. For example, counties desperately need more money to repair and maintain the present road



Circle Your Calendar NOW

Here is your once-a-year opportunity to get the most current, useful information on approaching growing and marketing seasons . . . from Farm Bureau's top resource people. All it costs is your time, and time well spent at that.

We especially hope that agricultural leaders . . . Co-op Presidents, Board Members, leaders in farm supply and County Farm Bureau members . . . will be able to attend one of the Open Line meetings.

The 1976 grain and bean marketing situation and the status of farm supplies will be discussed in detail . . . as well as pending Michigan legislation dealing with overtime and workmen's compensation.

All Open Line sessions will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; complimentary lunch is served.

Find out what 1976 has for you and your farm. Ask the Farm Bureau people.

Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm? Bureau

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC FARMERS PETROLEUM





Armstrong elected chairman of Universal Cooperatives

Michigan farm-business leader Donald R. Armstrong was recently elected President of the Board of Directors of Universal Cooperatives, Inc. of Alliance, Ohio.

Armstrong is Executive Vice President of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, statewide farm supply cooperatives affiliated with Michigan Farm Bureau.

Universal Cooperatives, Inc. is an international purchasing, manufacturing and merchandising cooperative owned by 38 regional agricultural co-ops, including Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.

Universal Cooperatives includes members from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

The St. Clair County native will continue to direct Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum while he serves the one year term as President of the Universal Cooperatives Board.

Armstrong, who began his career with Farm Bureau as a warehouseman, has directed the state's largest farm supply organization since 1970.



Donald R. Armstrong

Farm News: Mr. Armstrong, just what is Universal Cooperatives?

Don Armstrong: Universal Cooperatives is a farm supply cooperative that is owned and controlled by some 39 members, two of which are out of Canada, two Puerto Rico and 35 U.S. cooperatives that extend from east to west and north to south.

Farm news: How is Farm Bureau Services associated with Universal Cooperatives?

Don Armstrong: With Universal being a purchasing and manufacturing co-op, it supplies us with a number of our farm supply products. We own voting stock along with a considerable amount of patronage stock and have been represented on the board of directors as a member for several years.

Farm News: What benefits does Universal Co-Op affiliation give FBS and its patrons?

Don Armstrong: As a co-op representing a number of regional co-ops, it provides us with products and the capability of manufacturing many products that we couldn't do by ourselves. In other words, it supplies us with goods for our patrons and allows us to be in a position to manufacture many goods at the lowest possible cost and, of course, these cost savings are passed on to our patrons in the sale of the product.

Farm News: What role will you have as President of the Board of Universal Co-Ops?

Don Armstrong: My responsibilities will be to chair all board meetings, call any needed special board meetings, to preside over the annual meeting of the shareholders or any other meetings of the shareholders, also to call executive committee meetings of the board between our quarterly board meetings and certainly work closely with the executive vice president of Universal as his needs arise, and to represent Universal at functions, meetings, etc., during the year.

Farm News: Let's talk a little about co-ops, now. What advantages do farmer cooperatives have in serving the farmer as opposed to non-cooperative agri-business?

Don Armstrong: A cooperative works on cost basis certainly, in setting prices there are margins involved and profits. The profit margin over and above cost is then returned to our stockholder customers, so really, in essence, co-ops get the product to its members at cost.

Farm News: Let's talk just a little bit about some of the challenges that co-ops are facing in the 70's. Now, one of the biggest challenges I suppose they face is the current debate over the appropriateness of cooperative exemptions from federal anti-trust laws under the Capper-Volstead Act. What do you think lies ahead in this debate?

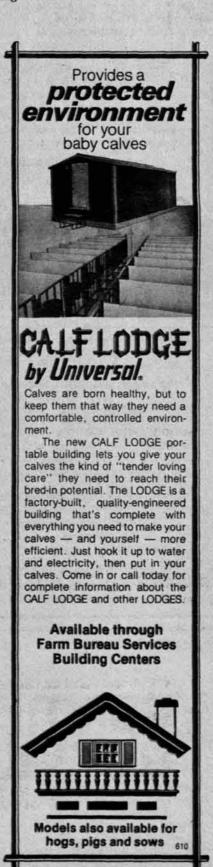
Don Armstrong: Certainly this act is just as you said — it allows the farmer to set up cooperatives to perform for him on his behalf and it is up for considerable debate this year. My own personal feelings are that it is very necessary that the farmer have the right to form his own organization so that they can perform for him and be in a position to bargain for him, bargaining for the price of fruits and vegetables or whatever it be — allow him to set up a marketing co-op to market his grain and beans, or provide farm supplies for him. This legislation allows him to do this and certainly is needed in the agricultural field today in order for him to be competitive.

Farm News: Do you think co-ops are going to survive the challenges that are being placed on them right now?

Don Armstrong: I am sure there is going to be considerable debate, but put a challenge up before a farmer or the people that represent him and as in the past, he'll come out and will be able to meet these challenges. Certainly, the importance of the American farmer has been no greater than it is at the present time. Certainly, the position that this country faces — with its import and export problems — if it was not for the producer and his cooperative working to keep the farmer in a profit position, and our ability to raise and market massive amounts of food and fiber, certainly, today we would be considerably behind in this area. They need him and certainly they are aware of this in Washington and I am sure will listen to his comments.

Farm News: I understand that the OPEN LINE meetings that Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum are sponsoring in February are going to have some discussion on Cooperative principles and Capper-Volstead Act.

Don Armstrong: That is correct. At our OPEN LINE meetings, we will be reporting some of the implications that are involved, also we will report other vital concerns to farmers such as possible labor over-time. We want to get the input from the members on the problems, that they have and questions they might have about their operations or any other matters. Reports will also be given on the supply picture for the current season and what we see long range for their operations, plus, the grain and bean marketing outlook. I invite farm leaders, co-op board members, in short all interested farmers to attend the meetings, not only to come and listen, but talk too.



Soybean check-off drive nears end

The petition drive seeking support for a ½ cent per bushel check-off for soybeans in Michigan is nearly complete. If, however, you are a soybean producer and have not had the opportunity to sign a petition and would like to do so, please contact your state soybean action committee member or the Market Development Division of Michigan Farm Bureau. Your support is important. To date, only a small percentage of soybean producers in the state have expressed their support.

Following the petition drive, presuming enough signatures are obtained, the Director of Agriculture will appoint a committee to draft a final version of a check-off referendum. Then a public hearing will be announced and held where producers can voice their support or opposition to the referendum proposed. It is then up to the Director of Agriculture to decide if enough support exists to warrant an election to vote on the proposal. If the decision is made to vote on the referendum

proposal, then ballots are mailed to all soybean producers with \$800,000 value or more in soybean production.

To pass, the referendum must receive the support of either 66-23 percent or more of those voting representing 51 percent of the volume of the commodity OR 51 percent or more of the state's volume

The maximum revenue which might be expected, using the 1975 Michigan Soybean Crop as an example and the ½ cent per bushel, would be \$70,000. This figure does not account for any refunds, non-payment or administrative costs. All of these factors would reduce the final amount available for research and promotion.

More information will be made available as the details of the referendum proposal are worked out. If you have any questions, however, please feel free to call or write the: Market Development Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, Michigan 48904, Phone: 517-485-8121. Ext. 222.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF MICHIGAN

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, February 25, 1976, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

- 1. To receive reports from officers and management.
- 2. To elect directors.
- 3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: W.S. WILKINSON Secretary February 1, 1976 Dean Pridgeon Vice President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

FARM BUREAU LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF MICHIGAN

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, on Tuesday February 24, 1976, beginning at 1:30 p.m., and for the following purposes:

- 1. To receive reports from officers and management.
- 2. To elect directors
- To consider such other matters as may properly come-before the meeting.

Attest: W.S. WILKINSON Secretary February 1, 1976 ELTON R. SMITH President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

COMMUNITY SERVICE INSURANCE COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Community Service Insurance Company of Michigan, a corporation, will be held at its Home Office, 7373 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, on Monday, February 23, 1976, beginning at 1:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

- 1. To receive reports from officers and management.
- 2. To elect directors.
- 3. To consider such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Attest: W.S. WILKINSON Secretary February 1, 1976 Dean Pridgeon Vice President

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report from any County Farm Bureau Office or from the Home Office at Lansing.

"Open Line" this month

Agricultural production, marketing and farm supply problems for 1976 will come under scrutiny from the state's foremost agricultural leaders in a series of three February meetings throughout Michigan

meetings throughout Michigan.
The all-day "Open Line"
sessions are sponsored by Farm
Bureau Services, Inc. and
Farmers Petroleum Cooperative,
Inc. They are scheduled for
Frankenmuth, Cadillac and
Battle Creek

The series features far-

reaching discussion of agricultural demands and farmer needs. Scheduled topics include information on the 1976 agricultural marketing outlook, with particular emphasis on grain and bean marketing. Farmers' views on pending legislation for overtime and workmen's compensation will also be aired.

The series opens February 13 at Zehnder's Restaurant in Frankenmuth, followed by a February 17 session at McGuire's Restaurant in Cadillac and a February 19 session at the Countryside Inn in Battle Creek. All meetings start at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m.; a complimentary luncheon will be served in all cases.

Farmers desiring to participate may make reservations through local cooperative officials, Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum branches, or through Lansing offices of either cooperative.

Lets keep good records

This is probably the time of the year when more farm families bemoan the fact that, "if only they had kept better records", then the job of getting the information together for the tax returns and for various other reports would be so much easier. So if you did make a New Year's resolution and make next year's job of tax reporting and year-end work much easier.

Actually what kind of records should you keep? Certainly the need for records differs as our farms differ. In some cases it may be that all you feel you need is an income tax report. Even here a good set of records will make tax reporting much easier and it will help you on many other financial matters. Whatever system you use, it should help you keep track of all of your orindary income items such as grain sold, raised livestock sold, government payments, etc. (all 100 percent taxable); ordinary expense items - feed, fuel, fertilizers, seed, and so forth - (all 100 percent tax deductible). If you are buying livestock and feeding them - you need to keep

records on the number of head you bought and number of head you sold, plus cost records and receipts. Another important aspect is to make sure your breeding stock is reported to take advantage of capital gains tax. Other very important items for tax reporting are an adequate depreciation schedule and an investment credit report

investment credit report.

So much for taxes. What about your records for credit? Are the records good enough to give you the kind of credit that you need to keep your operation going and to make it a better one? What kind of records can you show your lender? Can you show a progress on a year by year basis as far as profit and loss are concerned? Or yearly net worth statements? What is your total debt in relation to total assets? These are only a few of the items that are very important to a lender if you need to go in and get extra cash for operating expenses or to buy equipment, machinery, etc.

And most important of all what kind of a job are your records doing for you when it comes to helping to make

management decisions? What kind of a job are you really doing as a farm manager? What are your costs of production, feed costs per pound of gain, costs of raising corn, soybeans - per bushel and per acre?

Recent reports indicate the costs of producing corn can range from \$2 to better than \$2.75 per bushel (depending on land costs). It's well and good to refer to these figures as average costs. But that isn't going to help YOU on YOUR operation to determine how much money you're making or losing. You need to know YOUR costs of production and your chance for profit.

So let's implement that new year's resolution. Let's do a better job of keeping records this year and the time to start is now!

National Notes

(Cont. from page 5)

federal revenues. Farm Bureau believes there is enough excess in the \$365 billion federal budget to trim spending to offset the small loss of revenue that might be realized through federal estate tax reform.

Another question being raised is whether reform would benefit the wealthy benefactor and work against the family farm. Farm Bureau does not believe this would happen. If the benefactor is wealthy, federal estate taxes are not a problem at the outset. However, federal estate taxes are a serious threat to the family farm; and if Congress is concerned about preserving the family farm, the enactment of federal estate tax reform would be a very positive step forward. Federal estate tax reform is a

Federal estate tax reform is a priority legislative goal of your Farm Bureau organization for 1976. Farmers will not be the only segment of society to benefit from such reform. The businessman in every community – fuel supplier, implement dealer, drug store owner, grocery store operator — would also benefit from H.R. 1793. He, just like farmers, does not always leave behind cash reserves readily available for payment of estate taxes.

If you were to die tonight, would your spouse be able to obtain adequate cash within 9 months to pay the federal estate tax on your farm or would liquidation of assets and-or real estate be required to obtain the cash? Each Farm Bureau member should answer this question. Your Congressman should be made aware of the

Auto insurance

Why going up?

Just about every insurance company in the nation — including Farm Bureau Insurance Group —was forced to raise auto insurance rates in 1975.

And because more increases can be expected in 1976, policyholders are beginning to demand answers. Their question: Why are rates going up?

Two of the primary causes of the rate increase are the rising number of claims and the skyrocketing costs of automobile parts and repair costs.

"The cost of auto repairs is going up and up," says Bernie Franklin, Material Damage Specialist for FBIG. "Prices of auto parts are climbing so fast that it's hard to keep up with them. We have no guarantee that next month's part prices will be the same as this month's."

Among the parts most commonly damaged in a collision are bumpers, grills and fenders. From 1971 to mid-1975, the price of these parts jumped more than 60 percent. For example, in 1975 it cost \$1,409 to repair a Ford Mustang after a front end collision, compared to \$847 for similar repairs in 1970.

To more dramatically illustrate the rising costs of parts, consider this: A 1975 Automobile, which cost \$5,500 new from a

dealer, would cost \$23,500 if the parts were purchased individually and then assembled, according to the National Association of Independent Insurers.

In the past year alone, crash parts prices went up 22.5 percent and hospital costs, another service that auto insurance must pay for, went up 17 percent.

Even though the 55-mile speed limit and the so-called energy shortage reduced accidents temporarily, accidents again are on the increase and the added claims are also putting the squeeze on insurance companies.

Throughout the auto insurance industry, underwriting losses totalled nearly \$635 million in 1974, but things got even worse in 1975 when losses more than tripled to an estimated \$2.3 billion.

Because insurance companies can't reduce the price of auto parts, labor or hospital rooms, they must compensate for these losses by increasing premiums.

Farm Bureau Insurance, which insures more than 160,000 vehicles, is experiencing the same pressures as the rest of the insurance industry but despite this, FBIG's rates are remaining competitive with other companies.

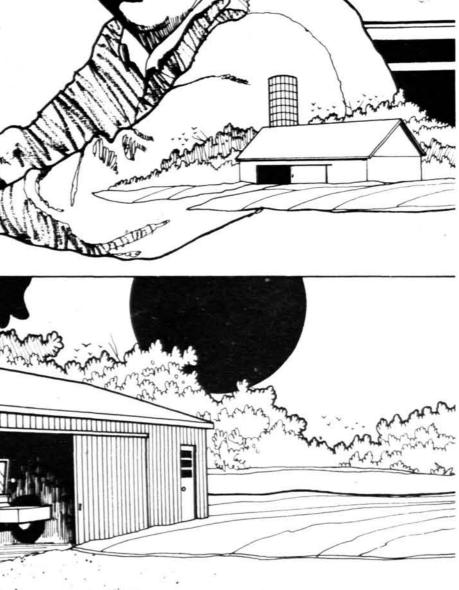


Farm Bureau Services, with building centers throughout this state, can make your new building a reality. With the help of our staff agricultural engineer, we'll assist you with initial planning and design, and pledge quality workmanship. Our completely-trained crews can erect attractive, finished structures, 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 people, 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



Farmii Bureau

Michigan Marketing Outlook

The cattle slaughter is beginning to show modest declines after reaching a high of 165,000 head on a daily basis during November and December. Federally inspected slaughter has now dropped below 145,000 head level. We could easily see further decline in the next thirty days as the non-fed slaughter dries up.

Whether this decline in slaughter will mean an increase in prices, will depend at least a little on how large of an increase in broilers going to market that we experience in the next few

With the increase in income and the shortage of pork products, it would be quite possible to see the beef markets recover some of their recent losses and push back up toward the \$50-ewt that we experienced earlier.

The cow slaughter for the last twelve-month period has surprised even the most optimistic forecaster. We will see the first decline in total beef cattle numbers this January that we have seen since 1958. Our overseas friends unfortunately are quite in the same shape. Australian cattle prices slumped sharply at country auctions in late November, and there is more decrease in price on the way. Their excess beef is partly attributed to an early curtailment of shipments to the United States, which halted imports in excess of the voluntary restraint level on November 17.

I don't believe that you should expect as good a year in 1976 for cattle feeders as the last few months have indicated, but you should be able to return a fair bonus over feed costs for selling your corn through cattle this

Tom Reed, Marketing Specialist Market Development Division

U.S.D.A. statistics indicate that milk production during December 1975 totaled 9,275 million pounds, up 2.0 percent from a year earlier. The in-creased production is due to the strong milk prices and large feed supplies which have resulted in a more favorable milk-feed price

Numbers of milk cows continue to decline but higher production per cow has resulted in increased milk production.

Dairy marketing experts are looking for an easing of milk prices in the first half of 1976.

Bernie Bishop, Marketing Specialist Market Development Division

HAY

Hay supply in Michigan appears to be more than adequate to fill the demand. This situation indicates that hay prices may be down considerably by spring. Hay quality ranges from very good to poor with all types of hay available.

The potential for moving hay out of Michigan is unknown at this time.

Bernie Bishop, Marketing Specialist Market Development Division

Wholesale egg prices turned down during December and the first week of January with a slight strengthening trend around

the middle of January.

Consumer demand holds the key to profitability in the egg business in 1976. According to the Poultry Tribune, there is little reason to expect stronger demand in the year ahead. As you know, the referendum on the check-off passed. The check-off will provide a systematic way of obtaining funds for egg research, consumer education, and promotion. This could provide the means to stimulate consumer demand which would be reflected in egg prices and produces profits.

The U.S.D.A. Poultry Market News indicates that the broiler market remains steady with movement into major consuming centers heavy. Live supplies appear to be in fairly good balance.

Bernie Bishop, Marketing Market Development Division

APPLES

There is a definite firming tone in nearly all segments of the apple industry. Recent USDA purchases of applesauce for instance, appears to have had a favorable impact on the sauce market. Several Michigan firms received a good portion of one such purchase recently. However, there has been no reflection of this firming trend as far as price is concerned.

Fresh market movement also appears to be holding steady at present time. Storage holdings are comparable and in some instances, slightly below last year.

The Juice market has shown definite improvement in recent weeks. Three processors have increased the price paid for juice apples to 2.25 per hundredweight delivered. The FOB farm price is now in the neighborhood of \$2.10 to \$2.15 per hundred weight.

Look for further price im-provements if demand holds as supplies are likely to be shorter than originally expected in coming months.

CHERRIES *

The demand for frozen cherries appears to be quite good at the present time. Buying activity has increased recently, probably as a result of upcoming promotion efforts and special events. Grade A sales are now reported at 25-1/2c f.o.b. Michigan. With excellent movement thus far, of the 1975 crop, which is expected to consupplies could become tight within the next few months.

special note to cherry growers -- to remind you that the Federal Market Order for Red Tart cherries will be up for a referendum vote on March 1-10, 1976. This vote is very important as it will decide whether or not the order will be continued.

POTATOES

There is both good news and bad news in the potato industry as 1976 gets underway. On the negative side of the ledger is a problem of processor utilization. Growers in the major producing areas of the U.S., including Michigan, harvested an average of 5 percent fewer potatoes last year. On the other hand, processors in those same areas have utilized 19 percent fewer potatoes thus far from the 1975

The good news stems from shortages of potatoes in Canada plus Eastern and Western Europe. Poor weather at planting and reduced acreages have been blamed for the short falls.

No matter what the cause, however, Maine potato futures and cash prices have firmed and moved upward to reflect these changes in foreign markets. While this may not have an immediate effect on Michigan and may likely have little or no impact on Western states, it should eventually spread into the Midwest potato states. These events should spur domestic disappearance and add solidarity and some optimism to potato markets in the months ahead.

Supply



By Greg Sheffield

FERTILIZER - There appears to be adequate fertilizer for all of our Farm Bureau patrons. Hurry'Up Starter Fertilizer for the spring planting of corn, beans and sugar beets will be available. Farmers will also have a good choice of Farm Bureau high analysis fertilizers. Adequate supplies of anhydrous ammonia are expected too.

Although some fertilizer companies have published increases in fertilizer prices, Farm Bureau has been holding the line. However, there is bound to be a shortage of transportation for the fertilizer going to dealers due to the expected spring rush. This peak demand period can affect delivery to farmers again this year as it has in the past. Railroads have issued a warning to order as early as possible. Their hope is to keep supplies flowing as evenly as possible from the points of production to the points of final delivery. Farmers who have storage should make arrangements for delivery now. Much fertilizer still remains to be moved as movement has been slow thus

PESTICIDES - Excellent supplies of a wide variety of pesticides have been moved to Farm Bureau dealers and these shipments will continue. Planning now and reserving a supply at competitive prices while there's no shortage of selections, will pay off later.

SEEDS - There will be plenty of corn, oats and alfalfa seed. Farm Bureau has a new alfalfa seed called Weevil Chek alfalfa. This new variety has a resistance to weevils which makes it the seed of choice where weevils are a problem and this means most everywhere alfalfa is grown in Michigan. Other forages and grass seeds are also in excellent supply and at very fair prices.

FARM HARDWARE - Dealers

have plenty of very high quality twine at reasonable prices. It may be a good time to buy with an eye to the future.

Farmers are encouraged to inform dealers of their needs for fencing. Dealers need to order now to avoid harmful delays during the spring buying and fencing season. Your previously ordered electric and farm fence should be ready to be picked up if you have not done so, and some inventories are presently available at many dealer locations.

A new approach for raising calves, sows, hogs and pigs has been successful. It's called the Complete Confinement Program and uses lodging buildings that are portable and ready to operate in 24 hours or less. Ask your Farm Bureau dealer about this money saving, labor saving idea.

FEEDS - Farm Bureau feed sales have continued to maintain large volume and moved at a fast clip at all levels of distribution. There has been much interest shown in the excellent quality and advantages of superior feeding Bureau's programs. Many patrons signed up at the Product Show in Grand Rapids for the programs proposed for them. They'll receive service through their

Report

dealers Feed prices are expected to remain about the same during the nearby months. Price advantages will, of course, be passed on to patrons as they occur. A series of about 16 meetings for dairy and swine producers will be held by Farm Bureau and it's dealers to emphasis profitable programs and feed contracting.

LIQUID FUELS - Supplies of gasoline, diesel fuels and heating oils have remained stable. In spite of the bad weather there been more than enough middle distillates for all at steady to slightly lower prices.

SNOW TIRES - There are still

snow tires around for those who need them, considering winter weather is not over yet. Good buys prevail at Farmers Petroleum dealers

FARM TRACTOR TIRES Large tractor size and new mold continue in short throughout the tire making industry. See your Farmers Petroleum dealer who will go to bat for you to fulfill your needs.
ANTI-FREEZE - Some anti-

freeze supplies remain for your use during the balance of the freezing weather.

DRYNAMIC BATTERIES -The entire Farmers Petroleum battery line is being changed over to the Drynamic battery because of its better shelf life, it's easier to activate by the dealer and there are fewer problems

Ag exports continue as major trade factor

U.S. agricultural exports to foreign countries should top \$22 million during the current cropping year, says a Michigan State University agricultural economist.

Dr. Vernon L. Sorenson reports shipments will exceed 100 million metric tons. "This will include almost 60 percent of our wheat crop, about a quarter of the corn crop, half the soybeans, some 40 percent of the cotton crop and a substantial quantity of commodities," he says.

The percentage of soybeans and grains exported will be about the same as in previous years but corn and wheat exports will be at record levels. Total grain exports

are expected to be about 77 million tons, up 14.6 million tons from a year ago.

"It appears that about 33.7 million tons of what will be exported compared to 28 million tons last year. Feed grain exports will probably reach 35.9 million tons, compared to 28.2 million tons shipped during the same period," Sorenson says.

But he cautions these figures may be influenced by un-certainities, such as the Russian buying patterns. Exports to date include recent sales of 2 million tons of wheat and 4.5 million tons of barley to the Soviets.

Sorenson says that the agreement with the Russians to purchase a minimum of 6 million

the 12 month periods for the next five years has already had some positive effect on the current market year.

'It has resulted in a release of supplies for shipment both to the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, where embargoes had been effect during September and October," he says.

Coinciding with expected in-creased U.S. exports is an improvement in the world food outlook. World wheat and coarse grain production will be about 951.4 million tons - 3.3 percent greater than last year's level. "Production is generally above last year's yield in the developing countries and China," he adds.

Land rental agreements

Deciding how much to pay or what percentage of the crop to share in a land rental agreement needs careful consideration.

"Contracts and rental rates vary by area and crop, and depend on the amount of land for rent, potential number of renters. soil type and historical rental arrangements," says Dr. Gerald D. Schwab, Michigan State University agricultural economist.

Leasing land can be viewed as a method to control land with relatively limited financial requirements. But the tenant may lack security of land control, may not be able to reap all the rewards due his managerial ability and is not able to benefit from an increase in land values,

Schwab points out.

The majority of land rentals appear to be on a cash basis, which, according to a statewide survey by Schwab, ranged last year from below \$10 per acre to \$110 per acre for tiled land. Untiled lands ranged from \$1 to

\$75 per acre.

The following are the average cash prices paid for tiled lands: native grass pasture, \$19.68; renovated pasture, \$25.06; corn, \$31.80) soybeans, \$39.09; field beans, \$35.70; alfalfa, \$30.28; grass hay, \$19.53; sugar beets, \$60; potatoes, \$49.

Average cash prices paid for untiled land were: native grass pasture, \$9.12; renovated pasture, \$18.17; corn, \$19.82; soybeans, \$21.37; field beans, \$18.74; alfalfa, \$19.40; grass hay, \$14.57; sugar beets, \$21.50; potatoes, \$28.13.

Another rental method is to split the crop yeild with the landlord, generally on a 50-50

Pres. Ford

(Cont. from page 1)

welcome, for instance, the letter from your Federation in support of my legislation to modify regulations that prohibit prohibit backhaul by farm trucks.

"The continuity of our family farms is vital," Mr. Ford said. "Therefore, I want you to be the first to know that when the Congress reconvenes, I will propose changes in our tax laws to revise family estate taxes. I want this done so that farms can be handed down from generation to generation without the forced liquidation of family enterprises.

'Too much labor and love go into the development of a paying farm to dismantle it with every new generation.

"I share your pride in the new strength of agriculture," the President said. "You have made America the source of lifesustaining food production in a world that is increasingly short of

"And during this Bicentennial year, we will ship approximately one billion dollars worth of commodities under the Food for Peace Program.

"At home, you are supplying the American people with food at a far smaller share of their income than anywhere else in the world. You are not making an undue profit at the consumer's expense

'Let us never forget that farmers must profit, if America is to profit.'

On a 50-50 share basis, the crop is equally divided with the lan-dlord. The tenant furnishes labor, power and machinery. The cost of seed, fertilizer, weed and in-sect control is split equally.

Harvesting and hauling costs may be halved, or often the

the hauling and sometimes all of the harvesting costs.

Under the one-third, two-thirds sharing arrangement, 67 percent of the crop is received by the tenant, who furnishes all the labor, power, machinery, weed and insect control, harvesting

and hauling.

The fertilizer expense is often shared in the same proportion as the crop yield. The seed cost may be shared in this proportion, but usually the tenant furnishes all the seed.

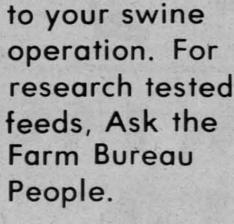
There is no one correct share proportion to recommend. But

the basic principle is that income ought to be divided in the same proportion as the expense of production is shared, Schwab

Details of Schwab's survey appear in Extension Bulletin Eavailable from the local county Extension office.

Pocket heavier hog profits

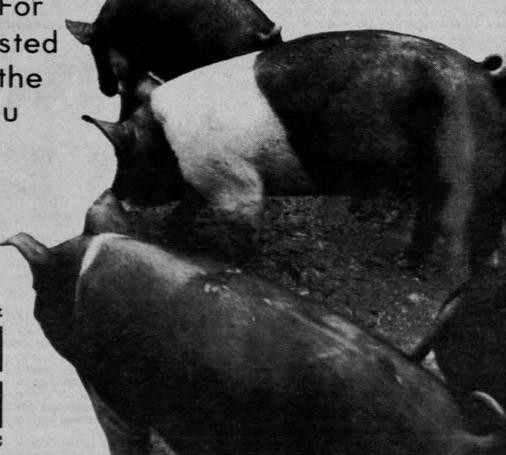
There are more dollars in hog earnings for you with Pork Grower Supplement and the other money-maker Farm Bureau swine feeds. Talk to your Farm Bureau dealer. He has effective feeding programs tailored



Where Your Farm Comes First

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC





BICENTENNIAL

Two hundred years ago a small band of freedom-loving farmers ignited the spark that led to the Declaration of Independence — the greatest charter of freedom ever conveyed by man and the basis for a representative form of government and a way of life destined to become the envy of mankind throughout the world.

In cities, towns and hamlets throughout our nation, Americans are set to celebrate the 200th birthday of the United States of American with a variety of programs. But as we contemplate the Bicentennial of that momentous event, it is fitting and necessary that we pause to take inventory of our achievements as a free people, to determine where we have strayed from the concepts of our founding fathers and to reset our course for the decades ahead.

As Americans, we can be proud of our record. We have achieved the highest standard of living for the average citizen to be found anywhere on earth. We have more personal freedom than any other people. We have been generous in sharing our achievements with others throughout the world

throughout the world.

But what has happened to the man who braved uncertainity, went out on his own, and, through native wit, devotion and duty, and singleness of purpose, somehow created business and industrial activity where none

Where is the heroic figure of American folklore who was akin, perhaps, to Davy Crockett and other truly stalwart independents who hewed forests, climbed over the tops of mountains, built new communities, rose from nothing to

mountains, built new communities, rose from nothing to something, and did all the things American heroes had to do to build a great nation?

He was the enterprising man. Like him or not, he is still fascinating to Americans. The reasons are not hard to find. For one thing, American's social structure is a product of the milling efforts of thousands who came to these shores seeking their fortunes and hoping Lady Luck would have an them. These week when the milled would beam on them. Those upon whom she smiled became great figures of power and in many cases established family dynasties persisting through many generations.

But there is considerably more than this behind the allure of those who built this nation. Their values and antire of those who built this nation. Their values and activities have become a part of the character of America and intimately related to our ideas of personal freedom, success, and, above all, individualism. They represented the range to riches theme in its purest sense, for they rose on their own by building a solid structure beneath them, not by social climbing. They got there by what they knew, not who they knew. Their resources were all inside, not success.

The story of these men and women is a drama in which they challenged the established order and forges ahead toward the glowing light called "success" using only native wit, ability, and hard work — with perhaps a bit of luck and fate thrown in for good measure. They were successful because they stuck to the simple and obvious American virtues. They built a better mousetrap or provided a better service and they did these things in the best way they knew.

Today there is a connotation of manipulation, greed and desire, and grasping passive opposition associated with

desire, and grasping passive opposition associated with doing business for a profit. We are taught that while it is true the enterprising hero built railroads, canals, com-munities, industries, and great systems of trade, there is also the implication that in the process he befouled nature, sullied valleys, denuded forests, muddied and contaminated the rivers and streams, scarred Mother Earth, and generally ravished the natural order of things. We are told Nature and God's creatures, including ordinary folk, all suffered at the hands of those who sought to impose their will on the natural order.

No one speaks on behalf of the enterprising man. No one says he was more constructive than destructive. No one tells us it is more important to seek opportunity than to languish in security. No one reminds us that each performance of the enterprising man-each new business -- is a renewal of the democratic notion that all men are born equal and that the value of the individual to society does not depend upon family or social class. No longer are we told that America is the only place on earth where a man, through his own efforts, can go out and achieve the status

of success.

The deeper tradition of our society, its history, myths and many of its heroic figures are falling into oblivion, buried beneath a superabundance of politics that seek to control, rule, regulate and restrict.

The symbolism expressed in the American image of the enterprising man is a profound reflection on our national history and character. We are a people who for nearly twelve generations went through the recurrent process of imposing man's will and men-conceived structures on a wilderness of primeval forests, rugged mountains, mighty

A time to reset our course

or We hold these truths to be facred and undeniable; that all men are created equal and independent, that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent and inalienable, among which are the prefervation of life, and liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thomas Tefferson



DISCUSSION

by KEN WILES

Manager Member Relations

rivers, unending plains, and waterless deserts. Though this resurgent effort at the moving edge of the frontier has long since ended, the spirit and the imagery must live on if free enterprise is to survive

free enterprise is to survive.

The voting delegates at the American Farm Bureau Federation 1976 annual meeting said, in part:

"We affirm our belief in, and support of, a private competitive economic system, based on individual initiative, the private ownership of land and other resources, and the operation of a profit motive in the marketplace. We call for a reversal of the trend toward government ownership and operation of productive activities and services that can best be owned and operated by private enterprise.

by private enterprise.

"We affirm our belief in a form of government in which as much power and responsibility as possible are placed in local and state governments. We have concentrated far too much power in the hands of the national government. This concentration of power has led to corruption and

abuse, to inefficiency, and to a widespread loss of confidence in our representative form of government.

'Our freedoms are threatened not only by excesses of government but by concentrations of power in the private sector. Monopoly power must be reduced, whether in the hands of business, labor, agriculture, or government.

'We reemphasize our belief that the purpose of government is to serve the needs of free citizens, not to be our

This year, which marks the peak of our Bicentennial celebration, also brings many local and state elections, and, of course, heralds a presidential campaign and election. So it is particularly appropriate time to pause and take stock of the records of our nation and our

In this respect, 1976 will be especially significant year for concerned Americans – and that should be all of us. Each citizen must make his or her own judgement on these things, and then act accordingly.

mfrn farmers of the week

QUALITY FARMING OPERATIONS . AGRICULTURAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Leo Niemela 400 acre Houghton County dairy farm + bottles own milk under Northern Farm Dairy brand + One of largest operations in the County.

Richard Shearer 224 acre Cass County dairy farm + Trustee on LaGrange Township Board + Member of MMPA + Past member of Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

MICHIGAN FARM RADIO NETWORK AND FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP TM



Elton R. Smith 350 head Kent County dairy operation + President of Michigan Farm Bureau + past pres. of Mich. Guernsey Breeders + Michigan "Dairyman of Year" in 1963.

Jack Tirrell 440 acre dairy and cash crop farm in Eaton County + Sits on Township Board of Review + County 4-H fair board + past school board member past Farm Bureau board member.

Harry Herbruck on FBS board

Ionia County poultry farmer Harry Herbruck was recently elected to the Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Board of Directors during the Cooperative's annual meeting in Grand Rapids.

Herbruck operates a 210,000 -bird fully automated caged layer poultry farm near saranac. Besides his new position on the 13-member Farm Bureau Ser-vices Board, Herbruck also serves on the Farm Bureau Poultry Advisory Committee Herbruck operates a 210,000 -Poultry Advisory Committee, and he is President of Michigan Allied Poultry Industries.

Farm Bureau Services is a farmer - owned supply and marketing cooperative, based in Lansing. The cooperative is affiliated with Michigan Farm Bureau, which is owned and Bureau, which is owned and directed by over 60,000 Michigan

Neil Harris joins FPC board

Neil Harris, a cash crop farmer from Saginaw County, was recently elected to the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors. Harris won election to the seven-member Board during the Cooperative's annual meeting in Grand Rapids.

Harris is currently President of the Chesaning Farmers Co-op, Inc. Board of Directors. He is a member of his Township Board of Review, and a past member of his district's school board.

Discussion Topic Report Sheet

The Discussion Topic and Report Sheet for the discussion topic on the opposite page is furnished for use of community group members who may wish to review it prior to their group meetings. If used by a Community Group, in lieu of report sheet furnished the Discussion Leader, please forward answers with minutes to Information & Public Relations Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904 on or before March 1,1976.

Community Farm Bureau
County
Indicate the number of people taking part in this discussion. TOPIC: HERITAGE OF 76
What type of Bicentennial activities are scheduled for your local area?
How many members of your community group are involved in planning the above activities?
Is your community group planning to participate as a group in any of the local Bicentennial activities? Yes No
4. If the answer to the above question is yes, please list the type of activity i.e. float, exhibit, etc.
5. Conclusion:

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: One free 25 word ad per month per membership, additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word NON-MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 13th of Month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm News, P. O. Box 960, Lansing, Mi. 48904 Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

FARM EQUIPMENT

FARM EQUIPMENT

LIVESTOCK

MISCELLANEOUS

MISCELLANEOUS

HARLEY ROCK PICKERS. Rock Windrowers. Picks 1 to 16" dia. The World's Best. Phone 313-376-4791. Earl F. Reinelt, 4465 Reinelt, Deckerville, Mich. 48427. (5-11)

SPRAY-TEC insulation for metal, wood and block buildings. UL Lab. as Class A building material. Gerald Oakley, 1420 M-52 North, Stockbridge, Mich. 49285. Phone 517-851 8042. (5-121-25p)

FOR SALE - "Flying L" horse & stock trailers, gooseneck & flatheds in stock, 1½ mi. west of Palo. Thomas Read, Fenwick, Mich. 48934. Phone 517-637-4772. (10-ff-25p)

GRAIN DRYING AND STORAGE EQUIPMENT. Farm Fans Dryers, Brock Bins, Bucket Elevators, Sales, Installation, Service. Keith Otto. K. & R. Equipment, Inc., Charlotte 48813, 517-543-1350. (10-tf-25p)

FOR SALE: 200 gallon Dari Kool Stainless Steel Bulk Tank. Phone 517-627-6402. (12-31-

ANTED TO BUY: Cow binders, Grain inders, Silo fillers, Drive belts, Shredders, Did Engines, Ford Tractors & Tools. Dave Iteiner, 11834 Stuart. Grand Blanc, Mich. (11-6t-25p)

TANKS: 2 Large Tanks 10,500 - located in Three Rivers, Ideal for Ilquid fertilizers. Phone Muskegon 616-780-3534, \$1,500.00 each. (2-11-18p)

SILO, Vestaberg, 22x60, good condition, sell or trade for beef cows or pigs or tractor. Also, corn and oats for sale. Phone Charlevoix 616-547-6074.

SURVIVE THE ENERGY CRUNCH Burn wood, famous Ashley Thermostic wood burning circulators available now. Krader Enterprises, Rt. No. 1, Grand Junction, Mich. 49056. Phone 616-253-4332.

(2-41-24p)

FOR SALE: Maple Syrup 4x 12 Evaporator, pails, covers, spiles, storage and gathering tanks and wagon. Phone 616-793-4716, Hopkins, Mich.

(2-11-17p)

FOR SALE: Like new Allis Chalmers G Tractor with cultivator, wiggle hoe and snow plow. Also a field sprayer. Phone Hubbard Lake 517-727-2398.

HAVE: Deere 243 Cornhead and 30" rowcrop.
WILL TRADE for 244 and 38" rowcrop.
FOR SALE: Fox Chopper 1F546, Pickup,
2RW Corn and Snapper heads. 20" fires.
AOK. Single Speed truck rearend. 1961
Dodge 318 1-½ fon truck, new fires, midwest
14' cattle-grain with Daybrook hoist. AOK.
Two speed. Brewer Farms - 1E, 1-½ South,
Clare, R No. 3, 48617. Phone 517-386-2773.
(2-11-600)

FOR SALE: Reo & GMC Army Trucks 6x6 2-1/2 ton low mileage, reasonable, front mounted winch. Phone 517-743-3847, Corunna, Mich. (2-11-17p)

FOR SALE: Sheep drenching bag, \$25.00. Phone 313-428-7528, Manchester, Mich. (2-11-10p)

CHAROLAIS - For sale polled or horned buils and bred cows, performance tested. R.J. Eldridge & Sons, 7911 Alden Nash Rd., (M-50) Alto, Mich. (616) 868-3081. (3-ff-25p)

FOR SALE - YORKSHIRE serviceage boars and open gilfs top bloodlines tested at MSU test station. All registered stock. Richard Cook, ½ mile east Mulliken, M-43. Phone 31 649-8988. (3-tf-24p)

QUARTER HORSES - Disposition for 4-H, ability for cattle, conformation for show. Reasonable prices. Customer satisfaction a priority. Visitors welcome. Walton Farms, Rosebush. Phone 517-433-2925. (3-H-24p)

MILKING SHORTHORNS - Young bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write or visit Stanley M. Powell and Family, Ingleside Farm, R.R. 2, Box 238, Ionia, Mich. 48846.

REGISTERED HOLSTEIN BULLS - 14 to 10 months old from Dams to 23,000 pounds of milk, sired by Maple, Magneth, Topper, Also 10 grade heifers due in March and Aprill. George Robb, phone Fowlerville 517-223-

(2-11-25p6b)

AUSTRALIAN SHEPARDS, Registered tricolors and blue meries. Gentle yet protective – an extra farmhand that works for dogfood! 975. Phone 616-891-1375. Shagbark Farm, Caledonia.

REGISTERED Corriedale Sheep for sale. Rams, Ram lambs, eves, good bloodlines. Also Hampshire Rams. Leo Eccles, Mendon 49072. Phone 616-496-7650. (717-21p)

CORRIEDALE SHEEP - Purebred Breeding stock for sale. Paper optional. Waldo F. Dieterle, 7285 Textile Rd., Saline, Mich. 48176. Phone (313) 429-7874. (1-1f-19p)

WATCH REPAIR - Any make cleaned, repaired, internal parts, crystals, crowns included. 3 day shop service, wrist watches \$8.00, pocket \$18.00. No electrics. Elgin trained craftman. Mail order repair since 1952. Free mailer. Hub's Service, 3855 Hopps Rd., Elgin III. 60120. (1-61-39p)

KNOW A LITTLE about farming? Help get agriculture moving overseas. Expenses paid. Ages 20-60, single, married, no children. Write: Peace Corps Farmer, Room 322-F. N. Wacker Dr., Chicago, III. 60606. (11-41-31b)

PAINTING, Tuck pointing, sand blasting, caulking, registered steeple-jack, fully insured. E.R. Wilcox, 3424 E. Beaver Rd., Bay City, Phone 517-684-7640. (6-ff-20p)

WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE STANDING TIMBER, interested parties may contact Buskirk Lumber Company (toll free) 1-800-632-9756. (1-31-16b)

LET US SHOW YOU how Surfactants increase spraying effectiveness of Herbicide, Insecticides, Fungicide on any crop or Raw Agricultural Commodity. Free Brochure-Demo. & P. E. D., Aft: G. Beaumont, Box 781, East Lansing, Mich. 48823.

LOTS OF GOOD QUALITY first cutting timothy hay available in Chippewa County. Contact person: Wendell Douglas, Rudyard, 49780; phone 478-4121. Chairman, Chippewa County Commodity Committee.

CACTUS Plant 5 different for \$2.00 postpaid. Thomas Seeds, A-222, Winthrop, Maine 04364.

FOR SALE: Larker Barley Seed retail and wholesale. Donald Keinath, 123 Akron Rd., Caro, Michigan 48723. Phone 517-673-4211. (2-11-18p)

.00 Dwarf Apple Trees, MacIntosh, Cor. and, Delicious. Thomas Seeds. A-222, inthrop, Maine 04364.

COW TRIMMING makes your cows feel better, produce better and makes you more money. Call Bob Presson, RFD 3, Evart, MI 47631. Phone (616) 734-5051. (10ff-14p)

STRAWBERRY PLANTS -- Michigan Certified Virus-Free Stock. Hardy northern grown plants: Guardian, Midway, earlidawn, Earliglow, Duntap, Robinson, Jerseybelle, 35 other varieties including new Fort Laramie Everbearing Strawberry. Write for free catalog and prices. Our 139th year. Dean Foster Nurseries. Box FB-30, Hartford, Mich. 49057. (616) 621-4397. (2-31-45b)

BLUEBERRY PLANTS -- Hardy northern grown plants: Bluetta, Earliblue, Blueray, Bluecrop, Berkeley, 18 other Blueberry varieties. Write for free catalog and prices. Our 139th year. Dean Foster Nurseries. Box FB-30, Hartford, Mich. 49057. (616) 621-4397. (2-31-33b)

DWARF FRUIT TREES -- Apples, Peaches, Plums, Pears, Nectarines, Apricots, Sweet Cherries, Montmorency Cherry. Also standard size Fruit Irees. Write for free catalog and prices. Our 139th year. Dean Foster Nurseries, Box FB-30, Hartford, Mich. 49057 (616) 621-4397.

VIRUS-FREE RASPBERRY PLANTS -Red, Black, Yellow and Purple varieties.
Write for free catalog and prices. Our 139th
year. Dea n Foster Nurseries, Box FB-30,
Hartford, Mich. 49057 (616) 621-4397.
(2-31-28b)

BERRY PLANTS - Thornfree Blackberries, Thornless Boysenberries, Youngberries, Dewberries, Gooseberries, Loganberries, Elderberries, Write for free catalog and prices, Our 139th year. Dean Foster Nur-series, Box FB-30, Hartford, Mich. 49057 (616) 621-4397.

CERTIFIED GRAPE VINES -- Niagara, Concord, Delaware, Golden Musket, 16 other varieties. Ideal for Jams, Jellies, Juice, wine making. Write for free catalog and prices. Our 139th year. Dean Foster Nurseries, Box FB-30, Hartford, Mich. 49057. (616) 621-4397. (2-31-36b)

MOTOROLA COMMUNICATIONS wants to solve the farmer's communications problems. Write Rick Jekel, 13700 N. Saginaw Rd., Birch Run, Mich. 48415, or call 313-732-7760.

FOR SALE: ATTENTION COLLECTORS: Genuine Jimmy Allen Flying Club 2-blade Jack-knife. Routson Cutlery "shuredge" No. 622100. Excellent condition. \$25,00 postpaid. Don Gridley, Box 56, Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197. (2-11-25p)

EVERGREEN & HARDWOOD TREE SEEDLINGS -- Black Walnut, Tulip PERBAGEEN & HARDWOOD TREE SEEDLINGS — Black Walnut, Tulip Popular, Colorado Blue Spruce, White Pine, Douglas Fir, Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce, Globe Arborvitae, Spreading Yew, many others. Write for free catalog and prices. Our 139th year. Dean Foster Nurseries, Box FB-30, Hartford, Mich. 49057. (616) 621-4397.

ASPARAGUS ROOTS -- Mary Washington, California 500, Paradise, California 711, Waitham Washington, California 72, Jersey Hybrid varieties. 1-yr. seedlings; 2-yr. roots; 3-yr. jumbo crowns. Write for free catalog and prices. Our 139th year. Dean Foster Nurseries, Box FB-30, Hartford, Mich. 49057. (616) 621-4397.

FORESTRY SERVICES - Appraisals, plans, consultations. investigations relating to timber, shade and Christmas tree problems. Fire and theft losses, marketing. George Blair, Reg. Forester No. 3, 720 S. Durand, Jackson, Mich. Tel (517) 782-9544. (5-tl-25p)

5th WHEEL TRAVEL TRAILERS! 25-40 ft. Twin Valley Sales, 16555 F Dr. S., Marshall. Mich. 616-781-7388. (12-31-17p)

LAND CLEARING and Buildozing - By the hour or by the job, Tom Tank, Eagle, Michigan 48822. Phone 517-626-6677. (5-11-18p)

LOG CABIN building instructions. 304 pages. . illustrated!! Satisfaction guaranteed. \$3.95 postpaid. Glenn Smith Enterprises. Box 1513, Dept. F-81, Akron, Ohio 44309. (1-21-21p)

FREE NORTHERN VEGETABLE SEED CATALOG! Thomas Seeds, No. 222, Winthrop, Maine 04364. (1-21-11p)

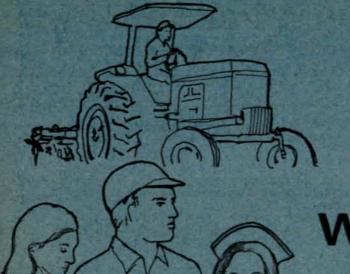
FOR SALE: Two-bedroom ranch, 1-½ lots, underground sprinkler, double garage, handy kitchen with disposal, deluxe built-in stove & oven, drapes, carpeting, laundry, 3-piece bath. Write Paul Townsend, RR Brethren, Mich. or call evenings 616-477-

(2-11-25p7h)

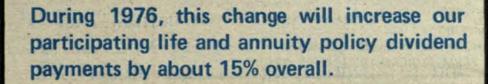
FOR SALE: Approximately 75 A of rolling farm land in Clarksville Freeport, Michigan area. Also 300 A dairy operation available by owner. Wayne DePotty, R No. 1, Freeport, 616-868-5303.

GOOD NEWS

from Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company



We've raised our dividends.



If the dividend scale is maintained in future years, this will mean hundreds of extra dollars in dividends over the life of many of our policies now in force, and of many new policies written with Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company in 1976. Practically every policyholder will benefit.

To increase your present policy, or take out a new policy, call your Farm Bureau Insurance agent. The agent will also be glad to discuss with you the effects of the raised dividends on retirement income or other aspects of your financial planning.

